

Conjunct verb construction:

We call the construction as 'conjunct verb' because there is process of conjunction of the verb (light verb) with either a noun or an adjective to formulate a complex predicate.

Why do we do this conjunction? We do so because there are verbal expressions like 'to love, to marry, to hate, to like, to remember, to forgive and to clean, to widen, to shorten etc. for which many Indian languages don't have equivalent verbal expressions.

So, in order to bridge the gap, we plugin a nominal/an adjectival element with a verb to fulfil the gap.

However, there are some semantic requirements or prerequisites of putting a noun with a verb to make a conjunct verb.

Meaning not any combination of N+V will qualify as a conjunct verb.

Conjunct verb construction:

There are minimum two factors which must be met in order to qualify a N+V as a conjunct verb.

One, there should be a gap, meaning there should be a lack of a verbal expression, and thus we put a N+V to make the conjunct verb to fill that gap in the language.

Two, all the nouns that are put with a verb to make conjunct verb must be **abstract nouns**.

Therefore, a combination of a noun such as 'H.W. + karnaa', 'to do the HW' in Hindi is not an example of conjunct verb, neither is 'kaam + karnaa', 'to do the work' a conjunct verb!

However, 'pyaar karnaa', 'to love', 'shaadi karnaa', 'to marry', 'maaf karnaa', 'to forgive' etc. are good examples of conjunct verb.

These two requirements are the basic understanding and qualifying factors to exemplify a N+V combination as 'conjunct verb'.

The problem

- 1 a. mirā-ne mohān-ko yad kṛyā
Meera-3FS-Erg Mohan-Acc remembrance-N(f) do-perf-default-3MS
'Meera remembered Mohan'.
- b. mirā-ko mohān-ki yad ayi
Meera-3FS-Erg Mohan-Gen remembrance-N(f) come-perf-3FS
'Meera remembered Mohan'. Lit: 'The remembrance of Mohan came to Meera'.

These sentences pose problem for any account that has been put forward for 'agreement phenomenon' in H-U. This was reported by Bahl (1974:22).

Obviously, there are several approaches and attempts to solve the problems.

Mohanan (1994) is the one who, while trying to give a solution, has at least classified the types of 'conjunct verbs' into two different sets.

We will talk about the two sets, but let us talk something else first.

Rules of agreement in Hindi

2. rəhim roṭi k^hata hɛ
 Rahim-Nom-3MS bread-Acc-FS eat-3rd PMS be-prest
Ramim eats the bread.

3. sɪtara b^hat k^hatɪ hɛ
 Sitara-Nom-3FS rice-Acc-MS eat-3rdPFS be-prest
Sitara eats rice.

But,

2.a) rəhim-ne roṭi k^hayɪ
 Rahim-Erg-3MS bread-Acc-FS eat-FS-perf
 Ram ate the bread.

3.a) sɪtara-ne b^hat k^haya
 Sitara-Erg-3FS rice-Acc-MS eat-MS-perf
Sitara ate rice.

And,

4) rəhim/sɪtara-ne lərke/i -ko pɪta
 Rahim-3MS/
 Sitara-3FS-Erg boy(Obl) 3MS/
 girl-3FS-Acc beat-3MS-perf
 Rahim/Sitara beat the boy/girl.

The examples in earlier slide present the patterns of ‘agreement fact’ in Hindi-Urdu.

A very simple account of agreement in *simple clause* is given in Saksena (1981)“ *The verb agrees with the left most morphologically null case marked noun phrase in Hindi*” (Saksena, 1981;Pp. 468 with some changes for students to understand).

The rule proposed by Saksena does take care of the agreement fact of **simple clauses** in Hindi-Urdu.

However, if we examine the agreement patterns of ‘complex predicate’, we find that this rule is not sufficient because it does not help much in explaining the ‘agreement facts’ of the complex predicate.

