

## On the case marking and the alignment of ditransitive clauses in Malagasy

マダガスカル語複他動詞節の格標示とアラインメントについて

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キーワード: マダガスカル語、複他動節、格標示、フラギング、格アラインメント



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## Abstract

When examining the nominal constituents of Malagasy ditransitive clauses, the most common pattern is the indirective alignment, which is not uncommon among world languages. It is noteworthy that the case marking of R has a few options, i.e. beneficiary marking, oblique marking, and location marking. The case marking of P (and A) in monotransitive clauses does not enjoy such freedom in Malagasy. The cases of A and P are assigned according to the voice of the clause.

In addition to the indirective alignment, the neutral alignment can also be found. So far, what I have are examples of the verb *m-an-ome* (NV-VM-give), which is used quite often. Moreover, if we look at the behavior of *ilay NP* (ANA NP), we can say that the neutral alignment turns out to be the secundative alignment and the indirective alignment turns out to be the tripartite alignment because the form *ilay NP* (ANA NP) is used for the T slot, but *an=ilay NP* (ACC=ANA NP) has to be used for the P slot.

As for the word order of ditransitive clauses, Malagasy has the VTRS order with some exceptions where it has the VRTS order.

## 要旨

マダガスカル語の複他動節の名詞的構成要素を調べると、最も多いアラインメントのパターンは indirect パターンであり、世界の諸言語の中では平凡である。その中で特記すべきは、R の格標示の選択肢である。R は受益者標示、斜格標示、場所標示を受けることができる。単他動節の場合、P (そして A) の格標示は節のボイスによって決まってきた、上記 R の様な自由さは無い。

上述の indirect パターンの他に、neutral パターンもある。今のところ、動詞 *m-an-ome* (NV-VM-give) の例だけではあるが、この動詞の頻度は高い。更に、*ilay NP* (ANA NP) の振る舞いを吟味すると、上記の neutral パターンは secundative パターンに変わり、indirect パターンは tripartite パターンに変わる。なぜなら *ilay NP* (ANA NP) は T として使われるが、P としては *an=ilay NP* (ACC=ANA NP) が使われるからである。

複他動節の語順に関して、マダガスカル語は VTRS を持つが、例外的に VRTS もある。

## Introduction

The aim of this paper is to facilitate the description of Malagasy by using and adapting general linguistic and cross-linguistic tools but not so much to promote any particular linguistic theories. This time around, the case marking and object alignment of Malagasy ditransitive clauses will be examined.

### 1. Flagging of core nominals

In some of the literature dealing with Malagasy grammar, what fits into the object slot of a monotransitive clause in the nominative voice<sup>1)</sup> is considered to be accusative. However, I would like to divide the

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1) Malagasy has a tripartite voice system. There are the nominative voice, the absolutive voice, and the circumstantial voice (cf. Minoura 2023), which are referred to in the literature as the active voice, the passive voice, and the relative voice (cf. Stark 1969, Moriyama 2003).

so-called “accusative” into two categories. Flagged<sup>2)</sup> accusative and unflagged oblique. Flagged accusative includes both a noun phrase<sup>3)</sup> with an *an-* prefix and an accusatively inflected pronoun. The following examples are taken from my field research in Tokyo<sup>4)</sup>.

- (1) a. M-i-jery            azy            aho  
       NV<sup>5)</sup>-VM-Watch    her/him.ACC    I  
       ‘I am watching her/him’  
       b. M-i-jery            anao            aho  
       NV-VM-Watch        you.ACC        I  
       ‘I am watching you’

*Azy* (her/him.ACC) is the accusative form of *izy* ((s)he) (1a), while *anao* (you.ACC) is the accusative form of *ianao* (you) (1b).

Below are examples of noun phrases with the accusative prefix *an-*.

- (2) a. M-i-jery            an=dRakoto        aho  
       NV-VM-Watch    ACC=PN            I  
       ‘I am watching Rakoto’  
       b. M-i-jery            an=Andrianina     aho  
       NV-VM-Watch    ACC=PN            I  
       ‘I am watching Andrianina’  
       c. M-i-jery            an=i Fara<sup>6)</sup>        aho  
       NV-VM-Watch    ACC=DEF PN        I  
       ‘I am watching Fara’  
       d. M-i-jery            an=i Aina            aho  
       NV-VM-Watch    ACC=DEF PN        I  
       ‘I am watching Aina’

The personal names require an accusative prefix *an-* (2).

2) Flagging includes case marking by a particle (≠ clitic), by an affix, or by other types of inflection (cf. Malchukov et al. 2007).

3) The term noun phrase is used loosely like in Tallerman (1998) and it does not exclude determiner phrases. In this paper it also includes prepositional phrases.

4) The Malagasy examples were collected in March, 2023 from M<sup>mc</sup> Raivo Toyoda, a Malagasy living in Japan who taught Malagasy at the Summer School of the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in 2003.

5) The abbreviations used in this paper are: - (affix boundary), = (clitic boundary), + (compound boundary), 3 (third person), ABS (absolutive), ACC (accusative), ALL (allative), ANA (anaphoric), AV (absolutive voice), CAUS (causative), CV (circumstantial voice), DAT (dative), DEF (definite), DEM (demonstrative), ERG (ergative), FUT (future), GEN (genitive), INST (instrumental), IND (indicative), INT (interrogative), LAP (less affected patient), LIP (less individuated patient), LK (linker), N (noun), NOM (nominative), NP (noun phrase), NV (nominative voice), OBL (oblique), P (patient), PF (perfect(ive)), PL (plural), PN (personal/place name), PRON (pronoun), PST (past), R (recipient), SG (singular), SUBJ (subjunctive), T (theme), V (verb), VM (valence marker).

6) In some places in a clause, a personal name must be marked with a definite marker. For names beginning with *Ra-* and *Andria-*, the *Ra-* and *Andria-* are considered the definite prefix while names without the prefix must be preceded by a definite article *i*. (cf. Stark 1969, Moriyama 2003). The *i* is actually a proclitic, but not all the clitics are marked with a clitic boundary (=) in this paper. Only when the clitic is written without a space, with an apostrophe, or with a hyphen in the orthography, is it replaced by a clitic boundary (=).

If one or more determiners are used, an accusative prefix *an-* is usually required (3).

