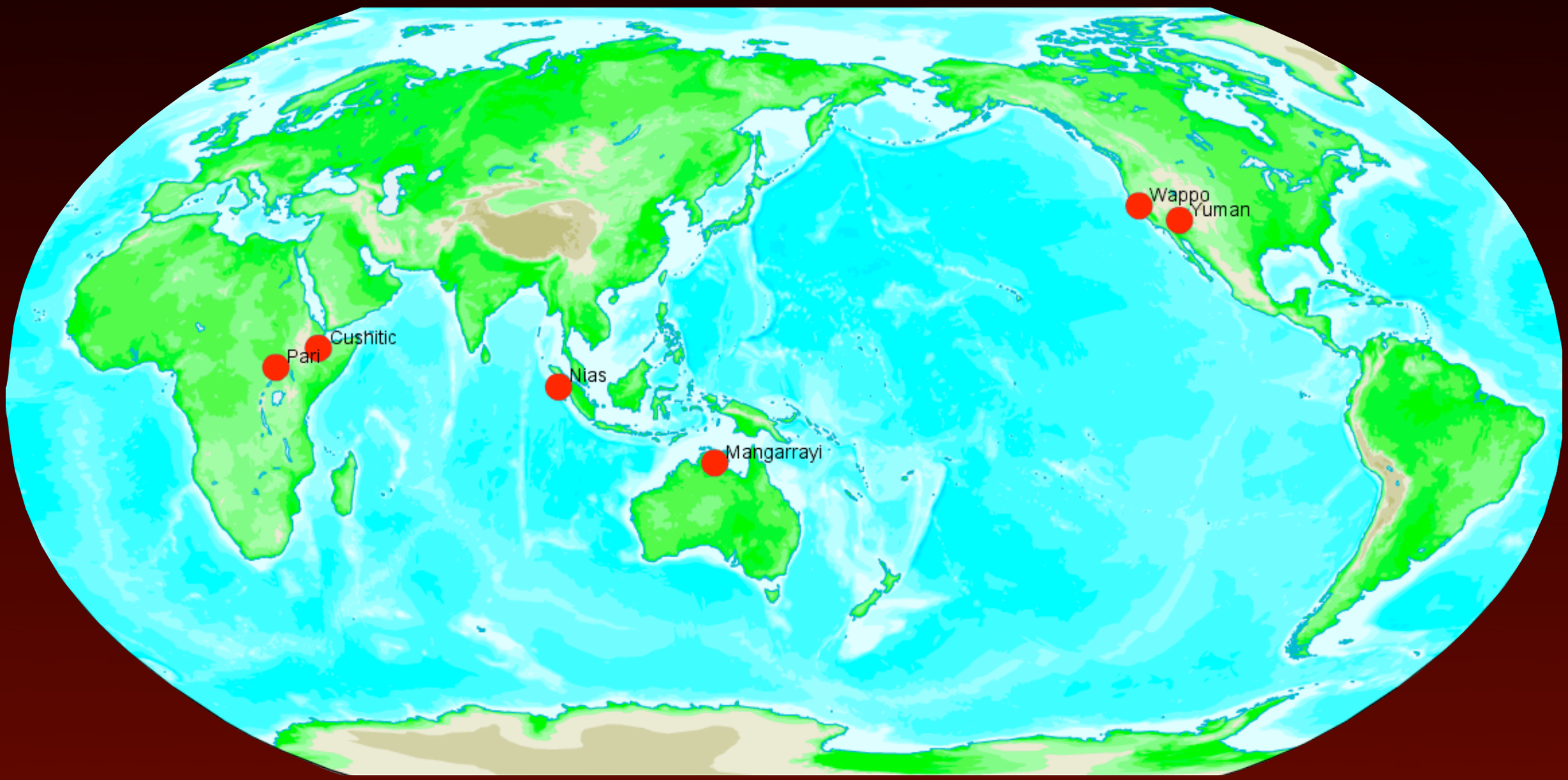
Splits in Marked Nominative case systems

