This study aims to answer three questions regarding the structure of bare nouns in Azeri. The first problem addresses individuated nouns that have transnumeral reading. As (1) illustrates, atomized nouns in the absence of cardinals or plural marker refer to general number, Corbett (2000). I argue that individuation in Azeri is realized by a null head and this yields individuated nouns that are not marked by plural morphology. Hereby, I argue that individuation does not necessarily have a morphological instantiation, in (1).

(1) Dünən kitap al-dim. (Azeri)
yesterday a/more book(s) bought-1SG
‘I bought a/some books yesterday.’

The second problem addresses the distribution of measure words in Azeri. In Borer (2005) modifiers like measure words are considered as division that are initially generated as an NP. The problem of adopting this idea is ungrammatical structures such as (2) where the measure head cannot occur in the absence of a numeral. There is no reason for the measure head not to appear except that it is not an NP. I suggest that measure words are projected under UnitP, (Ott, 2011). Furthermore, I propose that in such cases the combination of numeral and classifier creates a feature bundle that cannot be spelled out unless one (classifier) is selected by the other (numeral).

(2) *iki şüşə süt (Azeri)
two bottles milk
‘two bottles of milk’

In summary, I argue that division in Azeri does not have a morphological instantiation. Plural assigns number and classifiers (measure words/collective nouns) are projected in the unit head introducing a dependency with the higher functional head (numeral).
References


