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

Link to publication

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: http://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
1. Introduction

Sexless animates?

Noun classes (adapted from Sleeman & Ihsane 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Feature marking in the mental lexicon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Class B/C nouns: only grammatical agreement (not verified by them)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/C</td>
<td>Class B/C nouns: only grammatical agreement (gender mismatch between set noun and subset noun accepted)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Class D nouns: no gender mismatch in partitive only grammatical agreement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Sleeman & Ihsane (2016)

Gender agreement in (superlative) partitives in French:
- Class D nouns: only grammatical agreement

How do they explain these agreement patterns?

- Distinction between grammatical and semantic gender
- Grammatical gender is preferred with class B/C nouns

Variation within the results:
- General differences between the noun classes
- Differences in gender marking

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

Methodology:
- Grammatical and semantic gender agreement?
- Previous investigated by Sleeman & Ihsane (2016)

4. Results

Companion noun classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class B</th>
<th>Class C</th>
<th>Class D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>noun</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[m]</td>
<td>[m]</td>
<td>[m]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[f]</td>
<td>[f]</td>
<td>[f]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Judgements of class D nouns

5. Towards an analysis

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

6. An analysis that seems to work...

Le plus jeune des (nouvelles) ministres est Hélène. La plus jeune des (nouvelles) ministres est Hélène.

Le plus jeune des (nouvelles) sentinelle est Jean-Luc. La plus jeune des (nouvelles) sentinelle est Jean-Luc.

Individual variation: difference in feature marking in the mental lexicon

7. Conclusion

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

References
- Westveer, Thom. 2017. Sexless animates? Functional projection Gender Phrase (GendP)

Universiteit Utrecht – 12.12.2018

Universiteit van Amsterdam

International Journal of Lexicography

[World Bank Development Report 2013]

[World Bank Development Report 2013]