

Mass nouns productively combine with plural in some languages to yield “partitioned” or “apportioned” readings. In this talk I focus on one such language, Nez Perce, with an eye to the grammatical locus of semantic variation regarding such readings. I argue that partitioned readings do not reflect special properties of noun meaning or plural meaning, nor a covert pseudopartitive head. Rather, they involve low functional structure or semantic rules applying just above the level of NP, potentially equally applicable to mass and count NPs.