Consider the following examples first:

- 5a. kəmrul-ne əpnə homwərk kryə
Kamrool-3MS-Erg self homework-MS do-perf-MS
‘Kamrool did his homework’.
- b. nuri-ne məhəməd-ko ek kɪtəb dɪ
Noori-3FS Mahmood-3MS-Dat one book-FS give-perf-FS
‘Noori gave a book to Mahmood’.

The examples at the bottom of the earlier slide are important to examine before we start our discussion on ‘complex predicate’. Those sentences had verbs ‘kərɒɳ’, ‘to do’; ‘dɛɳɒɳ’, ‘to give’ and the direct objects ‘homework’ and ‘book’ are core arguments of the transitive and di-transitive verbs respectively.

Now let us see the following examples:

- 5_a səmira-ne kəlam-par b^hərosa kɪya
 Samira-3FS-Erg Kalam-3MS-Loc reliance-N(m) do-perf-MS
 ‘Samira relied on Kalam’.
- 6b. nərgiš-ne bəččō-par d^hyan dɪya
 Nargish-3FS-Erg child-3MPl-obl-Loc attention-N(m) give-perf-3MS
 ‘Nargish paid attention to the children’.

If we compare the examples (5a-6a) and (5b-6b) in order to show the difference of various linguistic categorization, we may say the following things:

In example (5a), we have an agent '**kəmruɫ**'-'Kamrool' and an accomplished action '**apana homework**'-'own homework'.

These two arguments have been licensed in the clause by the transitive verb '**karna**'-'do'.

If we examine the case of (6a), we would say that there is an agent '**səmirɑ**'-'Sameera' and an accomplished action '**b^hərosɑ**'-'reliance'.

So far so good, but we also have another actant in (6a) i.e. '**kəlam**'-'Kalam' and a transitive verb cannot license this third actant '**kəlam**' in the clause.

In the next example (6b), the number of actants have no problem. The verb is a di-transitive one and thus there are three actants i.e. '**nərgis**', '**bəccha**', and '**d^hyan**'.

However, let us examine the case-associations that are there in the sentence (6b), and they are 'ergative', 'locative' and 'accusative'.

we know that a di-transitive verb can only have or licence 'Nom/Erg', 'Dat', 'Acc' case-relations.

So, the questions that are important in this comparison are i.) from where this third actant in (6a) comes and how this is being licensed in the sentence in terms of case-relation, thematic role and other things and ii.) from where we get this 'locative' case marker in a di-transitive sentence in (6b).

Mohanan 1994 & Das 2006 suggest that if we consider the nominal host '**dhyan**'-'attention' along with the verb '**dena**'-'to give' as a 'conjunct verb' i.e. '**dhyan dena**'-'to pay attention', we can argue that '**dhyan dena**' can allow the locative case '**pər**'-'on' for the actant 'bəčče'-'children' in (6b) and it can also explain the third actant in (6a).

The aforementioned explanation proves that the 'nominal element' in (6a-b) is semantically very important and it also plays a crucial role in terms of deciding the number of valency, theta role, and case associations with actants in the sentences.

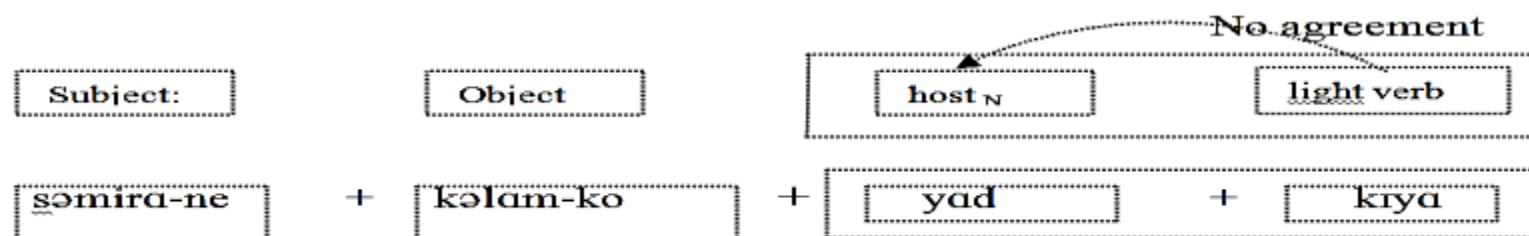
In one line, this nominal passes through a process of grammaticalization and it comes to be the part of the verb phrase because it has to give the semantics to the VP and thus make the predication possible.

