

Towards a typology of phase structures: Subordinating D

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According to standard descriptions of the German DP, attributive adjectives and participles agree with the modified head noun in case, gender and number (CGN). However, this representation is hardly satisfying: phonologically, syntactically and semantically, CGN turns out to be a persistent problem for many analyses.

This talk will present an alternative representation of CGN as a phase head that implements attribution syntactically and semantically. It will be shown that attributive structures in German closely parallel subordinate CPs in many respects. In this way, CGN is represented as a 'subordinate D', completing a tentative typology of phase heads.