Pseudopartitive Constructions in Romance and Germanic Contact Varieties

PhD project 2019-2022
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1. Research Question(s) and Topics

Overall research question:

How is pseudopartitivity expressed in Galloromance, Iberoromance, and Swiss German with a focus on language contact?

Aims, topics, and expected output:

- Syntactic distribution and morphosyntactic features of pseudopartitives
- The role of horizontal and vertical language contact: synchronic variation (and diachronic development)
- Different data collection methods and experiments
  → Comparison of their output: methodological conclusions

2. State of the Art

Pseudopartitives (Selkirk 1977):
- Noun phrases with two nominals which refer to "an **amount** of some substance" (cf. Koptjevskaja-Tamm 2006; 2009):
  - First nominal: quantifies over the second nominal, denotes an indefinite subset
  - Second nominal: "**a kind of entity**", denotes an indefinite superset of a substance

Partitive and pseudopartitive constructions:

French:

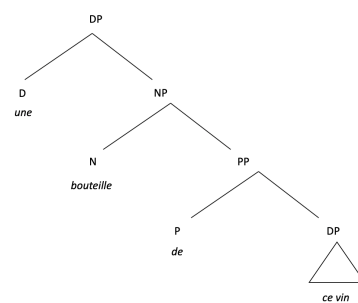| (1)	*une bouteille de ce vin*	partitive construction
(2)	*une bouteille de vin*	pseudopartitive construction

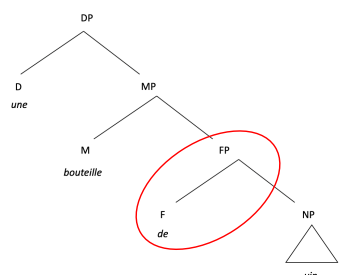Figure 1: The syntactic structure of partitives (cf. Stickney 2004; Rutkowski 2007)

Figure 2: The syntactic structure of pseudopartitives (cf. Stickney 2004; Rutkowski 2007)

Unmarked Variants

Standard languages:

(3) fr.	*une bouteille de vin*	*un peu de vin*	con-struction marker
(4) sp.	*una botella de vino*	*un poco de vino*	
(5) ger.	*eine Flasche Wein*	*ein bisschen ø Wein*	juxta-position
	'a bottle of wine'	'a bit of wine'	

Marked Variants

Examples:

Juxtaposition (lack of construction marker *de*):

(6) sp.   *Si quiere, le tuesto **un cacho ø pan**.*
(García Hortelano, *Mary Tribune*)
'a piece of bread'

(7) frpr.   *lø dzi de pˈastə bˈøtõᵐ **pˈɔka ø buli** dəã la sˈaːlsa*
(transcription, Aosta Valley)
'a little bit of mushrooms'

Juxtaposition + agreement:

(8) sp.   *Más me valiera **una$_{FSG}$ poca$_{FSG}$ ayuda$_{FSG}$***
(Mujica Lainez, *Escarabajo*)
'a little bit of help/assistance'

References

Koptjewskaja-Tamm, Maria (2009), "A lot of grammar with a good portion of lexicon: towards a typology of partitive and pseudopartitive constructions", in: Johannes Helmbrecht/Christian Lehmann (eds.), *Form and Function in Language Research: Papers in honour of Christian Lehmann,* Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, p. 329–346.

Koptjewskaja-Tamm, Maria (2006), "Partitives", *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics,* vol.9, ed. 2, p. 218–221.

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Rutkowski, Pawel (2007), "The syntactic structure of grammaticalized partitives (pseudo-partitives)", *University of Pennsylvania Working Paper in Linguistics* 13(1), p. 1–14.

Selkirk, Elisabeth (1977), "Some remarks on noun phrase structure", in: Peter W. Culicover/Thomas Wasow/Adrian Akmajian (eds.), *Formal Syntax,* New York: Academic Press, Inc., p. 285–316.

Stickney, Helen (2004), *The Pseudopartitive and Its Illusory Projections,*

3. Methodology
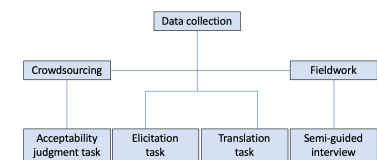
Interaction with the L&S Lab and LiRI:
- Data management
- Server/backup expertise
- Transcription of translation task and semi-guided interview

4. Research Schedule

January 2019 ⬇ July 2019	State of the art Research questions and research plan
August 2019 ⬇ December 2019	Elicitation of data (data points in contact zones; cat., fr., frpr., occ., sp.)
January 2020 ⬇ July 2020	Data analysis (Subsequent fieldwork)
August 2020 ⬇ December 2020	Data analysis
January 2021 ⬇ July 2021	Start of writing process
August 2021 ⬇ December 2021	(Re)writing and revising process

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