

CASE

In *Case*, Mark Baker develops a unified theory of how the morphological case marking of noun phrases is determined by syntactic structure. Designed to work well for languages of all alignment types – accusative, ergative, tripartite, marked nominative, or marked absolutive – this theory has been developed and tested against unrelated languages of each type, and more than twenty non-Indo-European languages are considered in depth.

While affirming that case can be assigned to noun phrases by function words under agreement, the theory also develops in detail a second mode of case assignment: so-called dependent case.

Suitable for academic researchers and students, the book employs formalgenerative concepts, yet remains clear and accessible for a general linguistics readership.

MARK BAKER is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Linguistics at Rutgers University.



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Case: Its Principles and its Parameters





CASE: ITS PRINCIPLES AND ITS PARAMETERS

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Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107690097

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First published 2015

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-107-05522-3 Hardback ISBN 978-1-107-69009-7 Paperback

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Acknowledgements

Many people have contributed to the carrying out of this project, and in many ways. I want to thank them here, as best I can remember and reconstruct.

Nadya Vinokurova had a special role in initiating this line of research, and got me off to a great start on the topic through our productive and rewarding joint work on the Sakha language, carried out when she was at Rutgers University as a postdoc. In addition, I thank Professor Ivan Vinokurov of the Department of Sakha Philology of Yakut State University for discussing the Sakha examples and for checking the judgments with his students, the results being reported to me through Nadya.

My work on Amharic was able to begin in the context of a field methods class taught at Rutgers University in the spring of 2010. I thank the other participants of that class – Akin Akinlabi, Will Bennett, Carlo Linares Scarcerieau, and Teresa Torres Bustamante – for help and discussion, and especially to Yetnayet ("Mimi") Lemma for cheerfully sharing her native-speaker judgments with us. This work has been able to continue thanks to collaboration with Professor Ruth Kramer, who has been generous in sharing data, results, and insights, and even proofreading some of my examples. I also thank Mengistu Amberber for corresponding with me about Amharic matters.

For work on Tamil, I thank Nagarajan Selvanathan, for sharing his own judgments, for soliciting further judgments from his parents, and for his input as a native-speaker linguist. Several of the important observations about Tamil were originally made by him, as further reported in the text.

The opportunity to work directly on the Shipibo language was one of the special joys of the later phase of this project. My fieldtrip to Lima, Peru in the fall of 2012 to collect data on Shipibo was supported by a University Research Council grant from Rutgers University, which I gratefully acknowledge. Hearty thanks go to my three Shipibo consultants, members of the Shipibo community living in Lima, for their cheerful and insightful contribution to this research: Luz Franco Ahuanari (Benxo), Wilmer Ancón Lopez (Pekon Sani) and Nimia García Nunta (Jisbe Jabe). Just as essential to the project was my

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Acknowledgements

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research assistant, Teresa Torres Bustamante, who made arrangements, and helped with translation and communication, and with whom I discussed many of the data and ideas relevant to Shipibo. I also thank José Elias Ulloa, José Camacho, Carlo Linares Scarcerieau, and Liliana Sanchez for help and advice about conducting the research in Lima, and I thank the Pontificial Universidad Católica del Perú for allowing me to use their facilities.

I also thank Liliana Sanchez for discussions of Cuzco Quechua data, and for collecting some judgments for me from her contacts.

For input into this work and for generally providing a lively research environment, I thank my colleagues in the linguistics department at Rutgers University, especially the participants of the Syntactic Theory at Rutgers research group and the participants in two syntax seminars. These include Ken Safir, Viviane Déprez, José Camacho, Liliana Sanchez, Veneeta Dayal, and Jane Grimshaw, as well as many students. Mingming Liu's coursework on Finnish had a special impact, as mentioned in the text.

