Determiners

Quantifying Determiners
all /some etc.

Referential Determiners
a/the/this/my etc.

Determiners are regarded as forming a different category from adjectives because .

(1) **Determiners** have a different **distribution** from **Adjectives**:

(i) Determiners may not be stacked together ;whereas adjectives can.

(ii) Determiners must precede adjectives when they are both modifying the same noun; e.g. **My** *nice new* clothes.

(2) It is only a count noun that is preceded by a determiner that can stand on its own forming an NP ,and not one preceded by an adjective ;e.g. **a** *chair* is an NP ;while *big chair* is not. On the other hand, **a** *big chair* is an NP.

(3 There is a set of determiners that go with countable nouns and a distinct set that goes with non- countable nouns ;but both types of nouns take the same adjectives ;eg **some** *simple and comfortable* furniture/ **a** *simple and comfortable* chair.

(4) As adjectives have "specific descriptive content" (Radford,1997:41), they are subject to semantic and pragmatic anomaly ;eg ***a*** *thoughtful friend/?cat/?? fish/ ??? pan /! problem.* This is not the case with determiners e.g. ***a*** */ the/another/ this /my*