

DEFINING THE NOMINATIVE

Summary

The ancient Indo-European nominative essentially expressed the mere nominal idea. It could be used either isolated, or complementary, or predicative. Very frequently the person or object 'named' by the nominative was the *thema*. The constructional variants do not affect the character of this category.

The time-honoured definition of the nominative as the case of the subject is again repeated in some recent books on ancient Indo-European syntax: "Wie in den übrigen indogermanischen Sprachen war auch im Griechischen der Nominativ der Kasus des grammatischen Subjekts im Verbalsatz, des Subjekts und des Prädikativs im Nominalsatz" ¹⁾; "Le nominatif exprime ce dont il est question dans la phrase. Il sert donc à désigner le sujet. . . ." ²⁾. It may be worth while to dwell for a moment upon these definitions of the "case" which has, as a rule, been the stepchild of those writing on syntax: in Delbrück's *Vergleichende Syntax* (\pm 1750 pages), 33 pages are devoted to the accusative, 52 to the genitive, but one to the nominative. In Speyer's *Sanskrit Syntax*, Pedersen's *Vergl. Grammatik der keltischen Sprachen*, and other books, no attention is paid to the functions of this category. Behaghel's great work on German Syntax contains only incidental references to, no description of, this form. Delbrück's own view of this category was at any rate very inadequate: "In ihn trat ursprünglich jedenfalls der als thätig gedachte den Träger oder Mittelpunkt der Handlung bildende Substantivbegriff" ³⁾: he does not – to mention only this – consider the nominal sentences. However, his opinion was, in substance, endorsed by Brugmann ⁴⁾. Although other functions of the nominative – "er erscheint seit uridg. Zeit auch im Prädikat", "er ist allgemein idg. (die Kasusform, die gebraucht wird, wenn man einen Nominalbegriff nur nennt" ⁵⁾,

¹⁾ E. Schwyzer-A. Debrunner, *Griechische Grammatik* (1950), p. 64.

²⁾ P. Chantraine, *Grammaire homérique II* (1953), p. 36.

³⁾ B. Delbrück, *Vergleichende Syntax der indogermanischen Sprachen I* (1893), p. 188.

⁴⁾ K. Brugmann, *Grundriss² II, 2* (1911), p. 642.

⁵⁾ Brugmann, *o.c.*, p. 643; 645.

to which Hirt added the absolute nominative and other uses ⁶⁾ – were not omitted, the very sequence of these functions (that is to say: the priority given to the nominative of the subject) and, in addition to this, the numerical frequency of this function, have not failed to co-operate in provoking the idea that this was the original use, the others being of a secondary character. Although this opinion was apodeictically expressed in Schwyzer-Debrunner's very praiseworthy handbook of Greek syntax ⁷⁾: "Der meist absolute Gebrauch des Nominativs als Nennform im engern Sinne ist sekundär aus der Subjekt- oder Prädikativgeltung entwickelt, meistens durch Abkürzung vollständiger Sätze unter sachlich-kulturellen Bedingungen, so besonders auch im Schriftgebrauch", it is, in the opinion of the present author, far from certain that it can be substantiated. It may, of course, be readily taken for granted that some exclamations, inscriptions, titles and so on were, in some way or other, remainders of complete sentences containing a nominative of the subject. But how are we to know that at a former time all of them had resulted from a process of abbreviation? Is it not mistaking logic for linguistics to hold all exclamations of the types: Xen. An. 4, 7, 24 θάλαττα, θάλαττα! or Hom. Il. 5, 403 σχέτλιος δς οὐκ ἔθετ' αἴσυλα ῥέζων to represent a complete "(da ist) Meer, Meer", or "(a) rash man (he is) who does not reck of his evil deeds"? Were items in lists or accounts, exclamations, names etc. really shortened sentences?: Aeschines 2, 99 τὴν ἐπωνυμίαν συκοφάντης; Suet. Claud. 24, 3 *Gabinio* *cognomen Cauchius usurpare concessit*.

