

BARE SINGULARS: ARGUMENTS, INCORPORATED NOMINALS, COMPOUNDS

Veneeta Dayal
Rutgers University

All languages have, to a greater or lesser extent, nominals that have no visible number morphology. In some languages this is canonically associated with singular morphology while in others not. The syntactic and semantic status of such nominals depends on three things, whether they are arguments, incorporated nominals or compound nominals, whether the language encodes number at all, and whether the language has determiners. This talk identifies differences in the semantic properties of number-less nominals that go with distinct functions and explores the possibility of predicting their behavior across languages.