

true in (6) and (7). In these latter examples, there are a number of noun phrases with several possible interpretations, and it is impossible to determine by word order alone how they are related in the sentence. Their relationships must be clarified with particles. As can be seen in (6), when the nominative, genitive, and accusative cases appear in the same sentence, it is natural to leave out all but one of the three particles, and, of the three, the one most naturally used in such cases is the nominative particle. Also, if only the accusative case were to be marked, as in (6d), the meaning would be understood to be a long, complex phrase modifying ‘book’: X 가 순이의 동생의 책을 읽는다 *X ka Swuni uy tongsayng uy chayk ul ilknunta* ‘(Some unspecified person) is reading Swuni’s (younger) sibling’s book’. Such an interpretation would not be the meaning intended for the sentence.

- (5) a. 영이가 학교에 간다.
Yengi *ka* hakkyo *ey* kanta
‘Yöngi [*nom.*] is going to school [*locative*].’
b. 영이 학교 간다.
Yengi hakkyo kanta
‘id. [but more casual]’
- (6) a. 순이의 동생이 책을 읽는다.
Swuni *uy* tongsayng *i* chayk *ul* ilknunta.
‘Suni’s [*gen.*] sister [*nom.*] is reading a book [*acc.*].’
b. ?순이의 동생 책 읽는다.
?Swuni *uy* tongsayng chayk ilknunta.
c. 순이 동생이 책 읽는다.
Swuni tongsayng *i* chayk ilknunta.
‘Suni’s sister [*nom.*] is reading a book.’
d. *순이 동생 책을 읽는다.
*Swuni tongsayng chayk *ul* ilknunta.
book [*acc.*]
- (7) a. 목수가 助手와 나무로 책상을 만든다.
Mokswu *ka* coswu *wa* namu *lo* chayksang *ul* mantunta.
‘The carpenter [*nom.*] along with the helper [*comitative*] is making a table [*acc.*] out of wood [*instrumental*].’
b. ^{xx} 목수 조수 나무 책상 만든다.
^{xx}Mokswu coswu namu chayksang mantunta.
[ungrammatical with no case particles marking the nouns]

Marking noun phrases with all the case particles is the rule in the written language, where not doing so would be considered a serious lapse in style. The omission of particles is generally confined to the colloquial, spoken language and usually to cases where the sentences are short. The particles most frequently omitted without causing ambiguity are the particles