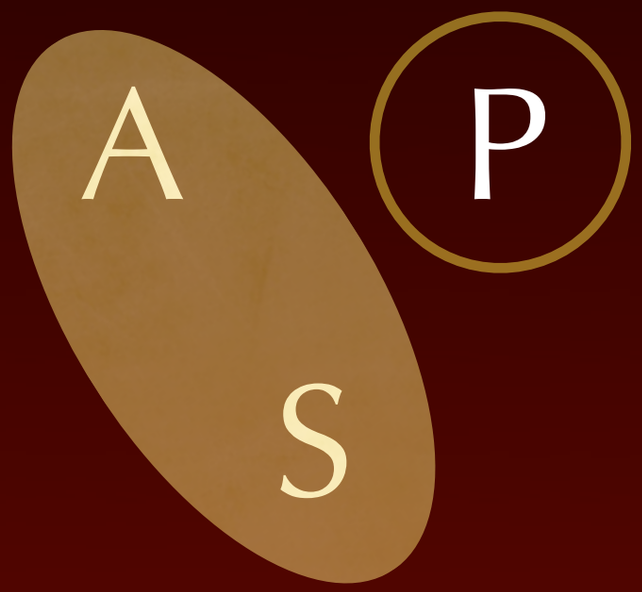
Corinna Handschuh & Michael Cysouw
Forschergruppe *Verbale Argumente*, 3 September 2007

