

# Causative morphology in resultative secondary predication: The case of Samoan *fa'a*-<sup>1</sup>

Jens Hopperdietzel

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

jens.hopperdietzel@hu-berlin.de

## 1 Introduction

- As typical for Oceanic languages, resultative secondary predication (RSP) in Samoan is realized by Serial Verb Construction (RSVC) (Collins 2016, Mosel 2004; cf. Verkerk & Frostad 2013 for an overview on RSP in Oceanic).

- (1) a. *e [lamu fa'a-malū] ai mea 'ai.*  
PRES chew CAUS-soft ANAPH thing eat  
'chew the food soft.' (Samoan; Mosel & So'o 2000: 62)
- b. *[sele fa'a-pupu'u] le lauulu i se seleulu [...]*  
cut CAUS-short SPEC hair with SPEC scissors  
cut the hair short with scissors [...]. (Samoan; Mosel & So'o 2000: 26)
- c. *Sā [auli fa'a-mafolafola] e le tamāloa le tagamea.*  
PAST iron CAUS-flat ERG SPEC man SPEC laundry  
'The man ironed the shirts flat.' (Samoan; Collins 2016: 22)

- In (1), an initial manner verb (V<sub>1</sub>) specifies an event that causes a change of state (COS), while the result state is expressed by a property concept root (V<sub>2</sub>). Crucially, the result denoting root is marked obligatorily by the causative prefix *fa'a*- (Mosel 2004).
  - However, the marking of the causative relation by a special morpheme within RSP is rather unexpected cross-linguistically (cf. Larson 1991):
    - o In non-serializing languages like English, the result state is necessarily encoded by a non-verbal element (*aP*, *PP/SC*) which is combined with a manner verb without overt causative/inchoative morphology (Williams 2012, Embick 2004, Kratzer 2005).
- (2) a. *Mary pounded the apple flat.*  
b. *\*Mary pounded the apple flattened.*  
c. *\*Mary pound-flattened the apple.* (English; Embick 2004: 359)
- o In other serializing languages like Édò (Stewart 2001), Mandarin (Lin 2004) or Daakaka (von Prince 2015), the result state is encoded via a 'stative verb' without overt causative morphology.

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**Morpheme glosses:** 1,2,3 = 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> person; ABS = absolutive; ACC = accusative; ANAPH = anaphoric pronoun; CAUS= causativizer; ERG = ergative; GEN = genitive; OBL = oblique; PAST = past; PERF = perfect; PRES = present; PRON = pronoun; REAL = realis; SG = singular; SPEC = specifier; STAT = stativizer.

- (3) a. *Ōzō gbé<sub>v</sub> èmá!tón wènrén<sub>v</sub>.*                      b. *Ya=m        te<sub>v</sub>    ma    mwelili<sub>v</sub>.*  
 Ozo beat metal    be.thin                      3PL=REAL hit REAL be.small  
 ‘Ozo beat the metal thin’. (Èdó; Stewart 2001)    ‘They hit them small.’ (Daakaka)

**Question:** What determines the occurrence of causative morphology in Samoan-type RSP?

- ➔ In this talk, I propose that in Samoan-type languages, causative morphology is the spell-out of the eventive verbalizer *v* which is sensitive to the presence of *voice* in bi-eventive contexts. Crucially, this structural configuration is matched in RSP.

**Outline:**

1. Introduction
2. Background on Samoan
3. Resultative Secondary Predication
4. A syntactic approach to event decomposition
5. *fa'a*- causatives
6. Causative morphology in RSP
7. Conclusion

## 2 Background on Samoan

- Samoan (Polynesian, Oceanic, Austronesian) is spoken by approx. 470,000 speakers, mostly on the islands of the Samoan archipelgo (Ethnologue 2018).

