

# ON DISTRIBUTIVITY IN KARITIANA\*

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## I. Introduction

Karitiana is the sole surviving language of the Arikém family (Tupi Stock), and is currently spoken by approximately 330 people living on a demarcated Indian reservation 95 kilometres from Porto Velho, capital of the state of Rondônia, in the Northwest of Brazil (cf. Storto & van der Velden 2005).

This paper focuses on the expression of distributivity in Karitiana. More specifically, it investigates the syntax and semantics of distributive numerals in the language. From a broader perspective, the paper aims at assessing the implications of the semantics of distributive numerals in Karitiana for semantic theories on the expression plurality and distributivity in natural languages.

There are many languages, from a broad array of distinct language families, that express distribution by the use of distributive numerals. Some examples are: Maricopa (Hokan, spoken in Arizona), Gã (Niger-Congo, spoken in Ghana), Bura (Afro-Asiatic, spoken in Nigeria), Nubian (Nilo-Saharan, spoken in Egypt), Rumanian (Indo-European), Turkish (Altaic), Tagalog (Austronesian, spoken in Philippines), Japanese, and Georgian (South Caucasian) (cf. Gil 1995).

Cross-linguistically distributive numerals are frequently formed by the use of reduplication (cf. Gil 1982, 1995). That is so for Karitiana. In Karitiana, distributive numerals are reduplicated numerals, as illustrated in (1) and (2). This paper tackles the

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following questions: (i) what is the semantics of reduplicated numerals in Karitiana?; (ii) what is the syntax of reduplicated numerals in the language?

(1) Contexts: Each child built one canoe./ Children built one canoe a day/a week/a month.<sup>1</sup>

Myhint	myhint	nakam'at	gooj	õwã <sup>2</sup>
myhin-t	myhin-t	Ø-naka-m-'a-t	gooj	õwã
one-OBL	one-OBL	3-DECL-CAUS-build-NFT	canoe	child
'Children built canoes distributively (in ones)' <sup>3</sup>				

(2) Contexts: Each child built two canoes./ Children built two canoes a day/a week/a month.

Sypomp	sypomp	nakam'at	gooj	õwã
sypom-t	sypom-t	Ø-naka-m-'a-t	gooj	õwã
two-OBL	two-OBL	3-DECL-CAUS-build-NFT	canoe	child
'Children built canoes distributively (in twos)'				

We claim that distributive numerals are adverbial pluractional operators - they pluralize the event argument and impose a homogeneity restriction on it. This means that sentence (1) could be paraphrased as (3). What distributive numerals do, then, is pluralize the event argument of the predicate.

(3) 'There was a canoe building event by children and this event can be divided into atomic subevents of children building canoes',

<sup>1</sup>The data is presented as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> line: context; 2<sup>nd</sup> line: orthographic transcription of the Karitiana sentence; 3<sup>rd</sup> line: morphological segmentation; 4<sup>th</sup> line: morpheme by morpheme gloss; 5<sup>th</sup> line: translation. The symbols used are the following: NFT= non future, AUX = auxiliary, RDPL = reduplication, DECL = declarative, IRR = irrealis, IMP = imperative, 1s = 1<sup>st</sup> person singular agreement, 2s = 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular agreement, 3 = 3<sup>rd</sup> person agreement, 3p = 3<sup>rd</sup> person, OBL = oblique, CAUS = causative, VERB = verbalizer, ASST=assertive, OFC = object focus, POS = posposition, SUB = subordinator, TV = thematic vowel. We chose to separate the translation from the context. In the context we present the situation supplied to the informant.

<sup>2</sup> Karitiana has two tenses, future and non-future. We translated all sentences as past in order to simplify our discussion. This option does not interfere with the issues under discussion.

<sup>3</sup> We will consistently translate Karitiana nouns to English bare plurals. Nevertheless, it is important to bear in mind that they are number-neutral and can refer to both atomic and plural individuals. They are also unmarked to the definite-indefinite distinction.

where: the atomic subevents are individualized on the basis of participants or ‘times’.

The data presented and discussed in this paper was obtained by one of the authors by means of controlled elicitation unless otherwise indicated. Moreover, the research carried out for elaborating this paper also involved the analysis and discussion of the data obtained by other researchers by means of both spontaneous speech and controlled elicitation.<sup>4</sup> This particular investigation, an analysis of the syntax and semantics of distributive numerals in Karitiana, requires detailed structural paradigms which correspond to controlled discourse contexts, whose adequacy or even truthfulness the speaker has to judge. We therefore proceeded as follows: the native consultant was provided with a context and was asked how he would convey a specific Portuguese meaning in his own language. Once the sentence was produced in the target language, we double-checked its adequacy in other contexts. For a more detailed account of the methodology adopted, the reader is referred to Matthewson 2004.

The paper is organized as follows. Section II below presents the theoretical background on which our analysis is based. Section III presents the relevant facts about Karitiana grammar. In section IV, we discuss how cumulative, collective and distributive readings are generated by cumulative denotations of verbs and nouns. In section V, we discuss the expression of distributivity in Karitiana. Next, in section VI, we present our analysis of distributive numerals as plural operators over the VP. In section VII, we provide evidence in support of our analysis. Finally, section VIII concludes with a summary of our claim and of its consequences.

## II. Theoretical Framework

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<sup>4</sup> The first researchers to work on Karitiana were David Landin and Rachel Landin who described the syntax and the phonology of the language (Landin, D. (1983), (1984), (1988); Landin, R. (1982), (1987), (1989); Landin & Landin (1973)). Subsequently we have had the works of Daniel Everett ((1985), (1993a), (1993b), (1994)). Luciana Storto – who has been working on the description and analysis of the language since 1992 – analysed phonetic/ phonological and syntactic aspects in her Ph.D. dissertation, 1999 and published various articles on the language and on its phonology and syntax (Storto (1993), (1994), (1995), (1997a), (1997b), (1998a), (1998b), (2000), (2001), (2002a), (2002b), (2003), (2004), Storto & Baldi (1994), Storto & Demolin (2002), (2003a), (2003b), (2004)). Besides these works there is also Caleb Everett’s dissertation (Everett (2005)). Work on the semantics of Karitiana includes the following: Coutinho-Silva (2005), Müller et al. (2006), Sanchez-Mendes (2006) and Sanchez-Mendes & Müller (2007).