From the larger linguistics community, I thank the following for written comments and/or vigorous discussions of parts of this work or other projects that have led up to it: Jonathan Bobaljik, Julie Legate, David Pesetsky, Maria Polinsky, Peter Svenonius, Jen Seale, Livia Camargo, and Elly Van Gelderen. I also thank one anonymous reviewer of this book and many anonymous reviewers of articles that have fed into it for their input and suggestions.

Aspects of this research were presented at many places, including the 2008 meeting of the Linguistics Society of America, workshops at the University of Toronto and the University of Tromsø, a meeting of the Linguistic Association of Great Britain held at the University of Salford, and colloquium talks at SUNY Stony Brook, the University of Delaware, the University of Victoria, University of Wisconsin Madison, Arizona State University, San Marcos University, the Pontificial Universidad Católica del Perú, the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Yale University, Harvard University, the University of Connecticut, and MIT. I thank members of the audiences at these events (too numerous to name individually) for helpful comments and suggestions.

None of the above is to be held responsible for the views expressed here, and any mistakes of fact or interpretation are my responsibility.

I also thank my wife, Linda, for her companionship and for doing such a good job of keeping the infrastructure of our lives in order, so that I could give enough time and attention to a project like this. I also thank my now adult children for their encouragement and prayers.



xii Acknowledgements

Finally, I must remember to thank God, in whom I "live and move and have my being." I feel that he has given me much joy, strength, and a measure of understanding as I have pursued this work, and has provided opportunities for me to pursue it. I do not dare to claim that my work is better than that of those who may not feel like they have received divine help of this sort. But I can say with confidence that my own work is better than it would have been without these helps. I thus dedicate this work to the glory of God.



Abbreviations and conventions

In this book, I cite examples from a large number of languages, many of them from other sources. This presents challenges for effective and truthful glossing. For the most part, I have tried to make the glosses of examples more uniform when I thought I could do this with reasonable accuracy, so as to make it easier to compare examples that should be compared. In some cases, this just means changing AP to APPL for applicative. But in other cases it may affect points in a theory-laden way: for example, I might use "absolutive" where my source uses "nominative" in describing an ergative language, or "dative" where the source uses "allative" for a case I believe to be structural. Reader beware. Where I did not feel I could change the gloss with tolerable accuracy, or where no relevant point of comparison is at stake, I have followed the original source, occasionally suppressing minor details (e.g. the different grades of verb stems in Choctaw).

Agreement morphemes are glossed by a complex symbol that begins with a number indicating the person of the agreed-with phrase (1, 2, or 3), then has a lower-case letter indicating the number or gender of the agreed-with phrase (s, singular; d, dual; p, plural; m, masculine; f, feminine; n, neuter), and then a capital letter indicating the grammatical function or case of the agreed-with phrase (S, subject; O, object; P, possessor; A, absolutive; D, dative; E, ergative). Thus, 1pS means first person plural subject agreement, 3mO means third masculine (singular) object agreement, and so on. Sometimes one member of this triple is missing when the corresponding category is not marked – for example, when the agreement indicates person but not number, or vice versa. In Choctaw, I follow Broadwell (2006) in using I, II, and III rather than S, O, P, for reasons mentioned in the text. Please note also that WP, XP (as in, e.g., SpecXP – see below), YP, and ZP are variables, and can stand for TP, vP, VP, etc., and range over phrases of any category.

Other abbreviations used in the glosses of linguistic examples are as follows.

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xiv Abbreviations and conventions

ABL ablative case ABS absolutive case ACC accusative case **ACCEL** accelerative aspect **ADESS** adessive case **ADMON** admonitive ADV adverbial AF affirmative

AG agentive (nominalizer) AOR aorist tense/participle

APPL applicative **ASP** aspect **AUX** auxiliary **CAUS** causative CIS cislocative COM comitative case **COMPL** completive COP copula

CORE "core" (unmarked) case (Tukang Besi)

CVSIM simultaneous converb

DAT dative case
DEC declarative
DEF definite
DEM demonstrative

DEP dependent
DIS distal
DIST distributive
DPAST distant past
DS different subject

