

## Adjectival Quantification and Definiteness in Bangla

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Adjectival quantification in natural language semantics is broadly distributed and poses a challenge for any unified semantic analysis. Adjectives of quantity occur in quantificational position as well as attributive, predicative and differential positions (Kayne 2007, Szabolcsi 2010, Morzycki 2013, Cinque 2014, Bagchi 2014, Solt 2009, 2015). However, the adjectives of quantity are mostly gradable predicates and degree modifiers (e.g. /fewer students/, /a little more water/ etc.). Although, the theories of definiteness (Heim 1979, Lyons 1999, Keenan 2003, Winter 2005, Giannakidou 2009, Collins 2016), are primarily restricted to the analysis of the definite determiners or classifiers and the definite adjectives (i.e. cardinal+ ordinal numbers), the adjectives of quantity have not been adequately inquired into in respect to the semantic notion of definiteness. Therefore, this paper proposes an analysis of the encoding of definiteness in adjectival quantificational phrases in Bangla. This phenomenon can be observed in the example (1):

1. č<sup>h</sup>atroder (modd<sup>h</sup>e) ənekei porikk<sup>h</sup>ae b<sup>h</sup>alo nɔmbor peyəc<sup>h</sup>e  
 č<sup>h</sup>atro der modd<sup>h</sup>e əneke i porikk<sup>h</sup>a e b<sup>h</sup>alo nɔmbor peyəc<sup>h</sup>e  
 student –gen. –par. many –foc exam –loc good number got.perf.  
 “Many of the students have got good marks in exams.”

Interestingly, here, the adjectival quantity word /ənek/ has occurred in a partitive phrase where it implicitly denotes definiteness. Here, the focus marker /-i/ is notable. Other than that, the quantity adjectives can also directly occur as degree modifier to a cardinal number (in a DP) and encode definiteness. So, in the following example (2), we observe the definiteness that is expressed by quantity adjective /ənto<sup>h</sup>to/:

2. klass šešer age ami ənto<sup>h</sup>to (lainer) pəroborti du<sup>h</sup>ɔn č<sup>h</sup>tro<sup>h</sup>r k<sup>h</sup>ata dek<sup>h</sup>bo  
 klass šeš er age ami ənto<sup>h</sup>to lain –er. pəroborti du d<sup>h</sup>ɔn č<sup>h</sup>atro –r k<sup>h</sup>ata dek<sup>h</sup>bo  
 class end –gen. before I at least queue –gen.next two –cls. student –gen. copy check.fut.  
 “I will check copies of at least next two students (in a queue) before the class ends.”

Moreover, the adjectival quantity words signal both definiteness (e.g. 3& 4) and indefiniteness (e.g. 5). Furthermore, the focus marker /-i/ reinforces definiteness of the adjectival quantifier (e.g. 3&4). Sometimes they occur with overt definiteness marker (i.e. classifier & plural marker) and other times they covertly denote definiteness (e.g. 1). Such as:

3. ami ənekta i lik<sup>h</sup>e p<sup>h</sup>eleč<sup>h</sup>i tai tomake sōnd<sup>h</sup>er modd<sup>h</sup>e gɔlpogulo pa<sup>h</sup>ate parbo  
 ami ənek ta i lik<sup>h</sup>e p<sup>h</sup>eleč<sup>h</sup>i tai toma ke sōnd<sup>h</sup>er modd<sup>h</sup>e gɔlpo gulo pa<sup>h</sup>ate parbo  
 I most –cls. –foc. write –aux. so you –acc. evening during story –plu. send mod.  
 “I have written most of it, so I would be able to send you the stories by evening.”
4. Jhumur oder kɔled<sup>h</sup>ɔr pa<sup>h</sup>ok<sup>h</sup>rɔme deya boier ənek<sup>h</sup>gulo i poreč<sup>h</sup>e  
 Jhumur oder kɔled<sup>h</sup>ɔ –er pa<sup>h</sup>ok<sup>h</sup>rɔm –e deya boi –er ənek gulo i poreč<sup>h</sup>e  
 Jhumur their college –gen. syllabus –loc. give.ps. book –gen. many –plu. –foc. read.perf.  
 “Jhumur has read most of the books that are given in their college syllabus.”
5. Ram əneki kaj kore, kintu tao sɔntušt<sup>h</sup>i paena  
 Ram ənek i kaj kore, kintu tao sɔntušt<sup>h</sup>i pae na  
 Ram many –foc work do.pres. but still satisfaction get neg.  
 “Ram works a lot but is never satisfied.”

Intuitively, the adjective quantity words inherently encode a scalar range (Kennedy & McNally 2005); however, the scalar range is exhausted only when they occur in modified numeral phrases. In contrast, when they occur in partitive constructions and when they quantify over a definite kind or set, they signal definiteness. This paper presents an overview of the semantic distribution of the adjective quantity words in Bangla. It then goes on to examine the encodings of the semantic feature of definiteness in adjectival quantificational phrases in Bangla and argue that it relates to the syntax of focus (Rooth 1992) in Bangla as well.

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