In linguistics, inalienable possession (abbreviated INAL) is a type of possession in which a noun is obligatorily possessed by its possessor. Nouns or nominal affixes in an inalienable possession relationship cannot exist independently or be "alienated" from their possessor. Inalienable nouns include body parts (such as leg, which is necessarily "someone's leg", even if severed from the body), kinship terms (such as mother), and part-whole relations (such as top). Many languages reflect this. It is common for the possessor to be coded as undergoer. It is not common for the possessum to be the predicate of the possessor. Compare some common possessive constructions: 

- have(P_or,P_um) 
- belong(P_um,P_or) 
- be.at(P_um,P_or) 
- exist(P_or's(P_um)) 

All these constructions show one existential/possession/copula verb, the Guarani construction does not.

The possessum is the predicate. Guarani is special in that it codes inactive actions the same way as possession. Some other active/stative languages might exhibit a similar behavior.


Example: 

- have(P_or,P_um) 
- belong(P_um,P_or) 
- be.at(P_um,P_or) 
- exist(P_or's(P_um))

Constructions analyzed in the book include adnominal and predicative possessive constructions, noun incorporation, and possessor ascension. Examples are drawn from a rich database that incorporate native speaker intuitions and resources in the construction of illustrative linguistic forms as well as the analysis of the communicative use of the forms under study.