- (3) a. M-i-jery           an=io vehivavy io           aho  
 NV-VM-Watch ACC=that woman that I  
 ‘I am watching that woman’  
 b. M-i-jery           an=ilay vehivavy marary       aho  
 NV-VM-Watch ACC=ANA woman sick I  
 ‘I am watching the sick woman’  
 c. M-i-jery           an=ilay ankizy m-i-lalao           aho  
 NV-VM-Watch ACC=ANA child(ren) NV-VM-play I  
 ‘I am watching the playing children’  
 d. M-i-jery           an=io fiarakodia io           aho  
 NV-VM-Watch ACC=that car that I  
 ‘I am watching that car’  
 e. M-i-jery           an=ilay fiarakodia           aho  
 NV-VM-Watch ACC=ANA car I  
 ‘I am watching the car’

However, when a noun phrase is used with the definite article *ny*= or without a determiner, the accusative marker is not used.

- (4) a. M-i-jery           ny vehivavy/ny ankizy       aho  
 NV-VM-Watch the woman/the child(ren) I  
 ‘I am watching the woman/the child(ren)’  
 b. M-i-jery           ny biby/ny fiarakodia       aho  
 NV-VM-Watch the animal/the car I  
 ‘I am watching the animal/the car’  
 c. M-i-jery           biby lava           aho  
 NV-VM-Watch animal long I  
 ‘I am watching a snake’

The definite article *ny* (4a, b) and the anaphoric marker *ilay* (3b, c, e) are similar in function, but the *ilay* requires the accusative prefix *an-* while the *ny* does not. As for the determinerless noun phrase *biby lava* (animal long = snake), Minoura (2021: 65, 2023: 122-123) argues that a bare noun phrase can be an indefinite object, i.e. a P without an accusative marker (see (4) and especially (4c) for a less individuated patient (LIP, Vigus 2018)), indefinite means of transport or movement (5), indefinite core nominal in existential construction (6), and the second subject in the so-called double-subject construction (7).

- (5) M-an-deha       lamasinina/tongotra       Rasoa (Minoura 2021: 62)  
 NV-VM-go       train/foot               PN  
 means of transport or movement  
 ‘Raso goes on a train/on foot’  
 (6) M-isy           varavarankely lehibe     ity efitra ity (Minoura 2021: 62)  
 NV-exist       window big               this room this  
 indefinite core nominal in the existential construction  
 ‘This room has a big window’

- (7) Lava orona ilay/ny elefanta (Minoura 2021: 51)  
 Long nose ANA/the elephant  
 second subject in the so-called double subject construction  
 ‘Elephants have a long trunk (nose)’

They are not the typical core nominals. They are more like oblique objects (4c) in antipassive voice clauses in the languages that have this construction since they are less individuated patients (LIP, Vigus 2018), or oblique non-objects (5-7). Moreover, the LIPs are less individuated patients and also tend to be less affected patients (LAP, *ibid.*).

- (8) M-i-sotrò-a rano ara+dalana, sotrò-y tsikelikely izany  
 NV-VM-drink-IMP water according.to+rule, drink-AV.IMP little.by.little it  
 ‘Drink water regularly; drink it little by little’ (Minoura 2023: 119, Centre Médical Claym 2021)

Example (8) shows two imperative clauses. The first clause is a nominative-voice imperative clause and the second clause is an absolutive-voice imperative clause. The nominative-voice imperative clause cannot have a definite P. The P *rano* (water) is indefinite. On the other hand, the anaphoric demonstrative *izany* (it) in the second clause is definite and the imperative verb must be in the absolutive voice.

<Table 1> Accusative case and unflagged oblique case for (mostly) P

	Subjective	Accusative object	Unmarked oblique
Pronouns	izy	azy (1a)	
	ianao	anao (1b)	
Personal names	Rakoto	an-dRakoto (2a)	
	Andrianina	an=Andrianina (2b)	
	i Fara	an=i Fara (2c)	
	i Aina	an=i Aina (2d)	
With demonstratives	io vehivavy io	an=io vehivavy io (3a)	
	io fiarakodia io	an=io fiarakodia io (3d)	
With an anaphoric article	ilay vehivavy marary	an=ilay vehivavy marary (3b)	
	ilay ankizy milalao	an=ilay ankizy milalao (3c)	
	ilay fiarakodia	an=ilay fiarakodia (3e)	
	ilay tany	an=ilay tany (22e)	(ilay tany (22a)) <sup>7)</sup>
With a definite article	ny vehivavy		ny vehivavy (4a)
	ny ankizy		ny ankizy (4a)
	ny biby		ny biby (4b)
	ny fiarakodia		ny fiarakodia (4b)
	ny minisitra	(an=ny minisitra (16b)) <sup>8)</sup>	ny minisitra (16a)
Bare noun phrase	ny biby lava		biby lava (4c)

7) Not as an object of a monotransitive clause (P), but there are cases where a phrase with demonstratives or with an *ilay* is used without the accusative marker *an=* for a T object in a ditransitive clause (12b, 22b, 32b). *Ilay N* (ANA N) would be *an=ilay N* (ACC=ANA N) for P/R unlike *ilay N* (ANA N) for T.

8) Not as an object of a monotransitive clause (P), but there are cases where the definite article is preceded by the accusative marker *an=* for an object when there are more than one object in the clause (16b). The case in (16b) is neither T nor R but a causee in causative construction.

Table 1 shows the forms of noun phrases for the P function in a monotransitive clause. Those in parentheses are not used for the P function in a monotransitive clause (but they can be used when there is more than one object, etc.).

## 2. Flagging of ditransitive objects and their alignment

In the field of cross-linguistic studies, Malchukov et al. (2007: 3-4, also Haspelmath 2010) argue that languages can be divided into three categories according to the case marking of the monotransitive object (P) and the ditransitive objects (T, R).

When R is treated differently from P and T, it is called indirect alignment. In Japanese, P and T are marked accusative while R is marked dative.

- (9) a. Miki=ga ringo=o tabe-ta  
 PN=NOM apple=ACC eat-PST  
 P  
 ‘Miki ate the apple’  
 b. Miki=ga kodomo=ni ringo=o age-ta  
 PN=NOM child=DAT apple=ACC give-PST  
 R T(=P)  
 ‘Miki gave the child the apple’

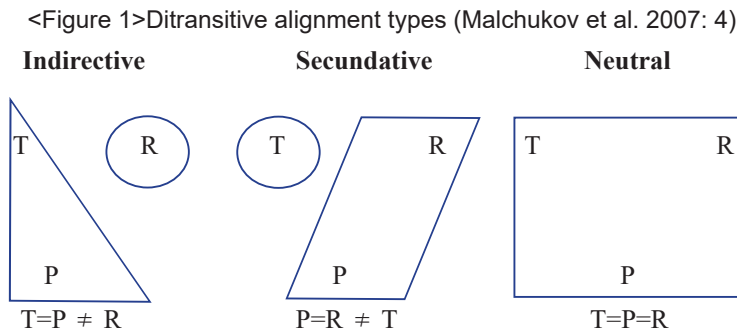
On the other hand, when the T is treated differently from P and R, it is called secundative alignment. West Greenlandic has instrumental case for T and absolutive case for P and R (Malchukov et al. 2007: 4, Fortescue 1984).