In this section we present the theoretical premises of the current analysis. Our investigation takes event semantics as a starting point – i.e., it assumes that verbs take an event argument (cf. Davidson 1967, Parsons 1990, Schein 1993, Lasnik 1995, among others). More specifically, we adopt Kratzer’s proposal that verbs can only take one argument besides the event argument – the internal argument (cf. Kratzer 2003). The subject is not considered to be a real argument of the verb, but a predicate which is introduced via the theta-relation to the sentence by a functional constituent, such as is possibly the case with voice. Therefore any semantic operation on verbal denotations will only affect the event argument and the internal argument, if there is one.

In this model, a sentence such as (4) corresponds to the logical form in (5), whose meaning can be paraphrased as, “There is an event  $e$  such that Inácio is the agent of  $e$  and  $e$  is the event of lifting Nádia”.

(4) Inácio lifted Nádia.

(5)  $\exists e$  [**agent** (Inácio)( $e$ ) & **lift** (Nádia)( $e$ )]

Kratzer (2003) also assumes that denotations of verb phrases (VPs) are minimal. This means that verb phrases denote events, in which nothing other than that which is expressed by the lexical meaning of verb and object (if there is one) occurs. For example, the verb phrase *lift Nádia* in (4) denotes an event in which nothing other than the lifting of Nádia occurs. So that no other child can participate, no table can be lifted, nor can any other entity or event take part in this event. Crucially, minimal events can be plural events though.

Another premise put forth by Kratzer (2003, 2005) is the Cumulativity Universal, which postulates that in natural languages, simple predicate denotations are always cumulative (cf. Krifka 1992, Landmann 1996). A predicate is cumulative if whenever it applies to two individuals it also applies to their sum. A classical example is the nominal plural. If Maria and João are students and Carlos and Andrea are students, then Maria and João and Carlos and Andrea are students. That is, any sum of students belongs to the denotation of *students*. The same pattern can be used to illustrate verbal cumulativity: if  $e$  an event of *lifting Nádia* and  $e'$  is another event of *lifting Nádia*, then  $e+e'$  is also an event of *lifting Nádia*.

The definition of cumulativity for nominal predicates is presented below in (6) and illustrated in (7) by the nominal root  $\sqrt{\text{student}}$ . The definition in (6) states that a nominal predicate is cumulative if, and only if, for any two entities to which it can be applied, this predicate can also be applied to the two entities considered as a plurality. The definition of cumulativity for verbal predicates is presented in (8) and illustrated in (9) by the transitive verbal root  $\sqrt{\text{lift}}$  (cf. Kratzer 2003). Just as with nouns, (8) states that a verbal predicate is cumulative if, and only if, for any two events to which it can be applied, it can also be applied to the two events considered as a plurality.

(6) Cumulativity (of nouns):

A nominal predicate  $P$  is cumulative if, and only if, for every individual  $x$  and every individual  $y$ , if sentence  $P(x)$  is true and sentence  $P(y)$  is true, then sentence  $P(x+y)$  is true<sup>5</sup>.

(7)  $[[\sqrt{\text{student}}]] = \{\text{Maria, João,}, \dots, \text{Maria+João,}, \dots, \text{Maria+João+Carlos, } \dots, \text{Maria+João+Carlos+Andrea,} \dots \}$

(8) Cumulativity (of verbs):

A verbal predicate  $P$  is cumulative if, and only if, for every event  $e$  and every event  $e'$ , if  $P$  is true of  $e$  and  $P$  is true of  $e'$ , then  $P$  is true of  $e+e'$ .<sup>6</sup>

(9)  $[[\sqrt{\text{lift}}]] = \{\langle \text{Maria, } e_1 \rangle, \langle \text{João, } e_2 \rangle, \dots, \langle \text{Maria+João, } e_1 + e_2 \rangle, \dots \}$

Therefore intransitive verbal roots denote both plural and singular events. When verbal roots are transitive or ergative they denote relations between singular and/ or plural events and singular and/ or plural entities. As mentioned above, the reason for this is that in Kratzer's 2003 model, intransitive verbs do not take an internal argument, while transitive and ergative verbs only take an internal argument.

<sup>5</sup> Formal definition:  $\lambda P \langle et \rangle \forall x \forall y [ [P(x) \ \& \ P(y)] \rightarrow P(x+y) ]$ , where:  $P$ : variable over predicates,  $x, y$ : variables over entities (cf. Kratzer 2003).

<sup>6</sup> Formal definition:  $\lambda P \langle st \rangle \forall e \forall e' [ [P(e) \ \& \ P(e')] \rightarrow P(e+e') ]$ , where:  $P$ : variable over predicates,  $e, e'$ : variables over events (cf. Kratzer 2003).



2s-go- IMP  
 ‘(you) Go away! ’

- (13) An ioky! Storto 1999  
 An i-oky-Ø  
 2s 3-kill-IMP  
 ‘( you) Kill it!’

- (14) Ataopisot an Storto 1999  
 a-ta-opiso-t an  
 2s-DECL-listen-NFT you  
 ‘You listened’ (intransitive)

- (15) An ytaokyt yn Storto 1999  
 an y-ta-oky-t yn  
 2s 1s- DECL-hurt- NFT I  
 ‘You will hurt me’

Constituent order supports the analysis of Karitiana as a verb-final language: complements precede pospositions in Pospositional Phrases, as illustrated in (16); possessors precede possessed within the Noun Phrase (NPs), as illustrated in (17), and subordinate clauses precede main clauses, as illustrated in (18). The ergative-absolutive morphological pattern, the absence of tense in subordinate clauses and the complement-head order are general characteristics of the Tupi stock languages (cf. Storto 1999).

