

# SOME NOTES ON FLOATING QUANTIFIERS\*

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## ABSTRACT

The paper proposes to re-examine some of the aspects of floating quantification, on the basis of some new data in French. The research questions that the paper intends to address are essentially questions about the motivation for Quantifier float. I will propose that FQs move overtly to a dedicated quantifier position, and that QR is motivated by an interpretive requirement and subject to feature-checking mechanisms. I argue that the relevant interpretive property is distributivity. Both the intervention effects and the apparent focusing of FQs can be accounted for under this approach.

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\*This paper is based on the Latsis talk I presented during the 19<sup>th</sup> ICL, held in Geneva in July 2013. The topic and research questions had been at the back of my mind for years. I had given it occasional thought, intended to work on it more thoroughly when exchanging views and thoughts with Vidal Valmala (whom I would like to thank here), but never got the point where it could really develop into a full-fledged research. Recently, I again found myself working on quantifiers. So when Jacques Moeschler suggested that the Latsis talk relate with what we were doing at the time of the prize, it almost naturally occurred to me that it might be a good opportunity to try a new grip on some of the questions that had come up regularly with respect to quantifiers. My warmest thanks therefore go to Jacques Moeschler, who not only organized the conference but also pushed me to rethink quantification. I think this is just one small example of the enthusiastic driving force he proved to be. My thanks also go to Fabienne Reboul and the organizing team of the ICL, and to the audience of the talk. I am also indebted to Lena Baunaz, Adriana Belletti, Luigi Rizzi, Ur Shlonsky, for relevant and helpful comments. Finally, thanks to Joanna Blochowiak for being available for all kinds of minor and major issues.