

# Brithenig by Andrew Smith

English	Masculine SG	English	Feminine SG
hut	ill bwrdd	hut cluster	lla fwrdd
tree	ill bwsc	forest	lla fwsc
egg	ill ew	eggs	lla ew
bone	ill ws	bones	lla ws
branch	ill rham	tree leaves	lla ram

# NOUN CASE

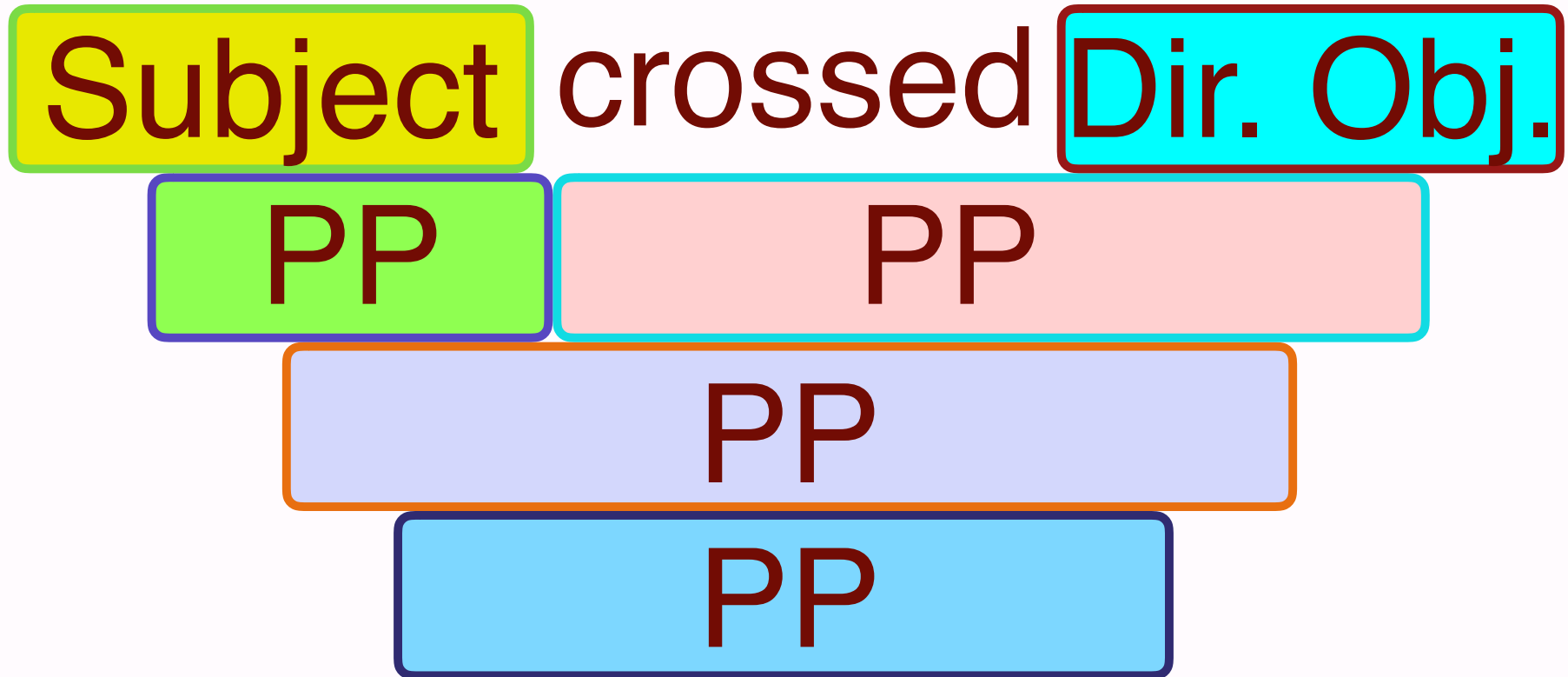
Noun case: Changing the form of the noun to indicate its grammatical role in the sentence.

I saw her.

Me saw she.