- (16)  
 Sete de Setembro tyym atakatari hotel pip Storto 1999  
 Sete de Setembro tyym a-taka-tar-i hotel pi-p  
 Sete de Setembro POS 2s-DECL-go-IRR hotel place- POS  
 ‘You will get to the hotel through Sete de Setembro (avenue)’

- (17) a. ysy’et Storto 1999  
 y-sy’et  
 1s-uncle



õwã	Ø-na-kot-kot-a-t	sypom-t	opok-ako-sypi
child	3-DECL-break-RDPL-VT-NFT	two-OBL	egg

‘Children broke two eggs/ Children broke eggs twice’

Having presented the relevant characteristics of Karitiana grammar, we proceed to the discussion of collective, cumulative and distributive readings of its sentences.

#### IV. Cumulative, Collective and Distributive Readings in Karitiana

This section aims at teasing apart cumulative, collective and distributive readings of sentences such as (21) in Karitiana. All these readings are claimed to be generated by the lexical cumulativity of its verbs and nouns.

(21)	Õwã	nakam’at	gooj
	õwã	Ø-naka-m-’a-t	gooj
	child	3-DECL-CAUS-build-NFT	canoe

‘Children built canoes’

Paraphrase: *There is a possibly plural event in which a possibly plural number of children built a possibly plural number of canoes.*

We assume that the Cumulative Universal is true of nouns and verbs in Karitiana when they enter syntactic structure, and before they are operated upon by any functional heads. Since NPs always occur bare in Karitiana, lexically cumulative nouns remain cumulative throughout syntactic derivation (cf. Müller et al 2006). Verbs may be pluralized by reduplicated affixes, but even when they are pluralized, their denotations remain cumulative throughout syntactic derivation (Müller & Sanchez-Mendes 2008). This predicts that Karitiana sentences that have not undergone number operations, such as the use of numerals or distributive operators, will have an array of possible readings as a consequence of the lexical cumulativity of its nouns and verbs.

Sentence (21) above illustrates the fact that Noun Phrases (NPs) and Verb Phrases (VPs) have cumulative denotations in Karitiana. Sentence (21) is neutral as to the number of events and entities involved in the situation described by the sentence. The sentence *Õwã nakam’at gooj* holds true of any number of events in which any number

of children built any number of canoes. This interpretation is formally represented in (22).<sup>7</sup> The sentence, and its logical representation, holds true of situations which may be called (i) cumulative: boys building canoes in various possible combinations; (ii) collective: a group of boys building a group of canoes together; and (iii) distributive: each boy building one canoe, or each boy building two canoes, etc..

(22)  $\exists E \exists X \exists Y$  [**build**(Y)(E) & **agent**(X)(E) & **child**(X) & **canoe**(Y)],

where: E is a variable over singular and plural events, and X and Y are variables over singular and plural entities.

Assuming that **build**, **child**, **canoe** are cumulative predicates and **agent** is a cumulative relation, the logical representation in (22) accounts for the fact that sentence (21) holds true of an array of situations such as, for example: (i) a unique child building a single canoe; (ii) a group of children building a single canoe; (iii) one child building some canoes; (iv) each child building a canoe; and many others.

In order to illustrate our claim, we will create three situations: a cumulative situation, a collective situation and a distributive situation. We will then proceed to show that the fact that sentence (21) comes out true in all of the three situations is a result of lexical cumulativity. Table 1 illustrates a possible cumulative situation in which three girls – Ana, Bia and Cris - build canoes. Ana and Bia build each one canoe, and the three girls together build another canoe.

Table 1: situation 1 - cumulative

<b>Agent</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>Ana</b>	Canoe1	e1
<b>Bia</b>	Canoe2	e2
<b>Ana+Bia+Cris</b>	Canoe3	e3

The logical representation in (23), attributed to the sentence *Ōwā nakam'at gooj*, holds true of situation 1. This result can be grasped by examining the corresponding cumulative denotations of the predicates involved. Capital letters stand for the names of

<sup>7</sup> The logical representation in (13) leaves out the interpretation of the functional morphemes NFT, CAUS, DECL for the sake of simplicity. They bear no relevance to the claim being made.

the girls,  $e_n$  stands for events, and  $c_n$  stands for canoes. Situation 1 is properly described by the denotations in bold. In other words, the attribution of the values in (24) to the variables X, Y and E in (22) make sentence (21) true.

(23)

$$\begin{aligned}
 [[\mathbf{child}]] &= \{A, B, C, A+B, A+C, B+C, \mathbf{A+B+C}\} \\
 [[\mathbf{canoe}]] &= \{c1, c2, c3, c1+c2, c2+c3, c1+c3, \mathbf{c1+c2+c3}\} \\
 [[\mathbf{agent}]] &= \{\langle A, e1 \rangle, \langle B, e2 \rangle, \langle A+B+C, e3 \rangle, \langle A+B, e1+e2 \rangle, \dots, \langle \mathbf{A+B+C}, \mathbf{e1+e2+e3} \rangle\} \\
 [[\mathbf{build}]] &= \{\langle c1, e1 \rangle, \langle c2, e2 \rangle, \langle c3, e3 \rangle, \langle c1+c2, e1+e2 \rangle, \dots, \\
 &\quad \langle \mathbf{c1+c2+c3}, \mathbf{e1+e2+e3} \rangle\}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (24) \quad X &\rightarrow A + B + C \\
 Y &\rightarrow c1 + c2 + c3 \\
 E &\rightarrow e1 + e2 + e3
 \end{aligned}$$

Table 2 illustrates a possible collective situation, in which the three girls build each of the three canoes together. Again, *Ōwā nakam'at gooĵ* comes out true. And the reasons are the same ones that make it hold true of situation 1: there is plural event that is the sum of all three building-canoes events, and has the sum of the three girls as its agent (see (23) and (24)).

