

Ergativity, Control, and Finiteness

Jonathan David Bobaljik
Harvard University



27 Jun 2024
berlin**brn**vienna



Universal: Control never follows an ergative alignment
Control always targets the SUBJECT
(Dixon 1994; Stiebels 2007 among others)

- Defend the universal (pace Deal 2015; Bickel & Nichols 2001)
- Consequence for (one type of) Austronesian ergativity
- Lots of open questions
 - What's a SUBJECT?
 - How does Control work?



- (1) a. $\gamma\text{əm-nan}$ $\gamma\text{ət}$ $\boxed{\text{tə}}$ - $\text{ɬʔu-}\gamma\text{ət}$
 1SG-ERG 2SG.ABS 1SG-see-2SG.O
 ‘I saw you.’
- b. $\gamma\text{ə-nan}$ $\gamma\text{əm}$ $\text{ine-}\text{ɬʔu-}\gamma\text{ʔi}$
 2SG-ERG 1SG.ABS AGR-see-2SG.S
 ‘You saw me.’
- c. $\gamma\text{əm}$ $\boxed{\text{tə}}$ - $\text{kətyəntat-}\gamma\text{ʔak}$
 1SG.ABS 1SG-run-1SG
 ‘I ran.’

Chukchi; Skorik 1977

The Ergative Control Debate

Universalist Controllee is always SUBJECT [S+A, not O] never case (e.g., ABS) even in ergative alignments (Dixon 1994: 135).

Variation There are languages where controllee must be ABS [S+O, not A] (Deal 2015: 661)

(Complement) Control / Equi

Dixon: SUBJ-OBJ in ERG-ABS:

- (2) a. Emily tried [**PRO**_{ABS} to leave]. (Intr)
- b. Emily tried [**PRO**_{ERG} to meet them_{ABS}]. (Tr)
- c. *Emily tried [they_{ERG} to meet **PRO**_{ABS}]. (Tr)

Deal: ERG-ABS $\neq$ SUBJ-OBJ

- (3) a. Emily tried [**PRO**_{ABS} to leave]. (Intr)
- b. *Emily tried [**PRO**_{ERG} to meet them_{ABS}]. (Tr)
- c. Emily tried [they_{ERG} to meet **PRO**_{ABS}]. (Tr)

Subject Control in Ergative Languages

Well attested:

Case/Agr = ERG-ABS; Control/PRO = SUBJ (Dixon)

- (4) a. Emily tried [**PRO**_{ABS} to leave]. (Intr)
- b. Emily tried [**PRO**_{ERG} to meet them_{ABS}]. (Tr)
- c. * Emily tried [they_{ERG} to meet **PRO**_{ABS}]. (Tr)

Basque (Hualde 1986); Tsez (Nakh-Dagestanian; Polinsky 2016); W. Circassian (Ershova 2020); Warlpiri (Hale 1999); Cavineña (Guillaume 2010); Kalaallisut (Greenland, Bittner 1994) ...

Proposed correlates with “DP ergativity” Polinsky (2016)

Examples in Appendix

West Circassian (Adyghe); (Ershova 2020)

- (5) a. č'elejeɸaʒe-m_i [**PRO_i** č'alexe-r Ø-ə-ləte-n-ew]
 teacher-ERG **PRO.ERG** boy.PL-ABS 3A-3SG.E-count
 rjəɸeʒ'aɸ
 3SG.E.begin.PST
 'The teacher began to count the children.'
- b. *č'alexe-m_i [**PRO_i** č'elejeɸaʒe-m Ø-ə-ləte-n-ew]
 boy-PL-ERG **PRO.ABS** teacher-ERG 3A-3SG.E-count
 raɸeʒ'aɸ
 3PL.E.begin.PST
 'The children began the teacher to count (them).'

