

Distributive Operators in Distributive Numerals: Zimmermann 2002

1. The Basic Empirical and Analytic Claims and Questions

(1) Key Proposals of Zimmermann (2002a,b)

a. Distributivity From Distributive Numerals

- Distributive numerals (*aka* ‘Anti-Quantifiers’, ‘Distance Distributives’) – specifically, the ‘binominal each’ construction of English and the *Jeweils* constructions of German – actually *syntactically contain* the distributive operators they are understood to contribute.
- Nevertheless, (with the help of a few special composition rules), we can derive the semantics of these constructions from something very close to their surface syntax.

b. Cross-Linguistic Variation w.r.t. ‘Pluractional Readings’

- Pluractional readings (*aka* ‘event-distributive readings’, ‘event-related readings’) of sentences containing distributive numerals are derived by allowing the understood restrictor of the distributive operator go unbound
 - This allows the restrictor to be construed as a contextually salient plural event.
- The absence of such pluractional readings for binominal each in English (and related constructions) is due to certain formal properties of the distributive numerals in those languages
 - These properties conspire to prevent the distributive restrictor from being unbound, and thus from being construed as a plural event...

(2) The Phenomena of Central Interest: English ‘Binominal Each’; German *Jeweils*

- The sentences below are more-or-less synonymous.
- Their chief difference rests in the ability for (adnominal) ‘*jeweils drei*’ to in some sentences allow a pluractional reading akin to ‘three at a time’ or ‘in threes’.
 - Note: such a pluractional reading may actually be absent from (2b).

a. The boys bought [three sausages **each**]

b. Die Jungen kauften [**jeweils** drie Würstchen].
the boys bought **DIST** three sausages

(3) **Characteristic Properties of the Constructions in (2) [According to Zimmermann]**

a. The expression bearing the special marker (*each, jewels*) must be indefinite.

- (i) * The boys tried [those sausages **each**]
(*cf.* The bought **each** tried those sausages.)

Note: Actually, the generalization that the marked expression must be indefinite is too weak. Rather, as we've seen before, it's usually the case that only a restricted set of cardinality predicates can be so-marked.

- (ii) * The boys bought [a sausage **each**]
(iii) The boys bought [one sausage **each**]
(iv) ? The boys bought [a few sausages **each**]
(v) * The boys bought [many sausages **each**]

b. The expression bearing the marker must be a clausemate with the understood restrictor of the distributive operator (the so-called 'Distributive Key')

- (i) * The store clerks said that Peter bought [one balloon **each**]
(*cf.* The store clerks **each** said that Peter bought one balloon.)

(4) **Terminology: 'Anti-Quantifier'** Construction bearing properties above.

(5) **Anti-Quantifiers in Other Languages**

Zimmermann (2002a,b) lists a great many; I've excerpted a few below.

a. Icelandic: Strakarnir keyptu [tvaer pylsur **hver**].
boys.the bought two sausages **each**.DUAL

b. Italian: I ragazzi comprarano [un libro **ciascuno**]
the.boys bought one book **each**

c. Russian: Mal'chiki kupili [**po** dve sosiski **kazhdyj**]
boys bought **P** two sausages **each**

d. Korean: Aituli phwungsen-hana-**ssik**-ul saessta
kids balloon-one-DIST-ACC bought

e. Japanese: Otokotatiga **sorezore** huta-ri-no zyosei-o aisi teiru koto
men **each** two-CL-GEN women-ACC love

- Notes:
- The dual number on the distributive particle in (4a) seems significant!
 - According to Gil (1982), the particle *kazhdyj* isn't really necessary in (4c).
 - Unlike Gil (1982), Zimmermann seeks a unified analysis of (2) and (4)

2. The Internal Syntax and Semantics of Anti-Quantifiers

(8) First Key Assumption: Pronominal Restrictor for AQ-Marker

- As stated above (6), the AQ-marker (*each* in ‘binominal each’) is a distributive operator.

a. The Semantics of *Each* in ‘Binominal Each’

$$[[\textit{each}]]^g = [\lambda x_e : [\lambda P_{et} : \forall z. z < x \ \& \ AT(z) \rightarrow P(z)]]$$

- However, in an Anti-Quantifier, this distributive operator combines with a (possible covert) pronominal.
- This pronominal is (usually) bound by the understood restrictor of the distributive operator.

b. The Syntax of Binominal Each, Part 1

[[**The boys**]₁ [bought [... one sausage ... [**each pro**₁] ...]

