Sink or Swim: Rescuing Floating Quantifiers and Existential Constructions
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Both floating quantifiers, and associates of existential constructions, are commonly claimed in English to provide evidence for the proposal that subjects, whether derived or agentive, are merged in the vP domain. However, upon careful consideration of the distribution of both floating quantifiers and associates, we see that neither construction exactly conforms with the predictions made by such claims.

For instance, neither derived associates, nor floating quantifiers related to derived subjects, can appear in the post-verbal position:

(1)   a.   There were \<many people> arriving \<*many people>.
        b.   There were \<many buildings> destroyed \<*many people>.
        c.   They were \<all> arriving \<*all>.
        d.   They were \<all> destroyed \<*all>.

Further, neither floating quantifiers nor associates can follow auxiliary *being*:

(2)   a.   There were \<many people> being \<*many people> arrested.
        b.   There were \<many people> being \<*many people> noisy.
        c.   They were \<all> being \<*all> arrested.
        d.   They were \<all> being \<*all> noisy.

Floating quantifiers, and existential constructions have received much attention in the literature, but have never been considered side by side. Given that both associates and floating quantifiers are argued to depict low and intermediate subject positions, and given that both demonstrate similar patterns of anomalous behaviour, the aim of this talk will be to reconcile the two constructions under a unified analysis.