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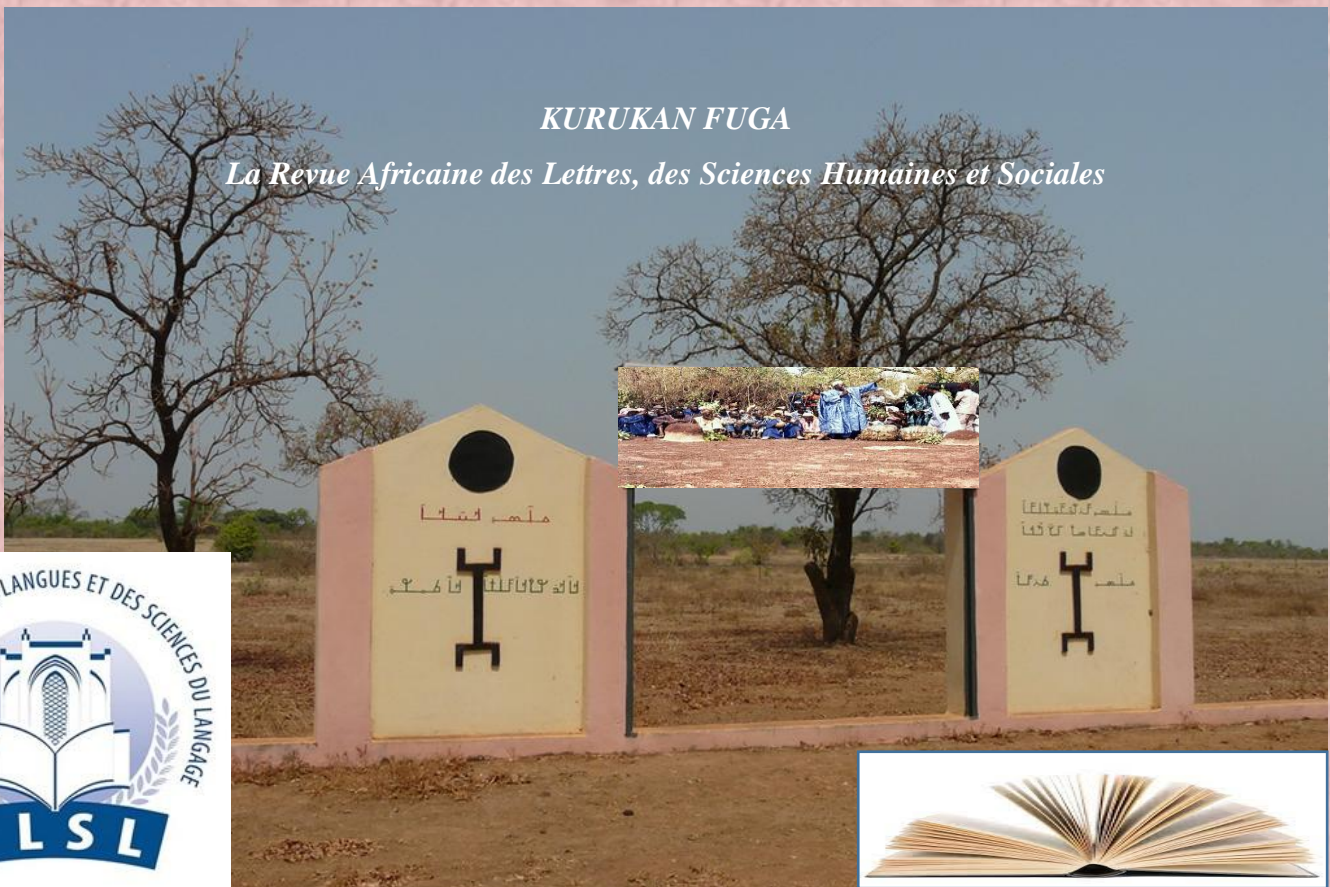
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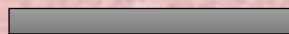


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TABLE OF CONTENTS

N°	Auteurs & Titres	Pages
01	ZAKARI Aboubacar, ANALYSE SOCIOLOGIQUE DE LA TRAJECTOIRE D'INSERTION PROFESSIONNELLE DES DIPLOMES DE L'INSTITUT UNIVERSITAIRE DE TECHNOLOGIE DE L'UNIVERSITE ANDRE SALIFOU : CAS DES DIPLOMES DE LA FILIERE ASSISTANT DE DIRECTION (AD) PROMOTION 2016	01-12
02	SORO Adama, SANOKO Bakary & Vamara KONÉ, HYBRIDITY IN LESLIE MARMON SILKO'S CEREMONY: TRANSGRESSION, RESTORATION AND A PROSPECT OF HUMAN UNIFICATION	13-26
03	YAO Grégoire Anahet, FROM IPSEITY TO OTHERNESS: A CONTRASTING FACET IN TRUMP'S CAMPAIGN SPEECH (2016) IN WISCONSIN	27-36
04	KOLO N'Golo, CAMARA Sekou, ORPAILLAGE ET SECURITE ALIMENTAIRE AU MALI : CAS DE LA COMMUNE RURALE DE M'PESSOBA	37-49
05	BERTHE Lassina, DIALLO Issa, OUATTARA Issa, EFFETS DE LA DEPIGMENTATION SUR LES FEMMES UTILISATRICES A L'HÔPITAL DERMATOLOGIQUE DE BAMAKO	50-61
06	KOIVOGUI Boye, COULIBALY Modibo Zoumana, DIANE Lanfia, KABA Moussa, UTILISATION DES TECHNOLOGIES DE L'INFORMATION ET DE COMMUNICATION (TIC) DANS LES ACTIVITES AGRICOLES DE LA COMMUNE RURALE DE KARIFAMORIAH, PREFECTURE DE KANKAN, EN GUINEE	62-76
07	TOGOLA Bakaye, INVESTIGATING THE IMPACT OF WESTERN IMPERIALISM IN THE SAHEL: THE CASE STUDY OF THE ALLIANCE OF SAHEL STATES (AES)	77-87
08	DOUYON Amadou, TRAORÉ Adama & GOITA Yacouba, PERFORMANCES SCOLAIRES AU D.E.F DANS L'ACADEMIE D'ENSEIGNEMENT DE MOPTI (2012-2022) : ANALYSE DES DISPARITES DE GENRE ET IMPLICATIONS POUR LES POLITIQUES EDUCATIVES	88-98
09	TRAORÉ Nassoum Yacine, ANALYSE DES REPRÉSENTATIONS DU POUVOIR ET DE L'HOMME DANS LA CHANSON SANUNËGËNIN (PETIT FER EN OR) DE TARA BOUARÉ (KALA- MALI)	99-111