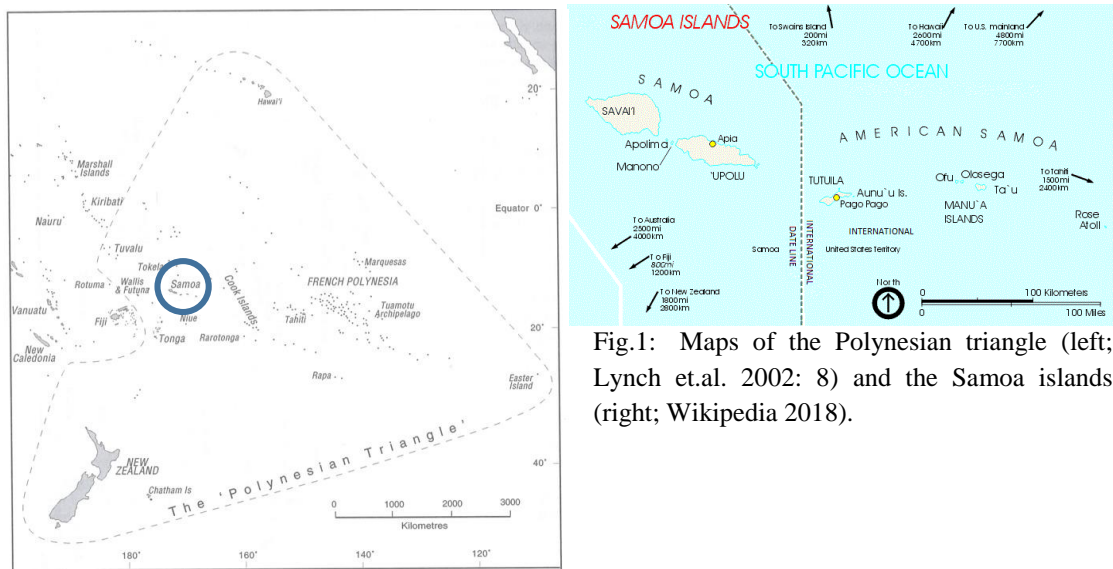


Fig.1: Maps of the Polynesian triangle (left; Lynch et.al. 2002: 8) and the Samoa islands (right; Wikipedia 2018).

### 2.1 Basic Word Order

- The basic word order in Samoan is VSO.

- (4) a. *Sā kiki [e le teine]<sub>Subj</sub> [le polo]<sub>Obj</sub>.*  
 PAST kick ERG SPEC woman SPEC ball.ABS  
 ‘The girl kicked the ball.’ (Tollan 2018: 5)

### 2.2 Categories

- In Samoan, lexical items seem to be underspecified regarding to their categorical class:
- ➔ With a few restrictions, roots can function as Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs, etc. without any derivational morphology.

➔ The function of these elements is therefore primarily understood from the structural (functional) context of the root. (Mosel 2004, Mosel & Hovdaugen 1992)

- Crucially, while an adjectival or adverbial class is almost absent, ‘stative verbal’ roots are commonly used in these contexts (5).

- (5) a. *e lelei ....* predicative  
PRES good  
‘... is good.’ (Mosel & Hovdaugen 1992: 74)
- b. *‘o le mea lelei* attributive  
PRES SPEC thing good  
‘The good thing.’ (Mosel & Hovdaugen 1992: 74)
- c. *e susulu lelei ai le lā* adverbial  
PRES shine good ANAPH SPEC sun  
‘The sun shines nicely.’ (Mosel 2004: 278)

- In the following, I will treat these ‘adjectival verbs/verbal adjectives’ as underlyingly adjectival (cf. Dixon 2004, Baker 2003; contra Mosel 1994, Seiter 1980 on Niuean).<sup>2</sup>

### 2.3 Case Marking

- Samoan is a split-ergative language (Tollan 2018, Yu 2017, Collins 2014, Chung 1978):

