
Chapter 4: Word Classes. French

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NOTE: Please remember that the writing system of a language is NOT evidence for linguistic claims. If you know how French is spelled, please don't allow that knowledge to corrupt your analysis!

1. mō pti frER ε meʃã 'My little brother is naughty.'
2. ma ptit sœR ε meʃãt 'My little sister is naughty.'
3. sō frER ε grã 'His brother is tall.'
4. sa sœR ε grãd 'His sister is tall.'
5. lø frER ε piø 'The brother is pious.'
6. la sœR ε piøz 'The sister is pious.'
7. la grãd pœrt ε blãʃ 'The big door is white.'
8. lø pti livR ε blã 'The little book is white.'
9. sa sœR ε frãsEZ 'His sister is French.'
10. sō frER ε frãSE 'His brother is French.'
11. ta sœR ε blød 'Your sister is blonde.'
12. tō grã frER ε blø 'Your big brother is blonde.'
13. ta sœR va a lekøl 'Your sister walks to school.'
14. tō frER va a lekøl 'Your brother walks to school.'
15. ʒø vwa yn pœrt 'I see a door.'
16. ʒø vwa la pœrt 'I see the door.'
17. ʒø vwa ã livR 'I see a book.'
18. ʒø vwa lø livR 'I see the book.'

A. Does French have a class of adjectives distinct from the class of verbs? Give the evidence from these data that supports your answer.

B. In these data, which word classes overtly express gender in French? List the example numbers that illustrate your answer. Is it grammatical gender or biological gender?

C. For each class of words that expresses gender morphologically (in these data), which morphological process is involved? State each morphological rule in prose.