What have we achieved by now in the course

We started the course by pointing it out that the main aim of the course, 'Language/Linguistic Typology', is to list out the similarities that the languages have/show in terms of their structural dependencies.

The first and perhaps very important point that we mentioned in one of our discussion is that the languages are almost fixed when it come to branch out the 'head' and 'dependents'.

Thus, we have languages which are either 'right-branching' or 'left-branching' type.

The next important classification of languages that was done in the class, is in terms of 'head-initial' or 'head-final'.

If you compare it with the previous type of classification, it is essentially similar kind of classification, but the tools and discovery procedures of different.

And now, we need to discuss one more way of classifying languages into different types and the terms are 'head-marking' VS. 'Dependent-marking' and again the tools and discovery procedures are different.

But the essence of the classification of languages in terms of similarities at the structure-level remains the same!!

The merit of the BD-theory is that it is only after Dryer's proposal of BD-theory, researchers could predict that a language tends to be regular in placing branching categories **after** non-branching **before** non-branching unit.

Another way to express the same thing is that languages tend to be consistently **right branching** or consistently **left-branching**.

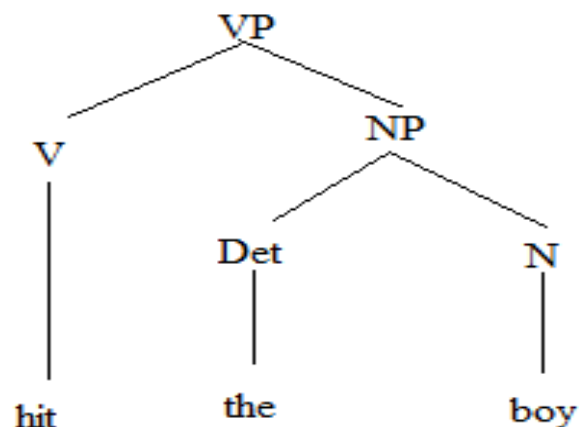English is good example of right-branching and Hindi (mostly) is a good example of left-branching.
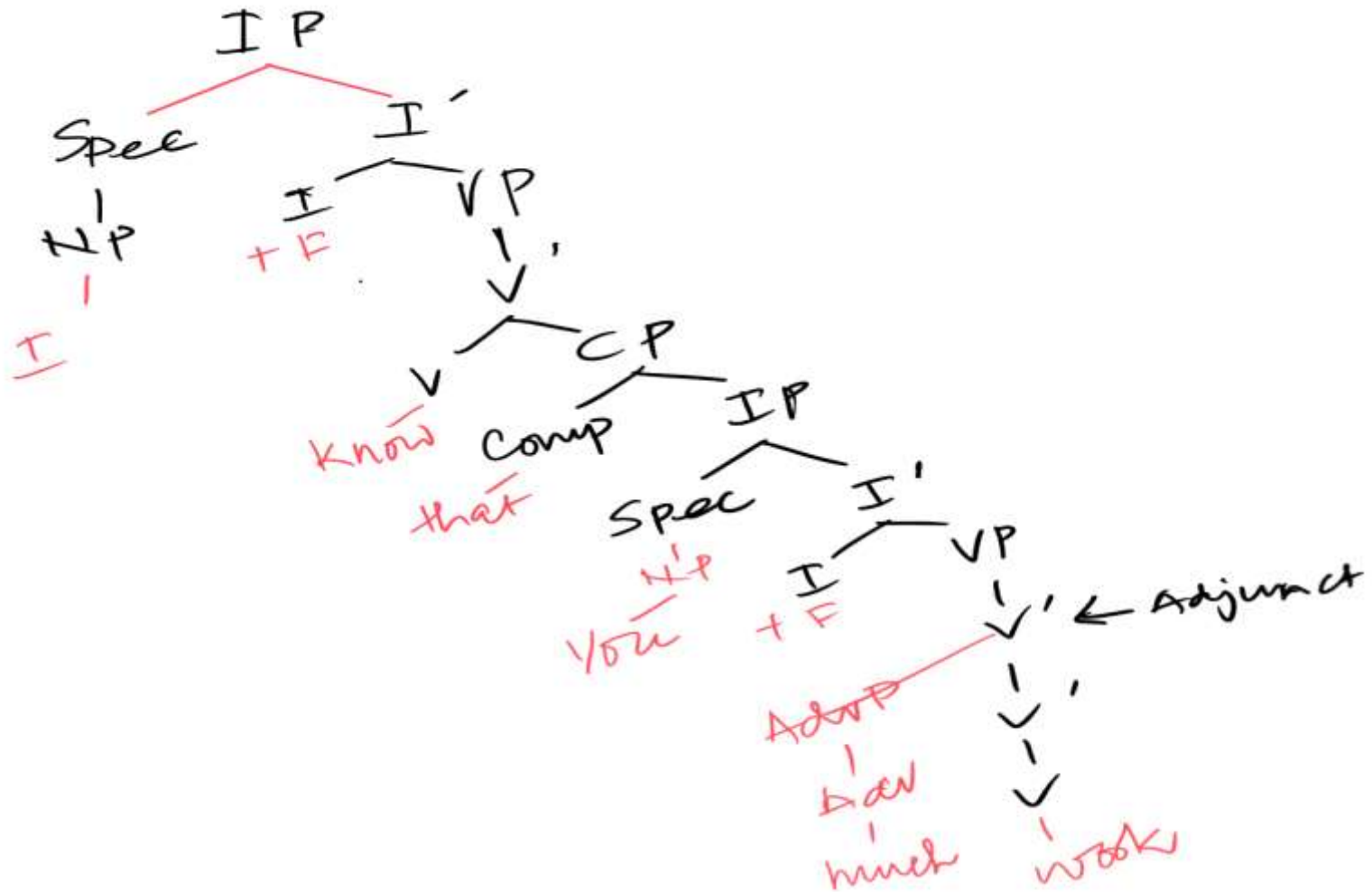
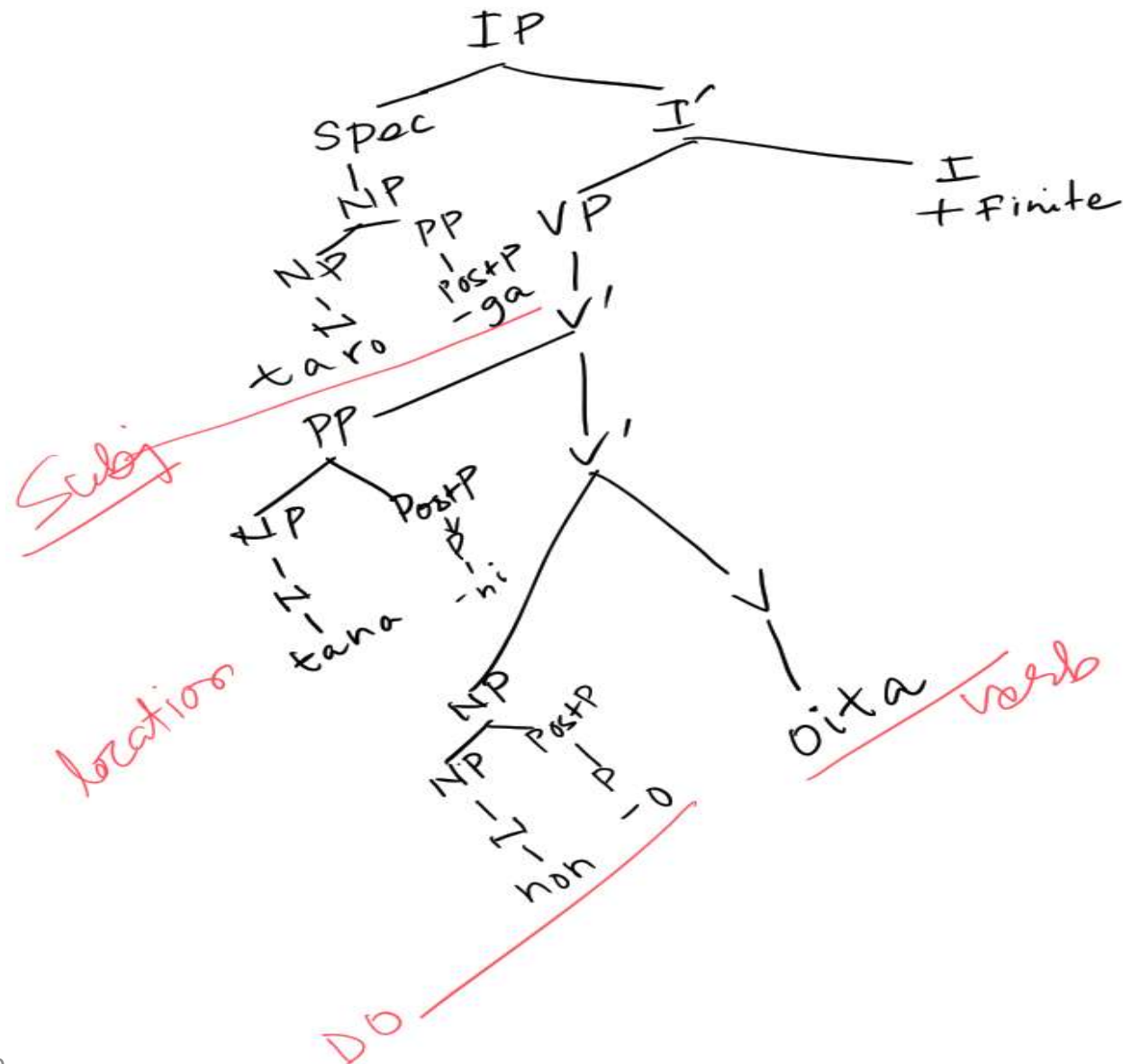For example:

