6. Existential, locational and possessive constructions

Existential and locational sentences in English also use the copular verb *be*, 'ser'/'estar'. Existentials are formed with the demonstrative *there* 'allí', plus the copula followed by an indefinite noun phrase. Normally a locative phrase follows the noun phrase:

(58) \[ \text{DEMO COP NP (LOC)} \]  
[+indef]  
There is a cat under the table  
DEMO ser:3SG:NOPAS INDEF gato abajo DEF mesa  
'Hay un gato debajo la mesa.'

(59) \[ \text{DEMO COP NP (LOC)} \]  
[+indef]  
There are lion-s in Africa  
DEMO ser:PL:NOPAS león-PL en Africa  
'Hay leones en Africa.'

Locational sentences consist of a noun phrase, the copula and a locational phrase:

(60) \[ \text{NP COP LOC} \]  
[def/indef]  
The cat is under the table.  
DEF gato ser:3SG:NOPAS abajo DEF mesa  
'El gato está debajo la mesa.'

(61) Three lion-s are in that cage.  
tres león-PL ser:PL:NOPAS en DEMO2 jaula  
'Three lions are in that cage.'

Possessive sentences in English are formed with the irregular verb *have* 'tener'. The possessor is the subject of the sentence and the possessed item follows the verb:

(62) That cat \textbf{has} flea-s  
DEMO2 gato tener:3SG:NOPAS pulga-PL  
'Ese gato tiene pulgas.'

(63) Lion-s \textbf{have} large paw-s.  
león-PL tener:PL:NOPAS grande pata-PL  
'Los leones tienen patas grandes.'