- (10) a. Piita-p tukurnarta.q tuqup-paa  
 Peter-ERG.SG stranger.ABS.SG kill-INT.3SG → 3SG  
 P  
 ‘Did Peter kill the stranger?’  
 b. (Uuma) Niisi aningaasa-nik tuni-vaa  
 (That.ERG) Nisi.ABS.SG money-INST.PL give-IND.3SG → 3SG  
 R(=P) T  
 ‘He gave Nisi money’

When P, T, and R are encoded in the same way, such constructions are called double-object constructions and in terms of alignment, it is called neutral alignment. An example comes from Dagaare (Gur, Ghana) (Malchukov et al. 2007: 4).

- (11) a. O na ngme ma la  
 He FUT beat me FACTUAL  
 P  
 ‘He will beat me’  
 b. O ko ma la a gane  
 He give.PF me FACTUAL DEF book  
 R(=P) T(=P)  
 ‘He gave me the book’

Figure 1 (Malchukov et al. 2007: 4, cf. Haspelmath 2010) schematically illustrates these alignment types.



## 2. 1. Fluctuating R-marking

Let us take a look at the ‘give’ verbs. We start with the verb root *ome* (give).

- (12) a. M-an-omè (ny) solosaina ny ankizy ny fanjakana  
 NV-VM-give (the) computer the child(ren) the government  
 T R A  
 ‘The government gives the children (the) computers’
- b. M-an-omè ilay solosaina ny ankizy ny fanjakana  
 NV-VM-give ANA computer the child(ren) the government  
 T R A  
 ‘The government gives the children the computers’
- c. M-an-omè (ny) solosaina an=ilay ankizy ny fanjakana  
 NV-VM-give (the) computer ACC=ANA child(ren) the government  
 T R A  
 ‘The government gives the children (the) computers’
- d. Omè-n=ny fanjakana solosaina ny ankizy  
 Give-AV=the government(.GEN) computer the child(ren)  
 ‘The children are given computers by the government’
- e. N-an-omèz-an=ny fanjakana (ny/ilay) solosaina ny ankizy  
 PST-VM-give-CV=the government(.GEN) (ANA/the) computer the child(ren)  
 ‘The children were given (the) computers by the government’

The (12a, b, c) are in the nominative voice. The (12d) is in the absolutive voice and the (12e) is in the circumstantial voice. At a first glance, (12a, b) seem to be in the neutral pattern where both the T ((ny/ilay) solosaina ((the/ANA) computer) and the R (ny ankizy (the child(ren)))) are caseless. But the R is caseless only because it is a phrase preceded by the definite article *ny* (the). If you put a personal name (13) or *ilay ankizy* (ANA child(ren)) in the R slot, it is accusative marked as *an=ilay ankizy* (ACC=ANA child(ren), 12c). On the other hand, the T cannot be accusative-marked as easily as in (13) because it is rather rare that a person is made into a T. Such rare cases of accusative-marked human T can be seen in (18a, b). Moreover, when the T is more individuated (≙ more definite), the absolutive voice rather than the nominative voice is likely to be used.

- (13) a. N-an-omè (ny) solosaina an-dRasoa ny ray aman=dreni=ny  
 NV.PST-VM-give (the)computer ACC-PN the father OBL=mother=her  
 T R A  
 ‘Raso’a’s parents gave her (Raso’a) a/the computer’
- b. N-an-omè ilay solosaina an-dRasoa ny ray aman=dreni=ny  
 NV.PST-VM-give ANA computer ACC-PN the father OBL=mother=her  
 T R A  
 ‘Raso’a’s parents gave her (Raso’a) the computer’

In summary, the R is marked accusative where appropriate. T is an unmarked oblique phrase. If both the accusative-marked phrase and the unmarked oblique phrase are taken to be roughly as broadly-defined “accusative,” as is done in much of the previous literature (cf. Stark 1969, Moriyama 2003), then this is a neutral pattern. But in this paper, I want to present a possibility to treat this pattern as a quasi-secundative pattern, where the T is a caseless oblique as in (4c, 5, 6, 7). The quasi-secundative analysis is definitely appropriate when *ilay NP* (ANA NP) is used for T (12b) and *an=ilay NP* (ACC=ANA NP) is used for P (3b, c, e) and R (12c)

Moreover, some people may be puzzled that the subject in both the absolutive-voice (12b) and the circumstantial-voice (12c) is *ny ankizy* (the child(ren)). The subject in the absolutive voice is usually derived from the P in the nominative voice. Therefore it is natural that the caseless R in the nominative-voice clause is promoted to the subject in the absolutive voice. (In the following subsections, it is the caseless T that is promoted to the subject in the absolutive voice.) The subject in the circumstantial voice is usually derived from a non-core nominal (a non-S/A/P). My wild guess is that the R in the nominative-voice clause is taken as a non-core nominal in this ditransitive clause and is promoted to the circumstantial subject.

- (14) a. N-an-omè solom.bodiakoho<sup>9)</sup> ho an=ny ray aman=dreny  
 NV.PST-VM-give gift ALL ACC=the father OBL=mother  
 T R  
 ny zanaka aman=jafy  
 the offspring OBL=grandchild(ren)  
 A  
 ‘The children and the grandchildren gave a gift to the parents’
- b. N-omè-n=ny zanaka aman=jafy  
 PST-give-AV=the offspring OBL=grandchild(ren) (.GEN)  
 ho an=ny ray aman=dreni-ny ny solom.bodiakoho  
 ALL ACC=the father OBL=mother the gift  
 ‘The gift was given by the children and the grandchildren to the parents’
- c. N-an-omèz-an=ny zanaka aman=jafy solom.bodiakoho  
 PST-VM-give-CV=the offspring OBL=grandchild(ren) (.GEN) gift  
 ny ray aman=dreny  
 the father OBL=mother  
 ‘The parents were given gift by the children and the grandchildren’

9) *Solom-bodiakoho* or *solombody akoho* or even *solombodiakoho* can be analyzed into *solo* (substitute) =*m* (=LK=) *body* (*vody* buttocks) + *akoho* (chicken). The chicken’s rump meat is the tenderest part of the chicken. It means “a gift of money to one’s superior in place of the traditional chicken’s rump” (Andro Vaovao 1973: 87).



