

The Argument Structure of Verbs with the Suffix *-kan* in Indonesian

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The verbal suffix *-kan* in acrolectal Indonesian gives the appearance of being a homonymous form with multiple functions. In many sentences the suffix seems to be a causative morpheme; in others it appears to be an applicative affix, while in yet others it seems to be an object marker. We show that these functions are in fact predictable if *-kan* is a derivational morpheme affecting the argument structure of the verb to which it is affixed. We argue that the role of *-kan* is to indicate the syntactic licensing of an argument in the argument structure that is not licensed syntactically by the base verb. Thus, the distribution of *-kan* provides evidence that there exist linguistic generalizations that need to be stated with respect to a distinct level of argument structure rather than with respect to such syntactic levels as S-Structure and Logical Form.

1. INTRODUCTION.¹ The verbal suffix *-kan* in acrolectal Indonesian gives the appearance of being a homonymous form with multiple functions.² In many sentences the suffix seems to be a causative morpheme; in others it appears to be an applicative affix and in yet others it seems to be an object marker. These functions have been described in detail in such works as Dardjowidjojo (1967), MacDonald and Dardjo-

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2. By “acrolectal” Indonesian we mean Standard Indonesian and Indonesian intended by the speaker to be standard, regardless of whether the speaker succeeds in satisfying all the requirements of prescriptive Indonesian. Acrolectal Indonesian is relatively uniform throughout Indonesia and is to be contrasted with local, colloquial forms of the language, which vary greatly from region to region. One colloquial variety, that of Jakarta, has become well known throughout the country, spread by radio, television, and movies. The suffix *-kan* does not occur productively in basilectal forms of Colloquial Jakarta Indonesian. Rather, speakers make use of the suffix *-in* for many of the uses associated in acrolectal Indonesian with *-kan* and with the applicative suffix *-i*.

widjojo (1967), Dardjowidjojo (1983), Kaswanti Purwo (1995), Sneddon (1996), Arka (1993), Kaswanti Purwo (1997), Kaswanti Purwo (2002), and many others. Still unanswered, however, is the question first posed by Dardjowidjojo (1983): Is *-kan* truly homonymous, or is it a single form for which the choice of a particular interpretation is predictable in terms of the syntactic or semantic context in which the affix occurs? What factors determine whether *-kan* will be causative, benefactive, a marker of transitivity, and so forth? Or are the uses of *-kan* so idiosyncratic that no unifying generalization can be found? We shall argue that despite considerable lexicalization and many idiosyncratic uses, the core functions of the suffix are, in fact, predictable—but the unifying function is syntactic rather than semantic, and, as a result, *-kan* gives the appearance of homonymy with respect to its semantic function.³

We will start our discussion by illustrating the seemingly varied uses of *-kan*. We will then show how these functions are in fact predictable if *-kan* is a derivational morpheme affecting the argument structure of the verb to which *-kan* is affixed. We take the argument structure of a verb to be an aspect of its lexical entry, determined in part by the semantics of the verb (the thematic representation), in part by principles of correspondence between the levels of thematic and argument structure, and in part by derivational operations on argument structure like those resulting from the presence of *-kan*. We shall show that *kan-* indicates the syntactic licensing of an argument in the argument structure that is not licensed syntactically by the base verb. The grammatical and thematic role in the argument structure of the argument licensed by *-kan* is determined by general principles that we shall spell out below. We conclude with a consideration of the possible historical origins of the suffix *-kan*.

Our analysis of *-kan* is of interest to Indonesianists because of the high frequency of the morpheme and the complexity of its distribution. From the perspective of linguistic typology, *-kan* is of interest because it appears to be typologically aberrant, both as a causative morpheme and as an applicative morpheme. We shall argue that in reality the seemingly aberrant behavior of *-kan* is due to the fact that it is actually neither a causative morpheme nor an applicative. In addition, the analysis of *-kan* is of theoretical interest because it provides an argument in favor of a distinct level of argument structure. Our analysis of *-kan* provides a new type of argument in favor of the claim of Manning (1995), Arka (1998), and others that argument structure should be viewed as a separate level of representation, a level at which significant linguistic generalizations are stated.

2. CAUSATIVE -KAN. The following examples illustrate the use of *-kan* as an apparent causative suffix.

- (1) a. Cangkirnya pecah.⁴
 cup-3 break
 ‘The cup broke.’

3. Son and Cole (2004) propose a semantic account of *-kan* as a resultative head. This account provides a unified semantics for causatives and benefactives, but it does not extend naturally to the full range of uses discussed in this paper.

4. Many of the examples are taken or adapted from Dardjowidjojo (1983), Sneddon (1996), and Echols and Shadily (1989).

- b. Tono memecah-**kan** cangkirnya.
 Tono meN-break-KAN cup-3
 'Tono broke the cup.'
- (2) a. Adik saya sudah mandi.
 brother 1SG already bathe
 'My brother has bathed.'
- b. Dia memandi-**kan** adik saya.
 3SG men-bathe-KAN brother 1SG
 'He bathed [caused to bathe] my brother.'
- (3) a. Balon itu terbang.
 balloon that fly
 'The balloon is flying.'
- b. Mereka menerbang-**kan** balon itu.
 3PL meN-fly-KAN balloon that
 'They caused the balloon to fly.'

In these examples *-kan* appears to be a causative affix, and, as is typical of causative affixes, it appears to change the argument structure by adding a causer argument as the highest argument of verb + *-kan*. This has the result that the highest argument of the base verb is "displaced" into the position of the second argument (cf. Aissen 1979, Comrie 1976, Cole and Sridhar 1977, and many others).

The suffix *-kan*, however, departs from the pattern seen with prototypical causatives when a broader range of clause types are considered. While the addition of *-kan* to intransitive verbs adds a new argument with a causative interpretation, the suffixation of *-kan* to monotransitive verbs does not result in a causative sentence but rather in a benefactive, as is described in the next section.

3. APPLICATIVE *-KAN*. While (1)–(3) illustrate the use of *-kan* as an apparent causative suffix with intransitive predicates, the following examples show the use of *-kan* with monotransitive predicates as an apparent applicative suffix with a benefactive interpretation.

- (4) a. Saya memanggang roti **untuk** Eric.
 1SG meN-bake bread for Eric
 'I baked bread for Eric.'
- b. Saya memanggang-**kan** Eric roti.
 1SG meN-bake-KAN Eric bread
 'I baked Eric bread.' *not* 'I made Eric bake bread.'
- (5) a. Dia menggoreng ayam **untuk** saya.
 3SG meN-fry chicken for 1SG
 'He fried chicken for me.'
- b. Dia menggoreng-**kan** saya ayam.
 3SG meN-fry-KAN 1SG chicken
 'He fried me chicken.' *not* 'He made me fry the chicken.'

- (6) a. Dia mencari buku itu **untuk** anaknya.
 3SG meN-look.for book that for child-3
 'He looked for that book for his child.'
- b. Dia mencari-**kan** anaknya buku itu.
 3SG meN-look.for-KAN child-3 book that
 'He looked for that book for his child.'
not 'He made his child look for that book.'

In the (a) examples of (4)–(6), the benefactive phrase is an optional adjunct which is not integral to the argument structure of the verb. In contrast, in the (b) examples, the benefactive occurs without the preposition *untuk* 'for'. Furthermore, in the (b) sentences the benefactive is a subcategorized argument of the verb. This may be disguised by the fact that Indonesian allows phonologically null constituents, making the appearance of the benefactive appear to be optional. However, while the benefactive nominal can be omitted, the only interpretation possible when it is omitted is that the action was carried out for the benefit of some unnamed individual, an interpretation not found in the sentences without *-kan* if the *untuk* phrase is omitted (e.g., in the sentences of [8]).

