

ARTICLE

(Den) eneste måten – When the Prenominal Determiner Can Be Omitted from Norwegian Double Definite Phrases

Yvonne van Baal 

Department of Cultural Studies and Languages (IKS), University of Stavanger, Postboks 8600, 4036 Stavanger, Norway
Email: yvonne.w.vanbaal@uis.no

Norwegian, like Swedish and Faroese, exhibits double definiteness: modified definite phrases normally contain both a prenominal determiner and a suffixed definite article on the noun. However, exceptions—phrases with only the determiner or only the suffixed article—can be found. This article investigates adjectives which do not need to be preceded by the prenominal determiner in Norwegian. Corpus data and acceptability judgments are used to describe these exceptions and to propose a syntactic analysis. The study shows that there are three types of adjectives in Norwegian: regular ones that require double definiteness, exceptional adjectives that allow determiner omission, and quantifier adjectives that never occur with a determiner. I argue that phrases with exceptional adjectives can be accounted for by the same movement that is proposed for determiner-less phrases in Icelandic and Northern Swedish (Julien 2002, 2005). Finally, the article presents a brief exploration of the patterns of variation in omission versus presence of the determiner, including historical and dialectal variation.

Keywords: Norwegian; nominal syntax; determiners; double definiteness; micro-variation

I. Introduction

The Scandinavian languages are closely related and often very similar. At the same time, they are well known to exhibit relatively large variation within the nominal phrase, particularly with respect to definiteness marking. This variation has received much attention in the field of Scandinavian syntax (Taraldsen 1990; Delsing 1993, 2003; Kester 1993, 1996; Santelmann 1993; Vangnes 1999; Julien 2002, 2005; Anderssen 2006, 2012, inter alia). The present article investigates variation found within Norwegian modified definite phrases.

The basic facts about Norwegian definiteness marking are as follows. Definite nouns occur with a definite suffixed article, illustrated in (1a),¹ as in all

¹ The Norwegian examples are presented in the Bokmål standard orthography, unless specified otherwise. The following abbreviations are used in the glosses: ACC = accusative, DEF = definite, DEM = demonstrative, F = feminine, INDF = indefinite, M = masculine, MODPART = modal particle, N = neuter,



Scandinavian languages.² When the phrase is modified by an adjective or a numeral, Norwegian displays double definiteness, also called compositional definiteness (CD) (Anderssen 2012): the suffixed article is accompanied by a prenominal determiner, as in (1b).

- (1) a. hus-et
house-DEF.N.SG
'the house'
- b. det stor-e hus-et
DEF.N.SG large-DEF house-DEF.N.SG
'the large house'

Across the Scandinavian languages, there is much variation in modified definite phrases like the one in (1b). While Norwegian, Swedish, and Faroese show double definiteness, there is single definiteness in the other varieties. Icelandic and the Northern Swedish vernaculars lack the prenominal determiner and only use definite suffixes. Danish uses the prenominal determiner in modified phrases, but it does not co-occur with the suffixed article, which is restricted to unmodified phrases (see Julien 2002:264 for an overview).

In addition to this variation across languages, there is also variation within the double definiteness languages with respect to the use of the prenominal determiner. In Norwegian, one can find examples without the prenominal determiner, as in the utterances in (2), from the *Nordic Dialect Corpus* (NDC) (Johannessen et al. 2009).

- (2) a. på andre sid-a av hus-et
on other side-DEF.F.SG of house-DEF.N.SG
'at the other side of the house' (NDC, karmoey_03gm)
- b. jeg husker første skole-dag-en min
I remember first school-day-DEF.M.SG my
'I remember my first day at school' (NDC, fusa_04gk)

These examples are acceptable for most native speakers of Norwegian, and not at all infrequent, as is shown below. They indicate that although double definiteness is generally obligatory, there are cases where the prenominal determiner may be left out. This article examines the exceptions to double definiteness like the ones in (2). While the existence of these exceptions has been noted before (see Section 2), there has, to my knowledge, not been a systematic study of the use of modified definite phrases without a determiner in Norwegian. In the present article, I describe the use of the exceptions, and furthermore provide a syntactic analysis for them. By

NOM = nominative, PL = plural, REFL = reflexive pronoun, REL = relative complementizer, SG = singular, SPL = superlative, w = weak inflection.

² The Western Jutlandic dialect of Danish is different, as this dialect lacks the suffixed article and uses prenominal definite determiners in both unmodified and modified nominal phrases (see Julien 2002:264).

investigating variation within the language, this article contributes to the description of Scandinavian nominal phrases and to an understanding of the patterns of variation in these languages.

The article is structured as follows. In Section 2, different descriptions of double definiteness and its exceptions are discussed, followed by the questions for the present study. Section 3 briefly presents the empirical basis, which consists of both corpus data and acceptability judgments. The phenomenon of determiner omission is presented in Section 4, where three types of adjectives are identified: exceptional adjectives (4.1), quantifier adjectives (4.2), and regular adjectives (4.3). Section 5 presents my syntactic analysis of the exceptional adjectives, in which the syntactic projection containing the adjective and the definite noun moves to Spec-DP. Section 6 briefly touches upon different types of variation found in the data, including dialectal and historical variation. Finally, Section 7 provides a conclusion to the study.

2. Background: Double definiteness and its exceptions

Double definiteness is a well-known property of Norwegian, Swedish, and Faroese. This article focuses on Norwegian. Although it is generally obligatory in Norwegian to combine the prenominal determiner and suffixed article in modified definite phrases, there are also exceptions. In some contexts, only one of the definiteness markers is present.

Some Norwegian dialects are known to exhibit a phenomenon referred to as adjective incorporation, in which the adjective is incorporated in (or compounded with) the definite noun. In these phrases, there is no prenominal determiner, as in (3a). For comparison, the version with double definiteness is given in (3b).

- (3) a. ny-prest-en
 new-priest-DEF.M.SG
 'the new priest'
 (Faarlund et al. 1997:75)
- b. den ny-e prest-en
 DEF.SG new-DEF priest-DEF.M.SG
 'the new priest'

Adjective incorporation (3a) is especially common in the dialects in the Trøndelag region of Norway (Faarlund et al. 1997:75), and in Northern Swedish dialects (see, e.g., Sandström & Holmberg 1994; Dahl 2015). Typically, the adjectival inflection is lacking in these constructions (compare *ny* in (3a) with *ny-e* in (3b)), and the adjective and noun form one prosodic unit. In the present study, adjective incorporation is not discussed further. Instead, the focus is on cases where the prenominal determiner can be omitted without other processes (such as compounding) coming into play.

Before we turn to cases where the prenominal determiner is lacking, however, it should be pointed out that there are also examples of modified definite phrases without the suffixed article. An example is *Det hvite hus* 'the White House', a fixed name-like expression to refer to the American White House and not to any white

house that is definite by context or discourse. A list of contexts where suffix omission is common is provided in the *Norwegian Reference Grammar* (Faarlund et al. 1997:297-298, 307-313). The list includes name-like phrases and phrases without deictic or anaphoric reference. Furthermore, the omission of the suffix is more typical in the Bokmål standard, which is historically closer to Danish, than in the Nynorsk standard that would more frequently show double definiteness.

The present article focuses on another type of exceptions, namely, those in which the prenominal determiner is omitted, as in the examples in (2) above. There seem to be two types of determiner omission: situations in which the determiner is always absent, and situations in which the determiner may be absent but may also be included.

There are three contexts where the determiner is always absent, as discussed by Faarlund et al. (1997:301-302). First, the adjectives *hele* ‘whole’ and *halve* ‘half’ are combined with a definite noun, but not with a prenominal determiner; see (4a). Faarlund et al. (1997:218) point out that the adjectives in these phrases function like quantifiers. In this function, they precede demonstratives, as in (4b). I come back to the quantifier-like adjectives in Section 4.2.

- (4) a. Han har vært syk **hele uk-a**
 He has been ill whole week-DEF.F.SG
 ‘He has been ill the whole week.’ (Faarlund et al. 1997:301)
- b. hele dette vindu-et
 whole DEM.N.SG window-DEF.N.SG
 ‘this whole window’ (Faarlund et al. 1997:218)

A second context in which the prenominal determiner is absent is when the adjective has an “expressive meaning.” In this case, the nominal phrase does not have an anaphoric or deictic reference, but rather focuses on the descriptive content of the adjective. An example is given in (5a), where the phrase does not refer to a given black night, but rather expresses that the night is black (see also Julien 2002:280). Finally, the prenominal determiner is absent in certain predicative constructions with, again, an expressive function (5b). Here, the nominal phrase does not refer to an element in the real world but expresses a characteristic of the subject.³ Halmøy (2016:293-294) points out that the adjective does not convey new information in these cases, but rather reinforces the properties of the noun.

- (5) a. Det var **svart-e natt-a**
 It was black-DEF night-DEF.F.SG
 ‘The night was dark.’ (Literally: ‘It was dark night’)
- b. Det var **ren-e kaos-et** utenfor stemmelokal-ene
 It was pure-DEF chaos-DEF.N.SG outside voting.station-DEF.PL
 ‘There was pure chaos outside the voting stations.’
 (Faarlund et al. 1997:301-302)

³ See Julien (2011) for a discussion and analysis of Norwegian predicative definite NPs.

The two contexts in (5) could be taken to be non-referential nominal phrases. Julien (2002:279, 2005:32) points out that the determiner is absent from all non-referential nominal phrases, including vocatives. Furthermore, phrases that are inherently referential because they include a personal name also lack the determiner (e.g., *vesle Anna* 'little Anna').

The cases discussed above are cases in which the prenominal determiner is always omitted. In addition, there are contexts in which the determiner is not obligatory: it may be omitted but it may also be present. Descriptions of these contexts are much less clear. Faarlund et al. (1997:312-313) mention a set of adjectives which may be preceded by the determiner when they are part of a definite phrase. However, the status of the determiner in these phrases, and factors that govern its absence, are not discussed in more detail. The relevant adjectives express "en lokalisering eller en ordning"⁴ and the adjectives are often ordinal numbers or adjectives in comparative or superlative form (Faarlund et al. 1997:312-313). The adjectives listed in (6) are mentioned as examples of this class of adjectives.

