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DEFINITENESS IN AVATIME(SIDEME)

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ROADMAP

- ⊡ Language Background
- ⊡ Linguistic Features
- ⊡ Defining definiteness
- ⊡ Data Collection
- ⊡ Definiteness in Avatime
    - Bare nouns
    - Definite articles
    - Demonstratives
- ⊡ Semantics and Pragmatics of Definiteness in Avatime

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Avatime

- Avatime is part of the 14 languages that make up the Ghana-Togo-Mountain language (GTM) cluster

- The GTM cluster was formally known as the 'Togo-Remnant languages/Togorest-sprachen'(Westermann, 1932)
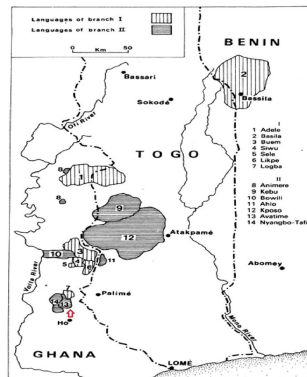
- The languages are spoken in Ghana, Togo and Benin

Figure 1: (Heine, 1968)

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- Avatime belongs to the Kwa group of the larger Niger-Congo phylum
- It is part of the Ka-subgroup and closely related to Tafi and Nyangbo.
- Majority of the speakers are multilingual with Avatime as their first language (L1) and Ewe as their second (L2)
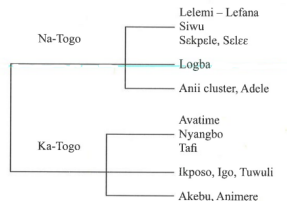

Figure 2: (Heine, 1968)

Estimated L1 speakers: 10,000 to 1,000,000 (Eberhard et al., 2024)

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- Avatimeland is traditionally known as *Kideme* 'in the back'

- It is made up of 8 communities namely; **Vane**(Capital town), Biakpa, Gbadzeme, Fume, Dogbefeme, Amedzofe, Old and New Dzokpe

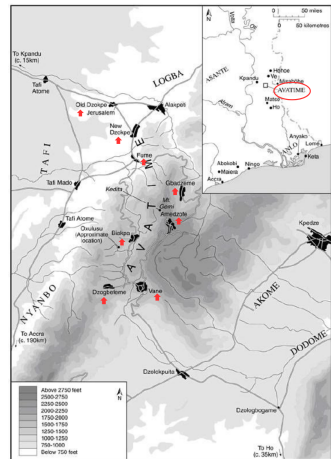- The indigenous name of the language is *Siyase* 'language of the Baya' or Sideme 'language of the Kideme'

Figure 3: (Brydon, 2008)

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Linguistic features

- ⊡ Tonal language with at least 3 contrastive tones; High, extra high and low.

- ⊡ Tone is a meaning-distinguishing feature in Avatime

(1) a. *Isami έ-pε siyà.*
   Isami AGR-like language
   'Isami likes language.'

  b. *Aseye έ-pε sìyà kpekpemi.*
   Aseye AGR-like hair short
   'Aseye likes short hair.'

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⊡ Avatime is an agglutinating language with an active class and
  agreement system. It has 7 noun classes based on semantic
  similarity, singular and plural prefixes.

Table 1: Noun class markers in Avatime

CLASS	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1	o- / ɔ- / ø-	ba- / be-
2	o- / ɔ-	i- / [ɪ-]
3	li- / [lɪ-]	e- / a-
4	ki- / [kɪ-]	bi- / [bɪ-]
5	ku- / [kʊ]-	ba- / be-
6	ka- / ke-	ku- / [kʊ-]
7	si- / [sɪ-]	

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⊡ Avatime is also a pro-drop language. The basic word order is SVO.

(2) a. *Mawupemɔ ɛ̀ɛ́-ŋ̀a   ki-kù*
         Mawupemɔ AGR.PROG-eat C₄SG-yam
         'Mawupemɔ is eating yam'

     b. *ɛ̀ɛ́-ŋ̀a   ki-kù*
         C₁SG.SBJ.PROG-eat C₄SG-yam
         'S/he is eating yam'

Definiteness

⊡ Definiteness is a semantic concept comprising of different notions of certainty, familiarity, uniqueness, salience, and specificity of a nominal description in a discourse or proposition.

