Grammatical Function-Changing Morphology, I

Passives, causatives, reflexives, and reciprocals

Matthew A. Tucker

Linguistics 105: Morphology
Fall 2012

November 2, 2012

Administrative Stuff

Homeworks

- HW #5/Paper Proposal due Monday.
- One of us will write you about your proposal.
- HW #4 to be handed back today.

Readings & Other

- Mohanan (1995) read for WEDNESDAY.
- Colloquium @ 4pm in Stevenson Fireside Lounge.
  - *Speaker*: Ben Munson, University of Minnesota
  - *Title*: "Perceived gender and fricative identification."

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Where We're At/Going

THETA ROLES AND THE LEXICON

THE STRUCTURE OF THE LEXICON

What does a lexical entry look like (for a predicate)?

- Two key components:
  - SUBCATEGORIZATION FRAME: *hit*, V [DP [__ DP]]
  - THEMATIC GRID: *hit*, V [θ_{agt} [__ θ_{pat}]]
- Maybe there's some morphology, too?
  - Rules generating derivational morphology.
  - Rules generating idiosyncratic pronunciation (*i.e.*, $\sqrt{\text{CAT}}$ = /kæt/).

THE NEXT QUESTION

Is there morphology that operates on a thematic grid of a predicate to change it?

Theta Roles and the Lexicon

The Structure of the Lexicon

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The Roadmap

- *From Nominalizations:* Thematic grids are unchanged by nominalization morphology.

But that's not all. . .

Some morphology can affect ARGUMENT STRUCTURE when attached to a base.

- These morphological operations include:
    1. GRAMMATICAL FUNCTION-CHANGING MORPHOLOGY, (today, *et seq.*).
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Introduction to Grammatical-Function Changing

1. Where We're At/Going

2. **Introduction to Grammatical-Function Changing**

3. Passive

4. Causative

5. Reflexive/Reciprocal

GRAMMATICAL FUNCTIONS AND THE LEXICON

- θ-roles map to grammatical functions (*almost* one-to-one).
- Thematic grids are idiosyncratic facts about predicates:

(1)   # The rock *tickled* Pam.

(2)   The rock *hit* Pam.

DEFINITION

GRAMMATICAL FUNCTION-CHANGING MORPHOLOGY $=_{def}$ any morphology which maps a predicate's argument structure.

(3)   a. hit_{act}, V [$\underline{\theta_{agt}}$ [___ θ_{pat}]]   b. hit_{pass}, V [$\underline{\theta_{pat}}$ [___]]

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Operating on Grammatical Functions

- Often, these affixes will change TRANSITIVITY, though not always. Reminder of the three kinds of VALENCE:
  1. INTRANSITIVES have only one argument (*Randy slept.*).
  2. TRANSITIVES have two arguments (*Randy hit Jim.*).
  3. DITRANSITIVES have three aruguments (*Randy gave Julian's car to Ricky.*).

- Attempts to reduce subcategorization to θ−roles and vice versa have been made.

- Characterizing GF-changing morphology in this way *does not* commit us to implementing them as functions on θ−grids.

Take-Home Message

Changing a verbs argument structure has syntactic consequences.

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Passive

1. Where We're At/Going

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3. **Passive**

4. Causative

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Passive Preliminaries

(4)   a.   Bob hit David.

   b.   David was hit (by Bob).

Characterization of Passives

The passive maps the object of a transitive predicate to the subject of a derived intransitive predicate. The original subject may (not) be expressed as an oblique.

- Other properties may include:
  - Valence reduction by 1
  - Participial morphology (in some families)

PASSIVE PRELIMINARIES

(4) a. Bob hit David.
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Whither the Agent?

- English is odd in allowing the agent to appear freely:

(5)   Arabic:

    a.   Matta fataħa   al-baab.
            Matt   opened the-door
            "Matt opened the door."

    b.   Al-baab in-fataħ(*min Matta).
            the-door PASS-opened (*by   Matt)
            "The door was opened (*by Matt)."

- Other common differences from English:
  - Different prepositions for different subject θ−roles.
  - No special marking of the agent with morphology.
- *Finally*: passive isn't the only VOICE morphology around.

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Theorizing the Passive

Common Idea about Passives

The passive *removes* the verb's structural accusative case (and are therefore UNACCUSATIVES). It does not allow for a DP in [Spec,VP] at D-Structure.

- Recall:
  - One DP (the EXTERNAL ARUGMENT) doesn't receive Case in VP.
  - The DP that *does* is given accusative.
  - The other DP raises to [Spec,TP] and gets nominative.
- Consequences of taking away ACC from V:
  - Only one DP can get case (*ceteris paribus*).
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Causative

1. Where We're At/Going

2. Introduction to Grammatical-Function Changing

3. Passive

4. Causative

5. Reflexive/Reciprocal

Causative Preliminaries

(6) Luganda (Bantu, Uganda):

    a.   Abalenzi ba-li-fumb-a   lumonde.
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The CAUSATIVE adds a novel subject to a verb. The previous subject becomes the object, and any previous object becomes a *second* object.

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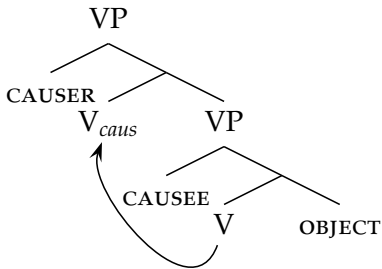   b. Archer **broke** the mirror.

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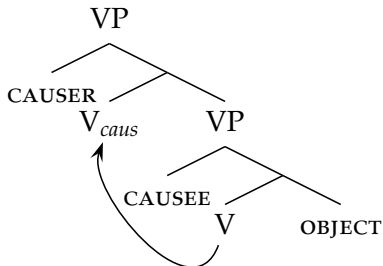Causatives add another verbal XP inside VP.

VP

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V_{caus} VP
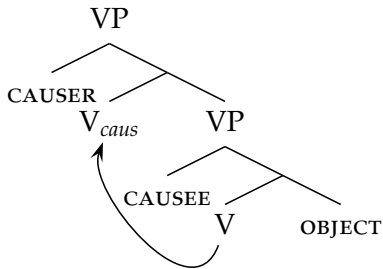
CAUSEE   V   OBJECT

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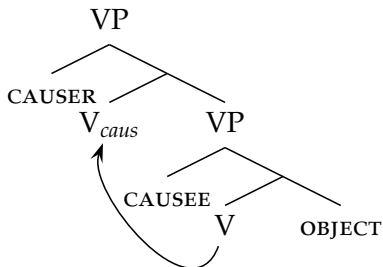
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- Some languages treat the embedded VP like a clause, others don't.
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- DIRECT VS. INDIRECT causatives:
  1. DIRECT causatives involve the agent controlling the event.
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Reflexive/Reciprocal Preliminaries

(10) a. Malcom saw Ollie.

   b. Malcom saw *himself*.   REFLEXIVE

   c. Malcom and Ollie saw *each other*.   RECIPROCAL

Characterization of Reflexives/Reciprocals

The REFLEXIVE and RECIPROCAL both requre that the denotation of the object of the verb inclue the denotation of the subject of the verb.

- Not every language has morphology for this (Germanic, Romance, . . .).
- When a periphrastic construction occurs, the object element is sometimes called an ANAPHOR.
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