The same verb root *ome* (give) as in (12, 13) can also have the indirective pattern (14) where the R is marked as a beneficiary, instead of the neutral/quasi-secundative pattern (12, 13). A beneficiary is marked with allative (*ho*) plus accusative (*an=*) combined. When they are combined, the benefactive meaning is rendered.

In (14a), the T is caseless and the R is beneficiary-marked with allative plus accusative. In the absolutive-voice clause (14b), the T in the nominative-voice clause is taken as the subject. In the circumstantial-voice clause (14c), the beneficiary-marked R in the nominative-voice clause is taken as the subject and the case markers are removed.

The situation in (14), where the T in the nominative clause is taken as the subject in the absolutive clause and the R in the nominative clause is taken as the subject in the circumstantial clause, is different from the situation in (12), where both the absolutive clause and the circumstantial clause take the R in the nominative clause as the subject. It seems that the T and R in (12a) are not treated as differently as the T and the R in (14a). In other words, (12a, b) do not show the indirective pattern whereas (14a) shows the indirective pattern. (12a, b, c) can be seen as an example of a neutral/quasi-secundative pattern where T is an unmarked oblique as in (4c, 5-7).

There are a few more examples with the root *ome* (give).

(15)Mba	h-amp-i-robòrobo	ny fahaiza=ny	no
So.that	NV.FUT-CAUS-VM-progress	the ability=her/his	that
n-an-omèz-an=ny	fanjakana	ilay/ny solosaina	ny ankizy
PST-VM-give-CV=the	government(.GEN)	ANA/the computer	the child(ren)
'It was so as to promote the children's ability that they were given the computers by the government'			

The example (15) has the circumstantial *n-an-omez-an(a)* (PST-VM-give-CV). The subject *ny ankizy* is the R subject.

(16) a.	N-an-omè	vary	ny vahoaka	ny minisitra	
	NV.PST-VM-give	rice	the people	the minister	
		T	R	A	
	'The minister gave the people rice'				
b.	N-amp-an-omè	vary	ho an=ny vahoaka	an=ny minisitra	ny prezidà
	NV.PST-CAUS-VM-give	rice	ALL ACC=the people	ACC=the minister	the president
		T	R	(A)=causee	causer
	'The president made the minister give rice to the people'				

These examples are taken from the Malagasy language class in the Summer School of the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in 2003. The (16a) is a regular neutral example just like (12a). The (16b) is a causatively derived clause from (16a). Two caseless objects are allowed in (16a), but when the causative subject is added in (16b), the former agent-subject *ny minisitra* (the minister) is marked accusative (*an=ny minisitra*, ACC=the minister) and the R is marked as a beneficiary. It seems that three consecutive caseless objects are too awkward to have so the case markers have been provided. Note that the accusative-marked *an=ny minisitra* (ACC=the



When a human is placed in the T slot (18a, b, c), it is either accusative marked (*an=dRavao* (ACC=PN), *an=i Nehemia* (ACC=the PN)) or unmarked (*ny zana=ny vavy* (the offspring=his female)). The R is marked as the beneficiary in (18b, c, *ho an=i Lita* (ALL ACC=the Lita)). Both (18d, e) are the absolutive-voice counterpart of (18b). This verb has two absolutive-voice forms: *a-tolotr(a)* (18c) and *tolor-an(a)* (18d).

- |         |   |                            |                |               |
|---------|---|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| (19) a. | N-i-angàvy                              | fitenenana                 | t-amin=i Tojo  | i Sedera      |
|         | NV.PST-VM-beg                           | speech                     | PST-OBL=the PN | the PN        |
|         |   | T                          | R              | A             |
|         | ‘Sedera asked Tojo for a speech’        |                            |                |               |
| b.      | N-i-angàvy                              | fitenenana                 | an=i Tojo      | i Sedera      |
|         | NV.PST-VM-beg                           | speech                     | ACC=the PN     | the PN        |
|         |   | T                          | R              | A             |
|         | ‘Sedera asked Tojo for a speech’        |                            |                |               |
| c.      | N-i-angavì-an=i Sedera                  | an=i Tojo/*t-amin=i Tojo   |                | ny fitenenana |
|         | PST-VM-AV=the PN(.GEN)                  | ACC=the PN/*PST-OBL=the PN |                | the speech    |
|         | ‘Sedera asked Tojo for the speech’      |                            |                |               |
| d.      | N-i-angavì-an=i Sedera                  | fitenenana                 | i Tojo         |               |
|         | PST-VM-CV=the PN (.GEN)                 | act.of.speaking            | the PN         |               |
|         | ‘Tojo was asked for a speech by Sedera’ |                            |                |               |

The examples (19a, b) are both in the nominative voice. (19c) is in the absolutive voice and (19d) is in the circumstantial voice. The R marker in the (19a, b) varies between the oblique marker (19a) and the accusative marker (19b). But in the absolutive voice (19c), the R is marked accusative. My language consultant actually rejected the oblique marking (*t-amin=i Tojo* (PST-OBL=the PN)) for the absolutive voice. In all these examples in subsection 2.1., T is always caseless in the nominative voice except when it is a person name and marked accusative (18a, b). On the other hand, the clauses with the verb root *ome* (give) in the nominative voice have a caseless R (12a, 16a), an accusative-marked R (13a), and a beneficiary-marked R (14a). The clauses with the verb root *tolotra* (present) in the nominative voice have a beneficiary-marked R (17a, 18b). The clauses with the verb root *angavy* (beg) in the nominative voice have an oblique-marked R (19a) or an accusative-marked R (19b), but the oblique-marking does not survive into the absolutive voice (19c).

## 2. 2. Beneficiary-marked R

For some subsections starting with 2.2., we take a look at indirective-marked ditransitive clauses. Unlike monotransitive clauses with very little variation in case marking for A and P (cf. Minoura 2023), R in indirective-marked ditransitive clauses can take several forms. We start with beneficiary marking. Beneficiary marking is sometimes but not always used for the give/present verbs (2.1., 14a, 17a). It seems to be the most unmarked and most common ditransitive marking for other kinds of verbs.