⊡ It can be expressed either covertly (bare nouns) or by overt grammatical forms such as affixes, demonstratives and pronouns.

⊡ Kwa languages like **Akan** uses both an overt marker *'no'* and the bare noun to mark definiteness(Bombi, 2018; Owusu, 2022). **Ga** uses 2 definite articles *'lɛ'* and *'nɛɛ'* depending on the discourse environment(Renans, 2016).

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⊡ According to Allan (1973), in **Lelemi**, the distal demonstrative *(ɔ́mɔ̀)* (standard) or *(ɔ́nvɔ̀)* (local) is ambiguous between the definite and demonstrative meaning. The articles also have agreement functions.

⊡ **Tuwuli** expresses definiteness by the use of an identifiability marker 'a'. Harley (2005) states *'the marker shows that the speaker assumes the hearer can correctly interpret the role of the marked referent in the particular discourse'*

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⊡ **Logba** uses clitics that are realised as -ɛ́ or -á. The clitic -ɛ́ is used when the noun ends in [i] but the allomorph -e occurs after [o] or [u]. Nouns ending in [-á] or ɔ́ take the marker -á. Bare nouns are used for nouns like sun or moon (Dorvlo, 2008).

⊡ In **Sɛlɛɛ**, the article ʼnwuʼ has both definite and demonstrative interpretations. The bare noun can used to express definiteness in certain contexts (Agbetsoamedo, 2014)

⊡ The definite marker in **Tafi** is ní. During speech, the vowel is dropped and /ń/ is realized as a clitic on the preceding NP (Bobuafor, 2013).

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⊡ For the most part, definiteness in these Kwa languages is marked by either one or two definite articles on one hand or there is a contention between definite articles, demonstratives and the bare noun.

⊡ There is little to no work based solely on definiteness in Avatime that shows whether the language behaves like those in the same family or subgroup.
- *The goal of this talk is to present an account of definiteness in Avatime*

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Data Collection

☐ **Time and Place**
   - Preliminary data: July - August 2023; Kpone and University of Ghana
   Final Phase: November 2023- March 2024;Tema, West Legon, and University of Ghana

☐ **Informants**
   - 5 main consultants (3 speakers from Gbadzeme and 2 from Vane)
   - Natural setting: Family meeting comprising of 6 Vane speakers including a translator (25 mins and 27 seconds recording)

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⊡ **Questionnaires**
- Dayal and Jiang (2022)
- Duah et al. (2021)
- Ibadan word list

⊡ **Secondary sources**
- Avatime New Testament Bible (*Kunyanya vuvu yɔ*)
- Previous literature: Ford (1971); Schuh (1995a,b); Brydon (2008); Defina (2009, 2016, Defina); van Putten (2014, 2017).

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Definiteness in Avatime

⊡ Bare nouns in Avatime are grouped into seven (7) classes marked by singular and plural prefixes.
- Classes 1 to 6 have singular and plural prefixes, but Class 7 has a neutral prefix.

⊡ The forms of the prefixes have a single syllable structure CV or V.

⊡ The vowel of the prefix is conditioned by the Advanced Tongue Root (ATR) feature of the vowel in the root noun.

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(3)   a.   ɔ-nʊ̀vɔ̀
          c_1SG-child
          'child'

     b.   O-vè
          c_1SG-mouse
          'mouse'

(4)   a.   ba-nʊ̀vɔ̀
          c_1PL-child'
          'children'

     b.   be-vè
          c_1PL-mouse
          'mice'

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(5) a. ku-dè
        C5SG-road
        'road'

     b. kʊ̀-lɪ
        C5SG-palm tree
        'palm tree'

(6) a. bè-dà
        C5PL-road
        'roads'

     b. bà-lɪ
        C5PL-palm tree
        'palm trees'

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⊡ The Class 7 prefix is used for mass nouns that are primarily non-liquid (Schuh, 1995b).