10	<i>TOUGOUMA Dieudonné,</i> LES IMPLICATIONS ÉTHIQUES DES TECHNOLOGIES ÉMERGENTES : NJOH MOUELLE ET L'URGENCE D'UNE RÉGULATION SUPRANATIONALE	112-126
11	<i>BOUGMA Moussa,</i> PAUVRETE ET ACCES DES ENFANTS A L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPERIEUR A OUAGADOUGOU	127-140
12	<i>TANGARA Oumar, DIARRA Mamy, DIARRA Karim, BAGAYOKO Thierno B,</i> ANALYSE DE LA DYNAMIQUE DES ENTREPRISES INDUSTRIELLES DE LA REGION DE SEGOU : CAS DU CERCLE DE SEGOU, MALI	141-149
13	<i>BA Cheick Oumar,</i> IMPACTS DE LA SOCIETE MINIERE D'OR DE GOUNGOTO SUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT SOCIO-ECONOMIQUE LOCAL DANS LA COMMUNE RURALE DE KENIEBA, CERCLE DE KENIEBA	150-161
14	<i>KOUMA Daouda, ZONGO Alphonse Nongma,</i> REPRESENTATIONS SOCIALES DU TRAVAIL ET DE LA MOTIVATION DES EMPLOYES : CAS DE LA SOCIETE NATIONALE D'ÉLECTRICITE DU BURKINA A OUAGADOUGOU	162-176
15	<i>LE BI Le Patrice,</i> ADVOCATING FOR AN INNOVATIVE AND OPEN PERCEPTION OF EXTENSIVITY AS A FULLY-FLEDGED GRAMMATICAL CATEGORY	177-191
16	<i>TANGARA Modibo,</i> LE DISCOURS D'ACCOMPAGNEMENT DE NOUVEAUX CIRCONCIS CHEZ LES BAMANAN DU MAASINA : ÉTUDE ETHNOLINGUISTIQUE ET STRUCTURALE	192-201
17	<i>AROOU Oumarou,</i> PERSISTANCE DU PALUDISME AU MALI : L'EXEMPLE CHEZ LES FEMMES ENCEINTES DE L'ASSOCIATION DE SANTÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE DE BANCONI (A. SA.CO.BA)	202-215
18	<i>COLY Roger, SENE Abdourahmane Mbade,</i> INFRASTRUCTURES MODERNES ET ENCLAVEMENT PERSISTANT : LE PARADOXE DU DEVELOPPEMENT DES TRANSPORTS DANS LA REGION DE ZIGUINCHOR (SENEGAL)	216-232
19	<i>DIDE Kamondan Vincent,</i> LA PAROLE OUTRAGEUSE EN PAYS WE : TYPOLOGIE ET ESTHETIQUE D'UN GENRE	233-244
20		245-261

	<i>MOUTORE Yentougle,</i> TERRORISME ET VULNERABILITE URBAINE A DAPAONG (TOGO)	
21	<i>AWADE Essodina & BAWA Dangnisso</i> IDENTIFICATIONS DES FACTEURS DE DEGRADATION DES SOLS DANS LE BASSIN VERSANT DE KPELOU ET LUTTE ANTIÉROSIVE (NORD-EST DU TOGO)	262-276
22	<i>TINTO Boureima , LOMPO Mamadou, SANOU Kwéssé Moïse & ADOUABOU Basile Aoupoaoune,</i> CARTOGRAPHIE DES FEUX DE BROUSSE DE LA RESERVE DE BIOSPHERE TRANSFRONTALIERE DU W/BURKINA FASO	277-290
23	<i>KANOUTE Bassy,</i> IMPACT DE LA MALNUTRITION SUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT PHYSICO-COGNITIF DES ENFANTS AU MALI	291-301
24	<i>BASSANE Ernest,</i> SOUPIRS OU DE LA POÉSIE DE LA RÉSILIENCE CHEZ KADIATA DICKO : DU COMBAT DES ARMES AU COMBAT DES MOTS	302-311
25	<i>DEMBELE Souleymane, CISSE Mahamadou & GUIROU Alibourou,</i> DETERMINANTS DE LA CORRUPTION DANS LE CADRE DE LA DECENTRALISATION DANS LA COMMUNE II DE BAMAKO ET DE BAGUINEDA	312-326
26	<i>TOGOLA Ousmane Mamadou,</i> COMMERCE BILATERAL ENTRE LA REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE CONAKRY ET LE MALI DE 2000 A 2020	237-345
27	<i>MARIKO Bourama,</i> RETHINKING ANCIENT EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION BEYOND GREEK AND ROMAN LENSES FROM A POSTCOLONIAL PERSPECTIVE	346-370
28	<i>DIAWARA Nana Kadidia,</i> ÉTHIQUE : FORMATION ET EMPLOYABILITE	371-380
29	<i>COULIBALY Zakaria & TOGOLA Souleymane,</i> DISMEMBERMENT OF SLAVE FAMILIES IN THE PERIOD OF SLAVERY: CAUSES AND ULTERIOR OBJECTIVES IN THE NARRATIVES OF OLAUDAH EQUIANO AND FREDERICK DOUGLASS	381-389
30	<i>MAIGA Aboubacar Ab., SANOGO Adama & TOGOLA Hawa Boubacar,</i>	390-406

