Syntactic, Semantic and Information Structures of Floating Quantifiers

Ryo OtoguroLiselotte SnijdersWaseda UniversityJSPS Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Waseda UniversityHeadLex16, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

28 July 2016

1 Introduction

- (1) a. The students have *all* finished the assignment.
 - b. Elles sont *toutes* allées à la plage. they.F are all.F.PL gone.F.PL to the beach 'They all went to the beach.' (French)
 - c. Diesen Studenten habe ich gestern *allen* geschmeichelt.
 these.DAT.PL students have I yesterday all.DAT.PL flattered
 'I flattered all of these students yesterday.' (German) (Bobaljik, 2003, 107–9)
 - d. kodomo-tati wa *minna* eiga o tanosinda.
 children-PL TOPIC all movie ACC enjoy.PAST
 'The children all enjoyed the movie.' (Japanese)

2 Previous analyses

- Stranding analysis (Sportiche, 1988; Shlonsky, 1991)
- VP modifier analysis (Dowty and Brodie, 1984; Baltin, 1982; Bobaljik, 2003; Kim and Kim, 2009)
- Complement/adjunct analysis (Abeillé and Godard, 1998)
- (2) Stranding analysis



(3) VP modifier analysis



finished the assignment

(4) Complement/adjunct analysis (Abeillé and Godard, 1998, 82)



Against stranding analysis

- A sentence with an FQ does not always have a corresponding sentence with a non-floating quantifier ((5), (6)).
- (5) a. Ces enfants ont *chacun* lu un livre différent. these children have each read a book different 'These children have each read a different book.'
 - b. **Chacun* ces enfants a lu un livre différent.
 each these children has read a book different
 'Each of these children has read a different book.' (French)(Bobaljik, 2003, 123–4)
- (6) a. John, Bill and Tom *all* came to the class.b. **All* of John, Bill and Tom came to the class.
- Languages like Dutch and Mandarin Chinese have different lexical items for non-floating quantifiers ((7), (8)).
- (7) a. Alle toeristen zullen Boston bezoeken. all tourists will Boston visit'All tourists will visit Boston.'

- b. De toeristen zullen *allemaal* Boston bezoeken.
 the tourists will all Boston visit
 'The tourists will all visit Boston.' (Dutch)
- (8) a. *suo you* de ren zou le all PRT people left ASP'All the people have left.'
 - b. ren *dou* zou le people all left ASP
 'The people have all left.' (Mandarin Chinese) (Dowty and Brodie, 1984, 82)

Issues

- An FQ semantically quantifies the modified NP.
- FQs can appear in the VP-internal positions ((9), (10)).
- (9) a. I gave the kids *each* a quarter.b. Mary put the books *all/both/each* (back) on the proper shelf. (Maling, 1976, 712)
- (10) a. Marie sloeg de mannen *allebei* op het gezicht.M. hit the men both in the face'Marie hit the men both in the face.'
 - b. Ik vind de talen *allemaal* mooi.
 I find the languages all beautiful
 'I find the languages all beautiful.' (Dutch)
 - An FQ agrees with the modified noun in some languages ((1b, c)).
 - (1) b. Elles sont *toutes* allées à la plage. they.F are all.F.PL gone.F.PL to the beach 'They all went to the beach.' (French)
 - c. Diesen Studenten habe ich gestern *allen* geschmeichelt. these.DAT.PL students have I yesterday all.DAT.PL flattered
 'I flattered all of these students yesterday.' (German)

3 Proposal

- Information-structurally, the NP quantified by an FQ is a 'reference-oriented topic expression' (Lambrecht, 1994; Neeleman and van de Koot, 2008; Neeleman and Vermeulen, 2012) and the FQ functions as a focus in the comment (cf. Kuno and Takami, 2003).
- The default position for a reference-oriented topic expression is sentence-initial, and the following part functions as a comment that consists of a focus and a background ((11a)).
- The isomorphic syntactic configuration corresponding to the topic–comment structure consists of a clause initial subject (topic) and the VP (comment) ((11b)).
- (11) a. topic* [comment focus [background ...]] (Neeleman and van de Koot, 2008, 146)
 b. NP_{SUBJ} [VP QP [VP ...]]