- (6) a. *Sā kiki [e le teine] [le polo].* ergative  
PAST kick ERG SPEC girl SPEC ball.ABS  
‘The girl kicked the ball.’ (Tollan 2018:5)
- b. *Sā mulimuli [le leoleo] ( [i le au gaoi]. )* middle  
PAST follow SPEC police.ABS ACC SPEC robbers  
‘The police followed the robbers.’ (Tollan 2018: 9)
- c. *Sā siva [le teine].* intransitive  
PAST dance SPEC girl.ABS  
‘The girl danced.’ (Tollan 2018: 5)

- Based on the observation of optional transitivity of Samoan middle verbs, Tollan (2018) proposes a split in the *voice* domain (cf. Dowty 1979):

- (7) voice<sup>0</sup> ➔ introduces ‘high’ agentive external arguments (cf. Legate 2008, Aldridge 2004)  
➔ assigns inherent ergative case in the context of ergative verbs
- (8) Abs<sup>0</sup> ➔ introduces ‘low’ agentive external arguments (cf. Massam to appear, 2009)  
➔ assigns absolutive case to external arguments in the context of middle verbs

## 3 Resultative secondary predication

### 3.1 Background

- RSP is a form of complex predicate formation, i.e. secondary predication, that has gained a lot of attention in syntactic/semantic research for a long time (e.g. Beavers 2012, Kratzer 2005, Embick 2004, Levin & Rappaport Hovav 2001, Dowty 1979) and typology in more recent years (e.g. Riaubiene 2015, Verkerk & Frostad 2013).

<sup>2</sup> It is still an open question whether this kind of statives should be classified as verbs, adjectives or both in Oceanic (cf. Chung 2012 on Chamorro, Nuger 2016 on Palauan). To my analysis, the exact category is not important.



### 3.3 RSP in Samoan

- In Samoan, the causative morpheme *fa'a-* occurs obligatorily on result denoting root (Mosel 2004, Mosel & Hovdaugen 1992).

(16) a.	<i>lamu</i>	<i>fa'a-malū</i>	chew	CAUS-soft	'chew soft'	(Mosel & So'o 2000: 62)
b.	<i>tipi</i>	<i>fa'a-nini'i</i>	cut	CAUS-small	'cut small'	(Mosel & So'o 2000: 73)
c.	<i>su'i</i>	<i>fa'a-umi</i>	sew	CAUS-long	'sew long'	(Mosel & So'o 2000: 28)
d.	<i>sele</i>	<i>fa'a-pupu'u</i>	cut	CAUS-short	'cut short'	(Mosel & So'o 2000: 26)

- The distribution of roots that can occur as V<sub>1</sub> or V<sub>2</sub> in such a construction is predictable by the semantic type of the root (cf. Manner/Result complementarity; Levin & Rapoport Hovav 1998):

- (17) a. V<sub>1</sub> → (transitive) Manner roots (e.g. *tipi*, *sele* 'cut', *auli* 'iron', *lamu* 'chew')
- b. V<sub>2</sub> → Property concepts roots (e.g. *lāiti* 'small', *umi* 'long')

- Both elements in a RSVCs seem to be very close syntactically as there are no syntactic elements (such as adverbial modifiers or depictives) that might occur in between V<sub>1</sub> and V<sub>2</sub>. Instead these elements occur to the right of the complex predicate (Collins 2016, Read 2010, Mosel 2004).

- (18) [...] 'ua [[*tatipi* *fa'a-lāiti*] *'uma*] *o'u* *'ofu* *ā'oga* [...]
- PERF cut CAUS-small all my.PL dress school
- '... my school dresses were all cut to make them small (for my sister)...' (Falealili 1970:20)

## 4 A syntactic approach to event decomposition

- Within the framework of Distributed Morphology (Marantz 1997, Halle & Marantz 1993), event decomposition and argument structure is assumed to be built within the syntactic derivation (e.g. Alexiadou et.al. 2015, Ramchand 2008, Folli & Harley 2005).

### 4.1 Root Hypothesis

- Roots themselves are acategorical and do not make reference to their category, argument structure or event type by themselves (cf. Acquaviva 2009, Borer 2005, Arad 2005)
- Instead, roots get their categorization by merging with a categorizing/event introducing head (e.g. *v* or *a*). During this process roots also get its idiosyncratic meaning (Embick & Marantz 2008, Arad 2005).

