Unique R Case

Morphological case on nouns often expresses the syntactic and semantic relationships between clausal constituents. In this study, we investigated to what extent a unique case marker was used for the recipient (R) of a ditransitive clause, vis-à-vis the subject of an intransitive clause (S), the subject of a transitive clause (A), and the direct object of a transitive clause (P). This is the case in Indo-Aryan Amla Pashai , as seen in ‎(1), in which the cliticized case marker (or postposition) =ntiː (or =aːntiː) ‘to’ is the unique marker of a recipient noun phrase, whereas the subject of a transitive clause receive an oblique case suffix (in the past/perfective), and the subject of an intransitive clause as well as the object of a transitive clause are zero marked.

1. Amla Pashai [psi(am)] (Indo-Aryan)

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| a. | kiʈaːlik-iː | baː-staː**=ntiː** | | gul | | gəɽ-eː-t͡ʃ-in. | |
|  | girl-obl | grandmother-3sg.poss=to | | flower | | send-pst-f-3pl | |
|  | ‘The girl sent flowers to her grandmother.’ (PSIam-ValQuestNG:037) | | | | | | |
| b. | kilaː-j | kiʈaːlik | warg-iː=kuːt͡ʃa | | ʈeːla | | k-i-t͡ʃ-aːn. |
|  | boy-obl | girl | water-obl=into | | pushing | | do-pst-f-3fsg |
|  | ‘The boy pushed the girl into the water.’ (PSIam-ValQuestNG:074) | | | | | | |

Unique case-marking of the R argument is present in 50 of the sample languages, i.e. in the majority of them. The few languages lacking this property are primarily found in the region’s south.

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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 50 | 85 |
| Absent | 9 | 15 |
| Indeterminate | 0 | 0 |