

Polarity sensitivity, domain restriction and determiner: The case of Korean KU-wh

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Main goal

- The main goal of this paper is to identify the Korean **emphatic marker KU**.

(1) *Context: the speaker and hearer were talking about a man they saw yesterday:*

ku **namca**-nun khi-ka khu-ta. [definite *ku*]
the/that man-Top height-Nom tall-Decl

‘**The** man is tall.’

(2) a. wuli pan haksayng-tul-un **KU** nwukwu-na khi-ka khu-ta. [emphatic KU]
my class student-PL-Top KU who-or height-Nom tall-Decl

‘Any student in my class, **whosoever (he may be)**, is tall.’

b. wuli pan haksayng-tul-un **KU** nwukwu-to khi-ka khu-ci.anh-ta. [emphatic KU]
my class student-PL-Top KU who-or height-Nom tall-Neg-Decl

‘No student in my class, **whosoever (he may be)**, is tall.’

‘Any student in my class, **whosoever (he may be)**, is not tall.’

Data & Puzzle

- Free Choice Item (FCI): *nwukwu-na* ‘anyone/everyone’
- Negative Polarity Item (NPI): *nwukwu-to* ‘no one’.
- FCI in (2) and NPI in (3) in Korean do not necessarily have to have *ku*:

(3) wuli pan haksayng-tul-un **nwukwu-na** kitha-lul chi.l.swu.iss-ta. [FCI]
my class student-PL-Top who-or guitar-Acc play-possible-Decl
‘**Any student** in my class can play the guitar.’

(4) wuli pan haksayng-tul-un **nwukwu-to** kitha-lul chi.l.swu.eps-ta. [NPI]
my class student-PL-Top who-even guitar-Acc play-impossible-Decl
‘**No student** in my class can play the guitar.’

Data & Puzzle

- *ku* co-occurring with FCI and NPI creates a stronger and **more emphatic statements**.
- In (5) and (6), it does not exhibit typical feature of definiteness.
- But it gives rise to ***whosoever (he may be)*** reading revealed as in the translation:

(5) wuli pan haksayng-tul-un **ku** **nwukwu-na** kitha-lul chi.l.swu.iss-ta. [FCI]

my class student-PL-Top KU who-or guitar-Acc play-possible-Decl

‘Any student in my class, **whosoever (he may be)**, can play the guitar.’

(6) wuli pan haksayng-tul-un **ku** **nwukwu-to** kitha-lul chi.l.swu.eps-ta. [NPI]

my class student-PL-Top KU who-even guitar-Acc play-impossible-Decl

‘No student in my class, **whosoever (he may be)**, can play the guitar.’

Proposal

KU



Definiteness marker
+ NP: (1)
(Kang 2012, 2015, to
appear)

Emphatic marker
+ wh-indeterminates: (2)
= **Modal Determiner**

MD KU = *whosoever (he may be)*

Proposal

1. Emphatic KU conveys modal force which preserves **polarity** and **domain restriction** of *wh-ever* (indifference).
2. In the modal use, emphatic KU functions as an emphatic pragmatic operator.

Modal determiners in Chinese and Greek

- The connection between *wh*-indeterminates and definiteness seems to be pervasive crosslinguistically (Giannakidou and Cheng 2006; Cheng 2009; Lazaridou-Chatzigoga 2007; Liu 2017, 2018, a.o.)

(7) a. (wú lùn) shéi **dōu** key lái. [Chinese]

No-matter who **DOU** can come

‘No matter who can come.’

b. **o** [[o- phos]- dhipote] ixos ine muskiki. [Greek]

DEF DEF- who/which FC-marker sound is music

‘Just any sound is music.’

English *any* (Kadmon and Landman 1993; Krifka 1994; Chierchia 2005, 2013, a.o)

- For the use of **emphatic PSI**, *any* in English is often brought up as the prototypical instantiation that has received the most attention in the literature.
- Core properties: 1) **domain widening** and 2) **scalarity** with **covert *even***
- The pragmatic effect: 3) **make a statement strengthened**

👉 The behavior of MD KU is distinct from *any*!!!!

Proposal: Core properties of MD KU

- ① like *any*, MD KU is a **weak NPI** which needs to be subject to licensing by nonveridical operator.
- ② unlike *any*, MD KU is **not domain-widened** but conveys a **contextually specified domain restriction**.
- ③ unlike *any*, MD KU does **not trigger scalarity**.
- ④ unlike *any*, MD KU **trigger a distributive/maximality effect**.