- (19) a.  $\begin{array}{c} vP \\ \swarrow \searrow \\ v \quad \sqrt{\phantom{x}} \end{array}$       b.  $\begin{array}{c} aP \\ \swarrow \searrow \\ \sqrt{\phantom{x}} \quad a \end{array}$

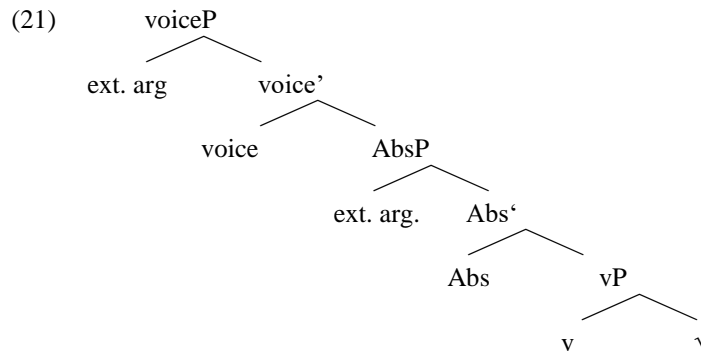
- In this talk, I assume an eventive verbalizer that introduces an underspecified event variable and a stative adjectivizer that introduces a state variable (cf. Nuger 2016).

- (20) a. *v*: λ*e*. ...      b. *a*: λ*s*. ...

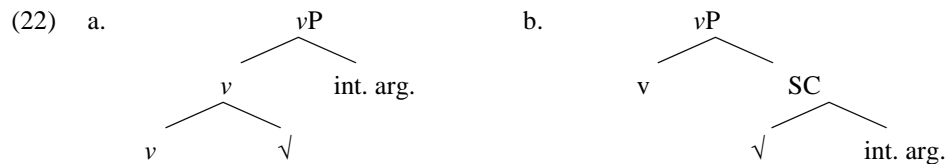
### 4.2 Argument structure

- The external argument is introduced by a separate *voice* projection (Alexiadou et.al 2006, Kratzer 1996 and others) which takes a *vP* as its complement.

- As mentioned above, Samoan exhibits a split-voice structure, including *voiceP* and *AbsP* (Tollan 2018).



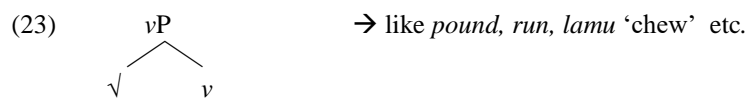
- The internal argument is either introduced in the complement of *v* (20a) or within a small clause (20b) (cf. Lohndal 2014, Acquaviva 2009, Borer 2005, Lin 2004).



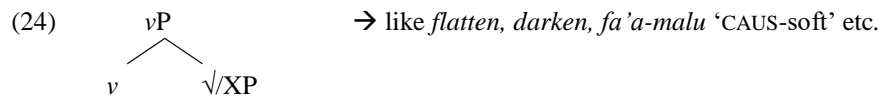
### 4.3 Event decomposition

- Adopting Alexiadou et.al. (2015), event decomposition includes just a single event layer, namely *v* (contra ‘flavors of *v*’; Harley 2017, Folli & Harley 2005, Lin 2004).
- Crucially, the structural configuration of how roots combine with *v* give rise to a particular semantic interpretation (Alexiadou & Lohndal 2011; cf. Alexiadou & Lohndal 2017 for recent discussion):

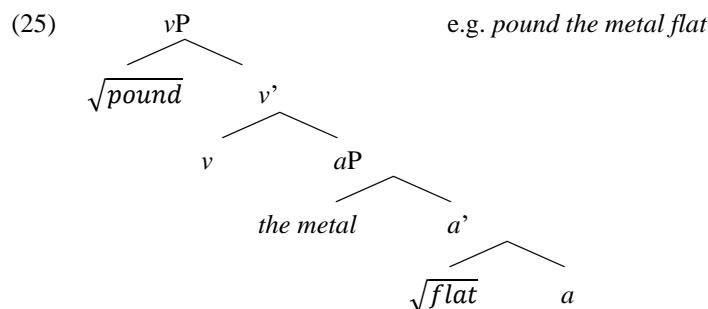
- o If the root specifies *v*, it gets a manner interpretation.



