

NOUN-NOUN COMPOUNDS IN REUNION CREOLE

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INTRODUCTION

- Most frequent & productive constructions

(1) rulo papyé
roll paper
'toilet roll'

(2) kari volay
curry chicken
'chicken curry'

- Noun-noun compounds $[N+N]_N$, endocentric (new N is hyponym of one of the éléments : *chicken curry* is a *curry*)

INTRODUCTION

- (1) et (2) expected in a French-related creole language:
 - Head position in French: head-initial
 - NN compounds in French :
 - [N+prep+N] i.e. head noun + preposition + modifier noun very productive (Ten Hacken 2013, Bourque 2014)
 - *de* in compounds sometimes considered un (former) genitive marker (Ten Hacken 2013); or a *linker* (cf. Nicoladis 2002, Bourque 2014).
 - General developments observed in these creole languages:
 - Adopted essentially lexical (spatial ; temporal) prepositions from French, and dispensed with grammatical prepositions (cf. Syea 2017:181)

INTRODUCTION

- **Autres constructions plus surprenantes**

3. kari lo-ton
curry *lo* tuna
'tuna curry'

Determiner?

4. bar-d-kou
bar *d* neck
'neck'

Preposition?

5. farine la-pli
flour la-rain
'very light rain'

**Head-final
construction?**

OUTLINE

- Elements such as /lɔ/ in (3) sometimes present in compounds cannot be analysed as determiners and that compounds are formally distinguished from genitives.
- /d/ in complex nouns like in (4) cannot be analysed as a preposition here, and that such nouns are lexicalised, fixed expressions.
- Have a closer look at head-final compounds such as in (5) (meaning, classification) and suggest that these structures may result from language contact

1. Introduction
2. **Compounds vs. génitives**
3. Compounds with /d/
4. Head position
5. Head-final compounds
6. Conclusion

PLAN

COMPOUNDS VS. GENITIVES

- **Compounding**
 - Combination of two or more lexemes (roots, stems, and free words, cf. Bauer 2011)
 - Frontier with structure built by syntax not always clear, matter of debate
- ❖ **Genitive constructions**
 - the non-head denotes an individual;
- ❖ **Compounds**
 - The non-head denotes a class/set of individuals and is thus not referential.
 - determiners do not usually appear in compounds

PRESENCE OF DETERMINERS

6. a. zonou gramoun
knee old.people
'old people's knee(s)'

b. grif papang
claw harrier
'raptor claws'

7. a. manzé **lo** koson
food DET pig
'the pig's food'

b. kari **lo-ton**
curry /o-tuna
'tuna curry'

Element **lo** between two Ns in 7

PRESENCE OF DETERMINERS

6. a. zonou gramoun
knee old.people
'old people's knee(s)' (*genitive*)

b. grif papang
claw harrier
'raptor claws' (*compound*)

7. a. manzé lo koson
food DET pig
'the pig's food' (*genitive*)

b. kari lo-ton
curry /o-tuna
'tuna curry' (*compound*)

(6a) and (7a) are genitive constructions:
a genitive always expresses a relation
between a possessor and a possessee.

(6b) and (7b) are compounds: denotation
of NN = subset of the denotation of the
head noun (Nikolaeva & Spencer 2010).
Grif papang: claw of the raptor's species
or type; *kari lo-ton*: type of curry.

1. BARE NOUN PHRASES IN GENITIVES

6. a. zonou gramoun
knee old.people
'old people's knee(s)' (*genitive*)

8. lakaz monom
lahouse mom
'Mom's house'

9. Gro-zo zonou
big-bone knee
'bone of my knee'

Referential status of possessor NP

- Réyoné's definite determiner *lo* reserved for a certain type of definiteness only
- Certain NPs are bare :

Generic NPs, proper names,
situational definites, and some
others

1. BARE NOUN PHRASES IN GENITIVES

- A binominal expression without a determiner which occurs in a context that excludes bare noun phrases is necessarily a compound, not a genitive

10. a. Pran in zèl lo papang. – Kèl papang ?
take DET wing DET Reunion.harrier which Reunion.harrier
'Take a wing of the harrier. – Which harrier?'

b. Pran in zèl papang. – #Kèl papang ?
take DET wing Reunion.harrier which Reunion.harrier
'Take a harrier wing. – Which harrier?'