- While the pronominal restrictor of the AQ-marker *each* is null in English, in other languages, it may have an overt realization.

c. Possible Realizations of AQ Restrictor

- (i) *German:* je-**weil**-s
- (ii) *Italian:* ciasc-**uno**

(9) Second Key Assumption: Marked Expression in AQ is Type <et>

- The expression marked in the ‘Anti-Quantifier’ construction is an <et> predicate.

a. The Syntax of Binominal Each, Part 2

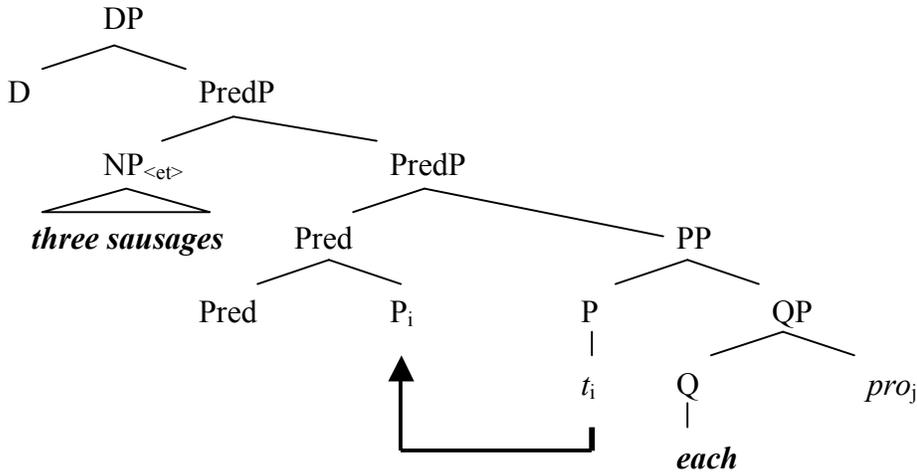
[[**The boys**]₁ [bought [... one sausage<et> ... [**each pro**₁] ...]

Problem: As we already noted, the condition in (9) is too weak, as it will also allow structures like the following:

* [[**The boys**]₁ [bought [... sausages<et> ... [**each pro**₁] ...]

(10) **Third Key Assumption: The Internal Syntax of the Anti-Quantifier**

The internal syntax of the Anti-Quantifier is as illustrated below:



- The whole Anti-Quantifier is a DP headed by a (special) null D
- CompDP is a PredP headed by a null Pred head.
- SpecPredP is the numeral expression marked by the AQ-marker
- CompPredP is a PP headed by a (special) null P
- This null P undergoes head movement to the Pred-head.
- CompPPP is the QP headed by the AQ-marker (*each*); CompQP is the (possible null) pronominal restrictor of the AQ-marker.

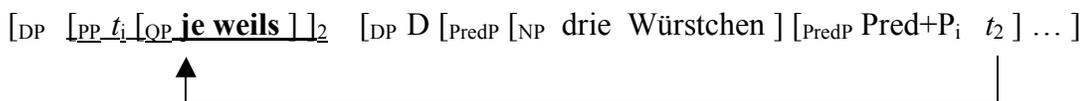
a. Some Notes About The Component Parts

(i) The postulated P head may have overt reflexes in some languages:

1. *German* je-weil-s (genitive case)
2. *Russian* **po** dve sosiski kazhdyj (*po* = preposition)

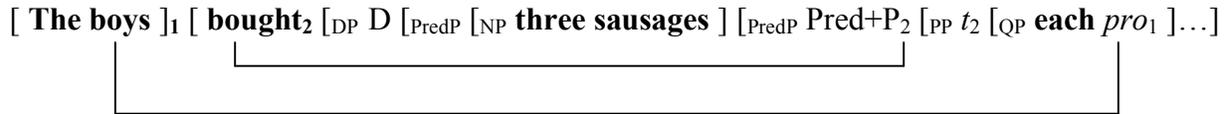
- However, the *po* seems not to be in the position expected by (10)

(ii) In order to derive the surface word-order in the German *jeweils* construction, we must assume some fronting of the PP to Spec DP



(11) **Fourth Key Assumption: The Semantics of the Preposition Head**

- The preposition P is a variable over two-place relations.
- It is necessarily co-indexed with and bound by some other expression in the sentence denoting a two-place relation.