The verb of the clause in reciprocation gets de-lexicalized semantically and it acts as a light verb in the sentence.

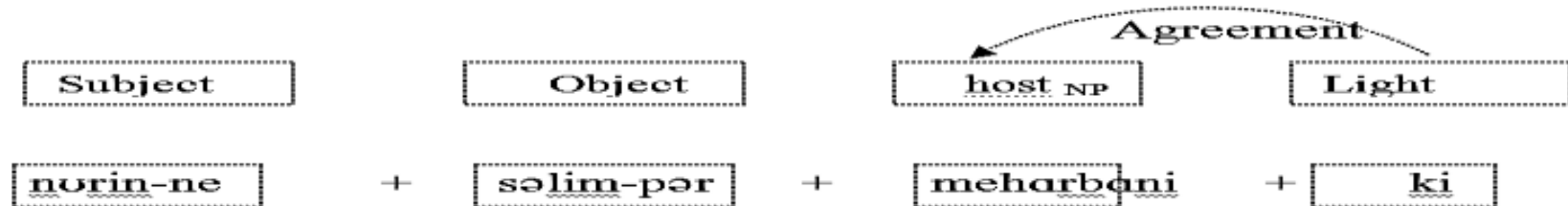
Now having said this much, let us see the two sets of 'conjunct verbs':

The two sets of conjunct verb construction

Set A: The case of conjunct verb where the nominal host does not agree with the light verb



- 7) səmira-ne məheš-ko pəsənd krya
 Sameera-3FS-Erg Mahesh-3MS-Acc liking-N(fem) do-perf-MS
 ‘Samira liked Mahesh’.
- 8) dineš-ne məd^hu-ko yad krya
 Dinesh-3MS-Erg Madhu-3FS-Acc memory-N(fem) do-perf-MS
 ‘Dinesh remembered Madhu’.
- 9) niharika-ne čādən-ko kshəma krya
 Niharika-3FS-Erg Chandan-3MS-Acc forgiveness-N(fem) do-perf-MS
 ‘Niharika forgave Chandan’.
10. səmira-ko rəhim yad aya
 Sameera-3FS-Dat Rahim-3MS-Nom remembrance-N(f) come-perf-3MS
 ‘Sameera remembered Rahim’.



11. b^harat-ne təkniki-ke c^hetr-me kafi prəgati ki
 India-3MS-Erg technology-Gen field-Loc enough development-N(f) do-perf-3FS
 ‘India did enough development in the field of technology’.
12. mohən-ne pərtwar-ki jimmedariyā bəhut k^hub nib^hayī
 Mohan-3MS-Erg family-Gen responsibilities very well perform-perf-3FS
 ‘Mohan performed his family responsibilities very well’.
13. dineš-ne səmirā-se g^hṛna ki
 Dinesh-3MS-Erg Sameera-??(Abl/Loc) hatred-ness-N(f) do-perf-3FS
 ‘Dinesh hated Sameera’.
14. dineš-ko səmirā-se g^hṛna huyi
 Dinesh-3MS-Dat Sameera-??(Abl/Loc) hatred-ness-N(f) be-perf-3FS
 ‘Dinesh hated Sameera’.
15. mē-ne ek bewəfa-se pyar-ki təmməna ki
 I-1MS-Erg one unfaithful-Ins/Com love-Gen longing-N(f) do-perf-3FS
 ‘I longed for love from an unfaithful one’.

