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Lexique des noms, regards croisés

Sous la direction de Céline Benninger et Anne Theissen



La construction *le fait que p* constitue-t-elle une structure binominale dénomminative ?

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- **Author:** Van de Velde (Danièle)
- **Abstract:** This article describes the French structure *le fait que* within the framework of equative structures. These structures, where the relation between the two nouns they contain is such that it can be expressed by using the copula (*la ville de Paris* implies *Paris est une ville*), are of three types: in the first one (*ce fripon de valet*) the first noun is used to qualify the referent of the second; in the second, (*la ville de Paris*) the first noun is a classifier for the referent of the second; in the third (*l'obstacle de ma paresse*) the first noun is used to put the referent of the second in a class of objects having in common a certain property (to be an obstacle, for instance). The structure *le fait que p* is said to pertain to the third type, which means that the conjunctive clause it contains is not the proper name of a fact. Rather, the noun *fact* is used to put the denotation of the clause it introduces in a class made up of "real things", exactly as in *la possibilité que p*, the first noun is used to qualify the referent of the clause it introduces as a "possible thing".
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