Partitive pronouns in Occitan dialects

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As in other Romance languages such as French (en) or Italian (ne), Occitan dialects display an object pronoun (nen) which can assume several functions: genitive, ablative, quantitative or partitive. Focusing on the latter, we examine its behaviour in Occitan dialects, comparing it with French, from a morphological and syntactic perspective.

Concerning morphology, this element displays an original form which is subject to variation, in a way that remains to be determined: nen, ne, en, n. Regarding its syntax, once the distinction between the quantitative and the partitive is clearly established, it is a matter of questioning the precise structure of the phrase represented by this pronoun.

Finally, we may wonder if it differs from that of French en, and if contact between these languages plays a role in its behaviour and its diachronic evolution.