- (12) a. [topic The students] have [comment [focus all] [background finished the assignment]]
 b. [NP The students] have [VP [QP all] [VP finished the assignment]]
- (13) a. [topic De toeristen] zullen [comment [focus allemaal] [background Boston bezoeken]]
 - b. [NP De toeristen] will [VP [QP allemaal] [VP Boston bezoeken]] the tourists will all Boston visit
 'The tourists will all visit Boston.' (Dutch)
 - An FQ can appear VP-internally as long as the preceding NP is a topic and the following elements functions as a background.
- (14) a. I gave [topic the kids] [comment [focus each] [background a quarter]].
 b. I [VP gave [NP the kids] [QP each] [NP a quarter]]
- (15) a. Ik vind [topic de talen] [comment [focus allemaal] [background mooi]]
 b. Ik vind [VP [NP de talen] [QP allemaal] [AP mooi]]
 I find the languages all beautiful
 'I find the languages all beautiful.' (Dutch)

3.1 Topic–comment structure

- An indefinite NP makes the sentence illicit with an FQ since it is normally not taken as a referent-oriented topic expression ((16a, b)).
- An indefinite NP with an FQ indicates a generic characteristic of the NP ((17)).
- (16) a. The children *all* visited London.b. #Children *all* visited London.
- (17) Kinderen genieten *allemaal* van de film.children enjoy all of the film'Children all enjoy the film.' (Dutch)
 - In Japanese an FQ cannot quantify an NP with the dative particle *ni* or ablative particle *kara* in the preverbal focus position ((18a, c)), while it can when those casemarked NPs are marked by the contrastive topic marker *wa* ((18b, c)).
- (18) a??Taroo ga Hanako o sinseki ni *minna* syookai sita.
 T. NOM H. ACC relatives DAT all introduce do.PAST
 'Taro introduced Hanako to all of his relatives.'
 - b. Taroo ga Hanako o sinseki ni wa *minna* syookai sita.
 T. NOM H. ACC relatives DAT TOPIC all introduce do.PAST 'As for his relatives, Taro introduced Hanako to all of them.'
 - c??sono seizika ga kihukin o siensya kara 50-mei atumeta. that politician NOM donation ACC supporter from 50-CL collect.PAST 'That politician collected donations from 50 supporters.'
 - d. sono seizika ga kihukin o siensya kara wa 50-mei atumeta.
 that politician NOM donation ACC supporter from TOPIC 50-CL collect.PAST
 'As for supporters, that politician collected donations from 50 of them.' (Japanese)

- Manner adverbs, which are by default given a focus interpretation, cannot appear before the FQ since they prevent the FQ from forming a topic–comment structure ((19a), (20a), (21a))
- The same effect does not arise with non-focus bearing locative adverbs ((19b)) or sentential adverbs ((20c)).
- (19) a. *kodomo ga geragera-to *hutari* waratta. child NOM loudly two.CL laughed 'Two children laughed loudly.'
 - b. gakusei ga office ni *hutari* kita.
 student NOM office to two.CL came
 'Two students came to the office.' (Japanese; Kuno and Takami 2003, 283–4)
- (20) a. *These thieves could completely *all* crack this safe in 5 minutes flat.
 - b. These thieves could *all* completely crack this safe in 5 minutes flat.
 - c. The thieves have certainly *all* been apprehended.
 - d. The thieves have *all* certainly been apprehended. (Bobaljik, 1995, 231–2)
- (21) a. *Los estudiantes entenderán completamente *todos* (ese problema). the students will.understand completely all that problem
 - b. ?Los estudiantes entenderán *todos* completamente (ese problema).

(Spanish; Bošković 2004, 686)

3.2 Analysis

- A sentence is partitioned into TOPIC, FOCUS, BACKGROUND and COMPLETIVE in information structure (Butt and King, 1996, 2000; Choi, 1999).
- The semantic structure feature DF is specified in various ways, such as phrase-structure position, prosody and morphological marking ((25)).
- Specification of a value for the semantic structure feature DF determines the membership of the information structure roles ((26)) (Dalrymple and Nikolaeva, 2011).



(Dalrymple and Nikolaeva, 2011, 84–5)

VP-adjunction FQ

• The VP adjunction rule can be formulated as in (27).

(27) VP
$$\longrightarrow$$
 QP VP
 $\downarrow \in (\uparrow ADJ)$ $\uparrow = \downarrow$
 $\uparrow_{\sigma\iota} = \downarrow_{\sigma\iota}$ $\uparrow_{\sigma\iota} = \downarrow_{\sigma\iota}$
 $(\uparrow_{\sigma} DF) = FOCUS$ $(\uparrow_{\sigma} DF) = BACKGROUND$

- Semantically, an FQ relates an individual x to two propositions R(x) (restrictive meaning) and S(x) (scope meaning) (Dalrymple et al., 1997; Dalrymple, 2001).
- The NP modified by an FQ is identified by its topic status, i.e. the value of DF must be TOPIC in s-structure.