- (6) *første* 'first', *fjerde* 'fourth', *nedre* 'lower', *ytre* 'outer', *siste* 'last', *eneste* 'only', *neste* 'next', *høyre* 'right', *venstre* 'left' (Faarlund et al. 1997:312-313)

These adjectives and others similar to this group are also mentioned in other descriptions of the Scandinavian or Norwegian noun phrase as adjectives that do not require a prenominal determiner (Delsing 1993:118-120; Vangsnæs 1999:135; Julien 2002:282; 2005:33, 37; Anderssen 2006:132; Halmøy 2016:289; Anderssen et al. 2018:750). As pointed out by Delsing (1993:118), these adjectives all make the nominal phrase "unambiguous in the speech situation," and they consequently make the nominal phrase uniquely identifiable. Other descriptions build on this analysis of the relevant adjectives: Dahl (2015:125) points out that the adjectives that are optionally combined with a determiner in Swedish express a uniqueness feature. The list of adjectives that Dahl (2015) provides is very similar to the one in (6), and Teleman et al. (1999a) include the same adjectives in their discussion of omission of the prenominal determiner. Similarly, in Faroese, the prenominal determiner may be left out in non-referential phrases, in name-like expressions, and after a specific set of adjectives (Harries 2015:166, 174; Börjars et al. 2016:e23). Some examples from Swedish and Faroese are given in (7) and (8), respectively.

- (7) Swedish (Teleman et al. 1999a:106)

- a. (den) *förra* *kung-en*
DEF.SG previous king-DEF.M.SG
 'the previous king'
- b. (det) *största* *rumm-et*
DEF.N.SG large.SPL room-DEF.N.SG
 'the largest room'

⁴ 'a localization or an order'.

- (8) Faroese (Harries 2015:175)
 Dudley fann størstu slang-una
 Dudley found large.SPL snake-DEF.ACC
 ‘Dudley found the largest snake’

While exceptions are discussed by different sources, these descriptions tend to be somewhat vague. Delsing (1993:120), for example, states that “the prenominal article is often optional (especially in Swedish and Faroese)” in phrases with the “special” adjectives. Similarly, Julien (2005:37) points out that the determiner may be omitted in front of superlatives in Swedish and then adds: “The tendency is also found in some Norwegian dialects, by the way.” Statements like these suggest that the optionality of determiners in Norwegian is unclear. The descriptions discussed above indicate that there are exceptions to modified definite phrases in which the determiner may be omitted, but the vague descriptions raise several questions. It is unclear whether all the mentioned adjectives are actual exceptions to double definiteness, and how frequently they occur without the determiner. Another question relates to the amount of variation within Norwegian with respect to omission (or inclusion) of the determiner. Finally, the descriptions so far do not provide a syntactic analysis of the phrases without the determiner. The goal of this article is to answer these questions. The description of the exceptions is discussed in Section 4, and the proposed syntactic analysis in Section 5. The discussion above indicates that Swedish and Faroese also have exceptions to double definiteness, but the remainder of the article focuses on Norwegian.

3. The empirical basis: corpus data and acceptability judgments

In the literature discussed above, several adjectives that can or should occur without the prenominal determiner have been mentioned. The present study investigates these adjectives and their occurrence with and without the prenominal determiner in a large corpus of spoken Norwegian and by means of acceptability judgments. These methods are discussed here; the findings are presented in Section 4.

I used the *Nordic Dialect Corpus* (NDC) (Johannessen et al. 2009) to investigate the variation in Norwegian modified definite phrases. The corpus contains recordings of spoken, dialectal language from the five Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden); only the Norwegian dialects were included in the study. The NDC contains speech data from many different locations, and from both older and younger speakers in each location. As such, it is a valuable resource for the analysis of variation in spoken Norwegian.

The study is based on version 4 of the NDC, which contains recordings of 438 speakers from 111 locations across Norway, and almost 2 million tokens. Previously, the NDC also included recordings of dialects from an older Norwegian dialect archive (*Målførearkivet*); these have been moved to the *Language Infrastructure made Accessible* (LIA-Norwegian) corpus.⁵ They are discussed briefly in Section 6.1 on historical variation; the results in Section 4 are based exclusively on present-day Norwegian.

⁵ The full name of the corpus is *LIA norsk - korpus av eldre dialektopptak* (‘LIA Norwegian – corpus of older dialect recordings’), and it was created by the Text Laboratory of the University of Oslo. Details and information on how to access the corpus can be found at www.tekstlab.uio.no/LIA/korpus.html

Several separate search queries were conducted using the corpus. Each query searched for an adjective followed directly by a definite noun. This means that the results do not include cases in which another word or a hesitation appeared between the adjective and the noun. Based on the literature discussed above, the adjectives listed in (9) were included in the searches.

- (9) a. Superlatives
 b. Ordinal numbers 3–10
 c. *første* ‘first’, *andre* ‘second, other’, and *siste* ‘last’
 d. *eneste* ‘only’
 e. *venstre* ‘left’ and *høyre* ‘right’
 f. *neste* ‘next’ and *forrige* ‘previous’
 g. *øvre* ‘upper’ and *nedre* ‘lower’
 h. *hele* ‘whole’ and *halve* ‘half’

Note that the literature cited in Section 2 treats the adjectives in (9a–g) differently from *hele* ‘whole’ and *halve* ‘half’ (9h). With the latter, the prenominal determiner is expected not to occur at all. In addition to the searches for specific adjectives, a search for any adjective followed by a definite noun was also conducted. The results from this search (excluding the adjectives in (9) that were identified as exceptions) were used to confirm that double definiteness is generally obligatory in Norwegian. As shown in Section 4.3, this is indeed the case.

The results of each corpus search were checked manually to exclude tagging errors, instances where the element right before the adjective was transcribed as “uninterpretable,” and phrases with a place name or a proper name. The latter are well known to behave differently with respect to definiteness marking (see above), since the name makes the phrase inherently referential.

The remaining results were categorized as to whether they contained a prenominal determiner in front of the adjective, or not. The results also contain a small number of phrases with a demonstrative (10a) or a personal pronoun (10b) instead of a determiner. Phrases like these are quite infrequent.⁶ In these phrases, the demonstrative or pronoun may be analyzed as an alternative to the prenominal determiner, but this has not been studied systematically yet. They were therefore excluded from the results presented here that only discuss the presence or absence of the prenominal determiner.

- (10) a. *denne forrige prest-en*
 DEM.SG previous priest-DEF.M.SG
 ‘this previous priest’ (valle_01um)
- b. *han eldste sønn-en min*
 he old.SPL son-DEF.M.SG my
 ‘my oldest son’ (aremark_04gk)

⁶ The results of the searches in (9a–g) include 15 phrases with a demonstrative (0.95%) and 29 phrases with a personal pronoun (1.89%).

In addition to the corpus searches, some acceptability judgments were elicited from a group of native and naïve speakers of Norwegian. These speakers completed a judgment task consisting of 60 sentences in total. The task included 8 sentences with an adjective that requires double definiteness, and 4 sentences with such an adjective but without the pronominal determiner. In addition, the task included 4 sentences with an adjective that has been described as an exception, half of them preceded by a pronominal determiner and half without the determiner. The adjectives used were a superlative and *andre* ‘other, second’. See (11) for examples of sentences from the judgment task.

(11) Sentences from the acceptability judgment task

- a. Jenta ser (den) {svarte/hvite} hest-en
 girl.DEF sees DEF.SG black/white horse-DEF.M.SG
 ‘The girl sees the black/white horse’
- b. Oslo er (den) største by-en i Norge
 Oslo is DEF.SG large.SPL city-DEF.M.SG in Norway
 ‘Oslo is the largest city in Norway’

The judgment task was administered as a pen-and-paper task (n of participants = 7, age 21–66), or orally (n = 7, age 75–83). The participants were living in Oslo, or in places relatively close to Oslo (Eidsvoll, Hamar).⁷ Participants in the oral judgment task were asked to repeat the sentences they heard, and then judge them. In both modalities, a three-point judgment scale was used (acceptable—marginal—unacceptable).

4. Description of determiner omission in Norwegian

The results of the corpus study and judgment task are presented in this section. In the results, three groups of adjectives can be distinguished; they are discussed separately below. Section 4.1 presents the results of the adjectives that are exceptions to double definiteness. Section 4.2 discusses the items *hele* ‘whole’ and *halve* ‘half’ that can be characterized as quantifier adjectives. Section 4.3 discusses the results for the remaining adjectives, confirming that double definiteness is obligatory in Norwegian for adjectives other than the identified exceptions.

4.1 The exceptional adjectives

The searches in the NDC yielded a total of 1,537 definite phrases with one of the adjectives that has been listed in the literature as an exception (i.e., the adjectives in (9a–g)). In this section, I discuss the results of the NDC as a whole; they are broken

⁷ The participants in the judgment task were not very diverse in terms of dialectal background. As described in Section 6.2, there is relatively small dialectal variation in the corpus data with respect to double definiteness and determiner omission.

Table 1. Adjectives that do not require a pronominal determiner in definite phrases, *Nordic Dialect Corpus*. Numbers presented in parentheses

	With determiner		Without determiner	
Superlatives	73.1 %	(247)	26.9 %	(91)
<i>siste</i> 'last'	56.7 %	(160)	43.3 %	(122)
<i>andre</i> 'other, second'	37.3 %	(122)	62.7 %	(205)
<i>eneste</i> 'only'	35.6 %	(21)	64.4 %	(38)
<i>første</i> 'first'	35.5 %	(145)	64.5 %	(263)
<i>neste, forrige</i> 'next, previous'	23.8 %	(10)	76.2 %	(32)
ordinal numbers ⁸	14.9 %	(10)	85.1 %	(57)
<i>venstre, høyre</i> 'left, right'	0 %	(0)	100 %	(14)
<i>øvre, nedre</i> 'upper, lower'	–	(0)	–	(0)
TOTAL	46.5 %	(715)	53.5 %	(822)

down by region in Section 6.2 on dialectal variation, where it becomes clear that the dialectal variation is relatively small. A pronominal determiner was present in 46.52% ($n = 715$) of these phrases, while 53.48% ($n = 822$) occurred without a determiner. In other words, a small majority of the phrases with these adjectives lack the pronominal determiner. Those adjectives clearly do not require double definiteness, and as such are exceptions. I refer to them as “exceptional adjectives” in the remainder of the article.

