

Where is Grammatical Gender?

M.C. Picallo
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Centre de Lingüística Teòrica

Experimental research on concord has shown that gender agreement -whether it is only formal or natural sex related- is carried out separately from number agreement, and that these two items appear to be processed separately (Antón-Méndez et al 2002). Such results are compatible with syntactic accounts that consider gender/noun class and number to be realized in different projections (Picallo 2008). Nevertheless, it has also been shown that gender and number errors (i.e. the so-called *mismatch effects*) appear to be sensitive to each other. This paper provides a hypothesis to account for this apparent puzzle, taking into consideration the consequences of adopting both the Inclusiveness Condition (Chomsky 2000) and Brody's Radical Interpretability Hypothesis (Brody 2003).

References.

- Antón-Méndez, I. et al. 2002. The relation between gender and number agreement processing. *Syntax* 5:1-25.
- Brody, M. 2003. *Towards an elegant syntax*. London. Routledge.
- Chomsky, N. 2000. Minimalist inquiries: The framework. *Step by step: Essays on minimalist syntax in honor of Howard Lasnik*. M. Martin et al. (eds). Cambridge, Mass. MIT. Press.
- Picallo, M. C. 2008. Gender and number in Romance. *Lingue e Linguaggio* 7:47-66.