An Introduction to Typology

Part II: Voice & Transitivity

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Creek

taːc-ís	's/he is cutting it'	Active
*tác**k**-i-s*	'it is cut'	Middle *-k-*
*tác**hoː**y-ís*	'they/people are cutting it'	Impersonal plural *-ho-*
***ín**-taːc-ís*	's/he is cutting it for him/her'	Dative applicative *im-*
***ís**-taːc-ís*	's/he is cutting it with it'	Instrumental applicative *is-*
*tac-**ípeyc**-ís*	's/he is making him/her cut it'	Indirect causative *-ipeyc-*

(Martin 2000)

Swahili

- *kutuma* 'to employ'

- *kuacha* 'to leave'

- *kula* 'to eat'

- *kusaidia* 'to help'

- *kuvunja* 'to break'

- *kufunga* 'to close'

- *kuona* 'to see'

- *kutum**wa*** 'to be employed'

- *kuach**ia*** 'to leave for'

- *kul**isha*** 'to feed'

- *kusaidi**ana*** 'to help each other'

- *kuvunj**ika*** 'to be broken'

- *kufung**ua*** 'to open'

- *ku**ji**ona* 'to see oneself'

Voice

- "adjust the relationship between semantic roles and grammatical relations in clauses" (Payne 1997:169)
  - semantic roles: actor, undergoer
  - grammatical relations: subject, object
- Alignment of semantic roles and grammatical relations
  - actor = subject   *The boy saw the man.*   Active
  - undergoer = subject   *The man was seen by the boy.*   Passive
- Alters the "point of view" or "centre of interest" (Jesperson 1924:167)

- Today's talk: The different ways that languages do this

Basic Concepts: Valency & Transitivity

Valency

- Counts the number of participants in a clause
  - Monovalent: *The boy is running.*
  - Bivalent: *The man is eating a sandwich.*
  - Trivalent: *Our grandfather gave us a cat.*
  - Avalent: *It is raining.*
- Semantic v. grammatical participants
  - *The boy is eating*.   Grammatically monovalent
                                Semantically bivalent
- Analogy taken from chemistry
  - Valence of an atom is the number of bonds it forms
- Grammars don't count (Martin 2000)
  - Valency is solely a method of classification
  - Valency is a side-effect (epiphenomenon) of shifts in perspective (voice)

Arguments, Adjuncts & Dummy Subjects

- Predicate Calculus
  - E(x,y)   'x eats y'
  - x and y are *arguments* of the operator E
  - Mathematical analogy – arguments of a function
  - *The man is eating a sandwich.*   Arguments: *the man, a sandwich*
- Adjuncts
  - *The man is eating a sandwich in the kitchen.*   E(x,y)
  - Often adverbial clauses
  - Not required for the completion of the clause
- Dummy Subjects
  - *It was raining.*
  - *There was an accident.*

Transitivity

- Counts the number of objects
  - Intransitive   *The boy is running.*
  - Transitive   *The man ate a sandwich.*
  - Ditransitive   *Our grandfather gave us a cat.*
- Transitivity and valence do not necessarily correlate
  - *I placed the book on the shelf.*   Trivalent but transitive
- Adpositions
  - *I looked down. I looked down the hole.*
    Intransitive   Transitive

Changes in Event Perspective

Reflexives

- Subject and object are the same entity
- Reduce the valence of the verb
- English reflexives can be lexical: *wash, shave, dress*
- English reflexives can be analytic: *Chris burned himself*
- Spanish (Payne 1997:199) reflexives are morphological (clitics):
  - *Matilde **se** lavó*   'Matilde washed (herself)'
    Matilde lavó el carro   'Matilde washed the car'
    *Matilde lavó
  - *Matilde **se** vistió*   'Matilde got dressed'
    Matilde vistió al niño   'Matilde dressed the boy'
    *Matilde vistió

Reflexives & Reciprocals in Swahili

- *kuona* 'to see'

- *kusaidia* 'to help'

- *ku**ji**ona*

  'to see oneself'

- *kusaidi**ana***

  'to help each other'

Applicatives & Dative Shift

- Both take an adjunct / oblique argument and makes it a core argument of the verb (increases the valence)

Applicative (Swahili)

- *a-li-pik-a*   *nyama*
  3SG-PAST-cook-IND   meat
  'he cooked the meat'

  *a-li-pik-**i**-a*   *Juma*   *nyanya*
  3SG-PAST-cook-APP-IND   Juma   meat
  'he cooked Juma the meat'

- *ku-amb-a*   *ku-amb-**i**-a*
  INF-speak-IND   INF-speak-APP-IND
  'to speak'   'to tell' (lit. 'to speak to')

Dative Shift

English
- *The man gave the ball to the boy.*   Object + Indirect Object
- *The man gave the boy the ball.*   Double Object Construction

Korean (Song, cited in Kittila 2012:355)
- *kica-ka*   **enehakca-eykey**   *chayk-ul*   *ponay-ss-ta*
  journalist-NOM   linguist-to   book-ACC   send-PAST-IND
  'the journalist sent a/the book to the linguist'

- *kica-ka*   **enehakca-lul**   *chayk-ul*   *ponay-ss-ta*
  journalist-NOM   linguist-ACC   book-ACC   send-PAST-IND
  'the journalist sent the linguist a book'

Causatives

- Analytic: *The noise made the man jump.*
- Lexical: *The bug died.*
                The boy killed the bug. (caused it to die)
- Morphological
  - A specific morpheme that means 'to cause/make'