NB. W.Circ. is a “high absolutive” language

Deal (2015: 661)

*An additional “syntactic” area in which ergativity properties have been observed is control. Languages plausibly showing ergativity properties this area are very rare, however, and their existence has been repeatedly called into doubt. For many years the **only clear reported example** of ergativity properties in control came from Dixon’s work on *Dyirbal* (1994). In this language, according to the generalizations Dixon provides, ... **controlled PRO ... may serve as an intransitive subject, as in [(31a)], or as a transitive object, as in [(31b)], but not as a transitive subject.***

...

Dixon also reports that ergativity properties are manifested in the class of possible controllers of PRO in the main clause (1994: 136). The controller must be intransitive subject or transitive object; it cannot be transitive subject.

Dyirbal, Australia, Deal < Dixon (1994)

- (6) a. yabu numa-ŋgu giga-n
 mother.ABS father-ERG tell.to.do-NFUT
 [PRO banaga-ygu]
 [PRO return-PURP]

‘Father told mother_i PRO_i to return.’

- b. yabu numa-ŋgu giga-n
 mother.ABS father-ERG tell.to.do-NFUT
 [gubi-ŋgu mawa-li PRO]
 [doctor-ERG examine-PURP PRO]

‘Father told mother_i the doctor to examine PRO_i.’

Dyirbal purposive/consequential

Dixon Despite English translation,
no evidence of a Control construction
see Dixon (1972, 1994, 2011, 2022)

Dixon (2022: 216): purpose clause is “best regarded as coordinated with the preceding non-[purposive] clause rather than subordinated to it”.

See Legate (2008a) for a thorough review.

Syntactic Ergativity in Dyirbal: Topic-chaining

- complex coordination
(asyndetic – no overt coordinator – marked by intonation)
- requires an S/O = ABS **pivot**:
shared argument of coordinated constituents headed by
inflected verbs must be ABS

- (7) a. η uma yabu- η gu bura-n $\emptyset$ banaga-n^yu
father.ABS_i mother-ERG see-NFUT $\emptyset_i$ return-NFUT
‘Mother saw **father** and returned.’ [= **he** returned]
- b. η uma banaga-n^yu $\emptyset$ yabu- η gu bura-n
father.ABS_i return-NFUT $\emptyset_i$ mother-ERG see-NFUT
‘**Father** returned and mother saw [**him**].’ (Dixon 1994: 12)

Dyirbal, Australia, Dixon (1994)

We have thus far discussed ‘and’-type coordination. The same syntactic conditions apply to purposive-type coordination, ...inflection -ygu ~ -li ‘in order to, as a result of’.

- (8) yabu ɲuma-ɲgu giga-n
 mother.ABS father-ERG tell.to.do-NFUT
- a. [Ø banaga-ygu]
 [Ø return-PURP]
 ‘Father told mother to return.’
- b. [Ø gubi-ɲgu mawa-li]
 [Ø doctor-ERG examine-PURP]
 ‘Father told mother to be examined by the doctor.’

Dyirbal purposive, Dixon (2022: Ch8): “consequence”

- No evidence that purposive is non-finite (occurs as matrix with no missing arguments) [Appendix]
- “purposive” not sole (or primary?) meaning
- modal meaning (“can often be translated as ‘should’ or ‘must’”)

(9) [ŋuma banaga-n^yu] [∅ yabu-ŋgu bura-li]
father.ABS return-NFUT mother-ERG see-PURP

a. ‘Father returned **in order for** mother to see [him].’ or

b. ‘Father returned **and as a result** mother saw [him]’

(Dixon 1994: 168)

c. Father returned, so/such that mother would see him.