While the results show that double definiteness is not obligatory with these adjectives, they may still be preceded by a pronominal determiner. There are differences between the adjectives with respect to how frequently they are combined with a determiner, as can be seen in Table 1. The searches did not yield any definite phrases with the adjectives *øvre* ‘upper’ or *nedre* ‘lower’. The (larger) LIA corpus with older dialect recordings contains examples with these adjectives (see Section 6.1), and results indicate that these adjectives are optionally combined with a determiner.

The adjectives in Table 1 are presented in descending order based on the percentage of determiner inclusion. As can be seen, there is considerable variation between the different adjectives. While superlatives are combined with determiners in the (vast) majority of the cases, the picture for ordinal numbers is completely the opposite. For most of the adjectives, it seems somewhat preferred to omit the determiner. The few results with the adjectives *venstre* ‘left’ and *høyre* ‘right’ all

⁸ In the results for ordinal numbers, several phrases refer to school years, for example *tredje klass-en* ‘third grade-DEF’ (gaulda_04gk). Phrases like this occur invariably without the pronominal determiner. If these phrases are excluded, the majority of phrases with an ordinal number still occur without the determiner (78.3%, $n = 36$) and they therefore still count as exceptional adjectives.

lacked the determiner, which may seem to suggest that these adjectives cannot combine with a determiner. However, this conclusion is too strong: all native speakers I consulted state that these adjectives can be preceded by a determiner (see also Julien 2005:33).

To illustrate the use of the exceptional adjectives, examples are provided below. For each adjective, one example with and one example without the determiner are presented. In most cases, the topic and pragmatic context are very similar. In (12), for example, both speakers discuss the best place to live, and one phrase lacks the determiner while the other one contains it. Something similar can be seen in the examples in (13) that were both uttered while discussing the most recent soccer match. Again, one phrase includes the determiner and the other one does not. Note that all examples below are independent of each other: they are produced by speakers from different locations, in different conversations.^{9,10}

- (12) a. det var sikkert **beste plass-en** å bo
 it was surely best place-DEF.M.SG to live
 'It was definitely the best place to live' (rauma_01um)
- b. det er var sjølsagt **den beste plass-en** e i verden
 it is was of.course DEF.SG best place-DEF.M.SG eh in world.DEF
 'It was of course the best place in the world' (jevnaker_01um)
- (13) a. jeg fikk ikke med meg **siste kamp-en**
 I got not with me last match-DEF.M.SG
 'I didn't follow the last match' (stamsund_02uk)
- b. for vi # vi tapte **den siste kamp-en**
 because we # we lost DEF.SG last match-DEF.M.SG
 'Because we lost the last match' (darbu_01um)
- (14) a. på **andre sid-en** av fjell-et her
 on other.DEF side-DEF.M.SG of mountain-DEF.N.SG here
 'on the other side of the mountain here' (fredrikstad_04gk)
- b. på **den andre sid-a** av dal-en
 on DEF.SG other.DEF side-DEF.F.SG of valley-DEF.M.SG
 'on the other side of the valley' (lommedalen_04gk)

⁹ Some topics occur across the different conversations because the speakers were given a list of topics that they could discuss while being recorded.

¹⁰ As a result of selecting examples with similar topics and pragmatic contexts, the examples in (12)–(16) are not spread out over Norway. An anonymous reviewer points out that several of the examples with a determiner are from locations close to Oslo ((12b), (13b), and (14b)), where the dialect is similar to the Oslo dialect (and potentially close to written Bokmål Norwegian). However, many phrases with the determiner can be found in locations far from Oslo as well, and the dialectal variation is relatively small in this respect (see Section 6.2).

Table 2. Acceptability judgments of modified definite phrases with an exceptional adjective, with and without determiner

	Written				Spoken			
	with det.		without det.		with det.		without det.	
Acceptable	92.9 %	(13)	50 %	(7)	100 %	(14)	71.4 %	(10)
Marginal	7.1 %	(1)	28.6 %	(4)	0 %	(0)	7.1 %	(1)
Unacceptable	0 %	(0)	21.4 %	(3)	0 %	(0)	21.4 %	(3)
TOTAL	100 %	(14)	100 %	(14)	100 %	(14)	100 %	(14)

- (15) a. som var født **første år-et** etter krig-en
 who was born first year-DEF.N.SG after war-DEF.M.SG
 'who was born the first year after the war' (kvæfjord_03gm)
- b. i **den første hytt-a** vi hadde
 in DEF.SG first cabin-DEF.F.SG we had
 'in the first cabin that we had' (hammerfest_04gk)
- (16) a. det blir kanskje **fjerde år-et** på rad
 it becomes maybe fourth year-DEF.N.SG on row
 'Maybe it will be the fourth year in a row' (heroeyN_02uk)
- b. dette blir vel **det femte år-et**
 DEM.N.SG becomes well DEF.N.SG fifth year-DEF.N.SG
 'This will be the fifth year' (flaa_01um)

From the corpus data, it can be concluded that the prenominal determiner is optional in modified definite phrases if the adjective belongs to the class of exceptional adjectives. The same conclusion can be drawn from the acceptability judgment data. Table 2 presents the judgment data from both the written and spoken tasks.

The results in Table 2 clearly show that the determiner can be present with these adjectives, as virtually all phrases with a determiner were judged to be acceptable.¹¹ The phrases in which the exceptional adjective was not preceded by a determiner were accepted to a lesser extent, 50% in the written group and 71.4% in the spoken groups. These scores are nevertheless still high and indicate that omission of the determiner with exceptional adjectives is possible in Norwegian.

The judgment data show two interesting patterns of variation. First, the acceptability of determiner omission varies depending on the adjective used. All speakers in both groups judged the sentence with *andre* 'other' acceptable when the

¹¹ Only one phrase with a determiner was judged as marginal, by a participant who judged the written sentences. He wrote down that he preferred the phrase without the determiner.

determiner was absent, while sentences with a superlative (*største* ‘largest’) were judged marginal or unacceptable when presented in written form. In the spoken task, some speakers accepted determiner omission with the superlative, but not everyone did. A similar pattern was found in the corpus data (Table 1), where superlatives were most frequently combined with a determiner, whereas *andre* and other adjectives were found more often without a determiner.

Second, the data show variation between the judgments on written and those on spoken sentences. Although both groups accept exceptional adjectives with a determiner (as expected), the judgments on determiner omission are stricter in the written than in the spoken modality. Phrases without the determiner were accepted more by the latter, which suggests that exceptional adjectives without a determiner are more readily accepted in spoken than in written (standardized) language.¹²

Moving away from these types of variation, the corpus data as well as the judgment data indicate that the prenominal determiner may be omitted from modified definite phrases when the adjective belongs to a restricted set of exceptional adjectives. This is consistent with the observations in previous literature presented in Section 2.

4.2 Phrases with *hele* ‘whole’ and *halve* ‘half’

As discussed in Section 2 above, it has been noted that *hele* ‘whole’ is never preceded by a prenominal determiner (e.g., Faarlund et al. 1997:301; Anderssen et al. 2018:750). This is confirmed by the corpus data from the NDC: no single example of a modified definite phrase with *hele* and a determiner was found. The search query yielded 684 phrases with *hele* followed by a definite noun, and all of them (100%) lacked a prenominal determiner. Some examples are given in (17).

- (17) a. der er det folk fra **hele** land-et
 there is it people from whole country-DEF.N.SG
 ‘There are people from the whole country there’ (aremark_01um)
- b. men jeg glemmer det **hele** tid-a
 but I forget it whole time-DEF.F.SG
 ‘But I forget it all the time’ (kaafjord_02uk)
- c. og du kan gå **hele** dag-en om du vil
 and you can walk whole day-DEF.M.SG if you want
 ‘And you can walk the whole day if you want’ (soemna_04gk)

¹² Recall that the corpus data presented in Table 1 is spoken language only. In a rough comparison of spoken and written Norwegian, Van Baal (2020:172–175) found that double definiteness is more common in written language, while determiner omission (i.e., the exception) is more common in spoken language. This is in line with the differences observed between the two sets of judgment data.

- d. de dialekt-ene de e endrer jo seg **hele** **tid-a**
 DEM.PL dialect-DEF.PL they eh change MODPART REFL whole time-DEF.F.SG
 'These dialects, they change all the time' (trondheim_03gm)

Compared to the adjectives discussed in Section 4.1, *hele* 'whole' behaves differently: while the former may occur without the determiner, the latter *must* occur without a determiner. In fact, in cases where a determiner is present within the phrase, *hele* 'whole' occurs in front of this determiner, as in the following examples.

- (18) a. Jeg har **hele** **den** **gamle** **serie-n** fra før
 I have whole DEF.SG old.DEF series-DEF.M.SG from before
 'I have the entire old series already' (Roehrs & Julien 2014:258)
- b. hele den første etasje-n
 whole DEF.SG first floor-DEF.M.SG
 'the whole first floor' (NDC, aure_04gk)

The fact that *hele* occurs before the pronominal determiner suggests that it may not be an adjective in these phrases. Rather, it could be analyzed as a strong quantifier (similar to *alle* 'all'), as noted by Faarlund et al. (1997:218). Strong quantifiers are located in a separate functional projection on top of the DP (see Section 5), and not in the same projection as adjectives.

A similar analysis could be made for *halve* 'half'. This word can also operate as a quantifier in definite phrases, and is then not preceded by the pronominal determiner. Unfortunately, *halve* is not very frequent in the NDC and only 34 phrases were found. Of these, 31 (91.2%) do not contain a determiner. An example is given in (19). The remaining three phrases contain a pronominal determiner, as in (20).

- (19) jeg har lest **halve** **bok-a**
 I have read half book-DEF.F.SG
 'I have read half of the book' (hyllestad_03gm)
- (20) nå tror jeg nå **den** **halv-e** **tim-en** er gått snart
 now think I now DEF.SG half-DEF hour-DEF.M.SG is gone soon
 'I think the half hour is soon over now' (kvæningen_04gk)

It is important to note a subtle semantic difference between these two examples (which can also be seen in the English translations). The first example does not refer to a specific half book; rather, it refers to a certain proportion or quantity of the book (viz. half of it). The second example, on the other hand, refers to a specific half hour, namely, the half hour that the participants were instructed to speak during the recording for the corpus. In other words, *halve* 'half' functions as a quantifier in (19) and thus does not co-occur with the determiner, but it is a regular adjective in (20) and is then preceded by the determiner (see Halmøy 2016:291-293 for a similar observation).

