

Comparison in Pánkáshku

At the outset I will define the terms used in this section as follows:

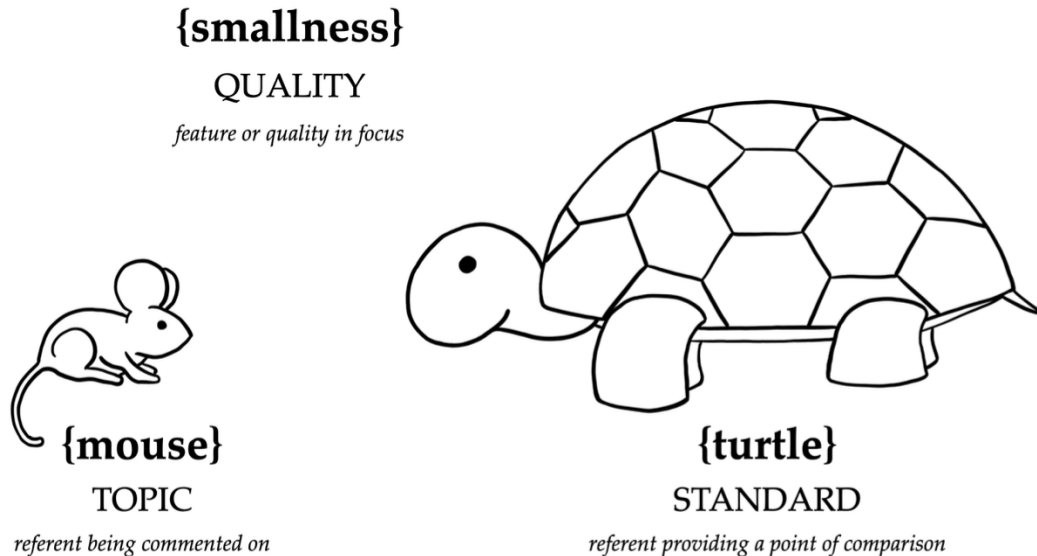
Topic: the referent about which the comment is being made.

The term 'topic' in this case does not *necessarily* refer to the topic marker *-:nga*, but due to the use of the copula and copula-like verbs with adjectives the topic marker is often used in this case.

Quality: the feature/quality that is the focus of the comparison.

Standard: The referent for comparison, i.e. the standard is the thing you are comparing the topic of the comparison to.

The wonderful Jessie Peterson uses the following image to represent this:



In this case the relationship between these three things would be expressed (with a very English-centric glossing) as follows:

tíchíínga	nap'íro	maatús.
mouse	than.the.turtle	is.small.

The simplest comparative constructions lack a marked standard of comparison, simply using an adverb (*sásak*, *nápna*) to indicate a comparative/superlative degree - there is no distinction between the comparative (e.g. better, more interesting) and superlative (e.g. best, most interesting) in Páncáshku, but *sásak* is used for the affirmative and *nápna* for the negative comparative:

<i>Nap'íínga</i>	<i>sásak</i>	<i>vi'tús.</i>
turtle(.TOP)	more/most	it.is.big.

The turtle is bigger/the biggest.

<i>Rapóónga</i>	<i>nápna</i>	<i>mintús.</i>
iguana(.TOP)	less/least	it.is.sad.

The iguana is less sad/the least sad.

Note that the negative comparative is distinct to the negative copula:

<i>Nap'íínga</i>	<i>sásak</i>	<i>vitóshu.</i>
turtle(.TOP)	more/most	it.is.not.big.

The turtle is **not** bigger/the biggest.

<i>Rapóónga</i>	<i>nápna</i>	<i>miñóshu.</i>
iguana(.TOP)	less/least	it.is.not.sad.

The iguana is **not** less sad/the least sad.

As mentioned above, the topic of comparison is not always the same as the marked topic, in which case the **topic of comparison** is marked with *-ti*, the apudessive case.

Tíiñoomíinnga chiwáti sásak tushtús.

Regarding.the.Amazon eagle-side more/most it.is.fast.

In the Amazon, the eagle is the fastest.

The standard of comparison is similarly marked with locative cases, specifically the antessive and postessive cases. The antessive (in front of, over) is used with the affirmative comparative and the postessive (behind, under) is used with the negative comparative. The corresponding adverbial markers are optionally used for emphasis or clarity.

Nap'íinga rapóro (sásak) vi'tús.

turtle(.TOP) iguana-over (more/most) it.is.big.

The turtle is bigger than the iguana.

Nap'íinga rapóshu (nápna) mintús.

turtle(.TOP) iguana-under (less) it.is.sad.

The turtle is less sad than the iguana.