Marked nominative languages with splits



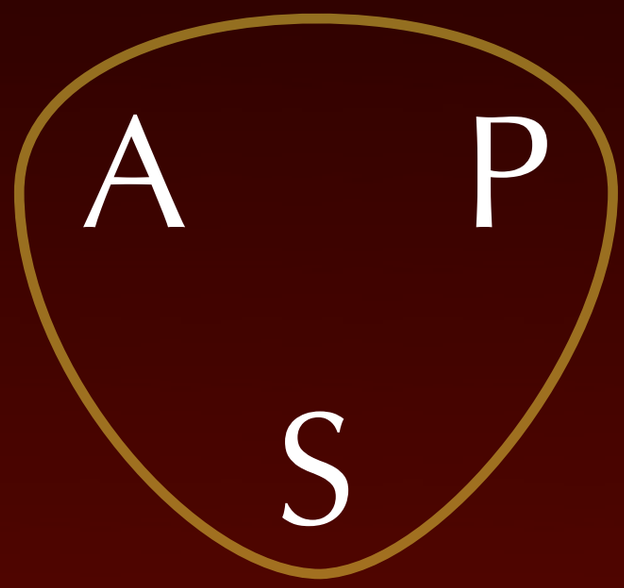
Wappo, and various Yuman languages

Main clause



Marked Nominative

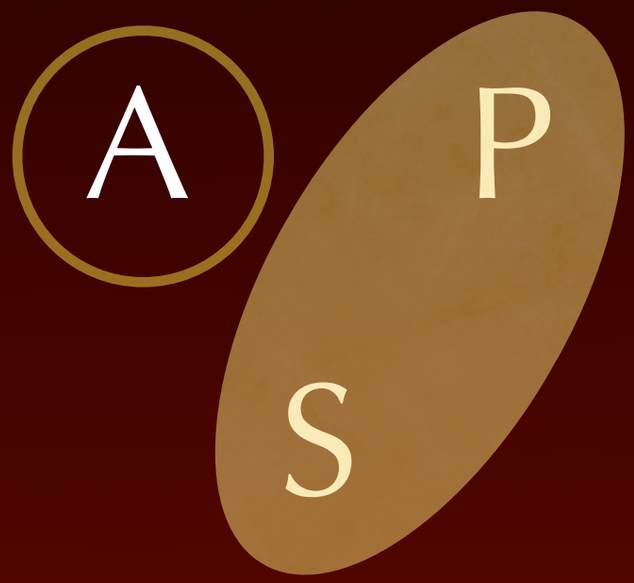
Relative clause



Neutral

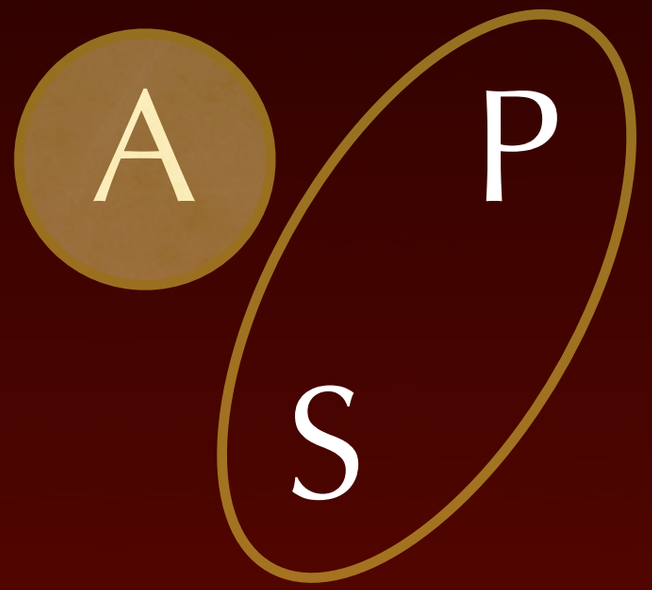
Nias

Main clause



Marked Absolutive

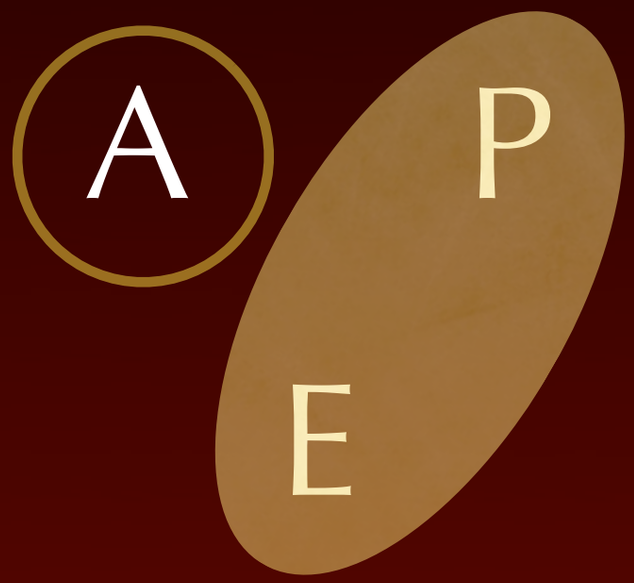
