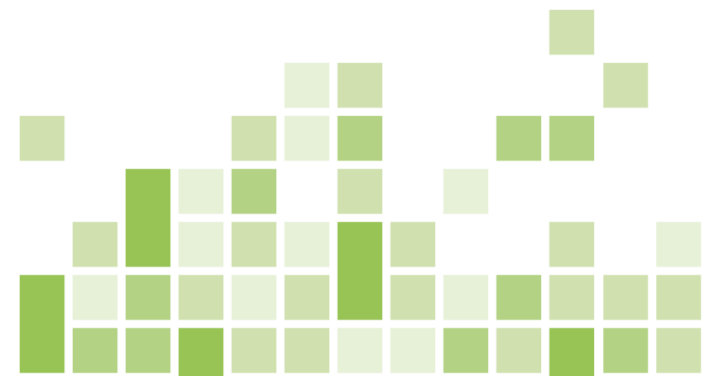




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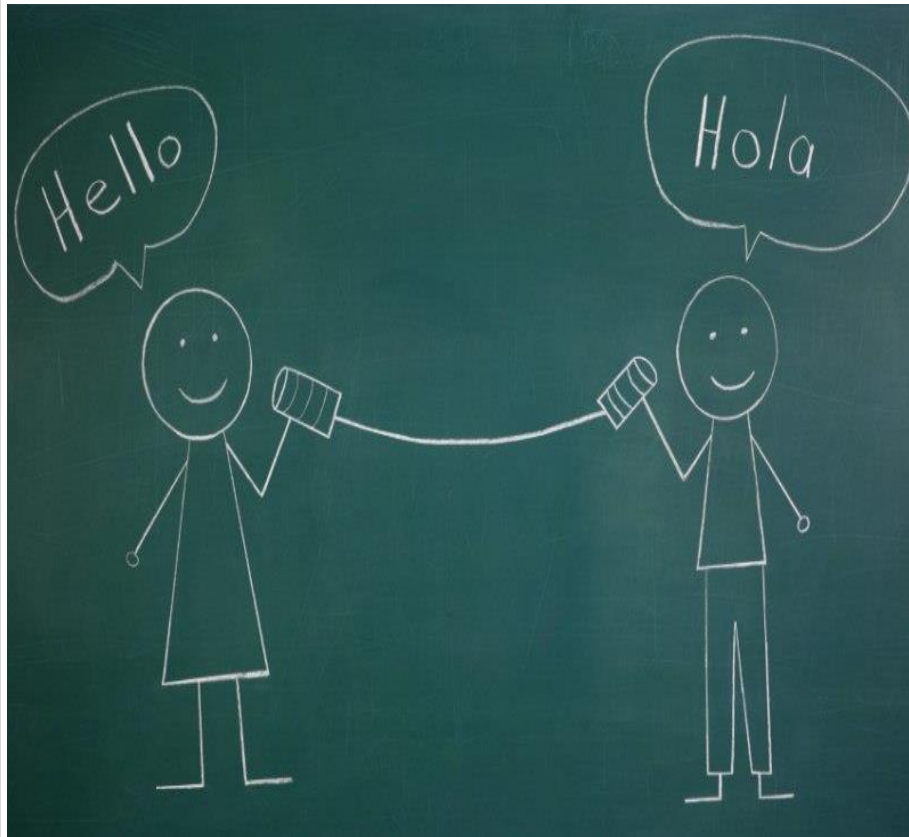
Markers of nominal possession in English and Spanish

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Introduction



The **purpose** of the report is to analyze typical language means which are used to encode possession in nominal PNFs in English and Spanish.



Contents:

- Introduction
- Genetic inhering of English and Spain
- Linguistic concept of possession
- Adnominal possessive noun phrases (PNPs)
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Genetic inhering of English

English is a member of the **Indo-European family** of languages. It belongs to the **Germanic group** of the Indo-European family.



Genetic inhering of Spanish

Spanish is a member of the **Indo-European family of languages**. The Spanish language is the most widely spoken **Romance** language.

Thus, English and Spain adhere to the different branches of the Indo-European family (Romance and Germanic).