Outlines

- **Section 2:** A brief recapitulation of theoretical backgrounds on FCI and NPI in Korean.
- **Section 3:** Laying out a set of novel data, providing hallmark properties of MD KU.
 - Weak polarity
 - Contextual domain restriction
 - Maximality (i.e. *even-less*)
 - No scalarity
- **Section 4:** Elaboration of the core proposal of the semantico-pragmatic contribution of MD KU.
- **Section 5:** Conclusions

2. Theoretical backgrounds: PSI FCI and NPI (Choi 2007)

(8) a. **amwu-na** o-l.swu.iss-ta. [FCI]

any-or come-possible-Decl

‘anyone can come.’

b. **amwu-to** o-l.swu.eps-ta. [NPI]

any-even come-impossible-Decl

‘anyone cannot come.’

(9) a. **nwukwu-na** o-l.swu.iss-ta. [FCI]

who-or come-possible-Decl

‘anyone can come.’

b. **nwukwu-to** o-l.swu.eps-ta. [NPI]

who-even come-impossible-Decl

‘no one can come.’

2. Theoretical backgrounds: PSI FCI and NPI (Choi 2007)

Table 2. Licensing environments of *wh*-PSIs (Choi 2017, (3))

Wh-PSI Context	Wh-(N)- <i>to</i> (NPI)	Wh-(N)- <i>na</i> (FCI)
Negative episodic	√	*/√
DE contexts other than negation	*	√
FC contexts (generic, possibility/necessity modal, imperative)	√	√
Affirmative episodic	*	*/√

2. Theoretical backgrounds: FCI and NPI (Choi 2007)

Table 3. Domains of the Korean indefinite roots

<i>Amwu</i> -(N)	<i>Wh</i> -(N)
Widened domain	Regular or contextually salient domain

- (10) a. ku il-un nwukwu-na ha-l.swu.iss-ciman, **amwu-na** ha-l.swu.iss-ci.ahn-ta.
the job-Top who-or do-possible-but amwu-or do-possible-Neg-Decl
‘(Lit.) As for the job, anyone can do it, but not just ANYone can do it.’
- b. #ku il-un amwu-na ha-l.swu.iss-ciman, **nwukwu-na** ha-l.swu-iss-ci.ahn-ta.
the job-Top amwu-or do-possible-but wh-or do-possible-Neg-Decl
‘(Lit.) As for the job, just ANYone can do it, but not everyone/anyone can do it.’

2. Theoretical backgrounds: FCI and NPI (Choi 2007)

(11) **whatever(w0)(F)(P)(Q)** (von Stechow 2000)

a. Asserts: $Q(w_0)(\iota x.P(w_0)(x))$

b. Presupposes: $\forall w' \in \text{min}w_0 [F \cap (\lambda w'. \iota x.P(w')(x) \neq \iota x.P(w_0)(x))]: Q(w')(\iota x.P(w')(x)) = Q(w_0)(\iota x.P(w_0)(x))$

(12) **wh-(N)-na (w0)(F)(P)(Q)** (Choi 2007)

a. Asserts: $\exists x [P(w_0) \wedge Q(w_0)(x)]$

b. Presupposes: $\forall w' \in \text{min}w_0 [F \cap (\lambda w''P(w')(x) \neq P(w_0)(x))]: \exists x [P(w')(x) \wedge Q(w')(x)] = \exists x [P(w_0)(x) \wedge Q(w_0)(x)]$

(13) **wh-(N)-to (w0)(F)(P)(Q) = NPI-even** (Choi 2007)

$[[\text{even}_{\text{NPI}}]](C)(p)$ is defined iff $\exists q \in C [q \neq p \wedge q(w)=1] \wedge \forall q \in C [q \neq p \rightarrow p <_{\text{likelihood}} q]$; if defined,

$[[\text{even}_{\text{NPI}}]](p) = 1$ iff $p(w) = 1$

3.1 Core properties of MD KU: weak NPI

- The MD KU is polarity sensitive which is licensed in the nonveridical context, such as questions, imperatives, modal verbs, etc (Kang 2015, 2018).

First, KU_{MD} cannot occur in episodic context:

- (14) a. John-un mwues-ul mek-ess-ta.
John-Top what-Acc eat-Past-Decl
'John ate something.'
- b. #John-un **KU** mwues-ul mek-ess-ta.
John-Top KU_{MD} what-Acc eat-Past-Decl
'intended: John ate something, whatsoever it may be.'