Diagram 10
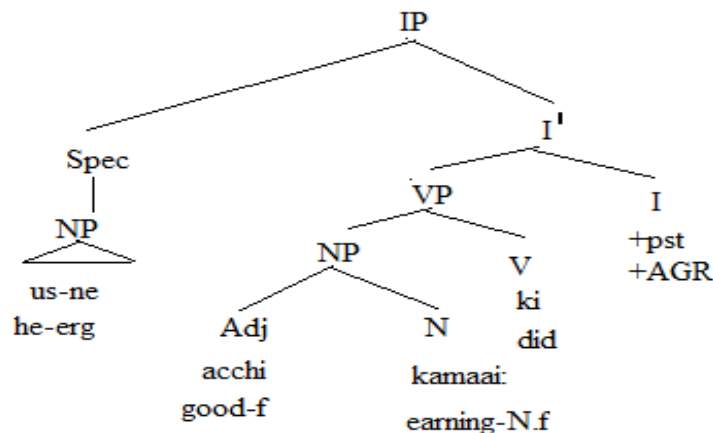
'He did good earning'.

Diagram 9.2

Tinrin or English as a head initial language

Japanese or Hindi as a head final language

Head-marking and Dependent-marking languages

Nichols, Johana. (1986). Head-Marking and Dependent-Marking Grammar. Language, 62(1), 56.

These two types of classification of languages also help us establish different relationship between the head and the dependents.

If a language is classified as the head-marking language, then the morpho-syntactic markers that establish the relationship between head and dependents will occur with the head.

However, if the language is classified as a dependent-marking language, the same morpho-syntactic markers will occur with the dependent.

It is important to mention here that once, a language decides about its type, it remains consistent in placing such morpho-syntactic markers with either the head or the dependent.

Syntactic relationship between head and dependent:

	Head	Dependent
i.	pre-/post- Position	Obj NP
ii.	Verb	arguments
iii.	possessed Noun	possessor NP
iv.	noun	adjective

LEVEL	HEAD	DEPENDENT
Phrase	possessed noun	possessor
	noun	modifying adjective
	adposition	object of adposition
Clause	predicate	arguments and adjuncts
	auxiliary verb	lexical ('main') verb
Sentence	main-clause predicate	relative or subordinate clause

TABLE 1.

Nichols, Johana. (1986).

These are the main relationships between the head and dependents that we will discuss and examine the typology of head-marking VS dependent-marking types of languages.

