

Contents

Acknowledgements	xi
Abbreviations	xiii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Overview	1
1.2 What is Case?	3
1.2.1 Head vs. Dependent Marking	5
1.2.2 Is Everything Case? — Persian <i>ezafe</i>	6
1.2.3 Adverbial Case	6
1.2.4 Case and Finiteness	7
1.2.5 Nominal Case	8
1.2.6 Case Stacking	9
1.3 Levels of Abstractness	11
2 Foundational Perspectives	12
2.1 Introduction	12
2.2 The Greek and Roman Tradition	13
2.3 The Indian Tradition	15
2.4 The Arabic Tradition	18
2.5 Exercises	21
3 Grammatical Relations	23
3.1 The Structure of Sentences	23
3.2 Transformational Grammar, Case and the Passive	24
3.3 Relational Grammar	26

viii	THEORIES OF CASE	
3.4	The Notion of Grammatical Relations	28
3.5	Case Grammar and Thematic Roles	29
3.6	Core Ideas of Relational Grammar	33
3.6.1	The Passive Revisited	33
3.6.2	Case in Relational Grammar	36
3.7	The Unaccusative Hypothesis	38
3.8	The Universal Alignment Hypothesis	42
3.9	Summary	44
3.10	Exercises	44
4	Structural Case	46
4.1	The Structural View of Grammatical Relations	46
4.2	The Basic Architecture	46
4.3	Thematic Roles	48
4.4	Category Neutral Representations: X' -Syntax	51
4.5	The VP-internal subject hypothesis	53
4.6	Case and Agreement	55
4.7	D-Structure, θ -Theory, and Structural Case	55
4.7.1	Unaccusatives and Unergatives	60
4.7.2	Passivization	64
4.8	Structural vs. Inherent or Quirky Case	67
4.9	Taking Stock	71
4.10	Minimalism	73
4.10.1	Phases, Merge and Features	73
4.10.2	External Arguments	75
4.10.3	Lexical Conceptual Structure	77
4.10.4	Unergatives, Unaccusatives and Passives	79
4.11	English Double Objects	83
4.12	Discussion	87
4.13	Exercises	89
5	Linking Theories	91
5.1	Introduction	91
5.2	Representation of Predicate-Argument Structure	92
5.3	Lexical Decomposition and Linking	94
5.4	Proto-Roles	98
5.5	Kiparsky's Linking Theory	100

5.5.1	Semantic Form and Thematic Roles	101
5.5.2	The Feature System	103
5.5.3	Linking by Case, Position and Agreement	107
5.5.4	Passives, Unaccusatives and Unergatives	109
5.6	Lexical Decomposition Grammar	111
5.6.1	Basic Analyses	113
5.6.2	Unergatives, Unaccusatives and Semantics	114
5.6.3	Quirky Case	116
5.7	Lexical-Functional Grammar	117
5.7.1	LFG Basics	117
5.7.2	Argument Structure and Thematic Roles	122
5.7.3	Quirky Case and Early Association Principles	123
5.7.4	The Introduction of Explicit Features	126
5.7.5	Standard LFG Mapping Theory	127
5.7.6	Argument Alternations	131
5.7.7	Incorporation of Proto-Roles	135
5.8	Case Stacking	138
5.9	An Interactive Model of Case	142
5.9.1	Linking	144
5.9.2	Structural Case	145
5.9.3	Quirky Case	146
5.9.4	Semantic Case	146
5.10	Discussion	149
5.11	Exercises	150
6	The Ergative Dragon	153
6.1	Fighting Dragons	153
6.2	The Terminology	154
6.2.1	Torres Straits and the Agentive Nominative	154
6.2.2	A Misunderstanding with Georgian	156
6.3	Case Systems	158
6.4	Syntactic vs. Morphological Ergativity	161
6.5	Approaches to Morphological Ergativity	165
6.5.1	The Ergative as an Inherent Case	165
6.5.2	The Ergative as a Structural Case	169
6.5.3	Linking theories revisited and more types of ergativity	173
6.6	Split Ergativity	175
6.7	Acquisition Issues	176

x	THEORIES OF CASE	
6.8	Historical Issues	179
6.9	Summary	183
6.10	Exercises	184
7	The Semantics of Case	188
7.1	Localist Theories	188
7.2	Agency vs. Experience	189
7.3	Object Alternations	191
7.4	Subject Alternations	197
7.5	Discussion	199
7.6	Exercises	200
8	More Theories Great and Small	202
8.1	Role and Reference Grammar	202
8.1.1	Basic Linking	205
8.1.2	Ditransitives and Dative Subjects	208
8.1.3	Ergatives	211
8.2	Optimality Theory	212
8.2.1	OT Basics	213
8.2.2	Structural Case Revisited	216
8.2.3	Harmonic Alignment	220
8.3	Discussion	224
8.4	Exercises	226
	Language Index	250
	Subject Index	252