

# **Nominal Categories**

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# Word classes

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Open word classes:

noun, verb, adjective

Closed word classes:

adposition, conjunction, auxiliary,  
article, pronoun, classifier, etc.

# Grammatical relations

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Syntactic roles: subject, object, adjunct

Thematic roles: agent, patient, instrument, locative, etc.

- |     |                         |                   |
|-----|-------------------------|-------------------|
| (1) | John kicked the ball.   | Agent - Patient   |
| (2) | John received a letter. | Recipient - Theme |
| (3) | John was working.       | Agent             |
| (4) | The bomb exploded.      | Patient           |



# Open word classes

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All languages have nouns and verbs.

Nouns: Refer to entities

Verbs: Denote activities / relations

Do all languages have adjectives?

In some languages adjectives are closed class items (Dixon 1977: Where have all the adjectives gone?)

# Open word classes

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Igbo (Welmers 1973: 259)

|        |               |       |                |
|--------|---------------|-------|----------------|
| úkwú   | ‘large’       | ńtá   | ‘small’        |
| óhú‘rú | ‘new’         | ócyè  | ‘old’          |
| ójí‘í  | ‘black, dark’ | ó cá  | ‘white, light’ |
| ó má   | ‘good’        | ójó‘ó | ‘bad’          |

Adjectives as verbs:

me-TALK-ed ‘I talked’

me-HAPPY-ed ‘I was happy’

Adjectives as nouns:

Der Große

Der große Baum

# Croft 2003: Word classes

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- Semantic class: object, action, property

- (1) car
- (2) walk
- (3) big

- Propositional function: reference, modification, predication

- (1) The boy is ...
- (2) The big house
- (3) John is working

# Croft 2003: Word classes

---

|            | Reference | Modification | Predication |
|------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| Objects    |           |              |             |
| Properties |           |              |             |
| Actions    |           |              |             |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

---

|            | Reference | Modification | Predication |
|------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| Objects    | Das Haus  |              |             |
| Properties |           |              |             |
| Actions    |           |              |             |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

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|            | Reference | Modification | Predication |
|------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| Objects    | Das Haus  | Peter's Haus |             |
| Properties |           |              |             |
| Actions    |           |              |             |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

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|            | Reference | Modification | Predication       |
|------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------|
| Objects    | Das Haus  | Peter's Haus | Das ist mein Haus |
| Properties |           |              |                   |
| Actions    |           |              |                   |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

---

|            | Reference        | Modification | Predication       |
|------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Objects    | Das Haus         | Peter's Haus | Das ist mein Haus |
| Properties | Der Große ist .. |              |                   |
| Actions    |                  |              |                   |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

---

|            | Reference        | Modification   | Predication       |
|------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Objects    | Das Haus         | Peter's Haus   | Das ist mein Haus |
| Properties | Der Große ist .. | Das große Haus |                   |
| Actions    |                  |                |                   |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

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|            | Reference        | Modification   | Predication       |
|------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Objects    | Das Haus         | Peter's Haus   | Das ist mein Haus |
| Properties | Der Große ist .. | Das große Haus | Das Haus ist groß |
| Actions    |                  |                |                   |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

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|            | Reference        | Modification   | Predication       |
|------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Objects    | Das Haus         | Peter's Haus   | Das ist mein Haus |
| Properties | Der Große ist .. | Das große Haus | Das Haus ist groß |
| Actions    | Überlegung       |                |                   |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

---

|            | Reference        | Modification     | Predication       |
|------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Objects    | Das Haus         | Peter's Haus     | Das ist mein Haus |
| Properties | Der Große ist .. | Das große Haus   | Das Haus ist groß |
| Actions    | Überlegung       | Das erbaute Haus |                   |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

---

|            | Reference        | Modification     | Predication       |
|------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Objects    | Das Haus         | Peter's Haus     | Das ist mein Haus |
| Properties | Der Große ist .. | Das große Haus   | Das Haus ist groß |
| Actions    | Überlegung       | Das erbaute Haus | überlegen/erbauen |



# Croft 2003: Word classes

---

|            | Reference | Modification | Predication |
|------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| Objects    | NOUNS     |              |             |
| Properties |           |              |             |
| Actions    |           |              |             |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

---

|            | Reference | Modification                                | Predication |
|------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Objects    | NOUNS     | genitive<br>adjectivization<br>PPs on nouns |             |
| Properties |           |                                             |             |
| Actions    |           |                                             |             |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

---

|            | Reference | Modification                                | Predication           |
|------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Objects    | NOUNS     | genitive<br>adjectivization<br>PPs on nouns | predicate<br>nominals |
| Properties |           |                                             |                       |
| Actions    |           |                                             |                       |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

---

|            | Reference         | Modification                                | Predication           |
|------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Objects    | NOUNS             | genitive<br>adjectivization<br>PPs on nouns | predicate<br>nominals |
| Properties | deadjectival noun |                                             |                       |
| Actions    |                   |                                             |                       |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

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|            | Reference         | Modification                                | Predication           |
|------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Objects    | NOUNS             | genitive<br>adjectivization<br>PPs on nouns | predicate<br>nominals |
| Properties | deadjectival noun | ADJECTIVES                                  |                       |
| Actions    |                   |                                             |                       |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

