

## **Odd ones out: are adjectives a basic lexical category?**

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It is accepted without scrutiny that there are three major lexical categories: nouns, verbs and adjectives. In approaches that seek to reduce lexical categories to 'fundamental interpretive perspectives', like Baker (2003), Panagiotidis (2015) and — tacitly — Distributed Morphology treatments, adjectives seem to be the odd ones out. Moreover, there has been extensive debate, mainly in the typological literature, on whether adjectives are indeed universal. In this talk I will argue that adjectives are not a lexical category in the way nouns and verbs are. I will subsequently propose a way to capture both a) their pervasive nature and b) their crucial role as modifiers. These goals will be pursued departing from adjectives as not encoding a fundamental interpretive perspective and by way of seriously taking them to be primarily modifying elements.