

# Annotation Guidelines for the Vedic Treebank

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This file contains annotation decisions and examples for the Vedic Treebank (Hellwig et al., 2020). It is not meant as a comprehensive guide to Vedic syntax, but records the results of our discussions while annotating the first release of the Vedic Treebank. The brief overview of Universal Dependencies in Section 1 maps UD types to the most typical cases found in our data. Section 2 takes the opposite approach: Starting from linguistic constructions found in our texts, it explains which UD structures we used for annotating them.

Expressions of the form  $A \leftarrow \text{obj} \leftarrow B$  indicate that A is dependent from B, and their syntactic relation is `obj`. For the sake of simplicity, accents are given only exceptionally and all sandhi phenomena are resolved.

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# 1 UD → Sanskrit

## 1.1 Nominal relations

Definitions given in quotes in this sections are taken from the UD guidelines, if not mentioned otherwise.

**advmod** “(non-clausal) adverb or adverbial phrase that serves to modify a predicate or a modifier word”. Sanskrit: *adya*, *tasmāt*; prefixes used in compounds (*su-*, *a(n)-*, *dus-*, *sa-* ‘together’; see Sec. 2.7.1); also see preverbs (Sec. 2.23).

**amod** is used for adjectives: *daivena* ← **amod** ← *manasā*; also see secondary predication (Sec. 2.28).

**appos** marks a noun that modifies another noun, word order is irrelevant for Sanskrit: *somas* → **appos** → *rājā* ‘King Soma’. For our extended use of **appos** see Sec. 2.4.

**aux** marks an auxiliary, these are generally rare in Sanskrit (see Sec 2.5).

**case** “used for any case-marking element which is treated as a separate syntactic word (including prepositions, postpositions, and clitic case markers). Case-marking elements are treated as dependents of the noun they attach to or introduce.” – Examples: *saha*, *upa*; for *iva* see the discussion of comparison in Sec. 2.6.

**cc** marks coordinating conjunctions such as *ca* ‘and’ or *vā* ‘or’.

**compound** is used for compounds or similar multiword expressions. Since we annotate the relations between the members of a compound in a wider range, this relation is not used that often, see Sec. 2.7.

**conj** “two elements connected by a coordinating conjunction, such as and, or, etc.” Can be asyndetic (= conjunction missing). The conjunction itself is labeled as **cc** and connected with the 2nd (3rd, 4th, ...) element. See coordination (Sec. 2.8) and repeated words (Sec. 2.27).

**cop** is used for the copula, a verb that links the subject to a nonverbal predicate. The prototypical case of a copula is *as-* ‘be’, but cf. also *bhū-* ‘become, be’; see copular clauses (Sec. 2.9).

**det** Pronouns and some indefinite quantifiers: *sas* ← **det** ← *aśvas* ‘this horse’; see Sec. 2.24.

**dislocated** is the label for extracausal nominals such as hanging topics and nominativus pendens; see Sec. 2.12 on such disjunct nominals and Sec. 2.4 on how to distinguish them from appositions.

**discourse** is used for interjections (*dhik* ‘Fie!’), discourse particles (*vai*, *hi*) and back-channeler, repairs, etc. (en. *um*, germ. *äh*). On the annotation of various particles see Sec. 2.22.

**fixed** is used in multiword expressions that always appear in the same order of components, like *ha* → **fixed** → *vai*.

**flat** is also used in multiword expressions. All components are linked in bouquet analysis to the first one. A typical case of **flat** in Sanskrit would be personal names consisting of multiple words or the heavenly place of *svargas* → **flat** → *lokas* . The distinction from **appos** is not always easy (see Sec. 2.4).

**iobj** marks a nominal expression that assumes the G role in a three-place verb, i.e. the argument that is usually affected, stationary, or experiences a change of state (cf. Malchukov et al. (2010); Bickel (2011)). Typically, this includes datives with ditransitive verbs such as *dā-* ‘give’ or the person robbed in the accusative with double accusative constructions as in *muṣ-* ‘rob, steal’, see Sec. 2.14 and 2.10.

**mark** stands for *marker* and signals the subordination of the respective clause, e.g. *iti* as marker for direct speech (see Sec. 2.11) or the subordinating conjunctions in adverbial clauses, some of which are discussed in Sec. 2.22.

**nmod** “used for nominal dependents of another noun or noun phrase and functionally corresponds to an attribute, or genitive complement”. Used, for example, for genitives expressing a possessive relation between head and dependent (see Sec. 2.24.2), but other cases occur as well: some Brāhmaṇa texts use the dative in possessive function (see 2.10).

**nsbj** marks a nominal which has the S role (single argument of an one-place verb) or the A role (agent-like argument of a two- or three-place verb; cf. Malchukov et al. (2010); Bickel (2011)).

**nummod** modifies a noun with a quantity. See Sec. 2.24 for pronouns and Sec. 2.16 for indefinite quantifiers, which are also annotated as **det**.

**obj** labels a nominal expression that assumes the function of the direct object, i.e. in a two-place predicate the second, non-agent-like P argument, in a three-place predicate the T argument which is usually manipulated or moved (cf. Malchukov et al. (2010); Bickel (2011)). Typically, P/T arguments take the accusative case, but other cases are also possible, e.g. the genitive with *īś* ‘reign, command, possess’, as are adpositional phrases. See Sec. 2.2 on nominals in the accusative in relations other than **obj**.

**obl** “used for a nominal expression (noun, pronoun, noun phrase) functioning as a non-core (oblique) argument or adjunct. This means that it functionally corresponds to an adverbial attaching to a verb, adjective or other adverb.” Sanskrit: all oblique cases, esp. place, time, direction (also for accusative of direction, see Sec. 2.2), ablative, instruments; except for indirect objects (see above, **iobj**).

**orphan** is critical for the annotation of sentences with ellipsis, see Sec. 2.15. Here, the highest ranking argument is promoted to the clausal head and all other relations in the sentence with ellipsis depend as **orphan** from this new head, because other annotations would be misleading.

**root** marks the root of the syntactic tree, i.e. the highest ranking component of the clause, which is typically the predicate. Nominal sentences (see Sec. 2.9) and clauses with ellipsis (see Sec. 2.15) can have other elements as their roots.

**vocative** is used for a directly addressed participant which is grammatically expressed by a vocative. A vocative form is linked to the main predicate of the clause; other relations such as **nmod** may depend from it.

## 1.2 Clausal dependents

**acl** marks the “clausal modifier of a noun” such as relative clauses, participial clauses, exocentric compounds as well as depictive secondary predicates and content clauses. N.b.: If the referent is not overtly expressed or if the clausal modifier entails conditional aspects, the clausal modifier is linked to the predicate with **advcl** (see Sec. 2.26).

**advcl** “modifies a verb or other predicate (adjective, etc.), as a modifier not as a core complement. This includes things such as a temporal clause, consequence, conditional clause, purpose clause, etc. The dependent must be clausal”. See Sec. 2.3 on various types of adverbial clauses.

**ccomp** “A clausal complement of a verb or adjective is a dependent clause which is a core argument” and which is not controlled by elements of the superordinate clause, e.g. direct speech (see Sec. 2.11).

**csubj** labels the clausal subject of a superordinate clause; formally realized as a relative clause in most cases (see Sec. 2.26).

**xcomp** “An open clausal complement (xcomp) of a verb or an adjective is a predicative or clausal complement. Its subject is determined by an argument external to the xcomp ...” **xcomp** is also used for secondary predicates not covered by **acl** such as obligatory predicatives of an argument (see secondary predication in Sec. 2.28).

## 2 Sanskrit → relation

This section discusses how syntactic phenomena in Sanskrit are annotated in the Vedic treebank.

### 2.1 Absolutive

See Sec. 2.3.2, p. 7.

### 2.2 Accusative

Rule of thumb:

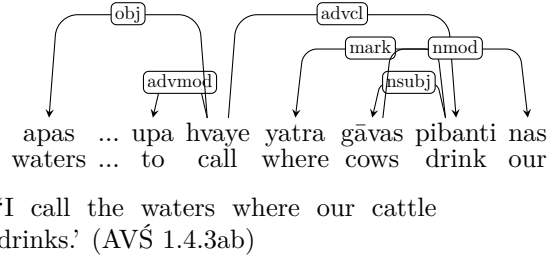
- When in direct object function, accusatives are annotated as **obj**. Note that direct objects can be expressed by other cases as well; e.g. the genitive with *īś-* ‘have at one’s disposal’ or *cit-* ‘become aware of’.
- As a target or goal of a motion, a nominal expression in the accusative may be annotated as **obl**, even if no preverb or preposition is present. We apply a passivization test (restricted, if possible, to the Vedic corpus) to decide between the annotations **obj** and **obl**.
- When used adverbially, e.g. for denoting durations, accusatives are also labeled as **obl** (see the example AB 7.15.2 on p. 19).

On double accusatives, see Sec. 2.14.

### 2.3 Adverbial clauses

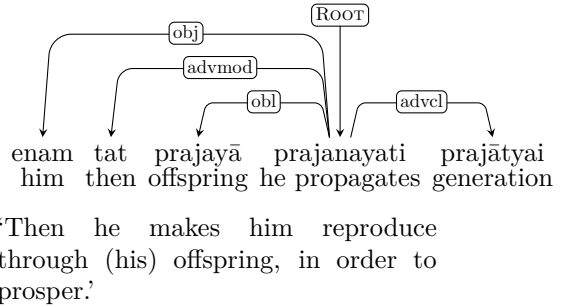
#### 2.3.1 Basic annotation

The subordinating conjunction is labeled as **mark** and depends from the verb of the adverbial clause. The verb of the adverbial clause is linked as **advcl** to the verb of the main clause.



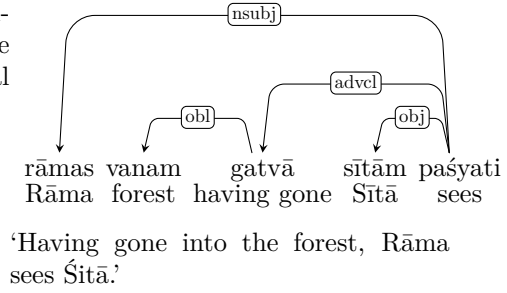
The same procedure applies to infinitives (see Sec. 2.3.3) and correlative constructions, e.g. *yāvat* (**mark**) – *tāvat* (**advmod**).

Dative nouns indicating the purpose of a verbal action are also annotated as **advcl** as at AB 1.1.10:



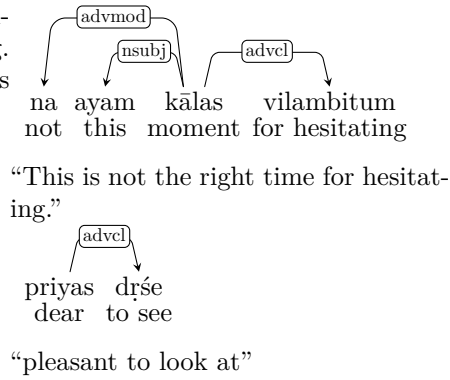
### 2.3.2 Absolutives

Absolutives, which often express temporal precedence, are annotated like adverbial clauses with a finite verbal form:



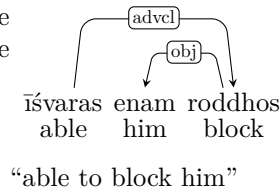
### 2.3.3 Verbal nouns

Grammaticalized verbal nouns in adverbial or complement functions (e.g. infinitives etc.) are annotated as **advcl**:



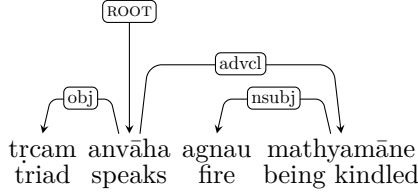
For constructions with *śak-* 'can', see Sec. 2.5, p. 10.

This annotation is also applied if the verbal noun depends from an adjective such as *īśvara-* 'able to:'



### 2.3.4 Locativus absolutus

In absolute constructions, the logical subject is labeled as **nsubj**. The participle in the locative (genitive, ablative) case serves as the main verb and is connected with **advcl** to the verb of the superordinate clause.



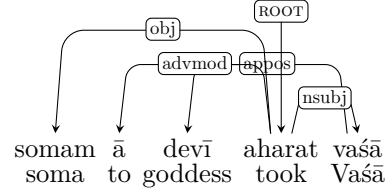
“this triad ... he recites when the fire is being kindled” (AB 1.16.7; (Keith, 1920, 118))

For another example see AB 7.16.13 in Sec. 2.27, p. 39.

## 2.4 Appositions

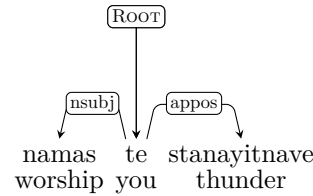
We use **appos** for a wider range of syntactic constructions than proposed in the UD guidelines.<sup>1</sup>

The default example for appositions are names with an additional information such as *varuṇas* → **appos** → *rājā* ‘King Varuṇa; Varuṇa, the king’. Here, the name is the head, the explanation is the dependent; see also Sec. 2.25.



