

# THE MORPHOSYNTAX OF KINSHIP TERMS AND ENCLITIC POSSESSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS IN THE DIALECT OF ARDORE SUPERIORE\*

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## **Abstract**

In this paper, I investigate the enclitic possessive (EP) constructions of the undocumented, emigrated Italian dialect of Ardore Superiore (DAS). EP constructions are well-documented inalienable possessive structures in the non-standard Romance varieties of central and southern Italy (DSI). These constructions are ubiquitous among the DSI; however, the paradigms and forms of EPs, the set of nouns to which EPs attach and the positions that EPs occupy in the nominal domain are all dialect-specific. In this paper, I determine the semantic, morphological, phonological, and syntactic restrictions on the class of nouns to which EPs in the DAS attach and evaluate whether previous syntactic analyses of EP constructions, namely Fahrnbach (2019) and D'Alessandro and Migliori (2017), accurately capture the syntactic distribution of EPs in the DAS. The conclusions of this paper are based on twelve interviews that involved acceptability judgments and open-ended questions on the family lives of ten native speakers of the DAS in Montreal, Canada.

**Keywords:** enclitics, inalienable possession, kinship nouns, dialects of southern Italy

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