The syntax-semantics of Bare Nouns in English and in BrP.

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I argue that the results from experiments on the distribution and interpretation of Bare Nouns in English is accounted by Chierchia (2010, 2015) but not those Brazilian Portuguese. I will argue that these are two grammars of the noun phrase. Experimental data on English (Scontras et al, 2017; Pires de Oliveira & Bevilaqua, 2018) shows that the Bare Singular in English is mass when in comparison (*who has more house?*). This is exactly what Chierchia (2010, 2015) predicts for English: the singular predicate *house* denotes a set of atomic houses which is "coerced" into mass because comparison requires cumulativity.

The behavior of the BS in Brazilian is totally different. It is both interpreted by the number of individuals and is measure as mass. In Brazilian, the BS seems to be mass and count which looks like paradoxical. Pires de Oliveira & Bevilaqua (in review) show that the BS in BrP is an outlier, because it does not carry any information about atomicity. Thus, it might be counted or measured as *furniture* type of nouns in English and nouns phrases in Yudja (Scontras et al, 2017). We argue that kinds are atomic-less entities. They are not mass nouns (against Rothstein, 2017). Mass nouns in BrP are not atomic. This explains why mass nouns cannot combine with the plural morpheme, nor with numerals. If this is so, then atomicity in BrP is not lexically conveyed, as it is in English, but, in Pelletier's terminology, the BS in BrP is less mass and less coun; it is constructional (Pelletier, XX).

If this is so the plural morpheme in BrP behaves as a classifier which shifts the kind into a plural individual, a sum. This view explains the distribution of the Bare Singular in BrP: it goes with operators that select for atoms (muitos menino, os menino) or with those that do not (muito menino/muita lama). Thus, although both languages have a plural morpheme, a Bare Plural (*table-s* and *mesa-s*), it does not do the same job in the two languages. In English, [-s] is a sum operator (Chierchia, 2010, 2015); in BrP it has to be shifter from kinds to atomic sums.

Theoretically, our proposal is that languages may start from different ontologies: atomic predicate or kinds. English starts as an atomic language, as suggested by Chierchia (2010, 2015). Mandarin is a kind language (Chierchia 2010, 2015). Brazilian Portuguese is a kind language which has a plural morpheme. Mandarin is a classifier language. Thus, although English and BrP are number marking language, they have different grammars because they start from different points.