Table 2: situation 2 - collective

Agent	Theme	Event
<b>Ana+Bia+Cris</b>	Canoe1	e1
<b>Ana+Bia+Cris</b>	Canoe2	e2
<b>Ana+Bia+Cris</b>	Canoe3	e3

Table 3 illustrates a possible distributive situation in which the three girls – Ana, Bia and Cris - build each one canoe. Again, *Ōwā nakam'at gooĵ* comes out true in this situation. The reasons are the same ones that make the sentence true in the two previous situations: there is a plural event that is the sum of all three building-canoes events, and has the sum of the three girls as its agent (see (23) and (24)).

Table 3: situation 3 - distributive



paraphrase. The sentence holds true only of plural events. Atomic events such as *one child building one canoe*, or *a group of children collectively building one canoe*, do not belong to its denotation. Sentences (20a,b), repeated below as (27a,b) illustrate that fact. Sentence (27a) is fit for both singular- and plural-event contexts, whereas sentence (27b) is only fit for contexts in which a plural event has occurred.

- (27) a. Contexts: A boy broke two eggs at once (one event only).  
A boy broke two eggs, one after the other (more than one event).

Õwã	nakakot	sypomp	opokakosypi.
õwã	∅-naka-kot-∅	sypom-t	opok-ako-sypi
child	3-DECL-break-NFT	two-OBL	egg

‘Children broke two eggs’/ ‘Child broke eggs twice’

- b. Contexts: \*A boy broke two eggs at the same time (one event only).  
A boy broke two eggs, one after the other (more than one event).

Õwã	nakakokonat	sypomp	opokakosypi.
õwã	∅-naka-kot-kot-a-t	sypom-t	opok-ako-sypi
boy	3-DECL-break-RDPL-TV-NFT	two-OBL	egg

‘Children broke two eggs (two or more events)’/ ‘Children broke eggs twice’

It is important to note that, according to this analysis of pluractional affixes in Karitiana, reduplication has scope over lexical denotation of verbs, that is, pluractional affixes are not plural or distributive operators over the whole Verb Phrase (VP). They only affect the verb itself. The formulas in (28) and (29) lay out the definitions of the pluractional operator for both intransitive (28) and transitive verbs (29).

$$(28) \quad PL = \lambda P \langle s, t \rangle \lambda E [P(E) \ \& \ \text{non-atomic} (E)]$$

$$(29) \quad PL = \lambda P \langle e \langle s, t \rangle \rangle \lambda X \lambda E [P(X)(E) \ \& \ \text{non-atomic} (E)]$$

Where: X: variable over singular and plural entities,

E: variable over singular and plural events,  
P: variable over predicates,  
e: semantic type of entities,  
s: semantic type of events.  
t: semantic type of sentences

Sentence (26), which is the pluractional version of sentence (25), therefore, is predicted to also hold true of the three situations introduced above, since even if one strips out the atomic events off the predicate denotation, there is still a plural event of which the pluractional sentence holds true. This prediction is actually borne out in the language (cf. Müller & Sanchez-Mendes 2008).

As mentioned in the introduction, Karitiana has distributive numerals, as in sentence (1), repeated below as (30). Sentence (30) is only true of distributive readings, such as the one in our situation 1, in which each girl built one canoe; or, such as our situation 2, in an iterative reading, in which on each occasion, the three girls built one canoe. Note that situation 2 is a collective situation as far as the agent of each event is concerned because the girls always act a group, but it is a distributive situation in that there is one canoe-building event per occasion (day, week, ...).

(30)	Myhint	myhint	õwã	nakam'at	gooj
	myhim-t	myhim-t	õwã	Ø-naka-m-'a-t	gooj
	one-OBL	one-OBL	child	3-DECL-CAUS-build-NFT	canoe

‘Children built canoes distributively (in ones)’

We have shown that both *Õwã nakam'at gooj* and *Myhint myhint õwã nakam'at gooj* have distributive interpretations. This means that both lexical cumulativity and *myhint myhint* generate distributive readings. The question then arises of whether these interpretations have the same semantics. We will tackle this question in the next two sections.

## V. Distributivity in Karitiana

In this section, we show that the distributive interpretations generated by lexical cumulativity differ from the distributive and collective interpretations generated by cumulating or pluralizing the whole predicate.

In the previous section, we have gone through the interpretations generated by lexical cumulativity. Sentence (21), repeated below as (31), was shown to have cumulative, collective and distributive interpretations, all of them resulting from lexical cumulativity. Consequently, the fact that sentence (31) holds true of distributive situations such as (32a-c), among others, is a result of the lexical cumulativity and of the denotations of its verb and its nouns. The sentence holds true of any number of building-canoe events, in which any number of children and any number of canoes are involved.

(31) Õwã Ø-naka-m-'a-t                      gooj  
       child 3-DECL-CAUS-build-NFT        canoe  
       ‘Children built canoes’

- (32) a. Each boy built one canoe.  
       b. Each boy built n canoes.  
       c. On each occasion (day, month, celebration,...) boys built canoes.

The same happens to sentence (33) below. In this sentence, the cardinality of the subject is not undefined like that of the subject in (31). This fact, however, does not interfere with the interpretation of the sentence, which holds true of cumulative, collective and distributive situations such as the ones pointed out for sentence (31), except for the fact that the cardinality of the subject is now determined.