- o If the root is the complement of *v*, it gets a state/result interpretation.



- Under this view, a RSP occupies both structural at once:



➔ While one root (here: *pound*) specifies the manner component of an eventive *v* head, another root (here: *flat*) is in its complement position specifying the result state of the causing event expressed by the first root (22).

- Note that the causative semantics is read off the structural configuration <e<s>> (Alexiadou et.al. 2015, Marantz 2009, von Stechow 1996).

## 5 *fa'a-* causatives

- To investigate Samoan RSP, I first classify Samoan *fa'a-* according to the typology proposed in Pytkäinen (2008) with regard to its selectional properties and its location.

### 5.1 Selectional properties

- In Samoan, causatives are derived by the causative prefix *fa'a-* which attaches to unaccusative (24a/b), unergative (24c) and middle predicates (24d), but not to ergative predicates (24e) (Tollan 2018, Read 2010, Collins 2010).

- (26) a. *'Ua fa'a-mamā e a'u le ta'avale* *stative unaccusative*  
 PERF CAUS-clean ERG 1SG.PRON SPEC car  
 'I have cleaned the car.' (Hohaus 2016: 107)
- b. *Sā fa'a-puna e le teine le vai.* *dynamic unaccusative*  
 PAST CAUS-boil ERG SPEC girl SPEC water  
 'The girl boiled the water.' (Tollan 2018: 27)
- c. *Sā fa'a-siva e le tamāloa le teine.* *unergative*  
 PAST CAUS-dance ERG SPEC man SPEC girl  
 'The man made the woman dance.' (Tollan 2018: 27)
- d. *Sā fa'a-manao e le tame le teine i le masi.* *middle*  
 PAST CAUS-want ERG SPEC boy SPEC girl ACC SPEC cookie  
 'The boy made the girl want the cookie.' (Tollan 2018: 28)
- e. \**Sā fa'a-sasa e le tamāloa le teine i le maile.* *ergative*  
 PAST CAUS-hit ERG SPEC man SPEC girl ACC SPEC dog  
 Intended: 'The man made the girl hit the dog.' (Tollan 2018:29)

➔ *fa'a-* is able to take phrasal complements of the size of AbsP, but not of *voiceP*.

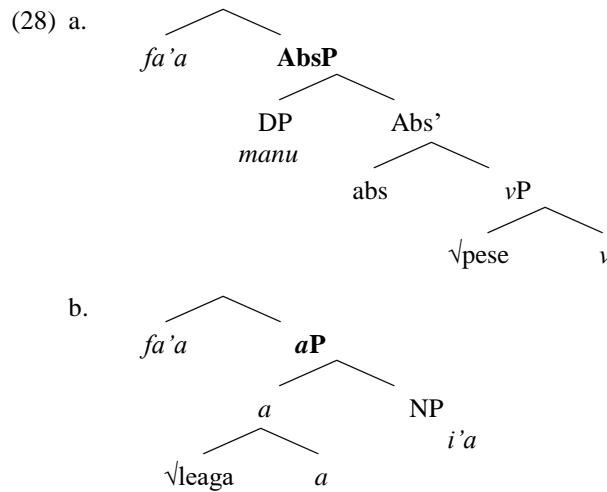
➔ Embedded syntactic structure is preserved under causativization.

#### 5.1.1 Pseudo Noun Incorporation (PNI) of objects

- Collins (2016, 2010) points out that PNI in the context of causativized predicates is possible only with embedded unaccusatives (27a), but not with unergatives (27b).