English:
i. in [$_{NP}$ the shower]   = (Pre+ NP)
ii. Kim love-s Lee   = (S+V-Agr+ Obj)
iii. Kim's house   = (possessor NP + N)
iv. red book-s   = (Adj +N)

As a preliminary illustration, we would say that in (iii) the English noun phrase 'Kim's house', house is the head as the whole phrase is about the house not about Kim.

In English the dependent occurs in a special form; it has the possessive marker i.e. -'s.

However, in (ii) and (iv), the story is different. In these examples, the heads are the **verb** and **noun**.

In these two examples, the heads appear with special marker and the dependents are unmarked.

Thus, these two examples of English will qualify as 'Head-marking'.

Is this so simple? And can it be the case that both 'head & dependent marking' are found in the same language all the time? …

1. Head pre-/post- position and its Obj NP

- German:

a.	**für**	mein-en	Freund
	for	my-Acc	friend

'For my friend'

b.	**mit**	mein-em	Freund
	with	my-Dat	friend

'With my friend'

We would be told that German preposition 'für' selects an NP in the accusative case and 'mit' selects its NP in dative case.

This case requirement is simply a matter of lexical property in German.

This cannot be further explained linguistically as it is an arbitrary rule similar to that of the grammatical gender in German and many other languages.

- The whole NP is the complement to these prepositions which are heads in above examples.
- So, we will call these cases as 'dependent marking'.
- This should be clear because the dependents are in marked form, and the heads occur unmarked in the above examples.
- If we examine the NP itself in both the cases, there too we would say that the head 'Freund' is unmarked and it is the dependent 'mein', 'my' bears the marker.
- Thus, these examples would prove that German should be classified as a dependent marking language with regard to the structure of PP.
- We find a similar phenomenon in Chechen language (Caucasian language SOV), where the case suffix is marked on the dependent and the head is not marked in any special way.
- For example:

- Chechen

beera-na   t`e
child-Dat   on
'on the child'.

The example of Chechen also confirms that the morphosyntactic marker appears with the dependent NP, the complement of the postposition in the above example.

However, we if examine a parallel construction in Tzutujil (ˈtsuːtəhiːl, a Mayan language) , we will find that the preposition itself takes PNG of the complement noun in this language .

For example:

Tzutujil:

ruu-**majk**	jar	aachi
3sg-because.of	the	man

'by the man/ because of the man'.

The head of the phrase which is a preposition 'majk' bears the inflection marker for third person singular.

The NP complement (the dependent) to this preposition remains unmarked.

Thus, Tzutujil is a language that must be called **head marking language**.

In Welsh too, we find that the morphosyntactic marker that establishes the relationship between the head and dependent appears on the **head** word instead of the dependents.

For example:

Welsh:

ar-na	i	ar-no	fo
on-1S	me	on-3MS	him
'on me'		'on him'	

ar-ni	hi
on-3FS	her
'on her'	

The dependent pronouns in the above examples remain unmarked which can be seen by comparing the morphological forms in all the cases.

We can also compare the form of the preposition which is 'ar', 'on' in the language.

The morphosyntactic marker occurs with the **head** word which is the preposition and not on the complement pronoun.

This exemplifies that Welsh is also a language that is head-marking type.

The Clause: verb as the head and arguments as the dependents

- The main verb in any transitive clause would act as the head.
- Ideally, the subject and the direct object both would be the dependents to this head due to the factor of transitivity.
- However, the DO is definitely the dependent to a transitive verb.
- If the morphosyntactic marker occurs with the head i.e. the verb, the languages should be called 'head-marking'.
- However, if the marking appears with the dependents, the language should be classified as 'dependent marking'.
- For example:

Japanese:

Taroo-ga	tegami-o	kaita
Taroo-nom	letter-acc	wrote

'Taroo wrote a letter'.

Taro-ga   tegami-o   kaita

'Taro wrote a letter'.

karera-ga   tegami-o   kaita

they-3Pl-Nom   letter —Acc   write-Pst

'They wrote letter(s).

- The verb in Japanese sentences 'kɑitɑ, 'wrote' is the head of the sentence.

- The verb is a transitive one and thus two arguments/complements are the dependents to this verbal head.

