

---

# Conventionalization and diversity in quantifier scales

Nicole Katzir\*<sup>1</sup> and Chris Cummins<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Linguistics Department, Tel-Aviv University – Israel

<sup>2</sup>Department of Linguistics and English Language, University of Edinburgh – United Kingdom

## Abstract

This study asks whether quantifier scales differ in their degree of conventionalization and whether this has consequences for the availability of scalar implicatures (SIs). Two experiments were conducted to examine 40 pairs of quantifiers. Experiment 1 indicates that quantifier scales vary in the degree of conventionalization and are more similar to moderately-lexicalized scales than to highly-lexicalized ones. Experiment 2 shows that quantifier scales exhibit scalar diversity, and that results from experiment 1 do not predict SI rates. Thus, although quantifier scales exhibit variability in conventionalization and SI rates, SI rates do not depend on conventionalization, but rather on semantic features.

**Keywords:** Quantifiers, Horn scale, scalar inferences, conventionalization

---

\*Speaker