‘*Vaśā*, the goddess, took the soma’  
(AVŚ 10.10.12ab)

This usage is also found with personal pronouns.

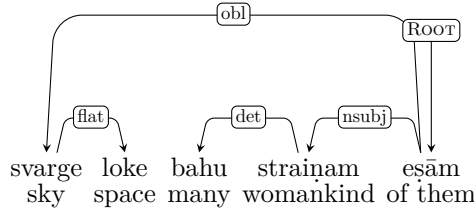


“Homage [be] to you, the thunder!”  
(AVŚ 1.13.1ab, [simplified])

Note that the standard test given for appositions in English (\*name-function, e.g. \*Obama President) does not work conclusively for Sanskrit due to its free word order. We therefore use **flat** only, if the annotator has corpus-based evidence that a combination (almost) exclusively occurs in the given order; e.g. *agnis* → **flat** → *vaiśvānaras* or for *svarga loka* ‘the celestial world’ in this example:

<sup>1</sup>On **appos**; “nominal immediately following the first noun that serves to define, modify, name, or describe that noun”. Test: “Good tests include to ask whether the two halves are full nominals, whether the two halves can be swapped or not, and whether there is case or agreement concord (in a language with rich morphology).”



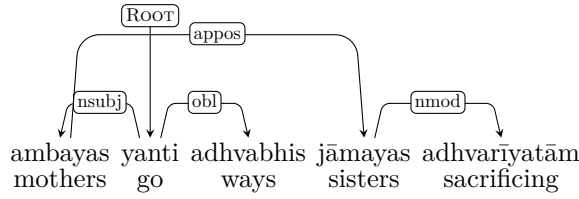


‘in the celestial world, they have many women’ (AVŚ 4.34.2d)

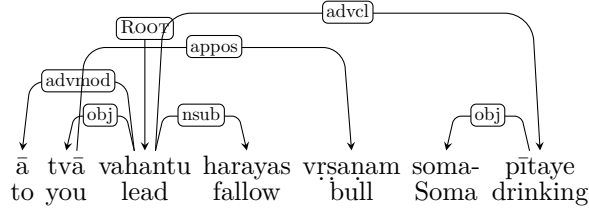
If one word has more than one apposition (quite frequent in Sanskrit), all appositions “should be marked as modifying the first noun, rather than being chained”.

Contrary to the UD standard, we also use **appos** if the nominal is not directly adjacent, as in amplified sentences (‘Schleppe’).

Note that both nominals need to have matching morpho-syntactic information in this case; if not, the non-adjacent nominal is annotated as **dislocated** (see Sec. 2.12).



“The mothers go on their ways, sisters of them that make sacrifice” (AVŚ 1.4.1ab, Whitney and Lanman (1905))

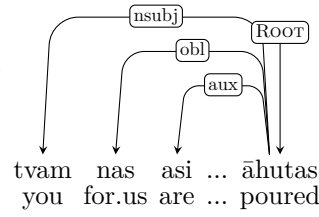


‘Let the fallow bays convey *you* here, *the bull*, to drink soma.’ (RV 1.16.1ab)

## 2.5 Auxiliaries

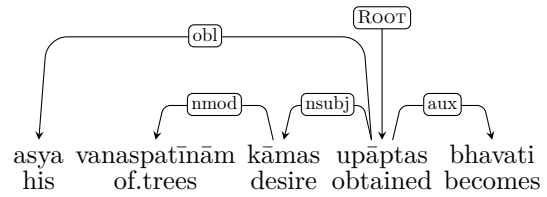
Auxiliaries are rare in Sanskrit, and we use **aux** as their basic annotation. Verbs such as *as-* ‘be’ or *bhū-* ‘be, become’ are in most of the cases annotated either as full verbs or as **cop**. Other possible auxiliaries are *kar-* ‘make’ and occasionally *i-* ‘go’. Typical instances of **aux** in Sanskrit are e.g. the periphrastic future or the periphrastic perfect.

Verbal arguments are connected with the head of *aux*, but not with the auxiliary itself (see e.g. the annotation of English EWT).



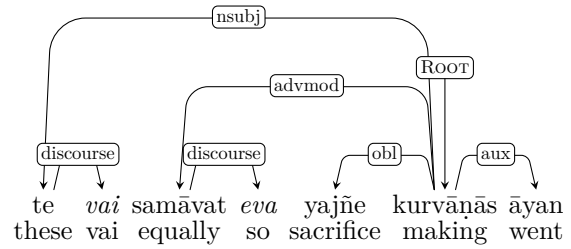
‘You are poured [as an oblation] for us.’ (RV 2.7.5)

*bhū-* ‘become’ can also be used in this function:



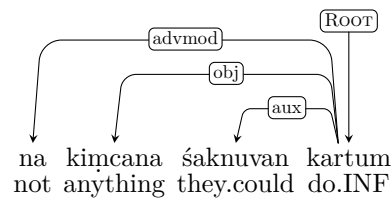
‘the desire in ... trees is obtained by him’ (AB 2.1.13, following Keith 1920)

*i-* ‘go’ used as auxiliary indicates the duration or repetition of the main action (see Delbrück, 1888, §218).



‘They kept doing the very same during the sacrifice’ (MS 2.5.3.2)

Following the annotation of English treebanks, we label *śak-* ‘can’ as *aux*, when it is connected to an infinitive.



‘they could not do anything’ (AB 1.7.3)

## 2.6 Comparison, similes

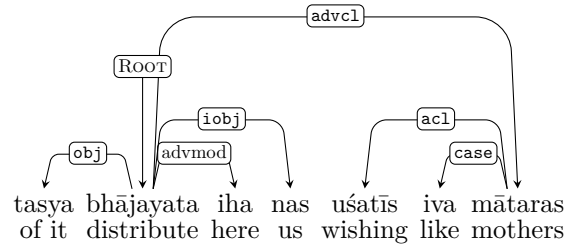
Delbrück (1888) claims that *iva* ‘like’ is only used when comparing nominals, while *yathā* ‘like’ is used for verbs and whole phrases. However, both particles

can appear in both environments and are thus annotated in the same way. For comparison with ellipsis see Sec. 2.15.3. Some sample annotations follow below, the basic rules are:

- “X is like Y”: X (*comparandum*) compared to Y (*comparatum*) is annotated as **nmod**, thus  $X \rightarrow \text{nmod} \rightarrow Y$ .
- The standard marking particles (*iva* ‘like’, *na* ‘like’, *yathā* ‘like’) are always annotated as **case** to Y, e.g.  $Y \rightarrow \text{case} \rightarrow \textit{iva}$ .
- If Y expresses a kind of role or the passage is best translated with ‘as if X were Y’ or similarly, the suiting annotation is **acl**. The reason for this is, that it is similar to a depictive and thus possesses clausal qualities:  $X \rightarrow \text{acl} \rightarrow Y$  (see Sec. 2.28).
- “X does something like Y [does it]”: In that case, Y is connected as **advcl** to the *predicate* (not to X), for example  $\text{VERB} \rightarrow \text{advcl} \rightarrow Y$ .
- So called “milderndes iva”, lit. “mitigating *iva*” (Delbrück, 1888, §242). In this function, *iva* is to be translated as en. “as if”, “so to speak” or similarly and is annotated as **advmod** of X.

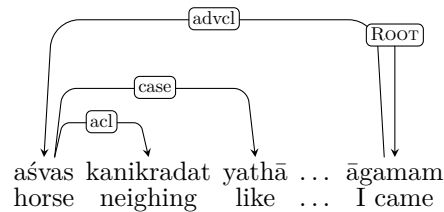
### 2.6.1 Similitive constructions

“X does something like Y [does it].”



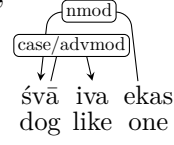
‘Let us have part in it here like well-wishing mothers do (let somebody have part in something).’ (AVŚ 1.5.2)

This construction also occurs with *yathā* ‘like’.



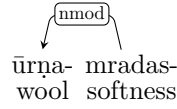
‘I have come hither like a neighing horse.’ (AVŚ 2.30.5cd)

“X is like Y”, respectively “X as if Y”



‘one [Gandharva looking] like a dog’,  
resp., with Whitney and Lanman:  
“one as it were a dog” (AVŚ 4.37.11)

Similes can also be expressed by compounds.

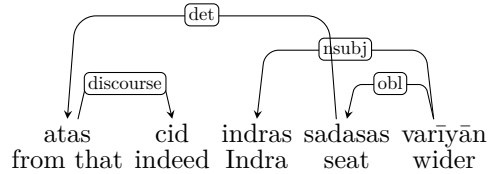


‘having the softness of wool = soft as  
wool’ (RV 10.18.10)

### 2.6.2 Comparison with gradation

Comparison is often found with the comparative or superlative of adjectives, see the pertinent workgroup page in UD. The standard the comparee is compared to commonly takes the ablative case (rarely also instrumental or genitive); we label it *obl*.

The comparee (i.e. the expression compared to some standard) is connected to the standard of comparison with *obl*.



‘Indra is indeed wider than this seat’  
(RV 3.36.6)

## 2.7 Compounds

The copious use of nominal compounds is among the most characteristic traits of Vedic Sanskrit and even more so of Classical Sanskrit. Perhaps surprising but worth knowing: the bulk of the nominal compounds in Vedic Sanskrit consists of exocentric compounds, i.e. – in poor words – of complex words which can be used as adjectives.

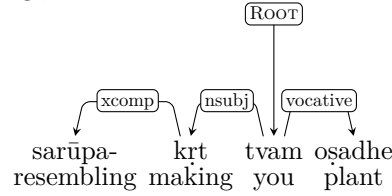
The main reference for the formation of compounds (and their use) is still Wackernagel and Debrunner, 1957, II.1.

### 2.7.1 Inner structure

Unlike UD, we treat inner dependencies of compounds as if they were regular dependencies. This means that we use all dependency relations that can be used for outer dependencies such as *nmod*, *amod* etc. When the head of a compound is a verbal expression, nominalized or not (verbal noun, root, stem) as in the

so-called verbal governing compounds or synthetics we use **obj**, **obl**, **xcomp** etc. according to the following **rule of thumb**: If the head occurs as an independent word, we rather tend not to assign verbal values to the relation. For example *somapīti*- ‘draught of Soma’, where *pīti*- ‘draught’ occurs independently, therefore *soma*-  $\leftarrow$  **nmod**  $\leftarrow$  *pīti*. But for *somapeya*- ‘the drinking of Soma, draught of Soma’, *peya*- ‘drinking, draught’ does not occur independently in Vedic (but does so in Classical Sanskrit), therefore *soma*-  $\leftarrow$  **obj**  $\leftarrow$  *peya*.

- The following cases are **not** labeled with **nmod**:
  - Verbal governing compounds ending on roots (cf. for the RV [Scarlata \(1999\)](#)): *gātu*-  $\leftarrow$  **obj**  $\leftarrow$  *vid*- ‘knowing/finding the way’, *dhana*-  $\leftarrow$  **obj**  $\leftarrow$  *spṛt*- ‘winning the prize’, *āhutī*-  $\leftarrow$  **obl**  $\leftarrow$  *vṛdh*- ‘growing strong through the poured offering’,
  - with redundant or opaque extensions: *anna*-  $\leftarrow$  **obj**  $\leftarrow$  *ād-a*- ‘eating food’, *vasu*-  $\leftarrow$  **obj**  $\leftarrow$  *dā-van*- ‘giving good(s)’, or regularly after roots ending on a short vowel with the extension *-t-* as in *kṛt*- ‘making’, cf.:



‘You are uniform-making, O plant.’ (AVŚ 1.24.3) – see Sec. 2.14

- also with overt case marker in the dependent: *apsu*-  $\leftarrow$  **obl**  $\leftarrow$  *jā*- (besides *ab*-  $\leftarrow$  **obl**  $\leftarrow$  *jā*-) ‘born in the waters’, *rathe*-  $\leftarrow$  **obl**  $\leftarrow$  *sthā*- ‘standing on a chariot; charioteer’
- or with adverbial first member: *sākam*-  $\leftarrow$  **advmod**  $\leftarrow$  *ukṣ*- ‘growing up all at once’, *raghu*-  $\leftarrow$  **advmod**  $\leftarrow$  *syad*- ‘rushing swift(ly)’ – the latter might be also annotated as *raghu*-  $\leftarrow$  **advcl**  $\leftarrow$  *syad*-, if the first member is understood as participant-oriented depictive
- the same applies to other verbal governing compounds such as those ending on thematic stems and influenced by and blended with verbal present stems, e.g.: *vājam*-  $\leftarrow$  **obj**  $\leftarrow$  *bhara*- ‘carrying off the prize’; *dhiyam*-  $\leftarrow$  **obj**  $\leftarrow$  *jīnva*- ‘quickening thought(s)’, *viśvam*-  $\leftarrow$  **obj**  $\leftarrow$  *inva*- ‘setting everything or everyone in motion’, *ugram*-  $\leftarrow$  **advmod**  $\leftarrow$  *paśya*- ‘looking dreadfully’, *agnim*-  $\leftarrow$  **obj**  $\leftarrow$  *indha*- ‘kindling fire’
- or those ending on *ana*:- *deva*-  $\leftarrow$  **obj**  $\leftarrow$  *harṣaṇa*- ‘gladdening the gods’
- final *to*- adjectives (“PPP”): *brahma*-  $\leftarrow$  **obl**  $\leftarrow$  *saṃśita*- ‘sharpened by brahman’
- Less common are verbal governing compounds with the first member as head of the formation. The verbal heads consist of inflected verbal forms or of opaque verbals, cf. e.g. *bharad*-  $\rightarrow$  **obj**  $\rightarrow$  *vāja*- ‘carrying off the prize’, synonym to *vājam*-  $\leftarrow$  **obj**  $\leftarrow$  *bhara*- (see above), where the formation and status of the first member is disputed, or *dāti*-  $\rightarrow$  **obj**  $\rightarrow$  *vāra*- ‘who donates wished goods’ – the only form matching the first member is the 3.sg.sor.sbjv.act of the root *dā*- ‘give’.
- Prepositional governing compounds are annotated as prepositional phrases

are: *ati-* ← **case** ← *avi-* ‘[passing] over or through the strainer’, *anu-* ← **case** ← *kāma-* ‘according to one’s desire, agreeable’ (cf. Sadovski (2000)) – Note that this type yields also adverbs when the formation is used event-oriented.