- (7) a. Saya memanggang-**kan** roti.
 1SG meN-bake-KAN bread
 'I baked bread **for someone**.'
- b. Dia menggoreng-**kan** ayam.
 3SG meN-fry-KAN chicken
 'He fried chicken **for someone**.'
- c. Dia mencari-**kan** buku itu.
 3SG meN-look.for-KAN book that
 'He looked for that book **for someone**.'
- (8) a. Saya memanggang roti.
 1SG meN-bake bread
 'I baked bread.'
- b. Dia menggoreng ayam.
 3SG meN-fry chicken
 'He fried chicken.'
- c. Dia mencari buku itu.
 3SG meN-look.for book that
 'He looked for that book.'

On the basis of examples like (4)–(8), *-kan* does not resemble prototypical causative suffixes but rather appears to be an applicative suffix with a distribution similar to that of prototypical applicatives in such language groups as Bantu. (See Baker (1988), Peterson (1999), and many earlier works.) In these examples, the suffix appears to affect the argument structure by adding a (benefactive) internal argument that displaces the internal argument of the base verb. Seemingly similar facts are found in many languages with an applied construction, for example, Bantu. The examples that follow are from Lunda, a Bantu language spoken primarily in Zambia:⁵

- (9) a. Mumbáanda wanata ilóola.
 mu-mbáanda w-a-nata i-lóola
 NC1:SG-woman 3SG-recent.past-throw NC5:SG-rock
 'The woman threw the rock.'
- b. Mumbáanda wanata ilóola kúdi anyáana.
 mu-mbáanda w-a-nata i-lóola kúdi nyi-ána
 NC1:SG-woman 3SG-recent.past-throw NC5:SG-rock at NC4:PL-child
 'The woman threw the rock at the children.'
goal expressed in clause as (optional) prepositional clause
- c. Mumbáanda wanatila anyáana ilóola.
 mu-mbáanda w-a-nata-ila nyi-ána i-lóola
 NC1:SG-woman 3SG-recent.past-throw-to NC4:PL-child NC5:SG-rock
 'The woman threw the rock at the children.'
applied construction: goal = primary object, patient = secondary object
- d. *Mumbáanda wanatila ilóola anyáana.

Despite their seeming similarity to prototypical applicatives, a consideration of a broader range of examples suggests that Indonesian benefactives with *-kan* differ from typical applicatives with respect to the effect of the affix on the argument structure. In prototypical applicatives, the nominal corresponding to the object of a preposition in the base sentence must appear as the primary object in the applied construction.⁶ In contrast, in Indonesian the seeming applied nominal may also occur in a prepositional phrase, despite the presence of *-kan* on the verb.

- (10) a. Saya memanggang-**kan** roti **untuk** Eric.⁷
 1SG meN-bake-KAN bread for Eric
 'I baked bread for Eric.'
- b. Dia menggoreng-**kan** ayam **untuk** saya.
 3SG meN-fry-KAN chicken for 1SG
 'He fried chicken for me.'
- c. Dia mencari-**kan** buku itu **untuk** anaknya.
 3SG meN-look.for-KAN book that for child-3
 'He looked for that book for his child.'

While the examples of (10) appear to have the same structure as sentences in which *-kan* is omitted (e.g., the [a] sentences of [4]–[6]), there is an important difference. In (4a)–(6a) the prepositional phrase is an optional adjunct. In contrast, when *-kan* is present, the benefactive is a subcategorized constituent, as is shown by the fact that when the benefactive is omitted, the sentence is interpreted as having a null benefactive interpretation, as in the sentences of (7).

5. Thanks are offered to Doris Payne for providing applicative examples from Lunda collected in her field methods course by Andoveloniaina Rasolofo.

6. Doris Payne (pers. comm.) tells us that the effect of the applicative morpheme in Bantu can be less straightforward than our description would suggest. For example, in Lunda, when the adjunct incorporated into the argument structure is the motive or location, as distinct from the benefactive or goal, the theme remains the primary object.

7. Unlike some closely related languages like Javanese, this sentence cannot also mean 'I baked bread for (in place of) Eric for (the benefit of) someone.'

Furthermore, on the assumption that it is the primary object that is made subject by passivization, it can be shown that the theme, not the benefactive, is the primary object in (10):

- (11) a. Roti itu dipanggang-**kan** untuk Eric.
 bread that DI-bake-KAN for Eric
 'That bread was baked for Eric.'
- b. Ayam itu digoreng-**kan** untuk saya.
 chicken that DI-fry-KAN for I SG
 'That chicken was fried for me.'
- c. Buku itu dicari-**kan** untuk anaknya.
 book that DI-look.for-KAN for child-3
 'That book was looked for for his child.'

In the sentences of (11), the theme has been made subject by passivization.⁸ As in the active, when *-kan* is present, the omission of the benefactive causes the clause to receive a null benefactive interpretation.

- (12) a. Roti itu dipanggang-**kan**.
 bread that DI-bake-KAN
 'That bread was baked **for someone**.'
- b. Ayam itu digoreng-**kan**.
 chicken that DI-fry-KAN
 'That chicken was fried **for someone**.'
- c. Buku itu dicari-**kan**.
 book that DI-look.for-KAN
 'That book was looked for **for someone**.'

Such a benefactive interpretation does not occur when *-kan* is absent.

- (13) a. Roti itu dipanggang.
 bread that DI-bake
 'That bread was baked.'
- b. Ayam itu digoreng.
 chicken that DI-fry
 'That chicken was fried.'
- c. Buku itu dicari.
 book that DI-look.for
 'That book was looked for.'

To conclude, *-kan* adds a benefactive argument to the argument structure of the base verb, but, unlike prototypical applicative suffixes, it does not in itself make the benefactive argument the primary object. The change in argument structure resulting from the

8. Speakers reject sentences like (i), in which the theme is made subject by passivization, and "dative shift" has occurred.

(i) *Roti itu di-panggang-kan Eric oleh Siti.
 bread that DI-bake-KAN Eric by Siti
 'That bread was baked for Eric by Siti.'

addition of *-kan* does appear to make the “promotion” of the benefactive to primary object possible. This is shown by the fact that in the absence of *-kan* the benefactive cannot be expressed as a bare NP but only in a prepositional phrase.

- (14) a. *Saya memanggang Eric roti.
 1SG meN-bake Eric bread
 ‘I baked Eric bread.’
- b. *Dia menggoreng saya ayam.
 3SG meN-fry 1SG chicken
 ‘He fried me chicken.’
- c. *Dia mencari anaknya buku itu.
 3SG meN-look.for child-3 book that
 ‘He looked for that book for his child.’

Thus, the effect of *-kan* in benefactives is to incorporate a benefactive adjunct into the argument structure of verb + *-kan*. The incorporation of the adjunct into the argument structure of the verb makes it possible for the benefactive argument to undergo optional “dative shift,” and thereby become the primary object of the verb. This is quite different from the effect of prototypical applicative suffixes, which both add an oblique argument to the argument structure and make that argument the primary object of the verb + applicative.

It may be useful to say a few words in passing about how we look at “dative shift” itself. We assume that “dative shift” is an operation on the argument structure of the verb and, therefore, occurs in the lexicon, rather than a transformational process, occurring in the syntax. The input to “dative shift” is a [lexical] structure containing an NP1 and a PP2 argument, and the output is an NP2 NP1 structure. In the output, NP2 (the object of the preposition in PP2) is the primary object. Crucially, at least in Indonesian, this process promotes PP *arguments* to primary object status, and does not apply to PP adjuncts. Thus, “dative shift” applies to verbs to which benefactive *-kan* has been affixed, and not to those without *-kan*, that is, not to adjuncts, in which the PP is external to the argument structure of the verb. The lexical process of “dative shift”, then, is separate from, though sometimes fed by, the lexical process of affixing *-kan* to the base verb.