EXAMPLES (6)-(7)

6. a. zonou gramoun
knee old.people
'old people's knee(s)' (genitive)

b. grif papang
claw harrier
'raptor claws' (compound)

7. a. manzé lo koson
food DET pig
'the pig's food' (genitive)

b. kari lo-ton
curry /o-tuna
'tuna curry' (compound)

➤ Difference between (6a) and (7a)
related to interpretation of modifier:
(6a) 'old people' generic
(7a) refers to a specific pig

What about the contrast in (6b) - (7b)
(*grif papang* vs. *kari lo-ton*) ?

➤ Phonological

N *LO-N* CONSTRUCTIONS ARE COMPOUNDS

- *kari lo-ton* : truly compounds, not genitives.
 - Genitives' constituents may undergo modification whereas, a compound's constituents may not (Bourque 2014)
 - A compound's constituents may not serve as a reference for an anaphoric pronoun

11. a. kari lo (*bèl) ton
curry /o big tuna

b. kari lo ton (*la trap yér)
curry /o tuna PRF catch yesterday

12. La prépar in kari lo-ton. #Li / sa té gro.
PRF prepare a curry /o-tuna. 3sg 3sg PST big

'They prepared a tuna curry. It was big.'

2. *LO* IN COMPOUNDS: PHONOLOGICAL MATERIAL

6. a. zonou gramoun
knee old.people
'old people's knee(s)' (*genitive*)

b. grif papang
claw harrier
'raptor claws' (*compound*)

7. a. manzé **lo** koson
food DET pig
'the pig's food' (*genitive*)

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curry /o-tuna
'tuna curry' (*compound*)

Lo in (7a) vs. *lo* in (7b) : not the same element

- Both evolved from the French definite article *le*
- Synchronically, homonyms (lexical split)

- Determiner
- Phonological material used to build an allomorph

2. *lɔ* IN COMPOUNDS: PHONOLOGICAL MATERIAL

- Depending on the structure, one or the other allomorph is used.
- When monosyllabic nouns only contain a light syllable, i.e., a syllable without a complex rime, *lo-* can attach to them to build a longer / heavier form of the noun, such as *lo-ton* out of *ton* or *lo-zi* ‘juice’ out of *zi*.
- The long form is mandatory in bare NPs, which require a noun with a minimal phonological weight (cf. Albers 2020).
- The same applies to the modifier noun in compounds ; we can illustrate this with the following example:

2. *LO* IN COMPOUNDS: PHONOLOGICAL MATERIAL

13. a. kari *(lo)-ton
curry /o-tuna
'tuna curry'

b. kari volay; kari kamaron
curry chicken curry shrimp
'chicken curry / shrimp curry'

c. manzé *(lo)-syin
food /o-dog
'dog food'

d. manzé koson
food pig
'pig food' or 'leftovers'

2. *lo* IN COMPOUNDS: PHONOLOGICAL MATERIAL

- Similar to other languages, (see Ten Hacken 2013), a modifier noun in compounds cannot figure with a determiner, in Réyoné.

14. Sa sé in kouvértir (*lo) marmit.
'This is a pot lid.'

15. a. manzé koson
 food pig
 'pig food' or 'leftovers' (*compound*)
 b. manzé lo koson
 food DET pig
 'the pig's food' (*genitive*)

SUMMARY COMPOUNDS VS GENITIVES

- Compounds and genitives formally distinguished in Reunion Creole.
- Element *lo* sometimes present in compounds is not a determiner.
- Determiners can only figure in genitive constructions, where bare nouns are also felicitous, depending on the context/ interpretation.

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3. **Compounds with /d/**
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PLAN

COMPOUNDS WITH /D/ ([D] [N] [T])

- Borrowings & lexicalized, fixed expressions (fixed meaning).

