

Partitivity in Italian. A protocol approach to a tripartite phenomenon.

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In this lecture the expression of partitivity in language will be discussed, with data coming mainly from Italian.

In Italian, the term “partitive” refers to three different types of phenomena, exemplified in (1):

- (1) a. alcune **delle ragazze** sono arrivate
 some of+the girls arrived
- b. **Delle ragazze** sono arrivate
 di+art girls arrived
- c. **Ne** sono arrivate (alcune)
 CL.GEN arrived some

Previous literature has attempted to unify the three structures. I will depart from that work and show that although diachronically related, the three structures are independent of one another. First, there is no correlation in the presence of the three constructions across languages. While (1a) is generally present across languages, (1b) is only present in Gallo-Romance varieties and (1c) is more widely present in Central Romance. In particular we find (1b) but not (1c) in Friulian, and (1c) but not (1b) in Sicilian.

In the presentation, I will provide diagnostics to distinguish the three Nominal Expressions in (1). I will organize the diagnostics according to a “Protocol methodology”, meant to encompass cross-theoretical differences and designed for cross-theoretical fieldwork.