Various uses of this case other than that appearing in *vir vivit* or *vir bonus* may safely be regarded as wide-spread already in pre-historic times ⁸⁾: the nominative accompanying verbs of naming or calling; that of the name quoted, of titles or rather of the thema, of 'inscriptions', enumerations, indications of measure; that of appositions – e.g. Odyssey 1, 50 f. νῆσω ἐν ἀμφιρύτῃ, ἔθι – / νῆσος δενδρήεσσα "in a sea-girt island, where –, a wooded island

⁶⁾ H. Hirt, Indogermanische Grammatik VI (1934), p. 97.

⁷⁾ Schwyzer-Debrunner, o.c., p. 65.

⁸⁾ See especially W. Havers, Der sog. 'Nominativus pendens', Indog. Forsch. 43 (1926), p. 207 ff.; Zur Syntax des Nominativs, Glotta 16 (1928), p. 94 ff. Much attention to these points has also been paid by A. Ernout and F. Thomas, Syntaxe latine², (1953), p. 11 ff.

....” –, of “exclamative appositions” – Iliad 10, 436 f. καλλίστους ἵππους ἴδον ἤδὲ μεγίστους – λευκότεροι χιόνας “the fairest horses that ever I saw, and the greatest – whiter than snow” –, the isolated nominative occurring in descriptive passages of a vivid or pathetic character – cf. e.g. Ter. Ph. 105 *nil aderat adiumenti ad pulchritudinem: capillus passus, nudus pes* . . . ⁹⁾; the nominative absolute ¹⁰⁾, and the pendent nominative ¹¹⁾, etc. Moreover, these uses of this form are, generally speaking, in perfect harmony with frequent constructions in living languages: cf. e.g. also in Hindi: *mahārāj ve baiṭhe haiṃ* “the great king – he is seated”. Parallels, or at least comparable syntactic phenomena may also easily be collected from non-Indo-European idioms: the casus pendens of Hebrew ¹²⁾, Egyptian constructions such as “that house, I am in it”, etc.

This ‘Herausstellung’ which is a frequent device to throw an element of the communication into relief – cf. Schiller’s *Die Treue, sie ist doch kein leerer Wahn* ¹³⁾ – is, in a more or less mechanized form, very frequent in Javanese: Ādip. p. 10 *śrī narapati, sampun mantuk sira* lit. “the king, he withdrew” ¹⁴⁾. In the Indonesian Roti a substantive can likewise precede the sentence proper: in the sentence “and the smaller districts, they would not listen to him” ¹⁵⁾ some stress is laid on the words “the smaller districts”. Similar phenomena exist in other Indonesian languages: e.g. Bimanese ¹⁶⁾ and Dayak ¹⁷⁾; it may be taken for granted that the usual Malay construction *Laksamana terlalu sukajita hatinja* lit. “L. his heart was very glad” – similar constructions are for instance very common in colloquial Dutch–,

⁹⁾ Cf. also O. Behaghel, *Deutsche Syntax III* (1928), p. 455 f. One might also compare such formulas as, in Sanskrit, *na saṃsayah* “no doubt”.

¹⁰⁾ See e.g. also H. Oertel, *Festschrift – J. Wackernagel* (1924), p. 49; *The syntax of cases in the . . . brāhmaṇas* (1926), p. 39 ff.; A. Schleicher, *Litauische Grammatik* (1856), p. 315; F. Horn, *Zur Geschichte der absoluten Partizipialkonstruktionen im Lateinischen* (1918).

¹¹⁾ Oertel, *Syntax of cases*, p. 29 ff.

¹²⁾ See W. Gesenius-E. Kautzsch, *Hebräische Grammatik*, § 116 w.

¹³⁾ Cf. also O. Behaghel, o.c. III, p. 452.

¹⁴⁾ See also *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde* 107, p. 183 f.

¹⁵⁾ I refer to J. C. G. Jonker, *Rottineesche Spraakkunst* (1915), p. 464 t.

¹⁶⁾ See Jonker, *Bimaneesche Spraakkunst*, *Verhandelingen Bataviaasch Genootschap* 48, p. 351.