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|            | Reference         | Modification                                | Predication             |
|------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Objects    | NOUNS             | genitive<br>adjectivization<br>PPs on nouns | predicate<br>nominals   |
| Properties | deadjectival noun | ADJECTIVES                                  | predicate<br>adjectives |
| Actions    |                   |                                             |                         |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

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|            | Reference                                 | Modification                                | Predication             |
|------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Objects    | NOUNS                                     | genitive<br>adjectivization<br>PPs on nouns | predicate<br>nominals   |
| Properties | deadjectival noun                         | ADJECTIVES                                  | predicate<br>adjectives |
| Actions    | action nominals<br>infinitives<br>gerunds |                                             |                         |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

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|            | Reference                                 | Modification                                | Predication             |
|------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Objects    | NOUNS                                     | genitive<br>adjectivization<br>PPs on nouns | predicate<br>nominals   |
| Properties | deadjectival noun                         | ADJECTIVES                                  | predicate<br>adjectives |
| Actions    | action nominals<br>infinitives<br>gerunds | participles<br>relative clauses             |                         |

# Croft 2003: Word classes

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|            | Reference                                 | Modification                                | Predication             |
|------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Objects    | NOUNS                                     | genitive<br>adjectivization<br>PPs on nouns | predicate<br>nominals   |
| Properties | deadjectival noun                         | ADJECTIVES                                  | predicate<br>adjectives |
| Actions    | action nominals<br>infinitives<br>gerunds | participles<br>relative clauses             | VERBS                   |

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- (1) car
- (2) walk
- (3) big

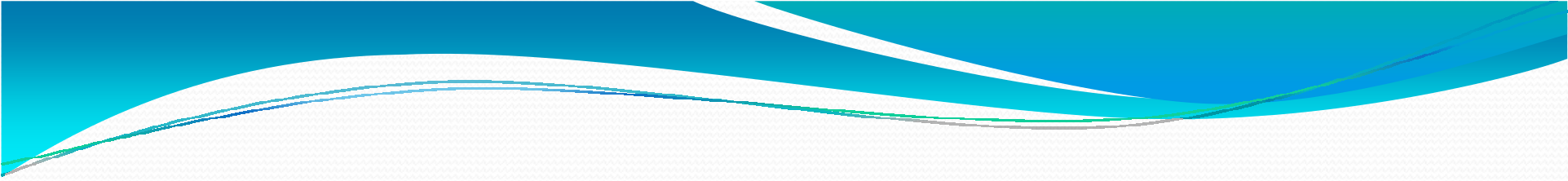
- Propositional function: reference, modification, predication

- (1) The boy is ...
- (2) The big house
- (3) John is working

# Croft 2003: Word classes

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| Objects    | NOUNS                                     | genitive<br>adjectivization<br>PPs on nouns | predicate<br>nominals   |
| Properties | deadjectival noun                         | ADJECTIVES                                  | predicate<br>adjectives |
| Actions    | action nominals<br>infinitives<br>gerunds | participles<br>relative clauses             | VERBS                   |



# Nouns



# Nominal categories

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- Number
- Case
- Gender/ noun class

# Number

---

|        |    |
|--------|----|
| Horse  | SG |
| Horses | PL |

Tümpisa Shoshone (Uto-Aztecan)

- |     |                       |                          |
|-----|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) | kapaayu-Ø             | a/the horse              |
| (2) | kapaayu- <b>angku</b> | two horses               |
| (3) | kapaayu- <b>ammü</b>  | '(more than two) horses' |

# Number

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Hawaiian (Austronesian)

(1) 'elau a'l mau i'a  
two my PL fish  
'my two fish'

# Core cases

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Luiseno (Uto-Aztecan)

- (1)      ʔáʃwut   kasila-**y**      toow.q  
         eagle   lizard-OBJ      see.SG  
         ‘The eagle sees the lizard.’

Mojave (Yuman)

- (2)      hatčq-**č**      poč      taver-m  
         dog-SUBJ   cat      chase-PRS/PST  
         ‘The dog chased the cat.’

Latin (IE)

- (3)      equ-**us**      reg-**em**      vīd  
         horse-NOM   king-ACC      see.PERF.3SG  
         ‘The horse saw the king.’

# Core cases

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| Marking              | Language | Frequency |
|----------------------|----------|-----------|
| No marking           | English  | common    |
| Only OBJ marked      | Luiseno  | common    |
| Only SUBJ marked     | Mojave   | rare      |
| Both SUBJ+OBJ marked | Latin    | common    |

# Case markers

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## Japanese

- (1)      John    **ga**            Mary    **o**            but-ta  
         John    SUBJ   Mary    OBJ       hit-PST  
         'John hit Mary.'

## English

- (1)      I saw the Queen's crown.  
(2)      I saw the Queen of England's crown.

# Case markers

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Kanuri (Nilotic)

(1)      kâ-m-ga              rúskena  
          man-OBJ          I.saw  
          'I saw the man.'