Dyirbal: Summary

Deal 2015 “(only) clear example” of ergative-alignment in Control
(cf. Anderson 1976:17, Levin 1983:259-267,
Bok-Bennema 1991:11)

Dixon, Legate Despite English translation,
no evidence of a Control construction
see Dixon (1972, 1994, 2011, 2022), Legate (2008a)

Austronesian exceptionality

Southern Sinama (Deal < Trick 2008)

- (10) a. ka-bilahi-an-ku [tuli PRO]
INV-want-CL-1SG.ERG sleep PRO
'I_i want PRO_i to sleep.'
- b. ka-bilahi-an-ku [ni-lengan-an PRO leh si Ben]
INV-want-CL-1SG.ERG AGR-call-CL PRO ERG PM Ben
'I_i want Ben to call PRO_i.'
- c. *ka-bilahi-an si Ben [ni-lengan-an akú PRO]
INV-want-CL PM Ben AGR-call-CL 1SG PRO
'Ben_i wants PRO_i to call me.'

- Claim: Control of S,O (ABS) but not A (ERG)
- NB. Not clear this is control - embedded clauses are finite?

INV = involuntary, CL = verb classifier, PM = personal marker ↻ 🔍 ↺

Austronesian exceptionality

Seediq (Deal < Aldridge):

- (11) M-n-osa [PRO.ABS m-ari patis taihoku] ka Ape.
 INTR-PRF-go PRO INTR-buy book Taipei ABS Ape
 ‘Ape went to buy books in Taipei.
- (12) * M-n-osa [PRO.ERG burig-un T. ka patis] ka Ape.
 INTR-PRF-go PRO buy-TR T. ABS book ABS Ape
 ‘Ape went to buy books in Taipei.

Claim: Only ABS S (intransitive subject) can be PRO

NB. Not clear this is control - embedded clauses are finite?

Austronesian exceptionality

- If there are ERG patterns in Control
- then these are only in a subset of Austronesian languages for which an ergative analysis is independently controversial
- What's the alternative?

Austronesian voice

- (14) a. M-aniq qulih **qu** Tali'
AV-eat fish PVT Tali
'Tali eats fish. (Actor Voice)
- b. Niq-un na' Tali' **qu** qulih qasa
eat-PV GEN Tali PVT fish that
'Tali ate the fish. (Patient Voice)
- c. Niq-an na' Tali' qulih **qu** ngasal qasa
eat-LV GEN Tali fish PVT house that
'Tali eats fish in that house. (Locative Voice)
- d. S-qaniq-an na' Tali' qulih **qu** qway
IV-eat GEN Tali fish PVT chopsticks
'Tali eats fish with chopsticks. (Instrumental Voice).
- (Ataval, Erlewine et al. 2017)

Austronesian exceptionality

Seediq *ka* = Atayal *qu*:

- (15) a. M-n-osa [m-ari patis taihoku PRO] ka Ape.
AV-PRF-go AV-buy book Taipei PRO PVT Ape
'Ape went to buy books in Taipei.
- b. *M-n-osa [burig-un PRO T. ka patis] ka Ape.
AV-PRF-go buy-PV PRO T. PVT book PVT Ape
'Ape went to buy books in Taipei.

- PRO can be Agent/pivot in AV, but not Agent in PV
- but in Seediq **all** non-matrix clauses **AV only** (Wu et al. 2022)
 - NB. *m-* = default voice (AustVc), marked antipassive (Erg)
- Austronesian voice analysis: no issue, facts fully explained

Austronesian exceptionality

Southern Sinama

- (16) a. ka-bilahi-an-ku [tuli PRO]
INV-want-CL-1SG sleep PRO
'I_i want PRO_i to sleep.'
- b. ka-bilahi-an-ku [ni-lengan-an PRO leh si Ben]
INV-want-CL-1SG PV-call-CL PRO GEN PM Ben
'I_i want Ben to call PRO_i.'
- c. * ka-bilahi-an si Ben [ni-lengan-an akú PRO]
INV-want-CL PM Ben PV-call-CL 1SG PRO
'Ben_i wants PRO_i to call me.'