- |         |  |                           |                    |     |
|---------|--|---------------------------|--------------------|-----|
| (20) a. | M-amp-ita  | tolo+tsaina (kolo+tsaina) | ho an=ny mpianatra | aho |
|         | NV-CAUS-cross.over                                       | idea/advice (culture)     | ALL ACC=the pupil  | I   |
|         |  | T                         | R                  | A   |
|         | ‘I give ideas/an advice(culture) to the pupils/students’ |                           |                    |     |

- b. Amp-ità-0=ko (ho an=)ny mpianatra ny tolo+tsaina  
CAUS-cross.over-AV=I.GEN (ALL ACC=)the pupil the idea/advice  
'I give the ideas/advice to the pupils/students'
- c. (N-)amp-ità-0=ko tolo+tsaina ny mpianatra  
(PST-)CAUS-cross.over-CV=I.GEN idea/advice the pupil  
'The pupils/students are(were) given ideas/an advice by me'
- d. M-ita rano ny baka  
NV-cross water the ferry  
'The ferry crosses water (e.g. a river)'

In the nominative voice (20a), the R is marked for the beneficiary (*ho an=* (ALL ACC=)). In the absolutive voice (20b), the beneficiary marking for the R is optional. In the circumstantial voice (20c), the R in the nominative voice becomes the subject. *Mampita* (give (20a)) is causatively derived from *mita* (cross (20d)).

- (21) a. M-an-dèfa mailaka ho an=i Malala Rabe  
NV-VM-send e-mail ALL ACC=the PN PN  
T R A  
'Rabe sends an e-mail to Malala'
- b. M-an-dèfa hafatra m-i-afina ho an=i Malala Rabe  
NV-VM-send message NV-VM-hide ALL ACC=the PN PN  
'Rabe sends a secret message to Malala'
- c. A-lèfa=n=dRabe ho an=i Malala ny mailaka  
AV-send=LK=PN(.GEN) ALL ACC=the PN the e-mail  
'Rabe will send the e-mail to Malala'
- d. An-defàs-an=dRabe mailaka i Malala  
VM-send-CV=PN(.GEN) e-mail the PN  
'Malala is sent an e-mail by Rabe'

In the nominative voice (21a, b), the R is marked for the beneficiary (*ho an=* (ALL ACC=)). In the absolutive voice (21c), the beneficiary marking for the R remains. In the circumstantial voice (21d), the R in the nominative voice becomes the subject.

- (22) a. N-i-vidy (ny) tany ho an=ny tanara=ny i Dadabe/Ranaivo  
NV.PST-VM-buy (the/ANA) land ALL ACC=the children=his the grandfather  
T R A  
'The grandfather/Ranaivo bought the land/a piece of land for his children'
- b. N-i-vidy ilay tany ho an=ny tanara=ny i Dadabe/Ranaivo  
NV.PST-VM-buy ANA land ALL ACC=the children=his the grandfather  
T R A  
'The grandfather/Ranaivo bought the land for his children'
- c. N-i-vidy (ny) lamba ho an=i Manitra i Dadatoa  
NV.PST-VM-buy (the) cloth ALL ACC=the PN the uncle  
T R A  
'The uncle bought the cloth/a piece of cloth for Manitra'

- d. N-i-vidy            ilay lamba            ho an=i Manitra        i Dadatoa  
NV.PST-VM-buy      ANA cloth            ALL ACC=the PN      the uncle  
   T                            R                            A  
'The uncle bought the cloth for Manitra'
- e. No-vidi-an=i Dadabe    ho an=ny tanara=ny    ny/ilay            tany  
PST-buy-AV=the grandfather(.GEN)      ALL ACC=the children=his                            the/ANA            land  
'The grandfather bought the land for his children'
- f. I-vidi-ànan=i Dadabe    tany    ny tanara=ny  
VM-buy-CV=the grandfather(.GEN)      land    the children=his  
'The children are bought land for by grandfather'
- g. N-i-vidi-ànan=i Dadabe    an=ilay tany    ny tanara=ny  
PST-VM-buy-CV=the grandfather(.GEN)      ACC=ANA land                            the children=his  
'The children were bought the land for by grandfather'

In the nominative voice (22a, b, c, d), the R is marked for the beneficiary (*ho an=* (ALL ACC=)), while the T can be a bare nominal *tany/lamba* ((a piece of) land/cloth) or *ny/ilay tany/lamba* (the/ANA land/cloth) with an article. Note that the T can be *ilay tany* (ANA land) without an accusative marker<sup>10</sup>. In the absolutive voice (22e), the beneficiary marking for the R remains. In the circumstantial voice (22f, g), the R in the nominative voice becomes the subject while the T can be a bare nominal *tany* (land, 22a) or accusative marked (*an=ilay tany* (ACC=ANA land), 22g).

- (23) a. N-i-kaomàndy            zava+pisotro            ho ahy                            i Manda  
NV.PST-VM-order      thing+to.drink        ALL me.ACC                the PN  
   T                            R                            A  
'Manda ordered a beverage for me'
- b. No-kaomandi-n=i Manda    ho ahy                            ny zava+pisotro  
PST-order-AV =the PN(.GEN)      ALL me.ACC                            the thing+to.drink  
'Manda ordered the beverage for me'
- c. N-i-kaomandi-an=i Manda    zava+pisotro    aho  
PST-VM-order-CV=the PN(.GEN)      thing+to.drink                            I  
'I was ordered a beverage for by Manda'

In the nominative voice (23a), the R is marked for the beneficiary (*ho ahy* (ALL me.ACC)). In the absolutive voice (23b), the beneficiary marking remains for the R. In the circumstantial voice (23c), the R in the nominative voice becomes the subject and the beneficiary marking is removed.

- (24) a. N-i-tòno                    masikita                    ho an=i Jao                            i Mbola  
NV.PST-VM-broil      skewered.meat        ALL ACC=the PN            the PN  
   T                            R                            A  
'Mbola broiled skewered meat for Jao'
- b. N-a-tòno=n=i Mbola    ho an=i Jao                            ny masikita  
PST-AV-broil=LK=the PN(.GEN)      ALL ACC=the PN                            the skewered.meat  
'Mbola broiled the skewered meat for Jao'

<sup>10</sup>If it were a P, it would be *an=ilay tany* (ACC=ANA land) with the accusative marker like in (3b, c, e). This shows that the T in a ditransitive clause can be treated differently from the P in a monotransitive clause.



In the nominative voice (27a), the R is marked as the beneficiary (*ho an= (ALL ACC=)*). In the absolutive voice (27b), the beneficiary marking remains for the R. In the circumstantial voice (27c), the R in the nominative voice becomes the subject.

