Distribution and Function of ‘Partitive Articles’ in Romance (DiFuPaRo): A microvariation analysis
https://www.rose.uzh.ch/de/seminar/personen/stark/DiFuPaRo.html

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1 General information

• Elaboration of the project:
  o Co-funded by the URPP Language and Space (part-time position for two years)
  o Input from the international workshop Partitivity and Language Contact (2016, UZH, co-funding URPP Language and Space)

• Funding of the project (2018–2021):
  o SNF (Swiss National Science Foundation) and 
  o DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) and 
  o Project leader: Elisabeth Stark (UZH) and Cecilia Poletto (Frankfurt am Main)
  o Staff at UZH: Jan Davatz (PhD), Tabea Ihsane (collaborator), Jordan Irrera (MA); at Frankfurt: Francesco Pinzin (post-doc)

2 Aim

• Study so-called ‘partitive articles’ (PAs), e.g. French du/des and Italian del/dei
  • vs. ‘real’ partitive (part-whole) interpretation
  • Data comparable to bare nouns in other languages:
    b. J’ai acheté des fraises.
    1. I bought (some) milk.
    1. I bought (some) strawberries.

3 Scope

• Investigate several Gallo- and Italo-Romance varieties in Switzerland and Northern Italy (Ihsane 2018, Stark 2016, 2018, Pinzin & Poletto 2019, Stark & Gerards forth., Gerards & Stark forth.)

• Focus on standard French/Italian, colloquial (Swiss) French, Francoprovençal (FrFr) and Northern Italian dialects (FrIt)

• Provide a detailed description of the spatial distribution and function of these elements

• Compare the morphosyntactic properties and track down how characteristics of the linguistic system cluster together

4 Research Questions

• RQ1: Can we define a set of ‘core properties’ of PAs present in all the varieties we study?

• RQ2: Can we establish implacational scales of the contexts/functions/values of PAs, e.g. stating that a variety with wide-scope readings of PAs always also has narrow-scope readings, but not necessarily PAs in generic contexts?

• RQ3: Can we identify a pattern in the geographical distribution of ‘types of PAs’ in our Romance varieties and explain their existence, e.g. based on observed internal correlations or as a result of language contact (or both)?

5 Data

• Existing databases:
  o ASIt for NPs: Atlas sintattico d’Italia, U. Padova and U. Venice (Section 7)
  o ALAVAL for FrFr: Atlas linguistico audiovisuale del Francoprovençale vallese, UNINE (Section B)
  o OROM for colloquial Swiss French: Corpus oral de français de Suisse romande, UNINE (Section 9)

• Data gathered in fieldwork in Switzerland and Northern Italy

6 Data selection

• ASIt:
  o NPs from 37 relevant input sentences: overt PAs, overt Qs, bare DE, bare nouns, generic definitions

• OROM:
  o Translations from the data points relevant for the project: Paimont, Liguria, Lombardia, Emilie Romagna, Veneto, Friuli, Trentino Alto Adige, northern Toscana and Marche (plus other Gallo-Italian dialects)

• ALAVAL:
  o NPs from more than 70 relevant input sentences: overt PAs, overt Qs, bare DE, generic definitions

7 ASIt

7.1 Tagging and analysis

• Tagging following the tagging system (Section 10.1).

• Identification of the main variation patterns:
  - Morphological realization of plurality on N (Agreement patterns with an overt quantity / Dislocation phenomena

8 ALAVAL

7.2 Example of variation

• Agreement with Q and presence of DE:
  - agr + DE ... mangea fondos ... (Turino, TO)
  - much of cake
  - agr + DE ... mangà masa ... (Aldeno, TN)
  - much cake
  - agr + DE ... manìa trota ... (Ramats, TO)
  - many/f of strawberries
  - agr + DE ... mangà tropa ... (Arica, SP)
  - much cake

https://www.4it.uqmp.UCH

What the ALAVAL tells about partitive articles in Francoprovençal so far... (Kristol 2014, 2016)

9 OFROM

9.1 Preparing data

• Morphosyntactic tagging of relevant PAs and pairing with respective sociolinguistic information (Section 10.1).

9.2 Example of variation

• Optionality in French partitivity:
  ... a pas grande difference
  ... there is not big difference
  ... a pas grande difference
  ... there is not DE big difference
  • Negation + PAs:
  on n’a pas du travail pour...
  one has not much PA.m.s work for...
  • Quantities + PAs:
  on a faisant beaucoup du tennis
  one did much PA.m.s tennis

A closer look at the data!

10 Output

10.1 Tagging system

10.2 Database

• Database giving systematic insights into the linguistic properties and geographical distribution of different types of PAs in the Romance varieties under investigation. Co-funded by the URPP Language and Space.

10.3 Presentations:

2015 [Davatz, U. (U. of Berne). Presenting partitive articles in Francoprovençal, facultative case, pressure and determiners; discourse and variation. University of Riaza, Italy.]

2015: [Passo, A. (U. of Padova). Partitive Articles in French (northern Italian dialects).] PANTI workshop. University of Zurich, Switzerland.


10.4 Publications:


References:


