

# Specificity and DPs/NPs with human referents in Norwegian

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Pronouns may be used as determiners in all Norwegian dialects, however their semantics vary. In the Oslo dialect, a pronominal determiner indicates some kind of psychological distance between the speaker and the referent (Johannessen 2006), while here I show that in Sunnhordlandsdialekt (West Norwegian/Hordaland), the pronominal determiner indicates a specific referent. The data examined here includes posts in online blogs and forums, as well as native speaker judgements on appropriate determiner usage.

Keywords: specificity, pronominal determiners, Norwegian

## 1. Specificity in Indo-European languages?

Von Stechow (2002: 254): 'there are no sets of specific v. non-specific articles in Indo-European languages', in which the definite articles also indicate a specific referent.

Specificity (after Riley (2007: 833)): 'a referent is specific if there is a presupposition that the underlying entity of D(p) [an expression in a given discourse] is a semantic individual in the domain of p [that expression]'.

## 2. Determiners in Norwegian DPs/NPs

### 2.1 Basic definiteness marking in Norwegian

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| (1) eit hus<br>a house   | (4) *det hus   |
| (2) det huset<br>DEF hus-DEF<br>'the/that house'   | (5) hi sido<br>DEF.distal side-DEF<br>'the other side' |
| (3) huset<br>hus-DEF<br>'the house'  | (6) den sido<br>DEF side-DEF<br>'the/that/this side'   |
| (7) Han var dén gutten, vettu.<br>He was DEF boy.DEF, y'know<br>'He was such a <i>boy</i> .'   |  |
| (8) Ho hadde dá smilet på trynet, vettu.<br>She had DEF smile.DEF on face.DEF, y'know<br>'She had such a smile on her face/She had that particular (massive) smile on her face.' |  |

### 2.2 Definiteness marking of nouns with human referents in West Norwegian

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (9) gutten<br>gutt-en<br>boy-DEF<br>'the boy' | (10) han gutten<br>HE boy.DEF<br>'the boy' |
|---|--|

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (11) den gutten<br>DEF boy.DEF<br>'the boy'  | (13) denna gutten<br>DEF boy.DEF<br>'this/that boy' |
| (12) dén gutten<br>DEM boy.DEF<br>'that boy' | (14) *han gutt<br>HE boy                            |

### 2.3 NPs with definite articles may themselves be non-referential

- (15) a. Å Siren e **den jento på denna planeten** eg stole mest på!!  
And (name) is the girl on this planet I trust most in  
(<http://www.freewebs.com/matpause/venned.htm>)
- b. \*Å Siren e **ho jento på denna planeten** eg stole mest på!!
- (16) a. Forholdet er, frå Ove sitt synspunkt, ganske perfekt, og han forandrar seg ein god del for å bli meir lik **den mannen han trur Sara vil ha**.  
'The relationship is, from Ove's perspective, quite perfect, and he has changed a good deal to become more like **the man he think Sara wants**.'  
(<http://littkrit.blogspot.com/2006/06/tyl-no-more.html>)
- b. \* Forholdet er, frå Ove sitt synspunkt, ganske perfekt, og han forandrar seg ein god del for å bli meir lik **han mannen han trur Sara vil ha**.

## 3. Semantics and pragmatics of the pronominal determiner

### 3.1 Johannessen's study

Johannessen (2006): Oslomål<sup>1</sup>.

Pronominal determiner marks 'psychological distance':

- i) the speaker does not know the referent
  - ii) the addressee does not know the referent
  - iii) the speaker wants to distance themselves from the referent
  - iv) the speaker holds a negative attitude towards the referent
- (17) Comments from NDS-2
- a. Bruk av *den* er for meg å distansere meir.. Og eg bruker ofte og 'den der' i ein sånn sammenheng... Trur eg. :)  
Use of *den* for me distances more.. And I often use *den der* 'that there' in such contexts... I think. :)
- b. Bruken av *den* og *han* er gjer ein slaks forskjell at bruker man *den* så blir det meir distanse og med bruk av *han* så blir det meir nært.  
The use of *den* and *han* is has [sic] a sort of difference in that if you use *den* then there is more distance while with the use of *han* then it's nearer.

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<sup>1</sup> Johannessen's data comes from the NoTa corpus of spoken Oslo Norwegian (corpus fully transcribed and searchable since March 2006) and the TAUS corpus of spoken Oslo Norwegian from the 1970s; the data is thus reliable.

