

THE SYNTAX OF THE DETERMINER PHRASE

MIHAELA TANASE-DOGARU

Course aims:

1. What is the functional architecture of the DP? What is the DP made up of – only the noun, the noun + determiners, the noun + number + determiners?

Does it look like this?

[NP[N]]

Or like this?

[DP[D[NP[N]]]]

Or maybe this?

[DP[D[NumP[Num[NP[N]]]]]]

2. What is the role of **number** and determiners? What about languages without morphological number (e.g. Chinese) or languages without determiners (e.g. Russian)? How does Chinese manage to count entities and how does Russian manage to achieve reference?

3. What are **classifiers** and why should we care about them? Classifiers are functional categories used by languages without morphological number in order to count their nouns.

San **ge** ren (Chinese)/ Three **Clas** man / ‘three men’

Do classifiers exist in languages with morphological number (Romanian, English, French, etc)? If they do, what is their role? Would you say the bolded items below are ‘classifiers’?

Trei **sticle** de vin/ Three **bottles** of wine

4. What are **bare nouns**? Why does English allow bare nouns in subject position while all Romance languages exclude them?

Dogs bark vs. **Câini*(i)** latră.

Why do Romance languages exclude bare nouns in predicate position, while English has the reverse situation?

John is **a** student vs. Ion e (***un**) student.

Grading and requirements:

Attendance: 50%

Written exam at the end of the semester: 50%