- **with** **nmod**, **amod** etc. (as in nominal phrases): **nmod** is used to express various kinds of relations between nouns in a compound, except for dvandvas (see below Sec. 2.7.3). Adjectives which form part of a compound are typically annotated with **amod**, as in a regular clause:
  - when the compound yields a hyponym of the compound’s head: *viś-* ← **nmod** ← *pati-* ‘lord of the clan’ (*tatpuruṣa*), *pūrṇa-* ← **amod** ← *mās-(a-)* ‘full moon’ (*karmadhāraya*)
  - when the compound is used as an adjective (*bahuvrīhi*), also often addressed as *possessive compound*): *go-* ← **nmod** ← *vapus-* ‘sb. with the beauty of a cow’, *ugra-* ← **amod** ← *bāhu-* ‘sb. with strong arms’, *tad-id* ← **amod** ← *artha-* ‘sb. who has/envisages exactly that goal’. Bahuvrīhi are often expanded by (redundant) adjectival suffixes to reinforce their status as adjectives, so e.g. with unaccented *-ka-* or with *-ā-*, *-ya-* etc.

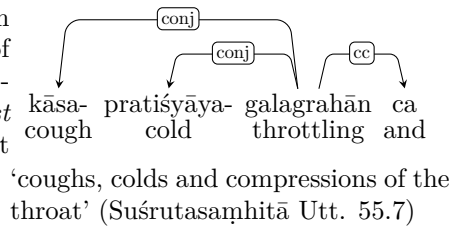
Note that it is not always possible to keep apart bahuvrīhis from verbal governig compounds; this applies e.g. to *vṛṣṭi-dyāv-* ‘who lets the sky rain’, generally interpreted as *vṛṣṭi-* → **obj** → *dyāv-*, but where the analysis as *vṛṣṭi-* ← **nmod** ← *dyāv-*, i.e. as so-called factitive bahuvrīhi or “Doppelpossessivum”, literally ‘having the sky have rain’, is perhaps to be preferred.

A recurrent type of compound shows a *to-* adjective (“PPP”) as first member. Such compounds can often be interpreted in two ways, thus e.g. *suta-soma-* could mean ‘who has pressed soma (at his disposal)’: *suta-* ← **amod** ← *soma-*, but also ‘who has pressed soma (himself)’ or even ‘who has soma pressed’, i.e. ‘who prompts sb. to press soma’: *suta-* → **obj** → *soma-* (synonym to *soma* ← **obj** ← *su-t-*).

The frequent compounds with second member *kāma-* such as *paśu-kāma-* ‘sb. who craves for/wants cattle’ are annotated *paśu-* ← **nmod** ← *kāma-* or, against our rule of thumb given in the introductory notes above, *paśu-* ← **obj** ← *kāma-*, since the noun *kāma-* ‘lust, love for’ and its derivations can also be constructed with verbal complements, so e.g. already in the RV *kāma-* ... *rāye* (DAT) ‘sb. craving for riches’, *kāmin-* ... *pītim* (ACC) ‘sb. craving for a drink’, or in the AV *mām* (ACC) ... *kāmena* ‘out of love for me’.

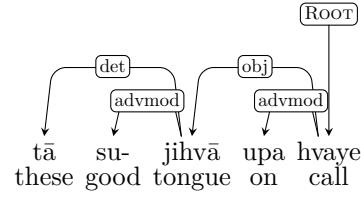
The differences between these two types of compounds have been over-emphasized, but for further pertaining considerations, pointing out the similarities, cf. Scarlata and Widmer (2015) and Olsen (2017).

The dvandvas are structured with **conj**. Contrary to the annotation of individual words in sentences, all elements are connected to the *rightmost* word in the dvandva, using bouquet annotation.



Indeclinables such as *sa-* ‘with, together’, *su-* ‘well, good’, *a(n)-* ‘not, without’, *dus-* ‘badly, poorly’ as first members of a compound are connected with *advmod*.

**Note:** *sa-* ‘same’ is annotated as *det*.



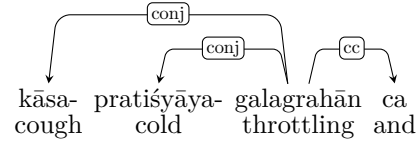
‘These two well-tongued ones I invite’  
(RV 1.13.8)

### 2.7.2 Connection with other words

In Sanskrit, *bahuvrīhis*, verbal and prepositional governing compounds (see above) and other exocentric compounds are used as adjectives, and may thus express a secondary predication, cf. [Scarlata and Widmer \(2015\)](#). They also correspond or are even equivalent to relative clauses, and are therefore linked with *acl* to their referent or with *advcl* to the verb when the referent is an covert subject, see Sec. 2.28.

### 2.7.3 Dvandvas and other copulative compounds

Dvandvas are structured using *conj*. Contrary to the annotation of individual words in sentences, all elements are connected to the *rightmost* word in the dvandva, using bouquet annotation.



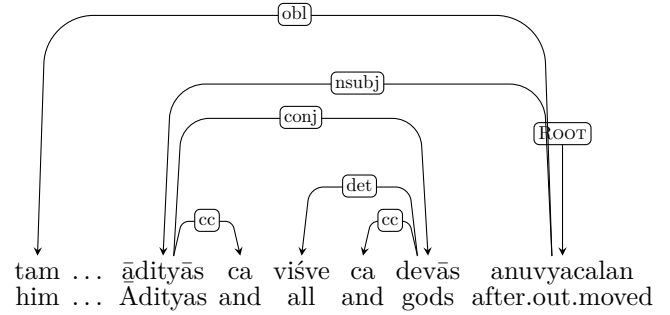
‘coughs, colds and compressions of the throat’ (Suśrutasamhitā Utt. 55.7)

### 2.7.4 Āmreḍitas

See Sec. 2.27.

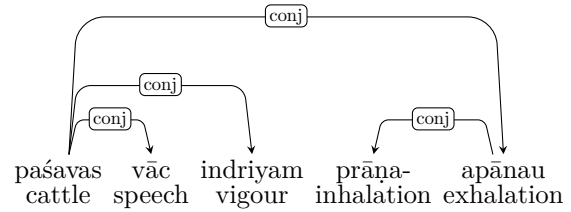
## 2.8 Coordination

The default label for coordination is **conj**, and the coordinating conjunctions are labelled as **cc**. The conjunction (*ca*) is normally placed after the first word of a nominal. The conjuncts are connected in *left-to-right* bouquet analysis starting from the first, left-most, conjunct, which then functions as head of the phrase.



“after him moved out both ... the  
 Ādityas and all the gods” (AVŚ 15.2.1;  
 Whitney and Lanman (1905))

The conjuncts can be connected asynchronously. Note that for dvandva compounds we use a *right-to-left* bouquet analysis, see Sec. 2.7.3.



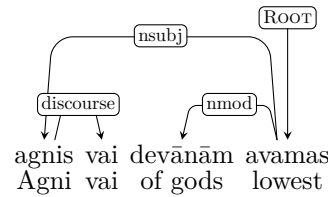
‘cattle, speech, vigour, in-breathing  
 (and) out-breathing’ (MS 3.10.6)

For the concatenation of sentences in direct speech see Sec. 2.11.

## 2.9 Copular clauses

The verb *as-* ‘be’ is connected with **cop** to the root, whereas *bhū-* ‘become’ is only rarely used in this function in Vedic. Note, however, that both these verbs can also be used as full verbs.

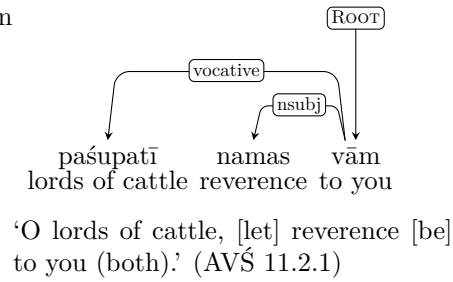
Clauses without overt copula:



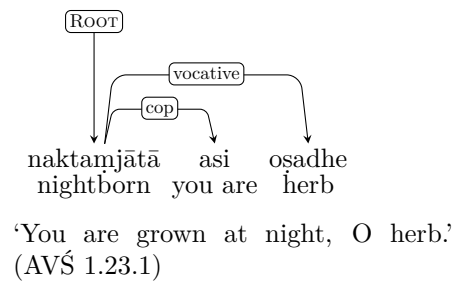
‘Agni [is] the lowest of the gods.’ (AB  
 1.1.1)



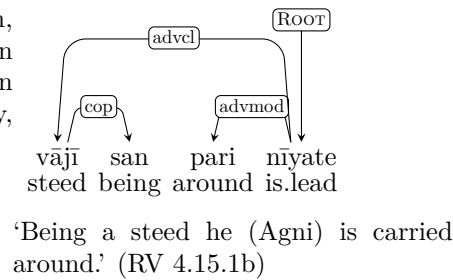
Also used for the frequent construction  
*namas* ‘homage to’.



Without overt subject:



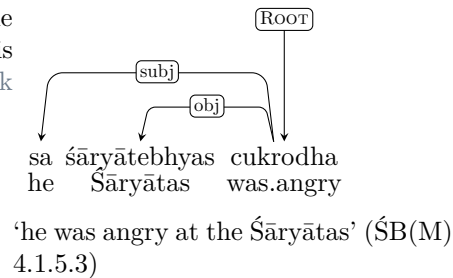
An analogous annotation is chosen, when *as-* occurs as a participle. In this example, the clause *vājī san* can be annotated as **advcl** (alternatively, but dispreferred, also as **csubj**).



## 2.10 Dative

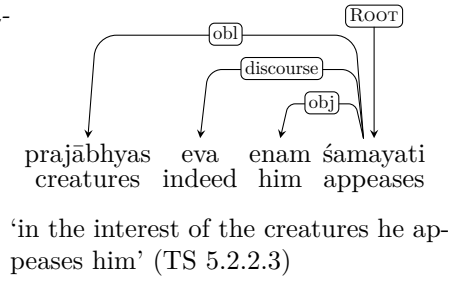
Nominal expressions in the dative case assume a wide range of functions and the assignment of relations varies accordingly. The most prominent relations include **iobj** with three-place predicates (see Sec. 2.13).

The second, dative argument of the two-place verb *krudh-* ‘be angry at’ is assigned the label **obj**, see Delbrück (1888, 140–145).

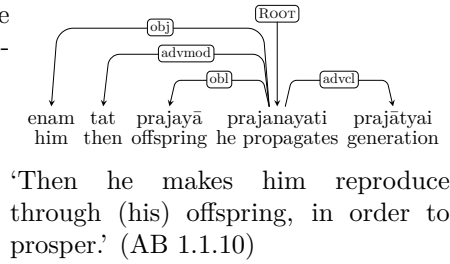


Datives that don’t belong to the argument frame of the verb are labeled according to their function.

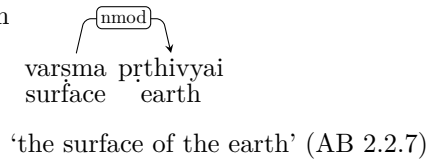
Instances of *Dativus commodi* or *in-commodi* are labeled **obl**.



Dative deverbal nouns indicating the purpose of a verbal action are annotated as **advcl** as at AB 1.1.10.

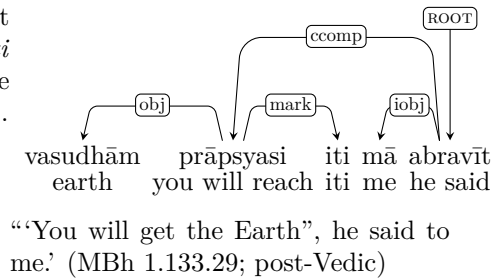


Occasionally, the dative case is used in adnominal modification.



