

Bare *sin*-PPs: Pseudoincorporation and gradability

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We develop a formal account of the syntactic and semantic properties of Spanish adnominal PP modifiers headed by *sin* (“without”) where the preposition selects for a singular or plural bare noun as complement — henceforth *sin*-PPs —, (1). Specifically, we investigate: a) the syntactic-semantic properties of pseudo-incorporation, and b) the interaction between countability, degree quantification and negation in these structures.

- (1) a. un cinturón sin hebilla (lit. “a belt without clasp”)
b. un hombre sin corbata (lit. “a man without tie”)
c. una habitación sin luz (lit. “a room without light”)
d. un problema sin importancia (lit. “a problem without importance”)
e. una piel sin arrugas (lit. “a skin without spots”)
f. una tierra sin piedras (lit. “a lot without stones”)

For the analysis, we explore the properties of two not-well understood syntactic-semantic operations: pseudo-incorporation and coercion.