- (27) a. *E fa'a-leaga i'a le tamaloa.*  
 PRES CAUS-bad fish SPEC man  
 'The man spoils fish.' (Collins 2010)
- b. \**E fa'a-pese manu le fafine.*  
 PRES CAUS-sing bird SPEC woman  
 'The woman makes birds sing.' (Collins 2016: 42)

- As only internal arguments can be subject to PNI in Samoan, this pattern suggest that unaccusative object are generated as internal arguments (28a) while the external argument of a causativized unergative is still in an external argument position (Spec, AbsP (28b) (cf. Collins 2016).



- ➔ *fa'a-* selects phrasal complements as it does not change the argument structure of the embedded verb by persevering structural constraints.

### 5.1.2 De-ergative/resultative predicates:

- Certain ergative result roots (like *fa'i* 'break', *goto* 'sink') can be derived with the stativizer prefix (*ma-*) to form result-state predicates which inhere an inchoative meaning. Collins (2010) classifies this prefix as a spell out a stative verbalizer (here: adjectivizer).

(29) *ligi* (erg.) ➔ 'to pour' (Milner 1966: 107)  
*ma-ligi* (v./adj.) ➔ 'to be poured'

- These derived states can further be derived by *fa'a-*:

(30) a. *fa'a-ma-ligi* (erg.) ➔ 'to cause to flow' (lit. 'cause to be poured')  
 b. [<sub>v</sub> *fa'a-* [<sub>aP/vP</sub> *ma-* [<sub>v</sub> *ligi*]]]

- ➔ Samoan *fa'a-* causatives are **phrase-taking causatives** (Pylkkänen 2008).

## 5.2 Causative morphology as contextual allomorphy

- On the basis of a comparison of the argument structure alternations in Samoan and English, I argue that *fa'a-* is a contextually defined spell-out of the eventive verbalizer *v*.

### 5.2.1 Causative/inchoative alternation

- In (31), the argument structure alternation for derived COS verbs for English and Samoan are given:

(31)

	Root	Simple state	Inchoative	Causative
English	√ <i>flat</i>	<i>flat</i>	<i>flatten</i>	<i>flatten</i>
Samoan	√ <i>malu</i> 'soft'	<i>malu</i> 'be.soft'	<i>malu</i> 'become soft'	<i>fa'a-malu</i> 'cause to be soft'



- The occurrence of COS morphology in the causative/inchoative alternation shows a striking difference in its distribution.<sup>3</sup>

(32)

	Simple state	Inchoative	Causative
English	$\emptyset$	<i>-en</i>	<i>-en</i>
Samoan	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	<i>fa'a-</i>

- To account for this distribution, I will propose that language specific spell-out rules in English and Samoan give rise to the morphological differences.

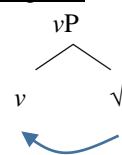
### 5.2.2 Contextual allomorphy

- Adopting the view that causative semantics is read off the structural configuration (<e <s>>), change-of-state morphology can be interpreted as contextually defined spell-out of *v* (e.g. Alexiadou et.al. 2015, Schäfer 2008, von Stechow 1996).

#### Inchoatives:

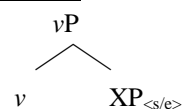
- While in English, the *v* head is spelled out as *-en*, this head is silent  $\emptyset$  in Samoan as in the case of unmarked inchoatives.

(33) a. English:



→ like *flatten, soften etc.*

b. Samoan



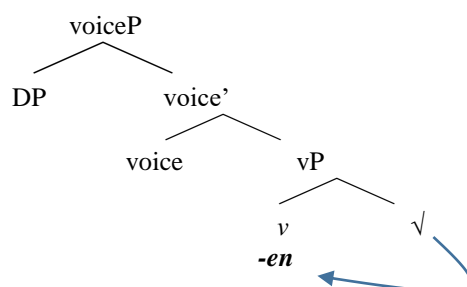
→ like *malu* 'be.soft, soften'.

