

Omnivorous Person, Number and Gender: The view from Mundari

Gurujegan Murugesan

Indira Gandhi National Tribal University

Mundari, an Austroasiatic language spoken by the Mundari tribes from the Jharkhand region of the Indian subcontinent, exhibits an omnivorous pattern for person, number, and gender. This pattern is seen in the ditransitive construction when both indirect and direct objects compete for a single object-marking slot in the verbal complex. The choice between them is determined by a complex interplay of person and number hierarchies given in (1).

- (1) *Mundari hierarchy*
 - a. Person hierarchy: 1 > 2 > 3
 - b. Number hierarchy: SG > PL > DL

Both these scales are subject to an animacy-based gender restriction, where both the IO and DO need to be an animate nominal. In other words, these scales operate only when both the IO and DO are animate but not when they are inanimate. Thus, the independent scales for person and number acting alongside the gender restriction provide an opportunity to empirically determine how person and number scales interact with one another, especially in the case of a mismatch when an argument of a higher-ranked person with a lower-ranked number competes with an argument of a higher-ranked number with a lower ranked-person (i.e., 1PL vs. 2SG) for agreement. To give a derivational account of these scales in (1) and their interaction with each other, I propose an analysis based on Deal's (2015, 2021) *interaction and satisfaction* theory of Agree.

References

- Deal, Amy Rose (2015). Interaction and Satisfaction in f-agreement. In T. Bui and D. Özyıldız (eds). *Proceedings of NELS 45*. GLSA Publications: Amherst, MA. 179–192.
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