The boy crossed the field  
by car with his friend  
to the other side  
of the valley.

The boy crossed the field  
by car with his friend  
to the other side  
of the valley.





Agent

crossed

Theme

Instr.

Companion

Goal

Possess.

Agent: \_ V

Patient: V \_

Theme: V \_

Instrument: by/with \_

Companion: with \_

Goal: to(wards) \_

Agent: \_ V

Patient: V \_ [+Partitive/Gen.]

Theme: V \_ [+Partitive/Gen.]

Instrument: V \_ [+Instr./Ade.]

Companion: V \_ [+Gen.] kanssa

Goal: V \_ [+allative/illative]

Agent: talo

Patient: taloa/talon

Theme: taloa/talon

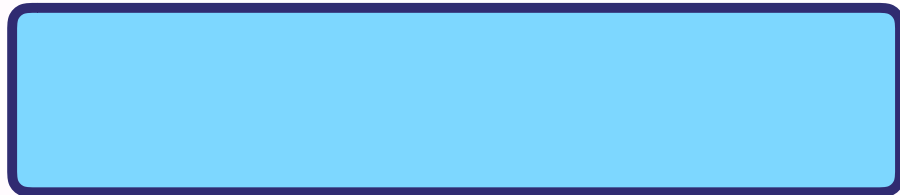
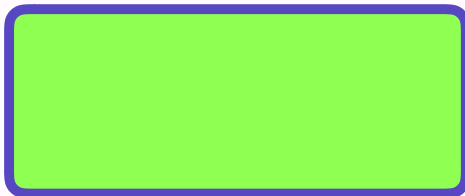
Instrument: taloin/talolla

