

1 Causativization

1.1 Thinking structurally

[Jigsaw puzzle: how do we express causation? What are some of the kinds of *causative verbs* that we find?]

We have seen examples of:

- (1) a.
- b.
- c.

How can these be represented formally?

(2)

We should now see what these analyses predict, and we have just the tool for that: sublexical modification.

1.2 Sublexical modification with causation

Turkish, scope of *again*:

- (3) *Öğretmen Mary-yi yine koş-tur-du*
teacher Mary-ACC again run-CAUS-PAST
‘The teacher made Mary run again.’

a. [*again* CAUS] > V

Context:

b. CAUS > [*again* V]

Context:

Turkish, scope of negation:

- (4) *John Mary-yi koş-tur-ma-du*
John Mary-ACC run-CAUS-NEG-PAST
- a.
- b.

Japanese, scope of disjunction ‘or’:

- (5) a. *Hanako-ga [Masao-ni [uti-o soozisuru]-ka [heya-dai-o haraw]]-aseru*
Hanako-NOM [Masao-DAT [house-ACC clean]-or [room-rent-ACC pay]]-CAUS
koto ni sita
that of do
‘Hanako decided to make Masao clean the house or pay room rent.’
Reading: CAUS scopes over OR; Masao has a choice.
- b. *Hanako-ga [Masao-ni [uti-o soozis-aseru]-ka [heya-dai-o haraw-aseru]]*
Hanako-NOM Masao-DAT house-ACC clean-CAUS-or room-rent-ACC pay-CAUS
koto ni sita
that of do
‘Hanako decided to make Masao clean the house or she decided to make him pay room rent.’
Reading: OR scopes over CAUS; Masao won’t have a choice.

Turkish, attachment of an agent-oriented adverb:

- (6) *Anne-si Ayşe-ye sessizce Mary-yi oyna-t-tır-di*
mother-3SG.POSS Ayşe-DAT quietly Mary-ACC play-CAUS-CAUS-PAST
'Her mother made Ayşe make Mary play quietly.'
- a. *quietly* CAUS > CAUS > V
Context: We are at a dinner party at Ayşe's house. Ayşe's friend Mary is bored. Ayşe's mother quietly asks Ayşe to make Mary play with her toys.
- b. CAUS > *quietly* CAUS > V
Context: Ayşe's friend Mary is bored in the next room. Ayşe's mother asks Ayşe to quietly go and make Mary play with her toys.
- c. # CAUS > CAUS > *quietly* V
Context: Ayşe's friend Mary is playing loudly with her toys. Ayşe's mother asks Ayşe to make Mary play quietly.

1.3 Summary

Once we view morphological structure as the same thing as syntactic structure, we can make sense of how affixation influences (a) the interpretation of clauses (like with *again*), and (b) which arguments get added.

We started off by observing that in English (and in other languages) a predicate might have an external argument, an internal argument and an applied argument - but that's it. Our formal system can derive this behavior if each argument is introduced (or sometimes people say *licensed by*) one particular head: Voice for external arguments and v/V for internal arguments. For applied arguments, a very brief overview of the head Appl is given below (why can't we add multiple Appls? See [Nie 2020a](#) for one proposal).

Readings. Start with [Wood and Myler \(2019\)](#) for argument structure, followed by [Marantz \(2013\)](#), which makes some more specific technical claims. You might now want to delve deeper into [Kratzer \(1996\)](#), [Alexiadou et al. \(2015\)](#), or chapter 6 of [Kastner \(2020\)](#).

For causatives in particular, see [Harley \(2008, 2017\)](#). There is a lot of exciting work on causatives nowadays; see [Nie \(2020b\)](#) and [Akkus \(2019\)](#), for example.

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