(33) Lu Leti                      Ø-naka-m-'a-t                      gooj  
       Lu Leti                      3-DECL-CAUS-build-NFT        canoe  
       ‘Lu and Leti built canoes’

However, when the cardinality of the object NP is fixed, distributivity disappears. Sentence (34) below has only cumulative and collective readings. For example, the sentence holds true of a situation in which one of the two girls built a canoe

individually, and the other two girls built the other canoe together - a cumulative reading. It also holds true of a collective situation, in which the two girls built the two canoes together. But, crucially, sentence (34) could not be used to describe distributive situations that involve four canoes or more. For example, the sentence does hold true of a situation in which each girl built two canoes or of a situation in which on every occasion, the girls built two canoes. What happened was that when we kept the cardinality of the entities denoted by the object constant, the number of events denoted by the predicate also became constant.

In the case of sentence (34), the predicate *nakam'at sypomp gooj* 'built two canoes' denotes a relation, in which the first member is filled out by events and the second member is filled out by canoes, such as laid out in (135). More precisely, the predicate *nakam'at sypomp gooj* denotes the set of pairs in which the first member is an event of cardinality two and the second member is a plurality of cardinality two.

- (34) Lu Leti nakam'at sypomp gooj  
 Lu Leti Ø-naka-m-'a-t sypom-t gooj  
 Lu Leti 3-DECL-CAUS-build-NFT two-OBL canoe  
 'Lu and Leti built canoes in two'  
 'Lu and Leti built canoes twice'

- (35) [[**build**]] = {<e1,c1>, ..., <e1+e2>, ... <e1+e2+e3,c1+c2+c3>, ...}  
 [[**two canoes**]] = {c1+c2, c1+c3, c2+c4, ...}  
 [[**build two canoes**]] = {<e1+e2,c1+c2>, <e2+e3,c2+c3>, ..., <en+en+1, cn+cn+1>, ... }

In any way one thinks of a distributive interpretation for (34), the result is that the number of events is higher than two. But, as we have just shown, there is no such a plurality in the denotation of *nankam'at sypomp gooj*. From these facts, we conclude that lexical cumulativity alone is not able to pluralize the VP in Karitiana.

Distributive numerals, on the other hand, only allow for distributive interpretations. For example, sentence (36) with the distributive numeral *sypomp sypomp* 'two two', holds true of distributive situations, such as situations in which each of the children built two

canoes or in which, in each occasion, children built two canoes. Cumulative and collective interpretations as the ones illustrated for sentence (31) are out. This means that *nakam'at gooj* has been pluralized, that is, its denotation contains plural events of building two canoes.

(36)	Sypomp	sypomp	õwã	nakam'at		gooj
	sypomp-t	sypomp-t	õwã	Ø-naka-m-'a-t		gooj
	two-OBL	two-OBL	child	3-DECL-CAUS-build-NFT		canoe
	‘Children built canoes distributively (in twos)’					

Sentence (36), which is exactly the same as sentence (34), except for the presence of the distributive numeral, patterns exactly like sentence (36) in that it has only distributive readings, meaning either that the two girls built two canoes each, or that, on each (contextually given) occasion, the two girls built two canoes.

(37)	Sypomp	sypomp	Lu Leti	nakam'at		sypomp	gooj
	sypom-t	sypom-t	Lu Leti	Ø-naka-m-'a-t		sypom-t	gooj
	two-OBL	two-OBL	Lu Leti	3-DECL-CAUS-build-NFT		two-OBL	canoe
	‘Lu and Leti built two canoes distributively (in twos)’						

We conclude then that lexical cumulativity differs from VP plurality/distributivity (Kratzer 2003, 2005), and that distributive numerals are plural operators over VP denotations. Having settled this issue, we turn to an analysis of distributive numerals as plural operators over the VP.

## VI. MYHINT-MYHINT – The Analysis

In this section, we focus on the semantics of distributive numerals in Karitiana. We claim that distributive numerals are adverbial operators - they pluralize the event argument of the predicate and impose a homogeneity restriction on it.

The analysis for *myhint myhint* ‘one one’ is laid out in (38) and given a logical representation in (39). The logical representation states that an event that makes a

sentence with *myhint myhint* true is a plural event, whose subevents are atomic. In the case of other distributive numerals like, for example, *sypomp sypomp* ('two two') or *myjim myjim* ('five five'), the cardinality of the subevents is defined by the reduplicated numeral.

(38) *Myhint-myhint* *P* is true in eventuality *E* iff *E* has smaller eventualities  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n, e_{n+1}, \dots$  as parts, in which *P* is true, and  $e_n$  is atomic.

(39) **[[myhint myhint]]** =  $\lambda P\langle s,t \rangle \lambda E [P(E) \ \& \ \exists e_1 \dots e_n [e_1 \dots e_n < E \ \& \text{atomic}(e_n) \ \& \ P(e_n)]]^8$

Sentence (40), which is the distributive numeral version of sentence (31), is taken to have a meaning that can be paraphrased as 'There was a canoe building event by children and this event can be divided into subevents which are atomic and individualized on the basis of participants or occasions. Its logical representation is laid out in (41).

(40)	Myhint	myhint	nakam'at	gooj	õwã
	myhim-t	myhim-t	Ø-naka-m-'a-t	gooj	õwã
	one-OBL	one-OBL	3-DECL-CAUS-build-NFT	canoe	child

'Children built canoes distributively (in ones)'

(41)  $\exists E \exists X \exists Y [\mathbf{build}(Y)(E) \ \& \ \mathbf{agent}(X)(E) \ \& \ \mathbf{child}(X) \ \& \ \mathbf{canoe}(Y) \ \& \ \exists e_1 \dots e_n [e_1 \dots e_n < E \ \& \ \mathbf{atomic}(e_n) \ \& \ \mathbf{build}(Y)(e_n) \ \& \ \mathbf{canoe}(Y)]]$

What this analysis claims is that *myhint-myhint* pluralizes the VP, and, in that sense, it ends up distributing events of building-one-canoe by relating these events to the participants or occasions, which are precisely the ones used to individualize them.