4. OBJECT MARKER *-KAN*. We turn now to a third class of examples, those in which *-kan* appears to mark the occurrence of the theme as the primary object of the verb.

- (15) a. Ia merunding-**kan** rencana baru.
 3SG meN-discuss-KAN plan new
 ‘He discussed a new plan.’
- b. *Ia merunding rencana baru.
 3SG meN-discuss plan new
 ‘He discussed a new plan.’
- (16) a. Dia tidak memikirkan saya.
 3SG not meN-think-KAN 1SG
 ‘She does not think about me.’

- b. *Dia tidak memikir saya.
 3SG not meN-think 1SG
 ‘She does not think about me.’
- c. Yassir pikir [saya di Jakarta].
 Yassir think 1SG in Jakarta
 ‘Yassir thinks that I am in Jakarta.’
- d. *Yassir pikir-kan [saya di Jakarta].
 Yassir think-KAN 1SG in Jakarta
 ‘Yassir thinks that I am in Jakarta.’

In (15) and (16) the role of *-kan* appears to be that of licensing the appearance of a nominal direct object. This is shown by the ungrammaticality of (15b), in which *-kan* is omitted. Similarly, in (16) *-kan* is necessary if *pikir* is to have a nominal object—though the suffix cannot be used if the object is clausal, as in (16c–d). See Dardjowidjojo (1983:7) and Sneddon (1996:69), *inter alia*, who present lists of verbs with which *-kan* appears to mark the object as theme. It should be noted that these cases are neither causative nor benefactive in interpretation. Rather, the appearance of the theme as direct object is ungrammatical with these verbs unless the suffix *-kan* appears.

In addition to monotransitive verbs like *merundingkan* and *memikirkan*, with which *-kan* appears to be used to license the occurrence of an NP direct object, *-kan* also plays a similar function in ditransitive constructions:

- (17) John memberi-kan surat itu untuk/kepada Peter.
 John meN-give-KAN letter that for/to Peter
 ‘John gave the letter to Peter.’
- (18) Hasan mengirim-kan uang kepada saya.⁹
 Hasan meN-send-KAN money to 1SG
 ‘Hasan sent me money.’

In (17) and (18), ditransitives employing the suffix *-kan*, the theme is the primary object of the verb. It is the theme that becomes the subject when the clause is passivized (as shown in [19]–[20], and not the recipient, as shown in [21]–[22]).

- (19) Surat itu diberi-kan John kepada Peter.
 letter that DI-give-KAN John to Peter
 ‘That letter was given by John to Peter.’
- (20) Uang itu dikirim-kan kepada saya oleh Hasan.
 money that DI-send-KAN to 1SG by Hassan
 ‘The money was sent to me by Hassan.’
- (21) a. *Peter diberi-kan John surat itu.
 Peter DI-give-KAN John letter that
 ‘Peter was given that letter by John.’
- b. *Peter diberi-kan surat itu oleh John.
 Peter DI-give-KAN letter that by John.
 ‘Peter was given that letter by John.’

9. The suffix *-kan* is optional in (18), an irregularity of *kirim* ‘send’.

- (22) a. *Saya dikirim-**kan** Hasan uang itu.
 1SG DI-send-KAN Hassan money that
 'I was sent the money by Hassan.'
- b. *Saya dikirim-**kan** uang itu oleh Hasan.¹⁰
 1SG DI-send-KAN money that by Hassan
 'I was sent the money by Hassan.'

The function of *-kan* in ditransitives is to be contrasted with that of the suffix *-i*, which appears to play the role of a prototypical applicative suffix, at least in this construction.¹¹

- (23) Hasan mengirim-**i** saya uang.
 Hassan meN-send-I 1SG money
 'Hassan sent me money.'

Unlike (18), the goal, and not the theme, is the primary object in (23). This is shown by the fact that it is the goal which becomes the subject when (23) is passivized:

10. Also ill formed are sentences like (i).

- (i) Ali dikirimkan uang untuk saya (oleh Hasan).
 Ali di-send-KAN money for 1SG by Hassan
 'Ali was sent the money for me by Hassan.'

Rather, (ii) employing the suffix *-i* would be used.

- (ii) Ali dikirim*i* uang untuk saya (oleh Hasan).
 Ali DI-send-I money for 1SG by Hassan
 'Ali was sent the money for me by Hassan.'

11. In some languages closely related to Indonesian, as was pointed out by an *Oceanic Linguistics* reviewer, the pattern with the verb 'speak/say' is similar to that seen with ditransitives. For instance, in Madurese the following pattern occurs (where *-agi* is the counterpart of *-kan*).

- (i) Deni a-bala dha' Siti (parkara Atin).
 Deni ACTIVE-say to Siti concern Atin
 'Deni talked to Siti about Atin.'
- (ii) Deni a-bala-agi Atin (dha' Siti).
 Deni active-say-AGI Atin to Siti
 'Deni talked about Atin to Siti.'
- (iii) Deni a-bala-i Siti (parkara Atin).
 Deni active-say-I Siti concern Atin
 'Deni told Siti about Atin.'
- (iv) Deni a-bala ja' Atin neng Jakarta.
 Deni active-say that Atin at Jakarta
 'Deni said that Atin is in Jakarta.'

That is, in Madurese *a-bala* shares some of the properties of *pikir* and *kirim* with respect to the possibility of affixing either the counterpart of *-kan* or *-i*. In contrast, in Indonesian the suffix *-i* is not possible in equivalent sentences:

- (v) Deni berbicara kepada Siti mengenai Atin.
 Deni BER-talk to Siti concern Atin
 'Deni talked to Siti about Atin.'
- (vi) Deni membicarakan Atin dengan Siti.
 Deni meN-talk-KAN Atin with Siti
 'Deni talked about Atin to Siti.'

However, the equivalent of (iii) is ill formed using any form of *bicara*, and would require a different verb such as *memberitahu* 'inform'. Similarly, no form of *bicara* could be used for the equivalent of (iv). Rather, another verb like *mengatakan* 'say' would have to be used.

- (24) a. Saya dikirim-i uang oleh Hasan.
 1SG DI-send-I money by Hassan
 'I was sent money by Hassan.'
- b. *Uang itu dikirim-i kepada saya oleh Hasan.
 money that DI-send-I to 1SG by Hassan
 'The money was sent to me by Hassan.'

On the assumption that at the level of thematic relations (18), (20), and (23) have an identical representation along the lines of (25), the suffix *-kan* appears to have the function of licensing the theme as primary object in ditransitive sentences like (17)–(20).

- (25) Kirim Hasan uang saya
 send Hassan money 1sg
 Predicate Agent Theme Goal

5. SUMMARY OF THE PROBLEM. We have seen that *-kan* gives the appearance of having several separate and unrelated functions. In one class of sentence (intransitive clauses) the affix appears to license the addition to the argument structure of a CAUSER as the highest argument in the argument structure. In the second class of examples, monotransitive clauses, *-kan* appears to license the incorporation of an adjunct into the argument structure without, however, promoting that adjunct to the status of primary object or subject. Finally, in a third class of cases *-kan* seems to provide syntactic licensing for the theme as the primary object of the sentence and not to have either a causative or a benefactive interpretation. How might this apparent variety of functions be explained?

