

Pronouns Expression of Quantity: French *plusieurs, certains, quelques* and their Slovene equivalents

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This contribution contrastively examines the expression of indefinite quantity with pronouns and determiners in French, as well as their Slovene equivalents. The main concern of the contribution is the semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic analysis along with a discourse analysis of the French quantifiers *plusieurs, certains* and *quelques*, and their Slovene equivalents. In French, these quantifiers are classified as indefinite determiners and pronouns, but differ in this respect from their Slovene equivalents, which represent adjectival or nominal pronouns. A number of carefully selected semantic terms taken from both languages gives a more or less accurate account on the existence, identity, and quantity of the animate or inanimate nature of a particular object, without precisely defining it. In general, French quantifiers differ in their morphological structure: *certain* agrees in gender and number, *quelques* only in number, and *plusieurs* remains unchanging. In Slovene, these quantifiers can be translated with the help of some adjectives that normally remain unchanged, even though a rise in the inflection of adjectives has been noticed lately.

The focal point of the paper is the interpretation and the textualization of three selected French quantitative determiners, and the factors that influence their occurrence in text. The contribution will also touch upon the problem of translating these determiners into Slovene, and will propose a set of equivalents that might be used in Slovene.

How to choose the most appropriate translation if one of the languages offers several different possible equivalents? How do the semantic, syntactic and pragmatic planes and their interaction influence the choice-making process?

Finally, the paper will analyze why the logical use of language in certain sentence structures cannot support the substitution or replacement of a number of very similar French and Slovene indefinite determiners and pronouns.