  (7)   a. sɪ-yà
            C7SG/PL-hair
            'hair'

        b. sɪ-vlɛ-mɛ
            C7SG/PL-morning-faeces
            'morning feces'

⊡ They are also found in language names; *Si-deme* and *Si-yasɛ*.

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⊡ Some borrowed nouns in Avatime do not have a singular or plural prefix and are common in Class 1.

(8) a. sɔ̀lɪ
        C_1SG.church
        'church'

     b. dzàtá
        C_1SG.lion
        'lion'

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⊡ Bare nouns can occur in both subject and object positions and always have an indefinite reading.

    (9)   a. ɔ-nɛmi   ɔ-lí   mà-la.
             C_1SG-brother AGR-be 1SG.POSS-have
             'I have a brother.'

         b. A-wu   a-lí   mà-la.
             C_3PL-dress AGR-be 1SG.POSS-have
             'I have dresses.'

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(10) a. Mà-mɔ̀   ka-drɔ̀wi.
         1SG.SBJ-see C6SG-dog
         'I saw a dog.'

      b. Mɔkpɔkpɔ á-ta   ki-mimi.
         Mɔkpɔkpɔ AGR-chew C4SG-rice
         'Mɔkpɔkpɔ ate rice.'

⊡ Bare nouns can occur with numerals and modifying adjectives.

⊡ The numerals and adjectives occur at the right periphery of the NP.

(11) a. A-wu   ta-va a-lí   mà-la.
C3PL-dress C3-two AGR-be 1SG.POSS-have
'I have two dresses.'

b. ɔ̀-kplə   bìdi ɔ-lí   oŋwenu.
C2SG-table big AGR.be outside
'A big table is outside.'

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⊡ In a noun phrase, numerals occur after the adjectives when they are both modifying the noun

(12) a. Mè-dzi   ì-kplɔ   bìdi te-ta.
          1SG.SBJ-buy C₂PL-table big C₂-three
          'I bought three big tables.'

      b. Mà-mɔ̀   ku-druwi sesami tu-ne.
          1SG.SBJ-see C₆PL-dog small   C₆-four
          'I saw four small dogs.'

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Bare nouns and Definiteness

☐ Bare nouns in Avatime typically express non-specific indefiniteness. The referent of the NP may either be unknown to both the interlocutors or just the addressee.

(13) a. Mè-dzi   ɔ̀-kplɔ.
          1SG.SBJ-buy C2SG-table
          'I bought a table'

  b. Edem á-tsa   ò-se   kivoe.
      Edem AGR-cut C2PL-tree yesterday
      'Edem cut a tree yesterday'

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⊡ The root suffix -tɔ is used to mark specific indefiniteness. Here, the speaker either assumes the referent is unknown to the hearer or does not intend to disclose the identity of the referent to the hearer.

    (14)   a. Me-tè   ó-nyime-étɔ.
                 AGR-know C$_1$SG-man-INDEF
                 'I know a certain man'

           b. Enyonam á-dzi   ba-ga-átɔ   kivoe.
               Enyonam AGR-buy C$_1$PL-goat-INDEF yesterday
               'Enyonam bought some goats yesterday'

Definite articles

⊡ In Avatime, definite articles are suffixes divided into 7 groups belonging to each noun class.

⊡ Like the class markers, group 1 to 6 suffixes have individual singular and plural forms attached to the nouns whiles group 7 has one form.

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⊡ The definite articles are of a single-syllable structure of CV or V as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Forms of definite articles in Avatime

CLASS	SG.Suffix	PL.Suffix
1	-(y)e / (-y)ɛ	-a
2	-lo / -lɔ, -no / -nɔ	-le /-lɛ, -ne / -nɛ
3	-le / -lɛ, -ne / -nɛ	-na / -la
4	-e / -ɛ	-e / -ɛ
5	-o / -ɔ	-a
6	-a	-o / -ɔ
7	-se / -sɛ	

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⊡ The vowels in the articles seem to participate in ATR harmony with the vowel in the root noun. The vowel of a CV suffix harmonizes with the vowel in the noun root that precedes it.

