Honorific markers in Spanish proper names and the internal structure of the nominal area

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The goal of this talk is to provide an analysis of two different types of honorifics that combine with proper names in Spanish, represented in (1) and (2), respectively.

(1)   don / doña, fray 'Friar', sor 'Sister', san(to) 'Saint'
(2)   señor 'Sir' / señora 'Madam', licenciado 'Licentiate', doctor 'Doctor', reverendo 'Reverend', ingeniero 'Engineer', profesor 'Professor'...

Among other empirical differences, these two types of honorifics contrast in whether they belong to close or open lists, their ordering (3), their combinatorics with determiners (4) and their ability to appear in the plural (4).

(3)   a. la señora doña María
          the madam Doña María
       b. *(la) doña señora María
            the Doña madam María
(4)   a. *Señora María está aquí.
          madam María is here
       b. Doña María está aquí.
          doña María is here
(5)   a. señores Fernández
          mister-pl Fernández
       b. *doñas Marías
            Doña-pl María-pl

It has been proposed that the honorifics in (1) relate somehow with classifiers, and a traditional way to analyse the combinatorics between proper names and (2) is through the poorly understood notion of 'nominal apposition'. The data above show that treating (1) as classifiers is non-explanatory and fails to predict, for instance, that these elements reject pluralities in any context. Adopting a Nanosyntactic approach, an analysis where the two types of honorifics are introduced at different structural positions, in both cases above the classifier area, is proposed; within this analysis, nominal appositions are not different from auxiliary verb constructions: the syntactic structure allows for the projection of more than one syntactic constituent sharing the same type of lowest feature, provided that each one of the different syntactic complexes project distinct highest features into the spine of the tree. The analysis proposed here has implications for the number of syntactico-semantic areas identifiable within the lexical noun and possible (and impossible) morphological derivations using the proper name as a base.