

Case

Partly based on Koenenman & Zeiljstra (2017)

Umut Özge

COGS 532: Theoretical Linguistics
METU, Informatics

Why a Case Theory?

- (1) ✓ She loves her.
- (2) *Her loves she.

Why a Case Theory?

(1) She loves her.
Nom Acc

(2) *Her loves she.
✓

► Why not handle it with Θ -theory?

Scm/sgn

Agents \leftrightarrow Nom

• Patients \leftrightarrow Acc

Why a Case Theory?

- (1) She loves her.
- (2) *Her loves she.

► Why not handle it with Θ -theory?

- (3) She is loved. → Patient with Nom
- (4) I caused him to quit his job.
 ↓
 Bill → Agent with Acc

↓ structural (Nom, Acc)

Case is a property of syntactic environment.

position

combinatorial possibility

Kitap (Nom) kitap Gitti.
Kitaplar (Acc) * Kitaplar Gitti.

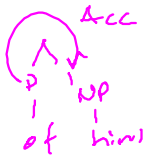
Case assignment: Accusative

- Verbs and Prepositions assign accusative case.

- (5) a. The book about her.
b. The anger in him.

- (6) Julia's love of him.
- cannot assign Acc
- love(s, him)
- entity
- entity

* Julia's love him



Heads assigning Θ roles

Heads assign case to their arguments complements.

"of" is semantically empty.

Accusative and adjacency

- (7) a. John very often believes him. *Acc*
b. *John believes very often him. *Bill*
c. John believes him very often.

- (8) a. John very often believes in him. *Bill*
b. John believes very often in him.
c. John believes in him very often.
d. *John believes in very often him. *Bill*

Replace "him" with "Bill"

NP complement.
ACC
ACC
P
read

