The syntax of floating quantifiers: stranding revisited

Cirillo, R.J.

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: http://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
Acknowledgements

I must begin these acknowledgements by thanking the two people to whom I am the most indebted. These are the two professors who supervised my research project, Fred Weerman and Hans den Besten. Their ability to pay close attention to detail while at the same time maintaining an excellent overview enabled them to perform a very effective “quality control” function while I wrote my thesis. Their superb knowledge of syntax also enabled them to provide me with technical guidance and to refer me to the literature that I needed in order to carry out my work. They were always very approachable and helpful and showed great personal dedication to me and my project. I couldn’t have done it without them.

Hans den Besten deserves special mention. He taught me two semesters of generative syntax during my Research Master’s Program at the University of Amsterdam and inspired me to think about doing a PhD. He also helped me develop the original PhD proposal that I made to the University of Amsterdam in 2005. I am certain that his contribution to the proposal played a major role in my getting it accepted. During the three years that I worked on the project Hans met with me virtually every week, providing me with essential technical guidance and moral support.

I am grateful to the six renowned linguists who agreed to be on my thesis committee. These are Hans Bennis, Norbert Corver, Jenny Doetjes, Giuliana Giusti, Hubert Haider and Hedde Zeijlstra.

I also would like to thank all the professors who taught me non-syntax courses during my Research Master’s Program at the University of Amsterdam. They all played an important role in my linguistic re-education. These are Umberto Ansaldo, Jan Don, Lisa Lim, Rob Schoonen, Norval Smith and Henk Zeevat. Jan Don, Lisa Lim and Umberto Ansaldo deserve special mention for providing me with a lot of important advice and encouragement while I was applying for the PhD position.

Another person who played a major role in my thesis and deserves special recognition is Hedde Zeijlstra. Not only did he provide me and the rest of the linguistic community with an excellent state-of-the-art theory of sentential negation, which I was able to apply to constituent negation, he also spent time patiently discussing the syntax and semantics of negation with me. I greatly appreciate the interest that he showed in my work. His constructive criticism greatly improved the quality of Chapter 3 of my thesis. I am also grateful to him for the role he played in my being accepted as a presenter at the Workshop on Negation and Polarity at the University of Tübingen in 2007.
I would also like to thank Rick Nouwen, not only for helping me understand the semantics of quantification and for taking time to read and critique things that I had written, but also for the role he played in my being allowed to present at the Workshop on Modified Quantifiers at the 19th ESSLLI at Trinity College in Dublin in 2007.

Mana Kobuchi-Philip also deserves special mention. She patiently taught me a lot about semantics and gave me a lot of valuable insight into floating numeral quantifiers in Japanese. She also provided me with a lot of important grammaticality judgements. She had a very significant, positive effect on Chapter 5 of my thesis.

Still another person who deserves very special mention is Mara van Schaik-Radulescu. She was not only a very pleasant office-mate, she also played a major role in helping me create and develop my Romanian data, which play a central role in Chapters 2, 3 and 4 of my thesis. I must also mention that her computer skills are exceptional. She was very unselfish and unrelenting in her crusade to help me deal with my technical shortcomings. Her technical contribution can be seen not only throughout the thesis but even in the cover picture, which she formatted for me. I am also grateful to her for helping me get accepted as a presenter at the 10th Conference of the English Department of the Faculty of Foreign Languages at the University of Bucharest in 2008 and for acquainting me with the sights and culinary delights of Bucharest. Finally, I would like to thank her for agreeing to be a paraninmf at my defence.

Thanks also to my other paraninmf, Margarita Gulian. Margarita and I were in the same Research Master’s class in linguistics at the University of Amsterdam. She is the mother of two and also a PhD student at the University of Leiden. It was very kind of her to take time out from her very busy schedule to assist me at my defence.

I would also like to thank my other office mate, Josefien Sweep, for making the office a very pleasant place to work and for helping me write in Dutch.


Enoch Aboh was not only a good provider of grammaticality judgements in French but also a good listener who provided me with useful, constructive criticism throughout the course of my research.
I can also not fail to thank those who helped me translate the thesis summary into Dutch: Flora Duijsens, Marian Erkelens, Wieneke Wesseling, Josefien Sweep and Hans den Besten.

It would not seem right to leave out the Director and Vice-Director of the Amsterdam Center for Language and Communication, Anne Baker and Kees Hengeveld, who were instrumental in my obtaining the PhD position at the University of Amsterdam and who were always a great support to me during my studies.

My father was very proud that I had decided to pursue a doctorate (especially at my advanced age) and was very supportive of me. I deeply regret that he did not live long enough to see me complete my project. He himself was a high achiever and even after his death he continued to inspire me to keep working no matter how difficult it became.

Finally, I would like to thank my girlfriend Gabi for helping me with the cover of this book and for not “stranding” me after all those weekends and evenings when I “floated” off with the quantifiers.