	<i>L'IMPLICITE DANS LE DISCOURS LITTERAIRE : UNE ANALYSE DES ENJEUX IMPLICITES A TRAVERS LES PRESUPPOSES ET LES SOUS-ENTENDUS</i>	
31	BADO Baguima Sylvain, SAVOIRS PAYSANS ET PRATIQUES CULTURALES, UN ART AU CŒUR DES MYTHES LYELA	407-417
32	TRAORE Assa Dramane, LES DANGERS DE L'AU-DELA ET LEURS ESQUIVES DANS LES TEXTES FUNERAIRES DE L'ÉGYPTE ANCIENNE	418-433
33	OUADJA N'Nigmatoui & DIPO Ilaboti, LES RITES FUNERAIRES CHEZ LES BIKPAKPAAM AVANT LA CONQUETE COLONIALE	434-443
34	DEMBELE Dabéré, BAMBA Fatogoma & MOUSSA Djibrilla ESTIMATION D'UN SEUIL D'ALERTE DE RISQUE D'INONDATION PLUVIALE EN COMMUNE IV DU DISTRICT DE BAMAKO	444-456
35	DIAKITE Youssouf, ANALYSE DES FACTEURS DE GRAVITE DU CHOC D'ACCIDENTS DE LA ROUTE ET DE TRAUMATISMES A BAMAKO	457-466
36	DANSIRA Diafily, ANALYZING TYPES OF CODE SWITCHING IN CAMARA LAYE'S DRAMOUSS	467- 475
37	LIGAN Charles Dossou, LANGUES NATIONALES ET VULGARISATION DES RESULTATS DE RECHERCHE : LA VOIE DE LA TERMINOLOGIE	476- 487
38	SANOU Maïmouna, LA PEUR DE VIEILLIR, ENTRE REPRESENTATIONS SOCIALES ET PRATIQUES ENVERS LES PERSONNES AGEES EN INCAPACITES FONCTIONNELLES GRAVES A BOBO-DIOULASSO, AU BURKINA FASO	488-502
39	KONE Kassoum, LA CONTRACEPTION A L'EPREUVE DES DISCOURS ET REPRESENTATIONS SOCIALES A KOUMANTOU	503-512
40	TOURE Abdoulaye, MAIGA Abdoulaye et TRAORE Dramane L CAPITAL SOCIAL ET CROISSANCE ECONOMIQUE AU MALI : ANALYSE DE LA DYNAMIQUE A LONG TERME	513-531

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ADVOCATING FOR AN INNOVATIVE AND OPEN PERCEPTION OF EXTENSIVITY AS A FULLY-FLEDGED GRAMMATICAL CATEGORY

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Résumé

Le présent article s'interroge sur la possibilité et l'opportunité d'ériger l'extensivité en catégorie grammaticale à part entière et de plein droit. Il soulève, de ce fait, un problème qui s'appuie sur l'idée qu'en général, les catégories grammaticales sont ostensiblement marquées soit morphologiquement soit lexicalement à l'instar de l'extensivité. Il découle de cela que l'extensivité partage des traits communs avec les parties du discours qui sont considérées comme les items fondamentaux des langues naturelles aussi bien sur le plan lexical que sur le plan syntaxique. D'où le postulat d'une similitude entre le fonctionnement de l'extensivité et celui des catégories grammaticales ; laquelle similitude sous-tendrait la question de savoir si l'extensivité ne pourrait pas être érigée en catégorie grammaticale. Ainsi, la présente étude qui s'inscrit dans le double cadre de la syntaxe générative de Chomsky et de la psychomécanique de Guillaume vise à faire la preuve que l'extensivité remplit les conditions pour être érigée en catégorie grammaticale. En définitive, l'étude a abouti à l'idée que l'extensivité est une catégorie grammaticale liée à une partie du discours transprédicative à l'opposé des autres catégories grammaticales plutôt dépendantes de parties du discours prédicatives. D'où le caractère abstrait et subtil de l'extensivité.

Mots clés : : Extensivité - Catégorie Grammaticale – Parties du discours – Marqueurs Morphologique et Lexicaux

Abstract

This paper ponders over the possibility of turning extensivity into a fully-fledged grammatical category. As such, it raises a problem which stems from the idea that grammatical categories are generally marked overtly, that is morphologically or lexically just like the way extensivity is. Thus, extensivity seems to share some features with parts of speech which are the basic formants of natural languages either lexically or syntactically. Hence, the similarity between the functioning of extensivity and grammatical categories, and the subsequent question as to whether extensivity could not be considered as a grammatical category. This results in a study grounded in Chomsky's generative syntax and Guillaume's psychomechanics of language with the objective to bring forth some arguments in favor of the consideration of extensivity as a grammatical category. The study finally came out with the idea that extensivity is a grammatical category morphologically associated with a transpredicative part of speech contrary to other grammatical categories which rather depend on predicative parts of speech. Hence the abstractness and subtlety of the manifestation of extensivity.

Key words : Extensivity - Grammatical Category - Parts of Speech – Lexical and Morphological Markers.

INTRODUCTION

Can extensivity be viewed as a grammatical category? As a matter of fact, grammatical categories are very often marked morphologically or lexically. In other words, a morphological or lexical marker often functions as the marker of a grammatical category which may not be overtly expressed. Hence, most of the time, grammatical categories, together with parts of speech, seem to be the basic formants of the morphology, of the lexicon, and of the syntax of natural languages. However, in most grammar books or theoretical linguistic productions, extensivity seems not to be considered as a grammatical category. As a result of that, it can be contended that just the way there are signs for operations assigning an extensivity, there are also signs for marking lexically or morphologically grammatical categories. Based on that alleged similarity between the functioning of extensivity and grammatical categories, can't the former also be considered as a grammatical category? Hence the topic " **Advocating for an Innovative and Open Perception of Extensivity as a Fully-fledged Grammatical Category** ".

Thus, this study is grounded within the double theoretical framework of Chomsky's Generative Syntax and Gustave Guillaume's Psychomechanics of language. As a matter of fact, it is well-established that Chomsky's Generative Syntax evolved according to some landmarks which could be broken down to four major steps periodized by Jean-Yves Pollock as follows: The first step started with what is referred to as the Standard Theory which was dominated by rules. Then came the second step, that is, the Extended Standard Theory which could, to some extent, incorporate the Revised Extended Standard Theory, Trace Theory and the Theory of Empty Categories. As a result of that, all of those paved the way for a rather principles-based approach known as Government and Binding Theory which finally favoured the advent of the fourth step which is still under construction, that is, the Minimalist Program.

