

# Plural is not ‘3<sup>rd</sup> person’

Jolijn Sonnaert

Most analyses of person collapse third person and plural. Consider for example the following terminology used in amongst others Cysouw (2005) and Bobaljik (2008) to represent the person and number paradigm, where the plural persons are marked as the relevant person plus ‘third person’, as is the third person singular.

	PERSON	SG	PL
	inclusive		1+2(+3)
(1)	exclusive	1	1+3
	addressee	2	2+3
	other	3	3+3

However, these are in fact very different items in language, as can be seen by looking at both morphology and semantics. I will focus on the morphological arguments: third person and plural are morphologically distinct because certain expectations that arise if they were one and the same thing, do not hold. More specifically: I will show that there are no languages that share a morpheme for third person and for plural.

## References

- Bobaljik, Jonathan D. 2008. Missing persons. *The Linguistic Review* 25. 203–230.
- Cysouw, Michael. 2005. Syncretisms involving clusivity. In Elena Filimonova (ed.), *Clusivity typology and case studies of clusivity: Typology and case studies of the inclusive-exclusive distinction*, chap. 1, 3–48. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Co.