¹⁷⁾ A. Hardeland, *Versuch einer Grammatik der Dajackschen Sprache* (1858), p. 162.

i.e. "L. was very glad" has originated in sentences of this type. The conclusion seems therefore to be that these uses of the nominative belonged already to the prehistoric stage of our family of languages; they are natural and need not be explained from anacoluthon, aposiopesis etc. It is at least not possible to be certain that the expression of the subject was the primary function of this case, from which the others were derived as seems to be the opinion of those scholars who consider the latter as 'irregular' ¹⁸⁾, or who do not even mention them ¹⁹⁾.

It cannot, on the other hand, be considered a satisfactory procedure to make a catalogue of the functions of this category without attempting to detect what they have in common and to establish the central or fundamental idea of which they are manifestations ²⁰⁾. Such descriptions as: "Le nominatif est le cas du sujet de la phrase. C'est aussi le cas 'absolu', la forme qu'on donne au mot qu'on ne veut pas fléchir, après les verbes signifiant "nommer" ²¹⁾ or: "Nominativ. (1) Subjektkasus; (2) Prädikatkasus; (3) Anredeform" ²²⁾ or the additional observation that "c'est sous la forme du nominatif que, hors de la phrase, le nom se présente à l'esprit" ²³⁾, however correct they may be as far as they go, do not help us very much in discovering what was the true character, the very essence, of this nominal category. It may be justifiable on didactic grounds to focus the attention of the reader almost exclusively on the use of this form as the subject of the sentence and to add some remarks in small print on the other

¹⁸⁾ J. B. Hofmann, *Lat. Gr.* (1928), p. 375.

¹⁹⁾ Compare Meillet's definition which was endorsed by other French scholars: "Le nominatif indique de quoi il est question dans la phrase, le 'sujet', et aussi, dans la phrase nominale, le prédicat" (A. Meillet, *Introduction à l'étude comparative des langues indo-européennes*⁹ (1937), p. 342).

²⁰⁾ For criticism of the same purport with regard to the modal categories of the I.E. verb see my book: 'The character of the ancient I.E. moods' which is in course of publication.

²¹⁾ A. Vaillant, *Manuel du vieux slave*, I (1948), p. 168.

²²⁾ A. Meillet, *Altarmenisches Elementarbuch* (1913), p. 72.

²³⁾ A. Meillet et J. Vendryes, *Traité de grammaire comparée des langues classiques*³ (1948), p. 548 (§ 815), who persevere in using the term anacoluthon which, being a vague term with a hereditary taint applied to a variety of constructions, does neither explain the origin of the constructions concerned, nor clarify the character of the category.

functions ²⁴⁾, this practice does not give a true picture of what was the reality of the living languages.

Yet the Ancients who gave the case under discussion the name of *ὀνομαστική* (sc. *πτῶσις*; hence the Latin *nominativus*), "the case belonging to naming, or serving to name" had understood that this function is essential. We can, indeed, like Palmer ²⁵⁾ start a description of the nominative with the observation that it is the 'naming' case, adding that in many statements referring to an event the person or object 'named' is conceived as the 'initiator' of a process. The works of the ancient Indian grammarians give evidence of the same insight: according to Pāṇini 2, 3, 46 "the first case is used if nothing else is to be expressed than the mere sense of the nominal base, gender, measure and number" ²⁶⁾ ("c'est-à-dire quand aucune autre notion grammaticale n'est surajoutée à ces valeurs" ²⁷⁾). Later this description was condensed into: *arthamātre* ²⁸⁾ i.e. "(the nominative) expresses only the meaning (of the nominal stem)". In consideration of the various cases in which the nominative is used without any relation to a sentence or in which it does not, strictly speaking, form part of a normal sentence of standard or written language, this view of this category is no doubt correct.

It would however appear that we can go further: there does not seem to be an essential difference between the 'naming' and the predicative nominative. Since the Vedic Taitt. Saṃh. 6, 2, 4, 2 *durge vai hantāvocatāh* "you have called yourself the one who slays in an inaccessible place" ²⁹⁾ and the Greek Eur. Tr. 1233 ("I shall restore to health") *ιατρὸς ὄνομα ἔχουσα* "bearing the name of physician" ³⁰⁾ --

²⁴⁾ Cf. e.g. L. Renou, *Grammaire de la langue védique* (1952), p. 342.