- (28) a. N-an-òratra                  taratasy      ho an=ny reni=ny                  i Ndriana  
         NV.PST-VM-write      letter                  ALL ACC=the mother=his          the PN  
    T                  R                                  A  
         ‘Ndriana wrote a letter to his mother’
- b. No-soràt-an=i Ndriana                  ho an=ny reni=ny                  ny/ilay taratasy  
         PST-write-AV=the PN(.GEN)      ALL ACC=the mother=his          the/ANA letter  
         ‘Ndriana wrote the letter to his mother’
- c. N-an-oràt-an=i Ndriana                  taratasy      ny reni=ny  
         PST-write-CV=the PN(.GEN)      letter                  the mother=his  
         ‘His mother was written a letter to by Ndriana’

In the nominative voice (28a), the R is marked as the beneficiary (*ho an= (ALL ACC=)*). In the absolutive voice (28b), the beneficiary marking remains for the R. In the circumstantial voice (28c), the R in the nominative voice becomes the subject.

- (29) a. N-amp-an-antèna                  harena                  ho an=i Soa                  i Lala  
         NV.PST-CAUS-VM-hope      wealth                  ALL ACC=the PN                  the PN  
    T                  R                                  A  
         ‘Lala promised wealth to Soa’
- b. N-amp-an-antenà-in=i Lala                  ho an=i Soa                  ny harena  
         PST-CAUS-VM-hope-AV=the PN(.GEN)      ALL ACC=the PN                  the wealth  
         ‘Lala promised the wealth to Soa’
- c. N-amp-an-antenà-n=i Lala                  harena                  i Soa  
         PST-CAUS-VM-hope-CV=the PN(.GEN)      wealth                  the PN  
         ‘Soa was promised wealth by Lala’

In the nominative voice (29a), the R is marked as the beneficiary (*ho an= (ALL ACC=)*). In the absolutive voice (29b), the beneficiary marking remains for the R. In the circumstantial voice (29c), the R in the nominative voice becomes the subject.

- (30) a. M-an-iry                  fahaombiazana                  ho an=i Ony                  i Faly  
         NV-VM-hope      success                  ALL ACC=the PN                  the PN  
    T                  R                                  A  
         ‘Faly wishes success for Ony’
- b. N-iri-n=i Faly                  ho an=i Ony                  ny fahaombiazana  
         PST-hope-AV=the PN(.GEN)      ALL ACC=the PN                  the success  
         ‘Faly wishes the success for Ony’
- c. N-an-iri-an=i Faly                  fahaombiazana                  i Ony  
         PST-VM-hope-CV=the PN(.GEN)      success                  the PN  
         ‘Ony was wished success by Faly’

In the nominative voice (30a), the R is marked as the beneficiary (*ho an= (ALL ACC=)*). In the absolutive voice (30b), the beneficiary marking remains for the R. In the circumstantial voice (30c), the R in the nominative voice becomes the subject.





- (33) a. N-an-ipy                  ny sakaosy                  t-ami=ko                  i Sarobidy  
       NV.PST-VM-throw      the bag/satchel          PST-OBL=me              the PN  
   T                                   R                                   A  
       ‘Sarobidy threw the bag/satchel at me’
- b. N-a-tsipi=n=i Sarobidy                  t-ami=ko                  ny sakaosy  
       PST-AV-throw=LK=the PN(.GEN)      PST-OBL=me              the bag/satchel  
       ‘Sarobidy threw the bag/satchel at me’
- c. N-an-ipaz-an=i Sarobidy                  sakaosy                  aho  
       PST-VM-throw-CV=the PN(.GEN)      bag/satchel                  I  
       ‘I was thrown a bag/satchel at by Sarobidy’

In the nominative voice (33a), the R is marked oblique (*t-ami=* (PST-OBL=)). In the absolutive voice (33b), the oblique marking for the R remains. In the circumstantial voice (33c), the R in the nominative voice becomes the subject.

- (34) a. N-i-angàvy                  fitenenana                  t-amin=i Tojo                  i Sedera (=19)  
       NV.PST-VM-beg                  speech                  PST-OBL=the PN              the PN  
   T                                   R                                   A  
       ‘Sedera asked Tojo for a speech’
- b. N-i-angàvy                  fitenenana                  an=i Tojo                  i Sedera  
       NV.PST-VM-beg                  speech                  ACC=the PN                  the PN  
   T                                   R                                   A  
       ‘Sedera asked Tojo (to give) a speech’
- c. N-i-angavi-an=i Sedera                  an=i Tojo/\* t-amin=i Tojo                  ny fitenenana  
       PST-VM-AV=the PN(.GEN)              ACC=the PN/\*PST-OBL=the PN              the speech  
       ‘Sedera asked Tojo for the speech’
- d. N-i-angavi-an=i Sedera                  fitenenana                  i Tojo  
       PST-VM-CV=the PN (.GEN)              act.of.speaking              the PN  
       ‘Tojo was asked for a speech by Sedera’

These examples have already been shown in (19). It is shown again because the R in the nominative clause (34a) can be marked oblique.

- (35) a. N-an-ontàny                  vidi=n=entana                  t-amin=ny mpivarotra                  i Vola  
       NV.PST-VM-ask                  price=LK=goods              PST-OBL=the merchant              the PN  
   T                                   R                                   A  
       ‘Vola asked the merchant for (the) price of the goods’
- b. N-an-ontani-an=i Vola                  t-amin=ny                  mpivarotra                  ny vidi=n=entana  
       PST-VM-ask-AV=the PN(.GEN)      PST-OBL=the                  merchant                  the price=LK=goods  
       ‘Vola asked the merchant for the price of the goods’
- c. N-an-ontani-an=i Vola                  vidi=n=entana                  ny mpivarotra  
       PST-VM-ask-CV=the PN(.GEN)              price=LK=goods                  the merchant  
       ‘The merchant was asked for (the) price of the goods by Vola’

In the nominative voice (35a), the R is marked oblique (*t-amin=* (PST-OBL=)). In the absolutive voice (35b), the oblique marking for the R remains. In the circumstantial voice (35c), the R in the nominative voice becomes the subject.