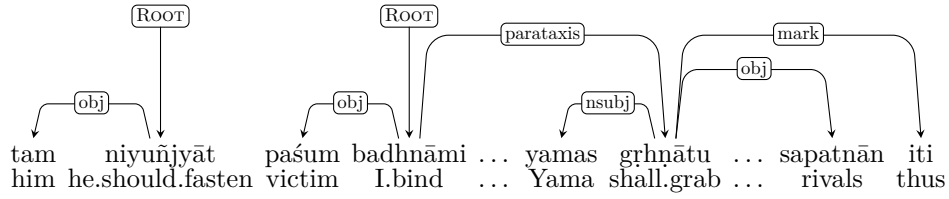
## 2.11 Direct speech

The utterance is a clausal complement (**ccomp**) of the speech verb and *iti* depends from the main verb of the speech with **mark**; see also Sec. 2.22.2.



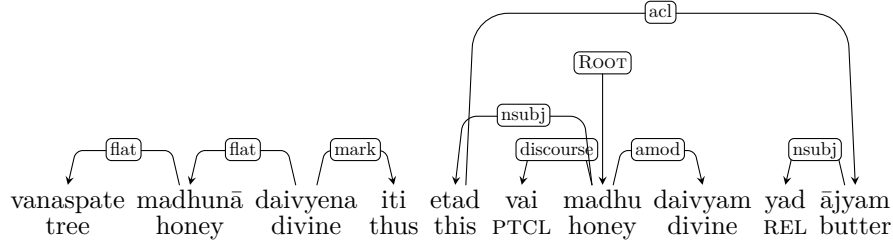
Multiple statements within the *iti*-section are connected with **parataxis** in chaining mode from left to right, i.e. the leftmost sentence is parent of the following one on the left etc., and the predicate of the rightmost sentence is linked to the quotative particle.

If no verb of speech is present and the speech cannot meaningfully be connected with any other verb, the leftmost statement of the speech is made the root, cf. the following example (shortened to the essentials):



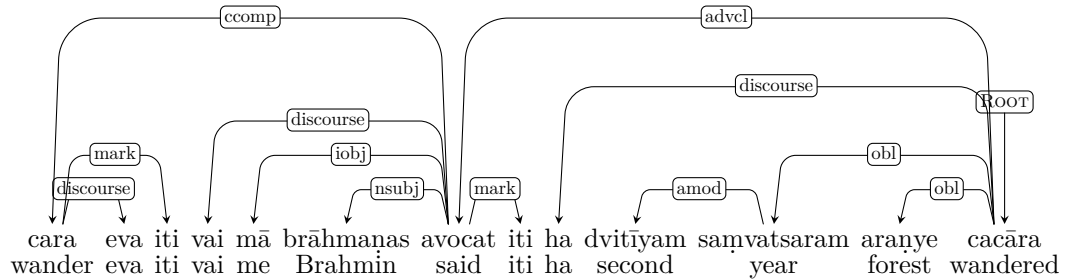
‘Him (the aforementioned ram) [the sacrificer] shall fasten [to the post] [speaking] thus: “I bind the victim. ... Yama (Death) shall grab the rivals.”’ (MS 2.5.6.31-32)

References to Mantras (e.g. from the RV), which are mostly truncated verbatim quotes and therefore often without a coherent syntax, are not annotated. The last word of the citation is linked to *iti* with **mark**, and the remaining words thereof are chained with **flat** from right to left. The citation has no root.



‘[Mantra:] “O tree, with divine sweetness ... [they anoint you] ... ” – [Explanation:] This butter (used at the current sacrifice) verily corresponds to/is the divine sweetness (mentioned in the Mantra).’ (AB 2.2.4 with quote from RV 3.8.1b)

AB 7.15.2 presents a case of nested direct speech consisting of three clauses.



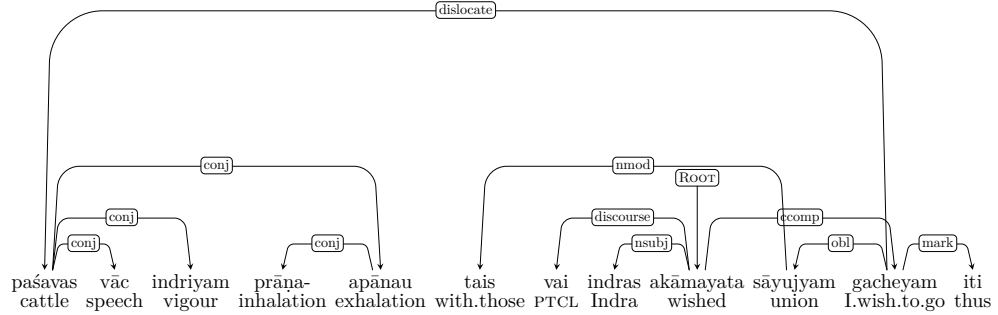
‘“The Brahmin told me; “Wander!”’, hence he; wandered in the forest for a second year.’ (AB 7.15.2)

## 2.12 Disjunct nominals

Under this heading we subsume dislocated nominals such as hanging topics and *Nominativus pendens* constructions, which we link with **dislocated** to the head of the clause (see [UD](#)).

In the following example the preposed nominals in the nominative case (*paśavas ... apānau*) don’t agree with the resumptive pronoun in the instru-

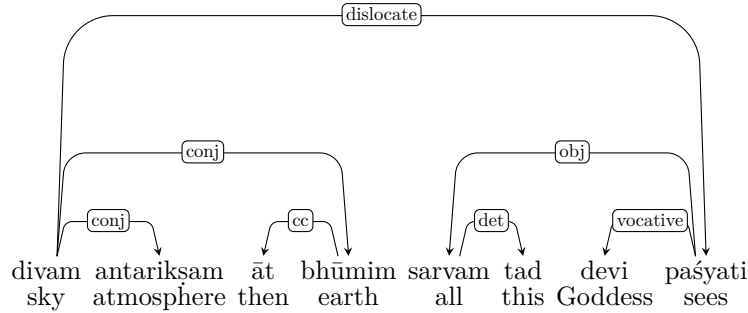
mental case (*tais*).



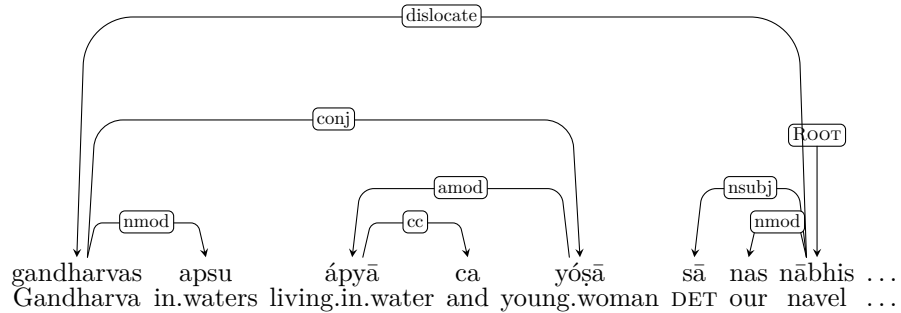
“Cattle, speech, vigour, in-breathing (and) out-breathing, – with them”, Indra desired, “may I be united.” (MS 3.10.6, Oertel (1926, 30f.))

Further examples can be found in Oertel (1926, *passim*).

The dislocated nominal and the nominal resuming it in the main clause agree in case, but not in number and gender in the following two examples:



‘the sky, the atmosphere, then the earth – all that, O divine one (f.), he looks at.’ AVŚ 4.20.1cd; Whitney and Lanman (1905)



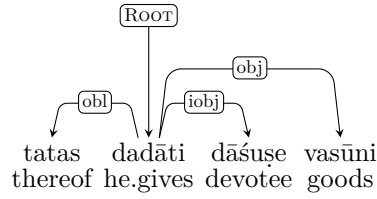
‘The Gandharva in the waters and the water nymph – that is our origin ...’ (RV 10.10.4cd)

N.b.: The pronominal form *sā* agrees with *nābhis*.

## 2.13 Ditransitive constructions

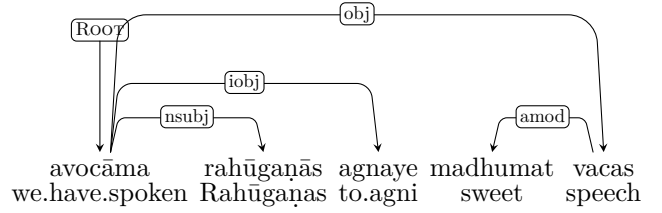
Ditransitive constructions consist of a three-place predicate (Malchukov et al., 2010; Bickel, 2011) that defines three arguments: an agent-like argument (A), which in a canonical Vedic construction takes the nominative case and is labeled **nsubj**; a second argument, T, which is usually manipulated or moved (often in the accusative case); a third argument, G, that is usually affected, stationary, or experiences a change of state, often in the dative case (e.g. in transfer verbs such as *dā-* ‘give’), or in the accusative (e.g. the person robbed with *muṣ-* ‘rob, steal’), etc. Importantly, we acknowledge that the exact number of arguments of a particular Vedic predicate has not yet been established and leave it, for the time being, to the annotator to decide. See also Sec. 2.14 and 2.10.

An example for the verb *dā-* ‘give, bestow’, where the source of the transfer is indicated as well, would be:



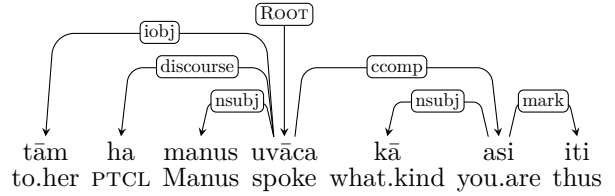
‘[Indra is king . . . over whatever there is on earth.] Thereof/From this he gives goods to whom worships (him).’ (RV 7.27.3c)

Verbs of speech vary in the assignment of case for the G argument (dative, accusative), cf. with the verb *vac-* ‘speak’ the following examples. In the first one, the G argument is in the dative.



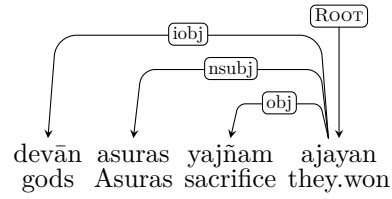
‘We Rahūgaṇās have spoken a honey-eyed speech to Agni.’ (RV 1.78.5ab, Jamison and Brereton (2014))

In this example, the G argument is in the accusative.



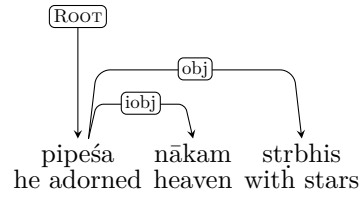
‘To her (Īdā) then Manu spoke:  
“(What kind of girl >) Who are you?”’ (ŚB(M) 1.8.1.9)

With *jī-* ‘obtain, snatch sth. from sb. by force’, both the T and the G argument take accusative case.



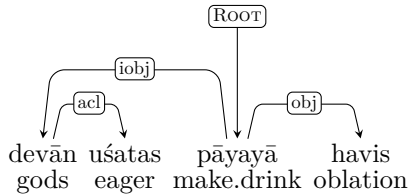
‘The Asuras won the sacrifice from the gods.’ (MS 1.9.8.2)

The verb *pīś-* ‘adorn’ takes a T argument in the instrumental case, the G argument is in the accusative.



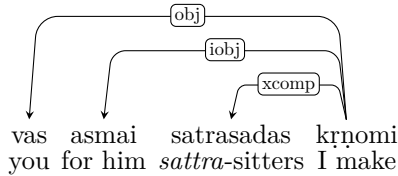
‘He (Agni) adorned heaven’s vault with stars.’ (RV 1.68.10)

In three-place derived causative constructions, the causee usually takes the accusative or instrumental case, the direct object of the embedded predicate is in the case assigned by the embedded predicate (Kulikov, 2011). We label the causee *iobj*, the embedded direct object *obj*.



‘Make the eager gods drink the oblation!’ (RV 2.37.6)

Verbs like *kṛ-* ‘make someone [turn into] x, cause someone to become x’ with a double accusative case frame follow the same scheme: The argument that undergoes the transformation is annotated as *obj* and the (planned) result as *xcomp*. The same also goes for *dhā-* with this meaning and *bhū-* ‘become’.

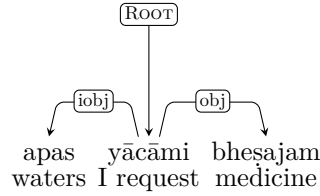


‘I cause you to become sitters at the session of this man’ (AVŚ 1.30.4)

For another example see RV 2.1.13ab, here Sec. 2.15.2, p. 25.

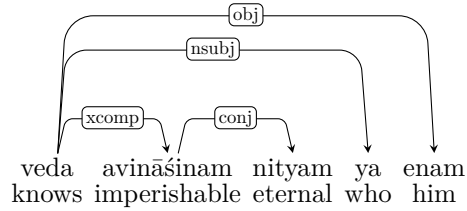
## 2.14 Double-accusative constructions

Double-accusative constructions are common, e.g. with *yāc-* ‘request, ask something from somebody’. We assign the thing asked for the label **obj**, the person asked **iobj**.



