

Wh-quantifier float in German diagnoses \bar{A} -traces, and successive cyclicity in vP

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Claim This paper defends proposition (P) pertaining to the German floating quantifier known as “invariant *alles*” (‘all’; cf. Reis, 1992; Zimmermann, 2007), with the two consequences (C1)–(C2).

(P) Floating *alles* must be analyzed as derived from a single source that contains its ‘associate’ *wh*-phrase (arguing for “stranding”/“floating” analyses of quantifier float, cf. Sportiche, 1988/ Dougherty, 1970; contra adverbial analysis of *alles* by Heck and Himmelreich, 2017).

C1. vP is a landing site of successive-cyclic *wh*-movement in German.

C2. *Alles* diagnoses the position of \bar{A} -traces of its associate.

Invariant *alles* presupposes a plurality of answers, and creates the expectation that the question be answered with an exhaustive list. *Alles* is parasitic on certain *wh*-operators. (1) vs (2) show “floating” vs “adjacent” *alles*.

- (1) Wen₁ hast du t₁ alles angerufen? (2) [Wen alles]₁ hast du t₁ angerufen?
who_{acc} have_φ you all called who_{acc} all have_φ you called
‘Who all did you call?’ ‘Who all did you call?’

P: 2 Arguments for deep constituency A number of generalizations about *alles* are argued to follow from the deep constituency between *alles* and its associate ‘W’. This presentation focuses on two of them: (i) the distribution of *alles*; (ii) the *uniqueness generalization* about *alles*.

(i) *Distribution*: Building on Reis (1992), it is argued that the distribution of floated *alles* in a given derivation D is bounded by the base position, and the movement possibilities of its associate W in D. (3) shows that *alles* may occur in W’s base position. *Wh*-indefinites cannot scramble in German [(4)]. The DAT *wh*-indefinite therefore diagnoses its own base position, and the base position of the ACC object to its right, given that it could not have moved in any other way either.

- (3) Weißt du, [was₁ der Lehrer [VP wem t₁ alles gezeigt] haben soll?
know_φ you what_{acc} the teacher_{nom} who.INDF_{dat} all shown have MOD_φ
‘Do you know what all the teacher supposedly showed to someone?’

- (4) *dass wen₁ keiner/’n Lehrer t₁ gesehen hat.
that who.INDF_{acc} no-one/a teacher_{nom} seen have_φ
Intended: ‘that no-one/a teacher saw someone.’

Alles may occur in positions that W can reach via scrambling [(5)–(6)]; the base order for *zeigen* ‘show’ is DAT>>ACC, so the different word orders indicated by braces are due to movement of W+*alles* over DAT rather than of the DAT object over *alles*. Conversely, *alles* may *not* occur in positions that W *cannot* reach via scrambling (or other types of movement); (7)–(8) show this for the position to the left of weak object pronouns. A presentation will add further arguments for (i).

- (5) Was₁ hat sie {t₁ alles} den Leuten t₁ {alles} gezeigt?
what_{acc} have_φ she all the people_{dat} all shown
‘What (all) did she show the people?’
- (6) Wer hat {was (alles)} den Leuten {was (alles)} gezeigt?
who_{nom} have_φ what_{acc} all the people_{dat} what_{acc} all shown
‘Who showed the people what (all)?’
- (7) Was hat {?*alles} ihm {alles} keiner t geben wollen?
what_{acc} have_φ all him_{dat} all noone_{nom} give want
‘What all did no-one want to give him?’
- (8) Wo {*was₁} ihm {was₁} keiner t₁ abgegeben hätte, ist unklar.
where what_{acc} him_{dat} what_{acc} noone_{nom} give have.COND_φ be_φ unclear

‘It is unclear where no-one would have given him what.’

(ii) *Uniqueness*: “each *alles* is uniquely mapped to a W”. (A), there can be no multiple *alles* per one W [(9)]; braces indicate alternatives. (B), there can be no multiple Ws per *alles* [(10)]; else, if one *alles* could relate to multiple Ws, any additional *alles* should be unacceptable also in (10) with multiple Ws, as it is in (9) with one W. Instead, the number of Ws bounds the number of *alles*.