Relative clause



Ergative

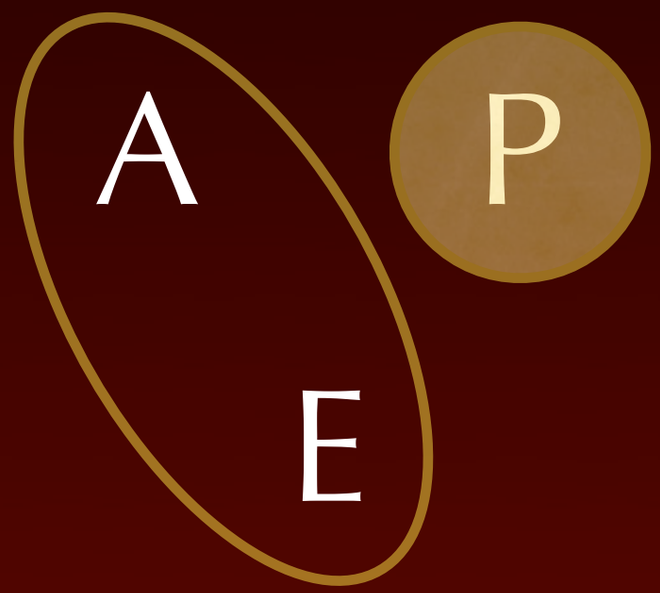
Nias

Positive Existential



Marked Absolutive

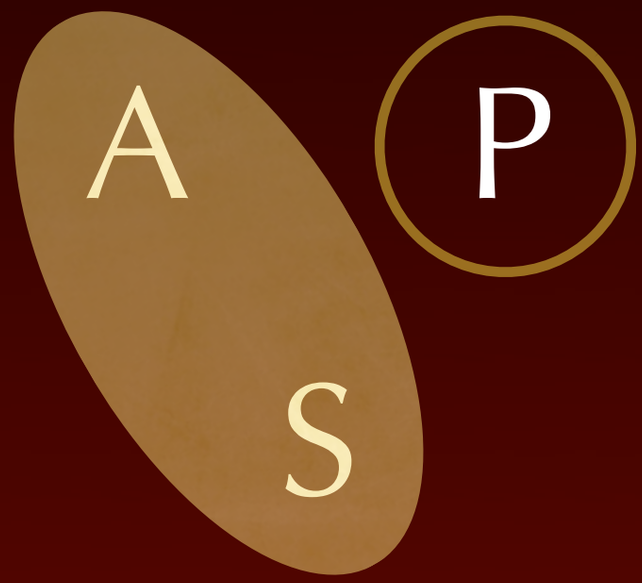
Negative Existential



Nominative

Cushitic

Masculine

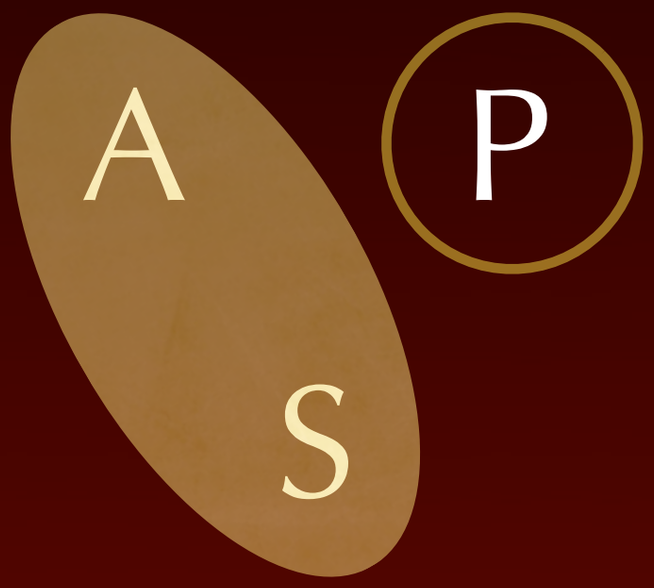
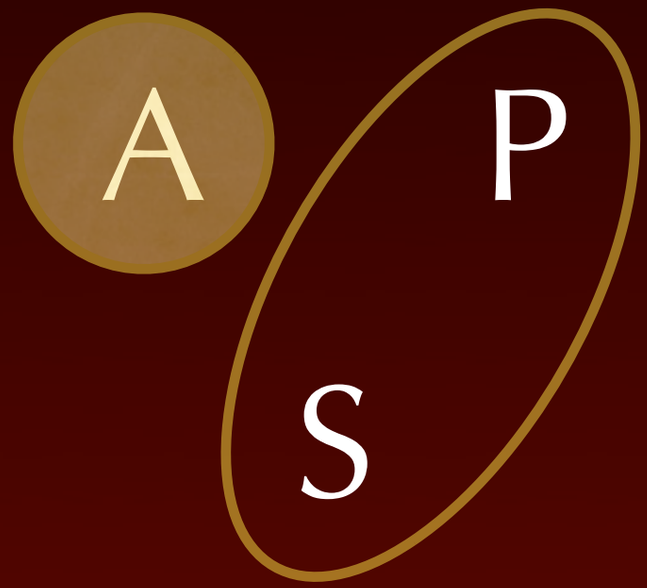
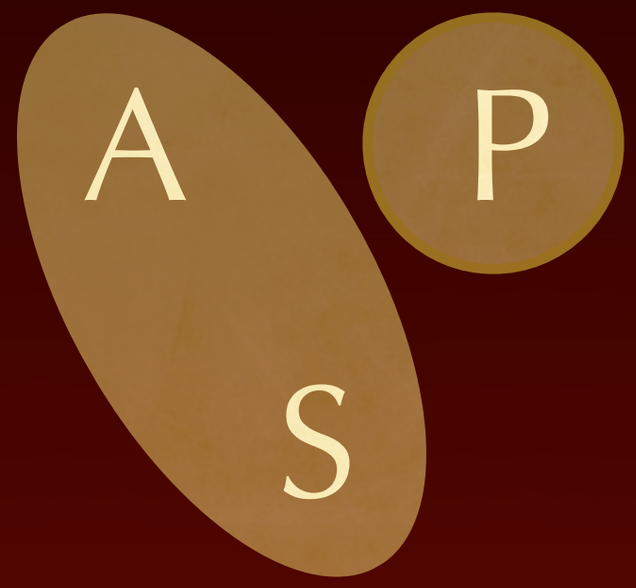