⊡ The definite article usually bears a tone opposite to the preceding tone of the bare noun.

   (15)   a. ligbolè
            li-gbo-lè
            C3SG-chair-C3SG.DEF
            'the chair'

          b. ligbalɛ̀
            li-gba-lɛ̀
            C3SG-building-C3SG.DEF
            'the building'

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⊡ The final vowel of the nominal stem forms a vowel sequence with a definite marker of syllable structure V as shown in (16a) or is elided as in (16b)

(16) a. kadruwià

ka-druwi + à   = ka-druwi-à
C6SG-dog + C6SG.DEF = C6SG-dog-C6SG.DEF
'the dog'

b. kepà

ke-pe   + à   =
C6SG-house + C6SG.DEF =
ke-p-à
C6SG-house-C6SG.DEF
'the house'

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⊡ **The obvious argument**: The articles are allomorphs of a singular form that is morphologically and phonetically conditioned by the environment it occurs in.

⊡ **Proposal**: At least there are 5 different forms with different realizations; *l/nV, sV, e, o, a*
  - These articles are attached to nouns as suffixes and have agreement functions.
  - The forms of the articles for these nouns are mostly phonological
  - The articles are mostly licensed in definite environments

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⊡ The definite articles occur in both subject and object positions.

(17) a. Ka-dzɔ̀wi-à   ɛ̀ɛ́-za   ɔ-dzí.
          C6SG-bird-C6SG.DEF AGR.PROG-sing C2SG-song
          'The bird was singing'

      b. Sedinam e-yi   ì-kukɔ-lɛ̀.
          Sedinam AGR-kill C2PL-chicken-C2PL.DEF
          'Sedinam killed the chickens.'

⊡ When the the definite NP occurs with an adjective, the definite marker is realized on the adjective either in a full form or as a clitic.

(18) a. Li-wú-lè   lí-pedi.
C3SG-dress-C3SG.DEF AGR-be.beautiful
'The dress is beautiful'

b. Li-wú   kpikpi-è   lí-pedi.
C3SG-dress black-C3SG.DEF AGR-be.beautiful
'The black dress is beautiful'

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(19) a. ɔ̀-kplɔ́-nɔ̀   ɔ-lí   oŋwenu.
          C2SG-table-C2SG.DEF AGR.be outside
          'The table is outside.'

      b. ɔ̀-kplɔ́   bìdi-lò   ɔ-lí   oŋwenu.
          C2SG-table big-C2SG.DEF AGR.be outside
          'The big table is outside.'

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⊡ The definite article also follows number words within the noun
  phrase.

⊡ When the noun phrase contains an adjective and a number
  word, the definite marker is marked at the rightmost periphery
  of the NP.

    (20)   a. A-wu   ta-ta-là   é-pedi.
               C$_3$PL-dress C$_3$-three-C$_3$PL.DEF AGR-be.beautiful
               'The three dresses are beautiful'

          b. A-wu   kpikpi ta-ta-là
               C$_3$PL-dress black   C$_3$-three-C$_3$PL.DEF
               é-pedi.
               AGR-be.beautiful
               'The three black dresses are beautiful'

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Demonstratives

- ⊡ There are two types of demonstrative articles in Avatime: a proximal demonstrative, *-yà* and a distal demonstrative, *-lɔ̀*

- ⊡ The demonstratives are similar to the roots in the words *níyà* 'here' and *nílɔ̀* 'there' used for making deictic reference to location. The words are a combination of the preposition *ní* and the roots *yà* and *lɔ̀*.

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⊡ According to van Putten (2014, 47), the alternative forms of the distal demonstrative which are *níkɔlɔ̀*, *níklɔ́* and *níwlɔ̀*.

⊡ Then, the demonstrative consists of the preposition *ní* plus the root *ɔkɔ-* 'place' and the class two definite marker *lɔ̀*.

⊡ **Le rôle inversé**: demonstrative derived from a definite NP

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(21) a. ɔ̀-kɔ-lɔ̀
          C₂SG-place-C₂SG.DEF/DEM
          'the/that place'

      b. #ɔ̀-kɔ-lɔ̀-lɔ̀
          C₂SG-place-C₂SG.DEF-DEM
          'that place'

NB: Whiles the definite marker is restricted to only nouns in class 2, the demonstrative occurs with all nouns.