16. rézin-*n*-mèr – *rézin la-mér
grape-*n*-sea grape la-sea
'seagrape / *coccoloba uvifera*'

- *Rézin la-mér*
 - could be used to create a neologism & denote a new grape variety
 - cannot denote seagrape / *coccoloba uvifera*.
- *Rézin-n-mèr*: may not be used for a real grape variety

COMPOUNDS WITH /d/ ([D] [N] [T])

- /d/ can only occur in these lexicalized structures , not in others

17. *bonbon-d-pwason ; *kari-d-ton ; *rougay-d-mori

'bonbon pwason (biscuit of fish-form); tuna curry; *rougail morue* (salt cod dish)

COMPOUNDS WITH /D/ ([D] [N] [T])

- Are some productive ?
- *gou-d-piman* ‘taste of pepper’ / ‘pepper flavor’; *gou-d-zirof* ‘taste of clove’ / ‘clove flavor’; *gou-d-sèl* ‘taste of salt’; *kout-pyos* ‘pickaxe stroke’; *kout-pèl* ‘spade stroke’; *kout-pyé* ‘kick’

18. Na in gou pistas.
 there.is a taste peanut
 ‘There is a taste of peanut / peanut flavor.’

➤ **Probably not**

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HEAD OF COMPOUNDS

- Head prototypically imposes a set of semantic, morphological and categorical features on the compound as a whole (Pepper 2016)
 - Compound usually a hyponym of the head (a field mouse is a kind of mouse).
 - Semantic features such as animacy or ontological features transferred from the head (cf. Fábregas & Masini 2015).
 - Grammatical features such as gender inherited from the head.
 - The word class of the compound is typically the same as that of the head.

HEAD OF RÉYONÉ NOUN-NOUN COMPOUNDS

- No agreement in Réyoné
- Constituents of binominal compounds are of the same class
- Semantic criteria

HEAD OF RÉYONÉ NOUN-NOUN COMPOUNDS

19. bonbon pwason

cookie fish

'fish cookie' (special cookie of the form of a fish)

- Fish-biscuit = type of biscuit (not a fish); football field = special type of field (not a football)

20. térin foutbol

field football

'football field'

- One can **eat** cake but not herbal tea

➤ Head : N1

21. N' a manz in gato tizane.

2PL FUT eat a cake herbal.tea

'We will eat a herbal-tea cake.'

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SECOND TYPE OF COMPOUND IN RÉYONÉ

- Usual structure: [XY]_Z, where Z is an X (head-modifier order)
- Some very different:

22. [farine la-pli]
flour /a.pli
'fine rain'

23. [papa pwason]
father fish
'big fish'

24. a. [mal kabri]
male goat
b. [mal lo-sat]
male /o.cat
'male goat / cat'
c. [fomèl lapin]
female rabbit
'female rabbit'

SECOND TYPE OF COMPOUND IN RÉYONÉ

- N1: Adjective-like, but do not have distribution of adjectives

25. *Li lé mal.
3sg COP bad
'He/she is male.'

26. Sé in mal.
COP a male
'It's a male.'

27. *pli farine
more flour (flour-ier)

SECOND TYPE OF COMPOUND IN RÉYONÉ

- Degree of productiveness?

28. in [bébèt modèl]

a monster model

'a tremendous model'

- Structures $[XY]_Z$, where Z is a Y
 - Réyoné thus has both head-initial and head-final structures/noun-noun compounds.
 - Unusual in the languages of the world and often results from language contact (Pepper 2016:2086).

SEMANTIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HEAD-INITIAL AND HEAD-FINAL COMPOUNDS

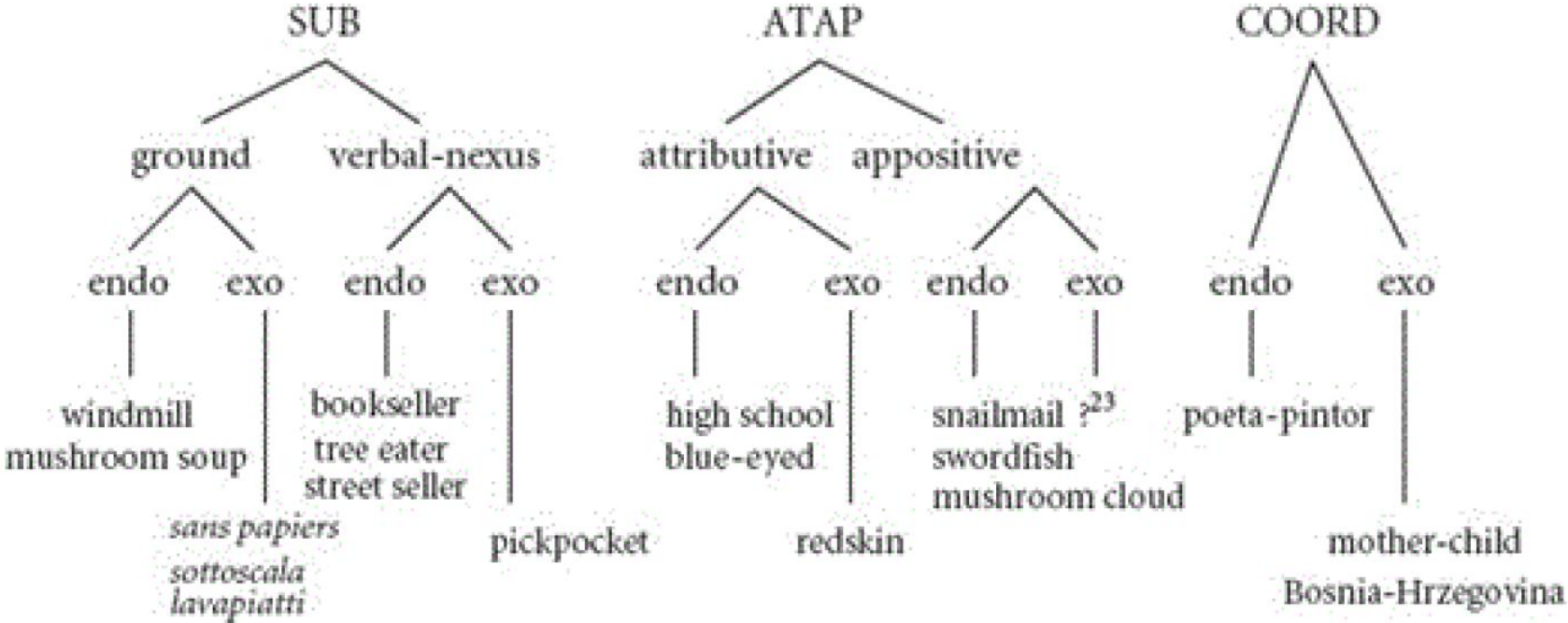
29. a. [baba mai]
baby corn
'young ear of corn'
- b. [baba sifon]
baby cloth
'doll'
- c. [kanz mai]
kanz corn
'corn mush'
- d. [mai koson]
corn pig
'corn for pigs'

- Relation denoted by a head-final structure (a) is different
- Establishes a sort of evaluation of N2, meaning 'N2 is an N1', called BE-function by some authors (Levi 1978; Jackendoff 2010).
- Evaluation often metaphorical in nature