²⁵⁾ L. R. Palmer, *The Latin language*, London, 1954, p. 285.

²⁶⁾ By 'measure' the author understands indications referring to measures of capacity, superficial measures etc. (for details see L. Renou, *Terminologie grammaticale du sanskrit II* (1942), p. 8, and O. Böhtlingk, *Zs. d. deutschen morgenl. Ges.* 41, p. 179), having in view *drono vrīhiḥ* in the sense of *dronapari-māno vrīhiḥ* i.e. "rice amounting to a *drona* (a measure of capacity)"; cf. in Greek, Xen. Vect. 3, 9 *δέξα μναῖ εἰσφορά*; in German, *ein Liter Wein; sie kosten drei Mark das Stück*.

²⁷⁾ Renou, *La grammaire de Pāṇini I*, p. 78.

²⁸⁾ For particulars see Renou, *Terminologie I*, p. 32.

²⁹⁾ For particulars see Delbrück, *Ved. Syntax*, p. 104.

³⁰⁾ Compare also R. Kühner-B. Gerth, *Ausführliche Grammatik der griechischen Sprache, Satzlehre I*, p. 45.

compare also, in German, Luther, Luke 6, 46 was heisst ir mich aber herr, herr³¹⁾ – can be explained as containing this ‘naming nominative’, there is reason for expressing the same opinion with regard to the Vedic construction Ṛgveda 10, 85, 3 *somam manyate papivān* ‘he believes he has drunk Soma’³²⁾ which substantially agrees with the Greek οἶδα θνητὸς ὢν ‘I know that I am mortal’ (but οἶδα σε θνητὸν ὄντα)³³⁾ – which incorrectly is considered a case of so-called attraction –: we may consider these constructions to have originated in ‘he believes: “having drunk” ’ and ‘I know: “being mortal” ’, which are the mean between the two extremes, viz. the direct quotation or discourse: *manyate: papau (iti)*³⁴⁾ which has become usual in written Sanskrit³⁵⁾ and constructions with *accusativus cum infinitivo* or

³¹⁾ See especially H. Paul, Deutsche Grammatik III, p. 260.

³²⁾ See also A. A. Macdonell, A Vedic grammar for students (1916–1953), p. 298. For Iranian see H. Reichelt, Awestisches Elementarbuch (1909), p. 331; for Pāli H. Hendriksen, Syntax of the infinite verb-forms of Pāli (Copenhagen 1944), p. 84.

³³⁾ See also Kühner-Gerth, o.c., p. 48 f. Attention may also be drawn to cases such as Demosthenes 21, 203 ἐμὲ οἶεσθ’ ὑμῖν εἰσοίσειν, ὑμεῖς δε νεμειῖσθαι; and Herod. 4, 137 λέγοντος ὡς . . . οὔτε αὐτὸς . . . οἶός τε ἔσεσθαι ἄρχειν, οὔτε ἄλλον οὐδένα.

³⁴⁾ Cf. also E. Kieckers, Indog. Forsch. 35, p. 1 ff.; 36, p. 1 ff.