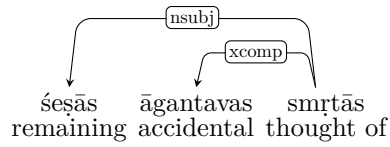
‘I ask medicine from the waters.’ (RV 10.9.5)

In predications such as ‘know/consider sb. (P) as x, call sb. (P) x’ the second argument (P) is annotated as **obj**. The predicative nominal expression is labeled **xcomp** (following UD guidelines).



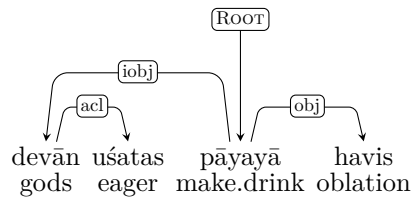
‘who knows him as imperishable and eternal’ (MBh 6.24.21, post-vedic)

This annotation is also found with participial predicates or in clauses with seemingly elided copula:



‘The remaining ones are considered accidental.’ (Suśrutasaṃhitā Sū. 34.6)

In ditransitive double-accusative causative constructions, the causee is assigned the label **iobj**, the embedded direct object **obj**. See also 2.13



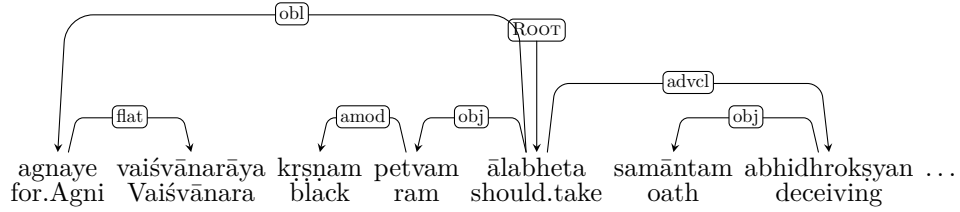
‘Make the eager gods drink the oblation!’ (RV 2.37.6)

## 2.15 Ellipsis

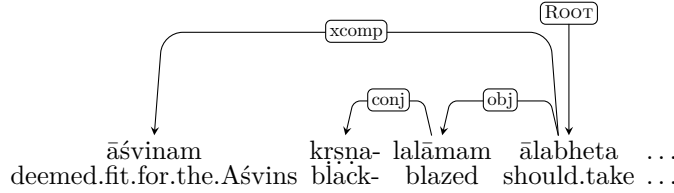
See the UD guidelines on [ellipsis](#) for a general overview.

### 2.15.1 Elision in nominals

In the following interrelated sequence, where some sentences in between have been omitted, the subject of the clauses is not overtly expressed, but is known from the context. The participial clause in the first sentence depicts this known subject and is linked with **advcl** to the predicate of the superordinated clause. In the second sentence the object proper (*petvam* ‘ram’) is elided and the dependent and orphaned compounded adjective is according to UD promoted to function as object of the verb:



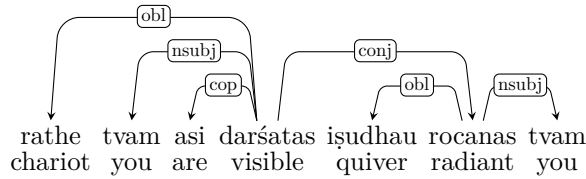
‘For Agni Vaiśvānara he [i.e. the sacrificer] should seize a black ram, if he intends to break an oath. ...’ (MS 2.5.6.3)



‘(As a victim deemed fit for the) Aśvins [he] should seize a black (ram) with a blaze. ...’ (MS 2.5.6.4)

### 2.15.2 Elision of verbs or other predicates

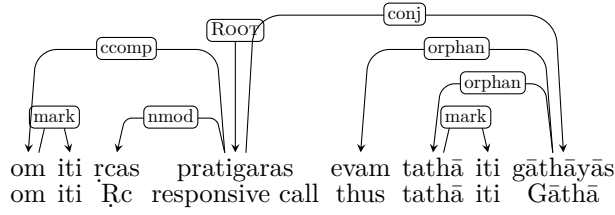
The verb is elided, but the truncated sentence can be constructed as a clause with non-overt copula (*asi* is missing with *rocanas*):



‘You are conspicuous on the chariot, you [are] radiant on the quiver.’ (AVŚ 4.10.6)

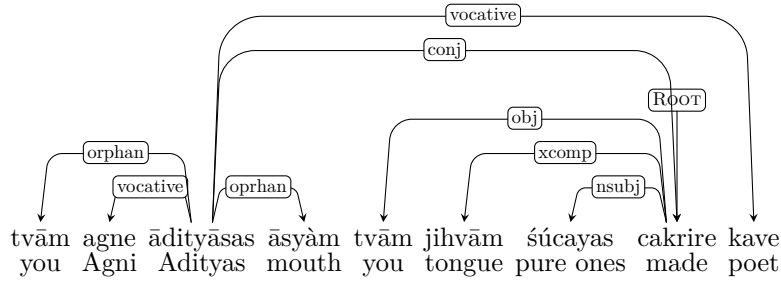
In the following example the first nominal predicate is represented by a noun (*pratigaras*) with a nominal dependent in the genitive (*rcas*, **nmod**). In the second, conjunct clause the head of the nominal predicate is gapped. The dependent (*gāthāyās*) of the gapped nominal inherits the dependents of the gapped nominal, which are then linked with **orphan**:





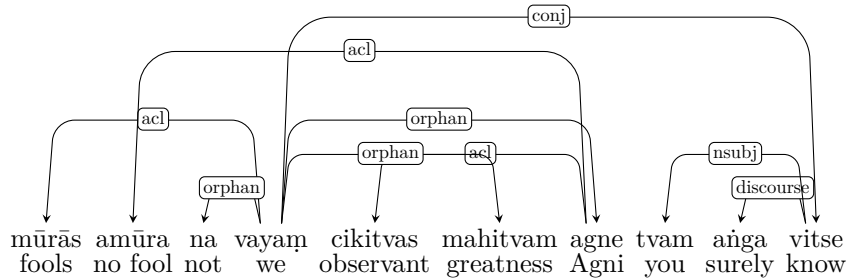
“‘Om” is the responsive call for a Ṛc, and “tathā” [the one] for a Gāthā.’ (AB 7.18.13)

In the case of leftward gapping, the dependent which in the first conjunct has the highest rank is promoted to the “new-head” position. The second conjunct, i.e. the one bearing the verb, is connected to the “new head” via **conj** and does not require any **orphan** relation:



‘The Adityas made you, Agni, their mouth; the pure ones made you their tongue, o poet!’ (RV 2.1.13ab)

The following is another example of clausal coordinate ellipsis, where the elliptical form is not completely identical to its model (sloppy identity). Here, the overt verbal form *vitse* is a second person singular form of the verb *vid-* ‘to know’, but one has to recover a first person plural. This phenomenon has no consequences on the annotation label.



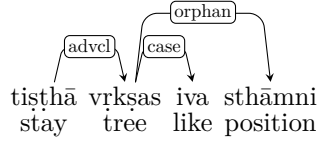
‘We fools do not (know) your greatness, o Agni who have perceived (everything) being anything but a fool, but you surely know (it).’ (RV 10.4.4ab)

According to the UD guidelines, “the **orphan** relation is only used when an ordinary relation would be misleading (for example, when attaching an object to a subject)”. Therefore, *mūrās* ‘fools’ retains its **acl** relation to the “new

head” *vayam*, and the same do *amūra* and *cikitvas* with respect to their head *agne*; all other dependents are instead connected via **orphan**.

### 2.15.3 Comparisons

Also see Sec. 2.6.



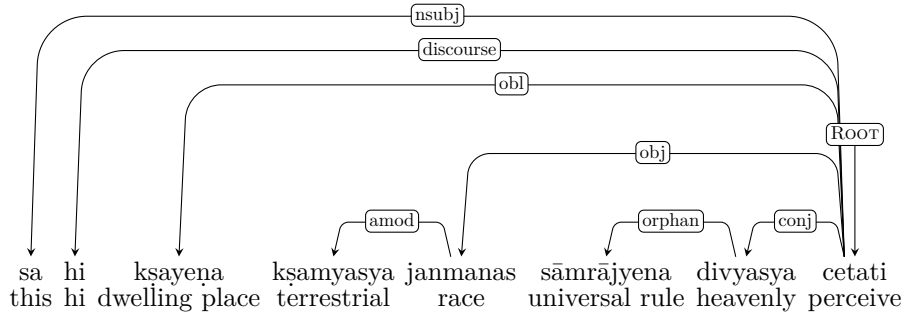
‘Stay like a tree [stays] in position.’ (AVŚ 4.7.5)

### 2.15.4 Complex cases

The following example (RV 7.46.2ab) elides the subject, the verb and the indirect object of the second clause, leaving only an **obl** (*sāmrājyena*) and the adjective of the second object (*divyasya*).

In such cases, the dependent with the highest rank is promoted and becomes the “new verb” (*divyasya* in the following example). The hierarchy is the following, where the leftmost dependent has got the highest rank: **nsubj** > **obj** > **iobj** > **obl** > **advmod** > **csbj** > **xcomp** > **ccomp** > **advcl** (cf. UD, “Ellipsis in Clauses”).

This “verb” is now connected as **conj** with the most appropriate non-elided verb (*cetati*). Dependents with lower ranks are connected via **orphan** to the “new verb” (*sāmrājyena* in the example):



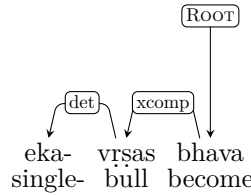
‘For in consequence of his dwelling place he takes cognizance of the earthly race and, in consequence of his universal rule, of the heavenly.’ (RV 7.46.2ab, Jamison and Brereton (2014)). – The complete sentence would read like this: *sa hi kṣayeṇa kṣamyasya janmanas cetati, sāmrājyena [ca sa] divyasya [janmanas cetati]*.

In the following example from MS 2.5.2, *āgneyīm* ‘being for Agni’ is interpreted as secondary predicate of *ālabheta*, and *vasantā āgneyīm* is elliptical. As *āgneyīm* in the ellipsis takes up the **xcomp** argument, the oblique *vasantā* (**obl**) is promoted before it (**obl** > **xcomp**).



Some lexical items can oscillate between quantification and other uses, for example *bhūri-* ‘much; great’ or *sarva-* ‘whole; all’. Depending on the context of its use, annotators are free to annotate individual instances with **amod** or **acl** as well.

The label **det** also applies to *eka* ‘only, single, sole’, whereas ‘one’ should be annotated as **nummod**.



‘Become the single bull!’ (addressed to a ruler; AVŚ 6.86.1)

## 2.17 Infinitive

See Secs. 2.3, 2.5

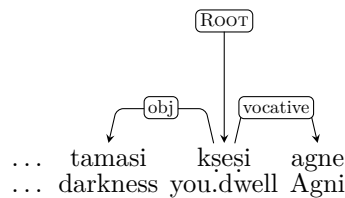
## 2.18 Interjections

... and exclamations: **discourse** of the main verb, e.g. *om*, *svāhā*, *hanta*, *uve*; or of a noun: *patan̥ga hai* ‘hey locust’

## 2.19 Locative

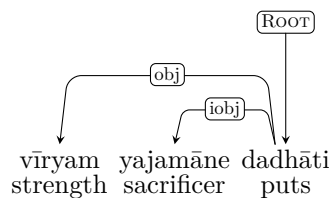
Often annotated as **obl**. With two- and three-place predicates a nominal expression in the locative can assume the P, T or G role (Delbrück, 1888, 118–120); see also Sec. 2.3.4.

With locational two-place verbs such as *kṣit-* ‘dwell in, reside in, abide in’ the second argument is often expressed with a locative, cf.:



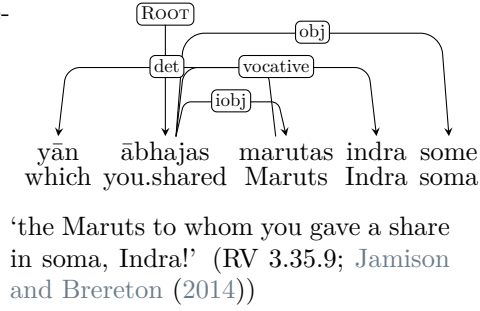
‘Yet you dwell in darkness, Agni.’  
(RV 10.51.5b, Jamison and Brereton (2014))

With three-place predicates the G role may be assumed by a nominal expression in the locative, cf. *dhā-* ‘put something somewhere, place something somewhere’:



‘he places strength into the sacrificer’  
(TS 2.3.7.4; Delbrück (1888, 121))

The T role with *ā-bhaj* ‘share something with someone’:



For the locativus absolutus see Sec. 2.3.4, p. 8.

