

# Semantic and morphosyntactic definiteness: a case study in crosslinguistic variation

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Grammatical categories are not the same thing as logical ones, but logic is the necessary basis to model the meaning of morphemes expressing Boolean operators, (in-)definiteness, or universal/existential quantification. Yet these are distinctly linguistic elements, whose contents vary across languages and also across constructions. I would like to consider in some detail the variety of contents expressed by definite marking, focusing on the diverse but mutually comparable phenomena offered by the Romance family. Names, mass terms, and kind terms are crucial for in mapping the empirical boundaries of definite constructions; however, I suggest that the notions of names and kinds are too multi-faceted to act as descriptive primitives.