

DEFECTIVATION AND PARADIGM STRUCTURE: CAN A NUMBER BE A GENDER?

Frans Plank (U Konstanz)

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A. The basics of paradigm design

- distinguishing, grouping, ordering,
and identifying what is being distinguished, grouped, ordered
- distinctions: TERMS; groups: CATEGORIES; order: RELATIONS among terms and among categories, including affinity (licensing non-distinction), markedness (among terms), and dominance (among categories)
- On which grounds to distinguish, group, order?
 - contrasts of form,
or also of co-varying (=agreeing or agreement-controlling) form
you ... yourself, you ... yourselves
vs. identity of forms and patterns of identity (neutralization),
and the interpretation of the rationale of an identity as “deep” or “superficial”,
as synchronic or diachronic (e.g., *are*₁ vs. *are*₂)
 - (plausible construal of) corresponding contrasts in meaning; e.g., as to (1):
speech-act roles and sets formed from elementary roles:
{sp}, {ad}, {-sp/-ad}, {sp, ...}, {ad, ...}, {-sp/-ad, ...};
meaning-form relation in accordance with referential hierarchy:
sp > ad > -sp/-ad
cardinality of sets: 1 vs. 1+
 - (in)ability to serve as resolution form in case of conflicts
e.g., *Either you [2SG] or we are [2SG/1PL] wrong*
 - forms similar or dissimilar
 - distribution similar or dissimilar
 - exponence separate or cumulative
 - possibilities of combination unlimited (even when exponence is cumulative) or limited
 - trade-off with syntax: rules of syntax ought to be general
(e.g., the **same** subj-verb agreement rule for SG **and** PL, and for **all** verbs)
 - “simplicity”, as defined by your theory of phonology, morphology, syntax,
and their interface

(1) Person and number in an (unusual) English verb

		(pers.pro)	PRESENT	PAST	(1')
SG	1	(I)	<i>am</i>	<i>was</i>	1
	2	(you)	<i>are</i>	<i>were</i>	2
	3	(he/she/it)	<i>is</i>	<i>was</i>	3
PL	1	(we)	<i>are</i>	<i>were</i>	4
	2	(you)	<i>are</i>	<i>were</i>	5
	3	(they)	<i>are</i>	<i>were</i>	6

markedness: PAST > PRESENT; PLURAL (ASSOCIATIVE) > SINGULAR; 1/2 > 3

dominance: TENSE > NUMBER > PERSON

(1'')		PRESENT	PAST
SG	3	<i>is</i>	<i>was</i>
	1	<i>am</i>	<i>was</i>
	2	<i>are</i>	<i>were</i>
PL	3	<i>are</i>	<i>were</i>
	1	<i>are</i>	<i>were</i>
	2	<i>are</i>	<i>were</i>

(1''')		PRESENT	PAST
SG	3	<i>is</i>	<i>was</i>
	1	<i>am</i>	<i>was</i>
	2	<i>are</i>	<i>were</i>
PL		<i>are</i>	<i>were</i>

(1''''')		PRESENT	PAST
3		<i>is</i>	<i>was</i>
1		<i>am</i>	<i>was</i>
2		<i>are</i>	<i>were</i>
4		<i>are</i>	<i>were</i>

(1''''')		PRESENT	PAST
3		<i>is</i>	<i>was</i>
1		<i>am</i>	<i>was</i>
?		<i>are</i>	<i>were</i>

(2) Gender and number in the Russian past

SG	M	<i>ja, ty, on</i>	<i>cital</i>	'I (male), you (male), he read' (PAST)
	F	<i>ja, ty, ona</i>	<i>citala</i>	'I (female), you (female), she read'
	N	<i>ono</i>	<i>citalo</i>	'it read'
PL		<i>my, vy, oni</i>	<i>citali</i>	'we, you-guys, they read'

[[SG.M, SG.F, SG.N], PL] hierarchical? (i.e., with subset grouping)

[M, F, N, PL] flat? (i.e., without subset grouping)

(3) Dependencies between number and gender

- universal implication: if agreement in gender, then in number
(but also: if (agreement for) case, then (agreement for) number)
- frequent cumulation
- frequent defectivization
 - fewer genders in PL/DU/TR than in SG
 - (• also: different genders in PL/DU/TR than in SG)
 - fewer numbers (i.e., no PL distinguished from SG) in non-human/less-animate nouns than in human/animate nouns
- allomorphy
 - of PL frequently conditioned by gender;
inverse number (as in Kiowa-Tanoan) as the most extreme case
 - of gender marking conditioned by number?
- sometimes polarity
e.g., definite article in Somali

	SG	PL
M	<i>kii</i>	<i>tii</i>
F	<i>tii</i>	<i>kii</i>

→ Still, all such dependencies are in principle consistent with the assumption that number and gender are separate categories.