As for Gustave Guillaume's psychomechanics of language, it is built upon the dichotomy Tongue/Discourse. Tongue is basically regarded as language as a potential while discourse is considered as language as actual. Both states of tongue being separated by an inverter and linked at the same time by what is termed language in progress by Guillaume. It comes out that all language facts or linguistic phenomena are analyzed by means of a structural device or mechanism called the radical binary tensor. That mechanism adds together " two tensions with no recurrence, that is, no moving backward: tension I, closing, progressing from wide to narrow, and tension II, opening ad infinitum from narrow to wide [...] " (Guillaume, 1980: 118).

As such, this article aims to present some arguments in favour of a consideration of extensivity as a fully-fledged grammatical category. To be able to get to that point, this study analyses a corpus made up with morphological, lexical and syntactic data stemming mainly from English and French, and possibly from other languages when necessary.

Therefore, the structure of the article evolves around three major parts. Thus, it first of all intends to explore the theoretical background of parts of speech and their correlation to grammatical categories from the perspective of the double theoretical framework announced earlier. Then, a psychomechanic approach to extensivity takes over alone so as to finally pave the way for an innovative and open perception of extensivity as a potential grammatical category in theoretical linguistics.

1. Theoretical Approach to Parts of Speech, Grammatical Categories and Syntactic categories

This part of the study presents what is actually meant by parts of speech and grammatical categories in grammar and in theoretical linguistics. That preliminary presentation of those notions then serves as a stepping stone to compare three paramount theoretical concepts in linguistics that is *grammatical categories* and *parts of speech* on the one hand and *grammatical categories* and *syntactic categories* on the other hand.

1.1 The Theory about Parts of Speech

The study of parts of speech can be approached to from a dichotomic perspective which highlights the traditional opposition between *time* and *space*. It is that very opposition which justifies the existence of the noun, on the one hand, and that of the verb, on the other hand. Hence the idea that “ [...] a noun forms its notion as something occupying space, a verb as something occupying time.” (Hirtle, 2007 p.126)

As a result of what has just been said, the noun and the verb seem to be the primary parts of speech in the theory of the word on which the theory of parts of speech is dependent. However, it is worth noting that within the framework of the generation process of parts of speech, the noun pops up first while the verb comes next when the initial word, that is, the noun, has gained movement.

Thus, once the two primary parts of speech have been generated and discriminated, each of them will evolve following its own path. So, the substantive, that is, the first variant of the noun which has an internal incidence will have its ideogenic and morphogenic contents eroded so as to turn into an adjective which rather has an external incidence. As for the verb, it will be somewhat depleted and lose part of its matter and of its form, and transitively of its semantics to turn into the adverb. All of those four parts of speech, that is, the *noun* (*substantive* and *adjective*), the *verb*, and the *adverb* form what is termed in psychomechanics *predicative parts of speech*. As opposed to predicative parts of speech, we have transpredicative parts of speech which are generated as follows. Those transpredicative parts of speech are generated respectively in line with the two primary or original parts of speech that is the noun and the verb. In line with the noun, the pronoun is generated as a transpredicative counterpart to the noun. It is then followed by the article which is supposed to bear the extensity of the substantive within a noun phrase. As for the verb, which has favored the emergence of the adverb, it will consecutively generate the transpredicative parts of speech which are the *preposition* and the *conjunction*.

The generation of parts of speech can be summarized in the radical binary tensor referred to as the system of parts of speech presented below:

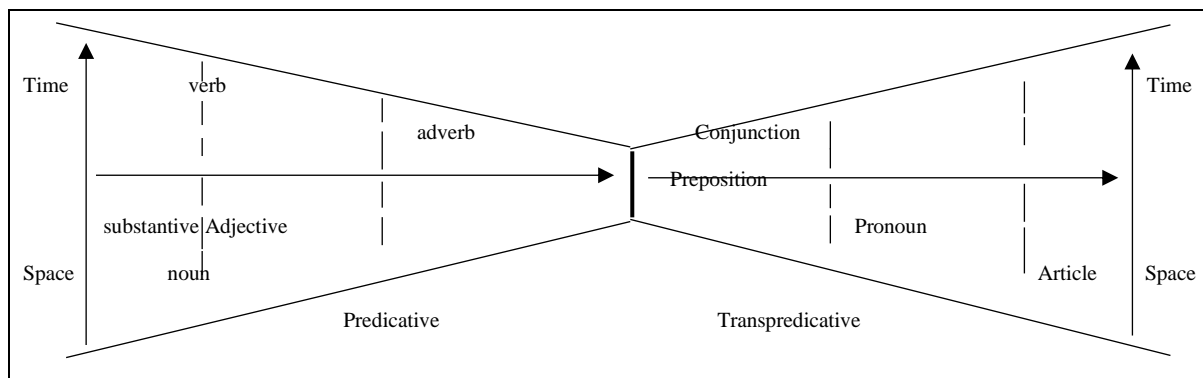


Fig.1: abridged system of parts of speech (Adapted from Hirtle 2007: 134)

The radical binary tensor in *figure 1* above summarizes the functioning of the system of parts of speech. At the outset, it highlights the dichotomic opposition between noun and verb (noun vs verb). That dichotomy seems to stem from the previously evidenced opposition between space and time. Secondly, there is another opposition which arises, that is, the opposition between the internal incidence of the substantive and the external incidence of all the other parts of speech be they predicative or transpredicative.

Conclusively, this short presentation of parts of speech works as a pre-condition to understanding the functioning of grammatical categories. As a matter of fact, grammatical categories seem to be expressed through parts of speech. Hence the need for the presentation of grammatical categories to unveil their relation to parts of speech.

