

Is Case Universally Required?

Possible situations:

- (1) **All nouns have morphological Case (in some, nominative is \emptyset)**

Malayalam (Dravidian, SW India)

Puucca eliy- e tiṅṅu.

cat.NOM rat- ACC ate

'The cat ate the rat.'

Tagalog

Mag- aalis ang tindero ng bigas sa sako.

AGT- take.out NOM storekeeper ACC rice DAT sack

'The storekeeper will take some rice out of a/the sack.'

- (2) **Only pronouns have morphological Case**

English

a. They (NOM) scared me (ACC).

b. The students scared the professor.

- (3) **No marking on the nouns ("dependent marking"), but the verb has markers that cross-reference (or agree with) the argument noun phrases ("head marking")**

Tzotzil (Mayan, southern Mexico)

?i- \emptyset - s- pet lok'el ?anc ti t'ule.

ASP- 3OBJ- 3SUBJ- carry away woman the rabbit

'The rabbit carried away the woman.'

- (4) **No morphological marking of any kind**

Indonesian

Saya membantu anda.

I help you

'I help you.'

Anda membantu saya.

you help I

'You help me.'

Mandarin Chinese

Tā yǐjīng zuò- wán gōngkè le.

3SG already do- finish homework CURR.RELVNT

'S/He's already finished his/her homework.'

Vietnamese

Khi tôi đến nhà bạn tôi, chúng tôi bắt đầu làm bài.

when I come house friend I PL I begin do lessons

'When I came to my friend's house, we began to do lessons.'

Malagasy

Nahita ny mpianatra ny vehivavy.

saw the student the woman

'The woman saw the student.'

Welsh

Lladdodd y ddraig y dyn.

killed the dragon the man

'The dragon killed the man.'