

## The Role of Information Structure in Quantifier Scope Interaction

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This study investigates the interpretation of sentences with multiple quantifiers (multiple quantification sentences) in Japanese, with special consideration of the relation of interpretation to information structure. Quantifiers in a sentence are known to interact with one another and produce a variety of interpretations, such as distributive readings and branching quantifier readings. In this study, we will examine the conditions under which quantifiers may exhibit those distinct "scope" interpretations, and attempt to demonstrate that certain aspects of information structure play an important role in their determination. In the course of the inquiry, we will identify factors that allow us to explain three empirical phenomena often reported in the literature: (1) why acceptability judgments involving scope interpretations are so subtle and unstable, or differently put, why there are variations on acceptability from person to person and/or from context to context (e.g., Hayashishita (1999)); (2) why scrambling of the object over the subject often leads to scope ambiguity (e.g., Kuroda (1970)); and (3) why narrow focus on the quantifier in the subject position has the effect of clarifying scope ambiguity (e.g., Kitagawa (1990, 1994)).

### References

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