

Bare nominals as Kinds terms in Rioplatense Spanish

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Kinds

- Predicates that can only hold of the species as a whole.
- These readings are triggered by predicates such as:
 - *be extinct*
 - *be endangered*
 - *evolve from.*

Test 1 (predicate applying to kinds: extinction)

- (1)
- a. [XP] is/are extinct.
 - b. [Dinosaurs] are extinct.
 - c. [The dinosaur] is extinct.
- (ex. 16 in Dayal's questionnaire)
- (2)
- a. *Dinosaurios están extintos/se extinguieron
 - b. ?/ OK El dinosaurio está extinto/se extinguió
 - c. Los dinosaurios están extintos/se extinguieron
 - d. El tyrannosaurus rex está extinto/se extinguió

is Spanish sensible to the hyponym/hyperonym distinction?

Test 2 (predicate applying to kinds: evolution)

- (3)
- a. [XP] has/have evolved from [YP].
 - b. [Dogs] have evolved from [wolves].
 - c. [The dog] has evolved from [the wolf].
- (ex. 17 in Dayal's questionnaire)
- (4)
- a. *Perros evolucionaron/descendieron de lobos.
 - b. El perro evolucionó/descendió del lobo.
 - c. Los perros evolucionaron/descendieron de los lobos.
 - d. */?/OK El mamífero evolucionó/descendió del reptil.

Test 3 (predicate applying to kinds: invention)

- (5)
 - a. [XP] was/were invented by Babbage.
 - b. [Computers] were invented by Babbage.
 - c. [The computer] was invented by Babbage.

(ex. 18 in Dayal's questionnaire)
- (6)
 - a. *Computadoras fueron inventadas por Babbage.
 - b. La computadora fue inventada por Babbage.
 - c. Las computadoras fueron inventadas por Babbage.

Test 3 (predicate applying to kinds: invention)

- (7)
 - a. Babbage invented [XP].
 - b. #Babbage invented [computers].
 - c. Babbage invented [the computer].

(ex. 19 in Dayal's questionnaire)
- (8)
 - a. #Babbage inventó computadoras. (solo con lectura existencial, algunas)
 - b. Babbage inventó la computadora.
 - c. Babbage inventó las computadoras.

Main observations

In these contexts, we can refer to Kind terms

- Definite singulars
- Definite plurals

Like english, indefinite nouns can only give rise to a type Reading

- (9) Un perro evolucionó del lobo. (una subespecie)
- (10) Una computadora fue inventada por Babbage. (un subtipo)

Test 4 (transitive psych verbs)

- As Bare nominals are disallowed in subject position in Spanish, we test Kind term in object position with transitive states such as *amar, odiar*.
- Differently from predicates in test 1, 2 and 3, these predicates allow nouns referring to individual members (11), as well as nouns referring to kinds (12).

Individual member

(11) Clara ama su clase de gramática.

Kind

(12) Clara ama las clases de gramática.

Test 4 (transitive psych verbs)

Even though in Spanish state predicate constructions allow for bare nouns, transitive psych verbs does not.

(13) Tengo hermanos.

(solo con lectura existencial)

(14) *Clara ama gatos.

(tampoco posible con lectura existencial)

Kind Reading

(16) Amo las clases de gramática.

(17) Amo a los gatos. // Amo los gatos (un poco más marcada)
DOM

Test 4 (transitive psych verbs)

Kind Reading

- (18) Amo la gaseosa/ el helado / la bici /?la clase de gramática.
- (19) Amo el gato/ el perro de la vecina. (nunca con lectura de kind)
- (20) Yo amo al animal (más que al hombre)
- (21) ?Yo amo el animal (más que el hombre)

Generic statements

Test 1 (barking predicate)

- (22)
- a. [XP] barks/bark when it/they is hungry.
 - b. [Dogs] bark when they are hungry.
 - c. [The dog] barks when it is hungry.
 - d. [A dog] barks when it is hungry. (ex. 20 in Dayal's questionnaire)
- (23)
- a. *Perros ladran cuando están enojados.
 - b. El perro ladra cuando está enojado.
 - c. Un perro ladra cuando está enojado.

Test 2 (ferocious animal predicate)

(24) a. [XP] is/are a ferocious animal/ferocious animals.

b. [Lions] are ferocious animals.

c. [The lion] is a ferocious animal.

d. [A lion] is a ferocious animal.

(ex. 21 in Dayal's questionnaire)

(25) a. *[Leones] son animales feroces.

c. [El león] es un animal feroz.

d. ?[Un león] es un animal feroz.

Test 3 (drink wine predicate)

- (26)
- a. [XP] usually drinks/drink wine with dinner.
 - b. [Italians] usually drink wine with dinner.
 - c. ?[The Italian] usually drinks wine with dinner.
 - d. [An Italian] usually drinks wine with dinner.
- (ex. 22 in Dayal's questionnaire)

- (27)
- a. *[Italianos] suelen tomar vino con la cena.
 - c. [El italiano] suele tomar vino con la cena..
 - d. [Un italiano] suele tomar vino con la cena.