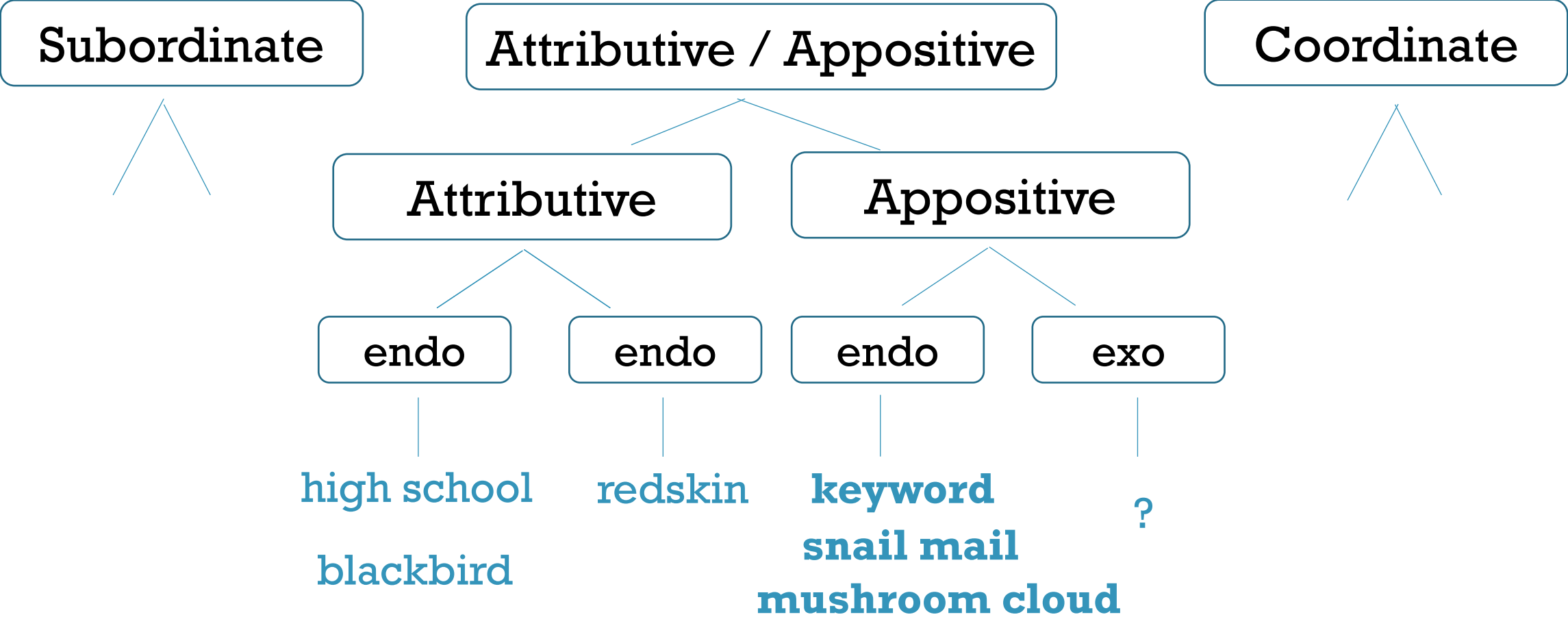
SEMANTIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HEAD-INITIAL AND HEAD-FINAL COMPOUNDS

- *Bébèt modèl* : model which is a 'monster'
- *Papa pwason* : fish that is a 'father'
- *Farine la-pli* : rain that is flour-like
- *Baba mai* : corn that is a 'baby'

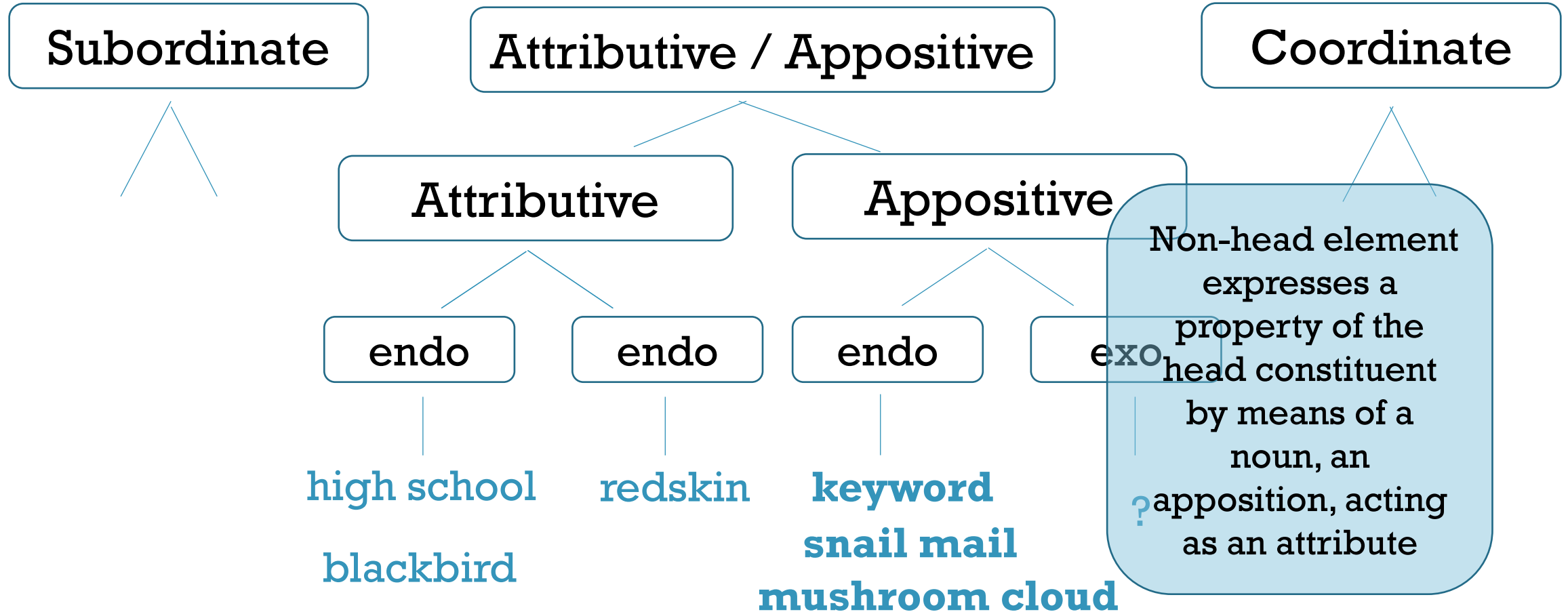
SCALISE & BISETTO (2011)