#### 4. Data

1. Data collected from the internet (blogs and forums) May and June 2007, from 87 websites/blog entries/discussions.
  - a. 180 tokens of *han mannen* type DPs.
  - b. 50 tokens without any determiner, eg *mannen* (several *vokalisten* ‘vocalist.DEF’).
  - c. 21 tokens of *den mannen* type DPs.
  - d. 8 tokens of *denne mannen* ‘this man’ type DPs (mostly *denne læreren* ‘this teacher’)
2. Online questionnaire 1 (18/7/07–26/8/07)
  - a. 50 respondents (37 completed surveys, and 13 incomplete) on 38 tokens = 1446 total judgements
3. Online questionnaire 2 (10/9/07–22/9/07)
  - a. 5 Kvinnheradsmål-speaking & internet-savvy respondents (due to technical errors, only 1 complete, and 4 mostly complete) on 46 tokens = 177 total judgements and comments
4. Native speaker of Kvinnheradsmål, not a trained linguist, but who I have worked with since 1997.
5. Naturally occurring data collected on fieldwork in Norway in 1999- 2005; and collected via email and chats.

#### 5. *Han mannen* in online blogs and forums

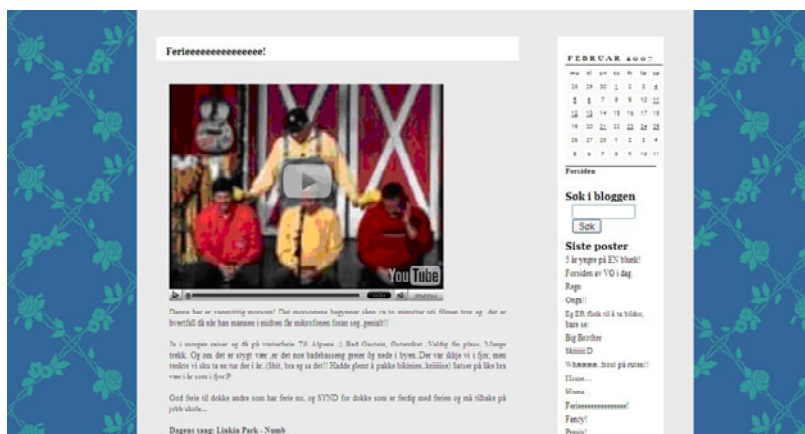
The *han mannen* form may be used to indicate a referent that:

1. is present in the immediate physical context (re Lødrup 1982)
2. has been previously mentioned in the discourse, but not the immediately preceding third person entity mentioned
3. is available from general cultural knowledge, eg the kinds of family members a person may have, characters in popular television ads, characters in computer games
4. is the object of a strongly held personal opinion
5. is cute
6. is identifiable through shared experiences

##### 5.1 *Immediate physical context*

(18) Sjø på ho damo, du!  
Look at she the-woman you  
My god! Look at that woman!

(19) #Sjø på den damo, du!  
Look at the the-woman you  
My god! Look at that woman!



(20)

Denne her er vannvittig morsom! Det morsomme begynner sånn ca to minutter uti filmen tror eg...det er hvertfall då når **han mannen i midten** får mikrofonen foran seg..genialt!!

'This one here is insanely funny! The funny bit starts about two minutes into the film I think...at any rate that's when **that guy in the middle** gets a microphone in front of him..hysterical!!'  
([http://marisa.blogg.no/m\\_022007.html](http://marisa.blogg.no/m_022007.html))



(21)

Nei, jeg skal ikke snakke om Peru, selv om det kanskje kan se sånn ut. Synes bare **han mannen her** kunne illustrere det jeg skal skrive om i dag :)

No, I'm not going to talk about Peru, even though it might look like it. I just reckon **this guy here** could illustrate what I'm going to write about today :)

([http://elisabethsteinsland.blogspot.com/2007\\_03\\_01\\_archive.html](http://elisabethsteinsland.blogspot.com/2007_03_01_archive.html))

## 5.2 Discourse use: re-introduction of a referent

- (22) Endelig ble det min tur, jeg gikk frem og ga alle arkene til **mannen som stod der**. Så gir **han** meg enda et ark, og sier at jeg må fylle ut det også! Videre går **han** over til  neste person som stod i køen . Jeg ble helt frustrert! Jeg prøvde å si til **han**, at sist jeg var der så sa **han** at det kun var et ark til som måtte fylles ut. Men enten så brydde **han** seg ikke, eller så hørte **han** meg ikke og derfor fikk jeg ikke noe svar. Siden jeg er litt beskjeden av meg, trakk jeg meg tilbake og tenkte jeg bare kunne fylle ut arket, for jeg hadde ingen planer om å dra til  ambassaden  en tredje gang!