Based on the data presented in this section, I argue that the words *hela* and *halve* in modified definite phrases are strong quantifiers rather than adjectives (in line with Faarlund et al. 1997). Therefore, they cannot co-occur with a pronominal determiner. Both words can function as adjectives in indefinite phrases, as in (21), where the adjectives are inflected for gender to agree with the noun. Example (20) illustrates that *halve* can also occur as an adjective in definite phrases.

- (21) a. **en hel kveld** med bare ABBA-låt-er
INDF.M.SG whole evening with only ABBA-song-PL
 ‘an entire evening with only ABBA-songs’ (tromsoe_02uk)
- b. han har utstyr for **et hel-t kor**
he has equipment for INDF.N.SG whole-N choir
 ‘He has (recording) equipment for a whole choir’ (lakselv_04gk)
- c. jeg har skrevet **ei halv side**
I have written INDF.F.SG half page
 ‘I have written half a page’ (ballangen_01um)
- d. jeg var i Stjørdal **et halv-t år**
I was in S. INDF.N.SG half-N year
 ‘I was in Stjørdal for half a year’ (gjesdal_04gk)

4.3 Regular modified definite phrases

In the previous sections, I have argued that a set of adjectives can occur without the pronominal determiner in definite phrases, and that two adjectives (*hela* ‘whole’ and *halve* ‘half’) function as strong quantifiers. However, the claim that the adjectives in Section 4.1 are exceptions depends on the assumption that other adjectives obligatorily occur with double definiteness. In this section, I therefore double-check that the non-exceptional adjectives are preceded by the pronominal determiner in Norwegian.

This investigation is even more important given that Julien (2005:32–33) claims that the pronominal determiner may be omitted in Norwegian when the discourse referent is strongly familiar, as in (22). However, Julien also notes that not all speakers accept determiner omission in these instances, and several native speakers I consulted judged this sentence unacceptable. In Swedish, phrases like (22) are used quite frequently.¹³

¹³ The Swedish reference grammar notes that the determiner may be omitted in front of a regular adjective if the referent “kan identifieras i talsituationen eller genom tidigare erfarenhet – men inte om den identifieras anaforiskt” [‘can be identified in the speech situation or because of earlier experience, but not if it can be identified anaphorically’] (Teleman et al. 1999b:19). As far as I am aware, such a distinction has not been described for Norwegian.

- (22) % Du kan ta ny-e bil-en
 you can take new-DEF car-DEF.M.SG
 'You can take the new car' (Julien 2005:32, judgment from original)

As mentioned in Section 3, I conducted a search in the NDC for adjectives directly followed by a definite noun. All adjectives that were already established as exceptions are excluded from the results presented here. Phrases that directly followed the negation *ikke* 'not' were also excluded, as phrases within negative polarity items always lack the determiner and typically have an indefinite interpretation (Julien 2011). Other non-referential phrases were also excluded.

In total, this corpus search yielded 636 modified definite phrases with a regular adjective.¹⁴ Of these, the vast majority contain the prenominal determiner (94.03%, $n = 598$), see (23), and a small number occur without the determiner (5.97%, $n = 38$); see (24).

- (23) a. før jeg flytta inn_i den ny-e leilighet-en
 before I moved into DEF.SG new-DEF apartment-DEF.M.SG
 'Before I moved into the new apartment' (giesdal_01um)
- b. det er ofte de stygg-e fisk-ene som smaker best
 it is often DEF.PL ugly-DEF fish-DEF.PL which taste best
 'It is usually the ugly fish which taste the best' (tana_02uk)
- (24) a. er det norske finale-n eller er det # internasjonalt?
 is it Norwegian final-DEF.M.SG or is it international?
 'Is it the Norwegian final, or is it international?' (kirkenes_01um)
- b. det var liksom stor-e høydepunkt-et
 it was kind of big-DEF highlight-DEF.N.SG
 'It was kind of the big highlight' (langesund_04gk)

Out of the 38 phrases without a determiner, 26 (68.4%) could potentially be explained by the pragmatics of the utterance. In these cases, the referent of the phrase is present in the discourse or highly familiar to the speakers. The utterance in (24a) is an example of this: the speaker was just asked "will you watch the Eurovision (Song Contest) finale?" and the speaker responds by asking whether the mentioned finale is the Norwegian or international one. Thus, he refers back to something that is active in the discourse, and this is exactly the context Julien (2005:32, see above) refers to as a situation for determiner omission. As noted, this is not acceptable for all speakers and only occurs a few times in the corpus. To the best of my knowledge, there have been

¹⁴ Note that the searches for exceptional adjectives together provided 1,537 results (Section 4.1), more than twice as many as the results of regular adjectives. That double definiteness is infrequent has previously been noted by Dahl (2015:121), and the relatively high frequency of the exceptions has been noted by Anderssen et al. (2018) and Van Baal (2020:63, 172-174).

Table 3. Acceptability judgments of modified definite phrases with a regular adjective, with and without determiner

	Written				Spoken			
	with det.		without det.		with det.		without det.	
Acceptable	96.4 %	(54)	0 %	(0)	100 %	(56)	3.6 %	(1)
Marginal	3.6 %	(2)	3.6 %	(1)	0 %	(0)	50 %	(14)
Unacceptable	0 %	(0)	96.4 %	(27)	0 %	(0)	46.6 %	(13)
TOTAL	100 %	(56)	100 %	(28)	100 %	(56)	100 %	(28)

no studies on the effect of pragmatic conditions on double definiteness in Norwegian.¹⁵ If one assumes that highly active entities may be referred to without a determiner by some speakers, only 12 (1.9%) of the modified definite phrases with a regular adjective lack the determiner (e.g., (24b)). Given this low percentage, it seems reasonable to conclude that these adjectives are obligatorily preceded by a determiner.¹⁶ Even if a pragmatic explanation is not adopted, the number of phrases without a determiner is still low. Furthermore, native-speaker judgments indicate that the determiner cannot be omitted before regular adjectives.

In the acceptability judgment task, native speakers of Norwegian clearly judged modified definite phrases without the determiner as unacceptable when the adjective was not an exceptional adjective. Recall from Section 3 that each participant judged 8 sentences with double definiteness and 4 sentences without the determiner. The results of the judgment task are presented in Table 3.

The data in Table 3 clearly show a difference between the phrases with double definiteness and phrases without a determiner. The former are all judged acceptable by native speakers. The latter, however, are generally judged marginal or unacceptable, and the written group rejects these (almost) categorically. In the oral task, there is some variation between speakers with respect to how strongly they reject the phrases without a determiner. Some speakers rate these phrases as unacceptable, while others rate them as marginal. The tendency for judgments in the written modality to be stronger than in the spoken modality was also found with exceptional adjectives (see Table 2 in Section 4.1). The acceptance rate of phrases without the determiner might be higher if the right pragmatic conditions were

¹⁵ Halmøy (2016:294-298) discusses “Emotive Adjectival Constructions,” in which there is no pronominal determiner. In such phrases, the adjective “expresses the speaker’s personal feelings towards the referent” (p. 295), and this could thus be considered a pragmatic context for determiner omission. However, this construction frequently occurs in additional comments or exclamatives, which are non-referential phrases where the determiner is typically not present (see Section 2). Halmøy notes that speakers do not always accept EACs in argument or predicative position, which is in line with the native-speaker judgments I present here.

¹⁶ As pointed out by Schutze & Sprouse (2013:29), even fluent native speakers occasionally make errors when they speak and then produce something they themselves consider unacceptable (so-called “slips of the tongue”). A low number of unacceptable phrases in production data thus does not need to be problematic for the hypothesis.

provided. As pointed out above, however, it is currently unclear what the exact pragmatic context should be and whether all speakers would then accept determiner omission. In isolated sentences, both groups of speakers allow only double definiteness – and not determiner omission – when the phrase is modified by a regular adjective.

Together, the corpus data and judgment data show that although determiner omission is possible with some adjectives (Section 4.1), it is also restricted to these adjectives. All other adjectives generally require double definiteness, i.e., the co-occurrence of the prenominal determiner and the definite suffix. I refer to these adjectives as “regular” adjectives, contrasting with the exceptional adjectives discussed in Section 4.1.

4.4 Summary

In the previous sections, three types of adjectives have been discussed, which all show different behavior in definite phrases. First, there are the regular adjectives that require double definiteness (Section 4.3). These adjectives are obligatorily preceded by a prenominal determiner when they combine with a definite noun. Possibly, some speakers allow this determiner to be omitted in certain pragmatic contexts, but the exact conditions for this—and how widespread this phenomenon is in Norwegian—remains a matter for future research.

As a second type, there are exceptional adjectives (Section 4.1) that do not always combine with a prenominal determiner in definite phrases. These adjectives occur both with and without the determiner, and variation is found with respect to how frequently individual adjectives are preceded by a determiner. The group of exceptional adjectives consists of superlatives, ordinal numbers, and the words *første* ‘first’, *siste* ‘last’, *eneste* ‘only’, *andre* ‘other, second’, *venstre* ‘left’, *høyre* ‘right’, *neste* ‘next’, and *førrige* ‘previous’. Potentially, there are a few more adjectives belonging to this group, as *øvre* ‘upper’ and *nedre* ‘lower’ did not provide any results in the corpus query (but see Section 6.1). Faarlund et al. (1997:312) mention *ytre* ‘outer’ as an exception, and Svenonius (1994:447) mentions *samme* ‘same’. Future studies can establish whether these are indeed exceptions.

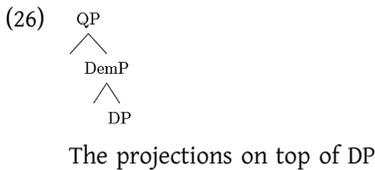
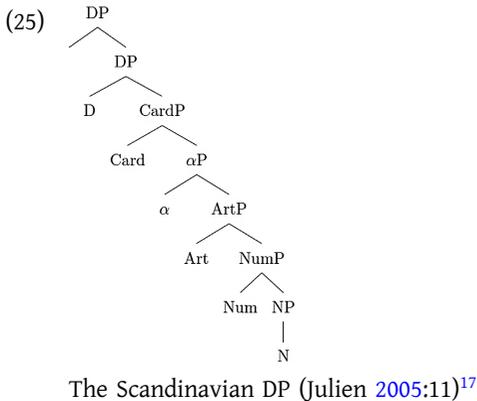
Finally, the third type of adjectives is the quantifier adjectives *hele* ‘whole’ and *halve* ‘half’ (Section 4.2). These can function as adjectives modifying the noun, but in definite phrases they typically function as quantifiers and then they are never preceded by a determiner. In fact, if a determiner or demonstrative occurs in the phrase, it appears after the quantifier adjective. The quantifier adjectives are different from the exceptional adjectives because they never appear with a determiner, while the latter optionally appear with a determiner.

