Valence-Changing Operations of the Ishiculu language

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Ishiculu has a rich agreement system on verbs and does not exhibit a case system. In this sense, it is predominantly head-marking.

1 Passive

Morphological passive in Ishiculu is marked with *-walɤ* and decreases the valence of transitive verbs.

(1) Ntało kitabu   shi-so-*walɤ*-mbi.
    CLF.7 book(7) 7-read-PASS-PST

    'The book was read.'

(2) U   -bon -*walɤ* -mbi.
    2SG -see -PASS -PST

    'You were seen.'

2 Impersonal

When the verb is impersonal, it does not bear a subject concord prefix.
    Ishiculu allows for impersonal meteorological predicates.

(3) Cofi   ha-mbi.
    yesterday rain-PST

    'It rained yesterday.'

(4) Tumɤ   rɤ.
    tomorrow hot

    'It will be hot tomorrow.'

Impersonal construction is also used for indefinite subjects.

(5) Pa ngi-shi-so ntało kitabu.
not 1SG-7-read CLF.7 book

'I don't read the book.'

(6) Pa shi-so ntało kitabu.
not 7-read CLF.7 book

'One doesn't/shouldn't read the book.'

3 Causative

The suffix *-ła* marks the causative form of a verb. The causer of the causative verb is marked with an additional prefix.

(7) Ngi-ka-shi-so-ła   Ari ntało kitabu.
1SG-1-7-have-CAUS Ari CLF.7 book(7)

'I (will) make Ari read the book.'

(8) Fu-Philadelphia ngi-ka-shi-ke-ła   Ari ntało kitabu.
in-Philadelphia 1SG-1-7-have-CAUS Ari CLF.7 book(7)

'I (will) give the book to Ari in Philadelphia.'