Begynte å lese arket og det var visst et ark som måtte fylles ut for å få nytt pass. Det var i grunn ikke det jeg skulle! For pappa [1] skulle bare ha et ID- kort, siden det er en ny regel som sier at folk [2] i utlandet må ha en annerledes type ID-kort. Jeg begynte å bli småirritert, på de papirene som pappa hadde fylt ut stod det klart å tydelig at det var for å få ID-kort, og ikke pass! Skjønte ikke hva jeg skulle gjøre, men bestemte meg for å gå opp å snakke med sekretæren [3]. Jeg gadd nemlig ikke prate med **han mannen som stod i skranken** igjen, for han ville jo ikke høre på hva folk hadde å si uansett.

Finally it was my turn, I went up and gave all the forms to **the man who stood there**. So then he gives me yet another form, and says that I have to fill this one out too! And then he goes straight to the next person who stood in the queue. I

got completely frustrated! I tried to say to **him**, that the last time I was there he said that there was just one more form that needed to be filled in. But he either didn't care, or didn't hear me and therefore I didn't get an answer. Since I'm a little shy, I stepped back and thought I'd just fill out the form, because I had no desire to return to the embassy a third time!

Began to read the form and it turned out to be a form you needed to fill out to get a new passport. And ultimately that was not what I wanted to do! Because Dad [1] just needed to get an ID-card, since there's a new rule that says that people [2] overseas must have a different type of ID-card. I began to get a bit irritated, it was plain and clear on the papers which Dad had filled out that it was to get an ID-card, and not a passport! Didn't know what I should do, but decided to go up and speak with the secretary [3]. I really couldn't be bothered talking again with **that man who stood behind the counter**, because he didn't want to hear what people had to say anyway.

(<http://www.pakin.no/discuss/topic.asp?tid=6794&fid=26>)

- (23) Å på toppen av de heila, så ska *susterá mi* drepa honden eg sko fá! (De e *henas honn* da, men *hu* lika *an* ikkje se eg sko fá *an* når eg fekk min egen leilighet elle hus.) *An* har vist "bete" **ein mann**... TRur eg ingenting på!! *An* e så lite aggressive å ha all dri bete nogen i heila *sitt* liv! Eg lika ikkje **han mannen** else.. Off off.. :s

And to top everything off, *my sister* is going to put down the dog I was going to get! (It IS *her dog*, but *she* doesn't like *it*, so I was going to get *it* when I got my own flat or house..) *It* has apparently "bitten" **a mann**... I DON't believe for a second!! *It's* so non-aggressive and has never bitten anyone in *its* whole life! I don't like **that man** no sir.. Hmph hmph.. :s



([http://mslykke.weblogg.no/290107074830\\_ojje.html](http://mslykke.weblogg.no/290107074830_ojje.html))

### 5.3 Culturally identifiable

blue numbers = % of respondents who selected:

- 1) no determiner
- 2) pronoun (ie *han* or *ho*) + noun
- 3) definite article (eg *den* 'the, that') + noun
- 4) demonstrative (eg *denna* 'that, this') + noun

- (24) **God reklame!**

21:08 - 07.03.2006, Fra: Arktis

Nå har vi sagt hvilke raklamer som er dårlig, men hvilke reklamer syns dere er skikkelig gode?

Now we've said which ads are bad, but which ads do you guys reckon are truly good?

- a. [Jeampi](#), 21:16 - 07.03.2006, Fra: Frekhaug - Bergen  
den fra coop når den ungen skal spise suppe :P  
og når **han fyren** har fått kjønns sykdom og ikke tør å si det til legen (rema 1000)  
That one from coop when the kid is about to have some soup :P  
And when **that guy** has an STD and doesn't dare say it to the doctor (Rema 1000 supermarket)
- b. [Betty](#), 23:03 - 07.03.2006  
Mentos reklamen no no no no nononono nono theres no sugar 😊  
Å så syns jeg trygg trafikk sin var bra. Lottoreklamen med **hun gamle dama** på alersjhemmet. Generelt så liker jeg reklamer med litt humor i. [...]  
Mentos ad no no no no nononono nono there's no sugar 😊  
And I also reckon 'Safe Traffic' (Road Traffic Authority)'s was good. The lotto ad with **that old woman** at the old folks' home. Generally speaking I like ads with a bit of humour.
- c. [Nenya](#), 06:52 - 08.03.2006, Fra: Oslo  
Jeg liker også den VGreklamen men **hun dama som skravler så mye**. [...]  
([7.02] 59; 0; 35; 5)  
I also like that VG ad with **that woman who complains so much**. [...]
- d. [Aya](#), 07:31 - 08.03.2006, Fra: Klepp  
Blenda reklamen, eller hva det er, "Må jeg sitte her i hele evigheten da?" Den er så skjønn.. Også liker jeg av en eller annen grunn Mills stripete.. "ost! nei.. kaviar.. nei.. ost!" Tihi.. Bilbelte reklamen er herlig, den er virkelig bra, også **han mannen** som spør om noen vet hvor han bor (vg?).. \*tear\*  
([7.03] 39; 47; 11; 3)  
The Blenda ad, or whatever it is, 'Do I have to sit here for all eternity then?' That one is so sweet.. I also like for some reason or other Mills stripy "cheese! No.. caviar.. no.. cheese!" Tihi. The seatbelt ad is awesome, it's really good, also **that guy** who asks if anyone knows where he lives (VG?).. \*tear\*
- e. [Lazita](#), 09:21 - 08.03.2006, Fra: Askøy  
Jeg synes reklamen for BT(Bergens Tidene) er bra jeg, den med **han forbryteren** [7.04] med snuten etter seg på motorsykkel og **han fyren** [7.05] som liksom jobber i bt som kommer kjørendes på en scooter og tar bilder av forbryteren og politimannen.  
([7.04] 39; 47; 11; 3; [7.05] 36; 50; 14; 0)  
I think the ad for BT (Bergen Times newspaper) is really good, that one with **the robber** with the cops after him on motorbike and **that guy** that sort of works for BT who comes charging up on a scooter and takes photos of the robber and the policeman.
- f. [bcRex](#), 13:12 - 08.03.2006, Fra: Akershus  
liker:  
\*Omo reklamen(tror jeg det er) "havet, SVARTEHAVET" "oi, hvor ble det av brødskiva"  
\*VG reklamen med **ho skravle kjærringa** ([7.11] 91; 0; 6; 3)  
\*Coop reklamen (tror jeg det er) med **han lille gutten** "fiskepinner", kanksje mest fordi jeg trodde han sa Strikkepinner før 🤔 ([7.12] 3; 43; 51; 3)  
[...]  
I like:  
\*Omo (washing powder) ad (I think it is) "the sea, THE BLACK SEA" "huh? What happened to my sandwich?"  
\*VG ad with that whinging woman

\*Coop ad (I think it is) with that little boy “fishpop” [cf ‘lollipop’], maybe mostly because I thought he said ‘knitting needles’ before 🤔

- g. [Hilde90](#), 14:00 - 08.03.2006, Fra: Havøysund  
VG har nesten alltid kule reklamer, særlig den med **hu skravlekjerringa**.  
Jeg ler HVER eneste gang på slutten av den.  
Den der reklamen med der "Even har sagt sitt første ord".  
VG nearly always have cool ads, especially that one with that whingey-woman.  
I laugh EVERY single time at the end of it.  
That ad with the ‘Even has said his first word’.
- h. [Anettex](#), 15:03 - 08.03.2006, Fra: Sandnes  
hihih digger **hu skravle kjerringa** jeg også!! åsså den kamille! "jeg får skikkelig angst ass, jeg også drit seriøst angst" hihih!! å MEnthos!! åsså den telenor "unnskyld de vet ikke hvor jeg bor?" tror det er telenor.. hmm..  
[...]  
Hihih I dig that whingey woman too!! and that [?!]?! "I get like totally scared, y'know, I shit serious fear' hihih!! and Mentos!! and that telenor [main telco] "excuse me, you don't know where I live do you?" I think it's telenor.. hmm..  
[...]

### Other kinds of culturally identifiable referents

- (25) By Anonymous, at [12:57 AM](#)  
hælo!!!  
du burde egentli ikke skriv en post om skeidar som e kan sjå, før då tennes mine stumpe pluggar, før å sei dæ mildt!!!!  
du skjønnæ, e kjøpte OG seng dar. men når e sku få den heim va de fri før sengebein!!! greit nok, de sku kom mæ de, men når dæ tok to mnd vart e litt... arg...  
e og en voksen for nedover dit, og GJETT OM e mått kjeft! e har aldri oppført me sånn offentli før, men dæ va heilt på sin plass!!! **ho jento i disken** va meget frekk, så då fikk ho møt si overkvinne!!! e mått jo selfølgeli kjeft på de på lageret og,,,,, vanskelige folk d der!! og som du kanskje skjønnæ, dæ e et litt følsomt tema:)  
hello!!!  
you really shouldn't write a post about Skeidar [shop] which I can see, cos then my stumpe pluggar gets excited, to put it mildly!!!!  
You understand, I ALSO bought a bed there. But when I went to get it home, it was free of legs!!! Fine, they would bring them out, but when they took two mths I was a bit.... Argh....  
Me and a grown-up drove down there, and TALK ABOUT having to kick up a fuss! I have never behaved like that in public before, but it was totally necessary!!!  
**That girl behind the counter** was too fresh, and she got to meet her superior-woman!!! Of course I had to mouth off to the company too,,,,, difficult people there!! And as you probably know, it's a bit of an emotional subject :)  
(<http://bofellesskapet.blogspot.com/2005/10/jag-blir-s-forbannat.html>)

## 5.4 Expressing a strong personal opinion

### Negative

- (26) [macciato](#), 14/05-2007 : 12:46  
Hvor i f\*\*\* står vokalen til **han vokalisten** ([1.01] 78; 14; 2; 6) i Iron Maiden?  
Den er jo helt forferdelig! Gnager i ørene av å høre på **den fyren** ([1.02] 27; 10;  
57; 6)! Skuffa over at han ikke sto på lista! 😞  
Where the f\*\*\* is the voice of **that vocalist** in Iron Maiden? It is completely  
awful! Grates in my ears listening to **that guy!** Disappointed that he's not on the  
list! 😞

### Very positive

- (27) Postet av: Kim på 14.08.2006 - 20:41  
syns det var alt for lite vokal jeg... teksten får jo ingen sammenheng på en måte  
😞  
å neggu om **han vokalisten der** er 16 år !!  
reckon there was way not enough vocals... the lyrics have no cohesion in a way  
and no way is **that vocalist there** 16 years old !!  
(<http://forum.gitarnorge.no/index.php?act=Print&client=printer&f=14&t=11203>)
- (28) Kai Egil, 11/3/2006 @ 02:06:06  
[...] No har eg vore på The Cardigans konsert på uken. Det var skikkeleg knall!  
**Ho vokalisten** er ei sjarmerande dame :)  
I've now been to The Cardigans concert this week. It was totally awesome! **That  
vocalist** is a charming lady :)
- (29) Pjusk, 20.05.2007 (23:50)  
Jeg ser du skriver, Leo... Jeg lurer på å låne **han mannen din** - kanskje... Hvis  
du kan avse han bittelitt. Det er denne vasken som jo må kobles på, serru! Eller  
kan en praktisk far klare det?  
Og glemte helt: Hei Klips! 🍷🍷  
😞  
I see you're writing, Leo... I'm wondering about borrowing **that husband of  
yours** – maybe.... If you can afford to let him go a tiny bit. It's this washing  
machine that has to be put together, y'see! Or can a nearly father manage it?  
And completely forgot: Hi Klips! 🍷🍷  
😞 (http://forum.kvinneguiden.no/lofiversion/index.php/t267923.html)

## 5.5 Describing a cute person

- (30) From: GT6AtleXJ6, Sent: 2/2/2006 9:44 AM  
Hei  
Kor tid er det planlagt tur fra Vang og vidare over til Vestlandet? Om eg ikkje  
huskar heilt feil var turen til England omtrent på samme tiden?  
Me driv å vurderar kva for alternativ me skal velga. England eller Vang..... ;-)  
Me er litt usikre på om det blir litt langt å ta med oss **ho vetle Malene** ([5.01] 95; 0;  
3; 3) til England i år, men me har ikkje heil bestemt oss.  
Atle  
Hi,

What time are people planning a trip from Vang over to Western Norway? If I remember correctly, the trip to England was about at the same time? We're sitting here wondering which alternative we'll choose. England or Vang... ;-) We're a bit unsure if it'll be too far to take **the little Malene** with us to England this year, but we haven't quite decided yet.

A.

([http://groups.msn.com/BritishcarclubofJotunheimen/general.msnw?action=get\\_message&mview=0&ID\\_Message=41](http://groups.msn.com/BritishcarclubofJotunheimen/general.msnw?action=get_message&mview=0&ID_Message=41))

(31) **JoonGoi**, Bosted: Notodden

Lost In Translation er bestilt, sjekka litt for moro skyld og er kun film nr. 2 som jeg har bestilt i sone 1 på over 1 1/2 år...

**Darco**, Bosted: Øvre Årdal

Såg denna i natt, og det må eg sei... Dette var ein glitrande film. Den beste filmen eg har sett so langt i år. Av dei nye da sjølsagt. Eg har tross alt sett GoodFellas og... Men lell. Bill Murray var heilt konge, og **ho vetle Scarlett** har eg alltid likt. [...]

*JoonGoi's post:*

Lost in Translation has been ordered, checking it out a bit for interest, and only film no. 2 that I've ordered in zone 1 for over 1 ½ years...