B. Gender defectivation in relation to number in German

(4) Agreement in the NP, and agreement and coreference with the NP, in German

NOMINATIVE

<i>[d-as neu-e Zebra</i>	<i>ein-Ø neu-es Zebra</i>	<i>welch-es ...]</i>	<i>komm-t ...</i>	<i>Ø-es</i>
<i>[d-er neu-e Gorilla</i>	<i>ein-Ø neu-er Gorilla</i>	<i>welch-er ...]</i>	<i>komm-t ...</i>	<i>Ø-er</i>
<i>[d-ie neu-e Kobra</i>	<i>ein-e neu-e Kobra</i>	<i>welch-e ...]</i>	<i>komm-t ...</i>	<i>s-ie</i>
<i>[d-ie neu-en Zebra-s</i>	<i>(viel-e) neu-e Zebra-s</i>	<i>welch-e ...]</i>	<i>komm-en ...</i>	<i>s-ie</i>
<i>[d-ie neu-en Gorilla-s</i>	<i>(viel-e) neu-e Gorilla-s</i>	<i>welch-e ...]</i>	<i>komm-en ...</i>	<i>s-ie</i>
<i>[d-ie neu-en Kobra-s</i>	<i>(viel-e) neu-e Kobra-s</i>	<i>welch-e ...]</i>	<i>komm-en ...</i>	<i>s-ie</i>

ACCUSATIVE

<i>[d-as neu-e Zebra</i>	<i>ein-Ø neu-es Zebra</i>	<i>welch-es ...]</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>Ø-es</i>
<i>[d-en neu-en Gorilla</i>	<i>ein-en neu-en Gorilla</i>	<i>welch-en ...]</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>ih-n</i>
<i>[d-ie neu-e Kobra</i>	<i>ein-e neu-e Kobra</i>	<i>welch-e ...]</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>s-ie</i>
<i>[d-ie neu-en Zebra-s</i>	<i>(viel-e) neu-e Zebra-s</i>	<i>welch-e ...]</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>s-ie</i>
<i>[d-ie neu-en Gorilla-s</i>	<i>(viel-e) neu-e Gorilla-s</i>	<i>welch-e ...]</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>s-ie</i>
<i>[d-ie neu-en Kobra-s</i>	<i>(viel-e) neu-e Kobra-s</i>	<i>welch-e ...]</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>s-ie</i>

GENITIVE

<i>[d-es neu-en Zebra-s</i>	<i>ein-es neu-en Zebra-s</i>	<i>welch-es ...]*</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>sein-er</i>
<i>[d-es neu-en Gorilla-s</i>	<i>ein-es neu-en Gorilla-s</i>	<i>welch-es ...]*</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>sein-er</i>
<i>[d-er neu-en Kobra</i>	<i>ein-er neu-en Kobra</i>	<i>welch-er ...]*</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>ih-r-er</i>
<i>[d-er neu-en Zebra-s</i>	<i>(viel-er) neu-er/-en Zebra-s</i>	<i>welch-er ...]</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>ih-r-er</i>
<i>[d-er neu-en Gorilla-s</i>	<i>(viel-er) neu-er/-en Gorilla-s</i>	<i>welch-er ...]</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>ih-r-er</i>
<i>[d-er neu-en Kobra-s</i>	<i>(viel-er) neu-er/-en Kobra-s</i>	<i>welch-er ...]</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>ih-r-er</i>