³⁵⁾ Some words on the Sanskrit particle *iti* may find a place here which, as is well known, is of very frequent occurrence as a means of marking the direct construction: Ṛgveda 4, 25, 4 *yá indrāya sunāvāma iti āha* ‘who says: “we will press soma for Indra”’ (see e.g. also Renou, Grammaire sanscrite (1930), p. 532 ff. Although it often accompanies a single term, proper names etc. may, especially in the ancient literature, be quoted also without this particle: Mbh. 4, 2, 1 *paurogavo bruvāno ‘haṃ vallabho nāma* ‘calling myself a head cook, named V.’ (see also Speyer, I.F. 31, p. 108 f.); Pañc. 3, 152 *grhinī grham ucyaṭe* ‘the wife is called one’s “home”’. Now the opinion has been expressed (see e.g. Speyer, Sanskrit Syntax, p. 387) that ‘the sentences quoted by means of *iti* are not always given in full: they are sometimes elliptical and may even consist of a single word’. With this view I must disagree. When a noun is accompanied by *iti* it is in the nominative (see however also A. B. Keith, J. R. As. Soc. 1910, p. 1317 ff.): Mahābh. 3, 68, 9 *tam tarkayāmāsa bhaimīti* ‘she guessed her to be the daughter of Bhīma’, more literally: ‘she guessed her: “Bhīma’s daughter”’; Taitt. Saṃh. 5, 1, 5, 7 *rāsabha iti hy etam ṛṣayo ‘vadan* ‘for the seers called him: “ass”’; Mahābh. 1, 155, 9 *arhasi kṛpāṃ kartuṃ mayi . . . matvā mūdheti* ‘show mercy to me, think I am out of my wits’ (lit. “thinking: out of her wits”). Daṇḍin, Dkc. 6 *athaitāṃ kanakavatīti . . . ādāya* ‘thereupon he took her with him, believing her to be Kanakavatī’;

conjunctions and subordinate clauses (or indirect discourse) which came to prevail in other languages. With other verbs which do not by themselves express a complete communication – such as “to be, become, seem, be accounted, etc.” – the complementary nominative

in short, there is a predilection for using this nominative with *iti* “in order to express the predicate of the object of verbs of calling, styling, considering, holding for etc.”. The primary sense of *iti* – which may also express the art of calling attention to (*behold!*, *lo!*) – must have been “thus” (cf. e.g. *Ṛgveda* 10, 119, 1; Speyer, o.c., p. 380; Delbrück, *Altind. Syntax*, p. 531; – in den *brāhmaṇa* “häufig hinweisend auf einen bestimmten Gebrauch, Gebärde, Zustand u.s.w., welche bei dem Zuhörer . . . als bekannt vorausgesetzt oder durch eine Gebärde näher bemerklich gemacht werden” (*Petr. Dict.*): *Śat. Br.* 7, 2, 2, 12 *ity agre kṛṣaty atheti* “he first ploughs thus, then thus”) – cf. also cases such as *Manu* 2, 237 – and any construction with this particle may in my opinion be explained by the assumption that *iti* originally always had this same meaning: ““ass”, thus they called him”; “who “we will press soma for Indra” thus says”; similarly, when *iti* is used at the end of an enumeration to indicate that it forms a well-known aggregate or to include under one head a number of separate objects aggregated together (e.g. *Kauṣ. Br.* 8, 6 *etad vai śiraḥ samṛddham yasmin prāno vāk cakṣuḥ śrotam iti* “that is a complete head in which are breath, speech, eye, ear thus”); when it marks an onomatopoeia (*Ath. V.* 1, 3, 1 *bahīṣ te āstu bāl iti* “let it come out of you *bāl!* thus”, i.e. “with a splash”); when it is, almost like our *sic*, used in technical writings (pada texts) to indicate special forms (see e.g. Macdonell, *A Vedic grammar for students*, p. 25 ff.); Renou, *Termin. gramm.* III, p. 33; when it was employed by commentators after quoting a rule to convey the sense of: “according to such a rule” (e.g. *ity ātmanepadam* “according to . . . the middle voice”, hence also, if the rule is only of approximate validity etc.: Renou, *Term.* I, p. 93 f.; thus *iti*, always with the same case, can also help to form a phrase meaning “having the sense of”: *ibid.* I, p. 61, or a resemblance). The particle also occurs in phrases such as *iśvara iti śabdaḥ* “the word *iśvara-*” (e.g. *Kāl. Vikr.* 1, 1). The conclusion may therefore be that neither the use illustrated by Speyer, *S.S.* p. 387 by *Pat.* 1, p. 411 *gaurāḥ śucyācāraḥ . . . ity etān . . . guṇān* “the qualities: fair of complexion, pure in conduct . . .” is a case of anacoluthon, nor in my opinion, those passages in which *iti* is wanting: *Kām. NS.* 2, 19 *yājanādhyāpane . . . pratigrahaḥ vṛttirayam idam prāhuḥ*: here the nom. *yāj.* and *pr.* are the specification of the acc. *vṛtt.*: “sacrificing for others, teaching . . ., acceptance, they teach this threefold course of action” (for other instances see Speyer, l.c.). Cf. also cases such as *Mahābh.* 1, 161, 6 *brahmavadhyātmavadhyā vā śreyān ātmavadho* (here the genitive might be expected) “of the murder of a brahman and suicide (nom.) the latter is preferable”, a construction which can easily be paralleled: the thought „A is better than B” is often expressed in Malay and other Indonesian languages by: “A and B, good A”; in Schambala (Bantu) *mantu na nama, muṅaṅti ni muntu* means “man and animal, the cunning one is man”,