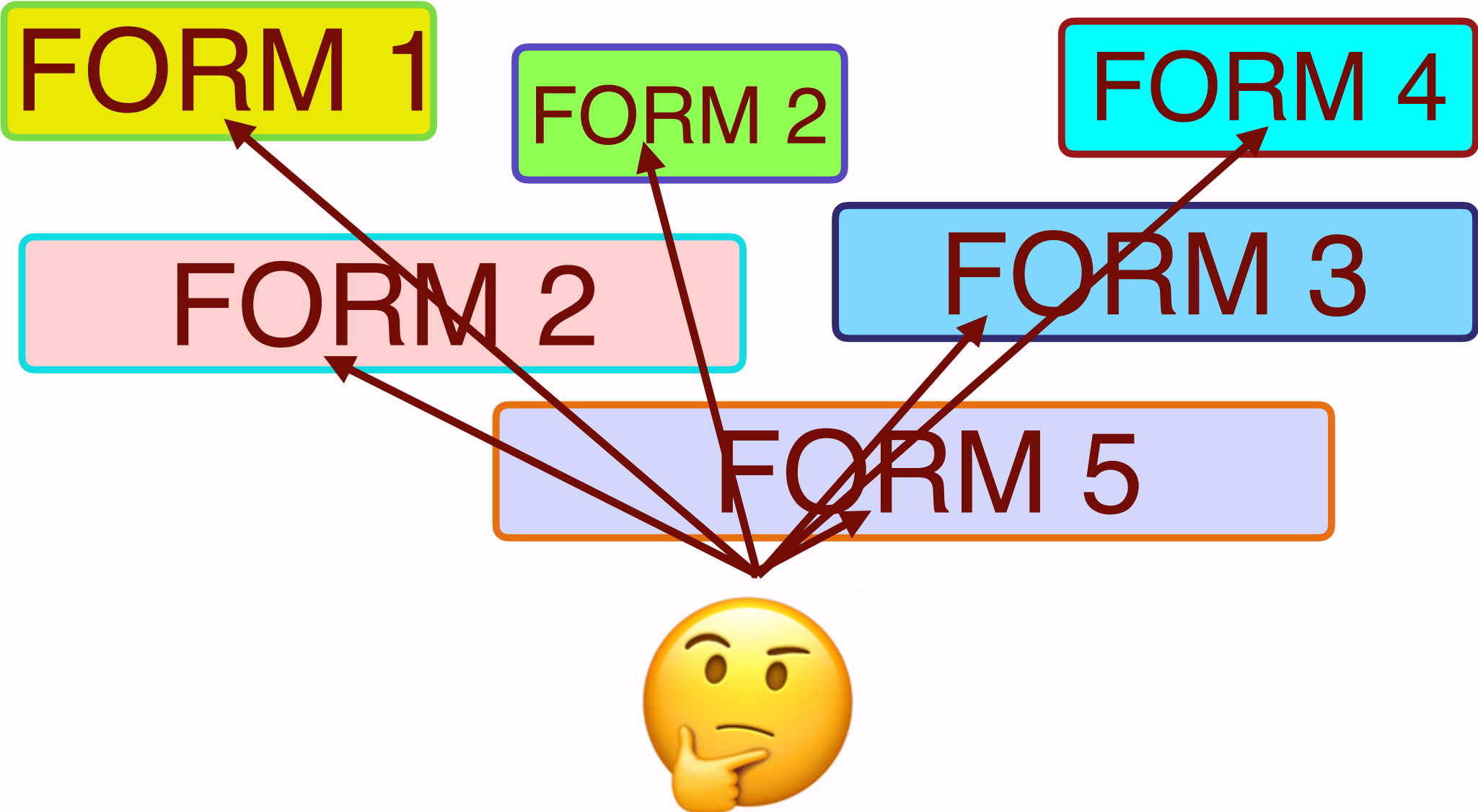
Companion: talon kanssa

Goal: talolle/taloon