(28) a. minna Q (
$$\uparrow$$
 PRED) = 'all'
 $\lambda R.\lambda S.all(x, R(x), S(x)) :$
[(($\%$ t) _{σ} VAR) \multimap (($\%$ t) _{σ} RESTR)] \multimap [$\forall H.$ [($\%$ t) _{σ} \multimap H] \multimap H]
((ADJ $\in \uparrow$) GF) = $\%$ t
(\rightarrow_{σ} DF) = TOPIC
all $\in (\uparrow_{\sigma\iota} (\uparrow_{\sigma}$ DF))
b. kodomo N (\uparrow PRED) = 'child'
 $\lambda x.child(x) : (\uparrow_{\sigma}$ VAR) \multimap (\uparrow_{σ} RESTR)
child $\in (\uparrow_{\sigma\iota} (\uparrow_{\sigma}$ DF))
c. tanosinda V (\uparrow PRED) = 'enjoy(SUBJ,OBJ)'
 $\lambda x.\lambda y.enjoy(x, y) : (\uparrow$ SUBJ) _{σ} \multimap [(\uparrow OBJ) _{σ} $\multimap \uparrow_{\sigma}$]
enjoy $\in (\uparrow_{\sigma\iota} (\uparrow_{\sigma}$ DF))

- In c-structure, an FQ heads a quantifier phrase (QP), which is adjoined to VP ((29)).
- In f-structure, the QP is mapped onto a member of ADJ ((30)).
- In s-structure, the values of DF for the QP and the following VP are specified as FOCUS and BACKGROUND respectively ((31)).
- In i-structure, the meaning constructors corresponding to an FQ and the following constituent become a member of FOCUS and BACKGROUND respectively, while the one corresponding to a quantified NP becomes a member of TOPIC ((32)).



VP-internal FQ

• When QP appears under VP, it requires the preceding NP to be a topic and the following constituent to be a background.

Agreement

- Adjective-noun agreement is not necessarily restricted to a relation between NP-internal constituents, e.g. secondary predication ((39), (40)).
- (39) a. Ella llegó borracha. she arrived drunk-F.SG'She arrived drunk.'
 - b. Ellas llegaron borrachas/*os. they.F arrived drunk-F.PL 'They arrived drunk.'

(Spanish; Fitzpatrick 2006, 75)

(40) a. Vadim vernulsja iz bol'nicy zdoroviy.V.NOM returned from hospital healthy.NOM'Vadim returned from the hospital healthy.'

b. Ja zakazala rybu syruju. I ordered fish.ACC raw.ACC 'I ordered the fish raw.'

(Russian; Fitzpatrick 2006, 76)

• Agreement between a topic constituent and a predicate is widely found (Polinsky and Comrie, 1999; Nikolaeva, 1999; Givón, 2001; Bobaljik and Wurmbrand, 2002; Dalrymple and Nikolaeva, 2011)

(41)	a.	(ma) tam kalaŋ we:l-s-əm / we:l-s-Ø-e:m
		I this reindeer kill-PAST-1.SG.SUBJ kill-PAST-SG.OBJ-1.SG.SUBJ
		'I killed this reindeer.'
	b.	(What did you do to this reindeer?)
		tam kalaŋ we:l-s-e:m / *we:l-s-əm this reindeer kill-PAST-OBJ/1.SG.SUBJ kill-PAST-1.SG.SUBJ
		'I killed this reindeer.'
	c.	kalaŋ xalśa we:l-s-əlli / *we:l-əs
		reindeer where kill-PAST-OBJ/1.SG.SUBJ kill-PAST-1.SG.SUBJ
		'Where did he kill the/a reaindeer?'
		(Ostyak; Dalrymple and Nikolaeva 2011, 142, 146)

• The topic status of the agreement controller can be specified in the lexical entry of an FQ.

(42) Diesen Studenten habe ich (gestern) allen geschmeichelt.
these.DAT.PL students have I (yesterday) all.DAT.PL flattered
'I flattered all of these students yesterday.' (German)

(43) allen Q (\uparrow PRED) = 'all' (%t CASE) = DAT (%t NUM) = PL [((%t)_{σ} VAR) $-\circ$ ((%t)_{σ} RESTR)] $-\circ$ [\forall H.[(%t)_{σ} $-\circ$ H] $-\circ$ H] ((ADJ $\in \uparrow$) GF (\rightarrow_{σ} DF) = TOPIC all \in ($\uparrow_{\sigma\iota}$ (\uparrow_{σ} DF))

4 Conclusion

- An FQ functions as a focus and marks the left-edge of the comment in the topic–comment structure.
- The most salient phrase structure configuration consists of a fronted topic constituent followed by an FQ that is adjoined to VP.
- An FQ can appear VP-internally only when the topic–comment structure is satisfied.
- Agreement can be formulated between a topic constituent and an FQ.

