

## Plural sensitivity to animacy and definiteness: crosslinguistic evidence

Plural morphemes have received varied analyses in the literature. In some languages (English, German and Hebrew, Ritter 1991) plurality is syntactically analyzed as the head of the number phrase (Num-head) in the functional spine of the noun phrase. In other languages, the plural morpheme is analyzed as a plural modifier, i.e. an optional plural marker which adjoins to different layers in the extended projection of the noun phrase: Q/DP layer (Persian, Ghomeshi 2003, Yucatec Maya, Butler 2011), *n* layer (Korean, Kim and Melchin 2018, Amharic, Kramer 2012). According to these two analyses, the interpretation of the plural morpheme in the two systems differs because plural is either interpreted on the Num-head or on other layers of the noun phrase. The aim of my talk is to provide evidence that it is not only the locus of the plural morpheme that determines its interpretation as a plural marker – but also on other parameters, such as animacy and definiteness. First, this talk shows that the plural morpheme in Ògè performs a dual function of marking a noun for both plural and definiteness. Second, more evidence from Amharic and Korean shows that plural is sensitive to animacy. The talk concludes that in certain contexts, plural nouns have more restricted uses because of the interactions between number and semantic features like animacy and definiteness.

### References

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