

# Appendix 1

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## 1 The data

The following appendix contains all the data collected for the analysis. The appendix is divided into sections according to the patterns of syncretism. I have also added notes explaining the data where necessary.

## 2 Full syncretism

(1) English

- a. Let's go *somewhere* (non-specific).
- b. There is *someone* behind the door (specific unknown).
- c. I have *something* for you (specific known).

(2) Polish (data from native speakers and my own knowledge of the language)

- a. Przynieś mi *co-ś* do jedzenia.  
bring.IMPV I.DAT what.ACC-INDEF to eating.GEN  
Bring me something (non-specific) to eat.
- b. *Kto-ś* jest w łazience.  
who.NOM-INDEF is in bathroom.LOC  
*Someone* (specific unknown) is in the bathroom.
- c. *Kto-ś* dzwonił. Zgadnij *kto*.  
who.NOM-INDEF phoned guess.IMPV who.NOM  
Someone called. Guess who.

Polish also has a marginal *nie-* series. I mention this series in section 6.

(3) Japanese (Haspelmath 1997: 312 and my own knowledge of the language)

- a. *Dare-ka* ni kiite mimashou.  
who-INDEF DAT ask-CONV try-POL-HORT  
Let's ask somebody (non-specific).
- b. *Dare-ka* kare denwa atta kedo, dare kara da ka  
who-INDEF from phone be.PAST though who from be.PRES Q  
wakaranai  
know-Neg-PRES  
*Somebody* (specific unknown) called, - I don't know who.
- c. *Dare-ka* kare denwa atta kedo, dare kara da ka  
who-INDEF from phone be.PAST though who from be.PRES Q  
atete goran  
figure.out-CONV try-IMPV  
*Somebody* (specific known) called, - Guess who.

(4) Korean (Haspelmath 1997: 314-315)

- a. Molu-myen, *nwukwu-nka-eykey* mul-ela.  
ignorant-CONV who-INDEF-DAT ask-IMPV  
If you don't know, ask *somebody* (non-specific).
- b. Ku sonyen-un *mues-inka-lul* po-ass-ta.  
this boy-NOM what-INDEF-ACC see-PAST-DECL  
The boy saw *something* (specific unknown).
- c. *nwukwu-inka-ka* kel-ess-ta.  
who-INDEF-NOM call-PAST-DECL  
*Somebody* (specific known) called.

According to Haspelmath (1997: 314-315), the indefinite morpheme *-nka* can be dropped in colloquial speech.

(5) French (Haspelmath 1997:315, a native speaker)

- a. *Quelqu'un* m'attend. C'est lui que j'épouserai.  
someone is.waiting.for.me it.is him that I.will.marry  
*Someone* is waiting for me. It's him that I will marry.
- b. *Quelqu'un* est à la porte. Je ne sais pas qui.  
someone is at the door I neg know neg who  
*Somebody* is at the door. I don't know who.

- c. Elle veut épouser *quelqu'un* aux cheveux noirs.  
 she wants marry someone at.the hair black  
 She wants to marry *someone* (non-specific) with black hair.

The French THING and PLACE forms appear to be periphrastic (*quelque chose* - something, *quelque part* - somewhere).

(6) Dutch (Haspelmath 1997: 247, Hengeveld et al. 2020, a native speaker)

- a. Er heeft vanmorgen *iemand* opgebeld. (Raad eens wie./ Ik weet  
 there has this.morning someone phoned guess once who I know  
 niet meer wie het was.)  
 neg more who it was  
*Someone* phoned this morning. (Guess who./I don't remember who it was.)
- b. Koop *iets* voor haar verjaardag.  
 buy something for her birthday  
 Buy *something* (non-specific) for her birthday.
- c. Miranda heeft *wat* geGEten.  
 Miranda has what eaten  
 Miranda has eaten *something*.
- d. Ik heb *wat* geGEten.  
 I have what eaten  
 I have eaten *something*.
- e. Hij zit steeds over *iets/wat* na te denken.  
 He sits constantly about something/what after to think  
 He is constantly thinking about *something*.