*Darco's post:*

Saw it tonight, and I have to say... This is a stunning film. The best film I've seen so far this year. Of the new ones of course. After all, I have seen GoodFellas too... Men anyway. Bill Murray was king, and I've always liked **that little Scarlett**. [...]

(<http://dvdarkivet.no/phpBB/viewtopic.php?t=5582&postdays=0&postorder=asc&start=15&sid=16ca0ce6db33ed93bb14c8154c1c949c>)

(32) **Crazy**, Skrevet: Søndag 04 Mars 2007, 20:19 Tittel: Søknad

Halloen!

Mitt namn er J, ein 15 år gamal gut i frå indre Sogn (som alle veit, SFJ's paradis!). Min WoW-karakter er ein liten gnom rogue, Crazyhorse. [...] Om meg, **han vetle blonde guten** som sitt og nistirrar på skjermen døgnet rundt (ikkje mine ord 😊). Eg heiter då som sagt J, går i 10. på [...] Skule i Vik i Sogn. [...] Og så nærmar eg meg russetida, og då blir det nok òg litt mindre WoW 😊.

Hi!

My name is J, a 15 year old boy from inner Sogn (as everyone knows, SFJ's paradise!). My WoW character is a little gnome rogue, Crazyhorse. [...] About me, **that little blond boy** who sits and stares at the screen 24 hours a day (not my words 😊). My name is, as stated, J, in year 10 at [...] School in Vik in Sogn. [...] And VCE is approaching, and then there'll quite probably be a little less WoW 😊.

(<http://www.prinsesser.net/forums/viewtopic.php?p=1475&sid=6b7618da877216ef470d25a9a9ce7fa1>)

- (33) 27/7  
[...] Etter ei stund kom tanta mi. Ho har to barn eit på to og ein som skal begynne på skolen. **Ho vetle ho** bale i veg ganske reint og voksent. Du kan faktisk ha ein enkel samtale med ho. Det er ganske imponerende av ein to åring...  
[...] After a while my aunty came. She has two kids one aged 2 and one who's about to start school. **The small one** yabbers away pretty clearly and grown-up-like. You can actually have a simple conversation with her. That's pretty impressive for a 2 year old...

## 5.6 Referent identifiable through shared experiences

- (34) Kosemose, 20.05.2007 (23:24)  
[...] Og ja, jeg er en super strateg. I teorien. I praksis var det slik at noen av de andre på visningen brukte taktikken min: "kjeeeeenn som det lukter mugg her! .... Hvor er lista vi skal skrive oss på?" (Barna i bilen etterpå: "**hun dama** sa jo det du skulle si, det med at det luktet mygg i huset". Jeg innser at jeg er en skikkelig dårlig rollemodell 🤪).  
[...] And yes, I am a super strategist. In theory. In practice it turned out that several of the others at the open-for-inspection used my tactic: "can you SMELL those mozzies? .... Where are we supposed to write our names down?" (Kids in the car afterwards: "**That woman** said what you were going to say, that thing about it smelling like mozzies in the house". I realise that I'm a particularly bad role-model 🤪).

(<http://forum.kvinneguiden.no/lofiversion/index.php/t267923.html>)

## 5.7 Genre

Dette er munnleg/noko barnsleg bruk av "han" - ofte brukt av barn og ungdommar - og er ikkje korrekt norsk. Personleg brukar eg det ikkje. Bruk av "den" i dømet ovanfor treng ikkje vera negativt. Men det forsterkar ordet "vokalisten". Ofte brukt munnleg.

This is an oral/a bit childish use of *han* – often used by children and teenagers – and is not correct Norwegian. Personally I don't use it. Use of *den* in the example above doesn't need to be negative. But it strengthens the word *vocalist*. Often used orally.

- (35) **redd for å bli såret:-/**  
Skrevet av 'skeptisk', 13.april.2007, kl.16:21  
hvis ei jente er interessert i deg og du veit det.. er det veldig lett for deg å utnytte det då? si at ho er ganske ok..  
sikkert ganske åpenlyst at det er meg sjøl eg snakke om.. og eg like ein type... han har funne ut av det og vise interesse... men han er veldig sann har lyst å gjøra forskjellige ting.. eg var oppe hos han og såg film, der han var veldig på meg.... blir så usikker, for eg er veldig forelska, men veit ikkje om eg skal satsa på han.. e han bare ute etter ein ting eller kan det være han har litt interesse for meg?

han spurte om vi sku se film no i helga, og eg sa jo ja... men er litt usikker på om eg bare skal avlysa det og bare gi han opp, eller om eg skal satsa på han.. er så redd for å bli såra.. veit eg kan snakka med han om det, men problemet då er jo at hvis han bare er ute etter ein ting, kan jo han bare si det han veit eg vil høra....