16.	<u>rə</u> him-ne	<u>dineš</u> -ko	awaz	di
	Rahim-3MS-Erg	Dinesh-Dat	call/sound-N(f)	give-perf-3FS
	‘Rahim called Dinesh’.			
17.	<u>dineš</u> -ne	<u>rə</u> him-ko	mədəd	di
	Dinesh-3MS-Erg	Rahim-Dat	help-N(f)	give-perf-3FS
	‘Dinesh helped Rahim’.			
18.	<u>dineš</u> -ne	<u>rə</u> him-ko	mafi	di
	Dinesh-3MS-Erg	Rahim-Dat	forgiveness-N(f)	give-perf-3FS
	‘Dinesh forgave Rahim’.			

As we mentioned that Mohanan’s (1994:Pp 230) tries to solve the problem and suggests that:

....‘When the light verb can agree with its nominal host, the AGR provided by the host bears indirect case (i.e. Genitive, Instrument, and Locative). (...better to read AGR(argument) preceded by...)

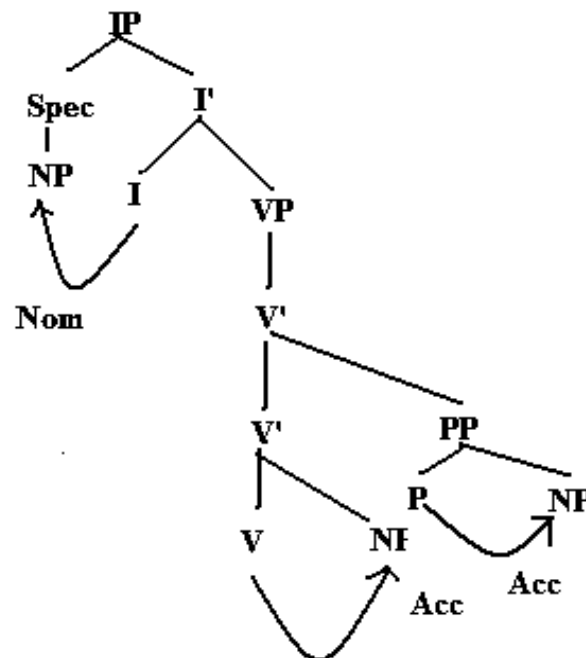
But precisely when the light verb cannot agree with the host, the AGR provided by the host bears direct case associated with OBJ, namely, Acc when animate, and Nom when inanimate.

If we examine Mohanan's solution carefully, we would like to say that it is not a solution, but it may be just a reporting of the problem on the basis of the given structure of the sentence and physical appearance of the case markers.

So, what should we do? Let us see what is available in the literature with regard to the constituent structure and argument marking:

Configurationality (Chomsky 1981) in human languages:

The notion of 'configurationality' in languages might be a complex issue, however, what is mundane in the theory can be presented in the tree-diagram given below:



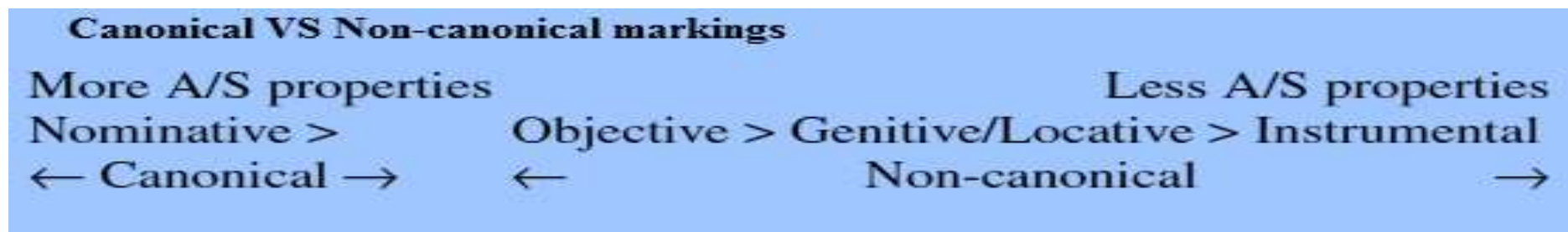
Enough has been said in the literature about the configurational case marking in languages.

If the verb is an intransitive one, it supports one nominal in the structure by giving it a nominative case.