has the same function: Ṛgveda 10, 108, 10 *gokāmā me achadayan* "they seemed to me desirous of cows" can be explained as having its origin in "they seem to me: "desirous of cows"", or to express ourselves otherwise, "desirous of cows" may under certain circumstances be conceived as an answer to a question or gesture of an interlocutor or as a continuation after an interruption; anyway, it makes an announcement, it states something, it is nothing else but an indication of a nominal idea. In some provinces of the ancient I.E. area the 'complement' was also in cases other than that specified above a participle in the nominative. These participial constructions, which may be regarded as ancient, are found, in Slavonic in connection with verbs of "being, coming, appearing, ceasing, sitting, etc." ³⁶⁾, in Greek with *verba affectuum*, "to begin, cease, succeed, being tired etc." and in addition to these the well-known group of τυγχάνω, λανθάνω etc. ³⁷⁾: Iliad 2, 378 ἐγὼ δ' ἤρχον χαλεπαίνων "it was I who became angry first"; 1, 168 ἐπεὶ κε κάμω πολεμίζων "when I have become weary with fighting"; Arist. Vesp. 336 τυγχάνει καθεύδων "he is sleeping just now". The common nominative of the 'predicate' may be explained in a similar way: in *Croesus fuit (fit) rex Lydiae*, the last two words are, in a manner, an answer to the question "what about Croesus?"; they simply state something in connection with Croesus: "C. was (became): "king of L." ". Similarly *Croesus fortunatus sibi videbatur* may have ultimately originated in: C. s. v. "f."

In various 'anomalous' or 'irregular' constructions the predicative nominative continued to assert its rights: in German constructions such as Lessing, Em. 1, 6, *lassen sie den Grafen dies:r Gesandte sein* are not rare ³⁸⁾ (nom. instead of a predicative acc.) Goethe, Ta. 1,

i.e. "man is more cunning than animals"; cf. in Marind (Papuan): "all the boys, you are the clever one", i.e. "you are the most clever of all boys" (see P. Drabbe, *Spraakunst van het Marind*, *Studia Inst. Anthropos* 11, 1955, p. 25). Particles such as *iti* are not foreign to other idioms: in Tibetan *tes* likewise marks the direct discourse, isolates a quotation, and can be translated by inverted commas. The phrase *tes-bya-ba* which translates the Sanskrit *nāma* "called, by name" indicates that the preceding elements of the phrase form a proper name (for examples see M. Lalou, *Manuel élémentaire de Tibétain classique*, 1950, p. 33).

³⁶⁾ For particulars see W. Vondrák, *Slavische Grammatik II* (1928), p. 405 f.

³⁷⁾ See e.g. Kühner-Gerth, o.c., II, p. 63 ff.

³⁸⁾ Paul, o.c., III, p. 261.

2, 301 *und fühlt sich bald ein Mann*; Heymonsk. 174 (*er*) *machtet in Herr vom gantzen Landt*.