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<sup>8</sup> Where: *E, e<sub>n</sub>*: variables over singular and plural events; *X, Y*: variables over singular and plural individuals; *P*: variable over properties of events, *s* and *t*: semantic types for events and sentences respectively.

In this section, we have claimed that distributive numerals in Karitiana are plural operators over VP denotations. In the next section, we provide evidence that lends support to the analysis of distributive numerals that we have just presented.

## VII. Evidence for the Analysis

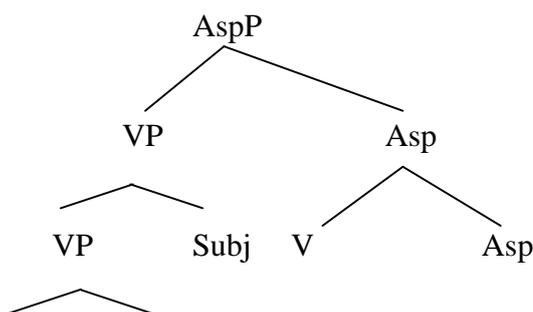
The main purpose of this section is to provide evidence for the analysis of distributive numerals as distributive adverbials.

In order to provide syntactic evidence that distributive numerals are adverbials, we will strongly rely on Storto's 1999 proposal for the clausal structure of Karitiana. As mentioned in the introduction, Karitiana is a verb final language that exhibits obligatory raising of the verb to the head of Complementizer Phrase (CP) in matrix clauses, and thus exhibits a verb second matrix clause pattern.

The observation that there is a complementary distribution between matrix and embedded sentences with regard to the presence versus absence of the inflectional markers of tense and agreement motivates for the second position verb movement analysis for main clauses, in as much as the author gives solid evidence for the fact that it is in the Complementizer Phrase projection that nominative case is checked.

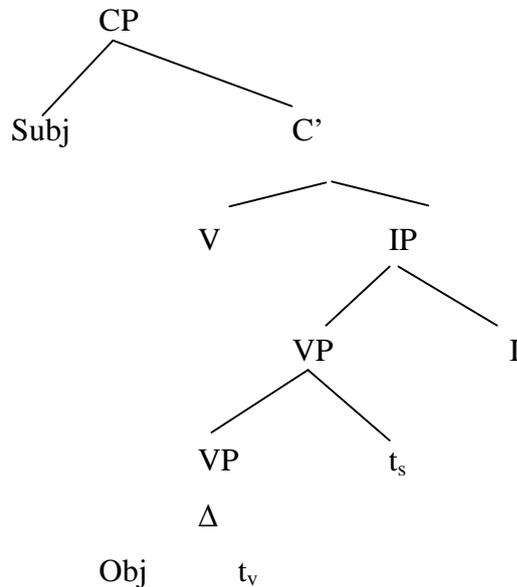
We have also mentioned that, in matrix clauses, verbs are inflected for tense and agreement whereas, in embedded clauses, verbal inflection induces ungrammaticality. In order to accommodate this generalization, Storto 1999 proposes the following structures for embedded clauses (42) and matrix clauses (43), respectively:

(42) [AspP [VP [VP Obj t<sub>v</sub>] Subj] [Asp V Asp] ]



Obj      t<sub>v</sub>

(43) [CP Subj [C' V [IP [VP [VP Obj t<sub>v</sub>] t<sub>s</sub>] I]]]



In Storto's analysis of embedded clauses in structure (42), the verb moves from its base position to the head final position of the only embedded clause functional projection, an Aspectual Phrase (AspP).

The author's analysis of matrix transitive clauses is presented in structure (43), in which, as already pointed out, the verb raises as far as C<sup>0</sup>. When the verb is in C<sup>0</sup>, the subject usually raises to the Specifier of CP position (Spec CP) and the object is licensed *in situ*.

The position of adverbs in the sentence is used by the Storto 1999 to give support to the clause structure analyses proposed above. In Karitiana, adverbs left adjoin to maximal projections, except for the ones above CP, which may also right adjoin to CP. The author points out that, as far as her data shows, there is no difference between the distribution of manner adverbs such as *mynda* 'slowly', usually assumed in the literature to be adjoined to the VP, and the distribution of time adverbials such as *koot* 'at noon',

assumed to be adjoined to IP. The paradigm in (44) shows the distribution of the adverb *mynda* in subordinate clauses:

- (44) a. [mynda ysypy'et him okej] Adv S O V  
 mynda y-sypy'et him okej Storto 1999  
 slowly 1s-uncle meat cut  
 'My uncle cut the meat slowly'
- b. \*[y-sypy-'et mynda him okej] \* S Adv O V  
 1s-uncle slowly meat cut Storto 1999
- c. \*[y-sypy'et him mynda okej] \* S O Adv V  
 1s-uncle meat slowly cut Storto 1999
- d. \*[y-sypy'et him okej mynda] \*S O V Adv  
 1s-uncle meat cut slowly Storto 1999

Therefore, there is only one position available for adverbs in embedded clauses. The assumption that adverbs left adjoin to maximal projections and the structure proposed in (42) account for this distribution. The grammaticality of (44a) as opposed to the ungrammaticality of (44b,c,d) is also accounted for, in as much as left adjunction either to VP or to AspP in (42) will result in the adverb occurring in the first position of the embedded clause.

