

Oblique marking in Kerinci: Case or Agreement?

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In this presentation we consider the question of whether the unusual morphological marking found on lexical heads in both the verbal and nominal domains in Kerinci can be interpreted as case marking. When the morphological marking occurs, the relationship between the head and its dependent is the same as that in which assignment of (abstract) structural case would be expected. Thus, we propose that the marking on the head constitutes a head marking variant of case marking.

There are a number of challenges for this analysis. First of all, the putative case marking has effects on extraction domains. We examine why that might be the case. Secondly, in addition to direct objects, passive agents trigger this marking. We propose an analysis of Kerinci passives that is compatible with these facts.

In the nominal domain, our approach necessitates an analysis of the DP in which various adjectives and possessives are analyzed as complements rather than as adjuncts. We examine the advantages and disadvantages of this approach in the nominal domain.