# The Busy Lives of Quantifier Particles

Anna Szabolcsi
New York University

In many languages, the  same particles form quantifier words and also serve as connectives, additive and scalar particles, question markers, roots of existential verbs, and so on. Consider the following samples. Hungarian *ki* and Japanese *dare*, usually translated as `who',  are indeterminate pronouns in the terminology of Kuroda 1965.  *Ki* and *dare* form `someone' and `everyone' with the aid of morphemes whose more general distribution is partially exemplified below.

(1) a.  **vala**-ki               dare-**ka**                     `someone'
    b.  (**vagy**) A **vagy** B   A-**ka** B(-**ka**)             `A or B'
    c.  **vagy** száz             hyaku-nin-to**ka**              `some one hundred = approx. 100'
    d.  **val**-, **vagy**-       --                             `be' participial & finite stems
    e.  --                        dare-ga V...-**ka**            `Who Vs?'
    f.  S-**e**                   S-**ka**                       `whether S'

(2) a.  **mind**-en-ki            dare-**mo**                    `everyone/anyone'
    b.  **mind** A **mind** B     A-**mo** B-**mo**              `A as well as B, both A and B'
        A **is** (és) B **is**                                   `A as well as B, both A and B'
    c.  A **is**                  A-**mo**                       `A too/even A'

I dub the particles "quantifier particles" and refer to them generically with capitalized KA and MO. Do KA and MO have a unified semantics, or do they merely bear a family resemblance? Are they aided by silent operators in their varied roles -- if yes, what operators?

I argue that both MO and KA can be assigned a stable semantics across their various roles. The specific analysis is motivated by the fact that MO and KA often combine with just one argument; I propose that this is their characteristic behavior. Their role is to impose semantic requirements that are satisfied when the immediately larger context is interpreted as the union/intersection of their host's semantic contribution with something else. They do not perform union/intersection themselves.