3.1 Core properties of MD KU ; weak NPI

Second, KU_{MD} appears in non-negative polarity contexts such as questions:

- (15) a. John-un cemsim-ulo mwues-ul mek-ess-ta.
John-Top lunch-for what-Acc eat-Past-Decl
'John ate something for lunch.'
- b. #John-un cemsim-ulo **KU** mwues-ul mek-ess-ta.
John-Top lunch-for KU_{MD} what-Acc eat-Past-Decl
'intended: John ate something for lunch, whatsoever it may be.'
- c. John-un cemsim-ulo **KU** mwues-ul mek-ess-ni?
John-Top lunch-for KU_{MD} what-Acc eat-Past-Q
'Did John eat anything for lunch, whatsoever it may be?'

3.1 Core properties of MD KU: weak NPI

Third, KU_{MD} occurs in conditional:

(16) a. John-ul eti-eyes po-ase ku-eykey yaykihay-ss-ta.
John-Acc where-Loc see-so he-Dat talk-Past-Decl

‘(I) saw John some place, so I talked to him.’

b. #John-ul **KU** eti-eyes po-ase ku-eykey yaykihay-ss-ta.
John-Acc KU_{MD} where-Loc see-so he-Dat talk-Past-Decl

‘intended: (I) saw John some place, wherever it may be, so I talked to him.’

c. John-ul **KU** eti-eyes po-myen ku-eykey yaykihay-la.
John-Acc KU_{MD} where-Loc see-if he-Dat talk-Imp

‘If you see John some place or other, wherever it may be, talk to him.’

3.1 Core properties of MD KU ; weak NPI

Fourth, KU_{MD} appears in imperative:

- (17) a. Etten sakwa-lul mek-ess-ta.
which apple-Acc eat-Past-Decl
'(I) ate some apples.'
- b. #**KU** Etten sakwa-lul mek-ess-ta.
 KU_{MD} which apple-Acc eat-Past-Decl
'intended: (I) ate some apples, whichever it may be.'
- c. **KU** Etten sakwa-lul mek-ela.
 KU_{MD} which apple-Acc eat-Imp
'Eat any apple, whichever it may be.'

3.1 Core properties of MD KU; weak NPI

Fifth, KU_{MD} is compatible with modal verbs:

- (18) a. nwukwu-ka o-ass-ta.
 who-Nom come-Past-Decl
 ‘Someone came in.’
- b. #**KU** nwukwu-ka o-ass-ta.
 KU_{MD} who-Nom come-Past-Decl
 ‘intended: someone, whosoever it may be, came in.’
- c. **KU** nwukwu-ka o-ass-ul.swu.iss-ta.
 KU_{MD} who-Nom come-possible-Decl
 ‘It is possible that someone, whoever he may be, came in.’

Table 4. Comparative distribution of *any*, *wh-ever* and $KU_{MD} + PSI-wh$

Context		<i>any</i>	<i>wh-ever</i> (indifference)	$KU_{MD} + PSI-wh$
Downward entailing	Antimorphic	√	√	√
	Context with negative word	√	√	√
	<i>Without</i>	√	√	√
	<i>Before</i>	√	√	√
	Comparative	√	√	√
	Conditional	√	√	√
Veridical	Factive	√	√	√
	Affirmative episodic	*	√	??/√
	Context with copula sentence	*	*	*
	existential	*	*	*
Nonveridical	Episodic possibility modal	*	√	√
	Deontic possibility modal	√	√	√
	Ability modal	√	√	√
	Episodic necessity modal	*/√	√	√
	Deontic necessity modal	*/√	√	√
	Volitional modal	*/√	√	√
	Generic	√	√	√

3.2 Core properties of MD KU; domain restriction

Table 5. Domains of the Korean indefinite roots

<i>Amwu</i> -(N)	<i>Wh</i> -(N)
Widened domain	Regular or contextually salient domain

- MD KU should occur in contextually restricted context.

(19) a. ***KU** amwu-na o-ass-ul.swu.iss-ta.

KU_{MD} any-or come-possible-Decl

 ‘(lit.) anyone can come.’

 b. ***KU** amwu-to o-ass-ul.swu.eps-ta.

KU_{MD} any-or come-possible-Decl

 ‘(lit.) anyone cannot come.’