(12) **Fifth Key Assumption: The Semantics of the Complex ‘Pred+P’ Head**

We assume a special rule for interpreting the complex ‘Pred+P’ head above:

$$[[\text{Pred } P_i]]^g = [\lambda Q_{\langle et, t \rangle} : [\lambda P_{et} : [\lambda f_{ee} : Q ([\lambda x_e : P(f(x)) \ \& \ g(i)(f(x))(x)])]]]]$$

Under this semantics, $[[\text{Pred+P}]]$ is a function that takes as argument:

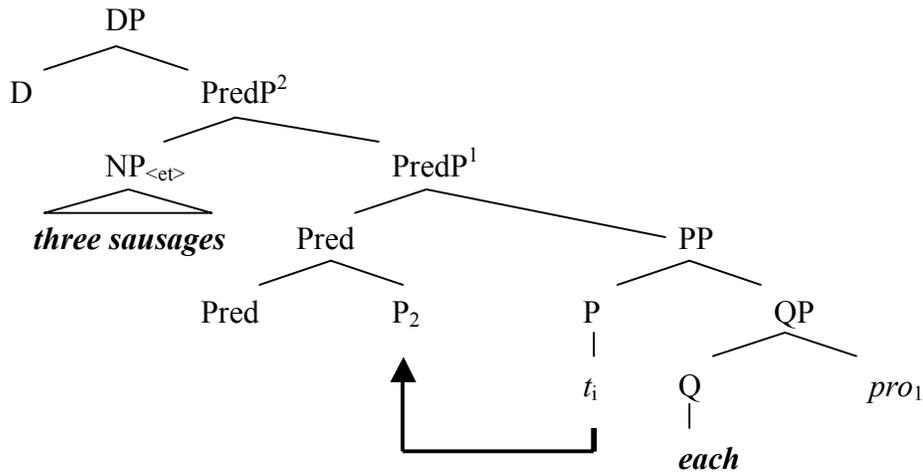
- A *generalized quantifier* Q
 - This will be the denotation of the QP headed by *each*
- An *<et>-predicate* P
 - This will be the denotation of the indefinite marked by the AQ marker
- A function f from entities to entities (a ‘Skolem Function’)
 - This will ultimately serve the function of introducing the understood existential quantification over the *<et>* predicate P .

(13) **Sixth Key Assumption: The Semantics of the Null D Head**

The special null D head in the Anti-Quantifier introduces existential quantification over the *<ee>* (Skolem) function f .

$$[[D]] = [\lambda F_{\langle ee, t \rangle} : \exists f. F(f)]$$

(14) Putting the Pieces Together



- a. $[[PP]]^g = [[QP]]^g = [\lambda P_{et} : \forall z. z < g(1) \ \& \ AT(z) \rightarrow P(z)]]$
- b. $[[\text{Pred } P_2]]^g = [\lambda Q : [\lambda P : [\lambda f : Q ([\lambda x_e : P(f(x)) \ \& \ g(2)(f(x))(x)])]]]]$
- c. $[[\text{PredP}^1]]^g = [\lambda P : [\lambda f : \forall z. z < g(1) \ \& \ AT(z) \rightarrow P(f(z)) \ \& \ g(2)(f(z))(z)]]]$
- d. $[[\text{PredP}^2]]^g = [\lambda f : \forall z. z < g(1) \ \& \ AT(z) \rightarrow \text{three.sausages}(f(z)) \ \& \ g(2)(f(z))(z)]$
- e. $[[D]]^g = [\lambda F_{\langle ee, t \rangle} : \exists f. F(f)]$
- f. $[[DP]]^g = \exists f. \forall z. z < g(1) \ \& \ AT(z) \rightarrow \text{three.sausages}(f(z)) \ \& \ g(2)(f(z))(z)$

- As shown above, the entire Anti-Quantifier *three sausages each* is of type *t* (!?)
- This DP is true iff
 there is an $\langle ee \rangle$ function f such that
 for all atomic sub-parts z of $g(1)$,
 $f(z)$ is a triplet of sausages, and
 z and $f(z)$ bear the relation $g(2)$ to each other.

(15) Key Observation

As shown in (15b), we can obtain the T-conditions of sentence (15a) if we set $g(1) = \text{the.boys}$, and $g(2) = \text{buying}$.

