**Double plurals and nominal structure: monolingual and multilingual perspectives**

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In this talk, I will discuss double plural marking found in a variety of languages, e.g. Amharic, Breton as well as several varieties of English (child English, English vernaculars, e.g. *feets*) and importantly various language mixing pairs, e.g. Ewe-English, Hiaki-Spanish. Double plurality is seen a case of multiple exponence, on the basis of the definition in (1), where one semantic feature, namely plural, receives realizations by two exponents:

(1) Multiple Exponence is the occurrence of **multiple realizations** of a **single** **morpho-semantic feature** in a domain (Caballero & Harris 2012: 165)

This raises interesting questions about the role of this multiple marking and the negotiation of meaning between roots and functional morphemes. As this is a typical characteristic of language mixing, a further important question is: what is it about language mixing that favors multiple marking. Specifically, the following will be addressed: i) Can all instances of double plurality receive a uniform treatment? ii) What does multiple exponence tell us about plurality and the composition of nominal meaning? iii) What is it about language mixing that favors double marking of plurality? iv) What is it about the plural that favors double marking? v) Why does this doubling occur in some language contact pairs and not in others?

FollowingBooij (1996), Ojeda (2005), Acquaviva (2008), Lowenstamm (2008), Wiltschko (2008), Alexiadou (2011a, 2021), Kramer (2016), Dali & Mathieu (2021) and others, I assume that across languages there aretwo plural layers, as in (2) i.e. double plurals instantiate *split plurality,* defined as in (2a-b) and represented as in (2c):

**(2) a. Lexical plurality** covers a wide range of interpretations, it is idiomatic and not productive; creates nouns out of roots (e.g., *good*-s'merchandise'), it hosts collectives and is a plural on n.

**b. Grammatical plurality,** on the other hand, is compositional and productive; it creates pluralities of nouns, appears outside lexical plural in languages that lexicalize both (e.g., Amharic Kramer (2016), and is a case of Plural on Borer's (2005) Div.

c. [DP [DivP grammatical plural [nP lexical plural [Root ]]]]

(2c) is universal, contra Kramer (2016), but obscured in e.g., standard English. Mixing varieties are very telling about this. Alexiadou & Lohndal (2021) have already argued that language mixing informs theories of what a word is, how it is built, and how concepts/features are lexicalized across languages. Specifically, in language mixing, speakers decompose and re-combine the units available to them by assigning alternative exponents. In fact, I will argue that there is no such thing as multiple exponence. Double marking provides support for *radical decomposition* of (nominal) features (fine grained decomposition), along the lines of (2c), cf. Nanosyntax, Cartography, Kayne's 2005 *Principle for Decompositionality*). I will argue that multiple exponence in language mixing and across languages and varieties follows the transparency principle in (3), (cf. Slobin (1977), Keusters (2003), van Hout (2008), Leufkens (2015), Guasti, Alexiadou & Sauerland (2022) and others):

(3) **Transparency Principle**: some speakers prefer one to one mapping between form and meaning (in our case features in 2c)

Mixing favors multiple markings as a result of radical decomposition and the principle in (3). The plural is privileged for double marking for the following reason: as argued by Gardani (2012 93), it : ''is more similar to derivation than other categories of inflection''. Its dual nature is captured here in terms of split plurality.