5. The syntax of determiner omission

In the previous section, it was shown that Norwegian has a restricted set of adjectives that are an exception to double definiteness. This section discusses the syntax of determiner omission with these exceptional adjectives.

In this section, I follow Julien’s (2002, 2005) analysis of the Scandinavian nominal phrase. This DP structure is given in (25) in a somewhat simplified form. From bottom

to top, the structure contains the noun (N), a projection for number features (Num), a projection where the definite suffix is located (Art), a projection with adjectival phrases in the specifier (α P), a projection with weak quantifiers such as numerals in the specifier (CardP) and, on top, the DP where the prenominal determiners are located. The projections α P and CardP are only present when the phrase contains an adjective or numeral, respectively, while the other projections are assumed to be present in every referential nominal phrase. On top of DP, Julien (2002, 2005) assumes two more projections: DemP for demonstratives, and QP for strong quantifiers. This is illustrated in (26).



A central assumption in Julien (2002, 2005) is that the D-projection must be made “visible” when the referentiality of the phrase depends on D. This is the case for all phrases that are referential and act as an argument in the sentence. “Visible” in this analysis means that there is phonological material in either D or its specifier. A similar assumption is made by Delsing (1993:65).

In all Scandinavian languages, N forms a complex head with Num and Art in definite phrases. In unmodified phrases, ArtP then moves to Spec-DP to make the D-projection visible and enable the phrase to be referential (see Julien 2002:272, 276 for details). However, when an adjective or a numeral (in respectively α P or CardP) is present, this movement is blocked, and a prenominal determiner is inserted in D in the languages that show double definiteness. This accounts for Norwegian phrases like *den hvite hesten* ‘the white horse’. However, this analysis does not account for

¹⁷ Julien (2005) uses the label *nP* instead of ArtP, but this is only a terminological difference. I adopt the label ArtP, as in Julien (2002), to avoid confusion with the label *n* used within DM.

phrases with exceptional adjectives such as *første året* ‘the first year’ that were discussed in Section 4.1.

Icelandic and the Northern Swedish vernaculars have modified definite phrases that are, at least on the surface, similar to the exceptions in Norwegian. The syntax of these languages is discussed in Section 5.1 below. In Section 5.2, I propose that the analysis of Icelandic and Northern Swedish can be extended to phrases with exceptional adjectives in Norwegian. This proposal leads to two predictions, which are tested in Sections 5.3 and 5.4.

5.1 Icelandic and Northern Swedish dialects

There are two Scandinavian varieties that do not use prenominal determiners: Icelandic and the Northern Swedish vernaculars. Modified definite phrases in these languages only contain the suffixed article, as illustrated in (27)–(28). On the surface, they resemble the phrases with exceptional adjectives in Norwegian, and I argue in the next sections that they are also similar syntactically.

- (27) Icelandic (Julien 2002:287)
 græn-a kjól-inn
 green-M.SG.ACC dress-DEF.M.SG.ACC
 ‘the green dress’

- (28) Northern Swedish (Julien 2002:288)¹⁸
 grann-hest-a
 fine-horse-DEF.PL
 ‘the fine horses’

In modified definite phrases that include a cardinal number, Icelandic shows an interesting word order: cardinal numbers appear at the end of the phrase, as in (29). Julien (2005) therefore argues that α P, which includes the adjective and the definite noun, moves to Spec-DP in Icelandic. In other words, α P moves across CardP, and cardinal numbers appear at the end of the surface structure. Vangsnes (1999:146–147) provides a similar analysis.¹⁹

- (29) Icelandic (Vangsnes 1999:145)
 fræg-u bæk-ur-nar mín-ar þrjár
 famous-W.PL book-F.PL.NOM-DEF.PL my-F.PL.NOM three
 ‘my three famous books’

Julien (2002, 2005) relates the movement of α P to Spec-DP in Icelandic to the fact that Icelandic has case marking. In my view, this is not a necessary requirement, as

¹⁸ As the example illustrates, adjectives in definite phrases are incorporated into the noun in Northern Swedish. Julien (2005:61–63) analyzes this as a purely phonological process, with the same underlying syntax as other Scandinavian phrases.

¹⁹ According to Vangsnes (1999), the movement only occurs in phrases with a cardinal number. However, Julien (2002, 2005) assumes the movement in all modified definite phrases, and I adopt her analysis.

Northern Swedish allows for the same movement but does not have case marking. The example in (29) shows that α P can move across CardP in Icelandic. There is, however, one context in which α P cannot move to Spec-DP: When there is ellipsis of the noun, α P cannot move to Spec-DP and D is spelled out instead, as in (30).

- (30) Icelandic (Julien 2002:286)
 Ég keypti *(þann) græn-a
 I bought DEF.M.SG.ACC green-M.SG.ACC
 'I bought the green one'

Julien (2002:277, 2005:29) argues that only elements with a referential index can move to the D-projection. Nouns have such a referential index, but adjectives do not. As a result, α P can only move if it contains an overt noun.

Northern Swedish is the other Scandinavian variety without prenominal determiners in modified definite phrases (see (28) above). Julien (2002, 2005) argues that Northern Swedish exhibits the same movement of α P to Spec-DP as Icelandic. The same requirement that α P must contain an overt noun is active in Northern Swedish. In cases of noun ellipsis, as in (31), the adjective carries a definite suffix. This suffix can be analyzed as the realization of D (Julien 2005:63), which indicates that D must be visible when α P does not contain a noun and cannot move to Spec-DP.

- (31) Northern Swedish (Julien 2005:63)
 stor-en
 big-DEF.M.SG
 'the big one'

When it comes to phrases with a cardinal number, Northern Swedish is unlike Icelandic: α P cannot move across CardP in Northern Swedish and cardinal numbers precede the adjective and the noun, as in (32) (cf. (29)). The presence of CardP blocks movement of α P to Spec-DP, and the D-projection must be made visible in another way. This happens through the insertion of a (complex) demonstrative, since Northern Swedish does not have prenominal determiners.²⁰

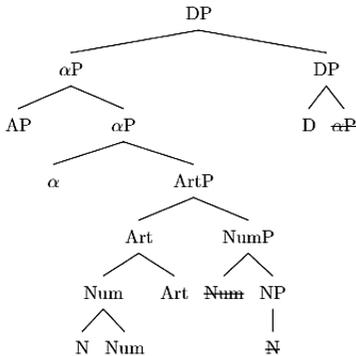
- (32) Northern Swedish (Vangsnes 1999:138)
 dem-derna trei grann-hest-a
 they-there three fine-horse-DEF.PL
 'the three fine horses'

To summarize, Icelandic and the Northern Swedish dialects do not have double definiteness. Instead, the requirement to make the DP-layer visible is fulfilled by movement of α P (containing the adjective and definite noun) to Spec-DP. The syntactic structure of such phrases is illustrated in (33) below. There are some restrictions on α P-to-Spec-DP movement: the noun has to be overt (in both

²⁰ See Julien (2002:287-288) for a detailed analysis of the complex demonstrative in the role of a definite determiner in examples like (32).

languages), and there cannot be a cardinal number between α P and DP (in Northern Swedish).²¹

(33) Nominal phrase with α P-to-Spec-DP movement



5.2 Proposal for Norwegian

Although several scholars have listed adjectives which do not need to be preceded by a determiner in definite phrases, it often remains unclear what the syntax of these exceptions is (see Section 2 above). In this section, I propose that the analysis of Icelandic and Northern Swedish (α P-to-Spec-DP movement) can account for the Norwegian exceptions to double definiteness. To the best of my knowledge, this has not been proposed before. On the contrary, Julien (2002:281) suggests that “there is no D that is associated with overt material” in Norwegian phrases without a determiner. Considering the proposals for Icelandic and Northern Swedish, however, it seems more appealing to analyze the Norwegian exceptions along the same lines. Otherwise, it would have to be explained why Norwegian (and potentially Swedish and Faroese; see Section 2) sometimes allows for an empty D in referential phrases that function as arguments. Furthermore, there are restrictions to α P-to-Spec-DP movement, and the hypothesis thus provides testable predictions (see below). It is therefore a stronger hypothesis than the suggestion that D is simply empty.

In fact, Julien (2016:80) suggests that “[i]t is even possible that the adjective can move to D if nothing intervenes” in the cases with exceptional adjectives. However, I propose that it is the whole α P rather than the adjective only that moves to the D-projection. Again, this is in line with the other Scandinavian varieties and therefore more appealing than an analysis in which Norwegian sometimes shows movement of adjectives out of α P.

The proposal put forward here is as follows: Like Northern Swedish (and in some respects like Icelandic), Norwegian allows for α P-movement to Spec-DP, but only with a restricted set of adjectives. These are the exceptional adjectives discussed in Section 4.1 above: superlatives, ordinal numbers, *første* ‘first’, *andre* ‘other, second’,

²¹ See Julien (2002:284–285) for an explanation for the difference between Icelandic and Northern Swedish with respect to numerals.

siste ‘last’, *eneste* ‘only’, *neste* ‘next’, *forrige* ‘previous’, *venstre* ‘left’, and *høyre* ‘right’. I furthermore propose that movement of α P is not possible when a cardinal intervenes between α P and DP (as in Northern Swedish), and with ellipsis of the head noun (as in Icelandic and Northern Swedish). In those cases, D has to be spelled out by a determiner and double definiteness is obligatory despite the presence of an exceptional adjective. This proposal leads to two predictions, illustrated in (34) and (35).