- (38) a. N-an-aingo efi+trano t-amin=ny fanaka vaovao i Beby  
 NV.PST-VM-adorn room+house PST-OBL=the furniture new the PN  
 T R(?? non-T object) A  
 ‘Beby furnished (the) room with new pieces of furniture’
- b. N-amp-i-haingò-in=i Beby t-amin=ny fanaka vaovao ny efi+trano  
 PST-CAUS-VM-adorn-AV=the PN(.GEN) PST-OBL=the furniture new the room+house  
 ‘Beby furnished the room with the new pieces of furniture’
- c. N-amp-i-haingò-an=i Beby efi+trano ny fanaka vaovao  
 PST-CAUS-VM-adorn-CV=the PN(.GEN) room+house the furniture new  
 ‘With the new pieces of furniture, Beby furnished (the) room’

In the nominative voice (38a), the R or rather the non-T object is marked oblique (*t-amin*= (PST-OBL=)). In the absolutive voice (38b), the oblique marking for the non-T object ( $\cong$  R) remains. In the circumstantial voice (38c), the non-T object ( $\cong$  R) in the nominative voice becomes the subject. Incidentally, *m-an-aingo* (NV-VM-adorn, furnish/adorn) is the transitive counterpart of the middle verb *m-i-haingò* (NV-VM-adorn, furnish/adorn oneself). When there is a pair of verb forms that differ only in the valency markers *i-* and *an-*, it is often a pair of a middle verb and a transitive verb. But it is not always guaranteed that a verb with the valency marker *i-* to be intransitive. It usually works when there is a pair. A verb with the valency marker *an-* is usually transitive. On the other hand, *m-amp-i-haingò* (NV-CAUS-VM-adorn, furnish/adorn oneself) is the causative of *m-i-haingò*. My language consultant decided to start from the causative *m-amp-i-haingò* to derive the absolutive-voice form (38b) and the circumstantial-voice form (38c).

There are a few more examples of cultural words.

- (39) a. N-an-dà ny tolotra n-a-tao=n=ilay vinanto  
 NV.PST-VM-refuse the gift PST-AV-do=LK=ANA son.in.law(.to.be)  
 T  
 t-amin=ny fofo=m=badi=ny ny ray aman=dreny  
 PST-OBL=the smell=LK=spouse=his the father OBL=mother  
 R(?? non-T object) A  
 ‘The parents rejected the gift presented by the son-in-law-to-be for the dowry’
- b. N-an-dà ny vody ondry n-a-tao=n=ilay vinanto  
 NV.PST-VM-refuse the butt goat PST-AV-do=LK=ANA son.in.law(.to.be)  
 T  
 t-amin=ny fofo=m=badi=ny ny ray aman=dreny  
 PST-OBL=the smell=LK=spouse=his the father OBL=mother  
 R(?? non-T object) A  
 ‘The parents rejected the bride price presented by the son-in-law-to-be for the dowry’

In all these examples in the subsection 2.3., T is always caseless even with the anaphoric *ilay* (ANA) (32b). A phrase with *ilay* (ANA) becomes *an=ilay N* (ACC=ANA N) as a P in a monotransitive clause (cf. fn. 10). On the other hand, R (or a non-T object) is always marked oblique.





2. 6. Section summary

In the literature (cf. Stark 1969, Moriyama 2003), accusative-marked P/T and caseless P/T are treated as broadly-defined “accusative” as it is done in the English school grammar. But from the point of view of morphological case marking, this is not appropriate. (In language classrooms, it may be easier for the students to understand the mechanisms.)

From the point of view of morphological case marking, the NPs taking the role of subjective form, unmarked object/oblique form, accusative forms, and oblique-marked forms are classified in Table 2. Beneficiary forms and location forms are easily formed from ACC forms and OBL forms, respectively (cf. fns. 15, 16).

<Table 2>

	<b>Subjective<sup>14)</sup></b>	<b>Unmarked object/ oblique</b>	<b>ACC<sup>15)</sup></b>	<b>OBL<sup>16)</sup></b>
PRON	izy ((s)he)		azy (her/him)	(t-)ami=ny ((PST-)OBL=3)
PN	Rakoto (PN)		an=dRakoto (ACC=PN)	(t-)amin=dRakoto ((PST-) OBL=PN)
I PN	i Aina (the PN)		an=i Aina (ACC=the PN)	(t-)amin=i Aina ((PST-)OBL= the PN)
DEM NP DEM	io vehivavy io (that woman that)		an=io vehivavy io (ACC=that woman that)	(t-)amin=io vehivavy io ((PST-)OBL=that woman that)
Ilay NP	ilay vehivavy (ANA woman)	ilay vehivavy (ANA woman , T)	an=ilay vehivavy (ACC= ANA woman)	(t-)amin=ilay vehivavy ((PST-) OBL=ANA woman)
Ny NP	ny vehivavy (the woman)	ny vehivavy (the woman, P/T/R)	-	(t-)amin=ny vehivavy ((PST-) OBL= the woman)
P/T without a determiner		solosaina (computer, P/T), bibi lava (animal long, snake, P/T)		

14) Subjective case functions as nominative in the nominative-voice clauses, as absolute in the absolute-voice clauses, and is used for a case-stripped (when possible) subject derived from an adjunct in the circumstantial-voice clauses. *Ny/ilay NP* (the/ANA NP) is used for both subjective and unmarked object/oblique. Morphologically speaking, they have the same forms.

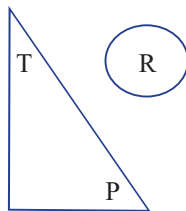
15) The beneficiary is expressed by *ho* plus the accusative forms in the table, e.g. *ho azy* (ALL 3.ACC, for her/him), *ho an=dRakoto* (ALL ACC=PN, for Rakoto).

16) Location is expressed by inserting a locative demonstrative between (*t-*) and *OBL* in the OBL forms in the table, e.g. (*t-*)any ami=ny ((PST-)there OBL=3, at her/him), (*t-*)any amin=dRakoto ((PST-)there OBL=PN, at Rakoto). *Any* (there) is not the only locative demonstrative that can fill the slot. Any of the 13 locative demonstratives can fill the slot. Location can also be expressed in the form (*t-*)locative.demonstrative ACC=NP like (*t-*)any an=tsekoly ((PST-)there ACC=school, at school). See also fn. 11.

Let us return to the indirective case alignment, secundative case alignment, and neutral case alignment in Figure 1. When talking about case alignment, only the nominative-voice examples are considered because T and R are always both present as objects/obliques only in the nominative voice. In the absolutive voice, T (and sometimes R) in the nominative voice becomes the subject. In the circumstantial voice, R in the nominative voice sometimes becomes the subject. Most of the examples in the subsections 2.2., 2.3., and 2.4. can be considered to have the indirective alignment pattern since both P and T are either accusative-marked or an unmarked object/oblique. R, on the other hand, is beneficiary-marked (2.2., fn. 15), oblique-marked (2.3.), or location-marked (2.4., fn. 16).