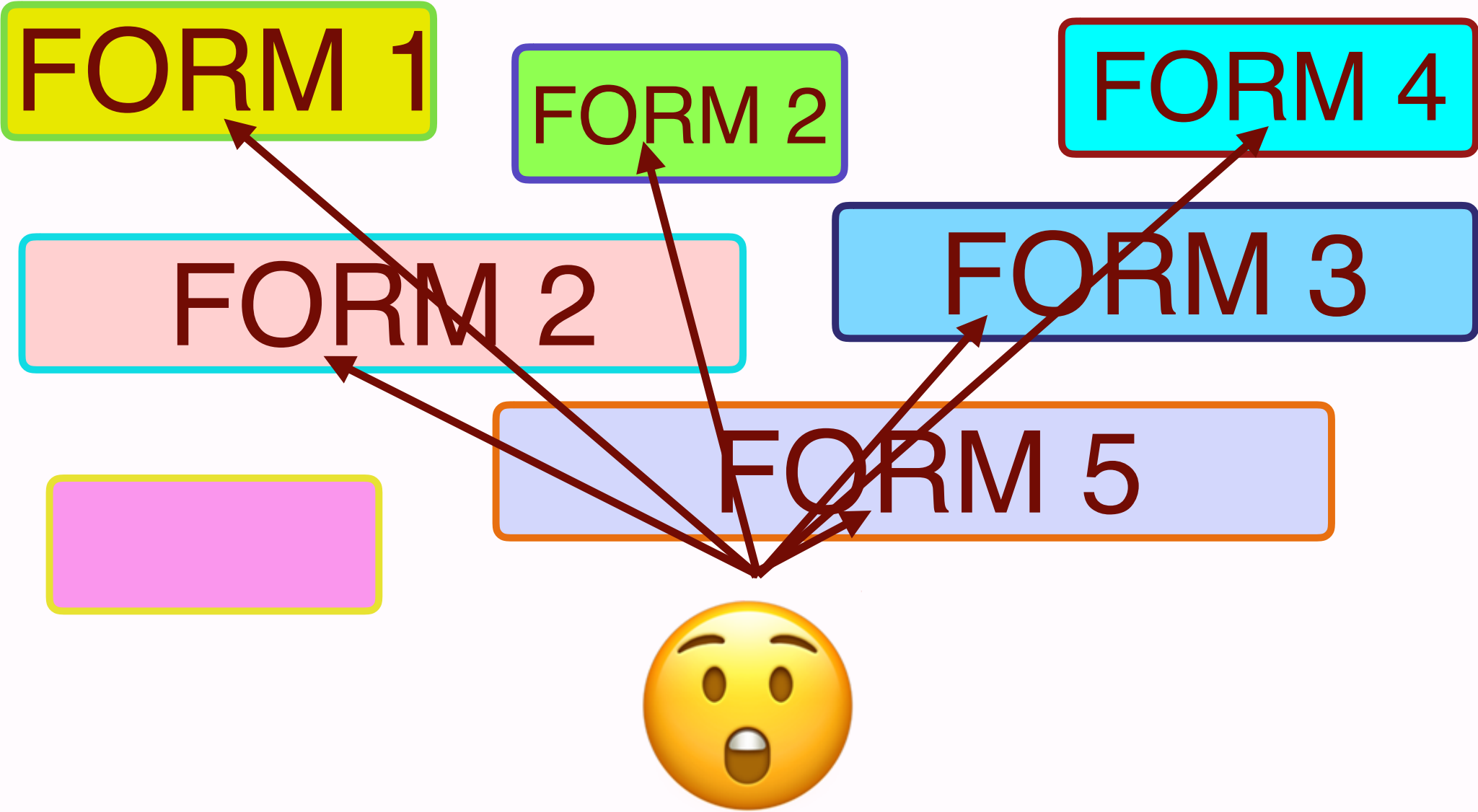
Languages do with case  
what other languages do  
with adpositional phrases.