sånn e han med meg: snakke alltid til meg på msn, hilse og smile til meg når vi treffe hverandre på gato... om han er langt unna og han får øye på meg så stirre han utrolig mye.. ! virke ikkje så han prøve å skjula det heller.. men er litt usikker, for han har nett holdt på med **ei an jenta**, men han sir at de no bare er gode venner.. han er sånn typisk flørtepus, for å si det sånn..... for no i det sista har eg alltid sett de sammen, så når eg fortalte at eg ikkje likte han lenger (noe som ikkej var sant) , så spurte han koffor.. så sa eg fordi han holdt på med **ho jento**, då sa han at de bare var gode venner og hadde avslutta alt som de holdt på med før.. så sa han at han sku satsa på meg.. trur det var kødd, men.. ja, eg har jo et lite håp:P

mye att og fram her no, men ka synst du eg skal gjøra?

er så redd han e sånn som eg frykte, og vil heller ikkje bli såra.. eg like han jo, og håpe bare han ikkje utnytte det at eg like han.. :/

### **scared of being hurt:-/**

Written by 'skeptical', 13.april.2007, 16:21

If a girl is interested in you and you know it.. is it very easy for you to use that to your advantage? Say that she's quite okay..

Probably quite obvious that it's myself I'm talking about.. and I like a guy... he's found out about it and shows interest... but he's pretty interested in sort of doing different things... I was up at his place watching videos, where he was pretty full-on.... I'm so uncertain, cos I'm totally in love, but I don't know if I should go for him.. Is he just out after one thing or could it be that he's a bit interested in me? He asked if we could see a film this weekend, and of course I said yes.. but I'm a bit uncertain about whether I should just call if off and just give him up, or if I should go for him... I'm so scared of being hurt.. I know I can talk with him about it, but the problem then is that if he really is only after one thing, he can just say what he knows I want to hear....

This is what he's like with me: chats all the time with me on MSN, says hi and smiles at me when we meet each other on the street... if he's far away and catches my eye then he stares at me so unbelievably much.. ! doesn't seem like he tries to hide it either..

But I am a bit uncertain, cos he's just been with **another girl**, but he says that they're now just good friends.. he's a typical flirt, to put it bluntly..... cos just recently I've been seeing them together a lot, so when I told him that I didn't like him any more (something that isn't true), he asked why.. so I said because he was still seeing **that girl**, then he said that they were just good friends and had stopped everything they were doing before.. then he said that he'd go for me.. I think he was just joking, but.. yeah, I've got a bit of hope :P

Lots of to and fro here now, but what do you think I should do?

I'm so scared he's like I fear he wil be, and I'd rather not be hurt.. I really like him, and I hope he doesn't just use that I like him.. :/

<http://debatt.sol.no/show.fcgi?category=350000000000009&conference=221&posting=20500000002041225>

Nice contrast between *ho jento* 'she the-girl' and *den fina jento* 'the beautiful the-girl' (reintroduction of that individual); *den fina jento* refers to the abstract representation of the girl, rather than the particular person.

(36) **rude;**, Bosted: sengo mi (A), 17:20 Fre 27 Apr, 07

gutta har forskjellig smak då 😊

ska fortella deg ein liten historie eg skjønna du som vise at du ikkje MÅ vera tynn å vera kjempe deilig osv.

Se her. Da e ei som går i niende på skulen vår som blei dødsforelska i ein gutt (1 😊 som gjekk på vg. Ho begynte å snakka me han osv. fekk kontakt men ette min meining på feil måte.

ette hvert så flørta de og alt sånn. men da teita va at ho la ut nakenbilde av seg sjøl for å "imponera" han (ho ser bra ut og har egentlig ein fin kropp). Kompisen av **han gutten** fekk og sjå desse bildena og plutselig visste alle om da. Eit halvår seinare så har han fått seg kjæreste. Ho e ikkje tynn men feit. Ho va gravid og de ska gifta seg snart. Så han hadde altså avvist **den fina jento** for **den "stygge"** (må bare sei at ho e DRITMORSOM! ho har ein flott personlighet og alt da der)

så da bevise egentlig at du trenge ikkje vera KJEMPE DEILIG for å vinna ein gutts hjerte. Du må bare vera deg sjøl. **Ho jento i niende** og gutten fekk go kontakt dei men han avslo ho forda om. Så koffor tenka så masse på da?

=)

Gutta har forskjellig meining, sånn e da med alt.