Linguistic possession

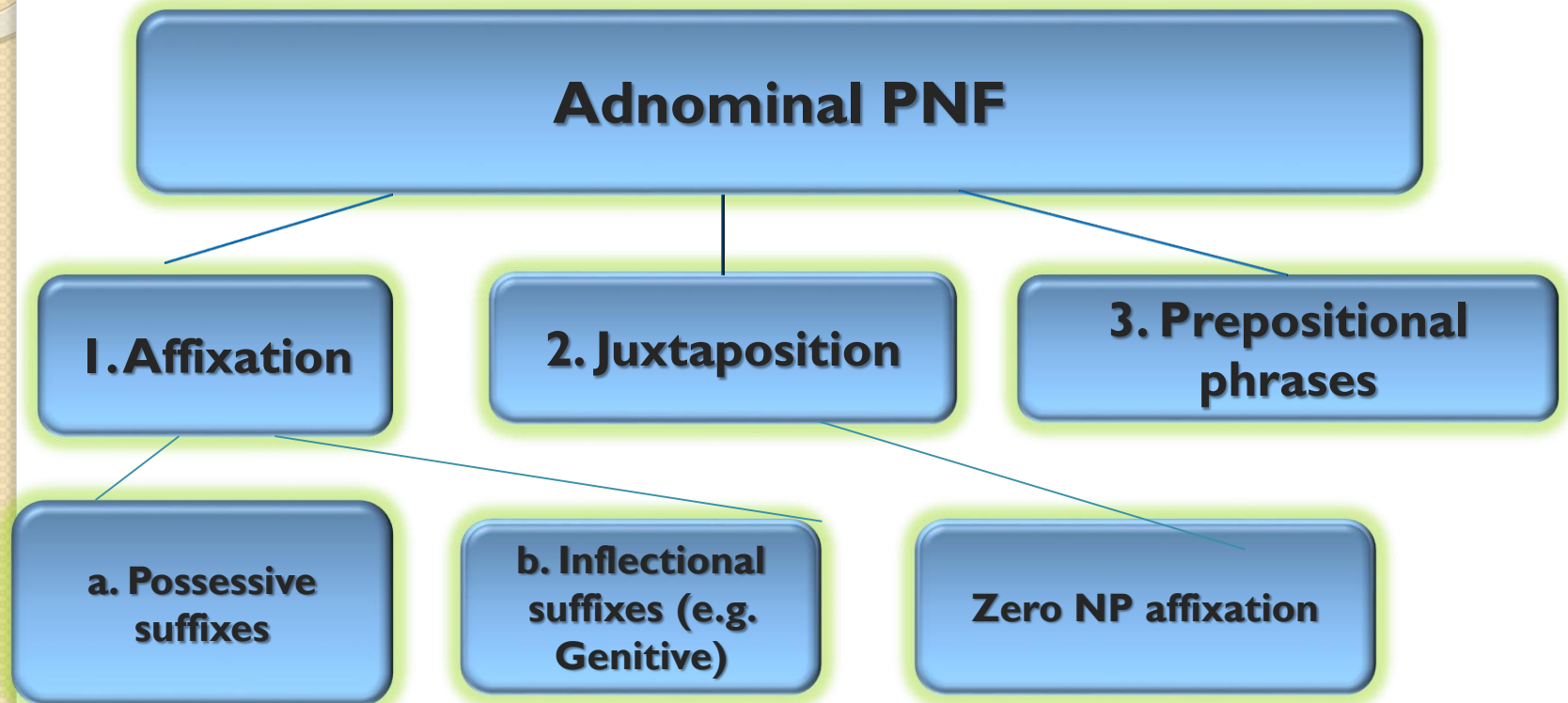
Possession is a linguistic concept which conveys the idea of appurtenance between a possessor and a possessee for the expression of which there is a diverse inventory of means in the language systems of the world (Broschart, 2001). On the morphosyntactic level possession is traditionally differentiated into adnominal (*the woman's dog*) and predicative (*she has a dog*).