Case is language specific; it does *NOT* line up perfectly with semantics, theta rules, syntax—anything.

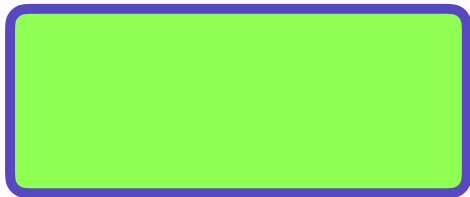




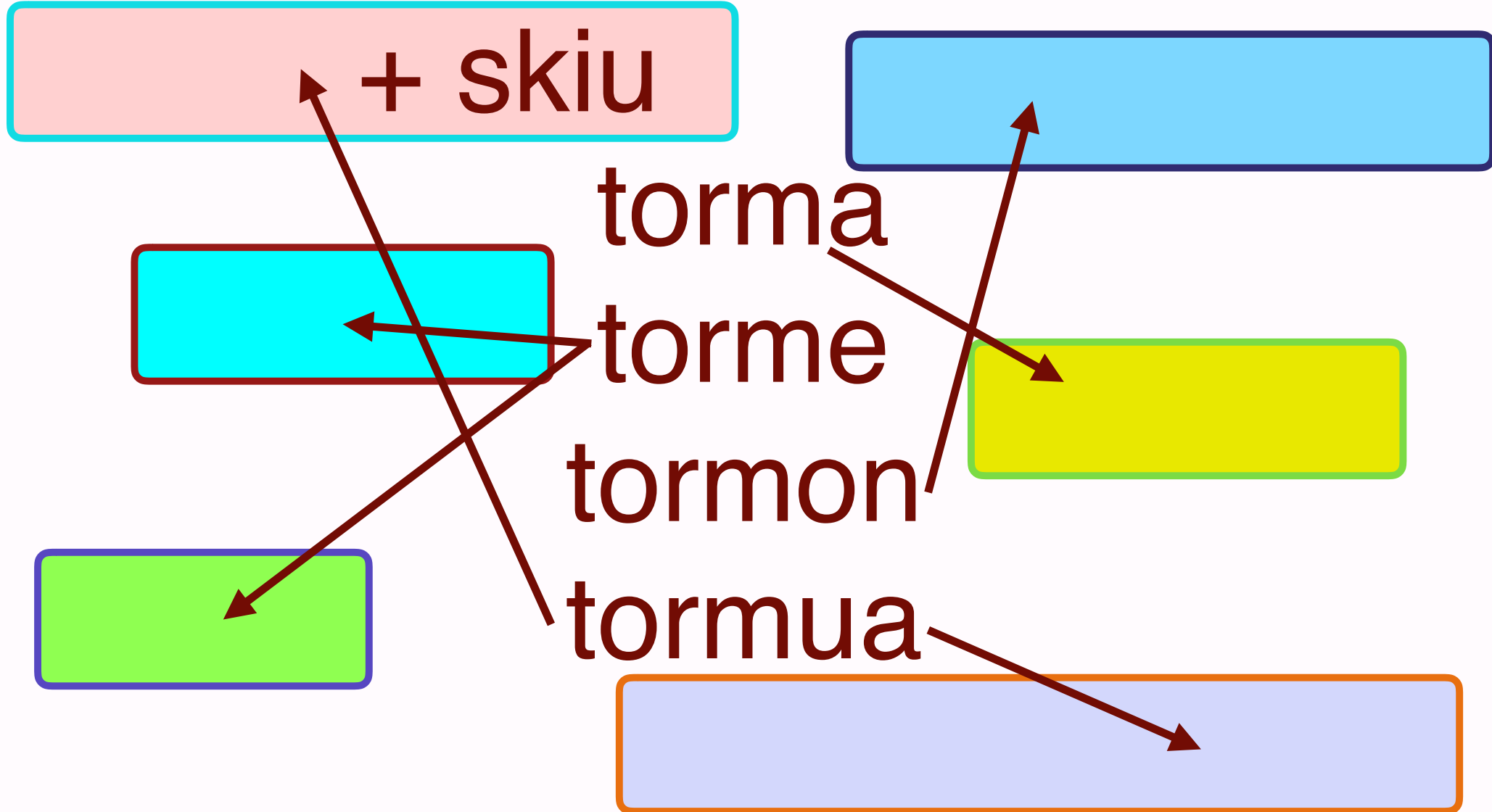




torma  
torme  
tormon  
tormua



torma  
torme  
tormon  
tormua



# Grammatical Cases

## Local Cases

# Core Cases

# Non-Core Cases

	Core	Non-Core
Grammatical		
Local		

	<b>Core</b>	<b>Non-Core</b>
<b>Grammatical</b>	<b>Nominative Accusative Vocative</b>	<b>Dative Genitive</b>
<b>Local</b>	—	<b>Ablative</b>



	Core	Non-Core
Grammatical	Nominative Accusative Genitive	—
Local	Partitive	Inessive Illative Adessive, etc.

	<b>Core</b>	<b>Non-Core</b>
<b>Grammatical</b>	<b>Nominative Accusative Genitive/Dative</b>	<b>Instrumental</b>
<b>Local</b>	<b>Prepositional</b>	<b>—</b>

Core Cases: More  
commonly assigned directly  
by the verb; less adverbial.  
Less obviously  
compositional.

Non-Core Cases: Mostly  
adverbial; rarely required by  
verbs. Usually fairly  
compositional.

Nominative: talo/talot

Accusative/Genitive: talon#

Partitive: taloa/taloja\*

#takes nominative plural

\*frequently irregular

Inessive: talossa/taloissa

Elative: talosta/taloista

Adesive: talolla/taloilla

Ablative: talolta/taloilta

Inessive: talo-s-sa/talo-i-s-sa

Elative: talo-s-ta/talo-i-s-ta

Adesive: talo-l-la/talo-i-l-la

Ablative: talo-l-ta/talo-i-l-ta

Grammatical Cases: Direct grammatical roles (objects, etc.), or quirky cases.



Vocative: Direct address.

dāria “queen”

dār̄ys “Queen!”

# Genitive: Possession.

dāria “queen”

dārio zaldrīzes “the queen’s  
dragon”

Nominative: Subject  
Accusative: Direct Object  
Dative: Indirect Object

Dāria zaldrīzi aōt teptas.  
“The queen gave you a  
dragon.”

