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examples of the determiners. Not all the classifications of determiners which I shall discuss were to be found in the passage, therefore I have proposed other examples.

In an article published in *Linguistics*, Vol. III, 1967, Dr. Richard Haden proposed a scale of definiteness for determiners in French and English (Table I). I would like to propose a similar categorization for Spanish and Portuguese (Table II). In keeping with Dr. Haden's category, the definiteness of deter-

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DETERMINERS

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THE CAPACITY to express oneself in a second language is a result of the assimilation of the grammatical structures of the second language and the partial rejection of the native grammar. It is essential that the beginning student realize that his language is not a perfect model for another. In every language there are certain grammatical structures which have to be considered solely within the grammar of that language.

One such structure which poses problems for language students is the system of determiners. The comparative usages in French, Spanish, and Portuguese might not seem very different to those who specialize in Romance languages. Yet this judgement is probably made after years of study have erased the memories of the difficulties experienced during the first years of language study. All one needs to do is attempt a translation of a passage and the differences in equivalencies become evident. A further comparison with their English equivalents emphasizes the definite problems which can arise.

Such a comparison can be achieved by reference to a passage from any work which has been translated into the desired languages. I have chosen *L'Age de la Raison* by Jean-Paul Sartre which has been translated into English and Spanish. For lack of the Portuguese version, I have translated the corresponding

¹ The books referred to are
 JEAN-PAUL, Sartre, *Les Chemins de la Liberté I' L'Age de Raison*. Paris. Gallimard, 1945.
 — *Los Caminos de la Libertad I: La Edad de la Razón*. Trans. Manuel R. Cardoso. Buenos Aires. Editorial Losada, S. A., 1950.
 — *The Roads to Freedom I: The Age of Reason*. Trans. Eric Sutton, New York. Alfred A. Knopf Co., 1952.

examples of the determiners. Not all the classifications of determiners which I shall discuss were to be found in the passage, therefore I have proposed other examples.

In an article published in *Linguistics* Vol. III, Sept. 1973, Dr. Ernest Haden proposed a scale of definiteness for determiners in French and English (Table I). I would like to propose a similar categorization for Spanish and Portuguese (Table II). In keeping with Dr. Haden's categories, the definiteness of determiners begins with the + 0 generic column and become more definite as one moves to the right of the 0. To the left of the generic lie the indefinite determiners. I have decided to maintain the - 2 and - 3 columns for Spanish and Portuguese despite the repetition of the entry X N since although they show no difference in form, they mark a difference in function and have distinct equivalents in English and French.

The uses of the determiners of classes + 1, + 2, + 3 are not difficult to learn since all four languages have the definite article, the possessive adjective and the demonstrative adjective. The demonstrative adjective is marked the most definite + 3.

- (1) Fr. cette rue (Sartre)

Eng. that street

Span. esa rua

Port. esta rua²

- (2) mon pere

my father

mi padre

meu pai

In Portuguese, the definite article is used to express a possessive not indicating relationship.

- (3) ma maison

my house

mi casa

a minha casa

The + 2 section can also present difficulties in the use of reflexive verbs. The three Romance languages do not always repeat the obvious by repeating the possessive adjective, nor do they all use reflexive verbs.

² In all succeeding examples, this order will be maintained.

- (4) Il passa son mouchoir sur son front (Sartre).

He wiped his forehead with his handkerchief.

Se pasó el pañuelo por la frente.

Alimpou a testa com seu lenço

The + 1 category is the definite article.

- (5) les automobiles (Sartre)

the cars

los autos

os automóveis

The manifestation of the generic article + 0 is mixed among the four languages.³ In the Romance languages, the article is used, but English has two possibilities.

- (6) les hommes et les femmes

the men and the women *or* men and women

los hombres y las mujeres

os homens e as mulheres

- (7) le ciel (Sartre)

the sky

el cielo

o ceo

A problem arises when the student, wanting to express the totality of the noun, uses his English as a basis for the translation and formulates

- (8) *hommes et femmes

*hombres y mujeres

*homens e mulheres

As we move to the left of the + 0 column, that is towards greater degrees of indefiniteness, the difficulty for the student in comprehending the uses of determiners increases. Column -1a, the indefinite article and the numerals has a certain ambiguity in the Romance languages. French and Portuguese distinguish between the article and the number but this occurs only when the words are pronounced. The numeral has the feature of grammatical stress which is marked by a pitch rise and an increase in intensity.

