Dalabon is an Australian language of the Gunwinyguan family, spoken in central Arnhem Land by a dwindling population now reduced to about twenty fluent speakers.

In chapter 4 we show that syncretism of 2 > 1 (second person subject and first person object) with 3 > 1 paradigm can be accounted for by the use of generalized referrals of the 2 > 1 to 3 > 1. Similarly, 1 > 2 Sg refers to 3 > 2 Sg. This is a formalization of the idea that 'person disguise' is involved, in that the combinations of second and first person are too direct and need to be disguised. Dalabon shows a grammaticalization of this.

Theoretically, we argue on the basis of this analysis that the treatment
of the syncretism as just the result of underspecification of person
and/or the ranking of number higher than person is not desirable:

* person may determine number distinction in the intransitive paradigm

* person is fully distinguished in the intransitive paradigm

* formatives in the intransitive are clearly associated with a particular person, indicating their primary function

* transitivity plays a role in person disguise

Our analysis also assumes a particular structure to the Dalabon verbal paradigm in which marking of second and third person objects is more dominant than marking of first person exclusive objects. This is reflected in the fact that there are no bound forms for first person singular object, but there is a special permanteau form marking the second person singular object, and a special form for the higher animacy third person object. In terms of querying the DATR theory this means that the object attributes are ordered first in the path for all other persons except first person exclusive, for which they are ordered last.
In a complete model of the morphology of Dalabon the lexeme node VERB would inherit from a higher node WORD information about words in general. As this fragment only covers part of the verbal system, we have stated that any other extensions of the empty path for VERB, if not given at VERB node, are undefined.

The second equation states that the morphology of verbs is found at the MOR_VERB node. Given Node Elimination, as defined in Chapter 2, we could merge the node MOR_VERB with VERB, as there is a non-evaluable inheritance relation from MOR_VERB to VERB. However, Dalabon has distinct conjugation classes for the TAM inflectional paradigms. Evans and Merlan (2003) list 9 basic ones, with sub-classes. This means that MOR_VERB node, in a fuller analysis, will have conjugation class nodes inheriting from it and that it cannot be eliminated under Node Elimination.

The third equation refers to a node SYNTAX, which defines a verb phrase, and the fourth states that the syntactic category of this class of items is 'verb'.

Reference:

Evans, Nicholas & Francesca Merlan. 2003. Dalabon verb conjugations. In Nicholas Evans (ed.). The non-Pama-Nyungan languages of northern Australia: comparative studies of the continent's most linguistically
Chapter 4, Example (26):

Verbal morphology defaults to nothing and verbal inflection consists of some cluster (cl) before a verbal root.

MOR_VERB:

\[
<\text{mor}> =<\text{mor cl}> "<\text{root}>"
\]

REFERRALS

For extensions of the second person transitive subject paradigm refer to the third person transitive subject paradigm (Chapter 4, Example 30). Because of our ordering of attributes, the first person exclusive object attributes constitute the only possible extension. This accounts for the 2nd>1st paradigm (Chapter 4, Example 30).

The 1st>2ndSg object paradigm refers to the 3rd>2ndSg object paradigm (Chapter 4, Example 29). (Note the position of the 2nd person object attributes, which are first in the path.

The 3rdDis/2ndSg cell refers to 3rdDu/2ndSg. Treating disharmonic as a number distinction, we see that this is actually an example where an opposing analysis based on the higher ranking of number
% or underspecification of person would require a contradictory ranking
%(namely the number of the subject being underspecified).

<mor infl a 2nd> == <mor infl a 3rd>
<mor infl o 2nd sg a 1st_exclusive> ==
   <mor infl o 2nd sg a 3rd>
<mor infl o 2nd sg a 3rd dis> ==
   <mor infl o 2nd sg a 3rd du>

% THE MORPHOLOGICAL CLUSTER
%The morphological cluster will default to bound prefixal (<mor prefix>)
%marking (Chapter 4, Example 27).
%
%With the exception of the first person exclusive clitics, the clitic
%forms are specifically given as being followed by bound prefixal
%morphology (<mor prefix>). (See Chapter 4, Example 28.)
%The realizations of 1st exclusive dual and plural just specify the clitic
%pronoun forms, as a later equation specifies that third person bound
%prefixes may be preceded by clitics (see FORMATIVES and equations for the
%'front' element of third person prefixes).

