Variation in Dependent Indefinites
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Henderson 2014 develops an analysis of dependent indefinites, based on data from Kaqchikel, in which they are minimally different from plain indefinites and their connection with plurality is clear. The only difference between a plain indefinite and a dependent indefinite is that the later requires its variable be evaluation plural instead of evaluation singular (i.e., plural across sets of variable assignments).

The virtues of this analysis, though, are the source of its vices. In virtue of being lean, there are few parameters in the analysis that can be altered to capture cross-linguistic variation, and the analysis has been criticized in recent work on exactly such grounds (e.g., Kuhn 2015; Farkas 2015).

The goal for this talk is to play the honest broker. I will present the analysis in Henderson 2014 and then consider the arguments for richer proposals in which dependent indefinites are anaphoric expression, or even anaphoric expressions that are themselves distributive quantifiers. I will identify which are arguments are the most troublesome for the account in Henderson 2014 and decide whether there are acceptable solutions.

Finally, I will consider what the observed typological variation in the distribution of dependent indefinites means for the hopes of a unified analysis.