

This theoretical thesis deals with the relationship between two kinds of determiners in French: the definite article and the demonstrative adjective. As they have the same distribution, we can call this relationship the rivalry. The present work tries to promote the comprehension of this specific subject by assembling all available theories and other contributions. Chapters are ranged according to their degree of generatization: we start by quite general approaches and progress to more and more specific ones.

The first chapter presents the general ground of our theme: noun determination. In the chapter two, we analyze some French grammar books in order to find some reference about the rivalry. The chapter three exposes selected theories that are related to the problem of the rivalry between the definite article and demonstrative adjective. The chapter four presents three classifications of use of demonstrative adjective. Even if this part of work seems not to be in close relation to the main subject, we found in these classifications many observations of the rivalry and that's why we devoted whole chapter to a brief synthesis of classifications. The chapter five gives a summary of the research carried out by Hélène Manuélian. In contrast to above mentioned works, the research of Manuélian is based on a corpus analysis and predicates about real language practice (the corpus included newspaper texts). The last chapter (chapter six) interrelates results of empirical work of Manuélian and theories presented in previous chapters. The aim is to find out if theories are able to explain the results that were obtained by corpus analysis.