

Typology I: Homework for Lecture 8, 2015/06/24

1. In a language with a dual category, is the dual always used when talking about sets of size 2? *If not, give a counterexample.
2. Explain the difference between alienable and inalienable possession.
3. Explain the difference between semantic and formal gender assignment. For English and German, discuss whether each language uses semantic or formal assignment, or both. For each language, give examples of each assignment type that the language uses.
4. Do all languages have semantic roles? Do all languages have case? Is it possible to mark semantic roles without case marking? If yes, give an example from a language you know well.
5. Here are eight example sentences from Icelandic. Determine whether (and how) this language marks definiteness, and whether the language uses case marking. How many noun classes (declension patterns, here equivalent to genders) can you infer for Icelandic?
 - Húsið brennur. “The house is on fire.”
 - Konan sefur. “The woman is sleeping.”
 - Kona sér krakkann. “A woman sees the child.”
 - Krakkinn sér konu. “The child sees a woman.”
 - Krakki sér konuna. “A child sees the woman.”
 - Krakkinn sér húsið. “The child sees the house.”
 - Konan sér hús. “The woman sees a house.”
 - Krakkarnir eru í húsinu. “The children are in the house.”