Note that a further difference is the size of the complement:  
English =  $\sqrt{\phantom{x}}$ ; Samoan = XP.

#### Causatives:

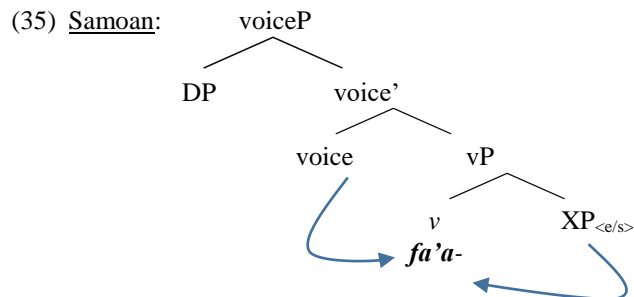
- In a causative/resultative event, Schäfer (2012, 2008) argues that agentive causers are introduced by *voice*<sup>0</sup>.
- By merging this *voice* head to a decomposed causative/resultative structure, the introduced external argument is understood as the agentive causer of the causative event.

(34) English:



<sup>3</sup> Note that the analysis of the inchoative in Polynesian languages is still under discussion (cf. Hohaus 2016 on Samoan, Koontz-Garboden 2006 on Tongan).

- While the spell-out of *v* is contextually determined only by its complement in English, in Samoan, it is additionally determined by the presence of *voice*<sup>0</sup> in its higher structure.



- Therefore, the occurrence of *fa'a-* can be classified as **contextual allomorphy** (Marantz 2013, Embick 2010, Bobaljik 2000):

$$\begin{aligned}
 (36) \quad [v] &\leftrightarrow \emptyset && / [\text{vP} \text{ } \_\_\_\_ \text{ XP}_{\langle e/s \rangle}] \\
 &\leftrightarrow \text{fa}'a- && / [\text{voiceP voice} [\text{vP} \text{ } \_\_\_\_ \text{ XP}_{\langle e/s \rangle}]]
 \end{aligned}$$

### 5.2.3 Oblique causers

- Evidence for this assumption comes from causatives with non-volitional causers which are not assumed to be introduced by *voice* but *vP* internal (Schäfer 2012).
- For English inchoatives, it has been shown that unvolitional (natural) causers but not volitional (agentive) causer can be introduced by an oblique PP.

- (37) a. The window broke from the storm.  
 b. \*The window broke from the girl / by the girl.

- ➔ The absence of agentive causer PPs indicate that inchoatives lack a *voice* layer and non-volitional causers are introduced within the causative *vP*.
- ➔ This predicts the absence of *fa'a-* in clauses with unvolitional causers in Samoan.
- The prediction is borne out by the data (28) as natural causers are obligatorily introduced as oblique DPs/PPs and the verb occurs in its bare form (cf. Koopman 2008).

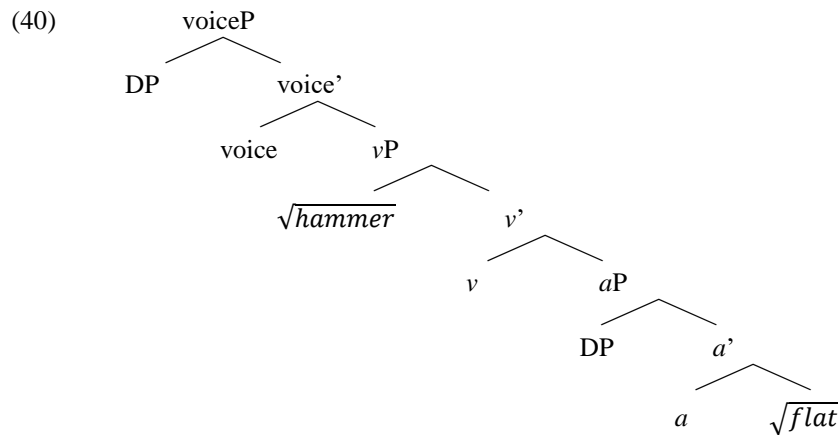
- (38) 'Ua mamago 'ofu i / \*e le la.  
 PERF dry clothes.ABS OBL / \*ERG SPEC sun  
 'The sun dried the clothes.' (lit.: 'The clothes dried at the sun. '; Koopman 2008: 172)