(2)      [kâ-m    kúra]-ga              rúskena  
          man    big-OBJ              I.saw  
          'I saw the big man.'

(3)      [fátô                      [kâ-m    kúra]-ve]-ga              rúskena  
          Compound          man    big-GEN-OBJ          I.saw  
          'I saw the big man's compound.'

# Dative and instrumental case

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Latin (IE)

Dative = IO

- (1)    puell-**ae**    pecūni-am    da-t  
         girl-DAT    money-ACC    give-3S  
         'He gives money to the girl.'

Yareba (Papua New Guinea)

Instrument

- (2)    dana    boro    auri-**ma**    yanai  
         he    pig    spear-INST    spear.3S  
         'He killed the pig with a spear.'

# Locative case

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Quechua

- (1) Utavalu-**li** kawasa-ni  
Otavalo-in live-1  
'I live in Otavalo.'
- (2) Utavalo-**mando** shamu-ni  
Otavalo-from come-1  
'I come from Otavalo.'
- (3) wasi ladu-**pi**  
house near-at  
'near the house'

# Genitive case

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- (1) Jena's mayor
- (2) The mayor of Jena

- SUBJ, OBJ, IO, INST, LOC indicate relationships between nominal referents and the verb
- GEN case indicates relationships between two nominal referents



# Gender

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- (1) Der Mann
- (2) Die Frau
- (3) Das Mädchen

# Noun class

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Dyirbal (Pama-Nyungan)

(1) a. **bayi** yara  
MASC man  
'the/a man'

b. **bayi** yamani  
MASC rainbow  
'the/a rainbow'

(2) **balan** dugumbil  
FEM woman  
'the/a woman'

(3) **balam** miran  
PLANT black.bean  
'black bean'

(4) **bala** dawun  
INAN dilly bag  
'the/a dilly bag'

# Classifier

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Mandarin (Sinitic)

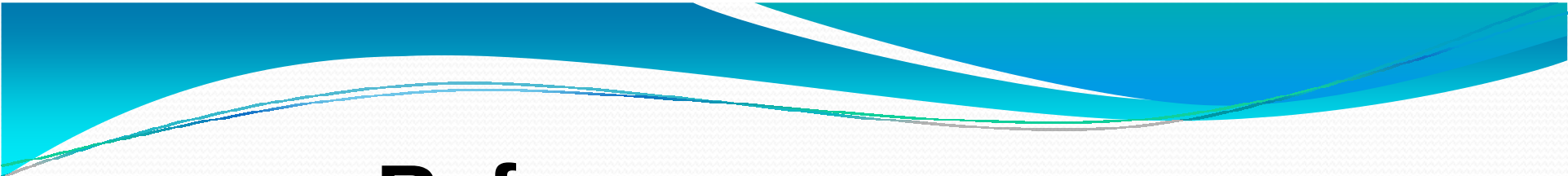
- |     |                      |        |
|-----|----------------------|--------|
| (1) | sān- <b>ge</b>       | rén    |
|     | Three-CLASS          | person |
|     | ‘three people’       |        |
| (2) | zhèi- <b>zhǎn</b>    | dēng   |
|     | This-CLASS           | lamp   |
|     | ‘this lamp’          |        |
| (3) | zhèi- <b>ge</b> yǐzi |        |
|     | This-CLASS           | chair  |
|     | ‘this chair’         |        |
| (4) | nèi- <b>tiáo</b> niú |        |
|     | That-CLASS           | cow    |
|     | ‘that cow’           |        |

# Definiteness

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Swedish

- (1) hus-**et**  
house-DEF  
'the house'
- (2) hus-**en**  
house-INDEF  
'a house'

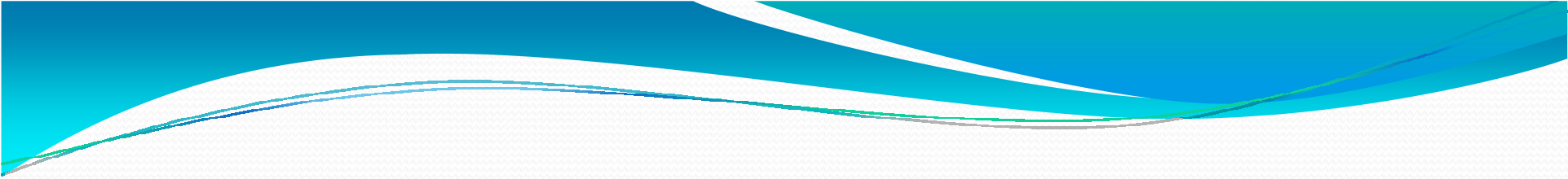


# Reference grammar

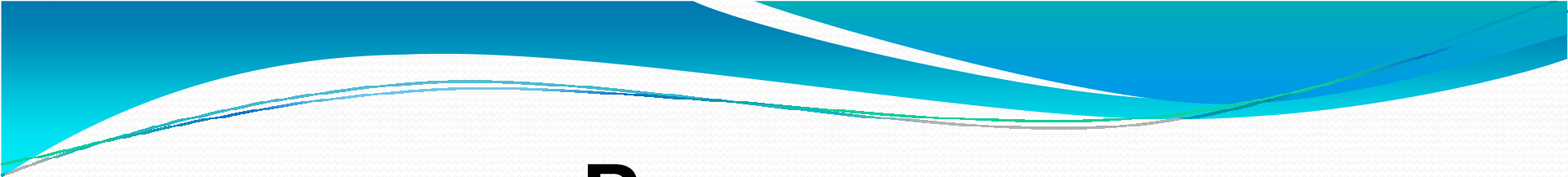
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Please check ...