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⊡ Demonstrative articles in Avatime have the same distribution as the definite articles. They are attached post-nominally in both subject and object positions.

(22)   a. Ó-nyime-lɔ   a-demani-mɛ.
             C$_1$SG-man-DEM.DIST AGR-love-me
             '(pointing) That man loves me'

       b. Ma-demanɔ   o-nyime-lɔ.
             AGR-love   C$_1$SG-man-DEM.DIST
             '(pointing) I love that man'

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⊡ Demonstratives in Avatime follow adjectives and numerals in the noun phrase.

(23) Afetor a-manɔ̀ bì-ku bidi tu-ne-yà dɔ́
Afetor AGR-bring C4PL-yam big C4-four-DEM from

ní ɔ̀-nyɔ-nɔ̀ mɛ̀.
LOC C2SG-farm-DEF inside

'Afetor brought these four big yams from the farm'

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⊡ Demonstrative articles in Avatime are usually accompanied by pointing or gesturing towards a physical referent (mostly with the distal demonstrative).

⊡ If a referent is closer to the discourse participants, they can talk about it without pointing.

⊡ In a given situation where there are more than one of the same referent in close proximity, the speaker points out the entity he/she intends to describe to the addressee.

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(24)   a.   Mà-mɔ   ke-kplipka-yà   kóko.
            1SG.SBJ-see C6SG-book-DEM already
            'I have seen this book already'

       b.   [Context: Eyram is showing Mawuli some books.
            Pointing at one, Mawuli says;]

            Mà-pɛ   kɛ́-yà.
            1SG.SBJ-want C6SG-DEM.
            'I want this one.'

⊡ The definite articles and demonstrative are in complimentary distribution.

(25) a. #Ó-nyime-e-lɔ   a-demani-mɛ .
      c_1SG-man-DEF-DEM.DIST AGR-love-me
      '(pointing) That man loves me'

   b. #Ke-kplipka-a-yà   ke-dzí.
      c_6SG-book-DEF-DEM AGR-be.interesting
      ' This book is interesting.'

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⊡ The order of a complex DP has the structure.

  Noun > *Adjective* > *Numeral* > Definite article

⊡ A complex DP with a demonstrative has the structure

  Noun > *Adjective* > *Numeral* > *Demonstrative.*

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Semantics and Pragmatics of Definiteness markers

- ☐ Hawkins (1978) groups the uses of definites into four main categories;
  - Anaphoric uses
  - Immediate Situational uses
  - Larger/ Global Situational uses
  - Bridging Cases

- ☐ Additional Uses: Recognitional, Kind/Generic interpretations

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Anaphoric uses I

⊡ The interlocutors share knowledge of the referent via an antecedent NP.

(26)   [Context: At the beginning of a conversation...]

a. Ó-nyime   nì   ɔ̀-dʒɛ   be-tuku.
   c_1SG-man CONJ c_1SG-woman AGR-enter.
   Ó-nyime-è   a-panì=mɛ.
   c_1SG-man-c_1SG.DEF AGR-greet=1SG.OBJ.
   'A man and a woman entered. The man greeted me.'

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Anaphoric uses II

b. #Ó-nyime a-panì=mɛ.
C$_1$SG-man AGR-greet=1SG.OBJ.
'The man greeted me.'

c. Ó-nyime-(#yà) a-panì=mɛ.
C$_1$SG-man-DEM AGR-greet=1SG.OBJ.
The man greeted me.'

d. Ó-nyime-(#lɔ̀) a-panì=mɛ.
C$_1$SG-man-DEM AGR-greet=1SG.OBJ.
'The man greeted me.'

