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**Morphological defaults and the Kokota noun phrase**

According to Palmer and Brown (2007) possessor-indexing hosts which are used to mark indirect possession in Oceanic languages such as Kokota should be treated as the syntactic head of the noun phrase in which they occur, thereby allowing treatment of the syntax of NPs with indirect possession which is consistent with those with direct marking.

- a.     nene-gu  
        leg-1SG.POSS  
        ‘my leg (of my body)’
- b.     γe-gu                    nene  
        CNSM-1SG.POSS    leg  
        ‘my leg (which I intend to eat)’

In (1a) the noun is directly possessed. In (1b) a possessor-indexing host is used to mark indirect possession. Palmer and Brown (2007) argue that the person marking attaches to the head in both instances. Implementing the analysis using the lexical knowledge representation language DATR (Evans and Gazdar 1996), we present a formal account of the Kokota noun phrase, applying an inferential-realizational approach to the morphology (see Simpson 2001: 1-30) where the interface between syntax and morphology is feature-based, rather than form-based (Zwicky 1992: 356). Morphology therefore has to provide the right feature, and syntax has to make sure that the feature is in the correct place. In the case of the examples in (1) this is the head of the noun phrase.

We then proceed to place the analysis of possession marking within a wider account of the Kokota noun phrase, dealing with the demonstrative clitic =ro, which can attach to adjectives (2a), verbs (2b), or nouns (2c).

- a.     (ira)            mane   tove=ro  
        ART.PL        man    old=DEM  
        ‘those old men’ (Kokota)
- b.     (ira)        mane    dou=ro  
        ART.PL    man    be.big=DEM  
        ‘those big men’ (Kokota)
- c.     (ira)        mane    vave=ro  
        ART.PL    man    in.law=DEM  
        ‘those men [who are] in-laws’ (Kokota)

The liberal attachment properties of =ro are dealt with as a morphological default for all word classes. Its positioning makes reference to the right edge of the phrase (Halpern 1995). In discussing how the work of morphology and syntax can be distributed in the treatment of the Kokota noun phrase, we demonstrate the benefits of inferential-realizational morphology and a feature-based interface between morphology and syntax.