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## AGNOSTIC NP SHIFT IN LITHUANIAN

This paper examines the unusual case and word order behavior of objects of infinitives in Lithuanian. In addition to lexically determined case idiosyncrasy, Lithuanian exhibits syntactically determined case idiosyncrasy: with infinitives in three distinct constructions, case possibilities other than accusative obtain. These cases (dative, genitive, and nominative) depend on the general clause structure rather than on the particular infinitive. Moreover, unlike ordinary direct objects, they appear in a position preceding rather than following the verb. It is argued that they move to the left edge of vP in order to continue to be accessible for Case assignment by some higher (and not yet merged) Case assigning functional head. In this way we unify the two superficially unrelated properties of non-canonical word order and Case. Since nothing attracts the object, this movement however is not feature driven in the sense of standard minimalist Case-licensing mechanisms. We characterize it instead as AGNOSTIC in that it applies to an NP with unvalued Case features which need to remain syntactically active if the derivation is to converge. When that NP reaches a point in the derivation where it has no recourse but to shift it does so, since failure to remain visible to a potential higher head would be fatal.