

ABSTRACT: AFLA XV

### Numbers, Quantifiers and Number

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In this paper I investigate how Number is instantiated in nominal expressions in Unua, an Oceanic language of Malakula, Vanuatu.

As is generally the case for Oceanic languages (Lynch 1998: 107), nouns in Unua do not bear overt Number marking. But there are a variety of means by which Number can be overtly manifested in a nominal expression: through the presence of a quantifier (1a), a cardinal numeral (1b), a singular versus plural demonstrative (1a,b), or a plural particle (1c). The schematic ordering in Unua of these elements is shown in (2).

- (1)a. norrom **ngaro** **tebeg**.  
yam the.PL all  
'all the yams'
- b. namar **xeter** **ngarag**  
chief three DIST.PL  
'those three chiefs'
- c. danga re-m-tov nga **rin**  
thing.DEM 3PL-REL-grow DEM PL  
'those things that were growing'

(2) Noun – Cardinal numeral – Demonstrative – Quantifier/Plural particle

In my analysis of the DP-internal syntax of Number within the Unua DP, I will consider how the overt Number forms in Unua DPs can be understood in terms of the articulated DP structure proposed in Borer (2005), which includes three distinct projections instantiating three distinct semantic functions: reference, number and individuation. These are hierarchically ordered as shown in (3), in which for 'A > B', B is the complement of the head of A.

(3) Borer (2004): DP > NumberP > ClassifierP > NP

Since in Borer's system it is the ClassifierP which has the individuation function, the essential distinction between count and mass noun interpretations rests on the presence versus the absence of the ClassifierP (in English: *meats* versus *meat*). The NumberP then realizes a counting function and it may thus cooccur only with a non-null ClassifierP (*\*three cat*).

In contrast to Borer's proposals as they apply to English, for which the <-s> plural marking is thus licensed in the ClassifierP, the Unua plural marking particle seems to manifest the count function, rather than the individuation function. I consider the implications of this analysis for Unua with respect to the syntax of an emergent 'previous mention' article, of cardinal numerals and of quantifiers.

*References*

- Borer, Hagit. 2005. *Structuring Sense. Vol 1. In Name Only*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Lynch, John. 1998. *Pacific Languages: An Introduction*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.