One possibility that must be considered is that *-kan* is simply a homonymous form with three distinct uses, and that there is no synchronic connection among these uses. While this proposal would explain the semantic disparity among the uses of the morpheme, there is strong reason to doubt that it is correct. If *-kan* were simply homonymous, it would be likely that there would exist sentences that are ambiguous with respect to the function of *-kan*. But, at least with regard to these three functions, this ambiguity does not seem to exist. Rather, the three functions seem to be in complementary distribution: when one function is found, the other functions do not occur. For example, a sentence like (26a) cannot be made benefactive by the addition of *-kan*, as in (26b)–(26c). Rather, *-kan* results in a causative reading, as in (26d).

- (26) a. Siti bangun pagi-pagi untuk ibunya.
 Siti wake.up early for mother-3
 'Siti woke up early for her mother.'
- b. *Siti bangun-kan pagi-pagi untuk ibunya.
 Siti wake.up-KAN early for mother-3
 'Siti woke up early for her mother.'
- c. *Siti bangun-kan ibunya pagi-pagi.¹²
 Siti wake.up-KAN mother-3 early
 'Siti woke up early for her mother.'

12. This sentence is grammatical as a causative meaning 'Siti woke her mother up early.'

- d. Saya bangun-**kan** Siti pagi-pagi.
 1SG wake.up-KAN Siti early
 'I woke Siti up early.' (i.e., 'I caused Siti to wake up early.')

The sentences of (26), which are typical, show that when a causative reading is available, the benefactive reading is absent. That is, the causative reading is in complementary distribution with the benefactive reading. Sneddon (1996:82) notes that this complementarity is, in fact, the general rule: "Many verbs cannot take benefactive *-kan*. These include all verbs with which *-kan* is required to produce well formed transitive verbs ... and to form causative verbs. ... With these verbs the beneficiary must be expressed in a beneficiary phrase." While a complementary distribution is not conclusive evidence that the forms in question are instances of a single entity, such a distribution is at least presumptive evidence in favor of such a claim.

Another hint that the various functions of *-kan* are related synchronically is the fact that the three productive uses discussed above all relate to argument structure. The causative and benefactive uses of *-kan* introduce arguments into the argument structure, that is, they increase the valence of the verb by one argument. The third use, that of licensing the theme as primary object is also related to argument structure. In the third group of instances the suffix seems to provide syntactic licensing for one of the arguments specified in the thematic structure of the base verb. Thus, all three uses appear to be related to the syntactic licensing of arguments. Viewed from this perspective, the problem to be solved is why in certain cases the argument that is licensed is a causer, which is not present in the thematic structure of the base verb; in other cases the licensed argument is a benefactive, which is also not a subcategorized argument of the base verb, while in a third set of cases the licensed argument is a theme, which is licensed thematically by the base verb.

A final clue is provided by the valence of the base verbs that appear in each group. The most clear-cut is the causative use of *-kan*, which is restricted almost exclusively to intransitive base predicates. Compare (27), in which *-kan* is affixed to intransitive bases, to (28), in which it is suffixed to monotransitive bases.

(27) INTRANSITIVE BASE VERBS AND ADJECTIVES

- a. *bangun* 'wake up (INTR)' → *membangun-kan* 'wake someone up'
- b. *mandi* 'bathe (INTR)' → *memandi-kan* 'to bathe someone'
- c. *besar* 'big (ADI)' → *membesar-kan* 'make something bigger'
- d. *benar* 'correct (ADI)' → *membenar-kan* 'to correct something'

(28) MONOTRANSITIVE BASE VERBS

- a. *membuat* 'do, make something' → *membuat-kan* 'do something for someone'
 ≠ 'make someone do something'
- b. *membeli* 'buy something' → *membeli-kan* 'buy something for someone'
 ≠ 'make someone buy something'
- c. *mencari* 'look for something' → *mencari-kan* 'look for something for someone'
 ≠ 'make someone look for something'

There are a few instances in which a causative with *-kan* appears to be based on a monotransitive verb, as in (29).

- (29) a. Ali meminjam buku saya.
 Ali meN-borrow book 1SG
 'Ali borrowed my book.'
- b. Saya meminjam-kan buku saya kepada Ali.
 1SG meN-borrow-KAN book 1SG to Ali
 'I lent my book to Ali.' (i.e., 'I caused/let Ali (to) borrow my book.')

While in examples like those of (29) the base verb is thematically a two-place predicate, it appears to have undergone a process of reduction to a one-place predicate. In (29) the highest argument of the base verb has been demoted to adjunct position, leaving a derived one-place predicate as the result.¹³ This process is described in detail in Sneddon (1996:74). As will be argued in section 8, the agent demotion seen in (29b) provides the basis for an explanation of why *-kan* does not result in causative interpretations for monotransitives. At this point, it suffices to say that there does not appear to be a productive pattern in which a two-place predicate is made causative by the addition of *-kan*. The correct generalization seems to be that the causative use of *-kan* is restricted to one-place predicates, either those with one subject argument or those with one object argument.

Turning to benefactive *-kan*, we saw previously that benefactive *-kan* is restricted to monotransitives. Finally, *-kan* as a licenser of the theme as a primary object was seen to occur in both thematically monotransitive clauses ([15]–[16]) and thematically ditransitive clauses ([17]–[18]). The possible interpretations for *-kan* as determined by the valence of the base verb are summarized in (30).

13. We believe that the prepositional phrase in (29b) is an adjunct for a number of reasons. First, we make the assumption that prepositional phrases are adjuncts unless we have evidence to the contrary (as we had for examples like those of [10]). Second, the prepositional phrase is optional in (29b). This fact also suggests that the prepositional phrase is an adjunct. Finally, the word order supports the proposal that the prepositional phrase in (29b) is an adjunct rather than an argument. Although word order is quite free in Indonesian, adjuncts show a reduction in wellformedness when they occur between the verb and an argument.

- (i) a. Dia menuju ke Jakarta kemarin. b. ??Dia menuju kemarin ke Jakarta.
 3SG go to Jakarta yesterday 3SG go yesterday to Jakarta
 'He went to Jakarta yesterday.' 'He went to Jakarta yesterday.'

The differences between (ia) and (ib) can be explained on the basis that *ke Jakarta* is a subcategorized argument of *menuju* 'go' and, thus, that the reduced grammaticality of (ib) is due to the fact that an adjunct, *kemarin* 'yesterday', intervenes between the verb and the PP *ke Jakarta*.

Turning now to sentences of the type of (29b), we see that adjuncts can be ordered between the prepositional phrase in question and the verb.

- (ii) a. Ali meminjamkan bukunya kepada saya di kelas kemarin.
 Ali meN-borrow-KAN book-3 to 1SG in class yesterday
 b. Ali meminjamkan bukunya di kelas kepada saya kemarin.
 Ali meN-borrow-KAN book-3 in class to 1SG yesterday
 c. Ali meminjamkan bukunya kemarin di kelas kepada saya.
 Ali meN-borrow-KAN book-3 yesterday in class to 1SG
 'Ali lent me his book in class yesterday.'

The fact that all three variants of (29b) are equally well formed suggests that *kepada saya* is an adjunct rather than a prepositional argument. Thus, although the evidence is not entirely conclusive, we conclude that, in all likelihood, *kepada saya* is an adjunct.

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| (30) | INTRANSITIVE | MONOTRANSITIVE | DITRANSITIVE |
| CAUSATIVE | X | | |
| BENEFACTIVE | | X | |
| OBJECT MARKER | | X | X |

While there is some overlap among the functions of *-kan* with respect to the valence of the base verb, it is clear that verbal valence is one of the factors determining the choice of functions for *-kan* in a particular sentence, and that the various functions of *-kan* are not independent of each other.