(27)   [Context: An old man and a young man visited Afi´s
       family house when her parents had traveled. When they
       return, she tells them; When you travelled last week,...]

   a. ɔ-kà-tsi   nì   ɔ̀-yásɔwi   bɛ̀-ba
   C_1SG-old-man CONJ C_1SG-young.man AGR-come

   ke-pa   mɛ̀.   ɔ-kà-tsi-e
   C_6SG-house inside. C_1SG-old-man-C_1SG.DEF

   àpanì=mɛ.
   AGR-greet=1SG.OBJ

   'An old man and a young man came inside the house.
   The old man greeted me.'

b. ɔ-kà-tsi-lɔ̀   àpanì=mɛ.
   C₁SG-old-man-DEM AGR-greet=1SG.OBJ
   'The old man greeted me.'

c. #ɔ-kà-tsi   àpanì=mɛ.
   C₁SG-old-man AGR-greet=1SG.OBJ
   'The old man greeted me.'

d. ɔ-kà-tsi-(#yà)   àpanì=mɛ.
   C₁SG-old-man-DEM AGR-greet=1SG.OBJ
   'The old man greeted me.'

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Immediate Situation

- ⊡ **In immediate situation** contexts, the referent is immediately perceptible and uniquely identifiable.

- ⊡ The entity is uniquely identifiable because it is the only one present in the utterance environment that fits the definite description.

- ⊡ The definite articles are used in immediate situation contexts but demonstratives and bare nouns are not compatible.

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(28) [Context: Atsu and Eyram are standing on the
      compound of their house with only one big tree. Eyram
      says...]

    a. Di   ka-dzrɔ̀wi-a   ní
        look.at C$_6$SG-bird-C$_6$SG.DEF LOC
        o-se-lo   avà.
        C$_2$SG-tree-C$_2$SG.DEF on.
        'Look at the bird on top of the tree.'

    b. Di   ka-dzrɔ̀wi-a   ní (#o-se) avà.
        look.at C$_6$SG-bird-C$_6$SG.DEF LOC C$_2$SG-tree on.
        'Look at the bird on top of the tree.'

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c. Di   ka-dzrɔ̀wi-a   ní   o-se-(#yà)
   look.at C6SG-bird-C6SG.DEF LOC C2SG-tree-DEM
   aʋà.
   on.
   'Look at the bird on top of the tree.'

d. Di   ka-dzrɔ̀wi-a   ní   o-se-(#lɔ̀)
   look.at C6SG-bird-C6SG.DEF LOC C2SG-tree-DEM
   aʋà.
   on.
   'Look at the bird on top of the tree.'

Larger Situation I

- ⊡ The individual or referent entity is part of a larger situation and is not perceptually prominent.

- ⊡ The knowledge of the entity is known by the discourse participants based on shared experiences because they live in the same environment, for example, a country's president, organization leaders, and pets.

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(29)   [Context: Dela has been away from home for some
        months, When he returns, his mother says...]

   a. Ka-drùwì-a   ke-tse   ɔ́-dzidzi-ɛ̀
        C6SG-dog-C6SG.DEF AGR-die C1SG-moon-C1SG.DEF
        gà-zá.
        move-pass.
        'The dog died last month'

   b. #Ka-drùwì ke-tse   ɔ́-dzidzi-ɛ̀
        C6SG-dog   AGR-die C1SG-moon-C1SG.DEF
        gà-zá.
        move-pass.
        'The dog died last month'

c. Ka-drùwì-(#yà) ke-tse   ɔ́-dzidzi-ɛ̀
   C₆SG-dog-DEM   AGR-die C₁SG-moon-C₁SG.DEF
   gà-zá.
   move-pass.
   'The dog died last month'

d. Ka-drùwì-(#lɔ̀) ke-tse   ɔ́-dzidzi-ɛ̀   gà-zá.
   C₆-dog-DEM   AGR-die C₁SG-moon-DEF move-pass.
   'The dog died last month'