(9) [*Wen* {**alles**}] hat er {**alles**} da {**alles**} beleidigt?
 who_{acc} all have_φ he all there all offended
 ‘Who all did he offend there/then?’

(10) (Und) *wem*₁ hat *wer*₂ **alles**₂ dieses Foto *t*₁ **alles**₁ gezeigt?
 and who_{dat} have_φ who_{nom} all this photo_{acc} all shown
 ‘Who all showed this photo to who all?’

C1: Successive-cyclicity McCloskey (2000) shows that *wh*-quantifier float in West Ulster English (WUE) argues for successive-cyclic *wh*-movement through CP. Similarly, *alles* argues for successive-cyclic *wh*-movement through *vP* in German (varieties with long-distance *wh*-movement). *Alles* must be clause-mate to the *wh*-trace it relates to [(12)–(13)]. In spite of this, with long movement, *alles* may be floated in the matrix clause just as well as in the clause of origin [(11)].

(11) [_{CP1} *Wem*₁ hat Peter [_{?P} *t*₁ {**alles**} gemeint, [_{CP2} dass Maria *t*₁ {**alles**} geholfen hat]]]?
 who_{dat} have_φ Peter all said that Maria all helped have_φ
 ‘Who all did Peter say/think that Mary helped?’

(12) * [_{CP1} *Wem*₁ hat Peter *t*₁ erzählt, [_{CP2} dass Maria **alles**₁ Susi geholfen hat]]?
 who_{dat} have_φ Peter told that Maria all Susi_{dat} helped have_φ

(13) * [_{CP1} Peter hat **alles**₁ gewusst, [_{CP2} *wen*₁ Maria *t*₁ liebt]].
 Peter have_φ all known who_{acc} Maria love_φ

?P in (11) is most likely *vP* as *alles* in the matrix must occur to the left of *wh*-indefinites (whereas it was able to occur to their right in the clause of origin, cf. (3)): *alles* floated in the matrix is minimally outside the VP shell containing the subject. Conversely, *alles can* stay lower than a full DP subject [(11)]: it cannot be the case that matrix *alles* necessarily occurs as high as TP.

C2: \bar{A} -traces There are four asymmetries in the distribution of *alles*: (i) *alles* may occur inside the complement of a raising verb if W is the infinitival’s object [(15)] but not if W is the infinitival’s subject [(14)]; (ii) *alles* may occur to the left of a subject that contains a pronoun/anaphor bound by W, but not to the right of such a subject (Weak Cross Over/Condition A); (iii) *alles* may occur adjacent to its overtly scrambled, “in-situ” W, but not floated at a distance from such a W. In (i-ii) the difference is whether *alles* occurs in a position corresponding to an A-trace (*) or an \bar{A} -trace (OK) of its associate. (ii-iii) therefore further argue for scrambling being A-movement in German, in these contexts, so that (iii) shows the same anti-A-trace effect. (14-15) show the contrast for (i). (Scrambling of *dem Max* in (14) controls for de-accented nature of *alles*; low *alles* * regardless.)

(14) Krass, *was*₁ *t*₁ {**alles**} droht, [_{TP} [_{dem Max}]₂ *t*₁ {***alles**} *t*₂ das Leben zu versauen]!
 crass WH_{nom} t \bar{A} all threaten_φ the Max t_A all the life_{acc} to spoil_{inf}
 ‘Astonishing, what all threatens to ruin Max’s life!’

(15) Krass, *was*₂ [_{diese App}]₁ (*t*₂) {?**alles**} droht, [_{TP} *t*₁ dem Max *t*₂ {**alles**} zu versauen]!
 crass WH_{acc} this app_{nom} all threaten_φ the Max all to spoil_{inf}
 ‘Astonishing, what all this app threatens to ruin for Max!’

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