- In PV, it is patient, not Agent, that is controlled = subject/pivot

Austronesian exceptionality

Southern Sinama (Trick 1997)

- (17) a. ka-bilahi-an-ku [tuli PRO]
INV-want-CL-1SG sleep PRO
'I_i want PRO_i to sleep.'
- b. ka-bilahi-an-ku [ng-ottob PRO lubid]
INV-want-CL-1SG AV-cut PRO rope
'I_i want PRO_i to cut the rope.'
- c. ka-bilahi-an-ku [ngan-dugsu-an PRO sowa]
INV-want-CL-1SG AV-stab-CL PRO snake
'I_i want PRO_i to stab the snake.'

- In AV, it is subject (Agent) that is controlled
- Generalization: controllee = pivot

Austronesian exceptionality

Split in Austronesian Control: (Stiebels 2007; Lohninger & Katochoritis 2024)

Type 1: Controllee = Pivot	Type 2: Controllee = Agent	(Type 3: not testable)
<i>Acehnese</i> <i>Amis</i> <i>Balinese</i> <i>Indonesian</i> <i>Malagasy</i> <i>Javanese (?)</i>	<i>Madurese</i> <i>Tagalog</i> <i>Cebuano (?)</i>	<i>Kavalan</i> <i>Paiwan</i> <i>Puyuma</i> <i>Tsou</i> <i>Seediq Atayal</i>

Some complications/mixing in Tagalog, Madurese

Austronesian exceptionality - Austr.Voice as “ergative”?

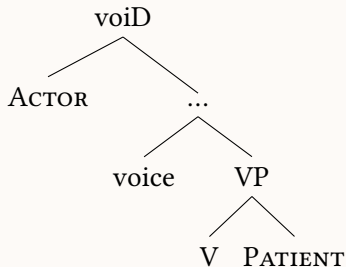
- ? ABS “assigned by T” so missing in non-finite clauses?
- → absolutive alignment in Control (PRO=ABS)

The problem...

- This isn't the pattern in any known ergative system
- Controllee is always the ERG, never the ABS
- The ergative analysis makes Austronesian exceptional!
Violates otherwise robust universal

Universal: Subject > Object, in the “voice Domain”

(18)



- a. Mark high NP = ERGATIVE
- b. Mark low NP = ACCUSATIVE
- c. Else NP is unmarked
(=NOMINATIVE/ABSOLUTIVE)
Comrie 1978, Kibrik 1985,
Dryer 1986; Yip et al. 1987,
Marantz 1991, Baker 2015.

Agreement may track case
else reveals hierarchy (subject vs. object = NOM vs. ACC)

Aside: Alignment mismatches

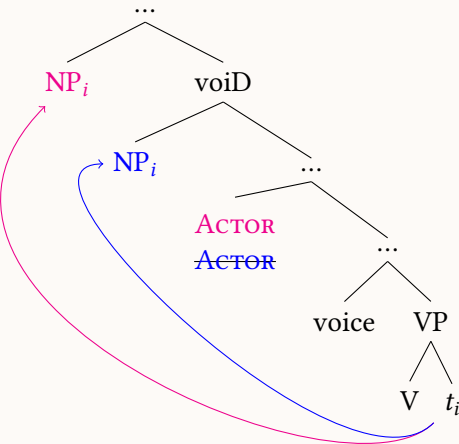
(20)

Agreement $\Rightarrow$ Case $\Downarrow$	ERG-ABS	NOM-ACC
ERG-ABS	Basque, Inuit, Tsez	Warlpiri, Chukchi Nepali
NOM-ACC	** unattested **	Russian, German Icelandic
NO CASE	Chol, ...	Itelmen, Bantu...

- (21) No language has a nominative-accusative case pattern, but an ergative-absolutive agreement pattern.

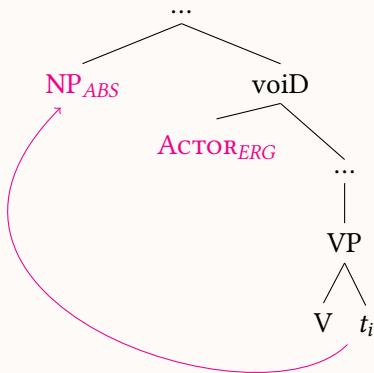
(Bobaljik 2008; Baker 2008, 2015; Legate 2008b ...)

