

**Affixal Quantification:
A Syntax-Semantics Mapping Approach to Cantonese Suffixal Quantifiers**

By

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Abstract

Partee (1987, 1991, 1996) differentiates D-quantification from A-quantification, where D stands for “determiner” and A stands for the cluster of adverbs, auxiliaries, affixes and argument-structure adjusters, with A-quantification further divided into true A-quantifiers along the lines of Lewis (1975) and Heim (1982) and lexical quantifiers which have an operator, quantificational in nature, applying to the verb directly at the lexical level (Partee 1995). Being considered as quantifiers, some Cantonese verbal suffixes may be classified as lexical quantifiers under Partee’s system of D- and A-quantification, as they are part of the verbal morphology and thus analysed as operating directly on the verb, modifying its semantic interpretation and possibly its syntax. However, if the semantics and syntax of these suffixal quantifiers are examined in details, the picture is not that simple, as these suffixal quantifiers interact in a complex way with the lexical semantics of the verb in question, focus and background, and the syntactic functions in the relevant sentence.

In this dissertation, adopting a syntax-semantics mapping approach to affixal quantification I have studied three Cantonese verbal suffixes *-hoi1* ‘open’, *saai3* ‘all’ and *maai4* ‘also’, which perform generic, universal and additive quantification, respectively, and argue that they can be classified as neither pure D-quantifiers nor A-quantifiers, as (a) unlike A-quantifiers, they are not always sensitive to focus; and (b) unlike D-quantifiers, although syntax does play a role in the relevant mapping, the mapping is determined by the selected constituent from the general syntactic hierarchy in (1) rather than the syntactic structure and whether there is a focus in the sentence.

(1) A General Hierarchical Order of Association in Suffixal Quantifiers

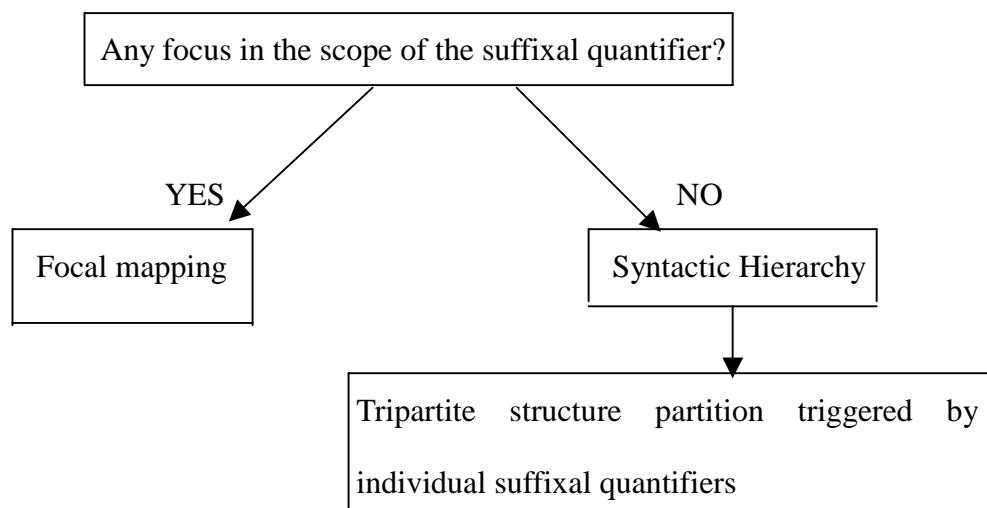
DO/IO arguments > dative arguments/postverbal PPs > preverbal PPs (v-licensed PP) > subjects > verbal predicates/adjectival predicates/stative verbs/VOs

The quantified constituent is selected from the above hierarchy, which is then mapped either to the restrictor or the nuclear scope, depending on individual suffixal quantifiers and the role played by focus. For instance, the selected constituent will be mapped to the restrictor, and the rest of the sentence, to the nuclear scope for *saai3*, whereas the opposite mapping is observed for the other two when there is no focus in the sentence.