DATIVE

<i>[d-em neu-en Zebra</i>	<i>ein-em neu-en Zebra</i>	<i>welch-em ...]</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>ih-m</i>
<i>[d-em neu-en Gorilla</i>	<i>ein-em neu-en Gorilla</i>	<i>welch-em ...]</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>ih-m</i>
<i>[d-er neu-en Kobra</i>	<i>ein-er neu-en Kobra</i>	<i>welch-er ...]</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>ih-r</i>
<i>[d-en neu-en Zebra-s</i>	<i>(viel-en) neu-en Zebra-s</i>	<i>welch-en ...]</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>ih-n-en</i>
<i>[d-en neu-en Gorilla-s</i>	<i>(viel-en) neu-en Gorilla-s</i>	<i>welch-en ...]</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>ih-n-en</i>
<i>[d-en neu-en Kobra-s</i>	<i>(viel-en) neu-en Kobra-s</i>	<i>welch-en ...]</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>ih-n-en</i>

* indef without DET (as with mass nouns): *neu-en Wein-s, neu-es Has-en?*
 neu-en Bier-s, neu-es X
 neu-er Milch

(5) Agreement in German: Agreement classes

analysis A	analysis B	analysis C
SG.N	SG.N	N
SG.M	SG.M	M
SG.F	SG.F	F
		PL
PL.N		
PL.M	PL	
PL.F		
exponents shared among terms	terms reduced in presence of marked partner term;	terms and categories reduced everywhere: 1 category of 4 terms
paradigm hierarchical: [[SG.N, SG.M, SG.F], [PL.N, PL.M, PL.F]]	paradigm hierarchical: [[SG.N, SG.M, SG.F], PL]	paradigm flat: [N, M, F, PL]
NUMBER dominates GENDER	NUMBER dominates GENDER	dominance irrelevant
		analysis C'
		N
		M
		F/PL
		[N, M, F/PL]
		but see underlinings in (4)!

- (6) Exponents in (4), their domains, and what they express
(minimizing homonymy so far as reasonable)

- \emptyset indefinite article:
 NOM, if N: ACC = NOM,
 N and M;
- as*, -(*e*)*s*₁ CASE MARK: NOM required (being the first word in an NP able to get such marking),
 N,
 and always if N, then ACC = NOM;
- (*e*)*r*₁ CASE MARK: NOM required (being the first word in an NP able to get such marking),
 M;
- ie*, -(*e*) DIRECT case (NOM or ACC), but no distinctive CASE MARK required,
 owing to a preceding word distinguishing NOM and ACC
 or owing to NOM \neq ACC distinctness being only imposed for M;
- (*e*)*s*₂ CASE MARK: GEN required (being the first/only word in an NP able to get such marking),
 N and M;
- (*e*)*r*₂ CASE MARK: GEN required (being the first/only word in an NP able to get such marking),
 F and PL,
- (*e*)*m* CASE MARK: DAT required (being the first/only word in an NP able to get such marking),
 N or M,
 (for F: DAT = GEN)
- (*e*)*n*₁ CASE MARK: DAT required (being the first/only word in an NP able to get such marking),
 PL;
- (*e*)*n*₂ OBLIQUE case (DAT and GEN, and includes ACC for M, where there is a distinctness
 requirement NOM \neq ACC), but no distinctive CASE MARK required,
 owing to a preceding case-distinctive word;
- [-*e*]-(*e*)*n*₃ PL after def (with def itself not distinguishing PL and F)

Note: No CASE MARK requirement for ACC

Observation: NPs with an indefinite article in NOM.SG NEUTER and MASCULINE are odd;

they ought to be:

ein-es neu-e Zebra

ein-er neu-e Gorilla

(ein-e neu-e Kobra)

(7) A more familiar alternative of accounting for the exponents in (4)

NOM	def, adj following indef	N	-as, -es	
		M	-er	
		F/PL	-ie, -e	
	indef	N/M	-Ø	
		F/PL	-e	
	adj following def	SG (N/M/F)	-e	
		PL	-en	
ACC	def, adj following indef	N	-as, -es	(=NOM)
		M	-en	
		F/PL	-ie, -e	(=NOM)
	indef	N	-Ø	(=NOM)
		M	-en	
		F/PL	-e	(=NOM)
	adj following def	N	-e	(=NOM)
		M	-en	
		F	-e	(=NOM)
GEN	def, indef	N/M	-es	
		F/PL	-er	
	adj following def or indef	N/M/F/PL	-en	
			(or after indef -er)	
DAT	def, indef	N/M	-em	
		F	-er	(=GEN)
		PL	-en	
	adj following def or indef	N/M/F/PL	-en	(=GEN)

