

## **The interaction between case and focus in Diraytata (Gidole)**

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*Diraytata is one of the least studied languages in the Lowland East Cushitic group within the Cushitic family. In this language when a non-subject constituent is focused, a subject occurs in a nominative case, whereas when a subject is focused it occurs in an absolutive case. Such interaction between a focused constituent and a subject's case may lead us to question the appropriateness of the use of the term nominative case as it is used in accusative languages (Lapointe 1985) for a subject in Diraytata. In accusative languages the term nominative refers to a subject of both intransitive and transitive verbs. But in Diraytata a subject of both intransitive and transitive verbs can be either in a nominative or in an absolutive case depending on the focused constituent. This situation forces us to reject the nominative case as in- appropriate to designate the interaction between case and focus in Diraytata. We, therefore, adopt Hayward's (1980, 1981) proposal in replacing the nominative case by Non-focalized subject case (abbreviated as NFS) that conflate both features together.*