## 2.20 Names

See Sec. 2.25

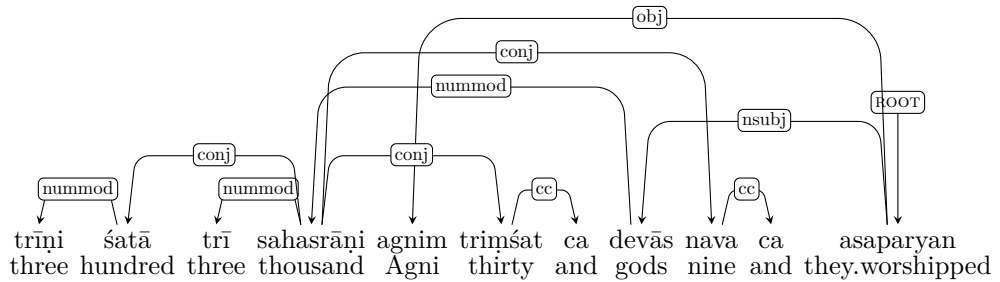
## 2.21 Numerals

The basic annotations for Vedic Sanskrit are:

- NUMERAL OR ADJECTIVAL NUMERAL  $\leftarrow$  nummod  $\leftarrow$  COUNTED UNITS – see e.g. *trī* [PL.N]  $\leftarrow$  nummod  $\leftarrow$  *sahasrāṇi* [PL.N]  $\leftarrow$  nummod  $\leftarrow$  *devās* [PL.M] in the example further down p. 29.
- NUMERAL SUBSTANTIVE  $\rightarrow$  nmod  $\rightarrow$  GEN. OF COUNTED UNITS – e.g. *gavām* [GEN.PL]  $\leftarrow$  nmod  $\leftarrow$  *sahasraīs* [INS.PL.N] ‘with thousands [of] cows’ (RV 5.30.13b) or (*dvé* ... *śaté*) [NOM/ACC.DU.N]  $\rightarrow$  nmod  $\rightarrow$  *gós* [GEN.SG!] ‘two hundred[s of] cow(s)’ (RV 7.18.22a)
- NUMERAL SUBSTANTIVE  $\rightarrow$  amod  $\rightarrow$  ADJECTIVAL DERIVATION OF COUNTED UNITS – e.g. (*ṣaṣṭīs sahasram*) [NOM.SG.N]  $\rightarrow$  amod  $\rightarrow$  *gávyam* [NOM.SG.N] ‘1,060’ or ‘60,000 cows’ (RV 1.126.3c)

Numerals can be complex, either formed parathetically or compositionally or in both ways, cf. for a detailed account Wackernagel and Debrunner, 1957, III, 337–400. Following the UD guidelines, we annotate according to the syntactic structure of complex numerals wherever possible; if no clear syntactic structure is discernible, **flat** is used for joining the elements of the complex numeral (using bouquet notation).

At RV 3.9.9ab, the number 3,339 (dependent as nummod from the subject *devās* ‘gods’) is constructed as the sum  $3 \cdot 100 + 3 \cdot 1000 + 30 + 9$  using a weak, albeit discernible internal syntactic structure:



‘Three hundred (and) three thousand[s] and thirty and nine gods worshipped Agni.’ (RV 3.9.9ab)

## 2.22 Particles

This section summarizes our annotation decisions for enclitics and particles and is not meant as an exhaustive treatment of Vedic particles, which are summarily discussed in Delbrück (1888, p. 22, §13, p. 471f.; pp. 472-546).

### 2.22.1 Negation particles

In clause-initial position the polarity operator *ná* usually negates the clause or has scope over the following expression, in all other positions its scope extends over the immediately following element. In prohibitive sentences the particle used is *má*, see the example in Sec. 2.22.8, p. 31. The nominal negation *a(n)-* is used in compounds including non-finite verbal forms. All these are linked with **advmod** to their respective heads. Note that postponed *ná* is also used as a marker in simulative constructions, accordingly annotated as **case** (See Sec. 2.6.1).

### 2.22.2 Quotative particle

For *íti* as quotative particle, i.e. following, but also preceding a direct speech, see here Sec. 2.11: **mark**. Occasionally, *íti* is used as adverb ‘thus, so’ (**advmod**).

### 2.22.3 Interrogative particles

Beside their pronominal use *kát* and *kím* are also found as interrogative particles, cf. Etter (1985, *passim*), and are in such cases annotated parallel to *íti*, i.e. with **mark**. Note that there are also instances where the interpretations as interrogative adverbs ‘why, how?’ are possible;  $\Rightarrow$  **advmod**.

### 2.22.4 Particles with scope over words or phrases

According to Delbrück the scope of some particles is the word or the phrase to which they are attached to. These are coordinating *ca* (**cc**), disjunctive *vā* (**cc**), comparative *iva* (**case**), emphatic *cid* and *á* (**discourse**), and emphatic/expository *evá* (**discourse**). The latter, when sentence-initial, is also used as adverb (**advmod**) in the RV and AV. N.b.: *ca* and *cid* are found after the first word of a nominal, thus e.g. *viśve ca devās* ‘and all the gods’.

### 2.22.5 Particles with scope over clauses and sentences

Particles in Wackernagel position tend to have the whole sentence in their scope: *vái*, *khálu*, *kíla*, *íd*, *aṅgá*, *svid*, *ha*, *sma*, *kam*. These are linked with **discourse** to the predicate. The same position is held by the following particles, but the relation to the predicate might vary in context: sentence-connective also adding a moment of immediacy *u* (**cc** or **discourse**), temporal *nú*, which is as well used in evaluative function as in English “*now*, let’s see ...” (**advmod**, **discourse**), adversative-connective *tú*, which is also used in various pragmatic functions as in German “Er ist *doch* da.” (“*Yes*, he is here.”) (**cc**, **discourse**) affirmative *áha* (**discourse**), and causal-explicative *hí* (**discourse**).

### 2.22.6 Particles which take or can take first position in a clause or sentence

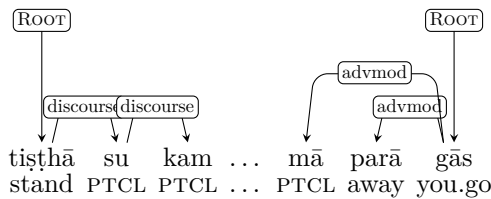
*ápi* ‘close’ in the RV is a preposition construed with the locative case (**case**). From the RV onwards it is also used as emphatic particle pre- or postponed to a word (**discourse**). *utá* ‘and’ is a word or clause connective in the RV (**cc**). On *íti* see Sec. 2.22.2. *evám*, found only once in the RV, supersedes *evá* (see Sec. 2.22.4) as adverb (**advmod**). *átha* (in the RV also *ádha*) is used as an adverb in main clauses (**advmod**) marking a consequence of preceding statements, ‘then, thereupon’, quite often with an adversative notion, ‘but then’. In main and independent clauses these particles may also be annotated as conjunctions with **cc**.

### 2.22.7 Varia

- Whereas the adverbial and adjectival use of *sú* ‘good, well’ and of its antonym *dus-* ‘bad(ly)’ are well established as first members of compounds (see Sec. 2.7.1, p. 15) an independent adverb *sú* is not attested. Independent *sú* is used as a particle with as its scope a clause imparted with the speaker’s hope for the satisfactory fulfillment of his pronouncements, often left out in translations (see below RV 3.53.2a Sec. 2.22.8, p. 31). We annotate *sú* ← **discourse** ← **VERB**.
- The particles *ca*, *cid* and then also *cana* serve generalizing functions when combined with interrogative pronouns, thus e.g. *kas ca*, *kas cid*, *kas cana* mean all ‘whoever’, see here example AB 2.6.5 in Sec. 2.24, p. 34.

### 2.22.8 Particle chains

Particles can occur in chains or/and in groups. In groups we declare the most salient element as head, and link the other particles to it with the label **fixed**, thus e.g. *ha* ← **fixed** ← *vai* which seems equivalent to *ha*, whereas *khalu* → **fixed** → *vai* seems equivalent to *vai*. In other cases, where an additive or cumulative use is assumed, we chain the particles, as e.g. in :



‘Stay (here), please! Don’t go away!’ (RV 3.53.2a)

## 2.23 Prepositions and preverbs

Also see Sec. 2.22 on particles.

The term *preposition* was (and is occasionally still) used as hyperonym for both, adpositions (pre-, post-, circumpositions) and preverbs, but is gradually shifting to denote only the former. Following Hettrich, Casaretto and Schneider (Hettrich et al., 2004) we will use the term *local particles*.

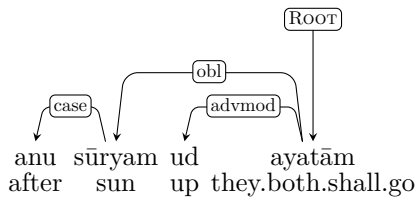
Rule of thumb:

**case** local particles used as adpositions with governed nouns in independent prepositional phrases. According to the **UD**, independent prepositional phrases bear the **obl** relation to their heads.

**advmod** local particles used as preverbs, i.e. modifying verbs.

The local particles listed by Delbrück (1888, 440-470) and there labelled as “(echte) Praepositionen” (prepositions proper) can often be used in both manners. These are contrasted with words which are used only adnominally (called “unechte Praepositionen” (prepositions “improper”) by Delbrück (1888, 470-471)).

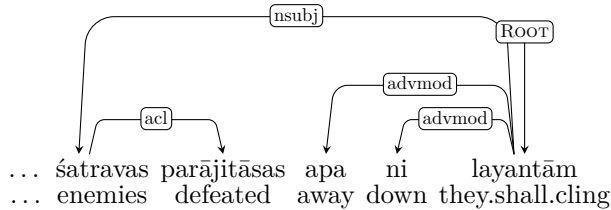
In the following example we focus on the local particles *ud* and *anu*.



“Let them (both) go up toward the sun.” (Whitney and Lanman (1905)), or with a marked interpretation of *anu* as adposition: ‘Let them both go upward after/following the sun.’ (AVŚ 1.22.1)

Following Delbrück (1888, 453) *ud* is only used with verbs, thus we link this word with its predicate with **advmod**. *anu* as well is often used as preverb, so *inter alia* with the verb *i-* ‘go’; the interpretation of *anu* as an adposition is made probable by the univerbations with its governed nouns such as in *anuṣvadhām* (adverb) from *anu svadhām* resp. *svadhām anu* (adverbials), all meaning ‘according to one’s own nature’, or as in preposition governing compounds such as *anu-vrata-* (adjective) ‘sb. who follows a behest, a bidding’ from *anu vratam* (adverbial) ‘following a behest’. Thus in our example both interpretations and annotations (**case** or **advmod**) are possible.

Multiple preverbs are linked individually to the verb.:



‘(And) once completely defeated the enemies shall hole up themselves (far) away.’ (RV 10.84.7cd)

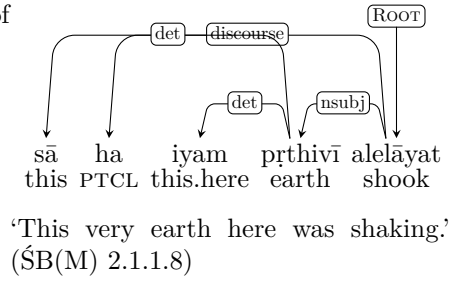
## 2.24 Pronouns

Basic annotation for pronouns relating to nominal heads, i.e. for demonstratives, relatives, adjectival interrogatives: PRONOUN ← **det** ← HEAD.

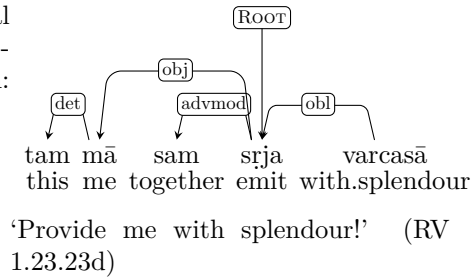
Possible combinations of pronouns are discussed in Delbrück (1888, 211-212).



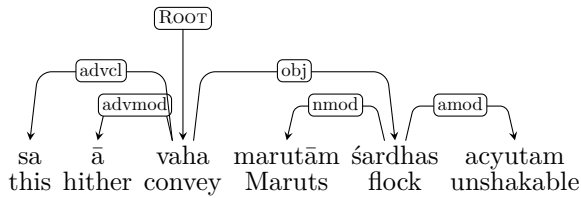
Not uncommon are combinations of two demonstratives such as in:



or of a demonstrative and a personal pronoun, where the head is represented by the personal pronoun, as in:



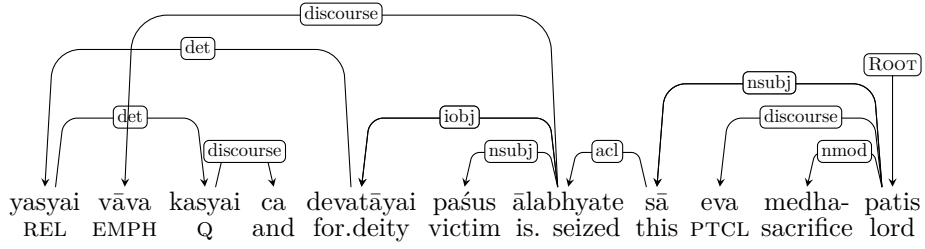
Note that some scholars read the pronoun *sa-/ta-* in such cases as depictive, thus ‘This earth [*sā* = as she appears in the present condition] here [*iyaṃ* denoting proximal deixis] was shaking.’ respectively ‘Provide me [*tam* = as such, as described afore] with splendour!’. Since this issue is much discussed and still under investigation, it is left to the annotator to decide between determinative and depictive value of *sa-/ta-*. Note however that, in case of depictive interpretation, *sa-/ta-* depends on its referent via **acl**. If the referent is not overtly expressed, *sa-/ta-* is instead connected to the superordinate predicate via **advcl**:



‘As such, convey hither the unshakable flock of the Maruts.’ (RV 2.3.3c)

See also Sec. 2.28 on Secondary predication.

