

## **Plural related readings of universals**

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The talk investigates the Mandarin MEI plus DOU construction. It is argued that its universal interpretation arises via mechanisms of plural predication. Besides distributive readings, event distributive interpretations and cumulative interpretations are available. The particular properties of MEI plus DOU require a syntactic mechanism of universal concord, which accounts for the cooccurrence of the two expressions. The same analytical tools are motivated by two further case studies: German incremental 'immer' (as in 'Es wird immer heisser' 'It is getting hotter and hotter'), and collective readings of English 'every' (as in 'Everyone gathered in the hallway'). The latter is shown to be an instance of ongoing language change, and the mechanism of universal concord is argued to be instrumental in promoting the change.