3.2 Core properties of MD KU: Domain restriction

- *Wh*-indeterminates are domain determined, so there is a contextually salient domain (i.e. a set of alternatives to *x*) to refer back.

(20) Achim cemsim cenyek cwung **ku** enu hankki-nun mek-eya.han-ta.
breakfast lunch dinner among KU_{MD} which one.meal-Top eat-must-Decl
'We have to eat either breakfast, lunch, or dinner, whichever it may be.'

3.3 Core properties of MD KU: Maximality

- The felicitous use of MD KU is guaranteed by the fact the sum of students in the class is considered to be a maximal individual.

(21) wuli pan	haksayng-tul-un	ku	nwukwu-na	kitha-lul	chi.l.swu.iss-ta.	[FCI]
my class	student-PL-Top	KU _{MD}	who-or	guitar-Acc	play-possible-Decl	
#kulentey	John-un	mos	chin-ta.			
but	John-Top	cannot	play-Decl			

'Every student in my class, whosoever he may be (without exception), can play the guitar. #but John cannot play the guitar.'

(22) wuli pan	haksayng-tul-un	ku	nwukwu-to	kitha-lul	chi.l.swu.eps-ta.	[NPI]
my class	student-PL-Top	KU _{MD}	who-even	guitar-Acc	play-impossible-Decl	
#kulentey	John-un	chin-ta.				
but	John-Top	play-Decl				

'Every student in my class, whosoever he may be (without exception), can play the guitar. #but John cannot play the guitar.'

3.4 Core properties of MD KU: NO scalarity

- MD KU sentence only allows distributive reading, not *even-reading* (cf. Chinese *dou*: Liu 2017, 2018)

(23) wuli pan haksayng-tul-un **ku** **nwukwu-na** 10 kwen-uy chayk-ul
my class student-PL-Top KU_{MD} who-or 10 CL-Gen book-Acc
sa-l.swu.iss-ta.

buy-possible-Decl

‘Every student, whoever he may be, can buy 10 books.’

a. ~~Even reading: ‘A group of student in my class together can buy 10 books, which is unlikely.’~~

b. Distributive reading: ‘The students in my class each can buy 10 books.’

- KU in distributive reading conveys maximality effect.

4. Analysis

- MD KU = *whosoever (he may be)*
- MD KU gives rise to **universal-concessive reading**

- Some examples of English unconditionals:

(24) a. **Whoever comes**, I will leave.

b. **No matter who comes**, I will leave.

c. **Regardless of who comes**, I will leave.

Rawlins (2008, 2013) and Hirsch (2016)

- English unconditionals '*wh-ever* XP' in (26) is akin to a conjunction of conditionals in (27):

(25) Whatever Mary read, John was boring.

(26) a. If Mary read x, John was boring.

b. If Mary read a newspaper, John was boring, and if Mary read a magazine, John was boring, ...

Rawlins (2008, 2013) and Hirsch (2016)

(25') Whatever Mary read, John was boring.

(26) \llbracket whatever Mary read \rrbracket = “regardless of $\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\}$ ”

a. $\lambda P_{\langle st, t \rangle}. \exists x [p = \lambda w. \text{Mary read } x \text{ in } w]$

b. $\{\lambda w. \text{Mary read a newspaper in } w, \lambda w. \text{Mary read a magazine in } w, \dots\}$

(27) $\llbracket (25) \rrbracket^c$

a. $\lambda w. \forall p [\exists x [p = \lambda w'. \forall w'' \in F_c(w) [\text{Mary read } x \text{ in } w'' \rightarrow \text{John was boring in } w'']] \rightarrow q(w)]$

b. $\lambda w. \forall w' \in F_c(w) [\text{Mary read a newspaper in } w' \rightarrow \text{John was boring in } w'] \ \& \ \forall w' \in F_c(w) [\text{Mary read a magazine in } w' \rightarrow \text{John was boring in } w'] \ \& \dots$

Unconditionals in Korean

(28) haksayng-tul-un **nwukwu-tun**, (ku-ka) kitha-lul chi.l.swu.iss-ta.
student-PL-Top who-ever he-Nom guitar-Acc play-possible-Decl
'Whoever the student may be, he can play the guitar.'

(29) haksayng-tul-un **nwukwu-tun**, (ku-ka) kitha-lul chi.l.swu.eps-ta.
student-PL-Top who-ever he-Nom guitar-Acc play-impossible-Decl
'Whoever the student may be, he cannot play the guitar.'

