

Exocentric compounds in French: an analysis without nulls

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In recent analyses of exocentric compounds, the null categorizer *n* and *pro* have been used. There has been a lot of discussion on the desirability of the use of nulls in morphology. This presentation contributes to the discussion in putting forth an analysis of exocentric compounds in French without null categorizers and without *pro*. The analysis is proposed within a syntactically-based word-formation framework. I propose that the number and nature of the functional projections dominating the roots account for the differences between V-N compounds and nominalized infinitives and V → N conversions. Furthermore it will be argued that the features of a Gender Phrase can account for the difference between default masculine and animate V-N compounds. The analysis proposed for V-N compounds will be extended to P-N exocentric compounds.