(34) Prediction 1: Cardinal numbers are obligatorily preceded by the definite determiner

- a. (de) beste plass-ene
DEF.PL best place-DEF.PL
 ‘the best places’
- b. *(de) tre beste plass-ene
DEF.PL three best place-DEF.PL
 ‘the three best places’

(35) Prediction 2: Phrases with ellipsis of the noun obligatorily contain the definite determiner

- a. (den) beste plass-en
DEF.SG best place-DEF.M.SG
 ‘the best place’
- b. *(den) beste
DEF.SG best
 ‘the best one’

The first prediction states that although determiner omission is possible with exceptional adjectives (34a), the determiner is obligatory when the adjective is preceded by a cardinal number (34b). Julien (2016:80-81) discusses determiner omission in Swedish and notes that cardinal numbers may not appear in front of the adjective “unless a preposed determiner is also present.” Julien treats Norwegian and Swedish similarly in this respect, and her observation may be seen as support of prediction 1 (34).

The second prediction states that the determiner is obligatory when there is ellipsis of the noun (35b), even if the adjective is an exception (35a). Julien (2005:43) points out that pronominal determiners obligatorily precede the exceptional adjective “if the noun is left phonologically empty.” She provides the example in (36), which is in line with the prediction about nominal ellipsis in (35).

- (36) Dei diskuterte kven som hadde *(den) beste
 they discussed who REL had DEF.SG beste
 ‘The discussed who had the best one [car]’ (Julien 2005:43)²²

²² Like all examples in Julien (2005), (36) is in the Nynorsk standard.

In the next two sections, I test these predictions with two types of data: corpus data from the NDC and acceptability judgment data elicited on either written (7 participants) or spoken (7 participants) sentences. In the judgment data, all speakers judged four sentences with a cardinal number and four sentences with ellipsis of the noun. In each condition, half of the sentences contained the prenominal determiner while the other half did not. As for the corpus data, the data extracted to examine the exceptional adjectives (see Section 3) contained examples with cardinal numbers as well. These are used to test prediction 1. To test prediction 2 on ellipsis, another corpus search was conducted to find phrases with one of the exceptional adjectives directly followed by something other than a noun. These were manually sorted (similarly to the procedure described in Section 3) into phrases with and phrases without a determiner.

The data presented in the next sections show that both the corpus data and the judgment data provide support for the predictions in (34)–(35) and hence the α P-to-Spec-DP movement hypothesis.

5.3 Prediction 1: cardinal numbers

The proposal put forward in the present article is that determiner omission with exceptional adjectives can be syntactically accounted for in terms of movement of α P to Spec-DP. This movement is blocked if a cardinal number intervenes between α P and DP, and it is therefore predicted that determiners are obligatory in these phrases; see (34) in the previous section.

Before this prediction is checked in the data, it is relevant to have a closer look at plural phrases in general. Anderssen (2006:132) claims that determiner omission is “illegitimate with plural nouns,” and provides the example in (37)—cf. (34a) above. In other words, Anderssen claims that exceptional adjectives are always preceded by a determiner if the noun is plural. If this is the case, phrases with cardinal numbers cannot be used to check the proposal of α P-to-Spec-DP movement.

- (37) Kan du gi meg ***(de) andre støvl-an**
 can you give me DEF.PL other boot-DEF.PL
 ‘Can you give me the other boots?’ (Anderssen 2006:133)²³

The Norwegian part of the NDC contains 311 phrases with an exceptional adjective and a plural noun but no cardinal, similar to (37) (out of 1,537 phrases with an exceptional adjective; see Section 4). The majority of these phrases contain the prenominal determiner (86.8%, n=270), as in (38a). However, a certain number have no determiner (13.2%, n=41), for example (38b).

- (38) a. **de beste kyr-a** melker åtte og tretti liter til dag-en
 DEF.PL best COW.PL-DEF.PL milk eight and thirty liter to day-DEF.M.SG
 ‘The best cows give 38 liters of milk a day’ (aaseral_01um)

²³ The example follows the writing conventions in Anderssen (2006).

- b. det har vært mye vann i bekk-ene **siste dag-ene**
 it has been much water in river-DEF.PL last day-DEF.PL
 'There has been much water in the rivers the last days' (meeraker_03gm)

The presence of the determiner is more frequent with plural nouns than with singular ones, and inclusion of the determiner seems preferred in plural contexts, while less than half of all phrases with an exceptional adjective contain the determiner (46.4%; see Section 4.1). However, more than 10% of the plural phrases do not contain the determiner, and it seems too strong to state that these phrases are ungrammatical in Norwegian. I therefore assume that determiner omission is also possible with plural nouns (at least for certain speakers), and it is predicted that the determiner is obligatory when a cardinal number is present.

Phrases with a numeral and an exceptional adjective are relatively infrequent in the corpus. A total of 62 phrases were found. A large majority of them contain the prenominal determiner (90.3%, n=56), while a small proportion occur without the determiner (9.7%, n=6). An example of each is given in (39).

- (39) a. det var veldig tøft **de to første år-ene**
 it was very hard DEF.PL two first year-DEF.PL
 'It was very hard the first two years' (myre_04gk)
- b. jeg bodde **fem første år-ene** mine oppi Tømmesdalen
 I lived five first year-DEF.PL my up.in Tømmesdalen
 'I lived my first five years in Tømmesdalen' (gauldal_01um)

Phrases like (39b) are predicted to be ungrammatical under the α P-to-Spec-DP hypothesis, as cardinal numbers are assumed to block this movement (Section 5.1). A few phrases with a cardinal number but no determiner are nevertheless found in the corpus data. Some of these may be speech errors (see footnote 16), but there may also be more fine-grained rules that are not yet fully understood. In this respect, it is interesting to note that 4 of the 6 counterexamples are adverbial phrases expressing time (like (39b)), which are not referential in the same way as canonical objects.²⁴ Potentially, factors like syntactic function (adverbial versus referential object) may account for some of the phrases that are unpredicted under the α P-to-Spec-DP hypothesis.

Very few cases without a determiner were found among those with a cardinal number. In addition, definite plural phrases with a cardinal number but no adjective obligatorily contain the prenominal determiner, as in (40). The NDC contains 67 phrases with the cardinal numbers 2 to 10 followed by a definite plural noun, and only one of them lacks the prenominal determiner (1.49%).²⁵

²⁴ I would like to thank an anonymous reviewer who pointed this out and shared their native-speaker intuitions on these phrases.

²⁵ In addition, there are 5 phrases without the determiner in which the cardinal number is preceded by the adjective *første* 'first' or *siste* 'last'. These adjectives may appear both in front of and after the cardinal numbers, while other adjectives can only appear after the cardinal (Faarlund et al. 1997:249). These cases are not included in the present analysis, as it is unclear whether the determiner could be omitted in these cases.

Table 4. Acceptability judgments on modified definite phrases with a cardinal number and an exceptional adjective, with and without determiner

	Written				Spoken			
	with det.		without det.		with det.		without det.	
Acceptable	71.4 %	(10)	0 %	(0)	100 %	(14)	0 %	(0)
Marginal	14.3 %	(2)	21.4 %	(3)	0 %	(0)	28.6 %	(4)
Unacceptable	14.3 %	(2)	78.6 %	(11)	0 %	(0)	71.4 %	(10)
TOTAL	100 %	(14)	100 %	(14)	100 %	(14)	100 %	(14)

- (40) så **de** **to** **søstrene** har ikke vokst opp sammen
 so DEF.PL two sister.DEF.PL have not grown up together
 'So the two sisters did not grow up together' (lommedalen_04gk)

The available data in the NDC strongly suggest that the prenominal determiner is obligatory in phrases that contain a cardinal number, even if they also contain one of the exceptional adjectives. In addition to the corpus data, judgment data were collected to investigate phrases with exceptional adjectives. The judgment data on phrases with a cardinal number are more clear-cut than the corpus data. They are presented in Table 4.

The results of the judgment task show that phrases with cardinal numbers and a determiner are generally acceptable in Norwegian.²⁶ These sentences are judged much more acceptable than phrases without the determiner, which were never judged acceptable. Most people in the judgment task considered sentences without the determiner unacceptable. It has to be noted that a few of the phrases presented in spoken form were judged to be acceptable. However, the participants in the oral judgment task were asked to repeat the sentence before they judged it, and some participants correct the sentence while they repeat it, as in (41) where a determiner was added to the stimulus sentence. These judgments were counted as “unacceptable” in the numbers presented in Table 4, as they provide indirect evidence for the prediction that the determiner is obligatory when a numeral precedes the exceptional adjective.

- (41) a. stimulus: *Det har vært veldig kaldt i tre siste ukene*
 b. repetition: *Det har vært veldig kaldt i de tre siste ukene*
 'It has been very cold the last three weeks'

²⁶ Some participants who judged the written sentences considered some phrases with a determiner to be marginal or unacceptable. This is unexpected, but may reflect a judgment on the order of cardinal number and adjective. In the sentences, the cardinal preceded the adjective (*de to første ukene* ‘the two first weeks’). The reverse order is also possible in Norwegian (*de første to ukene* ‘the first two weeks’), as (superlative) adjectives that denote an order in time can occur before and after the numeral (Faarlund et al. 1997:249). The order adjective–cardinal may be preferred by some during the judgment task.

In summary, the data show that phrases with a cardinal number and an exceptional adjective obligatorily contain the prenominal determiner that may otherwise be omitted in front of these adjectives. The data thus lend support for the proposal that the exceptional adjectives allow for movement of αP to Spec-DP, unless something else intervenes (the cardinal number). It was also shown that phrases with only a cardinal number always contain the prenominal determiner, so cardinal numbers (or CardP) themselves cannot move to Spec-DP.

5.4 Prediction 2: ellipsis

The second prediction related to the proposal that αP moves to Spec-DP is that this movement is only possible when an overt noun is present within αP , because only elements with a referential index can move to the DP-layer (see Section 5.1). In cases of nominal ellipsis, the movement is impossible, and the determiner is predicted to be obligatory. Thus, I expect that when an exceptional adjective is found in a phrase with ellipsis, it will be preceded by a determiner (see (35) and (36) above).

This prediction is confirmed by the corpus data. The search for exceptional adjectives followed by something other than a noun yielded 1,474 phrases with ellipsis. The vast majority of these phrases contain the prenominal determiner ($n=1,363$, 92.5%), as in the examples in (42). Less than 10 percent of the phrases lack the determiner ($n=111$, 7.5%); see (43) for an example.