1.2 The Correlation between Parts of Speech and Grammatical Categories

What is meant by *grammatical categories*? Grammatical categories are perceived as linguistic categories which can be either formal or notional. Viewed from that perspective, they can be overt or covert. Thus, if it is admitted that grammatical categories are expressed through parts of speech, overt grammatical categories seem explicit or have a formal realization on the relevant part of speech. Reversely, covert grammatical categories rather seem to have an implicit expression through the co-occurrence of particular function words (Brinton, 2000 p. 103). But how are those grammatical categories theoretically and systematically distributed?

The distribution of grammatical categories owes a lot to the primary and basic parts of speech which are the noun and the verb. Hence, nominal categories which depend on the noun and verbal categories which are relevant to the verb as shown in the table below :

Nominal Categories	Verbal Categories
1. Number (Singular/Plural)/Definite/Indefinite/Ø - Inflection	1. Tense ≠ Time (Past/Present/Future)
2. Gender (Natural/ Grammatical=Masc/Fem/ Neut.)	2. Aspect (Perfective/Imperfective/Progressive, etc.)
3. Person (First/Second/Third)	3. Mood (Indicative/Subjunctive/Imperative, etc.)
4. Case (Nominative/Genitive/Objective, etc.)	4. Voice (Active/Passive/Ergative or Middle)
5. Degree (Positive/Comparative/Superlative)	
6. Definiteness (Definite/Indefinite)	
7. Deixis (Personal/Spatial/Temporal, etc.)	

Tab. 1: Inventory and Distribution of Grammatical Categories

As such, grammatical categories can be manifested as morphological changes undergone by a noun or by a verb. Those morphological changes can be either inflectional or derivational. Thus, after highlighting the correlation between parts of speech and grammatical categories, let's explore the possible relationship between grammatical categories and syntactic categories.

1.3 The Differentiation between Parts of Speech and Syntactic Categories

In grammatical theory and theoretical linguistics, what is actually meant by *syntactic categories*, and how and to what extent are they possibly related to parts of speech or even to grammatical categories? The meaning of the phrase or label *syntactic categories* seems a bit controversial in general linguistics, and especially in syntax where it is extensively used. Under those circumstances, what a linguist means by *syntactic categories* may heavily depend on the theoretical standpoint he or she speaks from. An illustration of that lack of uniform approach or understanding of it blatantly surfaces in the diverse views in generative syntax presented hereunder.

Apparently, Carnie makes no difference between parts of speech and syntactic categories and word classes (Carnie, 2013 pp. 44-47). He even suggests what he termed distributional tests to determine parts of speech. Those distributional tests are essentially based on morphological distribution and syntactic distribution. Furthermore, he identifies two categories of parts of speech, that is, lexical parts of speech (N, V, Adj, and Adv) on the one hand and functional parts of speech (D, P, C, Conj, Neg and T) on the other hand. On doing that, he is not coining a new terminology, but he is simply abiding by an already established knowledge in theoretical linguistics where parts of speech are approached to from a dichotomic perspective.

The same lack of clarity as for an accurate prehension of the phrases *syntactic categories*, *grammatical categories* and *parts of speech* can be noticed with Radford (Radford, 2009 pp.02). In other words, Radford seems not to make any difference between grammatical categories and parts of speech. For him, grammatical categories and parts of speech could be equated with each other.

However, the understanding we could have of syntactic categories and parts of speech could gain a bit of clarity with Isac and Reiss (Isac and Reiss, 2008 pp.137-140). For them, syntactic categories and parts of speech should be taken as equivalent metalanguages. They even invite their readers to consider syntactic categories as being constituents; the latter being equal to phrasal categories.

The consideration of syntactic categories and phrasal categories as being equated with each other also echoes with Cowper (Cowper, 1992 pp. 24-33). From that standpoint, she furthermore recalls a well-known dichotomy which could help better understand the inner structure of syntactic categories, that is, lexical categories vs functional categories. Under those circumstances, we could differentiate syntactic categories whose head is a lexical category from those whose head is a functional category. Thus, this may presuppose that a syntactic category is made up with more than one lexical unit or element if the environment before a proper noun is considered as being occupied by a \emptyset (morphological zero). A syntactic category can therefore be figuratively represented as follows:

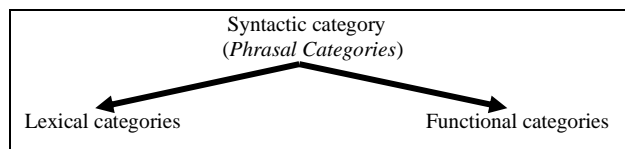


Fig.2: Types of Syntactic Categories

It can finally be derived from the short presentation above that parts of speech, grammatical categories and syntactic categories are three different entities, and they should under no circumstances be confused. It can therefore be kept in mind that each part of speech is viewed as a category made up with a single lexical unit. As for grammatical categories, they manifest themselves as affixes attached either to a nominal notion or a noun or to a verbal notion or to a verb; Hence nominal grammatical categories and verbal grammatical categories. As for syntactic categories, they can be seen as a combination of at least two lexical units with a view to forming a functional unit the constituents of which could be manifested lexically, or at least, its head should be an overt lexical unit. Thus, we can say that parts of speech have a lexical realization, grammatical categories have a morphemic realization while syntactic categories have a phrasal realization as represented in the figure below:

Linguistic Category		Unit		Realizations
Grammatical Category	→	Morpheme	→	-s / -Ø / -ing
↑				
Part of Speech	→	Lexical Unit	→	Noun / Verb
↑				
Syntactic Category	→	Phrase	→	NP / VP

Tab. 2: Hierarchization of Grammatical categories, Parts of Speech and Syntactic Categories

Based on the data of the table right above, and especially the units associated with each linguistic category and the linguistic realization of each of them, it can blatantly be noticed that grammatical categories, parts of speech and syntactic categories are totally different and they cannot be used interchangeably. As a result of all that, when we consider parts of speech, grammatical categories and syntactic categories, where can extensity stand or be sought after?

