

When is a Case not a Case? Adventures in Noun Morphology

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When is a Case not a Case?

- What is a case?

What is a Case?

- Case is a grammatical category determined by the syntactic or semantic function of a noun or pronoun.
 - *SIL Glossary of Linguistic Terms*

Latin

- *servus nom.s*
- *serve voc.s*
- *servum acc.s*
- *servi gen.s*
- *servo dat.s*
- *servo abl.s*
- *servi nom.pl*
- *servi voc.pl*
- *servos acc.pl*
- *servorum gen.pl*
- *servis dat.pl*
- *servis abl.pl*

When is a Case not a Case?

When it's a segunak

What is a segunak?

- ᠬᠠᠩᠭᠠᠪᠢᠶ᠋ᠭᠠᠨ Khangᠠᠪᠢᠶ᠋ᠭᠠᠨ for suffix
- Literally “follow-part”
- An affix in an agglutinating noun-system that can combine with other affixes to mark complex relationships
- Khangᠠᠪᠢᠶ᠋ᠭᠠᠨ segunakar are organised in a system of six ranks

Modsegunakar - deixis

- 𐌆𐌿𐌴 *this*
- 𐌸𐌴𐌹 *ban that*
- 𐌸𐌴𐌹 *dau what*
- 𐌶𐌴 *she no*
- 𐌶𐌴 *wo any*
- 𐌶𐌴 *ye you*

densegunakar - proximity

- \U↑ ut *at*
- \U└ eb *touching, in contact*
- \M↑ art *with (commitative)*
- \M↓ ash *without*
- \U* iss *near*
- \M* orr *far*

radsegunakar - position

- \w ip *in*
- \up\ sta *outside*
- \H\ omb *around*
- \up\ gri *above*
- \d od *below*
- \N shing *left*
- \w hop *beside*
- \urp urp *right*
- \æks æks *aligned with*
- \tuk tuk *in front of*
- \den den *behind*

karvsegunakar - motion

- \mathbb{N} am *destination*
- $\setminus Y$ ig *origin*
- $Y \setminus$ gu *path*

sintsegunakar - abstract

- ʌʌ uz *of*
- ʌʌ ol *by (instrumental)*
- ʌʌ akh *to (recipient)*
- ʌʌ ku *about, topic*
- ʌʌ ung *for (benefactive)*
- ʌʌ zen *on behalf of*
- ʌʌʌ aug *for (goal, reason)*
- ʌʌʌ yat *against*

bantsegunak - number

↑ № (a)r *plural*

No accusative or ergative!

- Core case role deliberately omitted
- A major function of case does not occur in Khangap̄yagon's noun morphology

ANADEW - Tsez

	Non-distal			Distal		
	Essive	Allative	Ablative	Essive	Allative	Ablative
in	-a:	-a:-r	-a:j	-a:z	-a:z-a-r	-a:z-aj
among	-t	-t-er	-t-a:j	-t-a:zz	-t-a:zz-a-r	-t-a:z-aj
on horizontal	-t'(o)	-t'o-r	-t'-a:j	-t'-a:z	-t'-a:z-a-r	-t'-a:z-aj
under	-t	-t-er	-t-a:j	-t-a:z	-t-a:z-a-r	-t-a:z-aj
at	-x(o)	-xo-r	-x-a:j	-x-a:z	-x-a:z-a-r	-x-a:z-aj
near	-de	-de-r	-d-a:j	-d-a:z	-d-a:z-a-r	-d-a:z-aj
on vertical	-q(o)	-qo-r	-q-a:j	-q-a:z	-q-a:z-a-r	-q-a:z-aj

gjâ-zym-byn by Jim Henry

- Three core spatial postpositions
- Take suffixes for being near, far or inside
- Take prefixes for orientation relative to a centre
- Case markers formed from a root word+ core spatial postposition

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When it's a verb

I give the dog a bone.

I give a bone, the dog gets it.

I give a bone the dogget.

iljena

- Spoken on lijn kovt, the 4th planet of Δ Pavonis
- Spoken by the Leyen (ljn), crepuscular bipeds with vibrissae all over their bodies
- They perceive themselves as embedded in an active world
- Everything is doing something

iljena

- Words consist of triconsonantal noun roots eg ljn “Leyen”
- ... and verbal vowel patterns eg i12e3a “speak”
- iljena = “Leyen speak”

Example

tlata	hwima	ohwoma	eknet	arojl
tlt	hwm	hwm	knt	rjl
all	3p	3p	pattern	beauty
12a3a	12i3a	o12o3a	e12e3	a1o23
be	make	decorate	have	adorn

He decorated everything he made with
beautiful patterns.

Case-like verb patterns

- e12e3 have (genitive)
- 1o23 hold (locative)
- 12e3o use (instrumental)
- a12a3e receive (dative)
- 12u3o undergo (accusative)

hmuno

“The human undergoes”

When is a Case not a Case?

When it's a kowu.

Tenata by Lila Sadkin

- *lume* Semantic roots
- *teja* Categorical suffixes
- *kowu* Function prefixes
- *ngona* Verbal inflection particles
- *ruma* Validity particles
- *feni* Conjunctions
- *jiso* Pronouns

kowu

- *so-* actor
- *ti-* action
- *ru-* recipient
- *fi-* beneficiary
- *pe-* purpose
- *lo-* location
- *ka-* direction
- *ne-* instrument
- *mu-* auxiliary

kowu

- Content words consist of kowu+lume+teja
- kowu relates to role of the word in the clause
- Words may function as noun, verb, adjective or adverb depending on context

Example from Inverse Relay 2

soxatemlu rulonguping

*lotsimomomuxamlang wamospwe, ksim
somesse kasetatsimomlu wafe slatus.*

actor-snow recipient-blanket

location-"mountain path" ngona, but

actor-we direction-mountains ngona ruma

*Snow blanketed the mountain path, but
we went by those mountains.*

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