More on scale structure and degree modification: the case of ‘kanari’ in Japanese.

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The Japanese degree word "kanari" `quite' is compatible with both open-scale and closed-scale adjectives and it apparently means rather different things in the two cases. With an open-scale adjective, "kanari" characterizes the object in question as having the property to a degree that is around the average (for objects that have that property); with a closed-scale adjective, it means that the object almost (but not fully) has the property. This paper proposes a uniform analysis of "kanari" that attributes the apparent difference of its meaning(s) to an independently motivated difference in the properties of open-scale and closed-scale adjectives.