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# Take 'a couple': The pragmatics of a paucal quantifier

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## Abstract

Previous research establishes that paucal quantifiers like 'a couple' are ambiguous between the lower-bound meaning of 'at least two' and the doubly-bound meaning understood as conveying an upper bound on quantity. To address whether this ambiguity patterns with that of scalars or numbers, our Exp. 1 tested the behaviours of 'a couple' and scalars with two types of probe questions in inference tasks, and Exp. 2 compared them to bare numerals in terms of two types of Scalar Implicature (SI). The results of both experiments demonstrate that paucal quantifiers do not behave in the same way as bare numerals do.

**Keywords:** paucal quantifier, scalar implicature

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