- a. The boys bought three sausages each.
- b. $\exists f. \forall z. z < \text{the.boys} \ \& \ AT(z) \rightarrow \text{three.sausages}(f(z)) \ \& \ z \text{ bought } f(z)$
 (where $f = [\lambda x : \text{the sausages that } x \text{ bought }]$)

Thus, to complete the picture, we need a story of how (14) can compose with the rest of the sentence and achieve the effect in (15).

3. The External Syntax and Semantics of Anti-Quantifiers

(16) **Question**

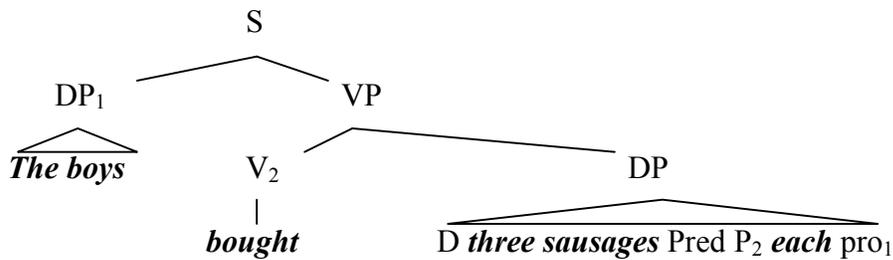
- According to the semantics in the preceding section, an Anti-Quantifier like *three sausages each* is of **type t** (14)
- *How on earth, then, does it semantically compose with the rest of the sentence?*

(17) **Special Rule: Index-Triggered Lambda Abstraction (ITLA)**

If X bears the index *i* or its sister bears the index *i*, then $[[X]]^g$ can (but need not) be:
 $[\lambda x : [[X]]^{g(i/x)}]$.

- Recall the discussion and use of this rule by Lin (1998)

(18) **Truth-Conditional Derivation for Sentence (15a)**



- (i) $[[\textit{three sausages each}]]^g =$ (by ITLA)
 $[\lambda R : [[\textit{three sausages each}]]^{g(2/R)}] =$ (by (14))
 $[\lambda R : \exists f . \forall z . z < g(1) \ \& \ AT(z) \rightarrow \textit{three.sausages}(f(z)) \ \& \ R(f(z))(z)]$
- (ii) $[[\textit{VP}]]^g =$ (by ITLA)
 $[\lambda x : [[\textit{VP}]]^{g(1/x)}] =$ (by FA)
 $[\lambda x : [\lambda R : \exists f . \forall z . z < x \ \& \ AT(z) \rightarrow \textit{3.sausages}(f(z)) \ \& \ R(f(z))(z)]([[\textit{buy}]])] =$
 $[\lambda x : \exists f . \forall z . z < x \ \& \ AT(z) \rightarrow \textit{3.sausages}(f(z)) \ \& \ z \textit{ bought } f(z)]$
- (iii) $[[\textit{S}]]^g =$ (by FA)
 $[\lambda x : \exists f . \forall z . z < x \ \& \ AT(z) \rightarrow \textit{3.sausages}(f(z)) \ \& \ z \textit{ bought } f(z)](\textit{the.boys}) =$
 $\exists f . \forall z . z < \textit{the.boys} \ \& \ AT(z) \rightarrow \textit{3.sausages}(f(z)) \ \& \ z \textit{ bought } f(z)$

(19) **Explanation for Characteristic Properties of Anti-Quantifiers, Part 1**

- a. Property:
The expression bearing the AQ-marker (*each, jewels*) must be indefinite.
- (i) * The boys saw [**those sausages** each]
- b. Explanation:
- This follows trivially from the semantics given for [Pred P_i] in (12)
 - Note again, though, that this semantics predicts the possibility of sentences like that in (i) below.
- (i) * The boys bought [**sausages** each]

(20) **Explanation for Characteristic Properties of Anti-Quantifiers, Part 2**

- a. Property:
The expression bearing the AQ-marker must be a clausemate with the understood restrictor of the distributive operator (see Oh 2001, 2005)
- (i) * The store clerks said that Peter bought [one balloon **each**]
- b. Explanation:
- Given our compositional rules, the only way for the subordinate subject to combine semantically with the subordinate VP is for that subject to bind the restrictor of the AQ-marker (*each*)
 - Thus, the restrictor of the subordinate AQ-marker *must* be the subordinate subject;
 - There's simply no way to 'bypass' the subordinate subject and allow the restrictor of the AQ-marker to be the matrix subject.

Note: The explanation in (20) is quite interestingly different from the rather promissory account offered by Oh (2001, 2005).