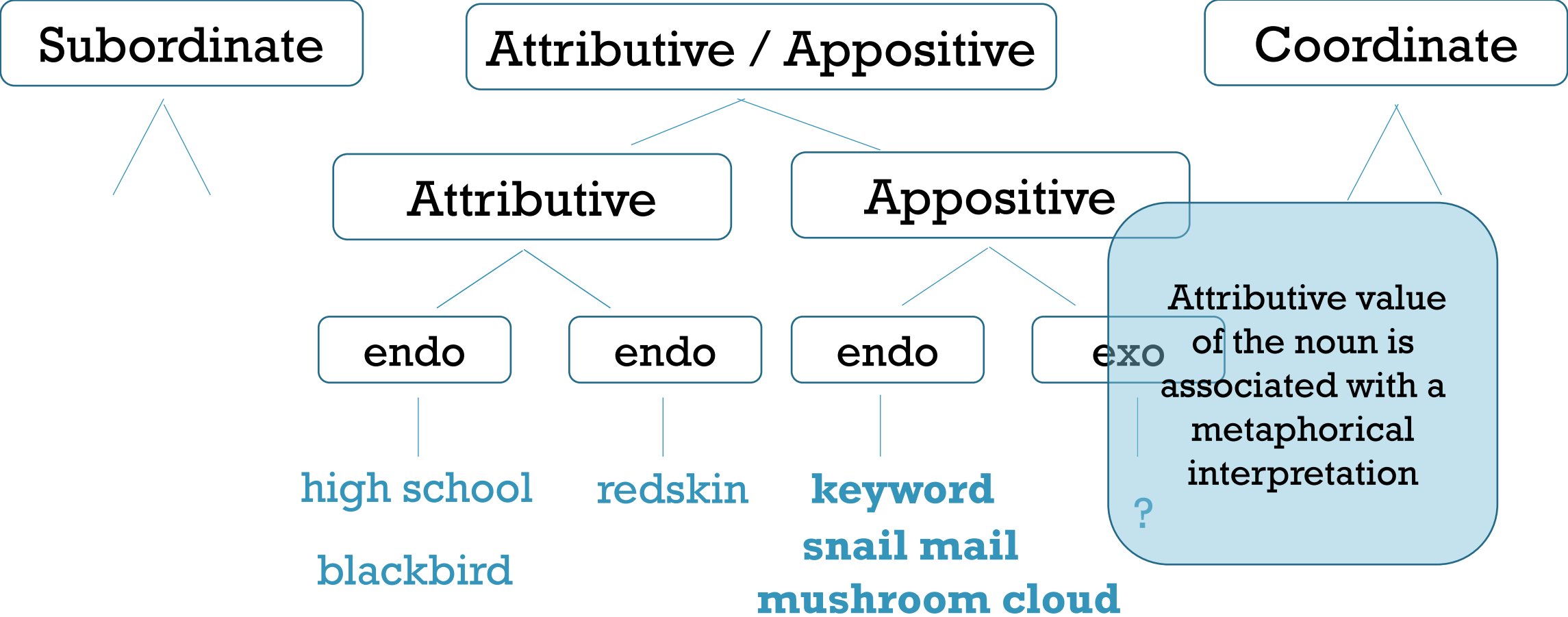
SCALISE & BISETTO (2011)