Haspelmath (1997) mentions that a wh-based *-dan ook* series may appear in the non-specific function. However, a native speaker I interviewed treats *-dan ook* forms as free choice indefinites.

(7) Swedish (Haspelmath 1997: 250, native speaker)

- a. Jag har ännu *något* att tala med honom om.  
 I have still something to talk with him about  
 I still have *something* (specific known) to talk to him about.
- b. Det finns *något* i lådan  
 there is something in the.box  
 There is *something* (specific unknown) in the box.

- c. Hämta mig *något* att äta  
 fetch me something to eat  
 Bring me *something* (non-specific) to eat.

(8) Finnish (Hasplemath 1997: 293, Korpela 2015, native speakers)

- a. *Joku* soitt-i. Arvaa kuka (se oli)?  
 someone call-PAST(3SG) guess:IMPV who it was  
*Someone* (specific known) called. Guess who it was.
- b. *Joku* soitt-i, mutta en saa-nut  
 someone call-PAST(3SG) but NEG:1SG get-PAST.PTCP  
 nime-stä selvää.  
 name-ELAT clear:PRTV  
*Someone* (specific unknown) called, but I didn't understand the name.
- c. Hän haluaa mennä naimisiin *jonkun* kanssa, jolla on tumma tukka.  
 she wants go marriage someone with who-on is dark hair  
 She wants to marry *someone* (non-specific) with black hair.

According to Haspelmath (1997), the specific known function cannot be expressed with the use of indefinite pronouns. Native speakers I asked considered *ka-* grammatical in the specific known function, which contradicts the description in Haspelmath (1997).

(9) Greek (Haspelmath 1997: 266, Holton et al. 2004: 96-98, native speakers)

- a. *Ká-pjos* telefónise. Mándepse pjos!  
 INDEF-who phoned guess:IMPV who  
*Someone* (specific known) called. Guess who!
- b. *Ká-pjos* telefónise. Dhen kséro pjos.  
 INDEF-who phoned not know.1p.sg who  
*Someone* called (specific unknown). I don't know who.
- c. Fére *ká-ti* na fáme!  
 bring:IMPV INDEF-what SBJV eat.2p.pl  
 Bring *something* (non-specific) to eat!

According to Haspelmath (1997), the *ka-* series cannot appear in the specific known function. Native speakers I asked considered *ka-* grammatical in the specific known function. The *kanensa/tipota* series may also appear in the non-specific function. I discuss this series in section 6.

(10) Basque (Patrick and Ibarrondo 2001, de Rijk 2008, Haspelmath 1997: 315-316)

- a. Kanpoa-n zengoze-n-en-ean *baten batek* dei egin zizun. Esan  
 away-LOC be-2SG-REL-LOC one:GEN one:ERG call make he:you:has say  
 nor.  
 who  
*Someone* (specific known) called while you were away. Guess who it was.
- b. Hiretzat ere aukeratuta neukan *norbait*.  
 for.you too chosen I.had who-INDEF  
 For you too I had chosen *someone* (specific known?).
- c. *Nor-bait-i* utzi nion argazki-makina eta ez naiz  
 who-INDEF-DAT lend I:it:to.him photo-machine and NEG I:it  
 oroi-tzen nor-i.  
 remember-HAB who-DAT  
 I lent the camera to *someone* (specific unknown) and I do not remember to whom.
- d. *Nora-bait* joa-te-ko gogoia dut, baina ez dakit nora.  
 where-INDEF go-HAB-REL thought I:have:it but NEG I:know:it where  
 I have an urge to go *somewhere* (non-specific) but I do not know where.