- (8) What is the status of, and relation between, number and gender on agreement controllers?
(inspired by Antonsen 1973)

- Noun template: $[[\text{Root-Formative}]_{\text{Stem}}-\text{Inflection}]$
- possibly $[\text{Root}]_{\text{Stem}}$ e.g., *Mann, Frau, Haus*
- What kinds of stems there are:
 - direct e.g., *Kirch-e, Balk-e*
 - oblique *Balk-en, Mensch-en*
 - plural *Balk-en, Mensch-en, Frau-en, Kind-er, Uhu-s*
 - derivational? *Kirch-* (or is this the bare root?)
- Can stems be formed of stems?
 - yes, in particular, a plural stem from a direct or an oblique stem: $[\text{Kirch-e-n}]$
- Are there regular relations between oblique stems and plural stems?
- There is considerable diversity of (lexically and semantically conditioned) stem formation, with plural stem formatives including:
 - e (with or without umlaut)
 - er (with or without umlaut)
 - (e)n
 - s
 - umlaut
- Stem formation is derivational;
- Stems are controllers of agreement: categories distinguished by stems are possible agreement categories, including direct vs. oblique vs. plural
- Gender is assigned to stems e.g., *die Bind-e, das Band, der Band, der Bund, die Band-e*
- There are four genders: MASC, FEM, NEUT, PL
- Exponents of case (not cumulated with number):

	I	II	III
NOM	—	—	—
ACC	—	—	—
GEN	-(e)s	—	—
DAT	-(e)	-n	—

inflection class I: all neuter stems,
 masculine stems except weak [a stem-formational category] animates
 (e.g. *Jung-e*, *Mensch*) and those with suffix *-us*;

inflection class II: plural stems except those in *-n* or *-s*;

inflection class III: all feminine stems,
 plural stems in *-n* or *-s*,
 weak animate masculine stems,
 masculine stems in *-us*.

- three classifications: stem classes, inflection classes, agreement classes;
- as to relationships between classifications,
 - stem classes are not co-extensive with agreement classes;
 - only plural stems are always one agreement class, for all relevant distinctions of case and case-sets (direct, oblique);
 - for all other stem classes (i.e., direct, oblique), agreement classes, for all relevant distinctions of case and case-sets, can only be circumscribed by additional subclassifications of stems (=gender);
 - ditto for inflection classes: one inflection class (II) coincides with an agreement class, the others don't;
 - there are certain dependencies of inflection class on agreement class and on stem class (e.g., If FEM, then not I and not plural stem *-er*). Or is it the other way round?

C. What if you are plural but need a(nother) gender?

C.1. Plural nouns reanalysed as singular

(9) (native) pluralia tantum nouns used as singulars

+ANIMATE/+HUMAN

<i>Ahnen</i>	<i>der Ahn</i>
<i>Vorfahren</i>	<i>der Vorfahr(e)</i>
<i>Eltern</i>	<i>der/das Elter</i>
<i>Geschwister</i>	<i>das Geschwister</i>
<i>Gebrüder</i>	<i>der Gebruder???</i>
<i>Zwillinge</i>	<i>der Zwilling</i>

MHG *geswistrede* NEUT, collective SG
 as suggested by simplex *der Bruder*

<i>Leute</i>	<i>das Leut</i>	MHG <i>dër liut</i> ‘das Volk’, PL <i>liuti</i>
<i>Honoratioren</i>		
<i>Konsorten</i>		