If the verb is a transitive, it supports two nominals but giving them Nom and Acc cases.

And if there is a di-transitive verb, it supports three nominals by rendering Nom, Acc and Dat cases.

Canonical VS Non-canonical argument markings (Dixon 2001, Onishi 2001, Kachru 1990, Comrie 1981): The proposal can be summarized as follows:



In terms of marking the core and peripheral arguments, the notion is more or less similar but it has a different approach.

Comrie (1989, 93) also speaks on the same line when he suggests that there is a glaring priority of subject over object in the structure of a sentence and it has a functional explanation.

Presumably, a deeper cognitive organization of information underlies the pattern in which the subject and object(s) (both DO & IO) occur.

In a transitive clause, the subject generally is the initiator of the action expressed by the verb and is in control of that action, whereas the object is a mere entity being acted upon.

These properties of the subject make it more salient than the objects for the cognition and the ***salient property*** of the subject is reflected in languages when they develop a constituent order that puts subjects higher in the hierarchy of the constituent structure.

The biggest advantage of 'Canonical VS Non-canonical' marking is that it treats the 'ergative case' as a 'canonical case'.

The approach suggests that it is generated in the structure by the configurational value of the linguistic properties of the clause structure.

THE NOTION OF VERB CENTRALITY in Paninian tradition:

The last point that we must regard very important in our discussion is what I prefer to call a Paninian approach to the analysis of the structural dependencies of human language.

The simplest way to present Paninian approach to human language is that he treats the verb as the most central element in the language for various linguistic operations, especially for case association.

If we accept this at the face value, we can understand the pattern of the cases in a much better way.

If we combine the crux of the three approaches, we can formulate the following schema to explain puzzling and unsolved issues of agreement phenomenon of Conjunct verb construction in Hindi-Urdu.

Case and valency of the Verbs

- a. **Intransitive Verb** = one case i.e. Nom and it must be given away to an NP to act as the Subject/agent of the sentence
- b. **Transitive Verb** = two cases i.e. Nom/Erg and Acc and they must be given away to NPs to act as the Sub/agent and the Obj(DO)/theme
- c. **Di-transitive Verb** = three cases i.e. Nom(Erg), Acc and Dat and they must be given away to NPs to act as the Sub, the OD and the IO respectively

Dissemination of Case by/from the Verb: a proposal to explain the agreement in 'conjunct verb construction'

The core idea of dissemination, displacement or dispersing of the case from the verb is similar to the idea of 'Configurationality' in Chomskyan terminology, 'Canonical case marking' in Dixon et al.'s terminology, and that the case is the property of verb and must be given away to the NP(s) as per the Paninian approach.

In its simplest version, it means that different verbs i.e. intransitive, transitive and di-transitive as mentioned above will have one, two or three cases with them.

And in order to complete the ‘predication’ of the sentences, these cases from different verbs must be disseminated or dispersed.

I wish to propose this here as a hypothesis. This has never been said or attempted before.

This working hypothesis/solution is necessary to solve the problems of agreement facts and explain the two different functions of the nominal host in conjunct verb constructions.

Let us see some of the examples and explain how this hypothesis actually works:

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 19. | <u>səmirā-ne</u>
Sameera-3FS-Erg | <u>məheṣ-ko</u>
Mahesh-Acc | <u>pəsənd</u>
liking-N(f) | <u>kīya</u>
do-perf-3MS |
| | ‘ <u>Sameera</u> liked Mahesh’. | | | |
| 20. | <u>səmirā-ne</u>
Sameera-3FS-Erg | <u>məheṣ-ko</u>
Mahesh-Acc | <u>maf</u>
forgiveness-N(f) | <u>kīya</u>
do-perf-3MS |
| | ‘ <u>Sameera</u> liked Mahesh’. | | | |

The proposal that we have put forward here will explain the agreement facts of these sentences in the following ways:

In both the examples, the verb is a transitive one and they would have two case associations i.e. Nom/Erg and Acc.