# Digression

I sleep. = intransitive

I hug her. = transitive

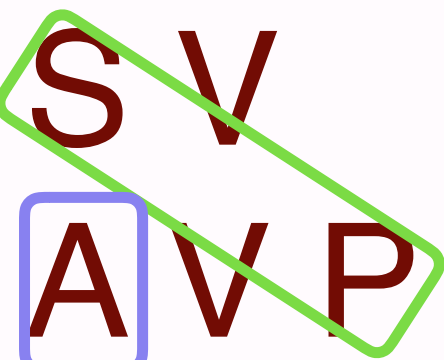
# Digression

I sleep. = intransitive  
I hug her. = transitive

# Digression

**S** <sup>V</sup>  
**A** <sup>V</sup> **P** Nominative-Accusative  
Focus on the one  
*doing* the action.

# Digression

The diagram shows a green parallelogram containing the letters S, V, A, V, and P. The letter 'A' is highlighted with a blue square. The letters S, V, and P are positioned at the top, while A and V are at the bottom. A green line connects the top-left corner (S) to the bottom-right corner (V).  
S V  
A V P Ergative-Absolutive  
Focus on the one  
*experiencing* the action.



# Digression

S V  
A V P Tripartite

No focus.

# Digression

S V  
A V P Positional.

No focus.

# Digression

S V  
A/P V Animacy.  
“Obvious” who does  
what to whom.

# Digression

kafu nale timoke.

/dog man bite-PST/

“The dog bit the man.”

# Digression

kafu nale timokeli.

/dog man bite-PST-INV/

“The man bit the dog.”

# Digression

A V P R      MANY options.

A V P R

# Digression

1. Special R case.
2. Adposition.
3. Worder change.
4.  $P=R$ .
5. Special A case.

# Local Cases: What we use prepositions for.



Adessive: At the house.

Allative: To the house.

Ablative: From the house.

Inessive: Inside the house.

Illative: Into the house.

Elicative: Out from the house.

Super-: on, onto, off of

Sub-: under, to under, from  
under

Cont-: among, in among,  
from among

Perlative: by way of the road  
Aversive: avoiding the road

Instrumental: with a tool  
Comitative: with a person  
Abessive: without something

Lots of other crazy cases,  
but these are specific to a  
*system.*

# Case + Number

sagus ~ sagī

talossa ~ taloissa

	Core	Non-Core
Grammatical	90%	40%
Local	60%	20%



# Case + Number

High Valyrian	Singular	Plural
Nominative	vala	vali
Accusative	vale	valī
Genitive	valo	valoti
Dative	valot	valoti
Locative	valā	valoti

# GENDER

Gender = Noun Class

Gender is inherent in and inseparable from the noun it's associated with.



**By golly,  
it's a boy!**



Give me those red books.  
Dame esos libros rojos.

Give me the red books.  
Danne escape from the dogs.





Give me the red books.  
Danne escape books.



