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### **Yiddish and German noun phrases: a contrastive approach**

Although Yiddish and German are closely related, there are important syntactic differences between the two languages, of which the position of the verb is probably most prominent. In my paper I will present a contrastive approach to Yiddish and German by highlighting differences between noun phrase structures, which also display many differences. Most remarkably from a comparative point of view, Yiddish has given up the difference between “strong” and “weak” adjectives typical of Germanic languages (to the exception of the neuter):

- (1)a *der/a guter man* (Yiddish)  
the/a good man
- (1)b *der gute*                      *Mann* / *ein guter*                      *Mann* (German)  
the good:STRONG      man      the good:WEAK man

Then, in Yiddish noun phrases there are many constructions that are ungrammatical or atypical in German (and other West Germanic languages). For instance, the determiner position in Yiddish can be filled by more than one element, e.g. by a numeral plus article:

- (2)a *in eynem a tog* (Yiddish)
- (2)b *\*in einem ein Tag* (German)  
in one a day  
'in one day'

Also, in Yiddish but not in German possessive pronouns can appear to the right of the noun:

- (3)a *der khaver mayner* (Yiddish)
- (3)b *\*der Freund meiner* (German)  
the friend mine  
'my friend'

The same is even possible with attributive adjectives; however, if an attributive adjective is postponed, it must be accompanied by an article. Again, this structure is ungrammatical in German:

- (4)a *di oygn di grine* (Yiddish)
- (4)b *\*die Augen die grünen* (German)  
the eyes the green  
'the green eyes'

In my paper I will focus on such differences between Yiddish and German noun phrases. As a starting point I will use Standard Yiddish and Standard German, but I will also include different varieties from both languages. The goal of the paper is to account for the differences in a diachronic as well as in a structural manner.