Nåken like tynne, nåken like lubbne og andre bryr seg ikkje om utsende men om personligheten =)

klemme på\*

**rude;**, Place: my bed (A), 17:20 Fri 27 Apr, 07

boys have different taste you know 😊

I'm going to tell you a little story I know which shows that you don't HAVE to be thin to be extremely lovely etc.

See here. There's a girl in year 9 at our school who fell totally in love with a boy 😊 who was at a high-school. She started talking with him etc made contact but in my opinion in the wrong way.

After a while they flirted and all that. But the dumb thing was that she laid out naked photos of herself to 'impress' him (she looks good and actually has a good body). A mate of **the boy** happened to see these pictures and suddenly everyone knew about it. 6 months later he's got himself a girlfriend. She's not thin but fat. She was pregnant and they're going to get married shortly. So you see he'd rejected **the beautiful girl** for **the 'ugly'** (I just have to say that she is BLOODY AWESOME! She's got a great personality and all that)

So that proves really that you don't need to be EXTREMELY LOVELY to win a boy's heart. You just have to be yourself. **That girl in year 9** and the boy had good contact but he rejected her anyway. So why think about it so much?

=)

Boys have different opinions, it's like that with everything.

Some like thin, some like chubby and others don't care about looks but about personality =)

hugs

(<http://www.topp.no/phpf/forum/viewtopic.php?t=5006137&view=previous&sid=7645d730932b11cf10b915bce6f374b5>)

## 6. Pronominal determiner marks specificity

- (37) Jeg skulle gjerne sett **den jenta som kan gjøre det**.  
I should gladly seen the the-girl who can do that  
'I'd love to meet the girl (ie any girl) who can do that.'
- (38) Jeg skulle gjerne sett **hun jenta som kan gjøre det**.  
I should gladly seen she the-girl who can do that  
'I'd love to see that girl (that you're talking about) who can do that.'

## 7. Summary

### 7.1 Another look at the psychologically distal pronoun

- (39) Jeg er en stolt og ihvertfall til nå - lykkelig eier av en gammel gyngestol. Den ble kjøpt på en brukthandel. Ser veldig amerikansk ut, sånn sør-stats look, og gammel/velbrukt ut, men aner ikke hvor gammel. Vel - nå har **min kjære søster** skremt meg litt 😬 Hun påstår nemlig at **denne gyngestolen** gynger sånn helt av seg selv. 😬 Synes stolen er kul jeg og har ikke merket noe spesielt. Men **hun søsteren min** er sånn som ser auraer og merker stemninger i hus osv. Så når hun forteller dette, ja så blir jeg en smue skeptisk, til gyngestolen altså.

I am a proud and at any rate until now – happy owner of an old rocking-chair. It was bought at a second-hand place. Looks very American, sort of a Southern States 'look', and old/well-worn, but I've got no idea how old. Well – now **my darling sister** has scared me a bit 😬 She claims, you see, that **this rocking-chair** rocks like completely by itself. 😬 But I reckon the chair is cool and I haven't noticed anything special. But **that sister of mine** is the type who sees auras and senses the mood in houses, etc. So when she says this, yeah, I'm a tad skeptical, about the rocking-chair I mean.

## 8. Han mannen vs den mannen questionnaire

### 8.1 Kvinnherad dialect speakers only, excluding non-net participants

Table 1. Correlations (p=0.05) between the different determiners, Kvinnherad/net speakers only

	<i>o</i>	<i>han</i>	<i>den</i>
<i>o</i>	1		
<i>han</i>	-0.64499	1	
<i>den</i>	<b>0.401797</b>	<b>-0.75321</b>	1
<i>denne</i>	0.086547	-0.3185	<b>0.583904</b>

## 9. Conclusions

1. Norwegian nouns with human referents may be marked for specificity, thus von Heusinger's (2002) claim that 'there are no sets of specific v. non-specific articles in Indo-European languages' is false.
2. The pronominal determiner is the 'specific article' in Norwegian, and is only ever used when the existence of a unique referent is presupposed. The definite/demonstrative determiner *den/det* is the 'non-specific article'. The resolution of the referent may still be a unique individual, however this will be due to other, discourse and pragmatic, considerations, rather than lexical ones.
3. At least for speakers of the Sunnhordlandsdialekt (Kvinnherad), it is the definite article and demonstrative (*den* and *denne*) that are used to indicate (psychological) distance, while the pronoun (*han/ho*) is used to indicate specificity and thus normally psychological proximity. This is the opposite of what occurs in the Oslo dialect (cf Johannessen).
4. To the extent that the pronominal determiner indicates psychological distance from the referent, (eg the speaker has a negative opinion of the referent) this is a pragmatic effect caused by the specific article.

## 10. References

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