## 6 Causative morphology in RSP

### 6.1 Absence of COS morphology in English

- The structure of English RSP involves a manner root which appears in the specifier of the eventive categorizer *v* and a stative SC/*aP* component which is merged in its complement position (Embick 2009, 2004).
- The difference to *-en*-COS verbs (i.e. *flatten*) (cf. 24) is that the result state must be previously categorized as a single categorizer is only able to categorize a single root; here the manner root in its specifier (Alexiadou & Lohndal 2011, Embick 2004).

(39) *Mary hammered the metal flat.*



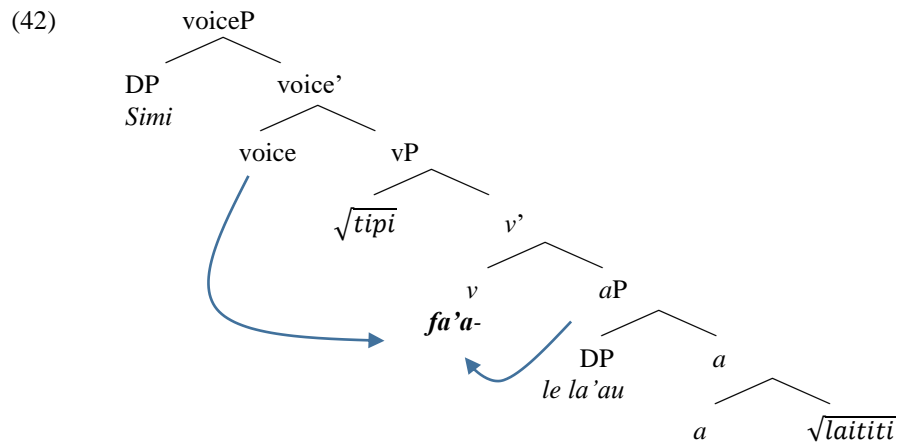
➔ The spell-out-condition for *v* as *-en* is no longer met in the environment of RSP in English as the complement of *v* is not a bare root.

➔ Absence of COS morphology in English RSP.

## 6.2 Presence of causative morphology in Samoan

- In contrast, the language specific conditions for *v* to be spelled out as *fa'a-* are fulfilled as the verbalizer is merged with a stative XP complement under a voice projection.

(41) *Sā [tipi fa'a-laititi] e Simi le la'au.*  
 PAST cut CAUS-small ERG Simi SPEC tree  
 'Simi cut the tree small.' (Collins 2016: 22)



➔ Presence of causative morphology in RSP in Samoan

## 7 Conclusion

- In this talk I have established a special case of RSP that exhibits causative morphology on the secondary predicate.
- While this pattern seems to be not very frequent cross-linguistically, it occurs widespread in the Oceanic family (cf. Verkerk & Frostad 2013).

(43) [V<sub>manner</sub> CAUS-V<sub>PROPERTY CONCEPT</sub>]

- By focusing on Samoan, I have argued that the presence of causative morphology is subject to a language specific sensitivity to the presence of a *voice* layer in bi-eventive contexts (cf. contextual allomorphy; Embick 2010):

$$(44) \quad [v] \leftrightarrow \emptyset \quad / \quad [{}_{vP} \text{ } \_\_\_\_\_\_ \text{ } XP_{\langle e/s \rangle}]$$

$$\quad \quad \quad \leftrightarrow fa'a- \quad / \quad [{}_{voiceP} \text{ } voice \text{ } [{}_{vP} \text{ } \_\_\_\_\_\_ \text{ } XP_{\langle e/s \rangle}]]$$

- Crucially, this structural configuration is met in resultative secondary predication yielding to the presence of causative morphology in Samoan-type languages.

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