2. About the Concept of Extensity in General Linguistics and in Psychomechanics

Further to the differentiation made between the three major notions which underlie the current study, this part of the work aims to review the way the notion of extensity is theoretically dealt with in linguistics. Thus, the notion of extensity will first of all be viewed from a general linguistics' perspective so as to pave the way for a more systematized approach to the notion through Welmet's reflections on it. That part will end up with a more theorized presentation of extensity in Gustave Guillaume's psychomechanics of language.

2.1 The Notion of Extensity in General Linguistics

Studies or scientific reflections on extensity viewed as a linguistic phenomenon amenable to study seem generally scarce in the scientific literature of theoretical linguistics. That state of fact is underlined by Hirtle as follows, "[...] the notion of 'extensity' is generally neglected in grammars" (Hirtle, 2007 pp.123). Or worse, sometimes, the phenomenon might be slightly

alluded to and described in a very shallow way, and even with an unclear metalanguage which impedes a thoughtful comprehension of it.

In the theory of enunciative operations, the French linguist Antoine Culioli does not openly mention the term extensity to account for the functioning of the operation of nominal determination. He rather refers to that of extension whose meaning seems rather closer to the one widely spread in formal logic, that is, the quantitative property of a predicate on the one hand; On the other hand, the notion of extension may refer to the average frequency of use by the speakers of a given language of a specific word (Groussier and Rivière, 1996 pp.77).

As for his description of nominal categories and the metalinguistic operators used to quantify or qualify the occurrence of nominal notions on the surface structure, Culioli's theory seems to recall or allude to the notion of extensity (Gilbert, 1993 pp.78-79). In addition to that, the three levels or degrees he resorts to to quantify the occurrence of a nominal notion through the operation of extraction might refer to the notion of extension, or better, to that of extensity.

However, Desclés who obviously works within an under-construction theory which draws a lot on Antoine Culioli's theory of enunciative operations tried a more systematized account of the notion of extension, but still, in a metalanguage which seems less useful to help construe the phenomenon as it might be expected to be used in linguistics (Desclés, 1999 pp.25-28). As a matter of fact, Desclés's theoretical approach seems rather closer to formal logic than it is to linguistics.

After reviewing the above-mentioned attempts to account for the notion of extensity, we can come to the conclusion that Wilmet's reflection on the notion might help us go a little further in understanding it under new auspices.

2.2 Extensity from A Wilmetian Perspective

Wilmet's reflections on the notion of extensity, and to some extent to that of extension, provide relevant information which not only and progressively pave the way for its categorization as a grammatical category but also help identify the part of speech to which it can possibly be attached to or associated with. The relevance of his approach dwells in the fact that it pushes the limits of previous grammatical studies which tried to systematize the notion of extension before him. This can be noticed when he contends that, " Les grammariens classiques ont invoqué concurremment l'étendu (Arnauld et Nicole, Beauzée, Sicard, Silvestre de Sacy, Jullien), la latitude (Beauzée), la compréhension (Port-Royal, Beauzée, etc.) et l'extension (Thiébauld, Destutt de Tracy...) du substantif ou du syntagme nominal. [...] " (Wilmet, 1986 pp.41).

Thus, that passage which summarizes previous works on the notion of extensity shows that it took different names from one author to another one throughout the ages. It was successively referred to as "*l'entendu*", a French word meaning "*the scope of something*", "*la latitude*" which means "*the width*", "*la compréhension*" which gives in English "*the prehension or understanding of something*", and finally "*l'extension*" which literally translates in English "*extension*". In other words, the same phenomenon was described under different names or from different perspectives. In addition, and based on that short summary of previous reflections on the notion of extension released by Wilmet, it can easily be derived that the notion of extensity can be attached to the noun, or better, to the noun phrase. Furthermore, he identifies three types of extensions which recall the three types of extensities developed by Gustave Guillaume in psychomechanics. Above all, to further account for the notion of extension, he

brings out the correlation between the guillaumean concept of " *incidence* " and that of extension as follows,

" Les linguistes devraient s'intéresser par priorité à l'extension des *mots*. Pour nous en tenir aux « catégories » principales, le substantif a d'abord une extension *immédiate* (p.ex. l'extension de *félin* désigne « les *x* qui sont félins » ou l'ensemble des *félins*) ; l'adjectif (comme le verbe ou l'adverbe) a une extension *médiate* (p. ex. l'extension de *beau, rouge, deux* comprend « tous les *x* qui sont beaux/rouges/deux » ou l'ensemble des *êtres* ou des *objets* beaux/rouges/appariés). Gustave Guillaume traitait du phénomène au titre de l'« incidence », interne ou externe [...]. " (Wilmet, 1986 pp.41-42)

Additionally, Wilmet states that in a noun phrase, it is the determiner which helps quantify the extensity of a substantive, that is, of a noun¹. And, he words it as follows,

"*Lato sensu*, les déterminants du substantif circonscrivent le noyau dans son *extensité*, dans son *extension*, dans son extensité et dans son extension. Un déterminant indicateur d'extensité sera dit *quantifiant* (de préférence à *quantificateur*, qu'il vaut mieux abandonner aux logiciens). Un déterminant indicateur d'extension sera dit *caractérisant* (plutôt que *qualifiant*, sur lequel déteindrait inévitablement le paronyme *qualificatif*). Un déterminant indicateur conjoint d'extensité et d'extension sera dit *quantifiant-caractérisant*. Les uns et les autres réagissent aux trois paramètres de l'*extensivité*, de la *représentation* (massive ou numérative) et du *nombre grammatical*." (Wilmet, 1986 pp.73)

Apparently, it is the determiner which delineates and delimits the scope of the extensity of the noun within the framework of a noun phrase. Also, the determiner helps single out three types of extensities which Wilmet calls respectively "*quantifying* " for the first type of extensity, "*characterizing* " for the second type of extensity and finally "*quantifying-characterizing*" for the third type.

Finally, we can easily notice that Wilmet's views on the notion of extensity seem more elaborate and can better prepare his readers for a more rigorous and clearer description of the phenomenon in psychomechanics of language under the auspices of the French linguist Gustave Guillaume.