The paradigm in (45) shows the distribution of adverbs in matrix clauses:

- (45)
- a. Mynda taso nampotporaj esse Adv S V O  
 mynda taso Ø-na-m-potpora-j esse Storto 1999  
 slowly man 3-DECL-CAUS-boil-FUT water  
 'Men boiled water slowly'
- b. \*Taso mynda Ø-na-m-potpora-j esse \*S Adv V O  
 man slowly 3-DECL-CAUS-boil-FUT water Storto 1999

- |    |      |                      |        |        |             |
|----|------|----------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| c. | Taso | Ø-na-m-potpora-j     | mynda  | esse   | S V Adv O   |
|    | man  | 3-DECL-CAUS-boil-FUT | slowly | water  | Storto 1999 |
| d. | Taso | Ø-na-m-potpora-j     | esse   | mynda  | S V O Adv   |
|    | man  | 3-DECL-CAUS-boil-FUT | water  | slowly | Storto 1999 |

According to Storto 1999, the adverb *mynda* may be left adjoined to CP as in (45a), right adjoined to CP as in (45d) or left adjoined to VP as in (45c). The ungrammaticality of sentence (45b) is evidence for the raising analysis of the verb to C° followed by the raising of the subject to Spec CP. No constituent can come between the subject and the verb in a Spec-head configuration.

For our purposes in this paper, adverb position will be used to build our syntactic arguments in favor of the analysis of distributive numerals as adverbial distributive operators. We will present an analysis for *myhint myhint* and assume that it can be carried out for all other distributive numerals.

Our first argument has to do with the fact that *myhint myhint* has the same distribution in the sentence as that of other adverbials. In paradigm (46), the ungrammaticality of (46b) contrasts with the grammaticality of (46a, c, d). In matrix clauses, *myhint myhint* may be left adjoined to CP as in (46a), right adjoined to CP as in (46d) or left adjoined to VP as in (46c). As other adverbials in the language, *myhint myhint* cannot intervene between the subject and the verb in CP (see 46b).

(46)

- |    |  |         |                       |                       |       |
|----|--|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| a. | Myhint   | myhint  | nakam'at              | gooj                  | õwã   |
|    | myhim-t  | myhim-t | Ø-naka-m-'a-t         | gooj                  | õwã   |
|    | one-OBL  | one-OBL | 3-DECL-CAUS-build-NFT | canoe                 | child |
|    | 'Children built canoes distributively (in ones)' |         |                       |                       |       |
| b. | *Õwã   | myhin-t | myhin-t               | Ø-nakam'at            | gooj  |
|    | child  | one-OBL | one-OBL               | 3-DECL-CAUS-build-NFT | canoe |

c. Ōwā	Ø-nakam'at	myhin-t	myhin-t	gooj
child	3-DECL-CAUS-build-NFT	one-OBL	one-OBL	canoe

d. Ōwā	Ø-nakam'at	gooj	myhin-t	myhin-t
child	3-DECL-CAUS-build-NFT	canoe	one-OBL	one-OBL

In embedded clauses, the paradigm in (47a-d) shows that the only possibility is for *myhint myhint* to be adjoined to VP (or AspP), which is as expected for structure (42) if *myhint myhint* is an adverbial.

(47) a.

[Myhint myhint	jonso	ōwā	mangataty]	ytapyting	yn
[myhim-t myhim-t	jonso	ōwā	mangat<a>-ty]	y-ta-pyting-Ø	yn
one-OBL one-OBL	woman	child	lift-OBL	1s-DECL-want-NFT	I

‘I want women to lift children distributively (in ones)’

b.

*[jonso	myhint	myhint	ōwā	mangataty]	ytapyting	yn
woman	one-OBL	one-OBL	child	lift-OBL	1s-DECL- want-NFT	I

c.

*[jonso	ōwā	myhint	myhint	mangataty]	ytapyting	yn
woman	child	one-OBL	one-OBL	lift-OBL	1s-DECL- want-NFT	I

d.

*[jonso	ōwā	mangataty	myhint myhint]	ytapyting	yn
woman	child	lift-OBL	one-OBL one-OBL	1s-DECL- want-NFT	I

A second argument that supports our claim is that *myhint myhint* occupies the same position as other adverbial quantifiers such as *kandat*, as shown by the sentences in (48). The fact that *myhint myhint* patterns in distribution with other adverbial quantifiers such as *kandat*, gives strong support for its analysis as an adverbial operator.

(48) a.	Kandat	jonso	nakaot	esse	Adv S V O
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kandat	jonso	Ø-naka-ot-Ø	esse
kandat	woman	3-DECL-get-NFT	water

‘Women brought water many times’

- b.    \*jonso        kandat        Ø-naka-ot-Ø        esse    S Adv V O  
       woman        kandat        3-DECL-get-NFT        water
- c.    jonso        Ø-naka-ot-Ø        kandat        esse    S V Adv O  
       kandat        3-DECL-get-NFUT        kandat        water
- d.    jonso        Ø-naka-ot-Ø        esse    kandat        S V O Adv  
       woman        3-DECL-get-NFT        water    kandat

A third argument can be built if we take into consideration Storto’s claim that there is subject raising to SpecCP when the subject occupies the first position in Karitiana’s sentences. According to this analysis, in all the sentences of the paradigm in (46), subject raising has taken place. Note that *myhint myhint* may (46a) or may not (46c,d) be adjacent to the subject NP, and that it may (46b,c) or may not (46a) be adjacent to the object NP. Based on this data, we conclude that the subject NP raises by itself and that *myhint myhint* does not form a constituent either with the subject NP or with the object NP.

Our fourth argument comes from the structure of noun phrases in Karitiana, which have no non-empty functional projections.<sup>9</sup> As mentioned in section III, there are no morpho-syntactic markers for number, classifiers or (in)definiteness within the nominal system in Karitiana. In sentence (49) below, the phrase *myhint pikom* ‘one monkey’ is semantically singular, whilst in sentence (50) the phrase *sypomp pikom* ‘two monkeys’ is semantically plural. However, the NPs of both sentences remain uninflected for number in both contexts. Note that numerals are adjuncts in the language. Sentence (51) conveys the meaning that the speaker ate an undefined number of monkeys (one or more) which is expressed by the uninflected bare noun *pikom*. Sentences (49) and (50)

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<sup>9</sup> We are abstracting away from the DP/NP distinction, since a discussion of whether nominal phrases in Karitiana are DPs or NPs is outside the scope of this paper.

also demonstrate that Karitiana is not a language which demands the insertion of numeral classifiers in cardinal DPs.