These suffixal quantifiers can be divided into two types on the basis of their different behaviors towards focus.

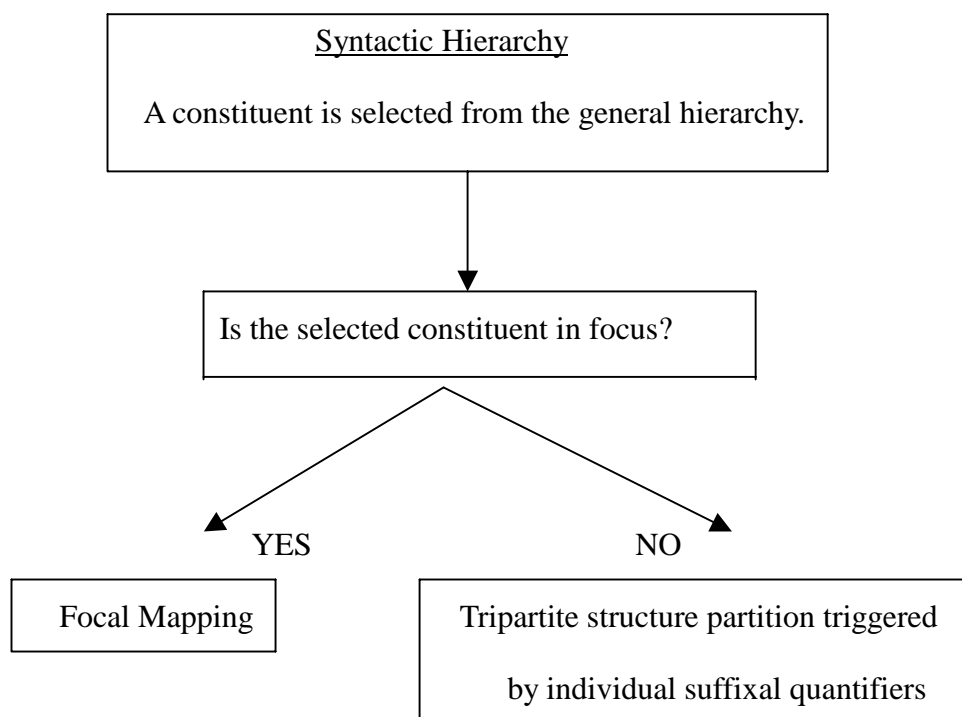
Type (i): Focus-sensitive suffixal quantifiers

Focus-sensitive suffixal quantifiers have their interpretation predicted according to the following procedure.



Type (ii): Semi-focus-sensitive quantifiers

Partially focus-sensitive suffixal quantifiers have their interpretation predicted according to the following procedure.



The above two types of suffixal quantifiers differ in whether focus can override the syntactic hierarchy or not. In case focus can override the syntactic hierarchy, focal mapping will reshape the quantificational structure of the suffixal quantifier, with the relevant focus background mapped to the nuclear scope and the restrictor, respectively.

On the other hand, in case focus fails to override the syntactic hierarchy, the suffixal quantifier can associate with the focus only when the selected constituent from the hierarchy is in focus. Under such a case, the tripartite structure will be shaped by focal mapping; otherwise, the relevant tripartite structure mapping will be triggered by the selected constituent from the hierarchy according to the mapping of individual suffixal quantifiers.

Besides, I have shown that the syntax-semantics mapping of these suffixal quantifiers to the tripartite structure is also different from Diesing's (1992) Mapping Hypothesis and Tsai's (1994, 2001) Extended Mapping Hypothesis.

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Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in the glosses.

Asp	Aspectual marker
ASSERT	Assertion operator
CL	classifier
Exp	Experiential marker
[]f	focus
Imp	Imperfective marker
Perf	Perfective marker
Poss	Possessive marker
PRT	Particle
Prog	Progressive marker
Q	Quantifier
QUEST	Question operator
SFP	Sentence-final particle