

PREDICATION: A CASE STUDY

While structural case-marking in argument positions has been extensively studied, relatively little work has been done on predicate case-marking. I will discuss the two main patterns of predicate Case marking: **Case-agreement**, as in (1), and **Case-assignment**, as in (2):

- (1) a. Ciceronem clarum habent. Case-agreement: Latin
 Cicero-ACC famous-ACC consider/hold
They consider Cicero famous.
- b. Cicero clarus habetur.
 Cicero-NOM famous-NOM consider/hold-PASS
Cicero is considered famous.
- (2) a. Ja sčitaju ee lingvistkoj. predicative case: Russian
 I consider her-ACC linguist-INSTR
I consider her a linguist.
- b. Ona vernulas' krasavicej.
 she came back beauty-INSTR
She came back a beauty.

I will show that both patterns require the same assumption: that Case can be assigned by a head to its sister (Stowell (1981)), and I will demonstrate that once this assumption is made, we can also account for the so-called “semantic predicate case”, as in Hungarian, where case-marking depends on the implication of change-of-state, as in (3) (Fong (2003), Tóth (2006)), and for default Case assignment with *be*, as in (4):

- (3) a. János boldognak tartottam Marit. semantic Case: Hungarian
 János-NOM happy-DAT hold-PAST-3SG Mary-ACC
John considered Mary happy.
- b. János híressé tette Marit.
 John-NOM famous-TRANS made Mary-ACC
John made Mary famous.
- (4) János orvos. default case: Hungarian
 Janos-NOM doctor-NOM
John is a doctor.

As a result, we will be also able to explain the interaction between Case-agreement and Case-assignment, as in Georgian, where some types of small clauses require Case agreement and others, the predicative case (5).

- (5) a. merim šegeba saxli citl-ad Case-assignment: Georgian
 Mary-ERG paint-AOR house(ABS) red-ADV
Mary painted the house red.
- b. merim čama suši moxaršuli Case-agreement: Georgian
 Mary-ERG eat-AOR sushi(ABS) boiled(ABS)
Mary ate the sushi boiled.

In addition, we will have a straightforward account of the mechanisms involved in Genitive of Negation (Babby (1980), Pesetsky (1982)) and case-marking with Slavic numerals (Babby (1987), Franks (1994)).

Finally, I will show that the facts regularly accounted for by the standard AGREE theory pose no particular problems and that the new Case Theory permits for a tighter matching between the syntactic theory of Case and the morphological theory of Case.

References

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