



but had one.PL two cases when not succeed

'But there were two (specific) cases in which I failed.' [SketchEngine, bgTenTen12: 62821614]

*Edin* can have non-specific interpretation in generic sentences (6), which is a feature generally attributed to indefinite articles (cf. Geist 2013). In these cases, I propose that *edin* is reanalysed as the head D, the position canonically associated with articles. I also adopt Giusti's (2002) view that articles are nothing but functional heads which spell out nominal features bundled with abstract Case, while the interpretation of the whole expression takes place in SpecDP through overt elements or silent operators. In fact, in these instances *edin* displays article-like properties: it can be substituted by the definite article (7), it is unstressed (cf. Alexander 2000: 55) and cannot be focalized (8), and it cannot license a null nominal (9) (grammaticality judgments provided by native speakers).

(6) Statističeski edin bâlgarin živee sredno 75 godini.  
statistically one.M Bulgarian lives on-average 75 years

'Statistically a Bulgarian lives on average 75 years.'

(7) Statističeski {bâlgarin-ât živee / bâlgari-te živejat} sredno 75 godini.  
statistically Bulgarian-the lives Bulgarians-the live on-average 75 years

(8) #EDNA žena vinagi e prava.

ONE woman always is right

'A certain woman is always right.'

(9) [Talking about Bulgarians] \*Statističeski edin živee sredno 75 godini.  
statistically one.M lives on-average 75 years

The depicted changes *edin* underwent reflect a perfect process of grammaticalization which is guided by two main Economy principles: Late Merge Principle (LMP: 'merge as late as possible'), and Head Preference Principle (HPP: 'be a head rather than a phrase') (cf. van Gelderen 2011). This process thus displays the features typical of grammaticalization paths in the minimalist approach to grammaticalization proposed by Roberts & Roussou (2003): (i) upwards movement in the functional hierarchy, (ii) phonetic weakening, and (iii) semantic bleaching. The process can be schematically represented as follows (leaving aside the projections between NumP and NP):

[DP [NumP *edin* [Num] [NP N]]] > (LMP) > [DP *edin* [D] [NumP [NP N]]] > (HPP) > [DP [D *edin*] [NumP [NP N]]]

The functions *edin* assumes in the process can be in part predicted by looking at the syntax underlying it. Let us assume following Givón (1981) that numerals always imply referentiality, and that the human cognition focuses on this feature (letting the quantitative feature "fade away"). Since movement always targets a higher position in the syntactic hierarchy and given the need of satisfying the requirement of referentiality, the only available position inside the nominal expression is the leftmost specifier position (as *edin* starts out in SpecNumP), i.e., SpecDP. At that point, *edin* finds itself at the left edge of the nominal expression, without any possibility of moving higher (since that would mean moving outside the nominal expression). Thus, the only possible change it may undergo is the reanalysis of the specifier into a head, giving rise to an article-like behavior of *edin* in certain contexts. The constraints syntax imposes on possible operations may in fact be the source of the consistency of the stages 'one' goes through cross-linguistically: assuming syntactic representations are universal, it follows naturally that these representations drive this grammaticalization path in the same way (despite the parametric differences among different languages).

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## Contact

Luca Molinari  
Ph.D. student in Linguistics  
University of Warsaw  
Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28  
00-927 Warsaw  
Poland  
[l.molinari@uw.edu.pl](mailto:l.molinari@uw.edu.pl)  
&  
Ph.D. in Language Sciences  
Ca' Foscari University of Venice  
Dorsoduro 3246  
30123 Venice  
Italy  
[luca.molinari@unive.it](mailto:luca.molinari@unive.it)