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(30)   [Context: Yesterday was the Ghanaian Independence
       Day and there were a lot of celebrations in Accra, which
       were visited by one president and many ministers. You
       go back to your village and talk to your friend about
       how beautiful the celebration was (but you don't talk
       about who was there). Your friend asks you whether
       you saw anyone. You say...:](Renans, 2016)

   a. ɔ̀-ma-nɔ̀   ɔ-kà-ɛ
       C$_2$SG-country-C$_2$SG.DEF C$_1$SG-father-C$_1$SG.DEF
       à-ba.
       AGR-come
       'The president came'

b. ɔ̀-ma-nɔ̀ (#ɔ-kà) à-ba.
c₂sg-country-c₂sg.def c₁sg-father agr-come
'The president came'

c. ɔ̀-ma-nɔ̀ ɔ-kà-(#yà) à-ba.
c₂sg-country-c₂sg.def c₁sg-father-dem agr-come
'The president came'

d. ɔ̀-ma-nɔ̀ ɔ-kà-(#lɔ̀) à-ba.
c₂sg-country-c₂sg.def c₁sg-father-dem agr-come
'The president came'

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Global situation

- ⊡ Global situation refers to entities whose knowledge is shared by everyone in the world.
- ⊡ Global referents such as, moon and sun, are intrinsically unique in any case.
- ⊡ In Avatime, global entities like sun and moon always occur with definite articles.

Global situation I

(31) [Context:Yayra slept and woke up late in the afternoon. The next day she is telling Edem. When I woke up yesterday...]

a. Li-wò-le   lìí-kle.
C3SG-sun-C3SG.DEF AGR.IPFV-shine
'The sun was shinning'

b. #Li-wò   lìí-kle.
C3SG-sun AGR.IPFV-shine
'The sun was shinning'

Global situation II

    c. Li-wò-(#yà)   lìí-kle.
       C3SG-sun-DEM AGR.IPFV-shine
       'The sun was shinning'

    d. Li-wò-(#lɔ̀)   lìí-kle.
       C3SG-sun-DEM AGR.IPFV-shine
       'The sun was shinning'

(32) [Context: Elinam woke up late at night. When he woke up...]

    a. ɔ́-dzidzi-ɛ̀   èé-kle.
       C1SG-moon-C1SG.DEF AGR.IPFV-shine

Global situation III

      'The moon was shining'

b. #ɔ́-dzidzi   èé-kle.
   C_1SG-moon AGR.IPFV-shine
   'The moon was shining'

c. ɔ́-dzidzi-(#yà)   èé-kle.
   C_1SG-moon-DEM AGR.IPFV-shine
   'The moon was shining'

d. ɔ́-dzidzi-(#lɔ̀)   èé-kle.
   C_1SG-moon-DEM AGR.IPFV-shine
   'The moon was shining'

Bridging cases I

☐ **Part-whole bridging**: a relationship exists between a previously mentioned entity and the referent of the definite in question

> (33)   [Context: Afetor is telling Agbetsi what she heard on the news...]
>
>   a. O-ze   e-tuku   ò-hu-lo
>   C$_1$SG-thief AGR-enter C$_2$SG-car-C$_2$SG.DEF
>   mὲ.   E-zulu   à-ga-là.
>   inside. AGR-steal C$_3$PL-tyre-C$_3$PL.DEF
>   'A thief broke into a car. He stole the tyres.'

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Bridging cases II

b. E-zulu   (#à-ga).
   AGR-steal C3PL-tyre
   'He stole the tyres.'

c. E-zulu   à-ga-(#yà).
   AGR-steal C3PL-tyre-DEM
   'He stole the tyres.''

d. E-zulu   à-ga-(#lò).
   AGR-steal C3PL-tyre-DEM
   'He stole the tyres.'

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Bridging cases III

⊡ **Product-producer Bridging**: the pre-mentioned entity has an established link with a different entity that fits the definite description.