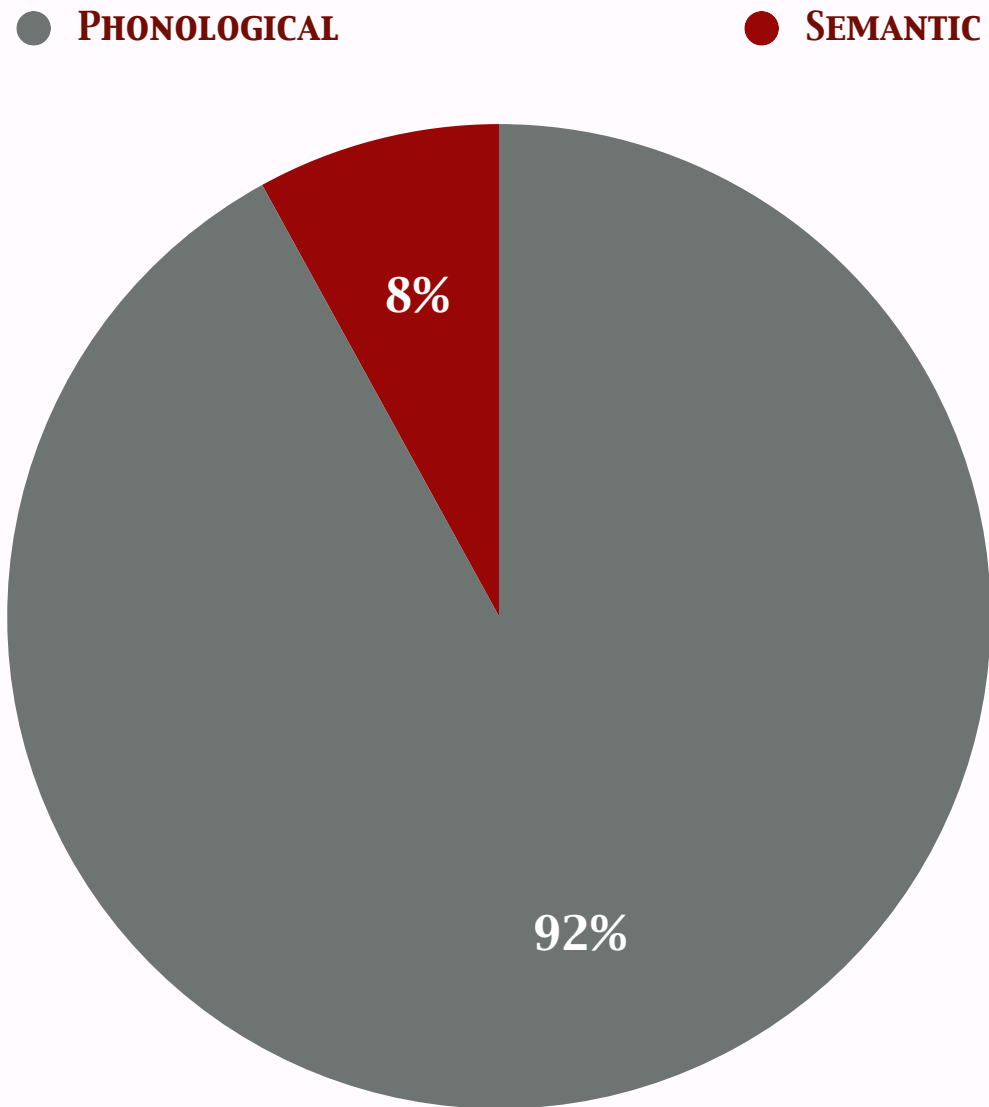
Give me those red books.  
Dame esos libros rojos.

Quantity (Count vs. Mass)  
Animacy  
Shape (Physical/Phono.)  
Function  
Relationship with Humans