-ANIM

<i>Akten</i>	<i>die Akte, der Akt</i>	
<i>Bauten</i>	<i>die? Baute [der Bau]</i>	
<i>Trümmer</i>	<i>das Trumm</i>	
<i>Scherben</i>	<i>die Scherbe, der Scherben</i>	
<i>Gliedmaßen</i>	<i>die Gliedmaße?, das Gliedmaß?</i>	
<i>Ingredienzien</i>		
<i>Möbel</i>	<i>das Möbel</i>	
<i>Lebensmittel</i>	<i>das Lebensmittel???</i>	as suggested by simplex <i>das Mittel</i>
<i>Rauchwaren</i>	<i>die Rauchware??</i>	as suggested by simplex <i>die Ware</i>
<i>Wirkwaren</i>		
<i>Altwaren</i>		
<i>Umtriebe</i>	<i>der Umtrieb???</i>	as suggested by simplex <i>der Trieb</i>
<i>Gewissensbisse</i>	<i>der Gewissensbiss???</i>	as suggested by simplex <i>der Biss</i>

(10) reanalysis of plural nouns as SG, in turn pluralizable:

<i>der Beryll</i>	PL <i>Berylle</i> > <i>B(e)rille</i>	=>	SG <i>die Brille</i> , PL <i>die Brillen</i>
<i>biblíon</i> (NEUT) PL <i>biblíá</i>		=>	SG <i>die Bibel</i> , PL <i>die Bibeln</i>
<i>der tran</i>	PL <i>trene</i>	=>	SG <i>die Träne</i> , PL <i>die Tränen</i>
<i>borsa</i> SG coll > <i>die Bursch</i>		=>	SG indiv (male) <i>der Bursch(e)</i>
<i>Frauenzimmer</i> SG coll		=>	SG indiv (female) <i>das Frauenzimmer</i>

(11) similarly, ethnonymic nouns in plural (dative!), reanalysed as SG.NOM

(*bei den*) *Bayern, Schwaben, Franken, Sachsen, Hessen, Pommern*
gender: NEUT (like *das Land*)

(12) place names < DAT.PL

Baden, Soden (MHG *sôt* ‘Brunnen’), *-X-felden, X-hofen, X-hausen*
München (*ze dën münchen*)

gender: also NEUT (towns are NEUT, regardless of *die Stadt, die Burg, der Ort, die Furt, der Bach*, even if they have these nouns as their second components)

(13) English plurals reanalysed as singulars

<i>coke-s</i>	<i>der Koks</i>	no PL, mass noun
<i>cake-s</i>	<i>der (das?) Keks</i>	PL: <i>die Keks-e</i>
<i>drop-s</i>	<i>der (das?) Drops</i>	PL: <i>die Drops(-e?)</i>
<i>new-s</i>	<i>die/eine News</i>	PL: <i>die ganzen News</i>
<i>jean-s</i>	<i>die/eine Jeans</i>	PL: <i>diese zwei Jeans</i>

(14) names of major Christian holidays, extending beyond one day

Ostern, Weihnachten, Pfingsten < DAT.PL governed by *zu*

MHG *ze dën wîhen nahten*

formally plural, but partly treated as SG for agreement purposes

PL in wish formulas, outside clause context
(?, or ellipsis: *I wish you* ____, i.e. these forms are accusative,
e.g. *Schön-en Feiertag!*)
frohe Ostern, gesegnete Weihnachten, erholsame Pfingsten!

(PL)/SG NP-internal agreement, with PL dialectal
diese Weihnachten, nächste Ostern, nach den Ostern

SG NP-internal; verb-agreement
Wir haben ein verregnetes Ostern gehabt
Weihnachten ist längst vorbei

*Diese [PL] Weihnachten/Ostern/Pfingsten waren [PL]/*war [SG] recht turbulent*

if SG, which gender? NEUT, formerly also FEM or MASC;

Weihnachten reformed as *Weihnacht*, with PL inflection dropped, and then FEM like the basic noun *Nacht*

old genitives: GEN.SG [*dies*] *Michaelis, Martini*

GEN.PL [*dies*] *Allerseelen, Allerheiligen* => gender in SG: NEUT

C.2. Low numerals as overdifferentiated agreement targets

- (15) Plural gender agreement in earlier German, disappearing in MHG, but maintained a little longer (13/14/15 c.) in Upper German

MASC	FEM	NEUT	
<i>blind-e</i>	<i>blind-e</i>	<i>blind-iu / blind-e</i>	‘blind’ (strong declension)
<i>d-ie</i>	<i>d-ie</i>	<i>d-iu</i>	‘the, those’
<i>d-is-e</i>	<i>d-is-e</i>	<i>d-is-iu</i>	‘these’
<i>s-ie/s-î/s-i</i>	<i>s-ie/s-î/s-i</i>	<i>s-iu</i>	‘they’