6. THE SUFFIX -KAN AS A SYNTACTIC LICENSER. We shall now attempt to find the general pattern explaining the distribution of *-kan*. We have seen that one of the functions of *-kan* is to license the theme as primary object (section 4). We would like to suggest that it is this function, and not the benefactive or causative function, that provides the key to understanding the fully productive uses of *-kan*. What characterizes the examples of section 4 is that an argument that is thematically licensed by the verb requires a special marker on the verb in order to be licensed syntactically. Thus, as was shown in (16) (repeated below), *memikir* is a two-place predicate, which, thematically, can take either a noun phrase or a clause as its object.

- (16) a. Dia tidak memikir-kan saya.
 3SG not meN-think-KAN 1SG
 ‘She does not think about me.’
- b. *Dia tidak memikir saya.
 3SG not meN-think 1SG
 ‘She does not think about me.’
- c. Yassir pikir [saya di Jakarta].
 Yassir think 1SG in Jakarta
 ‘Yassir thinks that I am in Jakarta.’
- d. *Yassir pikir-kan [saya di Jakarta].
 Yassir think-KAN 1SG in Jakarta
 ‘Yassir thinks that I am in Jakarta.’

As shown by (16b), when the object is a nominal rather than clausal, thematic licensing is not sufficient to allow its occurrence. Rather, it is necessary to affix *-kan* to the verb.

Thus, we claim (for this and similar examples) that the function of *-kan* is not to add a new argument to the argument structure, but rather to license in argument structure an argument that is already present at the level of thematic representation. To put the matter differently, we claim that there is a mismatch between the thematic structure of *pikir* ‘think’ and its syntactic argument structure, a mismatch remedied by the presence of *-kan*.¹⁴ Compare (31) and (32).

14. We would like to acknowledge the influence on our thinking of Jerry Saddock’s work on mismatches (1985 and many later works). While we do not employ the formalism of Autolexical Syntax, the influence of this work on our thinking should be apparent.

(31) *memikir* ‘think’

| | FIRST ARGUMENT | SECOND ARGUMENT |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| THEMATIC RELATIONS | licensed | licensed |
| SYNTACTIC ARGUMENT STRUCTURE | licensed | unlicensed |

(32) *memikir-kan* ‘think’

| | FIRST ARGUMENT | SECOND ARGUMENT |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| THEMATIC RELATIONS | licensed | licensed |
| SYNTACTIC ARGUMENT STRUCTURE | licensed | licensed |

The suffix *-kan* appears to have a similar function in ditransitives like (18) (repeated below), except that the suffix is optional in (some) ditransitives.

- (18) Hasan *mengirim-kan* uang kepada saya.
Hasan meN-send-KAN money to 1SG
‘Hasan sent me money.’

In examples like (18) the verb is a three-place predicate, selecting an agent, a theme, and a goal at the level of thematic relations. Despite the fact that both the theme and the goal are specified thematically, *-kan* plays the role of (optionally) licensing the occurrence of the theme in the syntactic argument structure. (Ditransitive verbs vary with regard to whether *-kan* is optional or obligatory when the theme is the primary object. We take the optionality in the case of *mengirim* to be an irregularity.)

(33) *mengirim* ‘send’

| | FIRST ARGUMENT | SECOND ARGUMENT | THIRD ARGUMENT |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| THEMATIC RELATIONS | licensed | licensed | licensed |
| SYNTACTIC ARGUMENT STRUCTURE | licensed | optionally licensed | licensed |

(34) *mengirim-kan* ‘send’

| | FIRST ARGUMENT | SECOND ARGUMENT | THIRD ARGUMENT |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| THEMATIC RELATIONS | licensed | licensed | licensed |
| SYNTACTIC ARGUMENT STRUCTURE | licensed | licensed | licensed |

7. THE ANALYSIS OF BENEFACTIVE -KAN. In the previous section, we proposed that the function of *-kan* is to provide syntactic licensing for an argument that is present in the thematic structure but that is not licensed in the argument structure. We shall now show that this approach extends naturally to benefactive *-kan*. The thematic structure and argument structure of examples like (4a) (repeated below) is given in (35).

- (4) a. Saya *memanggang* roti **untuk** Eric.
1SG meN-bake bread for Eric
‘I baked bread for Eric.’

(35) *memanggang* ‘bake’

| | FIRST ARGUMENT | SECOND ARGUMENT | BENEFACTIVE |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| THEMATIC RELATIONS | licensed | licensed | licensed |
| SYNTACTIC ARGUMENT STRUCTURE | licensed | licensed | unlicensed |

Example (4a) differs in an important way from the examples discussed in section 6. In examples like those of (16), it is the second argument of the predicate (the theme) that lacks syntactic licensing. In the absence of some operation like antipassive, which converts a complement into an adjunct, there is no alternative way to license the occurrence of the theme. The theme must be integrated into the argument structure, or its appearance will be ill-formed. Thus, the occurrence of *-kan* is obligatory in (16). In contrast, the benefactive is an adjunct in (4), and adjuncts differ from arguments in that they are well formed even when they are not integrated into the argument structure of the verb. Thus, in the case of an adjunct like *untuk Eric* ‘for Eric’, the prediction is that the sentence will be well formed, but that the benefactive will not function as an argument of the predicate. This prediction is corroborated by the passive alternant for (4a):

- (36) a. Roti itu dipanggang untuk Eric.
bread that DI-bake for Eric
‘That bread was baked for Eric.’
b. *Eric dipanggang roti.
Eric DI-bake bread
‘Eric was baked bread.’

The examples of (36) show that it is the theme that is treated as the primary object in (4). In contrast to (35), when *-kan* is present, the benefactive is licensed both thematically and syntactically.

(37) memanggang-kan ‘bake’

| | FIRST ARGUMENT | SECOND ARGUMENT | BENEFACTIVE |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| THEMATIC RELATIONS | licensed | licensed | licensed |
| SYNTACTIC ARGUMENT STRUCTURE | licensed | licensed | licensed |

As in section 6, *-kan* provides syntactic licensing to a thematically licensed participant in the clause. (We use “participant” to mean an argument or an adjunct.) As we saw in section 6, when *-kan* is added to a monotransitive verb like *panggang* ‘bake’, the benefactive PP becomes a subcategorized argument of the clause.

8. INTRANSITIVE CLAUSES. We have examined several types of clauses in which a thematically licensed element lacks syntactic licensing in argument structure. When *-kan* is viewed from the perspective of semantics, it appears to have a different function in each of these sentence types. When the suffix is viewed from the perspective of argument structure, however, it can be seen to have the same function in each sentence type: it provides syntactic licensing for the element in question, thereby making that element an argument of the predicate in argument structure. We would like to turn now to a clause type, intransitive clauses, in which all thematically licensed participants are licensed in argument structure. We shall argue that when all participants in the clause are already licensed, *-kan* still licenses an argument in the argument structure, but, because all thematically licensed participants are already syntactically licensed, it must add a new argument to the argument structure rather than licensing an existing participant. This argument is added as the highest argument in the argument structure, and, as first argument, it receives a causative interpretation.

In the discussion so far we have made reference to a level of thematic structure and a level of argument structure. It may be useful at this point to provide some detail regarding how in our view these levels are related. Following the general approach first suggested by Grimshaw (1990), both thematic structure and argument structure are conceived of as hierarchies:

(38) HIERARCHY OF THEMATIC RELATIONS

Causer > Agent > Experiencer > Theme > Benefactive > Oblique > ...

(We leave unspecified such controversial issues as whether the goal is higher than the theme or the theme higher than the goal, etc. Oblique may be broken down into more fine-grained thematic divisions.)

(39) ARGUMENT STRUCTURE HIERARCHY

First Argument > Second Argument > Third Argument > Adjunct

(We take no position on the maximal number of arguments present in a clause. Adjunct might also be viewed as a cover term for a more fine-grained division. Adjuncts, as nonarguments, do not require syntactic licensing.)

