

Detecting the adjectival article in determiners, quantifiers, and agreement alternations

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There are a number of environments in which we are - on standard assumptions - sometimes surprised by the appearance of a definite marker morpheme, e.g. German *d-*. These environments include (i) the pre-adjectival position in definite DPs, which has been discussed as part of "double definiteness" for Scandinavian, as "determiner spreading" for Greek, as "adjectival article" for Slovenian; and (ii) certain "determiners/quantifiers" such as definite demonstratives, e.g. *th-is*, and German *beid-* 'both' and *jed-* 'every', which will be argued to spell out adjectival structures.

Secondly, in German the presence of a pre-adjectival definite marker determines the location of the adjective relative to the strong agreement head (*gut-er Wein* 'good wine' versus *d-er gute Wein* 'the good wine'), in a way comparable, as I will suggest, to the alternation in the German tensed clause between a clause initial complementizer *dass* and V2 (viewed as a sort of vP first).

An attempt to unify these observations suggests the possibility that the adjectival determiner is a left peripheral head in the extended projection of the adjective, xAP: e.g. SWE [[*det stora*] *huset*], GER [[*der lustige*] *Film*]. This in turn suggests a closer assimilation of the higher functional fields of (i) the clause, (ii) the noun phrase, and (iii) the adjectival phrase.