Adnominal Possessive NF

In adnominal possession, the possessed noun is head and the possessor is dependent. The possessor and the possessee form one noun phrase (NP). A possessor in the adnominal possessive construction can be either nominal (e.g. *magician's trick*) or pronominal (e.g. *my trick*). The on-going report focuses on the nominal possessive constructions only.

(Koptevskaja-Tamm, 2002).

Common language means for coding possession in adnominal PNP in languages of Europe



(Koptevskaja-Tamm 2001).

1st type of nominal PNF in English

In English the possessive relations in nominal PNP can be marked on the dependent by declensional marker -s with the apostrophe, for instance, *my friend's* (possessor) *purse* (possessed thing). The possessee can be expressed implicitly in the nominal PNF in English. The implicit possessee can be simply inferred in a certain context, e.g. *The funeral was held at St. Thomas's* (church).

Scheme of Dependent-Marking PNP in English

^Ndependent-NP possessor (genitive marker) - ^Nhead-NP possessed

friend's-GEN

purse

'the friend's purse'

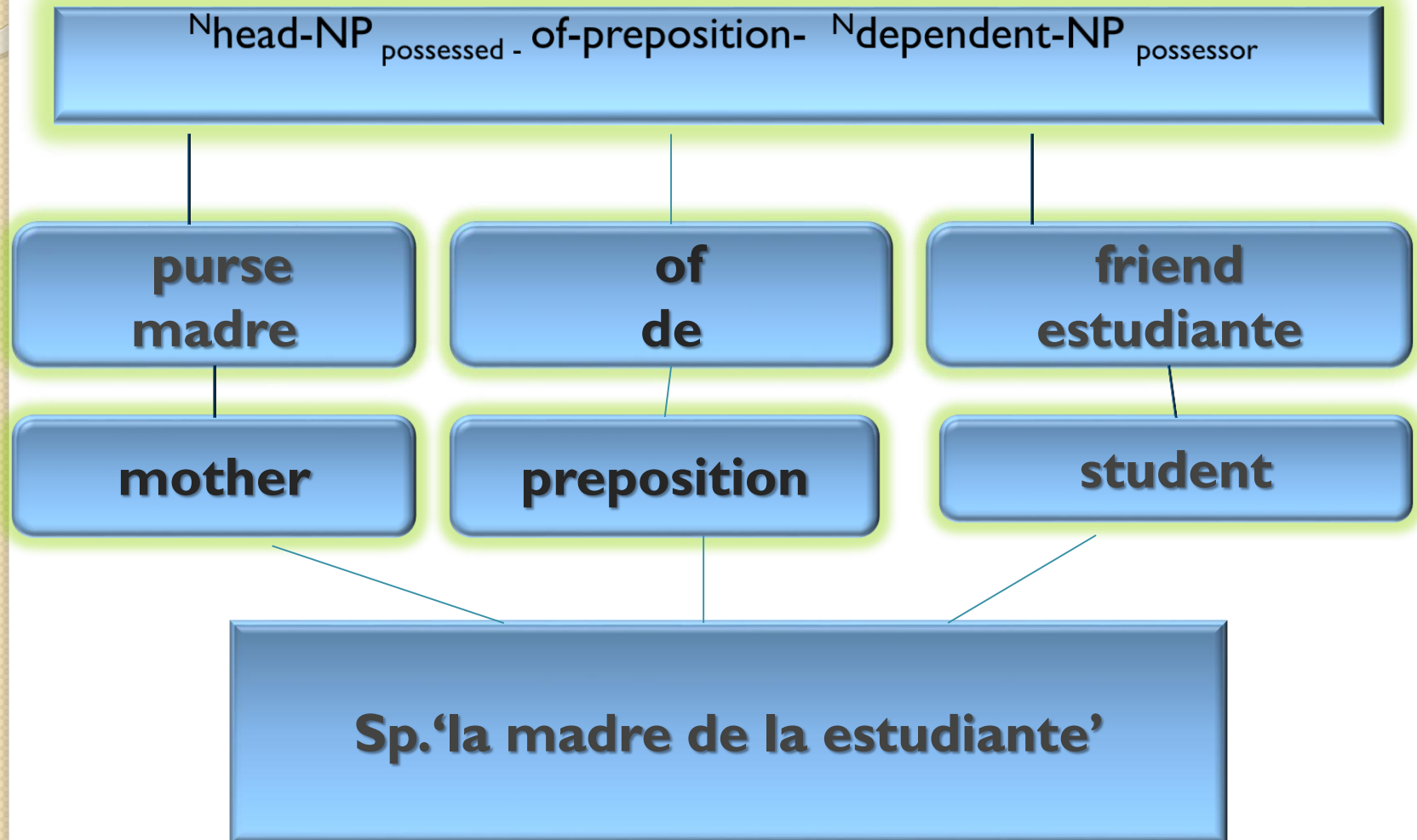
2st type of nominal PNF in English


English also has a prepositional phrase which uses *of*-preposition to convey possessive relations in nominal possessive constructions, e.g. ***the purse of my friend.***

Nominal PNF in Spanish

Spanish nouns are not inflected for possession as English nouns are; instead, a possessive construction with a *de*-preposition is used. It is illustrated by some examples from Spanish: *Ver el **perfil de Pablo***. – “See **Pablo's profile**”, *Es la **madre de la estudiante*** – “She is the **student's mother**”.

