**On the property-denoting clitic *ne* and the determiner *de/di*.**

**A comparative analysis of Catalan and Italian**

**Abstract**

The clitic pronoun *ne* and the functional element *de* introducing nominal constituentshave many nominal and prepositional functions across Romance languages. In this paper, we focus on the nominal functions, singling out three different bundles of semantic features that characterize both *ne* and *de*. They can denote properties of individual entities, properties of kinds, or predicate properties. The paper shows that Catalan *ne* and *de* display the three types of denotation, while Italian *ne* and *de* only display the first one. This paper further supports the hypothesis, independently held by Cardinaletti and Giusti (2015, 2016) and Espinal and Cyrino (2021a, 2021b), that the indefinite determiner *de* can be overt or silent, thereby unifying *de*-phrases (and the Italian partitive article) with bare nouns. The analysis of *de* as an indefinite determiner is then extended to adjectival *de* which is claimed to mark concord features on adjectives in both Catalan and Italian.