In this talk we discuss the variation in the distribution and acceptability of bare singular nominals (BSNs) with intensional transitive verbs in Catalan and Spanish (e.g., *necesitar / necesitar ‘need’, *buscar / buscar ‘look for’, *voler / querer ‘want’, and *desitjar / desear ‘desire’), in contrast to prototypical verbs of having such as *tener / tenir.

(1) a. Tinc cotxe.
I have car
‘I have a car.’
b. ? Necessito cotxe.
need car
‘I need a car.’
c. ? Busco cotxe.
look-for car
‘I’m looking for a car.’
d. ??Vull cotxe.
want car
‘I want a car.’
e. * Desitjo cotxe.
desire car
‘I desire a car.’

These differences in acceptability are not predicted by the analysis in Espinal & McNally (2007), even though all these verbs belong to the class of ‘have’-predicates (cf. Borthen 2003), which generally license BSNs in object position.

We will (1) refine our definition of the ‘have’-predicates that can combine with BSN objects; (2) sharpen the description of the classes of nominals that can appear with the different ‘have’-predicates; and (3) offer an explanation of why verbs such as *voler / querer ‘want’, and *desitjar / desear ‘desire’ are more restricted in this construction.

References
