Languages of the World

Head marking and dependent marking
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 skē:prt-ō:* (DAT) „upon a staff“
- **b.** *apo tou hipp-ou* (GEN) „from a horse“
- **c.** *en Spart-ē* (DAT) „in Sparta“
- **d.** *eis basil-ea* (ACC) „to the King“

Prepositions carry no special morphology.

Obligatory marking on the dependent (here: noun) prepositions are said to **govern** a particular case.
Types of Morphological Linkage between Constituents

**Agreement**
morphological features occur on head and dependent alike

Data from Spanish:

a. *la elefanta negr-a*  „*the black elephant*“
b. *las elefantas negr-as* „*the black elephants*“
c. *el gato negr-o*  „*the black cat*“
d. *los gatos negr-os*  „*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
Types of Morphological Linkage between Constituents

Syntactic relations between head and nonhead are not always indicated morphologically

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

\[\text{Dumnab ram} \quad \text{Dumnab house} \quad \text{„Dumnab's house“}\]

More exceptionally, \textbf{double-marking} occurs, e.g. in Turkish:

\[\text{ev-in kapi-si} \quad \text{house-GEN door-3S} \quad \text{„the door of the house“}\]

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

\[\text{asb-e-mard} \quad \text{horse-LINKER-man} \quad \text{„the man's horse“}\]
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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
Areal distribution

- Locus of Marking in Clause
- Locus of Marking in Possessive Noun Phrases
- Locus of Marking: Whole-Language Typology