In Huallaga Quechua the most frequent class of suffixes is the “possessives”. These are used in many ways (Weber 1976). The “possessive construction” (Juan-pa maki-n / wa:ka-n / mama-n /... ‘John's hand / cow / mother /...’) is ubiquitous. There are less frequent, specialized sub-constructions, for example, spatial uses (wasi hana-n ‘on top the house’, wasi han'qa-n ‘up the hill from the house’), temporal uses (lunis-pa wara-n-ni-n ‘the day after Monday’), and with quantifiers and numerals (llapa-nchi ‘all of us’, ishka-nchi ‘the two of us’). There are very specific constructions, some of which admit only -n ‘third person’ and some for which it is not clear that -n is a possessive suffix, for example, X-n X-n (wara-n wara-n ‘day after day’, yora-n yora-n ‘from tree to tree’). And then there are some that seem related but which Weber (1976:48) does not consider to be possessive suffixes, for example, the -n in numeral phrases (pachak chunka-n ‘110’) and in superlatives (hatun-ni-lla-n ‘just the biggest’).

This paper reconsiders these data in the light of construction grammar. The various uses of possessive suffixes (liberally understood) are defined as constructions, achieving greater precision. These constructions are linked in an inheritance hierarchy, economically capturing how they are related.