

Re: Learning a language

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In article <40d7daec\$1_3@newspeer2.tds.net>, "Douglas G. Kilday" <fufluns@chorus.net> wrote:

> "Eugene Holman" <holman@elo.helsinki.fi> wrote ...
> >
> > [...]
> >
> > *Before continuing, how do you define "case"?*
> >
> > *I will begin the discussion with this standard definition:*
> >
> > **Case* is a system for marking dependent nouns for the type of
> > relationship they bear to their heads. Traditionally the term refers to
> > inflectional marking, and, typically, case marks the relationship of a
> > noun to a verb at the clause level or of a noun to a preposition,
> > postposition, or other noun at the phrase level.*
> > (Barry J. BLAKE. **Case**. Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics. Cambridge
> > University Press. 1994, pg. 1.)
> >
> > *You agree with this malarkey?*

I regard it as a good starting point for discussion.

> *What is a noun in the vocative case dependent
> on, what is its "head", and what type of "relationship" does it bear to its
> "head"?*
> >
> > *An example showing that the vocative cannot be dismissed as a non-case
> > disconnected from the other cases is found in Xenophon, *Anabasis* 2:5, <ὁ
> > κάκιστε ἀνθρώπου Ἀριαίη ...> 'O wickedest of men Ariaeus ...'. Here a
> > genitive depends on a vocative.*
> >
> >
> > [...]
> >
> > (German)
> > *Er läuft in die Schule.*
> > *he runs into ACCUSATIVE(the + school)*

- > > *"He is running into the school."*
- > > *and*
- > > *Er läuft in der Schule.*
- > > *he runs in DATIVE(the + school)*
- > > *"He is running inside the school."*
- > > *or*
- > > *(Latin)*
- > > *In scholam currit.*
- > > *into school-ACCUSATIVE s/he-runs*
- > > *"He/she is running into the school."*
- > > *and*
- > > *In scholâ currit.*
- > > *in school-DATIVE s/he-runs*
- > > *"He/she is running inside the school."*
- >
- > *D'oh! In school-ABLATIVE !!!*
- > *I hope I'm not the only one here who noticed that!*

Mea culpa!

Regards,
Eugene Holman