If these cases are already dispersed in the sentence to the nominals, the host noun remains dormant and the verb goes into default agreement mode i.e. 3MS. We can cross check all the examples in [set-A](#) with this explanation.

However, consider the following examples:

21. mira-ko mohan-ki yad ayi
Meera-3FS-Erg Mohan-Gen remembrance-N(f) come-perf-3FS
'Meera remembered Mohan'.
22. dineš-ko sāmira-se g^hṛna huyi
Dinesh-3MS-Dat Sameera-??(Abl/Loc) hatred-ness-N(f) be-perf-3FS
'Dinesh hated Sameera'.

In the above examples, the verb is intransitive, meaning it has one case namely, [Nom] to give away in the sentence and if we examine carefully, the Nom case is not dispersed with any NP in the sentence.

Thus as per our suggestion, the verb gives this Nom case to the host NP,

and it agrees with verb, having satisfied the condition of verb agreement (i.e. the verb agrees with the unmarked nominal in an accessibility hierarchy of theta-grid like RC suggested by Keenan and Comrie (1977)).

Let us see other examples to justify we are saying here:

23. dineš-ne səmirə-se g^hrnə ki
Dinesh-3MS-Erg Sameera-??(Abl/Loc) hatred-ness-N(f) do-perf-3FS
 ‘Dinesh hated Sameera’.

24. dineš-ne səmirə-ki mədəd ki
Dinesh-3MS-Erg Sameera-Gen help-N(f) do-perf-3FS
 ‘Dinesh helped Sameera’.

In the above examples, the verb is a transitive one, and thus it has two cases with it i.e. Nom/Erg and Acc.

If we examine carefully, we will find that the ergative case is given to the subject NP, but the accusative case still remains with the verb to be dispersed.

Having found no bear NP in the sentence, the verb has to give the accusative case(in zero case form) to the host NP.

The host NP then acts as the grammatical subject and agrees with the verb in the sentence.

Let us see the last set of example:

25. rəhim-ne dineš-ko awaz di
Rahim-3MS-Erg Dinesh-Dat call/sound-N(f) give-perf-3FS
'Rahim called Dinesh'.

26. gāw-wqlō-ne orət-ko səza di
Villagers-3MPI-Erg women-Dat punishment-N(f) give-perf-3FS
'The villagers punished the women'.

The above sentences are with a di-transitive verb. A di-transitive verb has three case associations e.g. 'Nom/Erg, Acc and Dat'.

If we examine cases in the given sentences, we would say that the Erg and the Dat cases are already dispersed to the subject and the indirect object.

The accusative case remains un-dispersed, and the verb has to give away this case for the purpose of 'predication'.

So, the verb gives this accusative case in null form to the internal host and the host in reciprocation agrees with the verb.

The above mentioned pattern can be checked with any or all the examples if [set-B](#) of the presentation.

So, before we wind up the discussion, we would also like to present a pair of two sentences like that of Bahl (1974:22) and seal the topic with the solution advocated here.

27a. <u>sərkar</u> -ne	<u>gəɾɪbõ</u> -ko	mədəd	kɪyɑ
Government-3FS-Erg	the poor - <u>Acc</u>	help-N(f)	do-perf-3MS
‘The government helped the poor’.			

b. <u>sərkar</u> -ne	<u>gəɾɪbõ</u> -ko	mədəd	di
Government-3FS-Erg	the poor - <u>Dat</u>	help-N(f)	give-perf-3FS
‘The government helped the poor’.			

The alternation of agreement in the above two sentences is due to different case associations that are available with the verbs.

A transitive verb has two (Nom/Erg and Acc) and in sentence (27a), these cases are already dispersed and thus, the verb goes in default mode.

However, in case of (27b), a di-transitive verb has three cases e.g. Nom/Erg, Acc and Dat.

The ergative and the dative are already dispersed to their respective NPs.

The accusative case, however, is left with the verb itself and the verb has to give away this case to an NP in the sentence.

