Applying the Final-Over-Final Condition to the nominal domain: case and adposition typology

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In this talk, I apply the Final-Over-Final Condition (Holmberg, 2000 and BHR, 2014 a. o.) to the nominal domain, specifically to case morphology and adpositions via the case phrase (KP as in theories such as in Caha (2009)). The logically possible KP 'systems' are given in fig. 1:

			Harmony			
			Harmonic		Disharmonic	
			Head-Initial	Head-final	Inverse FOFC	FOFC Violating
Exponent type	Mixed	Adpo + Case morph	1. Prep + Prefix	2. Post + Suffix	3. Prep + Suffix	4. Post + Prefix
		Case morph + Adpo	5. Prefix + Prep	6. Suffix + Post	7. Prefix + Post	8. Suffix + Prep
	Pure	Case morph only	9. Prefix only	10. Suffix only	11. Prefix + Suffix	12. Suffix + Prefix
		Adpo only	13. Prep only	14. Post only	15. Prep + Post	16. Post + Prep

Figure 1: The logically possible KP systems.

I explore the predictions FOFC and other factors (e.g. the suffixing preference, ease of adposition acquisition, harmony) affecting linearisation make concerning which of the systems are attested and postulate long-term diachronic pathways of change based on the relationship between these factors. The latter is modelled in fig. 2, taking into account grammaticalisation and head directionality change:

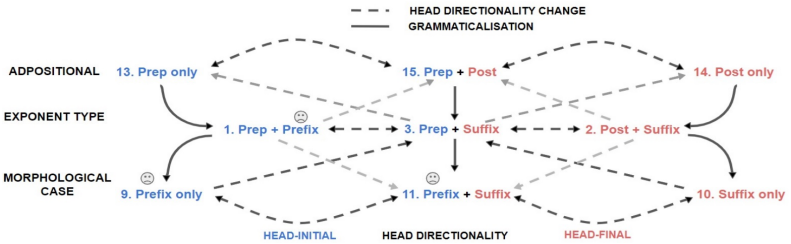

Figure 2: Diachronic pathways of the KP system.

A fainter line in fig. 2 indicates a change to a dispreferred system, and the sad faces represent the presence of morphology in a system. Fig 2. proposes that of all the systems, languages in transition are more likely to pass through/change to system 3, a system particularly abundant in Indo-European.

Selected references: • Biberauer, T., A. Holmberg & I. Roberts (2014). A syntactic universal and its consequences. *Linguistic Inquiry. 45*. • Caha, P. (2009). *The nanosyntax of case.* University of Tromso