- ... how your language expresses nominal plural,
- ... if your language has case,
- ... if your language has gender/noun class



# Pronouns



# Pronouns

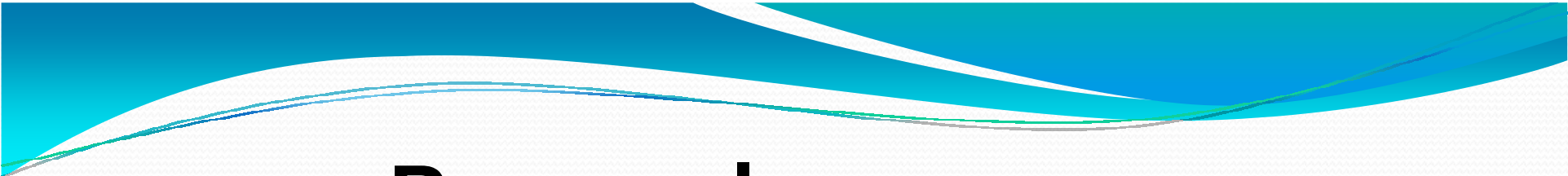
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- personal pronouns
- possessive pronouns
- relative pronouns
- indefinite pronouns
- demonstrative pronouns
- interrogative pronouns

# Personal pronouns

| 1. person | 2. person  | 3. person |            |          |
|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| I<br>me   | you<br>you | he<br>him | she<br>her | it<br>it |
| we        | you        | they      |            |          |

(1) The **man** saw the **woman**. *He/she* saw him/her.



# Personal pronouns

---

Finnish (Uralic)

|     |           |           |
|-----|-----------|-----------|
| (1) | laul-an   | I sing    |
|     | laula-t   | You sing  |
|     | laula-vi  | He sings  |
|     | laula-mme | We sing   |
|     | laula-tte | You sing  |
|     | laula-vat | They sing |

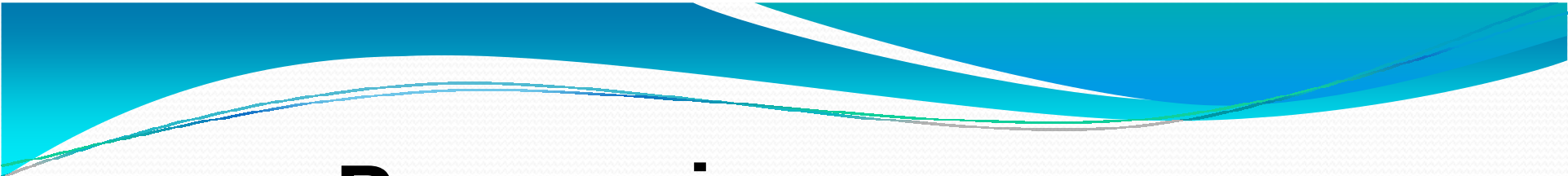
# Personal pronouns

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Swahili (Niger-Congo)

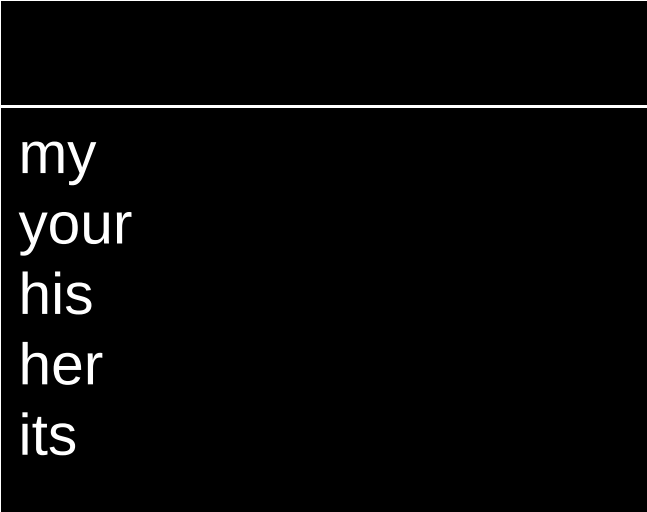
- (1) a-li-ni-piga  
3SG.SUBJ-PST-1SG.OBJ-hit  
'He/she hit me.'