- (16) Low numerals in Germanic, with gender contrasts only innovated in Germanic times rather than inherited from IE

	MASC	FEM	NEUT	
Gothic	<i>twai</i>	<i>twós</i>	<i>twa</i>	‘two’
	<i>*þreis</i>	<i>*þreis</i>	<i>þrija</i>	‘three’
Old Norse	<i>tveir</i>	<i>tvær</i>	<i>tvau</i>	‘two’
	<i>þrír</i>	<i>þriár</i>	<i>þriú</i>	‘three’
	<i> fjórir</i>	<i> fjórar</i>	<i> fjogor</i>	‘four’

Old English	<i>twégen</i>	<i>twá</i>	<i>twá / tú</i>	‘two’ (<i>twain</i>)
	<i>bégen</i>	<i>bá</i>	<i>bá / bú</i>	‘both’
	<i>πríe</i>	<i>πréo</i>	<i>πréo</i>	‘three’
Old Saxon	<i>twéne</i>	<i>twá / twó</i>	<i>twé</i>	‘two’
	<i>thria</i>	<i>threa</i>	<i>thriu</i>	‘three’
Old High German	<i>zwéne</i>	<i>zwá / zwó</i>	<i>zwei</i>	‘two’
	<i>dri</i>	<i>drio</i>	<i>driu</i>	‘three’
early Modern				
High German	<i>zween</i>	<i>zwo</i>	<i>zwei</i>	‘two’

- (17) OHG/MHG numerals 4-12 uninflected when preceding their noun, inflected when following their noun and when nominalized:

OHG	uninflected	MASC/FEM	NEUT
	<i>feor, fior</i>	<i>fiori</i>	<i>fior(i)u</i>
MHG	<i>vier</i>	<i>viere</i>	<i>vieriu</i>

forms: i-declension for MASC/FEM, pronominal/strong adj decl for NEUTER

- (18)
- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|---|
| <i>da geh-en</i> | <i>zw-een</i> | <i>Männ-er</i> |
| there go-3PL | two-PL.MASC | man _{MASC} -PL |
| ... | <i>zw-o</i> | <i>Frau-en</i> |
| | two-PL.FEM | woman _{FEM} -PL |
| ... | <i>zw-ei</i> | <i>Weib-er</i> |
| | two.PL-NEUT | female _{NEUT} -PL |
| ... | <i>zw-ei</i> | Ø |
| | two-PL.NEUT | [any mixture of genders of antecedents] |

- (19) Züüritüütsch (similarly elsewhere in “deep” Alemannic and Bavarian),
with neuter tending to be generalized everywhere

	MASC	FEM	NEUT	
NOM/ACC	<i>zwee</i>	<i>zwoo</i>	<i>zwäi</i>	‘two’
DATIVE	<i>zeene(n)</i>	<i>zwoone(n)</i>	<i>zwäine(n)</i>	
NOM/ACC	<i>drei</i>	<i>drei</i>	<i>driüi</i>	‘three’

DATIVE	<i>dreine(n)</i>	<i>dreine(n)</i>	<i>drüüne(n)</i>
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- (20) Low numerals as overdifferentiated targets also in some Central Dravidian lgs (Parji, Kurukh, Kol, Naikr, Gadba), Chechen-Ingush, and Nakh
- (21) How does a complex higher numeral containing a very low numeral agree in gender (and number, if number isn't gender) in Chichewa (Bantu)?

chi-pewa chi-modzi

VII.SG-hat VII.SG.one 'one hat'

zi-pewa zi-sanu

VIII.PL-hat VIII.PL.five ‘five hats’

zi-pewa zi-sanu ndi chi-modzi

VIII.PL-hat VIII.PL.five and VII.SG-one 'six hats'

- (22) Possessive “adjectives” in Upper Sorbian, and how to agree with them:

moj-eho

muz-ow-a

*sotr-a*my-GEN.SG.MASC husband_{MASC}-ADJCT-NOM.SG.FEM sister_{FEM}-NOM.SG

‘my husband’s sister’