DS different subject
DU dual number
ERG ergative case
EV event nominal
EX exclusive

F feminine gender

FOC focus FUT future tense

GEN genitive case
GER gerund



Abbreviations and conventions xv

HAB habitual tense/aspect

HON honorific ILLAT illative case IMPER imperative

IMPF imperfective aspect

IN inclusive

IND indicative mood INEL inelative case INESS inessive case INF infinitive

INST instrumental case
INTR intransitive
IR irrealis mood
ITER iterative
LAT lative case

LCA Linear Correspondence Axiom

LK linker

LOC locative case
LV light verb

M masculine gender MABS marked absolutive case

MED medial (Ika)
MID middle

MNOM marked nominative case

N neuter NEG negative

NOM nominative case NOML nominalizer NPST nonpast tense

OBJ object
OBL oblique case
PART partitive case
PASS passive voice

PAST past tense (different kinds) PERI peripheral participant (Ika)

PL plural number PN proper noun

PNI pseudo-noun incorporation

POSS possessive



xvi Abbreviations and conventions

PRES present tense
PRF perfective aspect
PROG progressive

PRT particle (especially 2nd position evidential clitic in Shipibo)

PTPL (past) participle Q question particle REAL realis mood REC reciprocal

REF point of reference (Ika)

REFL reflexive REL relative

SG singular number
SIM simultaneous
SS same subject

ST stative SUF suffix

TNS tense (unspecified)

TOP topic TR transitive

UNM unmarked case (Chamorro)

VBZR verbalizer VN verbal noun WIT witness (Ika)

The following are abbreviations of the names of grammatical categories:

A, AP adjective, adjective phrase

C, CP complementizer, complementizer phrase

D, DP determiner, determiner phrase

N, NP noun, noun phrase

P, PP adposition (preposition or postposition), adpositional phrase

SpecXP Specifier of XP

T, TP tense head, tense phrase

v, vP light verb (abstract verbal element, assigner of external argument)

V, VP verb, verb phrase

Other abbreviations used in the text include:

B&V Baker and Vinokurova (2010)

CDAP Case Dependency of Agreement Parameter

CQ Cuzco Quechua



Abbreviations and conventions xvii

CT Coast Tsimshian

DM Distributed Morphology
DOC double object construction
DOM differential object marking

EPP "Extended Projection Principle" feature (triggers the move-

ment of a phrase to the category that bears it)

IE Indo-European

L&M Lefebvre and Muysken (1988)

LF "Logical Form"

P&P Polinsky and Potsdam (2012)

PF phonological form

VSO, SOV, Verb-subject-object word order; subject-object-verb order, etc.

etc.

WALS The world atlas of language structures

Finally, the following are some conventions used in presenting examples:

*X The example is ungrammatical.

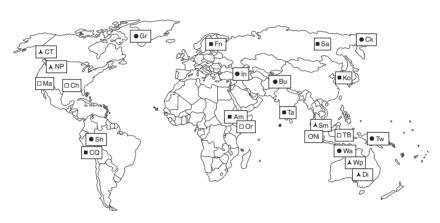
(X) The example has the same grammatical status with or without X included.

(*X) The example is good without X, but bad when it is included.

In some cases, an agreement morpheme and the NP that it agrees with are both italicized.



Map of principal languages investigated and their case systems



Map of Principal Languages Investigated and their Case Systems

Accusative Languages (■)

CQ Cuzco Quecha Fn Finnish

Am Amharic Ta Tamil Sa Sakha

Ko Korean

Marked Nominative (□)

Ma Maricopa Ch Choctaw Or Oromo

TB Tukang Besi

Ergative Languages (●)

Sh Shipibo

Gr Greenlandic (West) In Ingush

Bu Burushaski Wa Wardaman

Ck Chukchi

Tw Tewa

Marked Absolutive(O)

Ni Nias

Tripartite Languages (▲)

CT Coast Tsimshian

NP Nez Perce

Sm Semelai

Wp Warlpiri

Di Diyari

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