2.3 Extensity in Guillaume's Psychomechanics of Language

Very often paired (that is extension and extensity) and borrowed from logic, the definition and the approach to extensity and extension were given another orientation in linguistics, especially in Gustave Guillaume's psychomechanics of language. As such, extensity and extension seem to be correlated to each other. That relationship between extensity and extension can be represented as in the figure below:

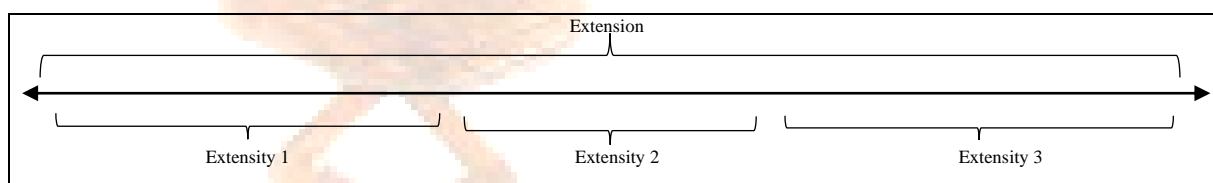


Fig.3: Correlation between extension and extensity

¹ In psychomechanics, Gustave Guillaume states that the noun can be internally composed of two combinatory variants which are the substantive and the adjective.

Based on Fig.3 above, the extensity of a given substantive is a portion of the extension of that substantive. It follows that, the relationship between extension and extensity is better brought out through Guillaume’s thought as stated below,

" [...] thanks to its comprehension a substantive always says what something is by representing it somewhere within the extension. To designate that portion of the extension thus actualized in any given use Guillaume introduces the term EXTENSITY: "Extensity is a variable of discourse; extension, imposed by the comprehension is a variable of tongue" (Guillaume, 1982 pp. 155)

As a result of that, Guillaume identified three types of extensities which can be represented in a radical binary tensor as shown below:

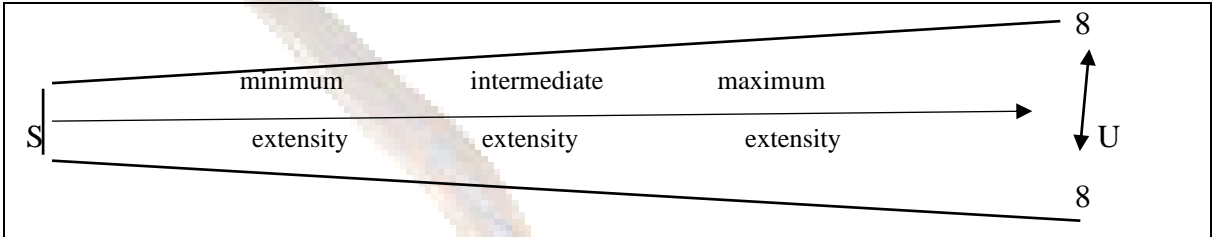


Fig.3: extension and extensity

The three types of extensities advocated by Guillaume, as they can be seen above, could be illustrated through noun phrases encapsulated in the sentences as shown below:

SET A: Extensive Article = A	SET B: Anti-Extensive Article = The
(1) A tiger can be dangerous.	(1') The tiger can be dangerous.
(2) A tiger in captivity is a sorry sight.	(2') The tiger in captivity is a sorry sight
(3) A tiger is sleeping in the cage	(3') The tiger is sleeping in the cage.

Tab.3: types of extensities

In the two sets of sentences (A and B) where the substantive *tiger* is combined with two different articles, that is, articles *a* and *the*, those articles refer to the same types of extensities. Thus, first of all, in (1) and (1'), it is the whole species of *tiger* which is referred to by means of the occurrence of articles *a* and *the*. This corresponds to the maximum extensity. Secondly, the same articles now refer to a subset of *tiger* in (2) and (2') by resorting to the same articles mentioned earlier. That second set of noun phrases corresponds to the intermediate extensity. Finally, the same articles refer to a single individual in (3) and (3'), and therefore correspond to a minimum extensity. However, though those articles express the same extensity from set A to set B, it can be pointed out that they do not express it the same way. This may partly explain why *a* is referred to as indefinite article while *the* is considered as definite article in normative grammar while Guillaume respectively calls them *extensive* and *anti-extensive* articles.

From that development drawn on Guillaume’s theory, we can bring out two major features associated with the notions of extension and extensity. On the one hand, they are different from each other. In other words, they might be semantically different to a certain extent. However, in most grammars, obviously normative and pedagogical grammars, extension and extensity seam semantically equivalent as far as proper nouns are concerned. This is so because, ‘ [...]’

in the case of proper nouns [...] extension and extensity are always equivalent [...]. That is to say, because its extension in tongue is minimal, limited to one individual, a proper noun always has the same extensity in discourse: one individual” (Hirtle, 2007 pp.123-124). On the other hand, extensity is associated with or applied to the substantive or the noun phrase. In other words, it might be the article which should bear the extensity of a substantive in the formation of a noun phrase. This might be due to the fact that, from previous examples in *Tab. 3, a* and *the* could be perceived as the items which assign an extensity to a substantive.

This gives us a clue as to whether extensity would be considered as a nominal grammatical category or a verbal grammatical category. Thus, let’s put forth arguments to back up the view that extensity is a grammatical category and the part of speech with which it could be associated.

3. Arguments for A Perception of Extensity as a Grammatical Category

In this final part of the paper, the argument in favor of the consideration of extensity as a grammatical category will be further discussed with a view to bringing out the possible semiological mark by which the presence of the said grammatical category could be ascertained in a noun phrase. That semiological mark would be identified by conducting a contrastive and comparative reflection which jointly convenes Principles and Parameters and Psychomechanics.

3.1 Prolegomena to A perception of Extensity as a Grammatical Category

We have already figured out that a grammatical category is likely to bring in a morphological change to the part of speech it is associated with. That change which might be derivational or inflectional applies mainly either to the noun or to the verb. However, in the case in point, it has already been shown and established that extensity applies to the determiner which quantifies or qualifies a substantive in the formation of a noun phrase. From that perspective, it can rightfully be contended that extensity would be a nominal grammatical category as opposed to a verbal grammatical category if only it were to qualify as a grammatical category. Therefore, what type of grammatical category would it be compared to the other grammatical categories already well-established and known?