Adopting therefore the ancient Indian view of the nominative we can say that it essentially served to express the mere nominal idea. It could be used either isolated or 'complementary' or 'predicative'. In addition to this it very frequently occurred that the person or object "named" by the nominative was the starting point of a communication or thema: *Croesus regnavit*; *C. obiit*³⁹⁾; the nominative of the subject. Sometimes however the communication is expressed in the following sentence: in cases of a thematic⁴⁰⁾ or disjunct nominative – instances of the latter use, the so-called *nominativus pendens*, are Hor. Sat. 1, 2, 101 *altera, nil obstat*⁴¹⁾ and (Goethe) *ein Eichkranz, ewig jung belaubt, den setzt die Nachwelt ihm aufs Haupt* –; or the communication may be subordinate: the absolute nominative: Jaim. Br. 2, 176, *catuspadā vā aśvāḥ santaś catuṣṣāphās te ye catuspadāḥ paśavaś catuṣṣāphās tān evaitenāvarundāhe* "the horses being four-footed, four-hoofed, – what animals are four-footed, four-hoofed those he thereby wins". These constructional variants do not, however, affect the character of the category under consideration.

Turning our attention once more to the Indian grammarians we learn that they attempted to understand the phrase *vrkṣam paśyati* "he sees the tree", in which "tree" is in the accusative, not in the nominative, by observing that *vrkṣam* expresses something more than the mere idea of the nominal stem⁴²⁾. That is to say: the accusative, as compared with the nominative, is characterized by a particular feature. The accusative may therefore be regarded as 'merkmalhaltig', the nominative as 'merkmallos'⁴³⁾. We may even generalize:

³⁹⁾ The nominative can also express the thema of a following sentence in the construction: Nepos, Vita Them. 1, 1: *Themistocles, Neocli filius, Atheniensis. Huius vitia ineuntis adolescentiae magnis sunt emendata virtutibus*; Th. Mann, Buddenbrooks⁵⁷⁾, p. 84. *Toms . . . jugendzeit . . . es ist nichts Bedeutendes davon zu melden*.

⁴⁰⁾ See note 39.

⁴¹⁾ Commentators are often inclined to consider such phrases as replacing the standard expressions of the written language: "lässliche und hier metrisch bequeme Ausdrucksweise statt in *altera n. o.* oder *altera nihil obstaculi habet*" (Kießling–Heinze, who however refer to the "Umgangssprache").

⁴²⁾ I refer to Renou, La grammaire de Pāṇini, p. 78.

⁴³⁾ See also R. Jakobson, Beitrag zur allgemeinen Kasuslehre, Travaux du cercle linguistique de Prague VI (1936), p. 249.

the nominative was 'merkmallos' as opposed to the *casus obliqui* in general. "Der Nominativ nennt unmittelbar den Gegenstand", – thus Jakobson wrote in a dissertation on the 'Gesamtbedeutungen' of the cases in Russian ⁴⁴⁾ – die übrigen Formen sind nach der treffenden Bestimmung des Aristoteles "keine Namen, sondern Kasus des Namens". The present writer is convinced that a nominative of this character belonged already to the prehistoric stage of the I.E. family of languages. It would appear to him that it is time syntactic descriptions of the ancient languages were somewhat modernized on this point ⁴⁵⁾. Certain features of other languages agree in substance with the above conclusions with regard to the difference between the nominative and the oblique cases: in the Dravidian languages, the former is, generally speaking, not provided with a so-called case-termination ⁴⁶⁾; the singular nominative is "the noun itself" ⁴⁷⁾. In all Finno-Ugric idioms the same form is identical with the stem, the other cases being formed with suffixes. In Tibetan the so-called nominative – *no-bo cam* "nothing else but the thing by itself", the unaltered form of the noun, which has also other functions besides those of our nominative, – refers to an isolated entity or to an entity which does not enter into a relation with terms other than those expressing its "being" ⁴⁸⁾.

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⁴⁴⁾ Jakobson, o.c., p. 250.

⁴⁵⁾ Some memorable exceptions to the traditional practice have been mentioned in the preceding notes.

⁴⁶⁾ See also J. Bloch, *Structure grammaticale des langues dravidiennes* (1946), p. 16.

⁴⁷⁾ Cf. the ending- or suffixless nominative in Iranian languages.

⁴⁸⁾ Cf. e.g. J. Bacot, *Grammaire du tibétain littéraire* (1946), p. 21.