

LAD Conferences

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L a b o r a t o i r e d e r e c h e r c h e s u r l e s a s y m é t r i e s d ' i n t e r f a c e s

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Defaults, Coordination and Clausal Subjects

The conjunction of singular nominal subjects normally triggers plural agreement in verbal or adjectival predicates ("Karl and Marc are tall/have arrived"). This is however not the case with sentential subjects ("that IP and that IP is strange/puzzles me"), and other types of (mostly, non-nominal) subjects.

A possible approach is based on the idea that plurality can emerge from the conjunction of elements endowed with a Number feature. Sentential subjects would not have any phi-feature (Number, Gender, Person), so they could not trigger plurality. The resulting singular agreement would be the result of a "default agreement" strategy. Independent evidence for the lack of phi-features in clauses comes from their inability to license *pro* in certain conditions.

After reviewing these cases, I will address two unresolved issues:

- (i) the notion of "default" agreement is at odds with the mechanism for agreement percolation (*Agree*).
- (ii) in a well-defined class of cases, plural predicate agreement with conjoined sentences is indeed possible.

The solution to the latter problem will be based on the point of application of a type-shifting device to turn propositions into entity-type arguments.

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Selected Publications

- Zamparelli, R. (1995). Layers in the Determiner Phrase. Ph. D. thesis, University of Rochester. (Published by Garland, 2000).
- Zamparelli, R. (1998). A theory of Kinds, Partitives and OF/Z Possessives. In A. Alexiadou and C. Wilder (Eds.), *Possessors, Predicates and Movement in the Determiner Phrase*, pp. 259-301. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Zamparelli, R. (2002). Definite and bare kind-denoting noun phrases. In C. Beyssade, R. Bok-Bennema, F. Drijkoningen, and P. Monachesi (Eds.), *Romance Languages and Linguistic Theory 2000; selected papers from 'Going Romance' 2000, Utrecht, 30 November - 2 December, Volume 232 of Current Issues in Linguistic Theory*, Amsterdam/Philadelphia, pp. 305-342. John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Zamparelli, R. (2004). On singular existential quantifiers in Italian. Ms. Università di Bergamo, on-line at <http://semanticsarchive.net/Archive/jZmMDViN>

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