

## NPE vs NPP

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This talk addresses the issue of empty categories in what superficially looks like Noun Phrase Ellipsis (NPE) contexts. I argue that some instances of what superficially looks like NPE actually involve cases in which a pro-noun (a pronominal element replacing a lexical noun) is present, hence cases of Noun Phrase Pronominalization NPP.

Corver & Van Koppen (2011) argue that the inflection appearing on adjectival endings in Dutch and its dialects is actually an instance of a weak indefinite pronoun resembling English *one*. One of the arguments in support of this idea comes from the behavior of the apparent adjectival inflection in certain NPE-cases in which there is no overt inflection on the adjective. However, if ellipsis of the noun takes place –e has to appear (see (see also Broekhuis et al. 2003). Corver & Van Koppen (2011) argue at length that this –e is not adjectival inflection, but rather a pro-noun.

- (1) Ik heb een zwart konijn en jij hebt een witt-e.  
I have a black rabbit and you have a white-*one*

This talk extends this idea to other instances of NPE and shows that the pronouns that appear in these contexts can have a more elaborate internal structure (in the sense of Déchaine & Wiltschko 2002) depending on the configuration they appear in.

In particular, I will focus on a NPE-construction in which a definite article appears, which is found in German, French and Dutch (dialects). Consider the Dutch example in (2).

- (2) a. Jouw auto is wit en de mijne is groen.  
your car is white and the mine is green  
'Your car is white and mine is green.' (standard Dutch)
- b. Die auto is wit en de deze is groen.  
that car is white and the this is green  
'That car is yours and this one is mine.' (dialectal Dutch)

I show that the definite article in this construction is a pro-noun. It is either present to fill the gap in the gender marking of the absent lexical noun or its presence induces a contrastive interpretation.

This talk will address the question of what determines whether we use pronominalization or ellipsis and if we use pronominalization what determines the type of pro-noun used.