The Dative Subject Construction (DSC) is argued to follow from certain choices of the design features of Language: stable Case, and a two-category lexical base of N and V (the only universally attested lexical categories). Long seen as a typological marker of South Asian languages, and named for its putatively most prominent feature of quirky subject case, there are two other features of this construction of interest from a universalist perspective: it has a nominal predicate where English-type languages have an adjective, and it is a possessive predicative sentence with *be* rather than *have* (Amritavalli & Jayaseelan, 2003). A & J propose that the genesis of adjectives as well as *have* lies in the destabilization and absorption of case. That account, I argue, is more explanatory than the “Lexical Semantic Variation Hypothesis” for the morphosyntactic variation *I am wise* ~ *I have wisdom*, where the latter is a “possessive predicational property concept sentence” (Francez & Koontz-Garboden, 2017) like the DSC. Developing on Morzycki’s (2009) account of gradable nouns, I show that gradability is projected in the syntax in Kannada by genitive and dative case heads, fleshing out the idea that a (de-nominal) adjective is a noun that absorbs case. Some interesting parallels and departures in data in languages other than Kannada, including English are mentioned.