- |     |               |                   |
|-----|---------------|-------------------|
| (2) | u-ta-ni-penda | You will like me  |
|     | a-ta-ni-penda | He will like me   |
|     | a-ta-ku-penda | He will like you  |
|     | a-ta-m-penda  | He will like him  |
|     | a-ta-ku-penda | I will like you   |
|     | a-ta-m-penda  | I will like him   |
|     | u-ta-m-penda  | You will like him |

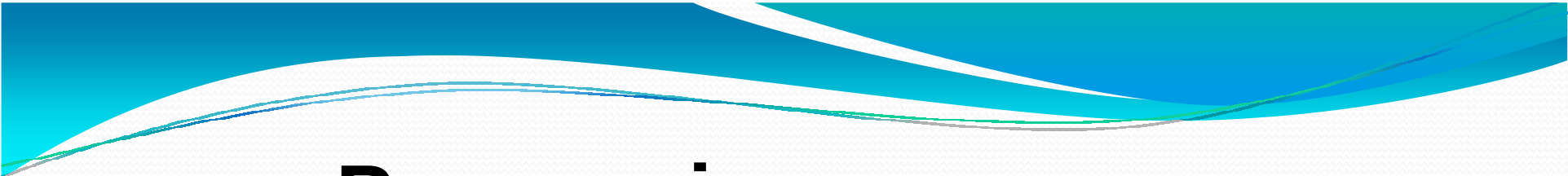


# Possessive pronouns

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my  
your  
his  
her  
its



# Possessive pronouns

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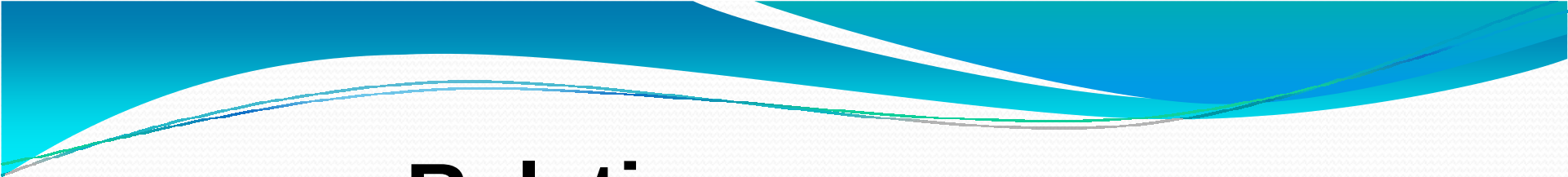
| Possessive determiners          | Possessive pronouns                 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| my<br>your<br>his<br>her<br>its | mine<br>yours<br>his<br>hers<br>its |

# Possessive markers

---

Masalit (Nilotic)

- (1) leri-**mbe**  
donkey-1SG  
'my donkey'
- (2) leri-**na**  
donkey-2SG  
'your donkey'
- (3) leri-**ta**  
donkey-3SG  
'his/her donkey'



# Relative pronouns

---

- (1) The man **who(m)** I saw.
- (2) The bike **that** I bought.

# Indefinite pronouns

| Universal | Pronoun           | Determiner        |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Positive  | <i>everyone</i>   | <i>every/each</i> |
|           | <i>everybody</i>  |                   |
|           | <i>everything</i> |                   |
|           | <i>all</i>        | <i>all</i>        |
|           | <i>both</i>       | <i>both</i>       |
| Negative  | <i>no one</i>     | <i>none/no</i>    |
|           | <i>nobody</i>     |                   |
|           | <i>nothing</i>    |                   |
|           | <i>none</i>       |                   |

# Indefinite pronouns

| Partitive           | Pronoun          | Determiner        |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Assertive</i>    | <i>someone</i>   | <i>some</i>       |
|                     | <i>somebody</i>  |                   |
|                     | <i>something</i> |                   |
|                     | <i>some</i>      |                   |
| <i>Nonassertive</i> | <i>anyone</i>    | <i>any/either</i> |
|                     | <i>anybody</i>   |                   |
|                     | <i>anything</i>  |                   |
|                     | <i>none</i>      |                   |

# Interrogative pronouns

(1) **What** did you talk about \_\_\_ in class?

Mandarin (Sinitic)

(2)      wǒ        qǐng      **shéi**      chī        fan  
             I        invite    whom    eat        food  
             'Whom did I invite to eat.'



# **Demonstrative pronouns**

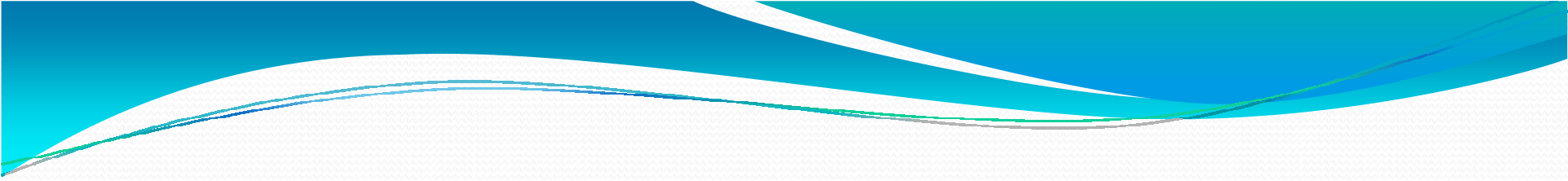
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| English  |        |
|----------|--------|
| Proximal | Distal |
| this     | that   |