Universal: Subject > Object



- a. Passive: NP_i is highest
- b. Object Shift = no effect ($A > P$)
- c. Scrambling = no effect ($A > P$)
- d. High absolutes = no effect ($A > P$)
- e. A' -mvmt = no effect ($A > P$)

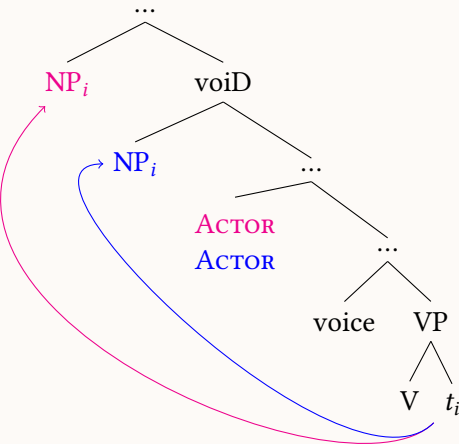
Universal: Subject > Object



W. Circassian (Ershova 2023)
Mixed properties

- a. **Reciprocal** $ABS > ERG$
- b. **Reflexive** $ERG > ABS$
- c. **Control** $ERG > ABS$

Towards a possible understanding of Austronesian?



- a. Passive: NP_i highest in $voiD$
- b. Object Shift = no effect ($A > P$)
- c. Scrambling = no effect ($A > P$)
- d. High absolutes = no effect ($A > P$)
- e. A' -mvmt = no effect ($A > P$)
- f. Austronesian voice: variable
- g. Low Pivot
- h. High pivot

cf. Guilfoyle et al. (1992); Lohninger & Katochoritis (2024)

Conclusions

- I: Syntactic Universals are alive and well
- II: “Ergativity” does not offer an explanation of Austronesian pivot-control (exceptionality)
- III: There are SUBJECT-hood properties regardless of alignment, but these are low (the Voice Domain) (Ershova 2023: u.v.a.)

- Aldridge, Edith (2004) *Ergativity and word order in Austronesian languages*. Ph.D. dissertation, Cornell University.
- Baker, Mark C. (2008) *The syntax of agreement and concord*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Baker, Mark C. (2015) *Case: Its principles and parameters*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bickel, Balthasar & Johanna Nichols (2001) Syntactic ergativity in light verb complements. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*, vol. 27, Berkeley Linguistics Society, 39–52.
- Bittner, Maria (1994) *Case, scope and binding*. Dordrecht: Kluwer.
- Bobaljik, Jonathan David (2008) Where's phi? Agreement as a postsyntactic operation. In *Phi theory*, Daniel Harbour, David Adger, & Susana Béjar, eds., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 295–328.
- Chomsky, Noam (1981) *Lectures on Government and Binding*. Dordrecht: Foris.
- Deal, Amy Rose (2015) Ergativity. In *Syntax – theory and analysis. An international handbook*, vol. 1, Artemis Alexiadou & Tibor Kiss, eds., Mouton, 654–707.

- Dixon, R. M. W. (1972) *The Dyirbal Language of North Queensland*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dixon, R. M. W. (1994) *Ergativity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dixon, R. M. W. (2011) Serial verb constructions in Dyirbal. *Anthropological Linguistics* 53(3): 185–214.
- Dixon, R.M.W (2022) *A new grammar of Dyirbal*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Erlewine, Michael Yoshitaka, Theodore Levin, & Coppe van Urk (2017) Ergativity and Austronesian-Type Voice Systems. In *The Oxford Handbook of Ergativity*, Jessica Coon, Diane Massam, & Lisa deMena Travis, eds., Oxford, 373–396.
- Ershova, Ksenia (2020) The Role of Voice in Establishing Control: Evidence from a Syntactically Ergative Language. In *LSA Annual Meeting*.
- Ershova, Ksenia (2023) Syntactic ergativity and the theory of subjecthood: Evidence from anaphor binding in West Circassian. *Language* 99(2): 193–241.
- Guilfoyle, Eithne, Henrietta Hung, & Lisa deMena Travis (1992) SPEC of IP and SPEC of VP: two subjects in Austronesian languages. *Natural*

Language and Linguistic Theory 10(3): 375–414.

