Ways of Encoding Scope in Natural Language

1. Lexically.

   English                   | Catalan
(1) a. Paul hasn’t seen some boy.    | Algun
    b. Paul hasn’t seen any boy.     | Cap

(2) a. Some 5-year old can do it.   | Algun
    b. Any 5-year old can do it.    | Qualsevol


   Kannada (Lidz 1998): Accusative marking forces wide scope of the object.

   (3) a. naanu **pustaka** ood-al-illa
       I-NOM book   read-INF-NEG
       “There is a book that I didn’t read”
       “I didn’t read any book.”

       b. naanu **pustaka-vannu** ood-al-illa
           I-NOM book-ACC read-INF-NEG
           “There is a book that I didn’t read”
           * “I didn’t read any book.”

   (4) a. naanu **pustaka** huDuk-utt-idd-eene
       I-NOM book   look.for-NPST-be-1s
       “There is a particular book that I am looking for.”
       “I’m looking for a (any) book.”

       b. naanu **pustaka-vannu** huDuk-utt-idd-eene
           I-NOM book-ACC look.for-NPST-be-1s
           “There is a particular book that I am looking for.”
           * “I’m looking for a (any) book.”

   Peninsular Spanish (conversations with T. Bleam): lack of Prepositional marking in the DO forces narrow scope.

   (5) a. No he visto muchos niños.
       Not I.have seen many kids.
       * “There are many kids that I have not seen”.
       “It is not the case that I have seen many kids.”

       b. No he visto a muchos niños.
       Not I.have seen PREP many kids.
       “There are many kids that I have not seen”.
       “It is not the case that I have seen many kids.”
3. **WORD ORDER.**

(6) German:  
(a) … weil ich *selt en jed es Cello* spiele.  
Since I seldom *every cello* play  
“since I seldom play every cello”  
*seldom >> every cello*  
(b) … weil ich *jed es Cello sel ten* spiele.  
Since I *every cello* seldom play  
“since I seldom play every cello”  
*every cello >> seldom*

(7) Hindi:  
(a) *ek laRkaa  har laRkii-se* pyaar kartaa hai  
A boy *every girl-with* love do Pres.  
“A boy loves every girl”  
Only reading: A boy >> every girl  
(b) *har laRkii-se ek laRkaa* pyaar kartaa hai  
every girl-with a boy love do Pres.  
“A boy loves every girl”  
Both readings: A boy >> every girl  
Every girl >> a boy

(8) Medieval Latin:  
(a) Debo tibi *equum.*  
I-owe you horse  
“There is a particular horse that I owe you.”  
“I owe you a horse (or other).”  
(b) *Equum* tibi debo.  
Horse you I-owe  
“There is a particular horse that I owe you.”  
* “I owe you a horse (or other).”

4. **INTONATION.**  

(9) Q: Are all the politicians corrupt?  
(10) A: Nein, alle Politiker  
* sind NICHT\ korrupt.*  
No, all politicians are NOT corrupt  
\( \forall \neg, \neg \forall \)  
(11) A: Nein, /ALLE Politiker  
* sind NICHT\ korrupt.*  
No, ALL politicians are NOT corrupt  
Only \( \neg \forall \)