Chapter 4: Word Classes. French

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NOTE: Please remember that the writing system of a language is NOT evidence for linguistic claims. If you know how French is spelled, please don't allow that knowledge to corrupt your analysis!

1. mõ pti frêr e meʃã 'My little brother is naught y.'
2. ma ptit søër e meʃãt 'My little sister is naught y.'
3. sõ frêr e grâ 'His brother is tall.'
4. sa søër e grâd 'His sister is tall.'
5. lô frêr e piiø 'The brother is pious.'
6. la søër e piiøz 'The sister is pious.'
7. la grâd pɔr t e blãʃ 'The big door is white.'
8. lô pti livr e blâ 'The little book is white.'
9. sa søër e frâseʃ 'His sister is French.'
10. sõ frêr e frãse 'His brother is French.'
11. ta søër e blõd 'Your sister is blonde.'
12. tô grâ frêr e blô 'Your big brother is blonde.'
13. ta søër va a lekɔl 'Your sister walks to school.'
14. tô frêr va a lekɔl 'Your brother walks to school.'
15. ʒø vwa yn pɔr t 'I see a door.'
16. ʒø vwa la pɔr t 'I see the door.'
17. ʒø vwa ə livr 'I see a book.'
18. ʒø vwa lô livr 'I see the book.'

A. Does French have a class of adjectives distinct from the class of verbs? Give the evidence from these data that supports your answer.
B. In these data, which word classes overtly express gender in French? List the example numbers that illustrate your answer. Is it grammatical gender or biological gender?

C. For each class of words that expresses gender morphologically (in these data), which morphological process is involved? State each morphological rule in prose.