<Figure 2>Ditransitive alignment types: indirective alignment (adapted from Figure 1)

**Indirective**

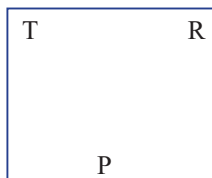


$T=P \neq R$

Some of the examples in subsection 2.1. (12a, b, 16) can be considered to have neutral alignment because both T and R have no case markings.

<Figure 3>Ditransitive alignment types: neutral alignment (adapted from Figure 1)

**Neutral**



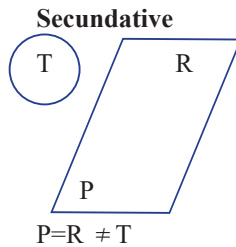
$T=P=R$

When there is an accusative marking for R, it is a bit difficult to handle. It is very easy to find accusative-marked P as in (2, 3). But it is more difficult to find accusative-marked T. There are examples of person-name T that is accusative-marked but not in the neutral alignment (18a, b) and possibly (43). (43) has two consecutive accusative-marked phrases, but this may be due to the causative derivation. Moreover, most of the T examples in this paper are case-wise unmarked object/oblique without an article or with one of the articles *ny* (the) or *ilay* (ANA). Among these T examples, the bare noun phrase without an article can be a less individuated patient (LIP) which is explained in the paragraph following (4). When a T is more definite, e.g. it is a personal name, it is an NP sandwiched by demonstratives, etc., it tends to be used as a subject in the absolutive-voice clause. See Minoura (2023: 132) for a similar discussion of

a potential definite P to be used as a subject in the absolutive-voice clause. This may also be one of the reasons why we mostly have fewer definite NPs in the T slot.

Almost all the nominative-voice ditransitive clauses in Malagasy can be classified into the two alignment types, i.e. indirective and neutral. But because of a piece of subtle evidence, we have to add other alignment types as well. The subtle evidence is that *ilay NP* (ANA NP) is not case-marked in the T slot, but when it is a P, it is accusative-marked as *an=ilay NP* (ACC=ANA NP) (3b, c, e). And the R-marking for *ilay NP* (ANA NP) can be *an=ilay NP* (ACC=ANA NP) or beneficiary-marked *ho an=ilay NP* (ALL ACC=ANA NP) (2.2.), oblique-marked *amin=ilay NP* (OBL=ANA NP) (2.3.), or location-marked *(t-)any amin=ilay NP* ((PST-)there OBL=ANA NP) (2.4., cf. fn. 16). If the R has accusative-marking, it can be said that it has the secundative pattern.

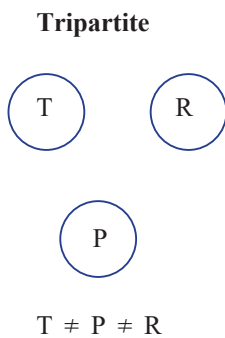
<Figure 4>Ditransitive alignment types: secundative alignment (adapted from Figure 1)



T is caseless, i.e. *ilay NP* (ANA NP) and P and R are accusative-marked, i.e. *an=ilay NP* (ACC=ANA NP).

On the other hand, if the R is beneficiary-marked, oblique-marked, or location-marked, it can be said to have a tripartite pattern.

<Figure 5>Ditransitive alignment types: tripartite alignment (adapted from Figure 1)



T is caseless, i.e. *ilay NP* (ANA NP), and P is accusative-marked, i.e. *an=ilay NP* (ACC=ANA NP), and R is marked for the beneficiary, i.e. *ho an=NP* (ALL ACC=NP), oblique, i.e. *(t-)amin=ny NP* ((PST-) OBL=the NP), and location, i.e. *(t-)any amin=ny NP* ((PST-)there OBL=the NP).

As for the basic word order of ditransitive clauses, Malagasy has the VTRS order except in (44a, 45a). In (44a), a verb phrase nominalized by a definite article behaves as T and the clause has an R-T order



unlike in the previous subsections. In (45a), the amount of the fine is the T and the clause also has an R-T order. In all the other examples, Malagasy has a T-R order, of which Haspelmath (2015) could not find any examples at the time he wrote the paper.

<Table 3> (Haspelmath 2015: 14, Table 1)

main order type	R-T order	example	T-R order	example
SVO	S V O <sub>R</sub> O <sub>T</sub>	Tswana	S V O <sub>T</sub> O <sub>R</sub>	Fongbe
SOV	S O <sub>R</sub> O <sub>T</sub> V	Uzbek	S O <sub>T</sub> O <sub>R</sub> V	Ijo
VSO	V S O <sub>R</sub> O <sub>T</sub>	So	V S O <sub>T</sub> O <sub>R</sub>	Tahitian
VOS	V O <sub>R</sub> O <sub>T</sub> S	Q'eqchi'	V O <sub>T</sub> O <sub>R</sub> S	?

Haspelmath (2015: 14) writes “though for the least frequent order VOS, I do not know of a language with T-R order.” Malagasy can fill in the gap as a language with the V O<sub>T</sub> O<sub>R</sub> S order in the lower-right corner of Table 3, replacing the question mark.

## Conclusion

Looking at the nominal constituents of Malagasy ditransitive clauses, the most common pattern is the indirective alignment, which is not uncommon among world languages. The examples can be found in the subsections 2.2., 2.3., and 2.4. What is noteworthy is that the case marking of R has a few options, i.e. beneficiary marking, oblique marking, and location marking. For the case marking of P (and A) in monotransitive clauses, Malagasy does not enjoy such freedom. The cases of A and P are assigned according to the voice of the clause (Minoura 2023).

In addition to the indirective alignment, there is also the neutral alignment (12a, b, 16 in 2.1.). So far, what I have are examples of the verb *m-an-ome* (NV-VM-give), which is used quite often. Moreover, if we look at the behavior of *ilay NP* (ANA NP), we can say that the neutral alignment turns out to be the secundative alignment and the indirective alignment turns out to be the tripartite alignment because the form *ilay NP* (ANA NP) is used for the T slot, but *an=ilay NP* (ACC=ANA NP) has to be used for the P slot.

As for the word order of ditransitive clauses, Malagasy has the VTRS order with some exceptions when it has the VRTS order (44a, 45a).

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