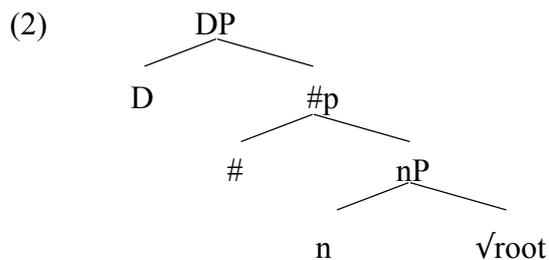Relabelling Adjunction: A modification analysis in Ògè

In this talk, I show that plural marking is not obligatory in Ògè because it lacks agreement; rather, it belongs to the group of languages that syntactically mark plural with the use of plural morphemes: *òtóchuru, uwo,* and *–rin* as shown in (1);

(1) a. Òtochúrú (ígé) éswé   b. úwó éswé   c. íghé   uwan-rin
     PL   DEM house   PL   house   DEM child+PL
      ‚those houses'   ‚houses'   ‚these children'

The distribution of the plural morphemes as indicated in (1) varies; *òtóchuru* have a wider position of occurrence because it can be followed optionally by the demonstrative in (1a); *uwo* is obligatorily followed by a noun while *–rin* is a 2nd person pronoun which is used to mark plural on a noun through suffixation.

Based on Wiltschko (2008)'s formal syntactic typology of plural marking sketched in (2); I argue that rather than a head in the nominal extended projection such as Num or Div(ision), which a standard pluralizer (e.g., English *–s*) realizes; the plural morphemes in Ògè are adjoined to the nP projection.

(2)

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              DP
            /    \
          D       #p
                 /   \
                #      nP
                      /  \
                     n    √root
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This is because nouns in Ògè show general number, which means when the plural morpheme is absent, there is no singular denoting feature present but i assume that when the plural morpheme is present, the modified noun bears a plural feature which must be valued by the plural feature on the plural morpheme. Following Zeijlstra (forthcoming), I assume that the plural morphemes in Ògè inherently have the feature set {[N, uN]}, while the modified noun is of feature set {[N]} with an unvalued plural feature.

Here, it is assumed that selection is involved in adjunction; it is the adjunct that needs to stand in particular configuration with its modifee, not the other way around. For instance, if a plural morpheme (in Ògé a plural morpheme needs a noun to be grammatical in all contexts) bears {[N],[uN]} and merges with a feature set {[N]} which it modifies, it is the {[N]} feature of the NP and the {[uN]} feature of the plural morpheme that cannot percolate up. The only feature percolating up is the {[N]} feature on the plural morpheme.