(21) **First Key Analytic Puzzle: 'The Compositionality Problem'**

How can we derive the T-conditions of sentences containing Anti-Quantifiers (distributive numerals) without diverging too greatly from their surface structure?

- We can posit certain null pronominals (*pro, P*) providing the restrictor and the scope of the AQ distributive marker *internal to the AQ itself*.
- The rule of ITLA allows us to bind those pronouns, and thereby provide their values from other expressions in the sentence.

4. The Derivation of Pluractional / Event-Distributive Readings

(22) Second Key Analytic Puzzle: ‘The Cross-Linguistic Problem’

How do we derive the ‘pluractional’ or ‘event distributive’ reading for sentences like (22a)? Why is such a reading not possible for parallel English sentences like (22b)?

a. German Jeweils: [**Jeweils** ein Apfel] war verrottet.
DIST one apple was rotten
One apple was rotten each time / in each basket.

b. English Each: * [One apple **each**] was rotten.

(23) Another New Semantic Rule: Type-Triggered Lambda Abstraction (TTLA)

If X and Y are sisters, and (i) $[[X]]^g$ is of type t , and (ii) $[[X]]^g$ is not in the domain of $[[Y]]^g$, and (iii) X contains a free variable pro_i , and (iv) $[[pro_i]]^g$ is of the same type as $[[Y]]^g$, then $[[X]]^g$ can (but need not) be: $[\lambda x : [[X]]^{g(i/x)}]$.

(24) New Semantic Assumption: Event Arguments and Their Type

- In order to capture the event-distributive reading, we will need to explicitly represent the event argument that we’ve been ignoring until now.
- Crucial Note:
 In order for everything to work out, we *must* assume that events are no different in type from entities: that is, we do not have a separate type (ϵ) for events. Consequently:
 - *Transitive Verbs* are now of type $\langle eet \rangle$.
 - *Intransitive Verbs* are of type $\langle eet \rangle$.

Note: As the reader can confirm for themselves, if we *don’t* assume that events are also of type e , then we will need to introduce massive type ambiguity in the AQ markers (*each*, *jeweils*), the null pronominals and the complex [Pr P] head.

(25) Important Note: Revision of Our Semantics for [Pred P]

Given the addition of the event argument, we need to slightly adjust our semantics for the complex [Pred P_i] head.¹

$$[[\text{Pred P}_i]]^g = [\lambda Q_{\langle et, t \rangle} : [\lambda P_{et} : [\lambda f_{ee} : \exists e. Q ([\lambda x_e : P(f(x)) \ \& \ g(i)(f(x))(x)(e)])]]]]$$

Note, though, that we will still make use of the semantics in (12) in the derivation below.

¹ In his dissertation, Zimmermann avoids this by allowing existential closure over the event argument to optionally occur at the level of the V-head itself. When this occurs, the V-head is of type $\langle eet \rangle$, as desired.

(28) **Question:**

Why is a derivation like that above not possible for the English sentence in (22b)?

(29) **Observation 1: AQ Markers and Adnominal Quantifiers**

- In the languages that do not allow for ‘event distributive’ / ‘pluractional’ readings of sentences containing AQs, the AQ-marker is formally identical to an adnominal distributive marker.

- a. The boys bought [three sausages **each**]
- b. [**Each** boy] bought three sausages.

- In the languages that *do* allow for ‘event distributive’ / ‘pluractional’ readings, the AQ-marker is *not* formally identical to an adnominal distributive marker.

- a. Die Jungen kauften [**jeweils** drie Würstchen].
the boys bought **DIST** three sausages
- b. * [**Jeweils** Jungen] kauften drie Würstchen
DIST boys bought three sausages

(30) **Observation 2: Events as Distributive Restrictors**

- Even languages which – like English – disallow ‘event distributive’ / ‘pluractional’ readings, the understood restrictor of an Anti-Quantifier *can in principle* be an event, *just so long as that (plural) event is denoted by a DP*.

