

Numeral variations

The morpho-syntax of numerically-quantified noun phrases varies considerably across languages. I focus on two parameters of variation in languages without numeral classifiers, linking variation in nominal number to (i) variation in noun class (animacy and gender), and (ii) variation in the syntax and semantics of numerals ('determiner' or 'modifier'). I conclude that a) number can be encoded in several positions in the nominal structure, with consequences for interpretation and interaction with noun class features, b) two null functional heads mediate between 'determiner' numerals and singular- or plural-marked nouns, and c) dual number is compatible only with a 'modifier' numeral 'two'.