**A unified analysis of the same, phrasal comparatives, and superlatives**

E. Allyn Smith\(^1\) and Carl Pollard\(^2\)

\(^1\)Department of Linguistics, Northwestern University
\(^2\)Department of Linguistics, The Ohio State University

---

### Introduction

Heim 1985 notes the similarity between the following phenomena:

- **Internal readings of the same or different**
- **Phrasal Comparatives**
- **Superlatives**

In essence (cf. Barker 2007) each construction has a quantificational element whose scope target does not exist until another quantifier in the sentence undergoes QR, which creates an intermediate adjunctive function for its own (parasitic) raising.

This is ‘parasitic scope’ (cf. Barker for the same and Bhatt & Takahashi 2007 for phrasal comparatives)

---

### The Same

1. **First reading:** There is some book that both Anna and Bill read. (Plural Associate: Anna & Bill) (below)

2. **Second reading:** Anna and Bill both read a/the book that was previously mentioned (Diectic)

---

### Phrasal Comparatives

1. **First reading:** Anna owes Bill more than Clara.

2. **Second reading:** Anna owes more to Bill than Clara owes to Bill. (Associate: Bill)

---

### Superlatives

1. **First reading:** The amount Anna owes Bill exceeds the amount anyone else owes Bill. (Assoc: Anna) (below)

2. **Second reading:** The amount Anna owes Bill exceeds the amount anyone owes anyone else. (Associate: Bill)

---

Select References


Contact: esmith@northwestern.edu