

The syntax of D>N>&>N constructions in English, French, Italian and German

Standard English, French, Italian and German all allow for strings of the form D>N>&>N. English differs from all the other languages in that strings of this form centered around singular nouns are systematically ambiguous between (a) a joint reading (reference to one individual) and (b) a split reading (reference to two individuals):

1. English
 - a. This philosopher and linguist has just published a new book
 - b. This philosopher and linguist have just published a new book
2. German
 - a. Dieser Philosoph und Linguist hat gerade ein neues Buch veröffentlicht
 - b. *Dieser Philosoph und Linguist haben gerade ein neues Buch veröffentlicht
3. French
 - a. ce philosophe et linguiste vient de publier un nouveau livre
 - b. *ce philosophe et linguiste viennent de publier un nouveau livre
4. Italian (Heycock, Zamparelli 2003):
 - a. L'amico e collaboratore di Gianni è stato qui
 - b. *Questo soldato e marinaio sono buoni amici

Heycock and Zamparelli (2003) claim that these two readings can be derived from a single syntactic structure ([DP [D The] [NumP [Num] [PIP [PI] [CoordP [NP [N philosopher]] [Coord' [Coord° and] [NP [N linguist]]]]]]]) and that the cross-linguistic availability of split-readings follows from differences in the semantics of the head number.

I will present hitherto neglected data from standard German and English and new data from a microvariation of standard Italian that will falsify this assumption. Instead I will develop an analysis that is based on two different syntactic structures.

Publication bibliography

Heycock, Caroline; Zamparelli, Roberto (2003): Coordinated Bare Definites. In *Linguistic Inquiry* (34), pp. 443–469. Available online at <http://www.lel.ed.ac.uk/~heycock/coordination/bare-nouns-coord10.pdf>, checked on 12/1/2016.