Sexless animates?
Westveer, T.J.T.; Sleeman, A.P.; Aboh, E.O.

Citation for published version (APA):
We have proposed a theoretical analysis that explains the agreement patterns observed. There is a phase boundary between inner and outer DP.

If Failed Agree has taken place in inner DP, second chance to insert semantic gender value in outer DP (6).

2. Sleeman & Ihsane (2016)

Gender agreement in (superlative) partitives in French:
- Class D nouns: only grammatical agreement (not verified by them!)
- Class B/C nouns: semantic agreement possible (gender mismatch between set noun and subset noun accepted)

How do they explain these agreement patterns?
- Distinction between grammatical and semantic gender
- Class B/C nouns unmatched for grammatical gender
- Valuation through insertion of semantic gender value on GenD
- No semantic gender value = Failed Agree (Preminger 2011)
- Spell-out of default masculine gender

Two-noun analysis of superlative partitives: noun of inner DP (set) copied onto outer DP (subset), remains unpronounced...

3. Aims and methods

Sleeman & Ihsane’s results only based on a limited number of informants’ judgements.
- Replicate Sleeman & Ihsane’s experiment on a larger scale and in a more systematic way.
- Provide a theoretical explanation for the agreement patterns we observe.

Methodology:
- Grammaticality judgement Task with 70 native speakers of French
- Online task using Google Forms
- 80 sentences judged on a 5-point scale, presented in random order
- 13 different nouns of noun classes B, C, and D included
- Sentences with semantic and grammatical agreement
- Control sentences
- Background questionnaire

5. Towards an analysis

The theoretical analysis should explain:
- General differences between the noun classes
- Variation within the results

Gender agreement competition, the outer DP can agree with:
1. The gender of the noun in the inner DP
2. The gender of the predicate

3. Results

Comparison noun classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Common</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


t.1 top plus jeune des sentinelles est Jean-Luc.

The D noun, gender mismatch in partitive.

6. An analysis that seems to work...

There are 100% judgements with class D nouns.

7. Conclusion

1. Replication of Sleeman & Ihsane’s experiment on a larger scale:
   - Semantic agreement is preferred with class B and class C nouns
   - Grammatical agreement is preferred with class D nouns

2. We have proposed a theoretical analysis that explains the agreement patterns observed.

Future research: (i) investigate quantified partitives (one of the X) & (ii) investigate same phenomena in German.

References