Phonology > Semantics

madre  
niña  
cara  
esquina  
canción

hombre  
niño  
estado  
tiempo  
animal



mtoto  
mke

mnazi  
mchungwa

kisu  
kilima

jina  
jiwa

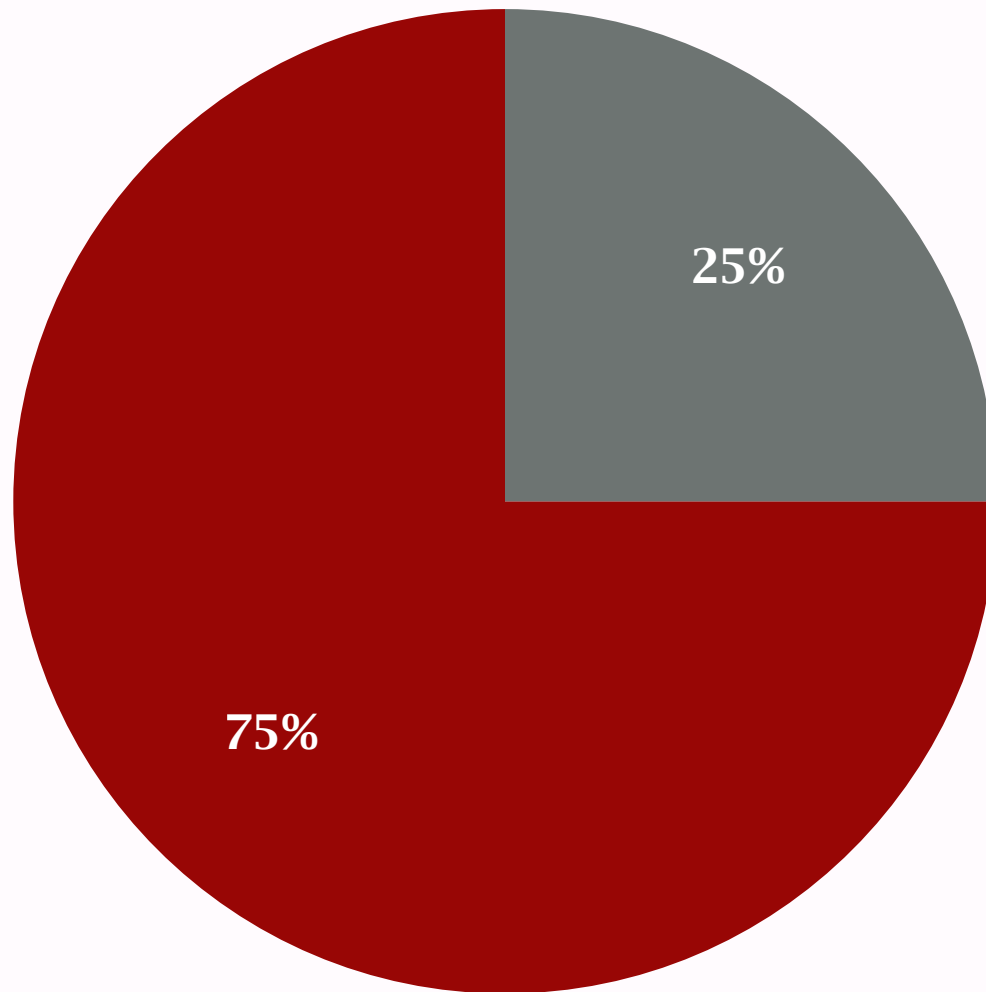
Class 1: People, animals,  
birds, insects, fish...

Class 9: Manufactured  
products, places,  
abstracts, parts of the  
body, fruit, natural things...



● **PHONOLOGICAL**

● **SEMANTIC**



\_\_\_\_\_

# Masculine, Feminine

# Masculine, Feminine, Neuter

# Animate, Inanimate

Human, Animal,  
Instrument, Plant {Edible/  
Inedible}

Human, Animal,  
Instrument, Plant {Edible/  
Inedible}, Places,  
Abstracts, Small Things,  
Large Things

a man a big one



mtu mkubwa

mkubwa

# Oedipus Rēx

Oedipum Rēgem vidi.

liber ruber

Librum rubrum vidi.

# EVOLVING CASE AND GENDER

# Basic Words



person, man, woman, child,  
boy, girl, thing, rock, place,  
area, tool

toku “man”

mole “cook”

\*moletoku > \*moledogu >

\*moleðoyu > \*molehou >

molehu “male cook”

naki “woman”

mole “cook”

\*molenaki > \*molenagi >

\*molenayi > \*molenai >

molene “female cook”

rati “group”

mole “cook”

\*molerati > \*moleradi >

\*molerađi > \*molerahi >

moleraç “cooks (M or F)”

Semantic class of generic  
nouns = noun class.

Can also become declension class (e.g. if nominative form has some sort of affix).

# Cases > Basic Words

## Case

## Lexical Source

nominative, absolutive

— (unmarked noun, basic word like “person”)

ergative, agentive

from, with, at, near, hand

accusative, objective, patientive

to, at, on, against, take

dative

to, for, give

genitive

from, for, to, home, property, thing, at



Case	Lexical Source
ablative	come from, leave, from, fall
allative	arrive, go to, see, to
instrumental	with, take, use, from
comitative	comrade, follow, take
partitive	from, child, of
aversive	be, fail, love, near, want

# Tonight

(1) Free PA

(2) New MA