This handout outlines various aspects of the PIV function.

**Pivot assignment in different types of languages**

In nominative-accusative languages (English, Hebrew, Arabic, Russian, …)

\[
(\uparrow \text{PIV}) = (\uparrow \text{GF})
\]

In “syntactically” ergative languages (Dyirbal, Inuit, Samoan, Chukchee, …)

\[
\text{If } \exists (\uparrow \text{OBJ}) \Rightarrow (\uparrow \text{PIV}) = (\uparrow \text{OBJ})
\]

or, in standard LFG notation: \((\uparrow \text{OBJ}) \Rightarrow (\uparrow \text{PIV}) = (\uparrow \text{OBJ})\)

In Philippine-type languages (Tagalog, Cebuano, Malagasy, …)

- with “Active voice” morphology: \((\uparrow \text{PIV}) = (\uparrow \text{GF})\)
- with “Direct object voice” morphology: \((\uparrow \text{PIV}) = (\uparrow \text{OBJ})\)
- with “Indirect object/locative voice”: \((\uparrow \text{PIV}) = (\uparrow \text{OBJ}_{\text{Indirect}})\)
- with “Instrumental voice” morphology: \((\uparrow \text{PIV}) = (\uparrow \text{OBL}_{\text{Instr}})\)

etc.

**Example**

**Samoan** (Austronesian > Malayo-Polynesian > Oceanic > Polynesian)—a mixed-subject (“syntactically ergative”) language

**English**—a uniform-subject language

\[\text{Sā fasi le maile e le teine.} \]

PAST hit ART dog ERG ART girl

‘The girl hit the dog.’

**Samoan**

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{GF} \\
\text{OBJ} \\
\text{PIV} \\
\text{TENSE} \\
\text{PRED}
\end{array}
\begin{array}{c}
[“girl”] \\
[“dog”] \\
(\uparrow \text{GF})(\uparrow \text{OBJ})’
\end{array}
\]

**English**

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{GF} \\
\text{PIV} \\
\text{OBJ} \\
\text{TENSE} \\
\text{PRED}
\end{array}
\begin{array}{c}
[“girl”] \\
[“dog”] \\
[“hit”] \\
\end{array}
\]

‘hit \((\uparrow \text{GF})(\uparrow \text{OBJ})’

Clause structure in configurational languages

Configurational languages encode grammatical functions iconically in constituent structure:

```
CP
   /
  /  
SPEC C' C
     /
IP   discourse
  /
SPEC I
  /
I
  /
V'
  /
adjuncts
  /
V''
  /
arguments
```

Non-configurational languages organize their constituent structures according to different principles.