<mor cl> == <mor prefix>
<mor cl o 1st_exclusive du> == njerr+
<mor cl o 1st_exclusive pl> == njel+
<mor cl o 1st_inclusive du> == njeh+ <mor prefix>
<mor cl o 1st_inclusive pl> == ngorr+ <mor prefix>
<mor cl o 2nd du> == norr+ <mor prefix>
<mor cl o 2nd pl> == nol+ <mor prefix>
<mor cl o 3rd du> == bunu+ <mor prefix>
<mor cl o 3rd pl> == bulu+ <mor prefix>
THE INTRANSITIVE PARADIGM

Subject prefixes are created by putting together front and final elements (see FORMATIVES). The front element may combine person and number marking and the final element may combine S or A marking with number. Note that the 1st_inclusive dual combines a front formative which marks first inclusive dual, and a final element which marks singular subject. This captures the similarity with an augmented/unit augmented system.

\[
\begin{align*}
&<\text{mor prefix s 1st_exclusive}> == \\
&\quad <\text{mor prefix front 1st_exclusive}> <\text{mor prefix final s}> \\
&<\text{mor prefix s 1st_inclusive du}> == \\
&\quad <\text{mor prefix front 1st_inclusive du}> <\text{mor prefix final s sg}> \\
&<\text{mor prefix s 1st_inclusive pl}> == \\
&\quad <\text{mor prefix front 1st_exclusive sg}> <\text{mor prefix final s du}> \\
&<\text{mor prefix s 1st_inclusive dis}> == \\
&\quad <\text{mor prefix front 2nd sg}> <\text{mor prefix final s dis}> \\
&<\text{mor prefix s 2nd}> == \\
&\quad <\text{mor prefix front 2nd}> <\text{mor prefix final s}> \\
&<\text{mor prefix s 3rd}> == \\
&\quad <\text{mor prefix front 3rd}> <\text{mor prefix final s}>
\end{align*}
\]

THE TRANSITIVE PARADIGM
The prefixes of the transitive paradigm are similar to the intransitive, having a front and final element which mark person and number, or A and number.

<mor prefix a> == <mor prefix s>
<mor prefix a 1st_exclusive> ==
    <mor prefix front 1st_exclusive> <mor prefix final a>
<mor prefix a 1st_inclusive pl> ==
    <mor prefix front 1st_exclusive> <mor prefix final a du>
<mor prefix a 2nd> ==
    <mor prefix front 2nd> <mor prefix final a>
<mor prefix a 2nd sg> ==
    <mor prefix front 2nd dis> <mor prefix final a sg>
<mor prefix a 3rd> ==
    <mor prefix front 3rd> <mor prefix final a>

% OBJECT MARKING
% The special 2ndSg object marking involves the 2ndSg front element combined with the expected marking of the A in the final element.
% The third person object adds bv_ if it is higher animacy than the subject and otherwise has no extra marking, if it is lower animacy.

<mor prefix o 2nd sg a 3rd> ==
    <mor prefix front 2nd sg> <mor prefix final a>
<mor prefix o 3rd sg> == <mor prefix>
<mor prefix lower> == <mor prefix>
<mor prefix higher> == bv_ <mor prefix>
It should be noted that we have tried to break down the prefixes beyond a standard analysis of 'morphemes'. We have analyzed prefixes as containing a front element, which marks person and also number.

Note the LHS paths <mor prefix front 3rd sg>, <mor prefix front 3rd pl> and <mor prefix front 3rd du> which have a corresponding reference to <mor cl> as well as the front element which marks third person for the appropriate number. This allows for the combination of third person subjects with the first person exclusive object clitics.

<mor prefix front 1st_exclusive> == ng_
<mor prefix front 1st_inclusive du> == y_
<mor prefix front 2nd sg> == dj_
<mor prefix front 2nd dis> == d_
<mor prefix front 2nd> == n_
<mor prefix front 3rd sg> == <mor cl> k_
<mor prefix front 3rd pl> == <mor cl> b_
<mor prefix front 3rd du> == <mor prefix front 3rd pl>
<mor prefix front 3rd dis> == <mor prefix front 3rd sg>
<mor prefix front 1st_exclusive pl> ==
    <mor prefix front 1st_inclusive du>
<mor prefix front 1st_exclusive du> ==
    <mor prefix front 1st_exclusive pl>

The final part of the prefix is the same for singular As and Ss the disyllabic plural and dual formant has a_ for the S and _U/I_ for the A. The form _U/I_ is realized as /i/ after palatals and /u/ otherwise.

<mor prefix final a sg> == <mor prefix final s sg>
<mor prefix final s> == a_ <mor prefix final>
<mor prefix final a> == _U/I_ <mor prefix final>
<mor prefix final s dis> == e_
<mor prefix final a dis> == <mor prefix final s dis>
<mor prefix final du> == rra_
<mor prefix final pl> == la_ .

% EXAMPLE LEXICAL ENTRY
%
% Nan 'see' is our one lexical entry. Note that the root is given here
%
% as nan, but this is in fact the present tense form. If we included
%
% different conjugation classes, then this TAM morphology would be
%
% provided there.
%
Nan:
  <> == VERB
  <gloss> == see
  <root> == nan.

% % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % %
% % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % %
% % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % %
% DUMMY SYNTAX
% % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % %
% %
% The syntax here just states that a verb phrase can be a verb, and this in
% in turn refers to inflection for the forms of the verb.
% We make no theoretical claims about syntax on the basis of this node.
%
SYNTAX:
  <> == undefined
  <syn v ;> == "<mor infl>"
  <syn vp ;> == <syn v ;>.
#hide
VERB
MOR_VERB
SYNTAX.

#show
<syn vp ; s 1st_exclusive dis >
<syn vp ; s 1st_inclusive dis >
<syn vp ; s 2nd dis >
<syn vp ; s 3rd dis >
<syn vp ; s 1st_exclusive sg >
<syn vp ; s 2nd sg >
<syn vp ; s 3rd sg >
<syn vp ; s 1st_exclusive du >
<syn vp ; s 1st_inclusive du >
<syn vp ; s 2nd du >
<syn vp ; s 3rd du >
<syn vp ; s 1st_exclusive pl >
<syn vp ; s 1st_inclusive pl >
<syn vp ; s 2nd pl >
<syn vp ; s 3rd pl >
<syn vp ; o 2nd sg a 1st_exclusive sg >
<syn vp ; o 3rd sg a 1st_exclusive sg >
<syn vp ; o 2nd du a 1st_exclusive sg >
<syn vp ; o 3rd du a 1st_exclusive sg >
<syn vp ; o 2nd pl a 1st_exclusive sg >
<syn vp ; o 3rd pl a 1st_exclusive sg >
<syn vp ; a 2nd sg o 1st_exclusive sg >
<syn vp ; o 3rd sg a 2nd sg >
<syn vp ; a 2nd sg o 1st_exclusive du >
<syn vp ; o 3rd du a 2nd sg >
<syn vp ; a 2nd sg o 1st_exclusive pl >
<syn vp ; o 3rd pl a 2nd sg >
<syn vp ; a 3rd sg o 1st_exclusive sg >
<syn vp ; o 3rd du a 1st_exclusive du >
<syn vp ; o 2nd pl a 1st_exclusive du >
<syn vp ; o 3rd pl a 1st_exclusive du >

<syn vp ; a 2nd du o 1st_exclusive sg >
<syn vp ; o 3rd sg a 2nd du >
<syn vp ; a 2nd du o 1st_exclusive du >
<syn vp ; o 3rd du a 2nd du >
<syn vp ; a 2nd du o 1st_exclusive pl >
<syn vp ; o 3rd pl a 2nd du >

<syn vp ; a 3rd du o 1st_exclusive sg >
<syn vp ; o 2nd sg a 3rd du >
<syn vp ; o 3rd sg a 3rd du >
<syn vp ; o 1st_inclusive du a 3rd du >
<syn vp ; a 3rd du o 1st_exclusive du >
<syn vp ; o 2nd du a 3rd du >
<syn vp ; o 3rd du a 3rd du >
<syn vp ; a 3rd du o 1st_exclusive pl >
<syn vp ; o 2nd pl a 3rd du >
<syn vp ; o 3rd pl a 3rd du >
<syn vp ; o 1st_inclusive pl a 3rd du >

<syn vp ; o 2nd sg a 1st_exclusive pl >
<syn vp ; o 3rd sg a 1st_exclusive pl >
<syn vp ; o 2nd du a 1st_exclusive pl >
<syn vp ; o 3rd du a 1st_exclusive pl >
<syn vp ; o 2nd pl a 1st_exclusive pl >
<syn vp ; o 3rd pl a 1st_exclusive pl >

<syn vp ; a 2nd pl o 1st_exclusive sg >
<syn vp ; o 3rd sg a 2nd pl >
<syn vp ; a 2nd pl o 1st_exclusive du >
<syn vp ; o 3rd du a 2nd pl >
<syn vp ; a 2nd pl o 1st_exclusive pl >
<syn vp ; o 3rd pl a 2nd pl >

<syn vp ; a 3rd pl o 1st_exclusive sg >
<syn vp ; o 2nd sg a 3rd pl >
<syn vp ; o 3rd sg a 3rd pl >
<syn vp ; o 1st_inclusive du a 3rd pl >
<syn vp ; a 3rd pl o 1st_exclusive du >
<syn vp ; o 2nd du a 3rd pl >
<syn vp ; o 3rd du a 3rd pl >
<syn vp ; a 3rd pl o 1st_exclusive pl >
<syn vp ; o 2nd pl a 3rd pl >
<syn vp ; o 3rd pl a 3rd pl >
<syn vp ; o 1st_inclusive pl a 3rd pl >
<syn vp ; o 3rd sg a 1st_inclusive pl >
<syn vp ; o 3rd du a 1st_inclusive pl >
<syn vp ; o 3rd pl a 1st_inclusive pl >.