

Problem Set 4

Due Sunday, October 13, 23:59. Submit on LumiNUS > Files > Student Submission > PS3.

1. Data analysis¹

The data below is *unanalyzed*, with only translations given; no morpheme boundaries, no glosses. (Because in real life, when you study a language, data doesn't come with morpheme boundaries and glosses!)

- (a) Consider the data in (1). Swahili verbs show agreement. Is the alignment of agreement markers nominative/accusative or ergative/absolutive?

(1) **Swahili:**

- | | |
|---|---|
| a. Sisi tulianguka.
'We fell down.' | c. Ninyi mlituona.
'You all saw us.' |
| b. Ninyi mlianguka.
'You all fell down.' | d. Sisi tuliwaona.
'We saw you all.' |

- (b) Consider the data in (2). Dyirbal (north-east Australia) has case marking. Is the alignment of case marking nominative/accusative or ergative/absolutive?

(2) **Dyirbal:**

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. ŋuma yabuŋgu buran.
'Mother saw father.' | c. ŋuma banaganyu.
'Father returned.' |
| b. Yabu ŋumaŋgu buran.
'Father saw mother.' | d. Yabu banaganyu.
'Mother returned.' |

- (c) Consider the data in (3). Kaqchikel (Mayan; Guatemala) verbs show agreement. Is the alignment of agreement markers nominative/accusative or ergative/absolutive?

(3) **Kaqchikel:**

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| a. Y'in xinoq'.
'I cried.' | d. Rät xojatz'ët roj.
'You saw us.' |
| b. Rät xatoq'.
'You cried.' | e. Roj xatqatz'ët rät.
'We saw you.' |
| c. Roj xojoq'.
'We cried.' | f. Roj xqatz'ët ri a Juan. ²
'We saw Juan.' |

¹Data in (1) and (2) from Dixon's 1994 *Ergativity* but don't look it up!

EL5101R: In your submission, include (1), (2), and (3) with morpheme boundaries and glosses added.

2. Challenging Case theory

The Case Filter requires that every NP receive Case. The following examples challenge this view. For each underlined NP below, describe how it receives Case, or note that it has no source of Case.

- (4) Syntactic trees have been being generated by Laura all week.
- (5) Peanut butter cups, Ralph has never been fond of them.
- (6) Philip likes Doritos and Hadas Cheetos.
- (7) Sean saw Wesley on the bus, hands in his pockets.

For this problem, assume that each [Case:...] feature can only assign Case once.

²*ri a* is a prefix on male personal names.