Unconditionals in Korean

(28') haksayng-tul-un **nwukwu-tun**, (ku-ka)kitha-lul chi.l.swu.iss-ta.
student-PL-Top who-ever he-Nom guitar-Acc play-possible-Decl
'Whoever the student may be, he can play the guitar.'

(30) haksayng-tul-un **ku nwukwu-na** kitha-lul chi.l.swu.iss-ta. [FCI]
student-PL-Top KU who-or guitar-Acc play-possible-Decl
'Any student in my class, **whosoever (he may be)**, can play the guitar.'

Unconditionals in Korean

(29') haksayng-tul-un **nwukwu-tun**, (ku-ka) kitha-lul chi.l.swu.eps-ta.
student-PL-Top who-ever he-Nom guitar-Acc play-impossible-Decl
'Whoever the student may be, he cannot play the guitar.'

(31) haksayng-tul-un **ku nwukwu-to** kitha-lul chi.l.swu.eps-ta.
student-PL-Top KU who-or guitar-Acc play-impossible-Decl
'Any student in my class, **whosoever (he may be)**, cannot play the guitar.'

4. Analysis: MD KU in unconditionals

(30') haksayng-tul-un **ku nwukwu-na** kitha-lul chi.l.swu.iss-ta. [FCI]
student-PL-Top KU who-or guitar-Acc play-possible-Decl

'Any student in my class, **whosoever (he may be)**, can play the guitar.'

(32) a. If x is a student in my class, x can play the guitar.

b. If **John** is a student in w', the person can play the guitar in w',

& If **Bill** is a student in my class in w', the person can play the guitar in w', & ...

- Pragmatically strengthened effect comes from the addition of indifference modal force (i.e. speaker's 'no-matter' attitude).

4. Analysis: MD KU in unconditionals

(31') haksayng-tul-un **ku nwukwu-na** kitha-lul chi.l.swu.eps-ta. [NPI]
student-PL-Top KU who-or guitar-Acc play-impossible-Decl

'Any student in my class, **whosoever (he may be)**, cannot play the guitar.'

(33) a. If *x* is a student in my class, *x* cannot play the guitar.

b. If **John** is a student in *w'*, the person cannot play the guitar in *w'*,

& If **Bill** is a student in my class in *w'*, the person cannot play the guitar in *w'*, & ...

4. Analysis: MD KU in unconditionals

MD KU + FCI

(34) haksayng-tul-un **ku nwukwu-na** kitha-lul chi.l.swu.iss-ta.
student-PL-Top KU who-or guitar-Acc play-possible-Decl

‘Any student in my class, **whosoever (he may be)**, can play the guitar.’

a. Assertion: $\lambda w_o. \exists w \in \text{Deo}_{w_o}. [\exists x. \text{student}(x, w) \wedge C(x, w) \wedge \text{can play the guitar}(x, w)]$

b. Presupposition: $\lambda w. \exists x [p = \forall w' \in F_c(w) [x \text{ is a student in } w' \rightarrow \text{iy}[y \text{ is a student in } w'] \rightarrow \text{can play the guitar in } w]]$

4. Analysis: MD KU in unconditionals

MD KU + NPI

(35) haksayng-tul-un **ku nwukwu-to** kitha-lul chi.l.swu.eps-ta.
student-PL-Top KU who-even guitar-Acc play-impossible-Decl

‘No one, **whosoever (he may be)**, can play the guitar.’

a. LF: $\text{ku}[[\text{-to C[Neg [wh-(student) can play the guitar]]]]]$

b. Assertion: $\neg \exists x[\text{play the guitar}(x)]$

c. ScalarP: “That $\neg[\text{wh-student}(x) \text{ play the guitar}]$ ” is the least-likely in C.

d. ExistP: There is some (number of) y other than x that cannot play the guitar.

e. UnconditionalP: $\lambda w. \exists x[p = \forall w' \in F_c(w)[x \text{ is a student in } w' \rightarrow \text{I}_y[y \text{ is a student in } w] \text{ cannot play the guitar in } w]]$

5. Conclusions

- Pragmatically strengthened effect: the addition of indifference modal force (i.e. speaker's 'no-matter' attitude).
- The contribution of MD KU is characterized in terms of unconditionals.
- Two types of *ku* can conceptually connected into the uniform class with definiteness marker.

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Thank you !

谢谢