

Some remarks on the morpho-syntax of Gender

Several proposals have been put forth in the literature concerning the syntactic representation of gender, see e.g., the Distributed Gender Hypothesis (Steriopolo & Wiltschko 2008), the GenderP hypothesis (Picallo 2008), or the Gender on n hypothesis (Alexiadou 2004, Kramer 2015). Such approaches contrast with lexicalist analyses which hold that gender is an intrinsic property of lexical entries (e.g., Ralli 2002) or approaches which argue that gender is not hosted by a functional projection in the syntax (e.g., Ritter 1993).

In this talk, assuming that lexical categories are built in the syntax, and in particular that they are decomposed into category defining heads and acategorial roots, I will argue in favor of the Gender on n hypothesis, and discuss the cross-linguistic predictions of the proposal and the challenges it faces.