

Concatenative and non-concatenative Morphology in Proper Names

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Multiple authors agree that proper names point to an entity without providing a description of it (Kripke 1980), or that proper names refer non-descriptively to objects and contribute only those objects to propositional content (Saab & Lo Guercio 2019). Fernández Lenorans (1999) identifies a series of behaviors that distinguish proper names from common nouns, such as the absence of a mandatory determiner (*Lionel scored a goal. / *Player scored a goal.*) or the incompatibility with restrictive modifiers (*Lionel who scored the goal received a prize / The player who scored the goal received a prize*). Moreover, Fernández Lenorans distinguishes proper names from patronymics, hypocoristics, toponyms, and zoonyms. Another well known characteristic of proper names is they display particular behaviors with respect to gender and pluralization. On the other hand, Fábregas (2021) claims that Spanish patronymics are still segmented as derived forms in the minds of contemporary speakers (*Fernand-éz*), even when the base proper noun is difficult to identify.

In this presentation, we will provide a contrastive description of the behavior of proper names of the *Lionel* type, as opposed to toponyms such as *Argentina* or *Buenos Aires*, which do not seem to function in exactly the same way (i.e., they may be compatible with determiners: *Argentina / La Argentina won the World Cup*). We will refer to the behavior of proper names with respect to the possibility of identifying their internal structure, in line with Fábregas (2021), but we will also address their behavior in various derivational processes (derivation, evaluative derivation, compounding, lexical blending, paronomasia, shortening). In formal terms, this comparison will allow us to investigate the nature of a subclass of proper names, the toponyms, which have not yet received as much attention in previous studies. In formal terms, Saab & Lo Guercio (2019), Resende (2020, 2021), and Arias & Mare (2025) propose the presence of a categorizer *n°* with a [HUMAN] feature/ flavour as a relevant element for the identification of proper names. However, in the case of toponyms, it will be necessary to evaluate whether other features can be identified or whether a different type of formalization is required. Given the exploratory nature of this study, we will initially address data from Rioplatense Spanish.

References

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