According to Haspelmath (1997), the specific known function is expressed by the determiner *bat* (one) combined with a noun (and example (10-a) is ungrammatical). However, grammars of Basque such as Patrick and Ibarondo (2001) and de Rijk (2008) do not mention the ungrammaticality of *-bait* indefinites in the specific known function. Example (10-d) suggests that *-bait* indefinites may be used in the specific known function.

(11) Icelandic (Haspelmath 1997: 252)

- a. Það hringdi *ein-hver* í mig í morgun (en ég segi þér ekki hver).  
 it rang one-who in me in morning and I say you not who  
*Someone* (specific known) called me up this morning (but I won't tell you who).
- b. Strákur-inn sá *eitt-hvað* á bak við tréð (en ég veit ekki hvað).  
 boy-the saw one-what on back near tree and I know not what  
 The boy saw *something* (specific unknown) behind the tree (but I don't know what).
- c. Kaupta *eitt-hvað* fyrir mig!  
 buy one-what for me  
 Buy *something* (non-specific) for me!

(12) Portuguese (Haspelmath 1997: 256)

- a. O João telefonou e disse *alguma coisa*. Adivinhe o que!  
ART João phoned and said some thing guess what  
João called and said *something* (specific known) – guess what!
- b. Senti que *alguém* me observava.  
I:felt that someone me observed  
I felt that *someone* (specific unknown) was observing me.
- c. *Alguém* pode passar aí e apanhar a caixa.  
someone can pass here and take the box  
*Someone* (non-specific) can come along here and take the box.

Some examples in Haspelmath (1997: 256) show that the free choice *qualquer* series (e.g. *qualquer coisa* - anything, *qualquer pessoa* - anyone) can also appear in the non-specific function. Other sources, for example Whitlam (2011), do not confirm this data. It does not seem that *qualquer* indefinites may have the non-specific reading.

(13) Catalan (Haspelmath 1997: 258)

- a. Alguna vegada he vist *algú* en algun lloc.  
some time I:have seen someone in some place  
I once saw *somebody somewhere* (specific unknown/known).
- b. *Algun dia* ho entendràs.  
some day it you'll.understand  
*Some day* you'll understand (non-specific).

Haspelmath (1997: 258), does not provide an example for the non-specific function with a pronominal form. The determiner *algun* can be used in all three indefinite functions.

(14) Italian (Haspelmath 1997: 262-263, Proudfoot and Cardo 1997)

- a. *Qualcuno* è venuto – indovina chi!  
some-one is came guess who  
*Someone* (specific known) has come – guess who!
- b. C'è *qualcuno* alla porta.  
there.is some-one at.the door  
There is *somebody* (specific unknown) at the door.
- c. Compra *qualcosa* per me.  
buy some-thing for me  
Buy *something* (non-specific) for me.

The Italian form for PLACE is periphrastic (da qualche parte - somewhere).

(15) Lezgian (Haspelmath 1997: 296)

- a. Za wa-z sa wuč jat'ani luhu-da.  
I:ERG you-DAT one what-INDEF say-FUT  
I'll tell you *something* (specific known).
- b. Gilač ar-ar wuč iz jat'ani xükwe-zma-č.  
now letter-PL why-INDEF come-CONT.IMPF-NEG  
Now the letters don't come anymore *for some reason* (specific unknown).
- c. Sa ni-z jat'ani ewer ce!  
one who-DAT-INDEF call give:IMPV  
Call *someone* (non-specific)!

Lezgian indefinites may be preceded by *sa* (one).

(16) Romanian (Haspelmath 1997: 265)

- a. Am cumpărat ceva, ghici ce!  
I:have bought what-INDEF guess what  
I have bought *something* (specific known), guess what!
- b. Cineva te-a căutat la telefon, dar nu i-am înțeles  
who-INDEF you-has asked on phone but not him-have understood  
numele.  
name  
*Somebody* (specific unknown) asked for you on the phone, but I didn't  
understand the name.
- c. Aș vrea ceva mâncare și băutură.  
INTJ want what-INDEF to.eat and drink  
I want *something* (non-specific) to eat and to drink.

