

Le rôle de *ce* dans la résolution des problèmes d'accord verbal

The role of the French pronoun *ce* in solving verbal agreement problems

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Abstract: This paper studies sentences, common in modern French as well as in classical French, which combine a singular subject and a plural predicate, giving rise to agreement of the verb *être* with the predicate. These sentences are often perceived as incorrect by speakers. Normative grammar recommends the insertion of *ce* between the first constituent and the verb: the demonstrative pronoun makes both plural or singular agreement acceptable.

Key words: agreement, syllepsis, demonstrative pronoun, predicate, classical French.