(49) Yn naka'yt myhint pikom  
 yn Ø-naka-'y-t myhin-t pikom  
 1s 3-DECL-eat-NFT one-OBL monkey  
 'I ate one monkey'

(50) Yn naka'yt sypomp pikom  
 yn Ø-naka-'y-t sypom-t pikom  
 1s 3-DECL-eat-NFT two- OBL monkey  
 'I ate two monkeys'

(51) Yn naka'yt pikom  
 yn Ø-naka-'y-t pikom  
 1s 3-DECL-eat-NFT monkey  
 'I ate (a/some) monkeys'

In Karitiana, there are no markers for definiteness/indefiniteness and/or definite/indefinite determiners. Bare nouns are understood as definite or indefinite based on the context in which they occur. In sentence (52) below, for example, both *taso* 'man' and *boroja* 'snake' can be understood as definite or indefinite, singular or plural, depending on the context in which the sentences are uttered. Sentence (52) also shows that the denotation of common nouns in Karitiana does not make a difference between singular and plural number, since the sentence conveys the meaning that one or more snakes were eaten by one or more men.

(52) Taso naka'yt boroja  
 taso Ø-naka-'y-t boroja  
 man 3-DECL-eat-NFT snake  
 'A/the/some man/men ate a/the/some snake(s)'

There are no quantifiers that occur within the NP in Karitiana. All quantifiers are adverbial (Müller *et al.* 2006). Quantifiers that do a similar job as that of 'much',

‘many’, or ‘several’ are sentential adverbials. Paradigm (48) above shows that the morphosyntactic distribution of *kandat* (‘much’/ ‘many’/ ‘many times’) is that of an adverbial, not that of a determiner.

Nevertheless, the universal quantification marker and demonstratives could be potential counter-examples to our claim. Observing the paradigm in (53), one could hypothesize that *akatyym*, the universal quantification marker, is a determiner quantifier that forms a constituent with the head noun, in as much as it appears right adjacent to the noun over which it operates (the subject in (53a) and the object in (53b)), a position that is occupied by nominal determiners in a head final languages. It is also ungrammatical in head-first position, which would not be expected if it were a D-quantifiers.

(53)

a. Taso akatyym nasoko’it eremby Coutinho-Silva 2009  
 taso aka-tyym Ø-na-soko’i-t eremby  
 man be-SUB 3-DECL-tie-NFT hammock  
 ‘All men tied hammocks’

b. Taso nasoko’it eremby akatyym Coutinho-Silva 2009  
 taso Ø-na-soko’i-t eremby aka-tyym  
 man 3-DECL-tie-NFT hammock be-SUB  
 ‘Men tied all hammocks’

c. \*Akatyym taso nasoko’it eremby Coutinho-Silva 2009  
 aka-tyym taso Ø-na-soko’i-t eremby  
 be-SUB man 3-DECL-tie-NFT hammock  
 ‘All men tied hammocks’

d. \*Taso nasoko’it akatyym eremby Coutinho-Silva 2009  
 taso Ø-na-soko’i-t aka-tyym eremby  
 man 3-DECL-tie-NFT be-SUB hammock  
 ‘Men tied all hammocks’

Remember that, in matrix clauses, adverbials and adverbial quantifiers cannot break the adjacency between the subject and the verb in matrix clauses. This obligatory adjacency is explained by the obligatory movement of the verb to the C<sup>o</sup> position, followed by the movement of the subject to the CP specifier position of the matrix clause. The paradigm in (53) shows a contrast between the distribution of *akatyym* in matrix clauses when compared to the distribution of distributive quantifier *myhint myhint* (see (29), that is explained by the clausal structure of the former in contrast with the adverbial nature of the latter.

Nevertheless, as hinted by the glosses, *akatyym* has internal structure. Coutinho-Silva 2009 claims that the nominal constituent which contains *akatyym* has the structure of a relative clause (see also Müller et al 2006 for a similar claim). Relative clauses in Karitiana are verb final, just like other subordinate clauses, as illustrated in (54).

- (54) Ypyso’ooton            yn    eremby            João   tisokõit            Storto 1999  
       y-py-so’oot-on        yn    eremby            João   ti-sokõi-t  
       1s-ASSERT-see-NFUT I    hammock        João   OFC-tie.up-OBL  
       ‘I saw hammocks João tied up’

Demonstratives, which could also be thought as possible counter-examples to the claim that Karitiana has no D-quantifiers, are also analysed by Müller et al 2006 and Coutinho-Silva 2009 as relative clauses. Karitiana has a set of lexical items denoting body positions that enter in an embedded clause with the copula *aka* and the noun it locates. Sentence (55) is an example:

- (55) Dibm            nakatari            ony    taso    aka  
       dibm            Ø-naka-tar-i    ony    taso    aka  
       tomorrow    DECL-go-FUT    there   man   be  
       ‘That man will go tomorrow’

(Literally: Man [which] be over there will go tomorrow)

Our last and most important argument is that the interpretation of sentences with *myhint myhint* does not depend on the syntactic position of the operator. In (46), no matter what

position the distributive numeral occupies (among the ones that are possible for it), the meaning is always the same: *children built canoes distributively (in ones)*.

We conclude, therefore, that distributive numerals are adverbial operators.

### VIII. Conclusions

We have shown that Karitiana expresses VP distributivity by means of distributive numerals. These operators have been claimed to be adverbial plural operators over the predicate.

The semantics of Karitiana nouns and verbs provides support for the Cumulativity Universal as proposed by Krifka 1992, Landmann 1996 and Kratzer 2003, 2005. It also provides evidence for the existence of (at least) two sources for plurality and distributivity: lexical cumulativity and VP cumulativity, as predicted by Kratzer (2003, 2005).

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