

Feature Merger and Feature Realization

A unifying approach to nominal structure

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This talk addresses some long-standing questions on nominal syntax, in particular on the categorial nature of nominal expressions, their intermediate projections, and so-called determiners, such as articles, possessors, and demonstratives.

I will present the proposal put forth in Giusti (2015) according to which, feature sharing is the result of three different syntactic relations that must be satisfied by Merge: Agreement (which occurs only once in the phase and is the by-product of the SUBJECT-Predicate dichotomy); Concord (which can be iterated and is the by-product of modification); and Projection (which is the realization of the bundle of interpretable and uninterpretable features associated with the lexical head N).

I will argue that the proposal is able to account for the macro- and microvariation in the position and (co)occurrence of possessors, demonstratives, articles:

- Articles are scattered N heads, bundled with other nominal features such as word class, gender, number, and Case.
- Demonstratives provide the IndP of the NP-Phase, on a par with many non-overt indexical operators expressing definiteness or specificity.
- Possessors are independent phases with an independent IndP that enters an Agree relation with a functional feature of the selecting N.

References

Giusti, Giuliana. 2015. *Nominal syntax at the interfaces: A comparative analysis of languages with articles*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.