(17) Bulgarian (Haspelmath 1997: 268)

- a. Govorix včera s nja-koga v avtobusa.  
I:talked yesterday with INDEF-whom in the:bus  
Yesterday I talked to *someone* (specific unknown) on the bus.
- b. Nja-koj se obadi, otgatni koj.  
INDEF-who REFL called guess:IMPV who  
*Somebody* has called, guess who.
- c. Kogato edin čovek iska da vârši ne-što – daj mu  
when one person wants SBJV he:do INDEF-what give:IMPV him

rabota.  
work  
When a person wants to do *something* (non-specific) – give him or her  
work.

(18) Serbo-Croatian (Haspelmath 1997: 270)<sup>1</sup>

- a. Mira voli *ne-koga*.  
Mira loves INDEF-whom  
Mira loves *someone* (specific unknown/known).
- b. Daj mi *ne-što!*  
give me INDEF-what  
Give me *something* (non-specific)!

(19) Latvian (Haspelmath 1997: 277)

- a. Viņš *kaut-kur* aizgājis.  
he INDEF-where left  
He went *somewhere* (specific unknown/known).
- b. Nopērc *kaut-ko*.  
buy INDEF-what  
Buy *something* (non-specific).

(20) Hindi (Haspelmath 1997: 284, Koul 2008: 79)

- a. *Kisii-ne* fon kiy-aa thaa, — par māĩ tumh nahĩ bataaũgii,  
someone-ERG phone do-PFV was but I you NEG I:will:tell  
kis-ne.  
who-ERG  
*Someone* has phoned, but I won't tell you who.
- b. *Kisii-ne* fon kiy-aa thaa, — par mujhe nahĩ maaluum,  
someone-ERG phone do-PFV was but I:DAT NEG known  
kis-ne.  
who-ERG  
*Someone* has phoned, but I don't know who
- c. *Kisii-ko* fon kar-o!  
someone-DAT phone do-IMPV  
Phone *someone* (non-specific)!

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<sup>1</sup>Haspelmath (1997) uses the term Serbo-Croatian to describe this set of data. I understand that this term may be considered a misnomer.

(21) Turkish (Haspelmath 1997: 286-287)

- a. San-a *biri(si)* telefon et-ti. Bil, bakalım, kim.  
you-DAT one phone do-PAST know we'll.see who  
*Someone* phoned you. Guess who.
- b. San-a *biri(si)* telefon et-ti. Kim ol-duğ-u-nu  
you-DAT someone phone do-PAST who be-REL-3SG-ACC  
bil-m-iyor-um.  
know-NEG-IMPF-1SG  
*Someone* phoned you. I don't know who.
- c. *Bir yer-e* telefon et!  
one place-DAT phone do(IMPV)  
Call *somewhere* (non-specific)!

The indefinite marker *bir-* is identical to the indefinite article and the numeral *one*. Some combinations of generic nouns with *bir-* seem to be grammaticalized, for example *birşey* (something).

(22) Kazakh (Haspelmath 1997: 288)

- a. *Birew* telefon soq-ty — byraq kim ekenin bil-me-j-min.  
someone phone hit-PAST but who [?] know-NEG-PRES-1SG  
*Someone* called — but I don't know who.
- b. *Birew* telefon soq-ty — kim ekenin tapş y.  
someone phone hit-PAST who [?] guess(IMPV)  
*Someone* called — guess who.
- c. *Bir žer-de* kezde-ser-miz.  
one place-INESS meet-FUT-1PL  
Let's meet *somewhere* (non-specific).

