

# Testing the ‘person-case constraint’ using artificial language learning

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The person-case constraint (PCC) is a set of restrictions describing co-occurrence patterns of (mostly) weak indirect and direct object pronouns. For example, in languages with the weak PCC, such as Italian or Greek, a third person indirect object clitic cannot co-occur with a first person direct object clitic.

Existing syntactic and usage-based accounts of the PCC make different predictions as to when it should occur. In this paper, we present ongoing research in which we test these predictions using an artificial language learning (ALL) experiment. Modifying the frequency of PCC-violating patterns in the input, we test whether learners of an artificial language fragment match the input frequencies in a production task.