



Article indéfini et nom en français et en allemand

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Abstract: When comparing the use of the indefinite article in French and German one realizes that there is a fundamental difference between the two languages. All French nouns have a plural and combine with the three indefinite articles *un*, *du* and *des*, whereas in German the semantics of the noun is reflected in the possibility of having a plural and of combining with the indefinite article. This paper proposes as an explanation of this difference the indefinite articles in French constitute a system of classifiers, which classify noun phrases as either homo- or heterogeneous, and thereby establish their extension, whereas the only indefinite article in German is a quantifier that operates on the semantic make-up of the noun (its intension).

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