

Adjectives and pronouns in Zilo

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1. Adjectives

Adjectives can be clearly distinguished from nouns or verbs since they are not lexically specified for gender, and cannot express any verbal categories without adding some derivational morphology (e. g. causative). The most of the Zilo adjectives have no class agreement marker. Class agreement marker appears initially (2) and finally (3):¹

- (1) a. hirts'i wofo
tall boy
'Tall boy'.
b. hirts'i jofi
tall girl
'Tall girl'.
- (2) a. w-etf'uɣa wofo
M-big boy
'Big boy'.
b. j-etf'uɣa jofi
F-big girl
'Big girl'.
- (3) a. tsi-w wofo
new-M boy
'New boy'.
b. tsi-j jofi
new-F girl
'New girl'.

1.1 Derivation of adjectives

The most easiest way to derive something attributive is to use participle form of verbs.

Genitive forms of nouns are really productively used in the function fulfilled in other languages by relational adjectives, for example

Reduplication

Zilo also have a very productive suffix -si that can change the whole clause to a headed or headless noun modifier and form a parallel with participles:

¹Sometimes it appears internally, e. g. *se<CL>gulo* 'no one', but in these cases it is easy to show that this is the result of the derivation.

1.2 Adjectival inflection

All adjectives have the same suffixal inflection. In combination with a noun they modify they take suffixes expressing plural number agreement with their head. When the noun that adjective is modifying is absent, adjectives are inflected for gender, number and case. The inflection is quite the same for all substantivised unites (e. g. numerals, participles etc.). In absolutive the gender is not distinguished, but in ...

Glosses

F = female class, M = masculine class.