- (42) a. jeg tror **den** **eldste** er atten
 I think DEF.SG old.SPL is eighteen
 'I think the oldest one is eighteen' (about someone's children) (kristiansand_04gk)
- b. og **den** **andre** er i Kristiansand
 and DEF.SG other.DEF is in K.
 'And the other one is in Kristiansand' (about his children) (nissedal_03gm)
- (43) den ene var liten og **andre** var stor²⁷
 DEF.SG one was small and other.DEF was big
 'One of them was small and the other one was big' (about birds) (stamsund_01um)

As noted above, even native speakers occasionally produce unacceptable phrases. It is also interesting to observe that half of the phrases without the determiner occur with the adjective *eneste* 'only' ($n=56$). From these, most have a very abstract meaning, as in (44).²⁸ In cases like these, it is hard to know which noun was elided, apart from 'thing', while the other examples (see (42) and (43)) clearly refer back to a specific

²⁷ An anonymous reviewer asks whether the coordination influences the absence of the determiner. Coordinated DPs can either have two determiners, or the second element can occur without a determiner. However, the two get a different interpretation: when two determiners are present, the DP refers to two separate entities, while there is only one referent when the coordinated DP contains one determiner (see Julien 2005:35; Anderssen 2012:7). In (43), however, there is coordination of sentences (rather than DPs), and the speaker clearly refers to two different birds. The absence of a determiner in front of the adjective *andre* 'other' can therefore not be explained by coordination.

²⁸ The phrase in (44) is sentence initial, but a check of the data point in the corpus confirms that there is no prenominal determiner present.

Table 5. Acceptability judgments on modified definite phrases with an exceptional adjective and ellipsis of the noun, with and without determiner

	Written				Spoken			
	with det.		without det.		with det.		without det.	
Acceptable	92.9 %	(13)	0 %	(0)	92.9 %	(13)	0 %	(0)
Marginal	7.1 %	(1)	35.7 %	(5)	0 %	(0)	42.9 %	(6)
Unacceptable	0 %	(0)	64.3 %	(9)	7.1 %	(1)	57.1 %	(8)
TOTAL	100 %	(14)	100 %	(14)	100 %	(14)	100 %	(14)

child or bird, respectively. One might wonder whether phrases like (44) are truly referential. If the cases of *eneste* with an abstract meaning are excluded, only 4.4% (63 out of 1,426) of the phrases with ellipsis and an exceptional adjective lack the determiner.

- (44) **eneste negative** er at det er # usannsynlig dyrt
 only.DEF negative.DEF is that it is # incredibly expensive.N
 ‘The only negative thing is that it is incredibly expensive’ (mo_i_rana_02uk)

When it comes to the judgment data on ellipsis and determiner omission, the results are more clear-cut than the corpus data (as was the case for cardinal numbers as well; see Section 5.3). The judgment data are presented in Table 5 below. The speakers accepted the phrases with the prenominal determiner, while none of the phrases without a determiner were accepted. This pattern is found across modalities (written and spoken), and most speakers commented explicitly on what was “wrong” with the phrases.²⁹

In summary, the data on ellipsis strongly suggest that determiners are obligatory in this context, even when the adjective is an exception and could otherwise appear without a determiner. Although a few cases of ellipsis without a determiner were found in the corpus data, the acceptability judgments categorically exclude them. This is in line with the predicted limitations of α P-movement as outlined in Section 5.2.

Together, the data on cardinal numbers and ellipsis indicate that there are restrictions on the omission of the determiner in front of exceptional adjectives. When a cardinal number precedes the adjective or when there is ellipsis of the noun, the prenominal determiner is obligatorily present. This can be taken as support for the syntactic analysis of exceptional adjectives proposed here. Normally, α P can move to Spec-DP when the AP contains an exceptional adjective. However, with cardinal

²⁹ In a small number of cases, the elliptical phrases without a determiner were accepted by the participants who judged the spoken sentences. However, when this happened, they repeated the sentence with a determiner and hence showed an indirect correction of the phrase (as with cardinal numbers; see Section 5.3).

numbers or no overt definite noun (i.e., ellipsis), this movement is prohibited, and D is spelled out as a determiner instead.

6. A note on variation

In Section 4, I distinguished different types of adjectives. While regular adjectives are always preceded by the prenominal determiner, the quantifier adjectives *hele* ‘whole’ and *halve* ‘half’ always occur without the determiner. The exceptional adjectives take an intermediate position: they *may* combine with a determiner but do not necessarily do so. As a result, much variation is found with respect to these exceptional adjectives.

Two types of variation have already been observed in the previous sections. First, there is variation between the different exceptional adjectives. Some adjectives typically occur without the determiner (e.g., ordinal numbers and *venstre* ‘left’ and *høyre* ‘right’), while others more frequently combine with the determiner (e.g., superlatives; see Table 1 above). In addition, there is variation between spoken and written language. In the judgment task, participants who judged spoken sentences accepted determiner omission to a higher degree than those who judged written sentences. Both types of variation show variation in preferences, not in (im)possibilities. In other words, what varies is not whether determiner omission is possible, but how frequently the determiner is omitted.

In the next two sections, I consider historical and dialectal variation. An in-depth study of the historical and dialectal variation with respect to the use of exceptional adjectives falls outside the scope of this article. Both are therefore discussed only briefly. As with the other types of variation, a variation in preference is observed.

6.1 Historical variation

This section briefly looks at variation across time in the use of determiners. To simplify the picture, all adjectives were studied together and tendencies for individual adjectives were not considered. Given the present-day variation among exceptional adjectives, variation in the historical development may also exist, but this is left for future studies.

To study historical variation, differences between age groups in the NDC were analyzed. The speakers in the NDC fall into two age groups: those younger than 30 (“group A” in the corpus) and those older than 50 (“group B”). In addition, the *Language Infrastructure made Accessible* (LIA) corpus was included, which is a corpus with historical recordings of dialectal speech. The recordings were made between 1937 and 1996, and the LIA corpus became available in 2019 (see footnote 5). Just like the NDC, the LIA contains recordings from all across Norway, but the LIA is bigger both in terms of speakers (1,374 vs. 438 in the Norwegian part of the NDC) and number of tokens (almost 3.5 million vs. almost 2 million).

Table 6 shows the use of exceptional adjectives with and without determiner in the LIA corpus, the old speakers in the NDC and the young speakers in the NDC. For ease of comparison, the results from the NDC as a whole (see Section 4) are also added. The picture of the two age groups in the NDC is quite similar to the corpus as a whole: In both groups, the determiner is more frequently omitted than included with

Table 6. Modified definite phrases with an exceptional adjective in the LIA corpus and the two age groups in the Nordic Dialect Corpus

	Total	With determiner		Without determiner	
LIA	3,276	54 %	(1770)	45 %	(1506)
NDC – old	826	47.9 %	(396)	52.1 %	(430)
NDC – young	711	44.9 %	(319)	55.1 %	(392)
NDC – total	1,537	46.5 %	(715)	53.5 %	(822)

Table 7. Modified definite phrases with an exceptional adjective in the LIA corpus, presented by decade based on year of recording. Total number of phrases = 2,852

	Total	With determiner		Without determiner	
LIA 1950s	266	47.4 %	(126)	52.6 %	(140)
LIA 1960s	408	53.9 %	(220)	46.1 %	(188)
LIA 1970s	1,215	50 %	(608)	50 %	(607)
LIA 1980s	666	59 %	(393)	41 %	(273)
LIA 1990s	297	56.9 %	(169)	43.1 %	(128)

exceptional adjectives. This tendency is somewhat stronger in the younger age groups, but the difference is not large. For the data from the LIA corpus the situation is different. In the older dialect recordings, more than half of the phrases with an exceptional adjective contain the determiner (54%, $n = 1,770$).

The pattern in Table 6 may suggest that the omission of the determiner in front of the exceptional adjectives has become somewhat more frequent over time. In both the LIA corpus and NDC many examples of determiner omission can be found, however, and the difference is not very big. The recordings in the LIA corpus come from a rather wide time span, and could be divided into decades, as in Table 7. Note that the total amount of phrases is lower than in Table 6, because the year of recording is not known for all recordings and because the recordings from 1937 contained too few phrases to draw conclusions from.

The data in Table 7 do not show a clear pattern of change. In most decades, there seems to be a preference to include the determiner (apart from the 1950s). In contrast, the preference in present-day speakers (NDC; see Table 6) is to omit the determiner. This may constitute a change, but the data in general do not show a clear decline in the use of the determiner.

In sum, the data presented in this section suggest that there has been variation in the use of the determiner with exceptional adjectives from the earliest available recordings until the present day. The preference for inclusion versus omission of the

determiner may have shifted, but the only conclusion that can be drawn safely is that the variation has existed for quite some time. It is not the case that exceptional adjectives always (or never) combined with the determiner in earlier recordings of spoken Norwegian.

6.2 Dialectal variation

In addition to variation over time, variation across dialects may also be found in the inclusion (or omission) of the determiner with exceptional adjectives. The Norwegian part of the NDC contains recordings from 111 locations across Norway. An in-depth analysis per place falls outside the scope of this article, and is also problematic given the low number of exceptional adjectives per location. In this section, I look at variation across areas and regions.

The “areas” in the NDC correspond to the (former) division of Norway into 18 *fylker*. These form five “regions” which align more or less with the five dialect groups, Northern Norway, Trøndelag, Eastern Norway, Southern Norway, and Western Norway. Although the number of phrases with an exceptional adjective is not equally distributed over the areas and regions, some observations can be made.

Recall from Section 4.1 that, overall, 53.5% of the phrases with an exceptional adjective lacked the prenominal determiner. In each area (*fylke*), there is a substantial proportion of phrases with and without the determiner. In other words, there are no areas in which the determiner is obligatorily included (or omitted); rather, the exceptions appear to behave as exceptions in all areas. At the same time, there is some variation. The area with the highest proportion of determiner omission is Nord-Trøndelag (78.4%, 29 out of 37), and the area with the lowest proportion of determiner omission is Rogaland (37.2%, 35 out of 94). When Norway as a whole is considered, there is a slight preference for determiner omission. There are, however, six areas with the opposite tendency, where more than half of the phrases occur with a determiner: Akershus (41.7% omission), Aust-Agder (38.9%), Buskerud (45.7%), Finnmark (45.6%), Rogaland (37.2%), and Telemark (45.8%).

Table 8 presents the dialectal variation for each region. Three of the regions are similar to Norway overall, with a small preference for determiner omission. In these regions, just above 50% of the phrases with an exceptional adjective lack the determiner. In the Trøndelag region, this preference is even stronger: here, about two-thirds of the phrases lack the determiner. In Southern Norway, on the other hand, the small majority of the phrases include the determiner. In general, the differences between the regions are not very large.