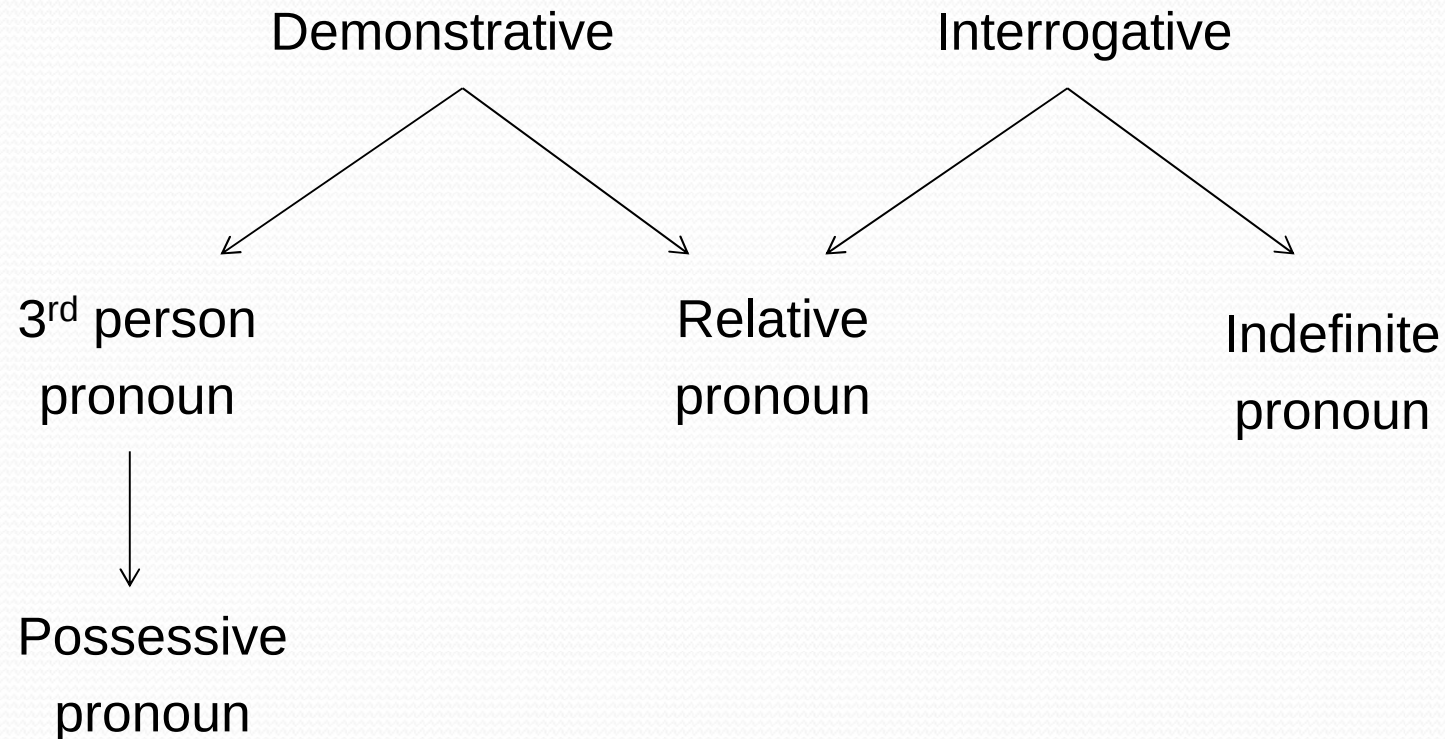
# Demonstrative pronouns

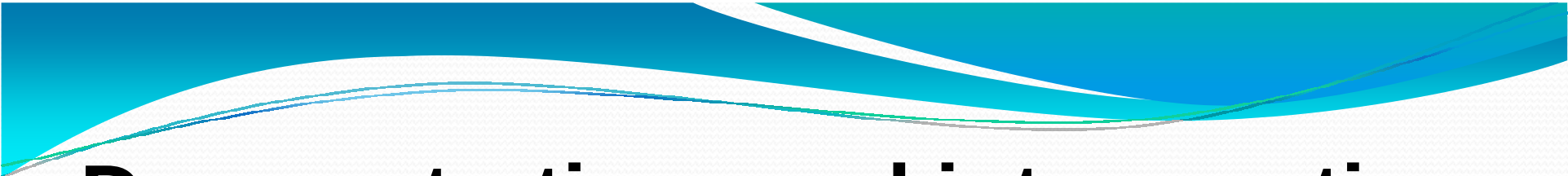
| English  |        | Japanese |        |         |
|----------|--------|----------|--------|---------|
| Proximal | Distal | Near S   | Near H | Distant |
| this     | that   | sono     | kono   | ano     |



# **Interrogatives and Demonstratives**

# Demonstratives and interrogatives





# Demonstratives and interrogatives

Demonstratives and interrogatives are generally so old that their roots are etymologically unanalyzable.

