



Attributing Dimensions to Noun Modification

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There are at least three ways in Dutch to say that a car is green:

- (1) a. een groen-e auto
a green-com car
- b. een groen-e kleur auto
a green-com colour car
- c. een auto van (een) groen-e *(kleur)
a car of a green-com colour

Shape and size adjectives also have the paradigm in (1), material adjectives do not (**een houten materiaal tafel* 'a wooden material table'). Exactly the same pattern holds for Russian. We argue against treating elements like *kleur* 'colour' in (1b) as the counterpart of a silent noun in (1a). We propose that (1b) is derived from (1c), and not derivationally related to (1a). We argue that in (1b,c) the relation between adjective and noun is mediated by a dimension classifier (DimCL), realised as *kleur* 'colour'. There is a possessive relation between the nominal DimCL and the noun, which is realised as the preposition *van* 'of' in Dutch (1c) or as genitive case in the Russian equivalent of (1c). Material adjectives (e.g., *hout-en* 'wood-en') do not involve possession, hence the patterns in (1b) and (1c) are impossible. Surprisingly, the pattern in (1b) also does not hold when the modifier targets a mass noun, as in **blauwe kleur water* 'blue colour water'. We take this as a key observation and build our analysis on this.