(23) Hungarian (Haspelmath 1997: 291, Rounds 2001)

- a. *Vala-hol* már tolál-koz-t-unk.  
INDEF-where already meet-REFL-PAST-1PL  
We have met *somewhere* (specific unknown) before.
- b. Mester, lát-ánk *vala-ki-t*, aki a te nev-ed-del  
master see-1PL INDEF-who-ACC who ART you name-2SG-INSTR

ördög-ök-et üz.  
 devil-PL-ACC drive  
 Master, we saw *someone* (specific known) casting out devils in thy name  
 (NT, Mk 9.38).

- c. Majd csak meglesz-ünk *vala-hogy*.  
 later only manage-1PL INDEF-how  
 We'll manage *somehow* (non-specific).

(24) Czech (data from native speakers, Lukeš and Kauerová 2012: 34)

- a. *Něco* pro tebe mám. Hádej co?  
 INDEF-what for you have.1p.sg gues-IMPV what  
 I have *something* for you. Guess what?
- b. *Někdo/kdosi* volal. Nevím kdo.  
 INDEF-who/who-INDEF called Neg.know who  
*Someone* called. I don't know who.
- c. Přines mi *něco* k jídlu.  
 bring-IMPV me INDEF-what for eating  
 Bring me *something* (non-specific) to eat

Apart from the general *ně-* series, Czech also uses the specific unknown *-si* series.

(25) Slovak (Richtarcikova 2013)

- a. *Niekoho/Vol'akoho/Kohosi* mi pripomína.  
 someone.ACC me reminds  
 He/She reminds me of *somebody* (specific unknown).
- b. *Niekoho* mi pripomína. Vieš koho? Môjho bývalého.  
 someone.ACC me reminds know who my ex  
 He reminds me of *somebody* (specific known). Do you know who? My ex.
- c. Pod, dušicka, zobni si *niečo/vol'ačo/?čosi* nech neodpadneš.  
 come soul peck PART something so NOT.faint  
 Come, darling, eat *something* (non-specific) so that you don't faint.

Apart from the general *nie-* series, Czech also uses the specific unknown/non-specific *-si* and *vol'a-* series. The *si* series is usually used in the specific unknown function while the *vol'a-* series is preferred in the non-specific function.

(26) Classical Greek (New Testament: Luke 8: 46, Acts 3: 5, Mark 9: 38)

- a. Éphē autōi ho Iōánnēs, Didáskale, éidomén *tina* en tōi onómatí  
 said himself the John, teacher saw.1p.pl someone in the name  
 sou ekbállonta daimónia.  
 your cast.out demons  
 Teacher, we saw *someone* (specific known) casting out demons in your  
 name.
- b. Ho dè Iēsoûs eîpen, Ēpsató moú *tis*, eg gàr égnōn dýnamin  
 the but Jesus said, touched me someone I for know power  
 exelēlythyân ap' emoû.  
 went.out from me  
 But Jesus said, "*Someone* (specific unknown) touched me; I know that  
 power has gone out from me."
- c. Ho dè epeîchen autoîs prosdokōn *ti* par' autōn labeîn.  
 the but gave.attention he expect something from them obtain  
 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get *something* (non-  
 specific) from them.

(27) Maltese (Haspelmath 1997: 299)

- a. *Xi add* qed jadem fil-ġnien.  
 someone PROG he:work:IMPF in:the-garden  
*Somebody* (specific unknown/known) is working in the garden.
- b. *Xi darba* is-sena d-diela mmur l-Afrika.  
 INDEF time the-year the-entering I:go:IMPF the-Africa  
 I'll go to Africa *sometime* (non-specific) next year.

(28) Hebrew (Haspelmath 1997: 297)

- a. Rai-ti *mi-šehu*.  
 saw-1SG who-INDEF  
 I saw *somebody* (specific unknown/known).
- b. Ti-re *ma-šehu*.  
 2sg-will:see what-INDEF  
 You will see *something* (non-specific).

(29) Hausa (Haspelmath 1997: 300, Bargery 1934)

- a. Àlbishirin-kà *wani* yaa kiraa kà.  
 good.news.of-you someone 3SG:PAST call you  
*Someone* has called you, guess who?

