

Example Kuraŋɔ sentences interlinearized

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1 Case assignment

In Kuraŋɔ, case assignment is based on word order. Arguments to the left of the verb get ergative case, and arguments to the right of the verb get absolutive case.

- (1) Ni'inakarana. [niʔinakarana]

ni- inakara -na
2- bore -1
'You bore me.'

- (2) Na'inakarani. [naʔinakarani]

na- inakara -ni
1- bore -2
'I bore you.'

This ordering principle also allows us to categorize Kuraŋɔ as a Fluid-S language, as arguments of intransitive verbs (S) pattern either with subjects of transitive verbs (S_A) or objects of transitive verbs (S_O) based on their position relative to the verb. Determining the way in which S patterns has to do with the semantics of the utterance: S_A (marked with ERG) has no entailment about the volition of the Agent in the action being performed, while S_O (marked with ABS) entails that the agent was volitional in the action being performed.

- (3) Nakari. [nakari]

na- kari
1- sleep
'I sleep.' (by my own volition.)

- (4) Karina. [karina]

kari -na
sleep -1
'I sleep.' (no entailment about my volition.)

2 Valence-increasing morphology

2.1 Applicatives

Applicatives in Kuraṇṇ are marked using a suffix on the introduced argument, -ʔuti.

- (5) Nimotivagaana. [nimotiβagaːna]

ni- Ø- mōti -βa -gaː -na -Ø
 2- ERG- die -CAUS -FUT -1 -ABS
 ‘You are going to kill me.’

- (6) Nimotivagaana soodonguʔuti. [nigu naku mōtiβagaː sɔːdɔŋuʔuti]

ni- Ø- mōti -βa -gaː -na -Ø sɔːdɔ -ŋu -ʔuti
 1- ERG- kill -CAUS -FUT -1 -ABS sword -GEN -APPL
 ‘You are going to kill me with a sword.’ (lit: ‘You made me die with a sword.’)

2.2 Causatives

Causatives in Kuraṇṇ are marked using the verbal suffix -βa.

- (7) Nakumotigaa. [nakumōtiɡaː]

na- ku- mōti -gaː
 1- NOM- die -FUT
 ‘I am going to die.’

- (8) Namotivagaana. [namōtiβagaːna]

na- Ø- mōti -βa -gaː -na -Ø
 1 ERG- die -CAUS -FUT -1 -ABS
 ‘I am going to kill myself.’ (lit: ‘I am going to make myself die.’)

If an agentive argument is not introduced with the causative suffix -βa, the utterance is still grammatical, but it has a passivized connotation to it.

- (9) Nakumotivagaa. [nakumōtiβagaː]

na- ku- mōti -βa -gaː
 1- NOM- die -CAUS -FUT
 ‘I am going to be killed’ (lit: I am going to be made dead)

3 Valence-decreasing morphology

4 Directionals

5 Case assignment

Kuraṇṇo's case system can be described as “fluid-S,” in that arguments of intransitive verbs (S) pattern either with subjects of transitive verbs (S_A) or objects of transitive verbs (S_O). Determining the way in which S patterns has to do with the semantics of the utterance: S_A (marked with NOM on the Agent) has no entailment about the volition of the Agent in the action being performed, while S_O (marked with ERG on the Agent) entails that the agent was volitional in the action being performed.

(10) Nakari. [nakari]

na- Ø- kari
1- ERG- sleep
‘I sleep.’ (by my own volition.)

(11) Nakukari. [nakukari]

na- ku- kari
1- NOM- sleep
‘I sleep.’ (no entailment about my volition.)

5.1 Case assignment in transitive sentences

Case assignment of (lexically) transitive verbs is similar to that of English. Agents take NOM case, and Themes(Objects) take ACC case. In ditransitives, GEN case is also used on the second Object(Instrument/Beneficiary/Recipient/etc), as in (12).

(12) Nawivinu namiromiku nungu. [nawɪβinu namirɔmiku nuŋu]

na- Ø- ɪɪβi -nu -Ø na- mirɔ -mi -ku nu -ŋu
1- ERG- give -3 -ABS 1- cat -POSS -ABS 3 -GEN
‘I give him/her my cat.’

5.1.1 Case assignment in causatives

In a causative sentence, fluidity of S is preserved (as the verb is underlyingly intransitive), which once again has entailment for the Agent's volition in the action being performed. ERG case-marking on the Agent entails that the agent is volitional in the action being performed (as in (13)). NOM case-marking has no implication about the agent's volition in the action being performed (as in (14)).

(13) Gangaka nasivamonu. [gaŋaka nasiβamɔnu]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-ŋa</i>	<i>-ka</i>	<i>na-</i>	<i>∅-</i>	<i>si</i>	<i>-βa</i>	<i>-mɔ</i>	<i>-nu</i>	<i>-∅</i>
EMO	-NEG	-EMO:HAPPY	1-	ERG-	COP	-CAUS	-PST	3	-ABS

‘I made him/her unhappy.’ (It is my fault that he/she was unhappy.)

(14) Gangaka nakusivamonu. [gaŋaka nakusiβamɔnu]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-ŋa</i>	<i>-ka</i>	<i>na-</i>	<i>ku-</i>	<i>si</i>	<i>-βa</i>	<i>-mɔ</i>	<i>-nu</i>	<i>-∅</i>
EMO	-NEG	-EMO:HAPPY	1-	NOM-	COP	-CAUS	-PST	3	-ABS

‘I made him/her unhappy.’ (No implication that it was my fault.)

5.1.2 Negation and case assignment in causative verbs: semantic implications