# A tonosyntax of the DP in Bùlì

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The Determiner Phrase (DP) is a syntactic constituent that projects a Determiner, which is a functional element, as the head of the phrase, with an NP as its complement. As an element that possesses referential functions, the Determiner's role in the DP can not be overemphasized. Some of the meanings it contributes to the constructions it occurs in are definiteness, indefiniteness, number, and deixis. In this paper, I describe the structure of the DP in Buli and explain how tone is exploited in the determination of meanings that are coded in the DP.

**a.** Determiners occur after the nominal complement. In this context, their output tone is dependent on that of the noun preceding them.

  1. bí:k   ká
    child  the          (the child)
  2. bì:k   kǎ
    language the       (the language)

**b**. Determiners may be preceded by adjectives in the DP. The tone of the last syllable of the adjacent adjective determines its output tone.

  3. bí:k   fí:k   ká
    child  small  the        (the little child)
  4. bí:k   nàlìŋ   kǎ
    child  nice   the       (the beautiful child)
  5. nípōk   bā
    woman PL        (women)
  6. nípōk   má        (the women)
  7. nípòk   fĭ:k       (small woman)
  8. nípòk   fì:k   ká     (the small woman)

**c.** The Determiner may also be followed by modifies such as deictic markers and numerals.

  9. bí:k  nàlìŋ   kà   dé
    child nice   the  proximal     (this beautiful child)
  10. bí:k  nàlìŋ  kà   ɲí wá dé
    child nice   the  one distal    ( that (one) beautiful child)
  11. bí:k  nàlìŋsà  sì yè wà dé
    child nice  pl. two   distal    (those two beautiful children)
  12. bísà              (children)
  13. bísá    bà       tà
    child + PL Cl marker  three     (three children)