A special combination consists in the sequence of relative, interrogative pronoun, and a generalizing particle, i.e. *ya- ... ka- ca*, *cid*, *cana*, found in relative clauses, cf. Delbrück (1888, 569-570). Here the interrogative element (*ka- ca*) is subordinated to the relative *ya-*, hence we annotate HEAD → **det** → *ya-* → **det** → *ka- ca*, as in:

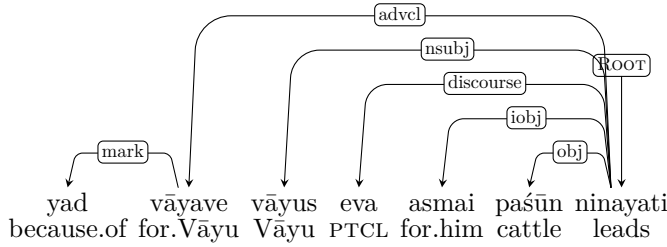


“To whatever deity the victim is slaughtered, that is the lord of the sacrifice.”  
(AB 2.6.5; Keith (1920))

### 2.24.1 Adverbial usage of pronominal forms

Some forms of the determinative pronouns can appear in adverbial functions, so e.g. *tasmāt* ‘hence, therefore’ (ABL.SG. of *ta-*) or *tena* ‘therewith, thereby’ (INS.SG.). Most common are the subordinating *yad* ‘when, if, because of’ and its correlate *tad* ‘then, thus, there’ which correspond and are probably originally identical with the NOM./ACC.SG.N. of *ya-* respectively *ta-*.

As with other relative adverbs (see Sec. 2.3, and Sec. 2.26, ex. AVŚ 15.11.6 on p. 38) we annotate *yad* as conjunction linking the predicate of the relative clause to the superordinated sentence, as e.g. in:



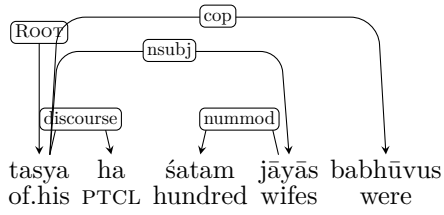
‘Since (the victim was consecrated) to Vāyu, Vāyu verily thus brings up cattle for him (= the sacrificer).’ (MS 2.5.1.82)

For an ex. of adverbial *tad* see Sec. 2.10, ex. AB 1.1.10 on p. 18.

### 2.24.2 Pronominal possessors

Adjectival possessive pronouns are rare. We find occasionally but from old adjectival derivations from the oblique (non-nominative) stems of personal pronouns such as *mama-ka-* or *māma-ka-* both from *mama* GEN.SG to *aḥam* ‘I’. Also the reflexive adjective *sva-* is used as possessive of all persons. The most common means is the use of GEN-forms or of the enclitic forms of the personal pronouns, thus *mama* or encl. *me*, *asmākam* or encl. *nas* for *asmāka-* ‘our; of ours’, then *tasya* ‘his; of his’, and *teṣām* ‘their; of theirs’, etc. The basic annotation is, just as with nouns, PRO (GEN. or encl.) ← *nmod* ← HEAD.

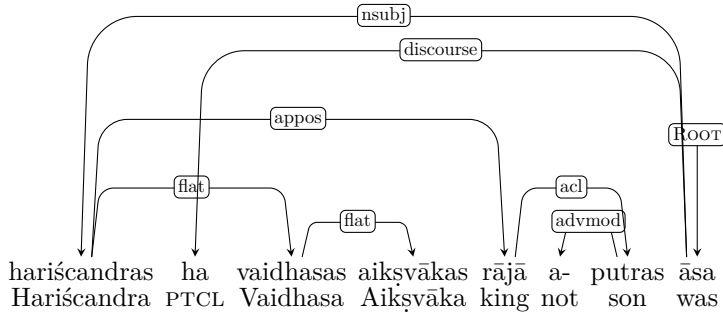
In the predicative possession construction with an oblique possessor in the genitive, the possessor is promoted to *root*, cf.



‘He had hundred wives.’(AB 7.13.1)

## 2.25 Proper names

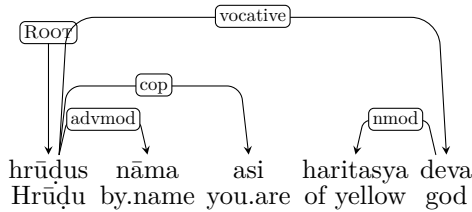
When the name consists of several words in the same case the elements are chain-linked with **flat** to the leftmost part of the name, which becomes the head, cf.:



‘(There) was (once) Hariścandra Vaidhasa Aikṣvāka, a king who had no son.’  
(AB 7.13.1)

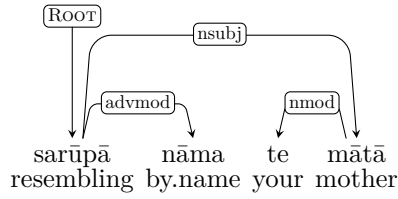
When the name consists of a name and a fixed epithet, the head is the name, e.g. *agni-* in *agnaye jātavedase* (dat.) and in *jātavedasam agnim* (acc.). In juxtapositions the head consists in the part of the name that bears the inflection, e.g. *apām napāt* : *apām napātam* or *bṛhas pati* : *bṛhas patim*, hence the heads are *napāt-*, *pati-* etc.

Proper names can be marked with *nāma*. Following Böhtlingk and Roth (1875, s.v.), we annotate *nāma*<sup>2</sup> as an **advmod** of the head of the name, corresponding to the engl. adverbial ‘by name’.



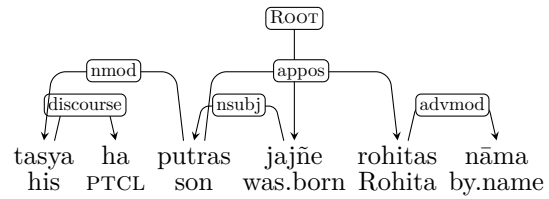
‘You are Hrūḍu by name, O god of the yellow (= jaundice?)’ (AVŚ 1.25.3b)

<sup>2</sup>The adverbial use of the form *nāma* goes back to naming parentheses “the name is ...”.



‘Your mother is called "resembling".’ (AVŚ 1.24.3a)

When the name introduced by *nāma* modifies another word, the name becomes **appos** of this word.



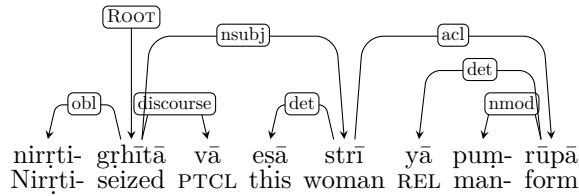
‘To him, a son called Rohita was born.’  
(AB 7.14.2)

See also Sec. 2.4 for names with additional qualifiers.

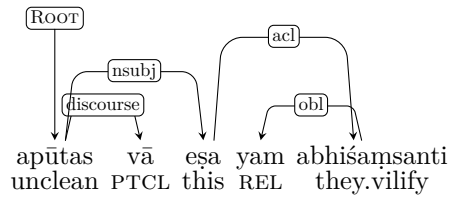
## 2.26 Relative clauses

A full account on relative clauses in the RV is given in [Hetttrich 1988](#).

Relative clauses modifying a nominal (noun, pronoun): The clause is connected with **acl** to the referent in the superordinate clause.

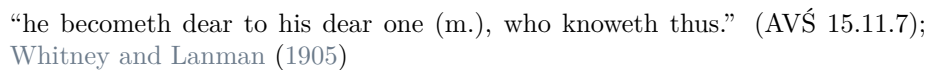


‘That woman indeed is seized by Nirṛti (void, death), who has a man’s looks.’  
(MS 2.5.5.38)



‘He (the sacrificer), whom they speak against, is not purified.’ (MS 2.5.5.11)

Headless relative clause (**csubj**) as subject of a verb:



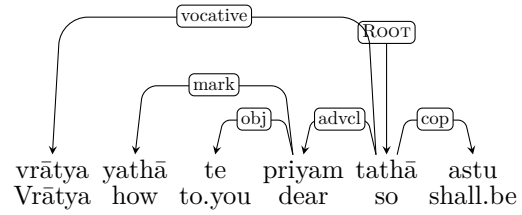
- ‘who(ever) knows thus ...’: **csubj**
- ‘he (the afore mentioned), who knows thus/if he knows thus, ...’: **acl** with a head noun or pronoun or lacking it: **advcl**.

asau yas eṣi vīrakas gr̥ham-gr̥ham vicākaśat imam jambha-sutam piba ...  
 DEM[there] REL you.go little.hero house-house looking.out DEM[here] tooth-pressed drink! ...

yatra tū bhūmes jāyeta tad prajijñāseta  
 where PTCL of.earth he.might.be.born that he.should.want.declare

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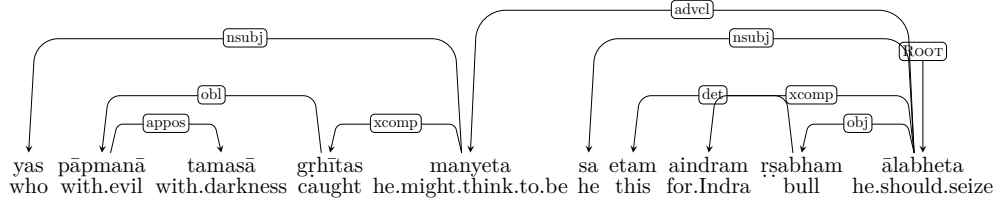
But normally clauses with relative adverbials (*yathā*, *yatra*, *yad* etc.) are linked to the predicate of the superordinate clause with **advcl**; the relative adverbials are treated as conjunctions and linked to the predicate of adverbial clause with **mark**, cf.:



“Vrātya, be it so as is dear to thee!”  
(AVŚ 15.11.6); Whitney and Lanman (1905))

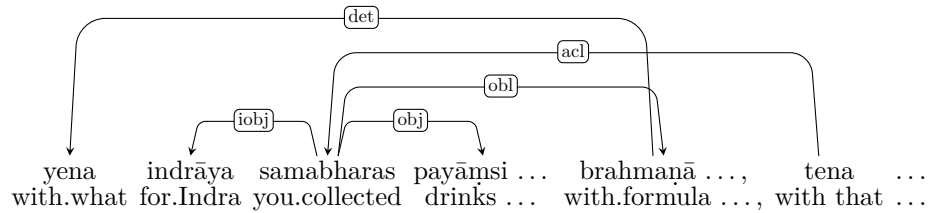
See also Sec. 2.3, and on *priya*- Sec. 2.30, p. 43.

If the verb of a relative clause expresses potentiality, eventuality, etc. as with a grammatical mood such as the optative, the clause is treated as an adverbial, and is linked to the predicate of the superordinate clause with **advcl**, cf.:



‘If (a sacrificer) might think he has been caught by the evil “darkness”, he should seize said bull as [a victim] deemed fit for Indra.’ (MS 2.5.3.28)

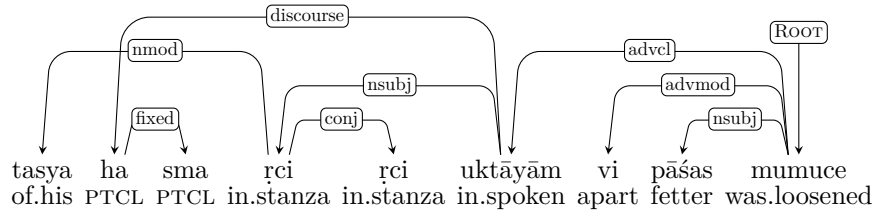
- Annotating relative pronouns:
  - as subject of the relative clause: **nsubj** (see above)
  - referring to a noun in the relative clause: **det**



“With what ... worship ... thou didst bring together draughts ... for Indra, therewith, (O Agni, do thou increase this man here;)” (AVŚ 1.9.3); Whitney and Lanman (1905)

## 2.27 Repeated word forms

Repeated word forms coalesce regularly to so-called *āmreḍita*-compounds, i.e. a group of two successive homonymous word forms of which only the first bears an accent. Just as with other copulative compounds (for dvandvas see Sec. 2.7.3) the two elements are connected with **conj** however with the accented respectively first word form functioning as the head, e.g.



