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

1. Where We’re At/Going

2. Introduction to Grammatical-Function Changing

3. Passive

4. Causative

5. Reflexive/Reciprocal
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 [θagt [ __ θpat]]

- Maybe there’s some morphology, too?
  - Rules generating derivational morphology.
  - Rules generating idiosyncratic pronunciation (*i.e., √cat = /kæt/**).

The Next Question

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

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Introduction to Grammatical-Function Changing

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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** =\textit{def} any morphology which maps a predicate’s argument structure.

(3) a. $hit_{act}, V[\theta_{agt}[\_\_\_\_ \theta_{pat}]]$  
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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 arguments (Randy gave Julian’s car to Ricky.).

- Attempts to reduce subcategorization to $\theta$–roles and vice versa have been made.

- Characterizing GF-changing morphology in this way does not commit us to implementing them as functions on $\theta$–grids.

Take-Home Message
Changing a verb's argument structure has syntactic consequences.
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Passive

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

  (5) Arabic:
  
  a. Matta fataḥa al-baab.
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- Other common differences from English:
  - Different prepositions for different subject θ–roles.
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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 argument) 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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Matthew A. Tucker (Ling 105)
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:
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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.
   boys AGR-FUT-cook-fv potatoes
   “The boys will cook potatoes.”

b. Kapere ba-li-fumb-is-a abalenzi lumonde.
   Kapere AGR-FUT-cook-caus-fv boys potatoes
   “Kapere will make the boys cook potatoes.

Characterization of Causatives

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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What about Transitivity?

- Transitivity is actually somewhat irrelevant to causatives:
  
  (7)  
  a. The mirror broke. 
  b. Archer broke the mirror. 

- Not just about agentivity, either:
  
  (8)  
     pupils AGR-FUT-sing-FV  
     “The pupils will sing.” 
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- Many languages have periphrastic constructions where causatives would appear (English, German, . . . ).
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Causatives add another verbal XP inside VP.

• Periphrastic/Analytic Causatives: no movement of V
• Synthetic Causatives: movement of V to $V_{caus}$
Theorizing the Causative

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In some languages, causatives look like voice morphology.

Some languages don’t allow more than one object in causatives.

Some languages treat the embedded VP like a clause, others don’t.

Some languages allow/require the causee to be an oblique.

**Direct vs. Indirect causatives:**

1. **Direct** causatives involve the agent controlling the event.
2. **Indirect** causatives involve the agent not directly controlling the event.

(9) a. Llana emptied the bottle.

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Reflexive/Reciprocal

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5. Reflexive/Reciprocal
Reflexive/Reciprocal Preliminaries

(10) a. Malcom saw Ollie.
    b. Malcom saw *himself*.
    c. Malcom and Ollie saw *each other*.

Characterization of Reflexives/Reciprocals

The reflexive and reciprocal both require that the denotation of the object of the verb include 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.
- Some languages (*e.g.*, Semitic) have the same morphology for both.
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Reflexives mark that the object and subject of the predicate denote the same thing.

(11) Yurok (Algic; Humboldt County, CA):
   a. skuyk-, “to treat well.”
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(12) Arabic:
   a. ḍ̣amaʃ̣, “to gather, meet”
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- We won’t get into theory here; take Syntax III. Reasons:
  - Not all languages have synthetic reflexivization/reciprocalisation.
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