- b. *Wani* yaa kiraa kà, amma ban san koo wàa ba.  
 someone 3SG:PAST call you but NEG:1SG know Q who NEG  
*Someone* has called you, but I don't know who.
- c. *Wata raanaa* sàà daawoo.  
 some day 3PL:FUT return  
*Some day* (non-specific) they'll return.

The modifier *wani/wata* is used in all three indefinite functions.

(30) Colombian Spanish (data from a native speaker)

- a. Traje a *alguien*. Adivinia a quién.  
 bring.1p.sg.PAST PREP someone guess.IMPV PREP who  
 I have brought *someone* (specific known). Guess who.
- b. Hay *alguien* detrás de la puerta. No sé quién es.  
 there.is someone behind PREP the door Neg know.1p.sg who is  
 There is *someone* (specific-unknown) behind the door. I don't know who.
- c. Llama a *alguien*! No importa a quién.  
 call.IMPV PREP someone Neg matter.3p.sg PREP who  
 Call *somebody* (non-specific)! It doesn't matter who.

(31) German (data from native speakers, Haspelmath 1997: 245)

- a. Ich habe *etwas* verloren. Rate mal, was?  
 I have something lost guess PART what  
 I lost *something* (specific known). Guess what?
- b. Ich habe *etwas/irgend-etwas* verloren, aber ich weiss nicht, was.  
 I have something lost but I know not what  
 I lost *something* (specific unknown), but I don't know what.
- c. Sie möchte *jemanden/irgend-jemanden* mit schwarzen Haaren  
 She would.like someone with black hair  
 heiraten.  
 marry  
 She wants to marry *someone* (specific unknown/non-specific) with black hair.
- d. Auf was für einen Film hast du Lust? Hmmm keine Ahnung...  
 On what for a film have you desire hmm no idea

*irgend-was* lustiges.  
 anything/something funny  
 What kind of movie do you feel like watching? Hmm ... no idea...  
 anything funny/something (non-specific) funny.

- e. Auf was für einen Film hast du Lust? Hmm keine Ahnung... auf  
 On what for a film have you desire hmm no idea on  
 jeden Fall *was/etwas* lustiges.  
 every case what funny  
 What kind of movie do you feel like watching? Hmm ... no idea...  
 definitely something (non-specific) funny.
- f. Kannst du mir was mitbringen?  
 can you me what bring  
 Can you bring me something?

Apart from the "general" *etwas/jemand* series which appears in all three indefinite functions, German has also the *irgend-* series. The *irgend-* series can appear only in the non-specific and specific unknown functions. When stressed it also gets a free choice interpretation. In colloquial speech, wh-words can be used as indefinite pronouns. I discuss German in section 6.

(32) Persian (Haspelmath 1997: 283, Roberts 2003)

- a. Diruz *kas-i-râ* dar otobus did-am.  
 yesterday person-INDEF-ACC on bus see:PAST-1SG  
 Yesterday I saw *someone* (specific known/unknown) on the bus.
- b. *Yek vaqt-i* be xâne-ye mâ bey-âyid.  
 one time-INDEF to house-LK we SBJV-come:IMPV  
 Come to our house *sometime* (non-specific).

Indefinite forms in Persian are generic nouns with the indefinite marker/article *-i*. It is not clear how grammaticalized these forms are.

### 3 No syncretism

(33) Lithuanian (Haspelmath 1997: 276, Pilka 1984: 97,29, Kozhanov 2015)

- a. Jei tu *ką-nors* matai, pasaky-k man.  
 if you what-INDEF see tell-IMPV to:me  
 If you see *anything* (something non-specific), tell me.
- b. Jei tu *kaž-ką* matai, pasaky-k man.  
 if you INDEF-what see tell-IMPV to:me

If you see *something* (specific unknown), tell me.

