

Agree or Dependent Case Theory Revisiting Turkic Accusative Subjects

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In recent years, many syntacticians have argued that traditional theories of morphological case are insufficient to account for the empirical facts we find across the world's languages. Dependent Case Theory, which assumes case to be determined by relations between NPs within a particular locality domain determine case assignment has been argued for across many languages at the expense of traditional theories of case (such as Agreement-based theories). Preminger (to appear) convincingly argues that DCT is a less restrictive (more expressive) theory than Agreement based theories and thus in order to eliminate the need for DCT, one must demonstrate that it is not needed. This paper revisits Baker and Vinokurova (2010) and Baker (2015)'s analyses of accusative (and less so dative) case in Sakha (Turkic). I show that DCT has problems accounting for Sakha, illustrate that Uyghur (Turkic) exhibits essentially the same patterns. I motivate a re-analysis of complementation structures where accusative subjects are licensed and argue that classical theories of case are sufficient to account for the Turkic facts.

References

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