

Modeling the position of the attributive adjective in French: a quantitative and experimental approach

Juliette Thuilier (Université Jean Jaurès Toulouse)

French displays the possibility of both prenominal and postnominal ordering of adjectives within the noun phrase : `un magnifique tableau'/'un tableau magnifique' (a magnificent painting). The positioning of attributive adjective is a complex phenomenon and has been widely studied in French linguistics. I will present my main contributions to the debate: first, a multifactorial statistical modeling based on corpus data and linguistically interpretable variables ; second, a sentence recall study focusing on the effect of other nominal dependents in the NP on the position of the adjective (as in `une [considérable]AP évolution [de qualité]PP'/'une évolution [considérable]AP [de qualité]PP' - a considerable quality evolution).