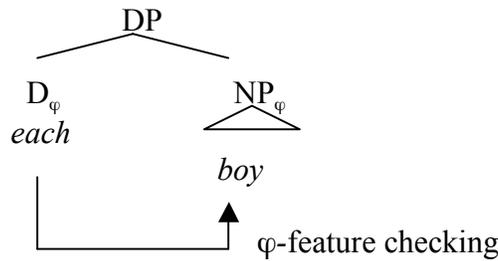
- a. Those **parties** cost [\$5000 **each**]

(31) **Conclusion:**

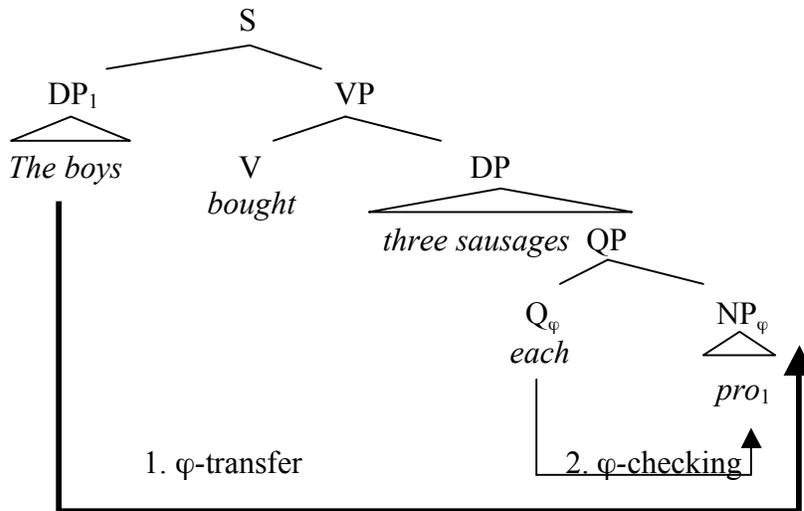
- The facts in (30) show that the impossibility of ‘event distributive’ / ‘pluractional’ readings in languages like English cannot be due to a *semantic* constraint on the understood restriction of the AQ marker.
- Rather, it must be due to some *syntactic* restriction, likely related to the fact in (29).

(32) The Analysis: Obligatory Phi-Features in the AQ-Marker

- a. In languages where the AQ-marker is also an adnominal quantifier, the AQ-marker bears uninterpretable φ -features.
 - o Presumably, it bears these φ -features as a *result* of its being adnominal.
- b. In sentences where the AQ-marker is adnominal, it checks these uninterpretable φ -features off from its NP complement.



- c. In sentences where the AQ-marker is in an Anti-Quantifier, it checks these φ -features off from its (null) pronominal complement.
- d. However, *qua* pronoun, the complement of the AQ-marker in the Anti-Quantifier only receives its φ -features through co-indexation with a higher DP bearing those φ -features.



- e. Therefore, if the pronominal restrictor of the AQ marker were ever left unbound – as in (26) – it would not have any φ -features. Consequently:
 - The AQ marker would not be able to check off its uninterpretable φ -features
 - The derivation will crash (syntactically)

5. Summary and Some Follow-Up Questions

(33) Key Proposals of Zimmermann (2002a,b)

- a. Distributivity From Distributive Numerals
- Distributive numerals (*aka* ‘Anti-Quantifiers’, ‘Distance Distributives’) *syntactically contain* the distributive operators they are understood to contribute.
 - Nevertheless, we can derive the semantics of these constructions from something very close to their surface syntax.
 - We posit certain null pronominals (*pro*, *P*) providing the restrictor and the scope of the distributive marker *internal to the AQ itself*.
 - The special composition rule of ITLA allows other overt expressions in the sentence to *bind* those pronouns, thereby providing their values.
- b. Cross-Linguistic Variation w.r.t. ‘Pluractional Readings’
- Pluractional readings of sentences containing distributive numerals are derived by allowing the understood restrictor of the distributive operator go unbound
 - This allows the restrictor to be construed as a contextually salient plural event.
 - The absence of such pluractional readings for binominal each in English (and related constructions) is due to certain formal properties of the distributive numerals in those languages
 - These properties conspire to prevent the distributive restrictor from being unbound, and thus from being construed as a plural event...

(34) Follow-Up Question 1

- a. Question:
In all the examples above of AQ constructions with ‘participant distributive’ readings, the AQ is a direct object. How, then, do we analyze sentences like the following, where the AQ is in subject position?

[Jeweils zwei Offiziere] begleiteten die Ballerinen nach Haus.
DIST two officers accompanied the ballerinas to home
The ballerinas were each accompanied home by two officers.

- b. Answer:
In his dissertation, Zimmermann shows how these can be analyzed using TTLA. Note, however, that the analysis requires covert movement of *die Ballerinen*, and so diverges from being ‘surface compositional’ (Zimmermann 2002: 272)