Guillaume, Antoine (2010) How ergative is Cavineña. In *Ergativity in Amazonia*, S. Gildea & F. Queixalós, eds., Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 97–120.

Hale, Ken (1999) Ergativity, handout MIT.

Hualde, Jose I. (1986) Case Assignment in Basque. *ASJL* XXII(1): 313–330.

Kroeger, Paul (1993) *Phrase Structure and Grammatical Relations in Tagalog*. Stanford: CSLI.

Legate, Julie Anne (2008a) Dyirbal ergativity, handout from LSA Annual Meeting.

Legate, Julie Anne (2008b) Morphological and abstract case. *Linguistic Inquiry* 39(1): 55–101.

Levin, Beth (1983) *On the Nature of Ergativity*. Ph.d. dissertation, MIT, Cambridge, MA.

Lohninger, Magdalena & Ioannis Katochoritis (2024) From topics to subjects: An A'-A scale of Austronesian pivots, handout from Leiden/Bielefeld Workshop on Comparative Syntax (LeiBieCos).

Polinsky, Maria (2016) *Deconstructing Ergativity*. Oxford: Oxford University

Press.

Stiebels, Barbara (2007) Towards a typology of complement control. In *Studies in Complement Control*, vol. 47, Barbara Stiebels, ed., Berlin: ZAS Papers in Linguistics, 1–80.

Trick, Douglas (1997) Equi-NP deletion in Sama Southern. *Philippine Journal of Linguistics* 28(1-2): 125–144.

Trick, Douglas (2008) Ergative control of syntactic processes in Southern Sinama. *Studies in Philippine Languages and Cultures* 19: 184–201, URL <http://www.sil.org/asia/philippines/ical/papers.html>.

Vergnaud, Jean Roger (1977) Letter to Noam Chomsky and Howard Lasnik on “Filters and Control”. In *Foundational Issues in Linguistic Theory*, Robert Freidin, Carlos P. Otero, & Maria Luisa Zubizarreta, eds., MIT Press, 2008 ed., 3–15.

Wu, Yvette Yi-Chi, Tamisha L Tan, & Giovanni Roversi (2022) Syntactic vs. morphological verbal concord across Austronesian languages, paper presented at TripleA/AFLA.

Wurmbrand, Susi (2013) Tagalog infinitives: Consequences for the theory of phases, voice marking and extraction, URL

ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/001898/current.pdf, ms. University of Connecticut.

Zaenen, Annie, Joan Maling, & Höskuldur Thráinsson (1985) Case and grammatical functions: The Icelandic passive. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 3: 441–483.

Basque; (Hualde 1986)

- (22) a. Jon-ek [PRO joan] nahi du.
Jon-ERG go want AUX
'Jon wants to go.'
- b. Jon-ek [PRO libur-a irakurri] nahi du.
Jon-ERG book-DET.ABS read want AUX
'Jon wants to read the book.'

infinitive complement clause, distinct from subjunctive, nominalization, etc.

Tsez, Nakh-Dagestanian; (Polinsky 2016: 318-319)

- (23) a. Dä-ri [**PRO_i** žek'u-de kec-a] r-eti-n
1SG.LAT [**PRO.ABS** man.APUD.ESS sleep-.INF]IV IV-want-NWIT
'I needed to sleep with a man.' (intransitive)
- b. pro_i [**PRO_i** gulu b-exad-a]
1SG.LAT [**PRO.ERG** horse.ABS.III III-slaughter-.INF]IV
r-eti-n
IV-want-NWIT
'I need to slaughter the horse.' (transitive)

Warlpiri, Pama-Nyungan; (Hale 1999)

- (24) wawirri Ø-rna pantu-rnu ...
 kangaroo PERF-1S spear-PSA
- a. [PRO parnka-nja-kurra]
 run-INF-OCOMP
 ‘I speared the kangaroo_i [PRO_i running].’
- b. [PRO marna nga-rninja-kurra]
 grass eat-INF-OCOMP
 ‘I speared the kangaroo_i [PRO_i eating grass].’