³ Stylistic uses will not be considered in this paper.

(9) un enterrement	ún enterrement
a funeral	one funeral
un entierro	un entierro
um enterro	um enterro

The column —1b, the expression of the partitive, contains the greatest discrepancy in equivalences. In view of the individual differences of each language it will be best to consider them separately.

The expression of the partitive in French is strictly determined. In his article Haden states:

The subdivision headed by / —1b / borrows as it were, the forms of /O / and preposed them to a particle de + le→du etc. It is legitimate to ascribe to this de the semantic value of "separation from": de + la N /O/ expresses "separation from totality", (p. 36).

The historical basis for the partitive can be traced back to medieval texts where, although it is a rare occurrence, it was used to indicate a part of the whole.

- (10) Molt sont il bois del pain destroit
 Dans le bois ils sont bien privés de pain (1.1644)
Tristan, Bérout, ed.
 A. Ewert, Oxford, 1955.

In modern French, this meaning is lost unless the noun is followed by a qualifier.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| (11) Voulez-vous du gâteau? | Voulez-vous du gâteau que |
| Do you want some cake? | J'ai fait? |
| | Do you want some of the cake |
| | I made? |

In English, there are two ways of expressing the partitive; either by the use of *some* or by O N. The first choice is the more common.

- (12) Voulez-vous du gâteau et du café?
 Do you want cake and coffee? or Do you want some
 cake and coffee?

The Spanish and Portuguese partitive is expressed by ON in the singular.

- (13) Peux-tu me prêter de l'argent?
 Can you lend me some money?
 ¿Puedes prestarme dinero?
 Podes prestar-me dinheiro?

The plural forms of the column marked —1 have different functions depending on the language. In French, *des* serves as the plural of the partitive as well as the plural of the indefinite article. Its exact usage at a given time cannot always be determined. As Haden states:

... it is functionally and semantically the plural of *un, une*, indefinite articles and formally the plural of *du, de la*, partitive (p. 37).

- (14) Des corps (Sartre)
 Bodies
 Cuerpos
 Corpos
- (15) sont des salauds (Sartre)
 are swine
 son unos puercos
 são ladrões.
- (16) Je veux acheter des robes.
 I want to buy some dresses
 Quiero comprar vestidos or unos vestidos.
 Quero comprar vestidos or uns vestidos.

As can be seen in the above examples of the — 1 category, in both Spanish and Portuguese, the plural form is expressed by O N or the plural form of the indefinite article. The use of the plural article emphasizes the approximate number a few several, some while O N denotes no particular quantity. In Portuguese, the plural article can also denote a pair of things.

- (17) Tenho umas calças.
 I have a pair of pants.

French and English are more complex in their rendering of the equivalent of columns — 2 and — 3 than are Spanish and Portuguese. In French, the

partitive particle is altered by expressions containing the preposition *de* as in *avoir besoin de* + a noun.⁴

- (18) J'ai besoin de livres.
I need books or some books. (Literally: I have need of books.)

This substitution of the preposition for the partitive occurs in adverbial expressions of quantity, such as

beaucoup	}	de
assez		
plus		

- (19) J'ai beaucoup de plumes.
I have a lot of pens.

The last grammatical structure which results in this modification of the partitive in French is the negation.

- (20) J'ai des amis. Je n'ai pas d'amis.
I have friends. I have no friends.
I don't have any friends.

- (21) Je ne rencontre pas de résistance (Sartre)
I encounter no resistance.
I don't encounter any resistance.

In Spanish and Portuguese, the same construction as was used to mark the partitive ---1b, that is ON, is used to render the above examples (18)-(21).

