

## Pronoun Forms & Case in Shughni

From our current data, we have found 5 cases in Shughni: *ergative*, *nominative*, *accusative*, *dative*, and *genitive*. The *ergative* case is used for “agents,” those consciously doing the action, while the *nominative* case is reserved for passive subjects such as “experiencers.” While singular first and second person ergative and nominative appear the same in most circumstances, the two third person singular forms clearly differentiate between the two cases:

	<u>ergative case</u>	<u>nominative case</u>
first person singular <sup>†</sup>	oz, ozum*	
second person singular	tut	
third person singular - female	yaye	ya
third person singular - male	yoye	yo
question word - who	čiye	či

<sup>†</sup> the data that we have collected on plural pronouns so far is too limited to provide conclusive analysis

\* the “um” separates for reasons unrelated to case

So the clear “marker” between ergative and nominative in third person singular is “-ye” as a suffix in the *ergative* form.

The accusative and dative cases seem to share a similar structural relationship, a base form and a form with an added suffix, though the change is present in all (singular) forms:

	<u>accusative case</u>	<u>dative case</u>
first person singular	mo	mort
second person singular	to	tort
third person singular - female	wam	wamart
third person singular - male	wε	wert
question word - who / what	čize	čert, čadart

The dative adds an “-(a)rt” suffix to the accusative structure for pronouns and also to nouns in the dative case. Exceptions: While čert and čadart, both dative forms of a wh- question word, follow the pattern of ending in “-(a)rt” they do not merely add this to an accusative form. Perhaps this is because the base form of the wh- question word (“či”) is the nominative form. It is unclear what the difference is between the two dative forms. Perhaps they are gender specific, unlike in English.

So far, the data we have collected on the genitive structure parallels the accusative case:

	<u>accusative case</u>	<u>genitive case</u>
first person singular	mo	mΛ
second person singular	to	tΛ
third person singular - female	wam	[?]
third person singular - male	wε	wε
reflexive form (1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> singular)	xo	xo

This genitive form may attach itself to the beginning of the noun, as “my hand” “mΛðust” is not “broken up” by the addition of a preposition: “in my hand” is either “armΛðust” or “mΛðuste”.

Compiled by Lisa R. Steventon