- The case markers occur with the dependents in the sentence and thus this qualifies an instance of dependent-marking.

- German is also a language where the morphosyntactic marker occurs with the dependents to establish their relationship to the Head.

- For example:

German

Dɛr　　　Hund　sɑh　　　dɛn　　　Vogɛl
The:nom dog　saw　　the:acc　bird
'The dog saw the bird'.

Dɛn　　　Vogɛl　sɑh　　　der　　　Hund
The:acc bird　　saw　　the:nom dog
'The dog saw the bird'.

As we see that the change in the word order does not disturb the intended meaning of the sentence.

Interestingly, it is the case-marker and not the word-order that tells which word is the 'subject' and 'object' in the sentence and not the place/order of the words.

If we consider these 'units' as dependents, the morphosyntactic marker is with the dependents.

These examples from German prove the point that the main verb which is the head word at the sentential level of analysis, remains unmarked and the subject and object as NPs are the dependents to the verb (head).

The case markers at attached to the modifiers of the NPs and they mark the dependent and not the head.

Let us examine some other sets of languages in which the marking occurs with the head word.

In Kambera (Malayo-Polynesian language), the verb which is the head of the clause gets the cliticized affixes which show the PNG of the subject and object. For example:

Kambera:

hi   ku-palu-ya
So   1sg:Subj-hit-3sg:Obj
'So I hit him'.

In the above example, there are no overt lexical items for 'Subject' and 'Object'. They are retrieved/reconstructed from 'ku-' and '-ya' which are clitics for S&O.

These morphosyntactic markers occur with the head in the language.

On the basis of above discussion, Kambera is classified as the head-marking language.

If there is a contextual demand, the subject and object can overtly be present in Kambera.

This is done in the language for the purpose of emphasis, and to avoid the ambiguity.

Even when the dependents are present in the sentence, the morphosyntactic marker appears with the head. Expl:

Kambera

i	ama$_i$	na$_i$-kei-ya$_j$	na	ři$_j$	muru
the	father	3S-Subj-buy-3S-Obj	the	vegetable	green

'Father buys the green vegetable'. (Lit: 'Father he-buy-it   the green vegetable)

The above example says many things.

One, the verb (being the head) takes the morphosyntactic marker for the dependents.

Two the dependents are unmarked.

Three, the co-indexing of the subject and the object dependents on the verb tells the fact the verb agrees with the dependents.

Finally it must be a head-marking language.

Head noun and the dependent possessor NP

- After Nichols's paper (1986) on 'head-marking and dependent-marking' was published, the four parameters are used to check the head VS dependent marking in different languages.

- The markers for the morphosyntactic relationship between a possessed the possessor NPs can also be marked in two ways i.e. H-marking and D-marking.

- We have already seen that in English Genitive-phrase [Kim's house], the morphosyntactic marking occurs with the dependent noun.

- Here are some more examples:

English:

my	borhter
I-Gen	brother
your	sister
you-Gen	sister
Tom's	wife
tom-Gen	wife

Hindi:

mer-a	bhai
I-Gen-m	brother
tumhar-i	bəhən
you-Gen-F	sister
tom-ki	pətni
tom-Gen-F	wife

The above examples in English and Hindi prove the poinit that the morphosyntactic marker occurs with the dependent (possessor) NP.

The head noun of the GenP (possessed noun) remains unmarked.

Thus, with regard to the head noun(P-ed) and dependent noun(P-or), these languages are classified as dependent marking.

Now, let us compare these examples with an example from the head-marking language called **Saliba** spoken in Colombia and Venezuela (Saliban family, SOV):

Saliba:

sine	natu-n-a
woman	child-Poss-3S
'the woman's child'	

The example from Saliba shows opposite structure compared to that of English and Hindi with regard to the GenP.

The word order of GenP i.e. possessor and the possessed in Saliba is similar to that of English

However, the possessor 'sine', 'woman' has no marking, while the head 'natu', 'child' bears a third person singular suffix which marks agreement with the possessor.

Thus, Saliba presents a case of head marking type of language with regard to the GenP.