Reinforcement

- (1) der da
- (2) celui-ci/là
- (3) denhär/dendär

# Demonstratives and interrogatives

|            | Demonstrative     | Interrogative           |
|------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Pronoun    | <i>this/that</i>  | <i>who/what</i>         |
| Determiner | <i>this/that</i>  | <i>which</i>            |
| Adverb     | <i>here/there</i> | <i>where, when, why</i> |

# Demonstratives and interrogatives

|            | Demonstrative        | Interrogative              |
|------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Pronoun    | <i>celui / celle</i> | <i>qui / que</i>           |
| Determiner | <i>ce / cette</i>    | <i>quel / quelle</i>       |
| Adverb     | <i>ice, là</i>       | <i>où, quand, pourquoi</i> |

# Demonstratives and interrogatives

## DEMONSTRATIVES

darüber

darin

darauf

dazu

dabei

dahin

daher

damit

## INTERROGATIVES

worüber

worin

worauf

wozu

wobei

wohin

woher

womit

# English

---

|                | Demonstratives         | Interrogatives |
|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Person         | <i>that (one)</i>      | <i>who</i>     |
| Thing          | <i>that (one)</i>      | <i>what</i>    |
| Place          | <i>there</i>           | <i>where</i>   |
| Direction:to   | <i>thither</i>         | <i>whither</i> |
| Direction:from | <i>thence</i>          | <i>whence</i>  |
| Time           | <i>then</i>            | <i>when</i>    |
| Manner         | <i>thus (that way)</i> | <i>how</i>     |

# Latin

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|                | Demonstratives   | Interrogatives       |
|----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| PERSON         | <i>hic</i>       | <i>quis</i>          |
| THING          | <i>hic</i>       | <i>quid</i>          |
| PLACE          | <i>ibi</i>       | <i>ubi</i>           |
| DIRECTION-to   | <i>eō</i>        | <i>quō</i>           |
| DIRECTION-from | <i>inde</i>      | <i>unde</i>          |
| TIME           | <i>tum</i>       | <i>cum</i>           |
| QUANTITY       | <i>tantus</i>    | <i>quantus</i>       |
| QUALITY        | <i>tālis</i>     | <i>quālis</i>        |
| MANNER         | <i>ita / sīc</i> | <i>quōmodo / quī</i> |

# Punjabi

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|           | Demonstratives | Interrogatives |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| Person    | <i>ī</i>       | <i>kaun</i>    |
| Thing     | <i>ī</i>       | <i>kii</i>     |
| Place     | <i>itthe</i>   | <i>kuutthe</i> |
| Direction | <i>iddar</i>   | <i>kuddar</i>  |
| Time      | <i>hun</i>     | <i>kad</i>     |
| Manner    | <i>ivk</i>     | <i>kuivk</i>   |
| Amount    | <i>innaa</i>   | <i>kunnaa</i>  |

# Lezgian

|                | Demonstratives  | Interrogatives             |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Person/Thing   | <i>im</i>       | <i>him / wuz</i>           |
| Place          | <i>inag</i>     | <i>hinag</i>               |
| Place:at       | <i>ina</i>      | <i>hina</i>                |
| Place:on       | <i>inal</i>     | <i>hinal</i>               |
| Place:in       | <i>inra</i>     | <i>hinra</i>               |
| Direction:to   | <i>iniz</i>     | <i>hiniz</i>               |
| Direction:from | <i>inaj</i>     | <i>hinaj</i>               |
| Manner         | <i>ik'</i>      | <i>hik' <sub>6,3</sub></i> |
| Amount         | <i>iq' wan</i>  | <i>hiq' wan</i>            |
| Quality        | <i>ixfl tin</i> | <i>hixfl tin</i>           |

# Malayalam

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|              | Demonstratives | Interrogatives    |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Person       | <i>ii</i>      | <i>evan / aar</i> |
| Thing        | <i>ii</i>      | <i>ent</i>        |
| Place        | <i>iviθe</i>   | <i>eviθe</i>      |
| Direction:to | <i>inn</i>     | <i>enn</i>        |
| Time         | <i>ipprook</i> | <i>epprook</i>    |
| Manner       | <i>iηηine</i>  | <i>eηηine</i>     |
| Amount       | <i>itra</i>    | <i>etra</i>       |

# Japanese

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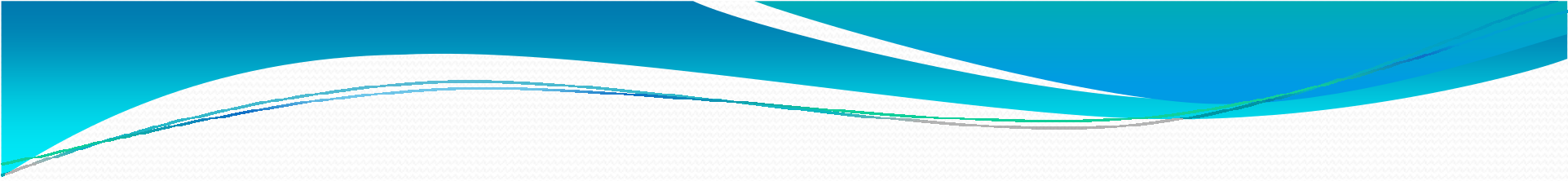
|           | Demonstratives  | Interrogatives  |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Person    | —               | <i>dare</i>     |
| Thing     | <i>kore</i>     | <i>dore</i>     |
| Place     | <i>koko</i>     | <i>doko</i>     |
| Direction | <i>kochira</i>  | <i>dochira</i>  |
| Manner    | <i>koo</i>      | <i>doo</i>      |
| Amount    | <i>konna ni</i> | <i>donna ni</i> |



# **Demonstratives and interrogatives**

Differences:

- Interrogatives tend to distinguish between human (who) and nonhuman (what) referents.
- Demonstratives are deictic, i.e. they distinguish between proximal and distal forms.



