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# Putting bare plurals into context

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## Abstract

Bare plurals give rise to plurality inferences in positive sentences but not in negative sentences. There are two main approaches to this phenomenon. The implicature approach derives the plurality inference via scalar implicature. The homogeneity approach attributes the plural interpretation to the semantics of bare plurals and claims a parallelism between the behavior of plural definites and bare plurals. We report on three experiments investigating the plurality inference of bare plurals under contextual modulation. Our results pose challenges to both the implicature and homogeneity approaches. We discuss possible directions for both approaches to address these issues.

**Keywords:** bare plurals, plurality inference, implicature, homogeneity

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