- (18a) Necesito libros.
Peciso libros.
(19a) Tengo muchas plumas.
Tenho muitas plumas.
(20a) Tengo amigos. No tengo amigos.
Tenho amigos. Não tenho amigos.

⁴ If the noun is qualified, then the + 1 article is expressed.
J'ai besoin des livres que je t'ai prêtés.
I need the books that I lent you.
Necesito los libros que te presté.
Peciso os libros que eu te prestei.

- (21a) No encuentro resistencia. (Sartre).
Não encontro resistencia.

The final class — 3 consists of five grammatical structures: verbal locutions, idioms, adverbial and adjectival expressions, the vocative, and the neither, nor negation. Verbal locutions are found in all four languages.

- (22) Il fait mauvais temps.
It is miserable weather.
Hace mal tiempo.
Faz máo tempo.

In French, Spanish and Portuguese, idioms such as *avoir peur*, *tener miedo*, and *ter medo* are characterized by a noun which has lost its noun quality and has become adjectivized.⁵

- (23) ... qui n'avaient pas peur du ciel. (Sartre)
... who weren't afraid of the sky.
... que no tenían miedo del cielo.
... que não tinham medo do ceo.

In all three Romance languages, this change of a noun to an adjective is demonstrated further by the possibility of modifying *peur* by an adverb.

- (24) J'ai très peur. The English reading uses
Tengo mucho miedo. an adjective.
Tenho muito medo. I am very afraid.

The adverbial and adjectival expressions consist of a preposition and a noun which has lost its noun quality and now are used to modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs.

- (25) voyager par train
travel by train
viajar por tren
viajar em camboio

⁵ There are many other examples of this:
avoir soif avoir chaud
to be thirsty to be hot
tener sed tener calor
ter sed ter calor

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TABLE II

⊗ N un (uno) una (un) "un" "una" "dos" "tres"	el la, el lo los las	el la, el lo los las	mi mis etc.	este ese (aquel) esta esa aquella esto etc.
⊗ N unos unas	el la, el lo los las	el la, el lo los las	mi mis etc.	este ese (aquel) esta esa aquella esto etc.
⊗ N un una "un" "una" "dos" "tres"	el la, el lo los las	el la, el lo los las	mi mis etc.	este ese (aquel) esta esa aquella esto etc.
⊗ N un una "un" "una" "dos" "tres"	el la, el lo los las	el la, el lo los las	mi mis etc.	este ese (aquel) esta esa aquella esto etc.
⊗ N un una "un" "una" "dos" "tres"	el la, el lo los las	el la, el lo los las	mi mis etc.	este ese (aquel) esta esa aquella esto etc.
⊗ N un una "un" "una" "dos" "tres"	el la, el lo los las	el la, el lo los las	mi mis etc.	este ese (aquel) esta esa aquella esto etc.

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Linguistic competence and performance are concepts used by Chomsky to describe sides of language capacity in the linguistic theory of transformational-generative grammar. Competence is concerned with the knowledge one has of linguistic structure. Performance is concerned with actual production of the language. This production may be affected by various conditions and thus does not necessarily reflect competence. It has often been said that an adult's competence can be characterized by eliciting judgements of grammaticality, while the child's competence can only be estimated by studying a corpus of spontaneous speech. Many psycholinguists have questioned whether one can ever be sure that the child's actual speech output is reliable for constructing the child's grammar or linguistic competence. Chomsky has stated that attempting to derive a child's competence from a description of a corpus may be hopeless.¹ There are several problems with this approach to the child's grammar.

One problem in relation to establishing the child's grammar is deciding what speech events should be considered a representative of the child's performance. More or less arbitrary means have been devised for dealing with this problem. For example, Dixon decided that constructions appearing three or less times in the corpus of the three children she studied should not be included in the grammar analysis.² Other investigators have chosen various

¹ Chomsky, Noam, "Formal Description of Grammar and the Acquisition of Grammar in Child Language," in *Child Language: A Book of Readings*, eds. Roger W. Brown and Werner F. Levelt (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1971), p. 342.

² Dixon, Lois, *Language Development: Form and Function in English Grammar* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1970), p. 71.