Head noun and dependent Adjective in an NP

We will finally discuss about the last category i.e. the head noun and the dependent adjective that modifies the noun.

If a language is dependent-marking, it will place the morphosyntactic marker on the dependent adjective modifier of the head. Let us see some examples from Spanish:

.. Spanish

a. el   niño   pequeñ-o
   the-Mas   boy   small-Mas
   'the small boy'

b. la   niña   pequeñ-a
   the-Fem   girl   small-F
   'the small girl'

Here, the head nouns are 'nino' and 'nina' respectively. The special marking occurs with the determiner and the adjective which are dependent modifier.

This happens in both the examples and this proves the point that Spanish must be a dependent marking type of language with regard to the 'head noun and dependent Adj'.

Now, let us see examples from Hawrami (i.e. Harmi) (Kurdish language family SOV),

Here, the head bears the special marking instead of the dependents with regard to the head noun and dependent adjective. Let us see some examples:

Hawrami:

æsp-i	zıl
horse-DegM	big

The biggest horse.

sæk-i	zıl
sack-DegM	big
'The biggest sack'.	

If we had a similar expression in English, we would get something like [bigg-er /big-est horse] where the degree markers for the head noun have occurred with the dependent.

However, in case of Hawrami, we see the marker appears with the head noun itself.

Thus, Hawrami should be classified as a 'head-marking' type of language.

Difference between No marking, Dual-system and Double marking-system with regard to the head and dependent

1. No marking (Neither H nor D marking)

The languages which have very little morphology or no morphology like Chinese, Vietnamese and even in some examples in English, they hint at a new way of marking called 'no marking-type of languages'.

For example

Chinese:

a.

wo	changchang	jian	ta
I	often		see	he

'I often saw him'.

b.

ta	changchang	jian	wo
he	often		see	I

'He often saw me'.

As we see in the above examples of Chinese, neither the head nor the dependent has any marking for the morphosyntactic features.

There is no case marker with any of the dependents of verb 'jian' which is the head word.

The head thus shows no relationship that can be explained in terms of morphosyntactic marker.

The word order in Chinese, like English, is very important for the role of subject and object.

English:

The	boy	went	into	the	store
Det	N	V	Pre	Det	N

The	girl	went	into	the	store
Det	N	V	Pre	Det	N

Dual-system of marking (both the system of H and D marking)

- English:

- Kim's house   Dependent marking

- The girl **hate-s** the boy. Head marking

Double marking system (The language that marks both its head and dependents)

Ayacucho (Quechuan language SOV)
a.
runa-pa   wasi-n
man-Gen   house-3-Poss
'a person house'.

                    b.
                    qam-pa   wasi-ki
                    you-Gen   house-2-Poss
                    'your house'.

These examples from Ayacucho language show that the head (possessed) and the dependent (possessor) both the nouns bear the morphosyntactic marker.

This is very clear from the above examples where the dependent is marked with the genitive and the head bears the person specification for the genitive case.

Hindi:

ram-ne	roti	kʰa-y-i
ram-3MS-Erg	bread-3FS	eat-perf-3FS

'Ram ate the bread'.

This is just a prototype example in Hindi as we can have many such expressions in Hindi.

In this example, the verb is the head and the subject, one of the dependents (complements) of the transitive verb, is also marked with the ergative case suffix.

One of the ways to explain the 'agreement facts' of the sentence is that the head bears the agreement marker of the Object (dependent) as the other dependent (Sub) bears an overt morphosyntactic marker i.e. a case suffix.

Thus, this is also an instance of 'double marking' system.

German:

a.

Ich	sehe	den	Vogel
I-Nom	see-1S-pres	the-Acc	bird

'I see the bird'.

b.

Wir	sehen	den	Vogel
We-Nom	see-1Pl-pres	the-Acc	bird

'We see the bird'.

- These examples from German also show the similar phenomenon that we saw in Hindi with regard to the double-marking i.e. on the head as well as on the dependent.

- The verb which functions as the head in the clause is marked with the morphosyntactic marker for tense and person.

- The dependents, the subject and the object both, are marked with nominative and accusative case markers respectively- this makes German as a language with double-marking system.

That's all ☺