- Typically adds an argument to the verb
  - Normal transitive: CAUSE + AFFECTEE
  - Causative transitive: CAUSE + CAUSEE + AFFECTEE

Morphological Causatives

- English: *fall*   *fell*
          rise   *raise*
          lie   *lay*

- Turkish: *Hasan*   *öl-dü*   *Ali Hasan-t*   *öl-**dür**-dü*
          Hasan   die-PAST   Ali   Hasan-ACC   die-CAUS-PAST
          'Hasan died'   'Ali killed Hasan'

- Different form of the causative for transitives and intransitives

- Turkish: *müdür*   *mektub-ü*   *imzala-dı*
          director   letter-ACC   sign-PAST
          'The director signed the letter'

          dišçi   *mektub-ü*   *müdür-e*   *imzala-**t**-tı*
          dentist   letter-ACC   director-DAT   sign-CAUS-PAST
          'The dentist made the director sign the letter.'

(Payne 1997:178)

Direct & Indirect Causatives

- Japanese: Causee must retain control over event
  - *Taroo-wa   Ryoko-o   ori-**sase**-ta*
    Taroo-TOP   Ryoko-ACC descend-CAUS-PAST
    'Taroo made Ryoko come down'

  - **Taroo-wa   nimotu-o   ori-**sase**-ta*
    Taroo-TOP   baggage-ACC descend-CAUS-PAST
    'Taroo made the baggage come down'

- Korean: Distinguishs direct and indirect causation
  - *ip-**hi**-ta*   'to dress someone'
    *ip-**key ha**-ta*   'to persuade someone to dress'

  - *ket-**ɪ**-ta*   'to force someone to walk'
    *ket-**key ha**-ta*   'to enable someone to walk'

(Payne 1997:183-184)

Passives: Personal Passives

- The agent is implied, not expressed, or expressed in an oblique/adjunct role
- English (analytic passive):
  - *Olga baked a cake.*
  - *The cake **was** baked by Olga.*
- Swahili (morphological passive):
  - *kutuma* 'to employ'
  - *kutum**wa*** 'to be employed'
- German (Keenan & Dryer 2007:337):
  - *Das   Haus   **wird**   verkauft*
    the   house   becomes sold
    'the house is being sold'

Passives: Impersonal Passive

- English: *They say you shouldn't eat raw meat.*
                    There will be dancing later.
- Spanish: *Aquí se habla español.*   'Spanish is spoken here.'
- German (Payne 1997:206):
  - *Es   wird   hier   ge-tanzt.*
    it   be   here   PASS-dance
    'Dancing takes place here.'
- Russian (Keenan & Dryer 2007:334)
  - *doma   strojat-sja   rabočimi*
    houses   build-REFL   workers.INSTR
    'houses are built by workers'
- Latin (Keenan & Dryer 2007:347)
  - *Legibus   (a   bonis   civibus)   pare-tur.*
    laws   by   good   citizens   obey-3SG.PASS
    '(By good citizens) there is obeying laws.'

Passives: Adversative Passive

- Japanese has a plain passive (Payne 1997:208):
  - *Taro-ga   Hanako-o   nagut-ta*
    Taro-NOM   Hanako-ACC   hit-PAST
    'Taro hit Hanako'
  - *Hanako-ga   (Taro-ni)   nagu-**rare**-ta*
    Hanako-NOM   Taro-OBL   hit-PASS-PAST
    'Hanako was hit by Taro'
- Also with intransitives as an *adversative passive*:
  - *Tomodachi-ga   ki-ta*
    friend-NOM   come-PAST
    'his friend came'
  - *Taro-ga   tomodachi-ni   ki-**rare**-ta*
    Taro-NOM   friend-OBL   come-PASS-PAST
    'Taro was arrived by his friend (to Taro's disadvantage)'

Middle Voice

- Involves detransitivization – neither passive nor active
- Express a transitive situation as though it were a process that the undergoer does
- English: *The man broke the vase.*

  *The vase broke (*by the man).*
- Classical Greek: *paú-omai*

  stop-MID.1SG

  'I am stopped / I stop'

Antipassives & Object Demotion

- Instead of downplaying the actor (like passives), this downplays the undergoer, and reduces valency
- English (Payne 1997:220):
  - Transitive: *The hunter shot the deer.*
  - Object demotion: *The hunter shot at the deer.*
- Iñupiaq
  - *aġna-m*   *niġi-gaa*   *punni-q*
    woman-ERG   eat-3SG.TRANS   bread-ABS
    'the woman is eating the bread'

  - *aġna-q*   *niġi-ruq*   *punniġ-mik*
    woman-ABS   eat-3SG.INTR break-INSTR
    'the woman is eating (some) bread'
    'the woman is eating with some bread'

Noun Incorporation

- A core argument becomes 'incorporated' into the verb
- Reduces valency
- English: *I went fox-hunting.*
             This medicine is doctor-recommended.
- Chukchi (Sibera; Comrie 1978, cited in Foley 2007:437)
  - *tumg-e   n-antəwat-ən   kupre-n*
    friend-ERG   3PL.ERG-set-3SG.ABS.AOR   net-ABS
    'the friends set the net'
  - *tumg-ət   kupr-antəwat-gʔat*
    friend-PL.ABS net-set-3PL.ABS.AOR
    'the friends were net-setting'

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Sources

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