Hierarchies (38) and (39) are related by two mechanisms, direct mapping and relative mapping.¹⁵ Certain thematic positions are specified as being directly mapped into specific positions in the Argument Structure Hierarchy. For instance, thematic benefactives are directly mapped into adjuncts in the argument structure hierarchy. Some further lexical operation (e.g., that performed by *-kan*) is necessary to make that position an argument. In the case of Indonesian, we assume that the theme is mapped directly onto the second argument. Again, some further lexical or syntactic operation is necessary if the position of the theme in argument structure is to be changed.

While certain thematic relations are directly mapped onto specific positions in argument structure, others occur in a position determined by their relative order in the hierarchy of thematic relations (i.e., their position is determined by the Universal Grammar, the default). Thus, for instance, the experiencer is the thematically highest argument in a sentence like the following:

(40) Tante lihat buku itu.

auntie see book that

'I saw the book.' (said by "Auntie")

As a result, the experiencer is mapped onto the first argument in argument structure, and, in the absence of further operations that affect argument structure, it becomes the surface subject. In contrast, in (41), the thematically highest noun phrase is the causer, *Siti*.

(41) Siti kasih lihat Tante (buku itu).

Siti give see auntie book that

'Siti showed me (that book).' (said by "Auntie")

15. The mappings discussed are those needed for Indonesian. We leave open the question of the extent to which such mappings are determined by Universal Grammar rather than the grammar of specific languages.

The experiencer, *Tante*, is the second highest noun phrase on the thematic hierarchy. As a result *Siti* becomes the first argument on the argument structure hierarchy, and, as a consequence, the surface subject. In short, thematic positions that are not mapped to a specific position on the argument structure hierarchy by language specific rules receive their position in argument structure on the basis of their relative position in the thematic hierarchy.

Bearing in mind the relationship between the thematic hierarchy and the argument structure hierarchy, let us consider examples like (1a) and (2a), repeated as (42):

- (42) a. Cangkirnya pecah.
cup-3 break
'The cup broke.'
- b. Adik saya sudah mandi.
younger.sibling 1SG already bathe
'My brother has bathed.'

The thematic structure and argument structure for intransitive *pecah* 'break' and *mandi* 'bathe' are represented as in (43), which shows the single argument in an intransitive clause as being licensed both thematically and syntactically.¹⁶

(43) *pecah* 'break' and *mandi* 'bathe'

| | FIRST ARGUMENT |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| THEMATIC RELATIONS | licensed |
| SYNTACTIC ARGUMENT STRUCTURE | licensed |

As in previous examples, *-kan* has the effect of licensing an argument in the argument structure. In the absence of a thematically licensed element that lacks syntactic licensing, *-kan* adds a default higher argument to the argument structure.

- (44) a. pecah
- | | FIRST ARGUMENT | SECOND ARGUMENT |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| THEMATIC RELATION | Theme | none (not present) |
- b. pecah-kan
- | | FIRST ARGUMENT | SECOND ARGUMENT |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| THEMATIC RELATION | Causer | Theme |
- (45) a. mandi
- | | FIRST ARGUMENT | SECOND ARGUMENT |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| THEMATIC RELATION | Agent | none (not present) |
- b. mandi-kan
- | | FIRST ARGUMENT | SECOND ARGUMENT |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| THEMATIC RELATION | Causer | Agent |

16. In this paper we treat potential unaccusatives like *pecah* 'break' and unergatives like *mandi* 'bathe' as having the same syntactic structure. In fact, the analysis would not be affected if unaccusatives and unergatives have different lexical structures in Indonesian. We would argue that in Indonesian unaccusatives the theme is the first argument, and, thus, it becomes the syntactic subject. Similarly, in unergatives the agent is the first argument, and also becomes the syntactic subject.

In the analysis just proposed, as a result of the insertion of an additional, higher argument in the argument structure, a higher argument is posited in the thematic structure as well, because all syntactically licensed arguments are required to have theta roles (the Theta Criterion). The theta role assigned is, by default, that of causer. Thus, the analysis predicts that when *-kan* is suffixed to an intransitive verb, the result is a causative.

In conjunction with subsidiary assumptions, the analysis also predicts that a causative cannot be formed by affixing *-kan* to a monotransitive verb. It will be remembered that we claimed that in monotransitives the position of second argument is assigned directly to the patient. We make the further assumption that in Indonesian, at least, a position in argument structure cannot be filled by more than one nominal. Consider, now, the effect of adding an additional, higher argument to a sentence like (46).

- (46) Siti memukul kakaknya.
Siti meN-hit older.sibling-3
‘Siti hit her older sister.’
- (47) *Eric memukul-kan Siti kakaknya.
Eric meN-hit-KAN Siti older.sibling-3
‘Eric made Siti hit her older sister.’

In the argument structure for (46), all thematically licensed elements are also licensed syntactically:

- (48) memukul ‘hit’

| | FIRST ARGUMENT | SECOND ARGUMENT |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| THEMATIC RELATIONS | licensed | licensed |
| SYNTACTIC ARGUMENT STRUCTURE | licensed | licensed |

On the assumption that *-kan* adds a higher argument to the structure specified in (48), the following situation would obtain:

- (49) Memukul-kan

| | FIRST ARGUMENT | SECOND ARGUMENT |
|--------------------|----------------|--|
| THEMATIC RELATIONS | Causer | competition between: Theme [directly mapped] and Agent |

As (49) shows, the analysis predicts that both the theme and the agent will compete for the position of second argument. However, according to the analysis, no position in argument structure can be doubly filled. Thus, the analysis predicts that *-kan* cannot receive a causative interpretation in transitive clauses.

While the construction in Indonesian is not a causative construction per se, the analysis just outlined does bear a notable similarity to one aspect of the analysis of causatives in such works as Aissen (1979), Comrie (1976), Cole (1983), and Cole (1984). In the causative constructions discussed in those works it was seen that when the subject of the base verb is displaced from the position of first argument of the base verb, languages differ with regard to whether this nominal must take the position of second argument or whether it can move further down the hierarchy of arguments. For instance, in Imbabura Quechua (Cole 1984), as is true for Indonesian *-kan*, the first argument of the base verb invariably becomes the second argument of the causative

verb, regardless of whether the base verb is transitive or intransitive. Imbabura Quechua, however, is unlike Indonesian in allowing the chain-like displacement of the base verb second argument by the base verb first argument, as is illustrated in table 1.

In Imbabura Quechua, the displacement of the first argument of the base verb to second argument results in the further displacement of the base verb second argument to adjunct.¹⁷ This chain of events is argued for in detail in Cole (1984), and we will not repeat the arguments here, but the displacement of the base verb second argument is shown by the fact that only the first argument of the base verb is the primary object and, therefore, can be made subject by passivization. See Cole (1984: 135–42 for details). Thus, the effect of displacement of the base verb first argument to second argument position is affected by a variety of language-specific factors such as whether the base verb second argument can itself be displaced to adjunct. In the case of Indonesian, displacement of the second argument along the lines seen in Imbabura Quechua is not possible.

To recapitulate, we claim that the absence of a causative interpretation in Indonesian seen in (49) is due to the conflict between the first and second arguments of the base verb with respect to the second argument position in verb + *-kan*. Does this claim have empirical content, or is it no more than a description of the fact that *-kan* verbs do not assign a causative interpretation to monotransitives? Note that our analysis makes a prediction that would not be made by a straightforward ban on assigning a causative interpretation to monotransitive verbs with *-kan*. According to our analysis, it should be possible for monotransitives to receive a causative interpretation if there exists an independent process (like antipassive or demotion of the base verb subject to adjunct) that eliminates one of the arguments of the monotransitive verb.

While antipassive does not exist in Indonesian, there is a lexically governed process by means of which the subject of certain verbs is “demoted” to adjunct. One example was noted previously (repeated below as [50]).