Marked Nominative

Feminine

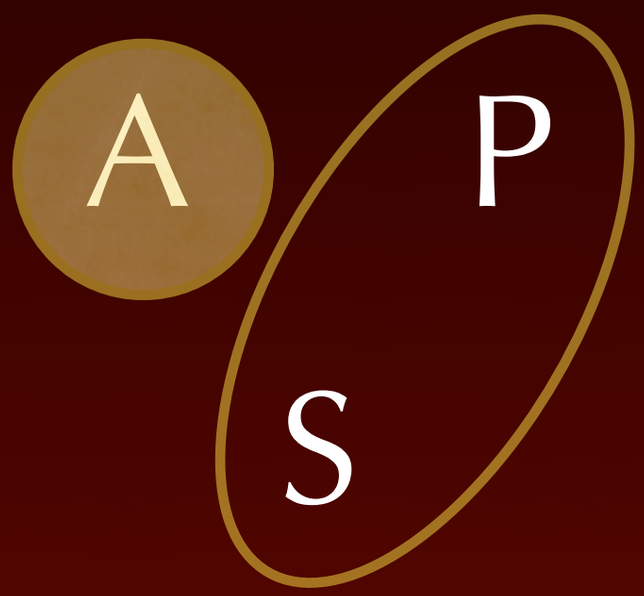
Neutral

Mangarayi

Masculine	Neuter	Feminine
		
Marked Nominative	Ergative	Nominative

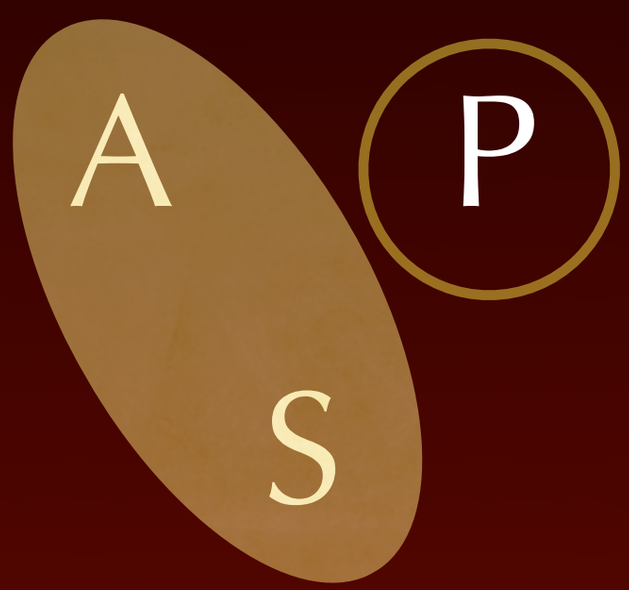
Päri

Main clause



Ergative

“non-basic clause types”



Marked Nominative

Worldwide Alignment Frequencies

Neutral	52%
Nominative	24%
Ergative	17%
Marked Nominative	3%
Marked Absolutive	0%
Other	4%

Comrie, Bernard. 2005. Alignment of case marking of full noun phrases. In: Haspelmath *et al.* (eds.) *The World Atlas of Language Structures*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Summary of Splits

Typological Frequency	Alignment	Wappo, Yuman	Nias	Nias	Cushitic	Mangarai	Päri
High	Neutral	relative clause		negative existential	feminine	feminine	main clause
↕	Nominative		relative clause			neutrum	
	Ergative	main clause			masculine	masculine	non-basic clauses
	Marked Nominative			positive existential			
Low	Marked Absolutive		main clause				