To answer the question asked right above, a quick revision of the discovery process of *Infl* as the head of *S*, which finally helped yield the Inflection Phrase (IP) from the Standard Theory to Principles and Parameters, could similarly help figure out how extensity could conceal the properties and features of a grammatical category.

It is well-known from Tesnière’s structural syntax that the sentence is headed by a verb while in the standard theory of generative syntax it is rather VP which is headed by the verb as structurally presented below in (1) with *hit* as the verb of the sentence.

(1) *The player hit the ball.*

Structural Syntax	Generative Syntax
<pre> graph TD V["[V]"] --- NP1["NP1"] V --- NP2["NP2"] NP1 --- player["The player"] NP2 --- ball["the ball"] </pre>	<pre> graph TD VP["[VP]"] --- V["V"] VP --- NP["NP"] V --- Hit["Hit"] NP --- D["D"] NP --- N["N"] D --- he["he"] N --- ball["ball"] </pre>

Tab. 4: comparison between structural syntax and generative syntax

As seen in the table above, V is the head of sentence (1) while it is at the same time the head of *VP hit the ball*. This seems to be a structural abnormality which was solved in generative syntax by retrieving the true head of VP by letting its non-lexical constituents surface as shown in the phrase structure rules representing a derivation of *VP hit the ball*.

(2) *Hit the ball*

VP	→	Aux + MV	T	→	past.
Aux	→	T	MV	→	V+NP
			NP	→	Det + N

As shown in the phrase structure rules above, *Aux* appears as the non-lexical constituent of VP. As for *Aux* itself, it rewrites as T which stands for tense, the obligatory constituent of *Aux*. However, other optional constituents may also surface as constituents of *Aux* as shown in the phrase structure rules below for sentence (3) *The Deputy Manager must have changed his mind*.

(3) *The Deputy Manager [must have changed his mind.]*

		<i>VP</i>			<i>VP</i>
VP	→	Aux + MV	M	→	must
Aux	→	T + M + Asp	Asp	→	have+en
T	→	past	MV	→	V+NP

T, *M* and *Asp* being the constituents of *Aux*, that is, what the verb is inflected for, Inflection is therefore regarded as the head of S from the Standard Theory to Principles and Parameters. Hence the replacement of S by IP. Thus, to abide by the X' schema, IP would rewrite as presented in the phrase structure rules and the tree diagram below:

Phrase Structure Rules	Tree Diagram
IP → Spec(I) + I'	<pre> graph TD IP --> SpecI[Spec (I)] IP --> I_prime[I'] I_prime --> I I_prime --> phi[φ] </pre>
I' → I + φ	

Finally, it could be said that as VP and S could not have the same head, V was taken for the head of VP so that we had to look for a head of S by resorting to another discovery procedure. That procedure led us to retrieve a non-lexical, that is, a more abstract head inside VP which finally caused S to turn into IP within the framework of the Principles and Parameters.

A similar subtle procedure could also be applied in psychomechanics to find out the semiological mark of extensity as it is to be perceived and recognized as a grammatical category. But before we hypothesize on the semiological mark of extensity as a grammatical category, let's present it compared to other types of grammatical categories.

Contrary to other grammatical categories which bring in morphological changes to the parts of speech they are associated with, extensity will rather bring in a shift from one type of extensity

to another type of extensity which will rather bring in a semantic change just the way a semantic change could be brought in further to the application of a derivational operation.

3.2 On the Quest for A Semiological mark of Extensity

As said earlier in this paper, most grammatical categories have an overt morphological manifestation, and they are very often associated with either of the two predicative parts of speech which are the noun and the verb. Also, as already mentioned, within the noun phrase, extensity is rather associated with the determiner which is a transpredicative part of speech. As we know from the transgenesis of parts of speech perceived as the final stage of the theory of the word, the determiner, by way of a depletion process, has lost part of its matter and of its form. Thus, a grammatical category depending on it, might tend to be subtle and covert. This might partly account for the covert, subtle and non-lexical manifestation of extensity within the noun phrase. Hence the justification that a possible grammatical category depending on a determiner might tend to be abstract and pretty void. However, for a better formalization of the actual presence of extensity as a grammatical category, that presence would need to be marked even by a void element if necessary.

Therefore, as extensity is associated with and dependent upon the determiner, the abstract manifestation of its presence by means of a semiological mark could also be made dependent on the latter determiner. Thus, in tune with the three types of extensities identified by Guillaume, that is, *minimum extensity*, *intermediate extensity* and *maximum extensity*, we could hypothesize the following corresponding symbols which could formally represent each of the types mentioned above: $DExt_{min}$, $DExt_{int}$, and $DExt_{max}$. Thus, $DExt_{min}$ would read minimal extensity associated with the determiner while $DExt_{int}$ would read intermediate extensity associated with the determiner and finally, $DExt_{max}$ would read maximum extensity associated with the determiner.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be kept in mind that this work aimed at presenting arguments in favor of a consideration of extensity as a grammatical category on seeing some similarities between its morphological and phrasal manifestations and those of well-established grammatical categories. To be able to bring forth some of those arguments, three inter-related notions of grammar and theoretical linguistics were first and foremost presented. Those notions were parts of speech, grammatical categories and syntactic categories. The inter-relation between those notions was highlighted with a view to bringing out their distinctiveness so as to pave the way for the emergence of the notion of grammatical category which was actually the center of interest of the article.

It came out that extensity could, to some extent, be considered as a particular grammatical category. However, contrary to other grammatical categories which are dependent upon predicative parts of speech, extensity is rather dependent on a transpredicative part of speech, that is, the determiner. As we know, the determiner considered as a transpredicative part of speech stemming from the depletion of the noun, it has lost part of its matter and of its form. That might be the reason why the grammatical category dependent upon it tends to have a void semiological mark contrary to other grammatical category which rather depend on predicative parts of speech. Hence their overt manifestations through overt semiological marks.

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