

Un cas particulier de la relation partie-tout : les compléments adnominaux en à avec et sans article défini anaphorique

A specific case of the part-whole relation: French adnominal à N-complements with and without a definite anaphoric article

Vassil Mostrov

Abstract: This paper deals with the syntax and the interpretation of French noun phrases of the type *N à N* where a part-whole relationship is involved. We focus on the differences arising from the presence (*un verre au pied doré/cassé*) or absence of a determiner (*un verre à pied [doré]*) before the N denoting the part. We argue that both the adnominal complements *à N (Mod)* and *à LE N Mod* function as adjectival constituents that qualify the noun denoting the whole, but the actualization of the part noun can be linguistically effective only in cases where the definite determiner, A-bound according to Guéron's (1985, 2005) hypothesis, is present. The discussion considers the consequences of our analysis.

Key words: part-whole relationship, inalienable possession, noun phrase, adnominal complement, anaphora, binding.