Definite & Indefinite

Definite

▶ Definiteness in written Farsi is generally recognized by the absence of indefinite markers

▶ The most important markers of definiteness in written Farsi are the demonstratives 'in/an' (this/that) and the direct object marker 'ra'

▶ demonstratives 'in/an' (this/that)

▶ The direct object marker 'ra'

▶ Name that it's possessive is definite

▶ Special Names

▶ Names which refers to the name that mentioned before

Definite

- When we have more than one adjective, all of them get '-e' (possessive suffix) and the last one is added with this suffix to the end of the noun phrase which is the object of verb and takes object marker -ra (Mahootian, Gebhardt 1997: 67):

  - Shæhre zibaye tarikhiye Shiraz ra didæm

- If more than one definite noun forms the direct object of the verb, these are regarded as a syntactical whole and 'ra' is placed after the final noun

  - Ketab væ medad væ daftær ra biavar.

Indefinite

- Indefiniteness in written Farsi. It is marked in three ways,
  - by the spoken form of the numeral one, 'yek', before the NP,
  - by using the suffix 'i' after that
  - by a combination of these two ('yek' before the NP and 'i' after that)

Givenness Hierarchy

- According to Gundel et al. (1993)

- FOC(focused attention) > ACT(activated) > FAM(familiarity) > UID(uniqe Identifiability) > REF > TID(type Identifiable)

Farsi Givenness Hierarchy

- Hedberg et al. (2009)

- Type-Identifiability(TID)

  یک پدر می خواهد شمع های تولد پسرش رو با کبریت روشن کند

- Referentiality (REF)

  این پدر می خواهد شمع های تولد پسرش رو با کبریت روشن کند

- Unique Identifiability(UID)

  (این / آن) پدر می خواهد شمع های تولد پسرش رو با کبریت روشن کند

- Familiarity(FAM)

 آن پدر می خواهد شمع های تولد پسرش رو با کبریت روشن کند

* In farsi REF,UID,FAM are same

(10)

Definite (Specific)	Indefinite Specific	Indefinite Non-specific	Non-referential/Generic (Non-specific)
•particular referent •known to speaker •presupposed to be known to hearer	•particular referent •known to speaker •**not** presupposed to be known to hearer	•some referent but unfamiliar	•no referent
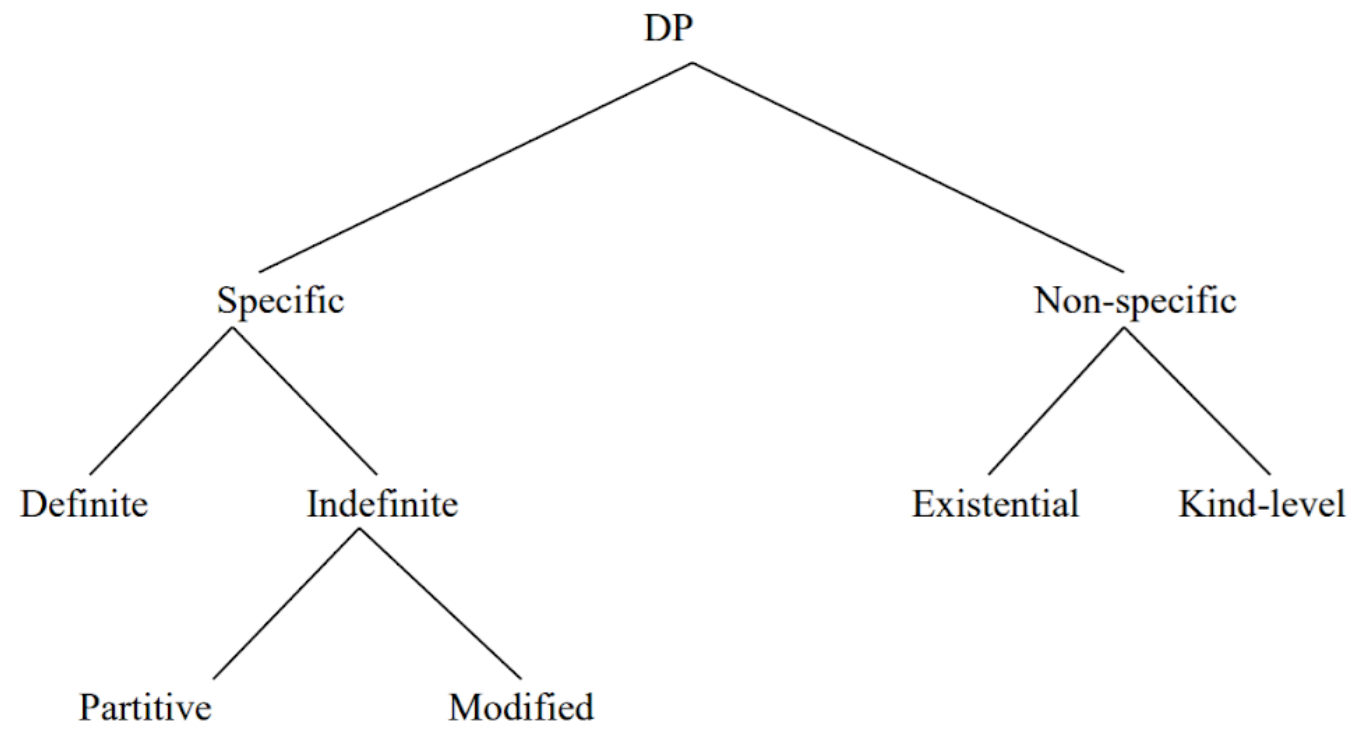
Figure 3: Specificity in Farsi

(Karimi 2005: 27)

Example

- Definitive

این فیلم درباره ی جشن تولد یک پسر بچه است

- Partitive

بهار یکی از مداد ها را خرید

- Modified

مریم یکی از کتاب هایی را که دیروز خریده بودم برداشت

- Kind-Level

ما هر روز سیب میخوریم

- Existential

تو امروز یک سیب خوردی