- c. Turiu *kai-kg* tiktai tau vienai pasakyti.  
I:have INDEF-what only to:you alone to:say  
I've got *something* (specific-known) to say that's for your ears alone.

(34) Russian (Eremina 2012, native speakers)

- a. On sprosíl nas, vstretíli li my *kogo-nibud'* v parke.  
He ask-PAST us meet-PAST whether we who-INDEF in the park  
He asked us whether we met *anyone* (someone non-specific) in the park.
- b. Ona kupíla *što-to* i pošla domoj.  
she bought.PERF what-INDEF and went.PERF home  
She bought *something* (specific unknown) and went home. (once)
- c. Ja tebe *koe-što* prines. Smotri, kakaja dynia.  
I you-DAT INDEF-what brought. Look which melon.  
I brought you *something* (specific known). Look at this melon.

The *-nibud* marker may be replaced with *-libo* in formal speech. There is also a marginal *ne-* series. I discuss this series in section 6.

## 4 ABB syncretism

(35) Nanay (Haspelmath 1997: 67-68, Onenko 1986)

- a. *Uj-nuu* žook-či laŋ ži-či-ni.  
who-INDEF house-DIR near go-PAST-3SG  
*Someone* (specific unknown/known) went up to the house.
- b. Ńoambani *xajla-nuu* bajtalto-j-či.  
they what-INDEF accuse-PRES-3PL  
They are accusing him of something (specific unknown/known).
- c. *Xaj-daa* osii-daa osi-žara.  
what-INDEF [?] happen-FUT.3SG  
*Something* (non-specific) may happen .
- d. Sajna, *xaj-daa* žaka o-či-ni bižere.  
probably what-INDEF thing happen-PAST-3SG apparently  
Probably *something* (non-specific) has happened.

(36) Georgian (Haspelmath 1997: 304, Sharahsendize 2018)

- a. Es c'igni *sad-γac* v-išove.  
this book where-INDEF 1SG-found  
I found this book *somewhere* (I could say where).
- b. Movida *vi-γac* rusi.  
came who-INDEF Russian  
*Some Russian person* has come (I don't know him/her).
- c. Dauaxet *vi-s-me!*  
call:IMPV:PL who-DAT-INDEF  
Call *somebody* (non-specific)!

(37) Ossetic (Haspelmath 1997: 281):

- a. *Cy-dær* mæ qygdær-y.  
what-INDEF me bother-PRES.3SG  
*Something*(specific unknown/known) bothers me.
- b. Mænæm dær ma *is-ty* ratt.  
I:DAT also PT INDEF-what give(IMPV)  
Give me *something*(non-specific), too.

(38) Yakut (Haspelmath 1997: 290)

- a. *Kim-ere* eji-exe kiir-e syld'y-byt-a.  
who-INDEF you-DAT enter-CONV go-PERF-3SG  
*Someone*(specific unknown/known) has come to you.
- b. Xojut *kim-inen-eme* *tug-u-eme* yyt-ya-m.  
afterwards who-INSTR-INDEF what-ACC-INDEF send-FUT-1SG  
Afterwards I'll send *something*(non-specific) with *someone*(non-specific).

## 5 AAB syncretism

(39) Latin (New Testament: Luke 8: 46, Acts 3: 5, Mark 9: 38, Haspelmath 1997: 254 and Gianollo 2013)

- a. Tetigit me *ali-quis*.  
touched me INDEF-who  
*Somebody*(specific unknown) hath touched me (for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me).

- b. At ille intendebat in eos, sperans se *ali-quid* accepturum ab  
 but that gave heed in them hoping self INDEF-what accept:FUT from  
 eis.  
 them  
 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive *something* (non-specific) of  
 them.
- c. Magister, vidimus *quem-dam* in nomine tuo ejicientem daemona.  
 Master we:saw who-INDEF in name your casting.out devils  
 Master, we saw *someone* (specific known) casting out devils in thy name.