(34) [Context: Yesterday, Adzo went to the market. She is telling her mother what happened. 'When I went to the market...]

a. Mè-dzi   a-wu   tie-tsu.
1SG.SBJ-buy C$_3$PL-dress C$_3$PL-five.
ɔ̀-dɔkame-ɛ̀   ɔ-nu
C$_1$SG-tailor-C$_1$SG.DEF AGR-be
mo-bi-e.
AGR.POSS-friend-C$_1$SG.DEF

Bridging cases IV

'I brought five dresses. The tailor is my friend.'

b. #ɔ̀-dɔkame ɔ-nu   mo-bi-e.
C_1SG-tailor AGR-be AGR.POSS-friend-C_1SG.DEF
' The tailor is my friend.'

c. ɔ̀-dɔkame-(#yà) ɔ-nu   mo-bi-e.
C_1SG-tailor-DEM AGR-be AGR.POSS-friend-C_1SG.DEF
'The tailor is my friend.'

d. ɔ̀-dɔkame-(#lɔ̀) ɔ-nu   mo-bi-e.
C_1SG-tailor-DEM AGR-be AGR.POSS-friend-C_1SG.DEF
'The tailor is my friend.'

Recognitional Uses

⊡ In recognitional reading, the DP refers to an entity has been mentioned or experienced a long time ago.

⊡ The speaker gives subsequent additional information because he/she is uncertain whether the addressee can identify the referent properly (Duah et al., 2021).

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(35)   [Context: Elinam and Mawuenya go to a party, they
       watch one man dancing. The following day, Elinam says
       to Mawuenya: After the party...]

   a. ɔ-kà-lɔ̂   a-zɛ   me   nɔmba.
      $c_1$sg-man-DEM AGR-take 1SG.POSS number
      'That certain man asked me for my number.

   b. ɔ-ka-ɛ   a-zɛ   me   nɔmba
      c_1SG-man-c_1SG.DEF AGR-take 1SG.POSS number
      'That certain man asked me for my number'

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(36) [Context: Ganyo and Senyo are talking about different people in their hometown Gbadzeme. Ganyo suddenly remembers another person that he wants to ask Senyo about]

    a. Wɔ-plânɔ   ɔ-dɔbasi-lɔ̀.   Iliyɛ
       C$_1$SG.SBJ-remember C$_1$SG-teacher-DEM. That.one
       gi   Yayra a-demanɔ.
       REL Yayra C$_1$SG-like

       'Do you remember that teacher. The one that Yayra liked.'

b. Wɔ-plânɔ ɔ-dɔbasi-ɛ̀.
C$_1$SG.SBJ-remember C$_1$SG-teacher-C$_1$SG.DEF.

Iliyɛ gi Yayra a-demanɔ.
That.one REL Yayra C$_1$SG-like

'Do you remember that teacher. The one that Yayra liked.

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Generic/Kind reading

- ⊡ In Avatime, arguments receive generic/kind reading via the
  definite articles.

  (37) a. Ku-drɔwi-o   ki-de   kpɛ   o-zi.
            C6PL-dog-DET AGR-like cause C1SG-noise.
            'Dogs bark'

        b. #Ku-drɔwi ki-de   kpɛ   o-zi.
            C6PL-dog   AGR-like cause C1SG-noise.
            'Dogs bark'

(38) a. Dzàtá-ὲ   ɛ-nu   ɔ-ga   gi
          dzàtá-C$_1$SG.DEF AGR.be C$_1$SG-animal REL
          wɔ́-tá-mɔ̀   ní   Ghana.
          2SG:NEG-INT-see LOC Ghana
          'The lion is a rare animal in Ghana'

      b. #Dzàta   ɛ-nu   ɔ-ga   gi
          dzàtá-C$_1$SG.DEF AGR.be C$_1$SG-animal REL
          wɔ́-tá-mɔ̀   ní   Ghana.
          2SG:NEG-INT-see LOC Ghana
          'The lion is a rare animal in Ghana'

Table 3: Definiteness in Avatime

	SITUATIONAL USES						BRIDGING	
	Glo.	Imme.	Larger	Ana.	Reg.	Deixis	P/W	P/P
BN	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
DEF	√	√	√	√	√	*	√	√
P.DEM	*	*	*	*	*	√	*	*
D.DEM	*	*	*	√	√	√	*	*

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Conclusion

- ⊡ The definite markers occur in both anaphoric and unique environments. The distal demonstrative can also be used in certain anaphoric contexts.

- ⊡ Bare nouns only have indefinite interpretations.

- ⊡ Demonstratives and definite articles give rise to recognitional reading.

- ⊡ Generic/Kind reading is shifted through the definite articles.

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