Case + Agreement
Van Valin, Chapter 2

Verb agrees with subject and object

(2.25) a. (Miyé) mathó ki hená na-wíčha-wa-xʔų.   Lakhota, US
         (1sg) bear the those stem-3plOBJ-1sgSUBJ-hear
         'I heard those bears.'
     b. Mathó ki hená (miyé) na-má-Ø-xʔų-pi.
         bear the those (1sg) stem-1sgOBJ-3SUBJ-hear-PL
         'Those bears heard me.'

Verb agrees with subject, object, indirect object.

(2.26) a. Ni-k hi-ri liburu-Ø bat oparitu d-i-a-t.   Basque, Spain/France
         1sg-ERG 2sg-DAT book-ABS one give.as.gift 3sgDOBJ-have-2sgIOBJ-1sgSUBJ
         'I have given you a book (as a present).'
     b. Hi-k ni-ri liburu-Ø bat oparitu d-i-da-k.
         2sg-ERG 1sg-DAT book-ABS one give.as.gift 3sgDOBJ-have-1sgIOBJ-2sgSUBJ
         'You have given me a book (as a present).'

Case Marking

Typical pattern:
Nominative
Accusative
Dative

In typologically diverse languages

(2.27) a. Učitel'nic-a da-l-a knig-u ženščin-e.   Russian, Indo european
         teacher-FsgNOM give-PAST-Fsg book-ACC woman-DAT
         'The teacher gave the book to the woman.'
     a'. Ženščin-a/učitel'nic-a govori-l-a/umer-l-a.
         woman-/teacher-FsgNOM talk-PAST-Fsg/die-PAST-Fsg
         'The woman/the teacher talked/died.'
     b. Mari-Ø a gyerek-nek ad-ta az órá-t.   Hungarian, not indoeuropean
         Mary-NOM the child-DAT give-3sgPAST the clock-ACC
         'Mary gave the clock to the child.'
     c. Chelswu-ka Swunhi-eykey chayk-ul cwu-ess-ta.   Korean
         Chelsoo-NOM Soonhi-DAT book-ACC give-PAST-DECL
         'Chelsoo gave the book to Soonhi.'
     d. Atanu-Ø da:n-ni tana pella:ni-ki icc-a:du.   Telugu, India/Dravidian
         3Msg-NOM 3Nsg-ACC self wife-DAT give-PAST.3sgM
         'He gave it to his (own) wife.'

Table 2.1. *Case-marking patterns*

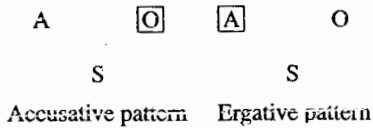| Term		Case Pattern	
		Nominative–Accusative	Ergative–Absolutive
Subject of transitive verb	[A]	Nominative	Ergative
Subject of intransitive verb	[S]	Nominative	Absolutive
Direct object of transitive verb	[O]	Accusative	Absolutive

A [O] [A] O

S S

Accusative pattern   Ergative pattern

Figure 2.3. *Accusative versus ergative patterns*

Ergative + Absolutive

(2.28) a. Kupi-ŋku milŋa-∅ tiaca-mu.   Yalarnnga, *Australia*
fish-ERG fly-ABS bite-PAST
'The fish bit the fly.'
b. Milŋa-ŋku kupi-∅ tiaca-mu.
fly-ERG   fish-ABS bite-PAST
'The fly bit the fish.'
c. Milŋa-∅/kupi-∅ waka-mu.
fly-/fish-ABS   fall-PAST
'The fly/the fish fell.'

Ergative languages also use dative case for recipient.

(2.29) a. Nino-m ačvena surat-eb-i   gia-s.   Georgian, *Caucasian*
Nino-ERG showed pictures-PL-ABS Gia-DAT
'Nino showed the pictures to Gia.'
b. Balam miraɲ-∅ baŋgul yaṛa-ŋgu wugan bagul   Dyirbal, *Australia*
NM.ABS beans-ABS NM.ERG man-ERG gave NM.DAT
ḏugumbil-gu.
woman-DAT
'The man gave beans to the woman.'

Ergative languages also use instrumental case for instruments.

(2.30) a. Ženščin-a   napisa-l-a   karandaš-em.   Russian, *not ergative, included for comparison*
woman-NOM write-PAST-Fsg pencil-INST
'The woman wrote with a pencil.'
b. Bala   yugu-∅ baŋgul yaṛa-ŋgu nudin baŋgu bari-ŋgu. Dyirbal, *Australia*
NM.ABS tree-ABS NM.ERG man-ERG cut   NM.INST axe-INST
'The man cut down the tree with an axe.'

(2.31) a. Ich   hab-e   das   Auto des   Mann-es gesehen. German *(for comparison)*
1sgNOM have-1sgPRES the.ACC car the.GEN man-GEN seen
'I saw the man's car.'

Ergative languages also use genitive case for possessors.

b. Bayi   waŋal-∅   baŋun ḏugumbil-ŋu baŋgul   Dyirbal, *Australia*
NM.ABS boomerang-ABS NM.GEN woman-GEN NM.ERG
yaṛa-ŋgu buṛan.
man-ERG saw
'The man saw the woman's boomerang.'