In summary, the picture arising from the data is one of dialectal variation, but all dialects have exceptional adjectives. There are some differences with respect to how frequently the determiner is included in different areas and regions, but none of them categorically includes or omits the determiner. This is similar to the other types of variation discussed in this section: There is variation along certain dimensions (adjective, modality, time, location), but all variation relates to how frequently the determiner can be omitted. The optional inclusion of the determiner is a clear pattern in all the data analyzed for this study.

Table 8. Dialectal variation: modified definite phrases with an exceptional adjective in the NDC, presented by dialectal region

	Total	With determiner		Without determiner	
Northern Norway	504	49 %	(247)	51 %	(257)
Trøndelag	157	33.1 %	(52)	66.9 %	(105)
Eastern Norway	407	46.2 %	(188)	53.8 %	(219)
Western Norway	350	47.1 %	(165)	52.9 %	(185)
Southern Norway	119	52.9 %	(63)	47.1 %	(56)
Total	1537	46.5 %	(715)	53.5 %	(822)

7. Concluding remarks

This article has investigated exceptions to double definiteness in Norwegian. Although double definiteness is generally obligatory in Norwegian modified definite phrases, there are exceptions where the pronominal determiner may be left out. Several adjectives that do not require the determiner have been mentioned in the literature, but they had not been studied systematically. In this article, I describe these exceptions and furthermore provide a syntactic analysis of phrases without a determiner.

An analysis of the Norwegian part of the *Nordic Dialect Corpus* (NDC) reveals that three types of adjectives can be distinguished. First, there are regular adjectives that are always preceded by a pronominal determiner and hence occur with double definiteness (Section 4.3). In addition, there are what I refer to as “exceptional adjectives.” These may be preceded by the determiner, but this does not have to happen (Section 4.1). The following adjectives belong to this group: superlatives, ordinal numbers, *første* ‘first’, *siste* ‘last’, *eneste* ‘only’, *andre* ‘other’, *neste* ‘next’, *forrige* ‘previous’, *venstre* ‘left’, and *høyre* ‘right’. In the NDC, these adjectives occur without the pronominal determiner in slightly more than half of the occurrences (53.5%). Variation between the adjectives is found, but determiner omission is not at all infrequent. Finally, there are the adjectives *hele* ‘whole’ and *halve* ‘half’ that behave like strong quantifiers and are never preceded by a determiner (Section 4.2).

The exceptional adjectives may appear with a determiner, and this leads to much variation. Some adjectives are more likely to appear with the determiner (e.g., superlatives) while others tend to occur without one (e.g., *venstre* ‘left’ and *høyre* ‘right’). In addition, acceptability judgments suggest that determiner omission is more acceptable in spoken than in written language. Exploratory investigations of the adjectives over time and across dialects shows that the variation has existed for at least several decades and all over Norway. Variation is found, but determiner omission with exceptional adjectives is found in historical dialect recordings from the LIA corpus and in all areas in the NDC. In this study, more detailed investigations of the variation were not conducted. Future research may establish the factors that influence the inclusion versus omission of the determiner in these constructions.

An additional factor that was not investigated systematically in the present study is the role of pragmatics and discourse factors. It has been suggested by some, including Julien (2002, 2005), that the prenominal determiner may be omitted with all adjectives if the referent is active in the discourse. Indications for this can also be found in the data of the present study (see Section 4.3), but future studies including carefully designed acceptability judgments may be able to provide conclusive evidence for the role of pragmatics.

The Norwegian modified definite phrases without a determiner look similar to the Northern Swedish vernaculars and, to some extent, to Icelandic. In Section 5, I propose a syntactic analysis of the phrases with an exceptional adjective that follows Julien's (2002, 2005) analysis of these other Scandinavian languages. Both the spoken language in the NDC and acceptability judgments support this proposal, although there are a few counterexamples that currently cannot be accounted for. I therefore analyze the phrases without the determiner as a case of α P-movement. In these phrases, α P – which includes the adjective and definite noun – moves to Spec-DP, such that the D-projection contains phonological material and D does not need to be spelled out by a determiner. There are limitations on this movement: when there is a cardinal number or ellipsis of the definite noun, α P cannot move and D is spelled out. In this respect, Norwegian is more similar to Northern Swedish than to Icelandic, as α P can move across cardinals in the latter.

In this article, I argue that some aspects of Icelandic and Northern Swedish syntax are also found in Norwegian. However, α P-movement in Norwegian is only found with certain adjectives, i.e., the exceptional adjectives. The regular adjectives occur in double definite phrases, while *hele* 'whole' and *halve* 'half' appear above DP in the projection for strong quantifiers. By investigating variation within a language and comparing the patterns to closely related languages, this article contributes to the description of Scandinavian nominal phrases and an understanding of the patterns of variation therein. For the other double definiteness languages, Faroese and Swedish, exceptional adjectives have also been described in the literature (see Section 2). In future work, it could be investigated whether these can also be accounted for by α P-to-Spec-DP-movement.

Acknowledgments. I am grateful to two anonymous reviewers and Terje Lohndal for their helpful comments and suggestions on this paper. I would also like to thank the participants of the acceptability judgment tasks, and all colleagues who have shared their intuitions about double definiteness with me.

References

- Anderssen, Merete. 2006. The acquisition of compositional definiteness in Norwegian. PhD dissertation, University of Tromsø.
- Anderssen, Merete. 2012. A spanning approach to the acquisition of double definiteness in Norwegian. *IBERIA: An International Journal of Theoretical Linguistics* 4(1), 1–34.
- Anderssen, Merete, Björn Lundquist, & Marit Westergaard. 2018. Crosslinguistic similarities and differences in bilingual acquisition and attrition: Possessives and double definiteness in Norwegian heritage language. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition* 21(4), 748–764.
- Baal, Yvonne van. 2020. Compositional definiteness in American heritage Norwegian. PhD dissertation, University of Oslo.
- Börjars, Kersti, Pauline Harries & Nigel Vincent. 2016. Growing syntax: The development of a DP in North Germanic. *Language* 92(1), e1–e37.

- Dahl, Östen. 2015. *Grammaticalization in the North: Noun phrase morphosyntax in Scandinavian vernaculars*. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Delsing, Lars-Olof. 1993. The internal structure of noun phrases in the Scandinavian languages. PhD dissertation, University of Lund.
- Delsing, Lars-Olof. 2003. Syntaktisk variation i nordiska nominalfraser [Syntactic variation in Nordic nominal phrases]. In Øystein A. Vangsnes, Anders Holmberg, & Lars-Olof Delsing (eds.), *Dialektsyntaktiska studier av den nordiska nominalfrasen* [Dialect-syntactic studies of the Nordic nominal phrase], 11–64. Oslo: Novus Forlag.
- Faarlund, Jan Terje, Svein Lie, & Kjell Ivar Vannebo. 1997. *Norsk referansegrammatikk* [Norwegian reference grammar]. Oslo: Universitetsforlaget.
- Halmøy, Madeleine. 2016. *The Norwegian nominal system: A Neo-Saussurean perspective*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.
- Harries, Pauline. 2015. The distribution of definiteness markers and the growth of syntactic structure from Old Norse to Modern Faroese. PhD dissertation, The University of Manchester.
- Johannessen, Janne Bondi, Joel Priestley, Kristin Hagen, Tor A. Áfarli, & Øystein A. Vangsnes. 2009. The Nordic Dialect Corpus – an advanced research tool. *NEALT Proceedings Series* 4, 73–80. <https://tekstlab.uio.no/glossa2/ndc2>
- Julien, Marit. 2002. Determiners and word order in Scandinavian DPs. *Studia Linguistica* 56(3), 246–314.
- Julien, Marit. 2005. *Nominal phrases from a Scandinavian perspective*. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Julien, Marit. 2011. Predicative definite NPIs in Norwegian. *Nordlyd* 38, 1–48.
- Julien, Marit. 2016. Possessive predicational vocatives in Scandinavian. *The Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics* 19(2), 75–108.
- Kester, Eva-Petra. 1993. The inflectional properties of Scandinavian adjectives. *Studia Linguistica* 47(2), 139–153.
- Kester, Eva-Petra. 1996. *The nature of adjectival inflection*. Utrecht: OTS Dissertation Series.
- Roehrs, Dorian & Marit Julien. 2014. Adjectives in German and Norwegian. In Petra Sleeman, Freek van de Velde, & Harry Perridon (eds.), *Adjectives in Germanic and Romance*, 245–261. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Sandström, Görel, & Anders Holmberg. 1994. Adjective incorporation and the syntax of the Scandinavian noun phrase. *Reports from the Department of General Linguistics, University of Umeå* 35, 81–97.
- Santelmann, Lynn. 1993. The distribution of double determiners in Swedish: Den support in D. *Studia Linguistica* 47(2), 154–176.
- Schutze, Carson T. & Jon Sprouse. 2013. Judgment data. In Robert J. Podesva & Devyani Sharma (eds.), *Research methods in linguistics*, 27–50. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Svenonius, Peter. 1994. On the structural location of the attributive adjective. In Erin Duncan, Donka Farkas, & Phillip Spaelti (eds.), *Proceedings of the Twelfth West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL)*, 439–454. Stanford, CA: Stanford Linguistics Association, CSLI.
- Taraldsen, Knut T. 1990. D-projections and N-projections in Norwegian. In Joan Mascaró & Marina Nespore (eds.), *Grammar in progress*, 419–431. Dordrecht: Foris.
- Teleman, Ulf, Staffan Hellberg & Erik Andersson. 1999a. *Svenska Akademiens grammatik 2: Ord* [Swedish Academy's grammar 2: Words]. Stockholm: Norstedts Ordbok.
- Teleman, Ulf, Staffan Hellberg & Erik Andersson. 1999b. *Svenska Akademiens grammatik 3: Fraser* [Swedish Academy's grammar 3: Phrases]. Stockholm: Norstedts Ordbok.
- Vangsnes, Øystein A. 1999. The identification of functional architecture. PhD dissertation, University of Bergen.

Cite this article: van Baal, Y. (2024). '(Den) eneste måten – When the Prenominal Determiner Can Be Omitted from Norwegian Double Definite Phrases'. *Journal of Germanic Linguistics* 36, 79–111. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1470542724000011>