

A Grammar of Language

No subtitle

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1 Causative and Benefactive

Ampari has three productive causative derivation suffixes *-tV/-dV/-ntV/-ndV*, *-gV* and *-mV* typical for most Dogon languages. Their distribution is lexically defined, though the input stems in each case do share common semantic features. Among the three, causative in *-mV* is the most productive one. Morphotactically, *-tV* and *-gV* occupy the same linear position as the reversive (*-rV*) and the inchoative (*-yV*), while *-mV* can be combined with those suffixes.

1.1 Causatives in *-tV/-dV/-ntV/-ndV*

Synchronically, the choice between 4 causative allomorphs (*-tV*, *-dV*, *-ntV* and *-ndV*) appears to be unexplained by any synchronic phonotactic rule. These causatives are typical for inchoative-causative pairs discussed in Subsection ???. Cf. examples (33 – 36).

- (1) *m̀-bí-yé*
1SG-lie.down-INCH.PFV
'I lied down'.

- (2) *m̀-bí-dé*
1SG-lie.down-CAUS.PFV
'I have (sb) lie down'.

- (3) *Hárúnà d̀i-yé*
Harouna wash-INCH.PFV
'Harouna washed himself'.

- (4) *Hárúnà d̀i-dé*
Harouna wash-CAUS.PFV
'Harouna washed sb'.

2 Focus Constructions

3 Topic and Event Backgrounding

4 Relative clauses