- (50) Saya meminjam-**kan** buku saya **kepada** Ali.
 1SG meN-borrow-KAN book 1SG to Ali.
 ‘I lent my book to Ali.’ (i.e., ‘I caused/let Ali (to) borrow my book.’)

TABLE 1. EXAMPLE FROM IMBABURA QUECHUA

Juzi-ka Marya-ta Juan-ta riku-chi-rka.
 José Maria-ACC Juan-ACC see-CAUSE-PAST
 ‘José made Maria see Juan.’

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| BASE VERB ARGUMENTS | Marya First Argument | Juan Second Argument |
| ARGUMENT OF <i>-chi-</i> ‘cause’ | Juzi | |
| OUTPUT OF <i>-chi-</i> ON ARGUMENT STRUCTURE | Marya Second Argument | Juan Adjunct displaced from Second Argument position |

17. The notion of “displacement” that we use here was referred to as “chomage” in Relational Grammar (e.g., Perlmutter 1983). In our usage, this process is lexical rather than transformational.

In (50) the base verb agent appears as the object of the preposition *kepada* 'to', that is, as an adjunct.¹⁸ Our analysis predicts that in just these cases the theme will be able to retain the position of second argument when a causer is introduced.

(51) **meminjam-kan**

| | FIRST ARGUMENT | SECOND ARGUMENT | ADJUNCT |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|
| THEMATIC RELATION | Causer | Patient | Agent |

In contrast, a constraint against the assignment of a causative interpretation to monotransitives would not predict the grammaticality of sentences like (50). Thus, these examples corroborate our proposal and cast doubt on the alternative hypothesis.

Some additional verbs that undergo similar demotion of the agent to adjunct, and which, therefore, permit the addition of an additional (causer) argument to transitive sentences are the following (from Sneddon 1996:74–76).

(52) a. Saya memeriksa-**kan** mata ke dokter.

1SG meN-check-KAN eye to doctor

'I had my eyes checked by the doctor.'

b. Saya mencuci-**kan** pakaian pada wanita itu.

1SG meN-wash-KAN clothes to woman that

'I had that woman wash my clothes.'

c. Hakim memikul-**kan** beban ganti rugi pada polisi.

judge meN-bear-KAN load substitute loss to police

'The judge imposed the burden of compensation on the police.'

(53) **memeriksa-kan, mencuci-kan, memukul-kan**

| | FIRST ARGUMENT | SECOND ARGUMENT | ADJUNCT |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|
| THEMATIC RELATION | Causer | Patient | Agent |

These examples, like (50), provide evidence that it is the direct mapping of the theme to primary object (second argument) (and the absence of a process of displacement of the second argument of the base verb to adjunct) that prevents the insertion of a higher causative argument in transitive structures.¹⁹

9. DENOMINAL VERBS. To summarize, we have seen that *-kan* resolves a mismatch between thematic structure and argument structure. It provides licensing in argument structure to a thematically licensed element that is unlicensed syntactically.

18. While we have presented evidence that *kepada Ali* is an adjunct, it is not, in fact, critical for our analysis that the prepositional phrase be an adjunct. Our analysis is also compatible with a state of affairs in which the prepositional phrase is a prepositional argument so long as the prepositional phrase is lower on the argument structure hierarchy than the second argument.

19. There are a variety of unanswered questions with respect to sentences like (50) and (52). In some languages (e.g., Hebrew), as discussed in Cole 1983 *inter alia*, the choice of pattern followed when the base subject is displaced from first argument position is determined by the semantic class of the verb. For instance, in Hebrew when subjects of verbs of perception are displaced, they become indirect objects, while subjects of nonperception verbs become direct objects. We have not yet conducted a detailed examination of which verbs permit the pattern in (50), and whether these verbs constitute a semantically coherent class, but we hope to do so in the future.

When no such mismatch between thematic and argument structure occurs, *-kan* licenses an additional argument in the argument structure, resulting in a “displacement” effect on the original arguments: the initial argument of the base verb becomes the second argument of verb + *-kan*, and so forth. This process of displacement is constrained in that direct mappings between specific thematic relations and specific argument positions conflict with the displaced arguments. In particular, there is a direct mapping between the theme and the second argument that results in a competition for the second argument position between the theme and the displaced first argument of the base verb. This competition leads to an ill-formed derivation except in cases in which the agent is demoted to a lower position by some lexical operation.

The theory of *-kan* just outlined makes the prediction that *-kan* should receive a causative interpretation in other constructions with a thematic and argument structure similar to that of intransitive clauses. One such case is denominal verbs. The use of *-kan* is obligatory with these verbs, so they invariably surface as transitive clauses. Do denominal verbs in fact instantiate the same principles operative with intransitive verbs?

Denominal verbs would appear to provide a hostile environment for testing our claims because their meanings are quite idiosyncratic. For instance, *membukukan*, from *buku* ‘book’, as used in accounting, means ‘to enter into a book’, *mendukunkan*, from *dukun* ‘shaman’ means take to a shaman, *memakamkan*, from *makam* ‘grave’ means ‘bury in a grave’, and *mengorbankan* from *korban* ‘sacrifice’ means ‘to sacrifice something, to cause something to be a sacrifice’. Thus, denominal uses of *-kan* give the appearance of being quite irregular in their function. This would seem to suggest that most denominal uses of *-kan* could not be shown to be instances of the same generalization derived from the examination of verb + *-kan*.

While the examples just cited, and many similar examples, are clearly idiosyncratic, we would like to argue that the idiosyncrasy is in the process of verbalization itself, rather than in *-kan*. That is, we posit a two-stage derivational process:

(54) Verbalization with *-kan*²⁰

| | PROCESS | RESULT |
|---------|--------------------------|------------------|
| STAGE 1 | Append null verbal affix | Verbalization |
| STAGE 2 | Append <i>-kan</i> | License Argument |

We would like to argue that it is the process of verbalization, which corresponds to stage 1, that is idiosyncratic. The effect of appending *-kan* to the verbal base, however, follows the rules described in earlier sections. A new argument is introduced that is assigned the thematic role of causer.

Let us consider some of the denominal verbs listed in the previous paragraph. To begin with, *membukukan* in the sense of ‘enter into a book’, ‘create a bookkeeping entry’: we assume that the only constraint on stage 1 is that the denominal verb must be related in some way to ‘book’, but beyond a vague relevance requirement, there

20. We make the assumption that the verbal affixes *meN-* ‘transitive active’ and *di-* ‘passive’ are inflectional affixes and are not responsible for the verbalization of the denominal verb. It is also reasonable to treat this use of *meN-* and *di-* as derivational affixes. This, however, would introduce an undesirable irregularity into the lexical entry for *meN-* and *di-*.

are no specific restrictions regarding how the derived verb must relate to the base noun. In the bookkeeping sense, the result of stage 1 would seem to be roughly 'y is in a book (of accounts)'. In this structure all thematically licensed arguments, namely the single argument of the derived verb, are also licensed in argument structure. Thus, in stage 2 an additional, higher argument is added, which is interpreted as the causer. This yields 'x causes y to be in a book (of accounts)'.

Turning next to *mendukunkan*, the verb must be related in some way to *dukun* 'shaman', but no specific relationship is required. In this case, the result of verbalization (stage 1) is 'y goes to a shaman', which satisfies the relevance requirement in a different way from that seen with respect to *membukukan*. The (abstract) verb resulting from stage 1 is a one-place predicate in which the single argument is licensed both thematically and with regard to argument structure. Thus, as in the case of *membukukan*, *-kan* adds a new higher argument, which receives the default interpretation of causer. Thus, the verb means 'x causes y to go to a shaman'.