"Quirky" Case

Dative object →

Genitive object →

(2.32) a. Učitel'nic-a pomog-l-a ženščin-e/*ženščin-u.   Russian
teacher-NOM help-PAST-Fsg woman-DAT/woman-ACC
'The teacher helped the woman.'

b. Vivor-um memin-i.   Latin
living-GEN remember-1sg
'I remember the living.'

double dative

double accus-ative

double accusative

(2.33) a. Ég skila-ð-i henn-i pening-un-um.   Icelandic, ⚘ Iceland, Germanic
1sgNOM return-PAST-1sg 3Fsg-DAT money-DEF-DAT
'I returned her the money.'

b. Chelswu-ka Swunhi-lul chayk-ul cwu-ess-ta.   Korean
Chelsoo-NOM Soonhi-ACC book-ACC give-PAST-DECL
'Chelsoo gave Soonhi the book.'

c. Warmi-∅ Pablo-ta kashki-ta qu-rqa-n.   Ancash Quechua
woman-NOM Pablo-ACC soup-ACC give-PAST-3
'The woman gave Pablo soup.'

dative experiencer

(2.13) a. Te gusta-∅ la músic-a modern-a?   Spanish
2sgDAT like-3sgPRES the.Fsg music-Fsg modern-Fsg
'Do you like modern music?'

b. Nos interesa-n las teorí-as lingüístic-as.
1plDAT interest-3plPRES the.Fpl theory-Fpl linguistic-Fpl
'We are interested in linguistic theories.'

German dative experiencer

(2.14) a. Der Vorschlag gefäli-t mir.   German
the.MsgNOM suggestion please-3sgPRES 1sgDAT
'I like the suggestion,' or 'The suggestion is pleasing to me.'

German nominative experiencer

a'. Ich mag den Vorschlag.
1sgNOM like.PRES the.MsgACC suggestion
'I like the suggestion.'

German dative experiencer

b. Mir ist kalt.
1sgDAT be.3sgPRES cold
'I'm cold,' or 'I feel cold.'

Dative Experiencer

(2.15) a. Sandr-i se svid-a Zagreb-∅.   Croatian
Sandra-FsgDAT REFL please-3sg Zagreb-MsgNOM
'Sandra likes Zagreb.'

b. Žen-ama je neugodn-o.
woman-FplDAT be.3sg uncomfortable-Nsg
'The women are embarrassed.'

Experiencers in Ergative languages

(2.11) a. Inssu-cca çul-∅ qot-ula.   Avar, Russia, Daghestanian/Caucasus
father-ERG wood-ABS chop-PRES
'The father chops wood.'   ↖ Ergative-agent

b. Inssu-da łimer-∅ wix̄-ana.   ← locative - perceiver
father-LOC child-ABS see-PAST
'The father saw the child.'

c. Inssu-je łimer-∅ bok'-ula.   ← dative - emoter
father-DAT child-ABS love-PRES
'The father loves the child.'

Ergative-Agent. →

(2.12) a. Alfija-di maqala-∅ k̂e-na.   Lezgian, Nakho-Daghestanian North-East Caucasian
Alfija-ERG article-ABS write-AOR
'Alfija wrote an article.'

b. Mu?minata-z Ibrahim-∅ aku-na.
Mu'minat-DAT Ibrahim-ABS see-AOR   ←perceiver - dative
'Mu'minat saw Ibrahim.'

Intransitive verb with non-agentive subject, absolutive case. →

c. Mašin-ar-∅ xürü-w agaq'-na.
car-PL-ABS village-ALL reach-AOR
'The cars reached the village.'

d. Ada-z gišin-zawa žedi.
it-DAT hungry-IMPF PRT   ← intransitive verb with experiencer subject, dative case.
'It (the bird) is probably hungry.'

case is a prefix

(2.34) a. n-kʷúkʷp'y ɣ-cítxʷ-s   Shuswap, Canada, Salishan
           LOC-chief ABS-house-3GEN ← *agreement with possessor.*
           'to the chief's house'
        b. lə 'to' + yéled 'boy' → ləyéled 'to a boy'   Modern Hebrew
        b'. lə 'to' + ha 'the' + yéled 'boy' → layéled 'to the boy'
                                          └ *case is a prefix*

(2.35) a. Hanako ga   Taroo ni   hon o   yat-ta.   Japanese
           Hanako NOM Taroo DAT book ACC give-PAST
           'Hanako gave a book to Taroo.'
        Case is a post-position

                                    — *case is a preposition*
        b. Nagbigay ng libro sa bata ang lalake.   Tagalog, Philipines
           gave   ACC book DAT child NOM man
           'The man gave a book to the child.'
        c. Der   Mann hat der   Frau   einen   Kuß   German
Case marked only on determiner, not on noun. → the.MsgNOM man has the.FsgDAT woman one.MsgACC kiss
           gegeben.
           given
           'The man gave the woman a kiss.'
        c'. Die   Frau   hat dem   Mann einen   Kuß gegeben.
           the.FsgNOM woman has the.MsgDAT man one.MsgACC kiss given
           'The woman gave the man a kiss.'

                    ← *case is marked by tone*
(2.36) a. Cīle   pɔntét.   Maasai, Nilotic, East Africa
           look.at old.man
           'He's looking at the old man.'
        b. Cīle   pɔntet.
           look.at old.man
           'The old man's looking at him.'

(2.37) a. Ngóh/ngóhdeih jūngyi kéuih/kéuihdeih.   Cantonese, China
           1sg/1pl   like 3sg/3pl
           'I/we like him~her/them.'
        a'. Kéuih/kéuihdeih jūngyi ngóh/ngóhdeih.
           3sg/3pl   like 1sg/1pl
           'He~she/they like(s) me/us.'
        b. Jek māau gin léuhng jek gáu.
           CL cat see two   CL dog
           'The cat sees two dogs.'
        b'. Léuhng jek gáu gin jek māau.
           two   CL dog see CL cat
           'Two dogs see the cat.'

No case or agreement. Word order is the only coding property of subject + object.