

The Syntax of Plurality: Typology, Predictions, and Afroasiatic Case Studies

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Can number features be located on the nominalizing head *n*? If number being on *n* varies parametrically, and if number features can be on both *n* and Num(ber), three types of languages are predicted: (A) number on Num, (B) number on *n*, (C) number on Num and *n*. I present three Afroasiatic languages that instantiate the types: Northern Mao (Omotic) is Type A, Hausa (Chadic) is Type B and, building on Kramer 2009, 2012, Amharic (Semitic) is Type C. This provides evidence for number being on *n* and advances our understanding of number in several understudied languages.

I continue by investigating the predictions of this typology, focusing mostly on the claim that other categorizing heads could have number features as well. In particular, I take a close look at the (previously unanalyzed) morphosyntax of adjectival plural agreement in Amharic. I conclude from a variety of empirical diagnostics that adjectival plurality can be located on the *a* adjectivalizing head or on an inflectional head in Amharic, similar to nominal plurality being on *n* or Num. The talk concludes with some preliminary exploration of the predictions for pronominal number, and a quick run-through of some potential counterexamples to the typology.