

## Multiple Indefinite Markers and Adjectival Inflection in A North Norwegian Dialect

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While the occurrence of multiple definite articles in Modern Greek is a well-known and well-studied linguistic phenomenon (cf. e.g. Alexiadou & Wilder 1998, Leu 2007 and Lekakou & Szendrői 2007), the existence of multiple indefinite articles has received considerably less attention in the literature. Indeed, in some accounts of so-called determiner spreading in Modern Greek, poly-indefiniteness is seen as an impossibility. This paper aims to consider this question by studying multiple indefiniteness markers in a North Norwegian dialect spoken on the island of Senja.

Polyindefiniteness in the Senja dialect is seen in indefinite noun phrases involving one or more adjectives, as illustrated in (1a) - (1c). The presence of all except the first article is optional, as indicated by parentheses. Note, however, that recursive indefiniteness is not permitted with non-intersective and nationality adjectives, as shown in (1d). This is similar to what has been observed for determiner spreading in Modern Greek (Alexiadou & Wilder 1998).

- (1) a. Ei stor (ei) fin (ei) seng  
*a.fem big.M/F (a.fem) fine.M/F (a.fem) bed*
- b. En stor (en) fin (en) gutt  
*a.mas big.M/F (a.mas) fine.M/F (a.mas) boy*
- c. Et stor-t (et) fin -t (et) hus  
*a.neu big -neu (a.neu) fine-neu (a.neu) house*
- d. En påstått (\*en) morder.  
*a.mas alledged a.mas murderer*

In the Senja dialect, there is also a form resembling the weak adjectival inflection *-e*, which can appear in indefinite noun phrases in a manner which is reminiscent of the recursive indefinite article. However, there are some differences between the two; while the recursive indefinite article can appear in any context except with non-intersective and nationality adjectives, the *-e* suffix can only appear with adjectives that lack (overt) gender marking (3c), and this situation is not improved if the gender marker is removed (3d), but it resembles the indefinite article by being prohibited with non-intersective and nationality adjectives (3e). These facts are illustrated in (3) below:

- (3) a. Ei stor-e fin -e seng  
*a.fem big -e fine-e bed*
- b. En stor -e fin -e gutt  
*a.mas big -e fine-e boy*
- c. \*Et stor-t -e fin -t -e hus  
*a.neu big -neu-e fine-neu-e house*
- d. \*Et stor-e fin -e hus  
*a.neu big -e fine -e house*
- e. \*En påstått -e morder.  
*a.mas alledged-e murderer*

Despite the apparent similarity between the *-e* suffix and the weak adjectival form, there is reason to believe that they are not equivalent, because the two occur with different pitch accents; the weak adjectival form has pitch accent 2 (low-high-low), while the *-e* suffix that occurs on the adjective in indefinite noun phrases has pitch accent 1 (high-low). Thus, it would appear that the *-e* suffix is distinct from the weak adjectival form. The recursive article and the *-e* suffix, on the other hand, are in complimentary distribution, as illustrated in (4), which could be taken as an indication that they are two expressions of the same phenomenon.

- (4) Ei stor-*e* (\*ei) fin -*e* (\*ei) seng  
*a.fem big -e (a.fem) fine-e (a.fem) bed*

The present paper discusses the various restrictions on the distribution of polyindefiniteness in the Senja dialect and its interaction with the *-e* suffix on strong adjectives. It will be argued that the main characteristic of these constructions is that they are highly descriptive, and we will ask whether a reduced relative clause analysis is the best way to capture these structures.