The verb gives this to the host NP of the 'conjunct verb' and in reciprocation (i.e. being the only unmarked grammatically nominative case marked subject), the host show agreement with the verb.

That's all 😊

Thank you

[Trends in Hindi Linguistics \(degruyter.com\)](https://www.degruyter.com)

Let us see how linguistic elements work from single nucleus to a group and to the unit..

Elements of language:

W1 + W2 + W3 + W4 + W5

Groups of elements:

the + boy + kicks + the + ball

Units of language

The
Det + boy
N + kicks
V + the
Det + ball
N

Higher Units of language

Subject + Verb + Object

Different organizational levels


Words in linear order= word level




G.C. for Constituency= formal feature



Subj; Obj & Verb= Notional level



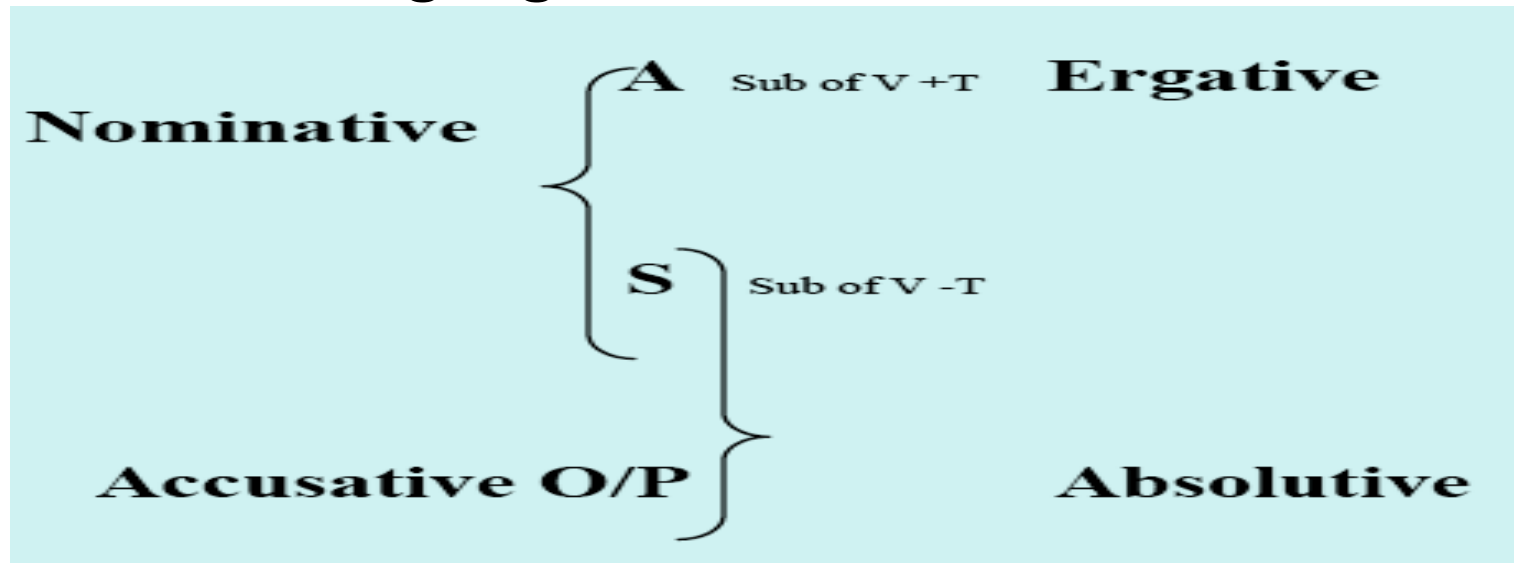
Subj-Nom Obj-Acc= Categorical level



Agent; patient; theme = relational level



We can summarize the two types of marking of the cases in different languages as:



So, far so good. However, we must make another distinction for the marking of ergativity in the languages.

This distinction is based on the adaptation of the term 'ergativity' across the board in the language and,

Applying this schema sporadically/partially in the language and thus 'Split' away from the overall application of the term.