‘And just as each stanza of his (of Śunaḥśepa) was spoken a (single) bond came off.’<sup>3</sup> (AB 7.16.13)

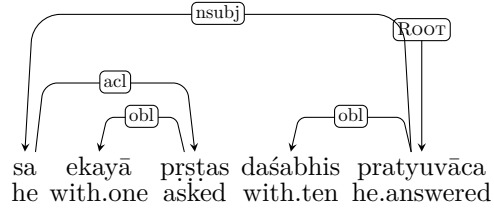
## 2.28 Secondary predication

Basic annotation:

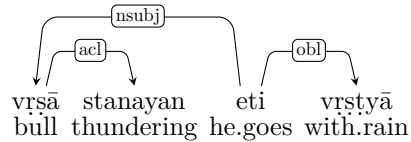
- **acl** (if the secondary predicate is depictive)
- **xcomp** (if the secondary predicate is a core argument of the superordinated predicate or resultative)

See also Double accusative (Sec. 2.14), **UD acl** and **UD xcomp**

**acl**: typically participles are used as depictives, see *prṣṭa-*, respectively *stanayan* in:



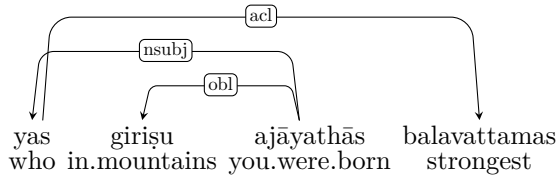
‘He, having been asked with one (stanza), replied with ten.’ (AB 7.13.3)



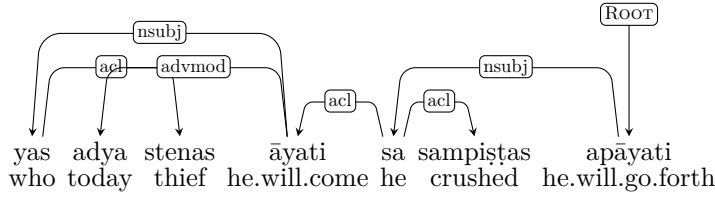
‘The bull goes thundering with rain.’ (AVŚ 1.12.1b)

Of course depictives are not limited to participles, but comprise all sort of adjectives and even nouns. For a fitting English translation we often use the adverb ‘as’, cf.:

<sup>3</sup>Note that *tasya* might as well depend from *pāśas* and thus the particles *ha sma* from *mumuce*.

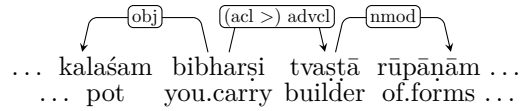


‘you who were born in the mountains, [being/as] the strongest one’ (AVŚ 5.4.1ab)



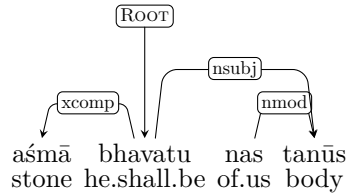
‘He, who arrives as a thief today, will leave crushed.’ (AVŚ 4.3.5ab)

If the subject is not overt, the dependent is connected to the verb with *advcl*.

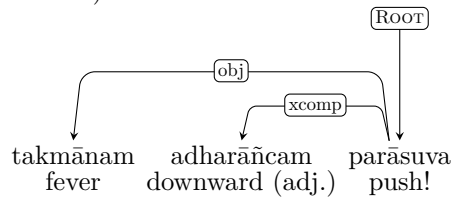


‘(You [subject not overt]) carry a pot (full of Soma), (you being) a shaper of forms ...’ (AVŚ 9.4.6ab)

*xcomp* is used for resultatives, typically with predicates such as *bhū-* ‘become, turn into (intrans.)’ or *kr-* ‘make, turn into (trans.)’, cf.:



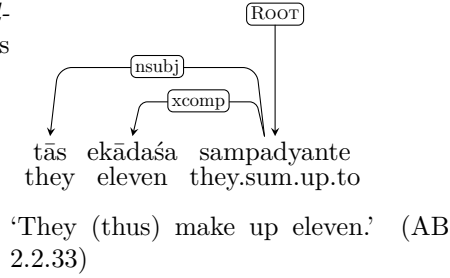
‘Let our body become stone!’ (RV 6.75.12b)



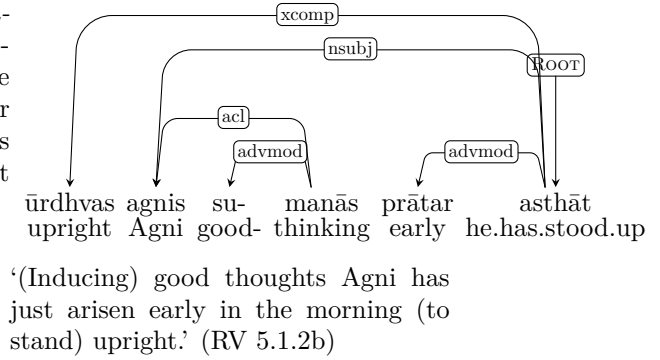
‘Push the fever downwards!’ (AVŚ 5.22.3cd)



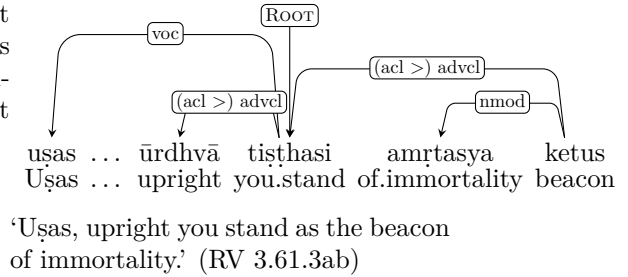
**xcomp** is also used with *sam-pad-* ‘make up, sum up to, turn into’, as in:



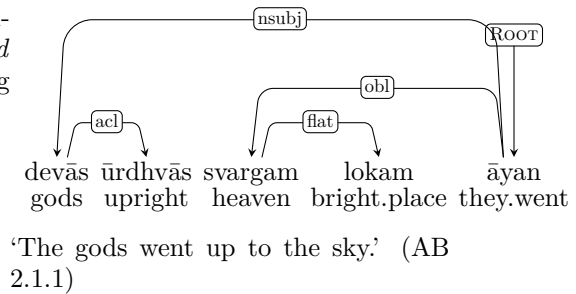
In the following two examples *ūrdhva-* ‘upright, erect’ is a secondary predicate to verb forms belonging to the same root *sthā-* which are however set apart by their verbal aspect, thus **xcomp** (as a resultative) with the aorist *asthāt*,



but as a depictive with the present tense *tiṣṭhasi*, virtually **ac1**, which is however connected as **advcl** to the primary predicate because the head is not overtly expressed:

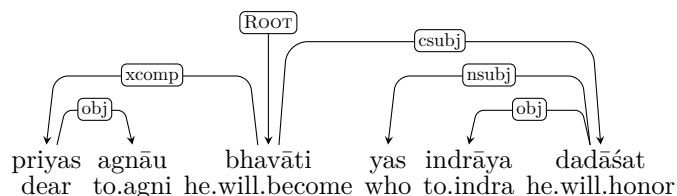


Sometimes *ūrdhva-* seems to be semantically equivalent to the preverb *ud* or the adverb *ūrdhvam*, though being clearly participant-oriented:



## 2.29 Subject

Annotated as **nsubj**, when the subject is a single word, but as **csubj**, when it consists of a clause, as in this example:



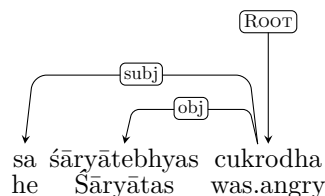
“He will become dear to Agni - the one who will do ritual service to Indra.” (RV 5.37.5cd; Jamison and Brereton (2014))

See also 2.26.

## 2.30 Transitive constructions

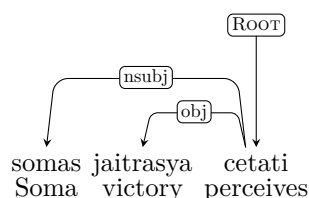
Transitive constructions consist of a two-place predicate (Bickel, 2011) that defines two arguments: an agent-like argument (A), which in a canonical Vedic construction takes the nominative case and is labeled **nsubj**, and a second argument, P (labeled **obj**), which is not agent-like and often takes the accusative case, but other cases occur as well. Importantly, we acknowledge that the exact number of arguments of many Vedic predicates has not yet been established and leave it, for the time being, to the annotator to decide.

The second, dative argument of the two-place verb *krudh-* ‘be angry at’ is assigned the label **obj**, see (Delbrück, 1888, 140–145).



‘he was angry at the Śāryātas’ (ŚB(M) 4.1.5.3)

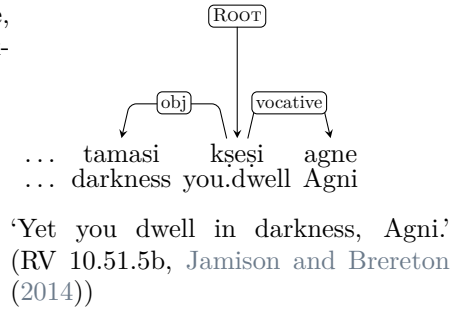
With the verb *cit-* ‘be aware of, perceive’ the second argument can be expressed with the accusative case or with the genitive case as in:



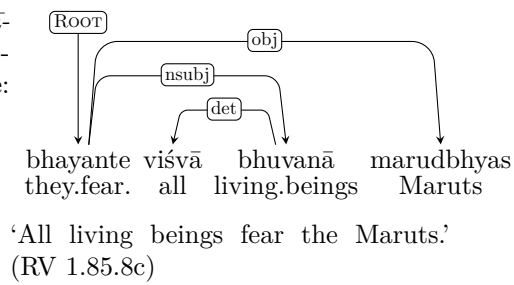
‘Soma is aware of what leads to victory.’ (RV 9.106.2c)

For a second case see RV 7.46.2ab, here Sec. 2.15.4, p. 26.

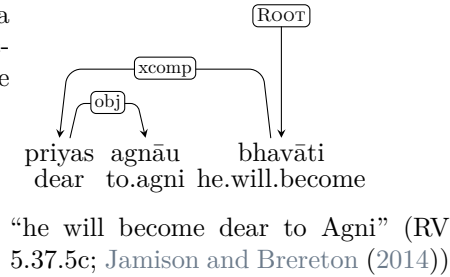
With the verb *kṣit-* ‘dwell, reside, abide’ a second argument is often expressed with a locative, cf.:



The second argument of the verb *bhī-* ‘fear so. or sth., be scared of’ is regularly expressed with the ablative case:



With adjectives as nominal part of a predicate (e.g. *priya* ‘dear’), the second argument is linked to the adjective with *obj*:

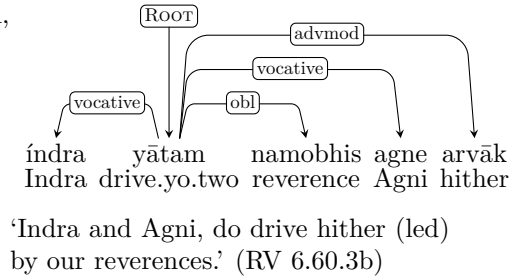


## 2.31 Vocative

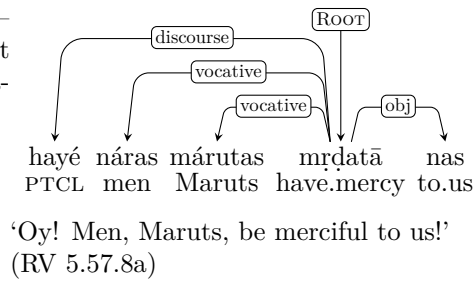
Following UD we connect vocatives to the main verb of the host sentence with **vocative**, though, from a Vedistic point of view, vocatives rather need to be addressed as sentences on their own. When multiple vocatives are present in one sentence, they are singly linked to the verb if they have different referents or if, with the same referent, each of them constitutes an individual vocative phrase marked by an own accent. Of course the latter only applies to accented texts. For vocative phrases with the same referent, we follow the usual annotation wherever a dependency is tangible or plausible. Cf. for further details (Delbrück, 1888, 33ff., 106).

Here some examples (with the vocatives accented as in the texts):

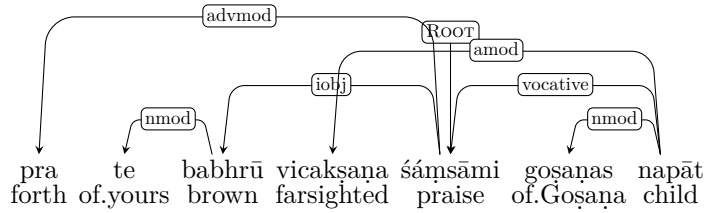
Two vocatives, two referents with, consequently, a verb in dual form:



Two vocatives, one plural referent – the two vocatives bear each an accent and are thus to be treated as separated:

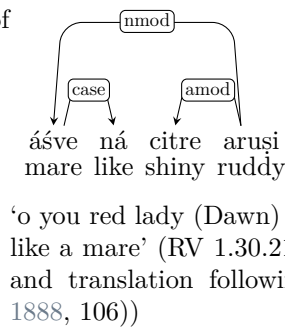


Two vocatives, one adjectival modifying the other, possibly a proper name, who has a further nominal dependent:



See also Sec. 2.25.

Noteworthy is also the embedding of similes in the vocative phrase, as in:



For a further complex vocative phrase see RV 10.4.4ab, on p. 25, Sec. 2.15.2 .

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