## 6 Incomplete paradigms

(40) Mandarin Chinese (Haspelmath 1997: 307-308, Li 1992, native speakers):

- a. Chī, diǎn *shénme* zài zǒu ba!  
 eat a.bit what then go PT  
 Please eat a little *something* (non-specific) before you leave.
- b. Yǒu *rén* dǎ diànhuà le. Wǒ bù zhīdao shì shéi.  
 exist man hit phone PERF I not know is who  
*Someone* (specific unknown) called. I don't know who.
- c. Yǒu *rén* dǎ diànhuà le. Cāi yī cāi shì shéi..  
 exist man hit phone PERF guess one guess is who  
*Someone* (specific known) called. Guess who.

(41) Kannada (Haspelmath 1997: 305-306, Bhat 1981)

- a. *Yaar-oo* bandaru; (\*yaaru uuhisi.)  
 who-INDEF came who guess  
*Someone* (specific unknown) came; (\*guess who).
- b. *Ellig-aadaruu* hoogu.  
 where-INDEF go  
 Go *somewhere* (non-specific).

The non-specific marker is *-aadaruu*, the specific unknown marker is *-oo*. The sources do not say what strategy is used to express the specific known function.

(42) Quechua (Haspelmath 1997:310, Parker 1976, Weber 1989, Cusihuáman 2001, Shimelman 2017, Anchorena 1874, Faller 2020)

- a. *Ima-ta-chi* wambra yurapa waqta-n-chaw riqa-rqa-n.  
 what-ACC-VAL boy tree behind-3SG-LOC see-PAST-3SG

The boy saw *something* (specific unknown) behind the tree.

- b. *Pi-cha* haqay-ta hamu-sha-n!  
who-CONJ over.there-ACC come-PROG-3  
Someone unknown is coming over there./I don't know who is coming over there.
- c. Mana musya-pti-iki-qa *pi-ta-pis* tapuku-y.  
not know-CONV-2SG-TOP who-ACC-INDEF ask-IMPV  
If you don't know, ask *somebody* (non-specific).
- d. "May-manta=n ka-nki-chis?" ni-spa tapu-wa-n *huk runa*.  
where-abl=bpg be-2-pl say-nmlz.ss ask-1o-3 one man  
"Where are you from?" *a man* asked me.

The non-specific marker is *-pis/pas*, the specific unknown marker is *-chi/cha* (the form depends on the dialect). When the referent is specific known, a bare noun with the word *huk* (one) may be used.

## 7 No indefinite pronouns

(43) Swahili (Haspelmeth 1997: 302)

- a. *Mtu* a-li-ni-gusa.  
man 3SG-PAST-me-touch  
*Somebody* (specific unknown/specific known) has touched me.
- b. Yesu a-li-mw-ambia... kwamba a-wa-pe maskini *kitu*.  
Jesus 3SG-PAST-him-tell that 3SG-them-give:SBJV poor thing  
Jesus told him to give *something* (non-specific) to the poor.

(44) Irish (Haspelmeth 1997: 279)

- a. Tá *rud* agam le rá leat.  
is thing on:me for telling to:you  
I have *something* (specific known) to tell you.
- b. Dúirt *duine éigin* liom é.  
told person certain to:me he  
*Somebody* (specific unknown) told me.
- c. Abair *rud éigin*.  
say:IMPV thing certain  
Say *something* (non-specific).

(45) Filipino (data from native speakers)

- a. Dalhan mo ako ng makakain!  
bring.IMPV you me of edible  
Bring me *something* to eat!
- b. Meron tumawag pero di ko alam kung sino.  
there.is called but Neg I know if who  
*Someone* called, but I don't know who.
- c. Meron akong ibibigay para sa iyo. Hulaan mo kung  
have(there.is) I give.FUT for yours guess.IMPV you if  
ano.  
what  
I have *something* to give you. Guess what.

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