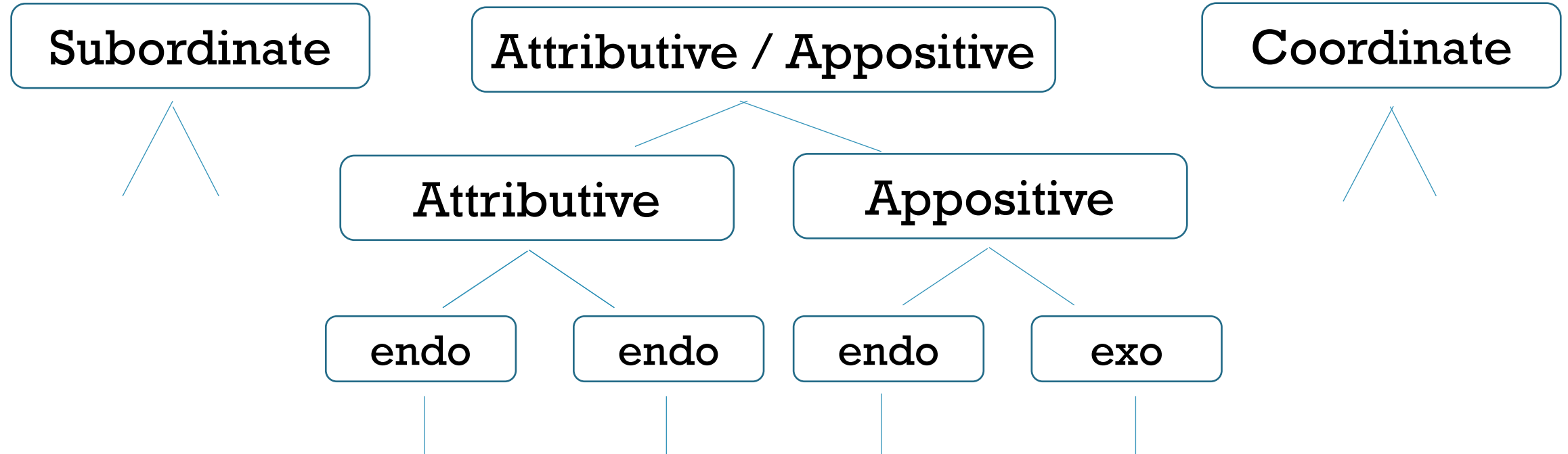
SCALISE & BISETTO (2011)



SCALISE & BISETTO (2011)



APPOSITIVE COMPOUNDS IN FRENCH



mot clé

succès monstre
visite éclair
poisson chat

(Villoing 2012:56)

➤ [N+N]

SUGGESTION

- Very productive French [N+prep+N] head-initial structures gave rise to the most frequent com-pounding strategy in Réyoné
- ATAP appositive compounds, establishing a metaphorical relation, on the other hand, are of a different, less productive structure in French.
- This fact could be the reason why Réyoné has not retained the typical French head order, for these, and has rather resorted to one or more of its (potential) substrate languages (Tamil or other Indian languages).

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PLAN

SUMMARY

- General formation of NN compounds
- Other unexpected structures
 - some containing an additional element between the nouns
 - some with a different head position
- Elements such as /lə/ or /d/ are neither determiners nor prepositions
- Both left-headed and right-headed nominal compounds; could result from language contact
- Head-final compounds
 - metaphoric in nature;
 - constitute the class of appositive endocentric compounds
 - not expressed by the usual very productive structure [N1+de+N2] in French – this could be the reason why Réyoné has rather resorted to one or more of the substrate languages



THANK YOU
MÉRISI