References

Abeillé, Anne and Godard, Danièle. 1998. A Lexical Approach to Quantifier Floating in French. In Gert Webelhuth, Jean-Pierre Koenig and Andreas Kathol (eds.), *Lexical and Constructional Aspects of Linguistic Explanation*, pages 81–96, Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications.

Baltin, Mark. 1982. A Landing Site Theory of Movement Rules. *Linguistic Inquiry* 13, 1–38.

- Bobaljik, Jonathan David. 1995. *Morphosyntax: The Syntax of Verbal Inflection*. Ph. D.thesis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA.
- Bobaljik, Jonathan David. 2003. Floating Quantifiers: Handle With Care. In Lisa Cheng and Rint Sybesma (eds.), *The Second Glot International State-of-the-Article Book*, pages 107–148, Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Bobaljik, Jonathan David and Wurmbrand, Susi. 2002. Notes on Agreement in Itelmen. *Linguistic Discovery* 1(1).
- Bošković, Željko. 2004. Be Careful Where You Float Your Quantifiers. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 22, 681–742.
- Butt, Miriam and King, Tracy Holloway. 1996. Structural Topic and Focus without movement. In Miriam Butt and Tracy Holloway King (eds.), *Proceedings of the LFG96 Conference*, Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications.
- Butt, Miriam and King, Tracy Holloway. 2000. Null elements in discourse structure. In K. V. Subbarao (ed.), *Papers from the NULL Seminar*, Delhi: Motilal Banarasidas.
- Choi, Hye-Won. 1999. *Optimizing Structure in Context: Scrambling and Information Structure*. Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications.
- Dalrymple, Mary. 1999. Semantics and Syntax in Lexical Functional Grammar: The Resource Logic Approach. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Dalrymple, Mary. 2001. Lexical Functional Grammar. San Diego: Academic Press.
- Dalrymple, Mary, Lamping, John, Pereira, Fernando and Saraswat, Vijay. 1997. Quantification, Anaphora, and Intensionality. *Journal of Logic, Language, and Information* 6, 219–273, reprinted in Dalrymple (1999).
- Dalrymple, Mary and Nikolaeva, Irina. 2011. *Objects and Information Structure*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dowty, David and Brodie, Belinda. 1984. The Semantics of "Floated" Quantifiers in a Transformationless Grammar. In *Proceedings of the Third West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, pages 75–90, Stanford, CA: Stanford Linguistics Association.
- Fitzpatrick, Justin Michael. 2006. *Syntactic and Semantic Roots of Floating Quantification*. Ph. D.thesis, Masachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA.
- Givón, Talmy. 2001. Syntax, volume II. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Kim, Jong-Bok and Kim, Jung-Soo. 2009. English Floating Quantifier Constructions: A Non-movement Approach. *Language and Information* 13, 57–75.

- Kuno, Susumu and Takami, Ken-ichi. 2003. Remarks on Unaccusativity and Unergativity in Japanese and Korean. In William McClure (ed.), *Japanese/Korean Linguistics 12*, pages 280– 294, CSLI Publications, Stanford, CA.
- Lambrecht, Knud. 1994. Information Structure and Sentence Form: Topic, Focus, and the Mental Representations of Discourse Referents. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Maling, Joan. 1976. Notes on Quantifier-postposing. *Linguistic Inquiry* 7, 708–718.

- Neeleman, Ad and van de Koot, Hans. 2008. Dutch Scrambling and the Nature of Discourse Templates. *Journal of Comparative Germanic Syntax* 11, 137–189.
- Neeleman, Ad and Vermeulen, Reiko. 2012. The Syntactic Expression of Information Structure. In Ad Neeleman and Reiko Vermeulen (eds.), *The Syntax of Topic, Focus, and Contrast: An Interface-based Approach*, pages 1–38, Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Nikolaeva, Irina. 1999. Object Agreement, Grammatical Relations, and Information Structure. *Studies in Language* 23, 331–376.
- Polinsky, Maria and Comrie, Benard. 1999. Agreement in Tsez. *Folia Linguistica* 33(2), 109–130.
- Shlonsky, Ur. 1991. Quantifiers as Functional Heads: A Study of Quantifier Float in Hebrew. *Lingua* 84, 159–180.
- Sportiche, Dominique. 1988. A Theory of Floating Quantifiers and Its Corollaries for Constituent Structure. *Linguistic Inquiry* 19, 425–449.