

Types of Morphological Linkage between Constituents

Government

morphological features are only relevant to the dependent construction and not to the head

Data from ancient Greek:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| a. | ana <i>skē:p̄rt-ō:</i> (DAT) | „upon a staff“ |
| b. | apo <i>tou hipp-ou</i> (GEN) | „from a horse“ |
| c. | en <i>Spart-ē</i> (DAT) | „in Sparta“ |
| d. | eis <i>basil-ea</i> (ACC) | „to the King“ |

prepositions carry no special morphology

obligatory marking on the dependent (here: noun)

prepositions are said to **govern** a particular case

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Agreement

morphological features occur on head and dependent alike

Data from Spanish:

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. | <i>la elefanta negr-a</i> | „the black elephant“ |
| b. | <i>las elefantas negr-as</i> | „the black elephants“ |
| c. | <i>el gato negr-o</i> | „the black cat“ |
| d. | <i>los gatos negr-os</i> | „the black cats“ |

here:

article and adjective occur in a form that corresponds to the head noun (number: singular vs. plural)

they all **agree** in number

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Consider the following possessive constructions:

- a. *a man's house*
- b. *az ember h'az-a*
the man house-3S

note:

syntactic relations are identical; a head noun is modified by a possessor

in the English a. the possessor (ie. the modifier) is marked;

this is an instance of **dependent marking**

in the Hungarian b., the possessee is (ie. the head noun) is marked;

this is an instance of **head marking**

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Syntactic relations between head and nonhead are not always indicated morphologically

E.g. in Kobon juxtaposition of possessor and possesse is enough

Dumnab ram

Dumnab house „*Dumnab's house*“

More exceptionally, **double-marking** occurs, e.g. in Turkish:

ev-in kapi-si

house-GEN door-3S „*the door of the house*“

Sometimes marking cannot be uniquely assigned, e.g. Persian:

asb-e-mard

horse-LINKER-man „*the man's horse*“

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Four classes:

- Head marking (e.g. Blackfoot, Lakhota)
- Dependent marking (e.g. Greek)
- Double marking (e.g. Aleut, Arabic)
- **Split marking**: roughly equivalent numbers of head-marking and dependent-marking patterns (e.g. Bantu languages)

As with other classifications, no language is entirely consistent in its marking strategy