# Typology Checklist - ESF working group on NP structure
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## Number

1. Which grammatical numbers are distinguished (singular-plural, singular-dual-plural, etc)?

2. How is number expressed?

    2.1 *lexically*: are there separate words meaning , say 'plural'?   (It would be surprising to find such cases in Europe.)

    2.2 *morphologically*

    2.2.1 which means are used?
    inflectional:          prefixing,          suffixing,          infixing, ambifixing
    other - suppletion, reduplication

    2.2.2 which lexical categories carry the morphological markers - nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, others?

    2.2.3 within the lexical categories, are all items involved?  (i. e. if adjectives mark number, do all or only some adjectives mark number?)  It is common for nouns to be defective (singularia tantum, pluralia tantum etc);  if so which are involved? Sometimes there are types of noun (e. g. abstracts, mass nouns) which can be predicted to be defective.

    2.3 *syntactically*

    2.3.1 is there a matching of number marking between different elements (especially in the NP) which could be characterized as agreement?

    2.3.2 if so, are there instances where such matching is violated (e. g. English <u>The committee have decided</u>, Norwegian <u>Pannekaker er godt</u> 'Pancakes is good')?

    2.3.3 are there particular syntactic complications where numerals are involved?

3. Relation to other categories

    Particularly within the NP how does number interact with:

    3.1 gender (taken widely to include animacy etc)

    3.2 case

3.3   person

3.4   other


**Gender**

1. To claim that a language has gender requires agreement evidence (otherwise, for example, English nouns in **-**<u>ness</u> could be claimed to form an abstract gender).

  1.1   how many sets of gender agreeing forms are there (how many "target genders")?

  2.2   how many sets of nouns do these divide nouns into (how many "controller genders")?

  In many languages of Europe the two questions give the same answer. Thus French adjectives (pronouns etc) have two sets of forms, masculine and feminine (exemplars of two target genders) which serve to divide nouns into two sets (controller genders).   But in Rumanian, which is partially similar to French, a large number of nouns take the same agreements as masculine when singular and as feminines when plural. Like French, Rumanian has two target genders, but it has three controller genders: masculine, feminine and neuter (or ambigeneric).

  1.3   How are nouns assigned to gender?

     1.3.1   semantic assignment (the meaning determines gender)

     1.3.2   morphological assignment (the inflectional paradigm of the noun determines gender)

     1.3.3   phonological assignment (the shape of a single form - the base form - is sufficient)

     Note: morphological and phonological assignment are found only as supplements to semantic assignment.

2. The *morphology* of gender

  2.1   how is gender marked?
     inflectionally - prefixing, suffixing, infixing, ambifixing suppletion

  2.2   which lexical categories are carry gender markers?
     verbs, adjectives, pronouns, others.

  2.3   within the lexical categories are all items involved (i.e. if adjectives mark gender do all adjectives mark gender)?

3. The *syntax* of gender

3.1 of the items in 2.2, are there any whose marking of gender is syntactically determined (e. g. German adjectives can mark gender within the NP but not in predicative use)?

3.2 are there instances where agreement in gender is violated?

4. Relations to other categories

4.1 number (unless dealt with under number)

4.2 case (there may be syncretism in certain cases)

4.3 person

4.4 other (eg tense, definiteness)

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR HELP**

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