# The noun phrase

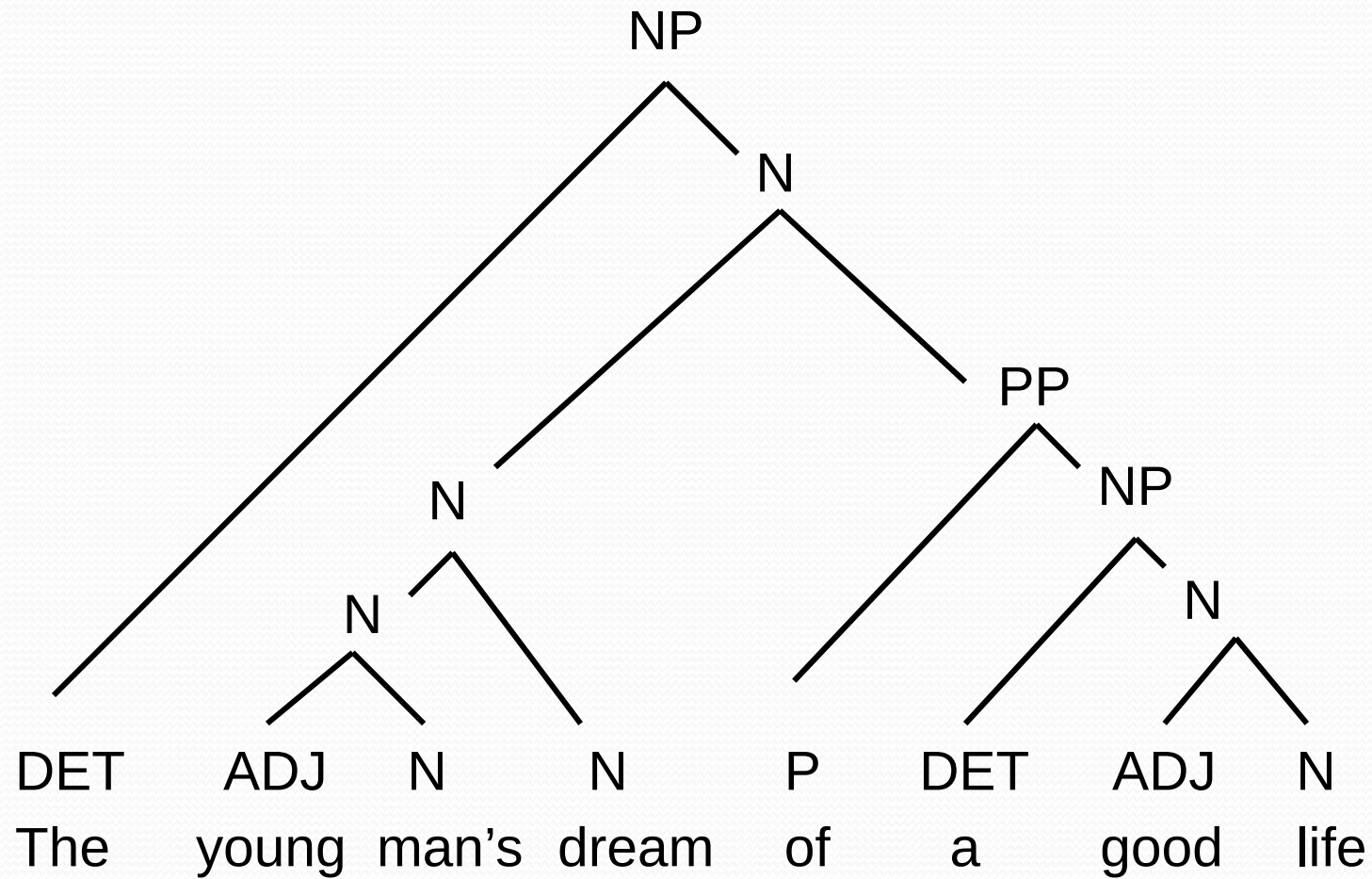


# Noun phrase

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- articles
- demonstratives
- adjectives
- genitive attributes
- prepositional phrases
- relative clauses

# Noun phrase



# Discontinuous NPs

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Wardaman (Pama-Nyungan)

- (1)     **dang-nyi**            wunggun-bu-ndi            **yibiyan-yi**  
         Yonder-ERG    3SG:3NON.SG-hit-PST    man-ERG  
         'That man hit them.'



# Discontinuous NPs

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Das geistig Zusammengehörende steht beieinander.

[Behagel 1923-32]