Note: adjunct, not complement, Control

Cavineña (Bolivia); (Guillaume 2010: 114-115)

Cavineña: Erg-Abs case marking on pronouns and nouns. “The subject of a clause marked by [same subject marker] *-(a)tsu* is always omitted.”

- (25) a. ... [Ø kwaba=ju ani-bute-tsu] ...

PRO_{ABS} canoe-LOC sit-GO.DOWN-SS

‘... having sat down in their canoe...’

- b. ... [Ø tu-ke peta-tsu] ...

PRO_{ERG} it-ABS look.at-SS

‘... looking at it ...’

Adjunct control?

Kalaallisut (Greenland); (Bittner 1994: 168-9)

Affixal verbs express control meanings: *-uma* ‘want’

Controlled element is always subject of VP[?] complement stem

- (26) inu-aqqa-t [**PRO** ilisimatuuq ikiur-]-uma-vaat
 person-small-PL.ERG scientist help-want-3PL>3SG

‘The little people wanted [**PRO** to help the scientist].’

- a. ilisimatuuq_i inu-aqqa-nik ikiur-**niqar**-uma-vuq
 scientist person-small-PL.OBL help-PASS-want-3SG

‘The scientist_i wanted **PRO**_i to be helped by little people.’

- b. ilisimatuuq inu-aqqa-nik_i ikiur-uma-**niqar**-vuq
 scientist person-small-PL.OBL help-want-PASS-3SG

‘The scientist was wanted **PRO**_i to help by little people_i.’

The Dyirbal purposive

- No evidence that purposive is non-finite:
Stand-alone (matrix), no missing arguments , no coreference

(27) balan dyugumbil miyanday-gu
 NCII.there.ABS woman.ABS laugh-PURP
 ‘Woman wants to laugh’ (i.e., something has happened to make her
 want to laugh.’ Dixon 1972: 69)

The Dyirbal purposive

- (28) ɲali jidu-gu yanu-li
 1DU.NOM jitta-DAT go-PURP

‘We two **must** go out for jitta timber.’

- (29) gajin ɲinda jinda-jinda-li
 yamstick 2SG.NOM REDUP-sharpen-PURP

‘You **should** properly sharpen the yamstick.’ (Dixon 2022: 227)

[purposive] marking in the first clause of an utterance ...

The Dyirbal purposive

- observable syntax in all exx indistinct from coordination (topic-chaining) → ABS pivot
- “purposive” clause **can be** finite (modal-like meaning)
- what evidence of Control construction in addition (contra Dixon)?

(30) [*ɲuma* *banaga-nʷu*] [*∅ yabu-ŋgu* *bura-li*]
father.ABS return-NFUT mother-ERG see-PURP

- ‘Father returned in order for mother to see [him].’ or
- ‘Father returned and as a result mother saw [him]’
- Father returned, so/such that mother would see him.

Dyirbal, Australia, (Dixon 1994: 169)

- (31) a. yabu ɲuma-ɲgu giga-n
 mother.ABS_i father-ERG tell.to.do-NFUT

[Ø banaga-ygu]

[pro_i return-PURP]

‘Father said.sth to mother [so that [she] would return.]’

- b. yabu ɲuma-ɲgu giga-n
 mother.ABS_i father-ERG tell.to.do-NFUT

[Ø gubi-ɲgu mawa-li]

[pro_i doctor-ERG examine-PURP]

‘Father said.sth to mother [so that she (would) be examined by the doctor.]’