The final example that we will discuss is *mengorbankan*. This denominal verb must be relevant to the noun *korban* 'sacrifice'. In this case, the interpretation in stage 1 is 'y is a sacrifice'. Like the previous examples, this is a one-place predicate in which the argument is licensed thematically and in terms of argument structure. As a result, a new argument is added that is interpreted as the causer, yielding an interpretation of 'x makes y a sacrifice, x sacrifices y'.

What should be clear from the above examples is that while Indonesian denominal verbs are varied with regard to the semantic relationship of the verb to the source noun, the unpredictability is with respect to what aspect of the source noun will be taken as relevant in the formation of the verb. What does not seem to vary is the effect of affixing *-kan* to the abstract verb. Put somewhat differently, the irregularity in denominal verbs is introduced in verbalization, stage 1, and not by the suffix *-kan*, stage 2. Thus, we conclude that the vast majority of denominal verbs provide additional evidence in favor of our analysis.

10. SPECULATIONS ON HISTORICAL ORIGIN. We have argued that the primary role of *-kan* is to license the presence in the argument structure of an otherwise unlicensed argument. The effect of *-kan* on the valence of the predicate is a side effect of the argument licensing property of this morpheme. It should be noted that as a syntactic licenser the function of *-kan* is analogous to that of a case marker on a noun phrase. While *-kan* is clearly not a case marker synchronically, its role as a syntactic licenser of nominals suggests that it may have developed out of a case-marker diachronically. Viewed from this perspective, an important way that *-kan* differs from a case-marker is that it occurs on the verb. This suggests that *-kan* may have developed out of a nominal case-marker that came to be incorporated onto the verb (Nichols 1986 *inter alia*).

As Uri Tadmor (pers. comm.) has suggested to us, there is, in fact, a likely prepositional/case marker candidate for the historical source of *-kan*, namely *akan* 'about'.

- (55)

Dia lupa akan janjinya.

3SG forget about promise-3

‘She forgot about her promise.’
- (56)

Saya tidak percaya akan dia.

1SG not believe about 3SG

‘I don’t believe in him.’

What is striking is that *akan* is a semantically bleached preposition, one that expresses a general sense of relatedness, but that lacks specific semantic content. Such forms are ready candidates for conversion into morphological markers (Nichols 1986 *inter alia*).

We would, therefore, hypothesize that the historical sequence shown in (57) occurred.

(57) Possible historical source of *-kan*

| | |
|---------|--|
| Stage 1 | <i>Akan</i> is a preposition meaning ‘about’. |
| Stage 2 | <i>Akan</i> incorporates into the preceding verb as <i>-kan</i> , the head-marking equivalent of a case-marker that provides syntactic licensing for a theta-marked participant. |
| Stage 3 | <i>-kan</i> is extended in function so that it licenses a constituent not previously in the thematic structure, and, hence, is no longer a case-marker. |

Evidence in favor of such a historical sequence would constitute indirect evidence for our syntactic analysis as well.

11. CONCLUSIONS. In a recent presentation Gil (2002) suggested that while acrolectal Indonesian *-kan* is an applicative morpheme that modifies clause structure, Riau Indonesian (RI) *-kan* is a marker of the existence of an end point for the action rather than a derivational affix affecting the argument structure of the verb.²¹ We have argued that even in acrolectal Indonesian the function of *-kan* is primarily one of licensing an argument in the argument structure rather than of changing the valence of the predicate. This might suggest that Gil’s analysis of RI can be extended to acrolectal Indonesian as well. While it does appear true that the occurrence of *-kan* frequently correlates with the existence of a semantic end point (see Son and Cole 2004), Gil’s analysis (applied to acrolectal Indonesian) has the deficit of failing to predict whether a given instance of *-kan* will receive a causative, benefactive, or object marking interpretation. In contrast, we have argued that in acrolectal Indonesian *-kan* has a unitary syntactic function, that of licensing an argument in the argument structure. The valence changes observed in causatives are due to the interaction of *-kan* with the thematic structure of the clause into which it is inserted. Thus, the analysis provides an answer to the question posed by Soenjono Dardjowidjojo more than twenty years ago regarding features that “somehow could give us a relatively safe guideline as to the cooccurrence of a base and the affixes” (Dardjowidjojo 1983). At least with respect to *-kan*, we are able to disagree with Dardjowidjojo’s pessimistic answer that “no useful generalization can be made.” Rather, we have argued that despite considerable lexicalization and many idiosyncratic uses, the core functions of the suffix are, in fact, predictable—but the unifying function relates to the licensing of arguments in argument structure rather than to semantic features of the affix.

21. A similar proposal was made for Jakarta Indonesian *-in-* by Cumming (2001).

12. APPENDIX: -KAN AND CASE MARKING. In the body of this paper we have argued that the function of the morpheme *-kan* is to license an argument in argument structure that would otherwise be unlicensed. Within Generative Syntax the syntactic licensing of arguments is usually ascribed to case marking. Could the distribution of *-kan* be explained in terms of case marking? To be more explicit, could *-kan* be viewed as a “displaced” case marker, the head marking analogue to a nominal case marker?

There are several reasons to believe that a case marking approach would not be tenable.²² First, case markers are expected to license only nominal arguments, but *-kan* licenses both nominal and prepositional arguments. This would suggest that *-kan* is not a case marker.

(58) a. NOMINAL ARGUMENT

Saya memanggang-**kan** Eric roti.
 ISG meN-bake-KAN Eric bread
 ‘I baked Eric bread.’

b. PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE ARGUMENT

Saya memanggang-**kan** roti **untuk** Eric.
 ISG meN-bake-KAN bread for Eric
 ‘I baked bread for Eric.’

Secondly, if *-kan* were a case marker, it would be expected to disappear in passives, in which the movement of the object to subject position is standardly viewed as due to the failure of the passive verb to assign case to its object. But, in fact, *-kan* does not disappear in passives:

(59) a. Saya di-goreng-kan ayam.
 ISG DI-fry-KAN chicken
 ‘I was fried a chicken.’

b. *Saya di-goreng ayam.
 ISG DI-fry chicken
 ‘I was fried a chicken.’

c. Saya tidak di-pikir-kan.
 ISG not DI-think-KAN
 ‘I was not thought about.’

d. *Saya tidak di-pikir.
 ISG not DI-think
 ‘I was not thought about.’

The fact that *-kan* can and must be maintained in passives is evidence that *-kan* could not be a case marker.

Third, the optionality of *-kan* with a variety of verbs such as *mengirim(kan)* ‘send’, *mengalih(kan)* ‘change’, *memecah(kan)* ‘analyze’, and *melabuh(kan)* ‘drop anchor’ would at the least make *-kan* an unusual case marker. This argument, how-

22. We would like to thank an anonymous *Oceanic Linguistics* referee for his devastating critique of the case marking approach and for providing most of the arguments that follow.

ever, is not as strong as the previous two because optional case marking is attested, for example, in Japanese, in which the accusative suffix *-o* can be omitted if the direct object is immediately adjacent to the verb:

(60) John ga sono hon (o) yonda.
 JohnNOM that book ACC read
 ‘John read that book.’

(61) Mary wa sushi (o) tabeta.
 Mary TOP sushi ACC eat
 ‘Mary ate sushi.’

(62) John ga dare (o) nagutta no?
 John NOM who ACC hit Q
 ‘Who did John hit?’

See Saito (1983), (1984), and (1985) for details.

Finally, if *-kan* is a case marker, how are the various nominals case marked in causative uses of *-kan*? If *-kan* is licensing the highest argument (the causer), then what case marks the first argument of the base verb (the causee)?

We, therefore conclude that whatever may have been the origin of *-kan* diachronically, synchronically it is not a case marker.

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