Scheme of Prepositional NP in English and Spain



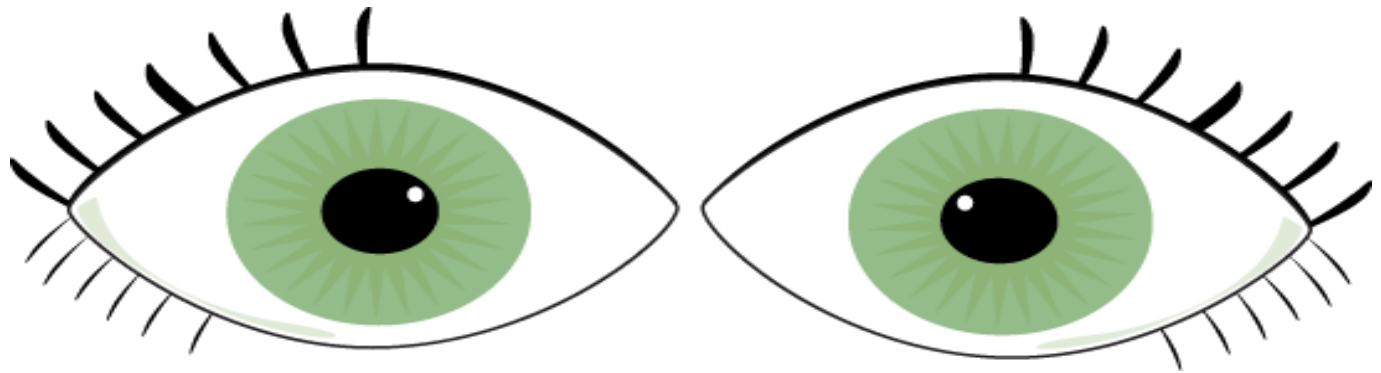


Analysis of English and Spain PNFs and construction markers of possession

Both languages have prepositional possessive constructions to convey possessive relations which differ from the English case-marked constructions mainly in the order of their elements. In English there are two markers for coding possession in NP: the genitive and the preposition, in Spain – only the preposition.

The “of” phrase and “de” phrase are not always equivalents

The girl with the green eyes The woman from Denmark
La chica de los ojos verdes La mujer de Dinamarca



Conclusion

In English there are two markers for coding possession in noun phrase: the genitive case and the preposition which encode the possessive relation between the possessor and the possessee. Spanish, however, has only one means with the preposition *de* to account for both expressions in English.



Perspective

In perspective, it would have liked to study in comparison peculiar functions of case-marked and prepositional possessive constructions to make possible not to lost subtleties in translation from Spanish into English.

References

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Abbreviation

NP – noun phrase, PNP – possessive noun phrase, PNPs – possessive noun phrases

I wish you every success
in your work and thank
you for your kind
attention!

