Chapter 1

The accusative/dative alternation in Catalan verbs with Experiencer object

Carles Royo

Universitat Rovira i Virgili

Various Catalan psychological verbs that are part of causative sentences with an accusative experiencer (*Els nens van molestar la Maria* or *La van molestar* 'The kids annoyed Maria or They annoyed her') alternate with stative sentences that change the sentence order and have a dative experiencer (*A la Maria li molesta el teu caràcter* 'lit. To Maria your character is annoying'). Other psychological verbs, however, can form both types of sentence without changing the accusative morphology of the experiencer (*Els nens van atabalar la Maria* or *La van atabalar* 'The kids overwhelmed Maria or They overwhelmed her'; *A la Maria l'atabala el teu caràcter* 'lit. To Maria your character is overwhelming'). I argue that in stative sentences of all these verbs the experiencer is a real dative, regardless of its morphology (dative or accusative). Differential indirect object marking (DIOM) explains why accusative morphology is possible in these constructions.

1 Introduction

Since the first half of the 20th century (cf. Ginebra 2003: 16, Ginebra 2015: 147), some Catalan psychological verbs belonging to Belletti & Rizzi (1988)'s type II – which make sentences with an accusative experiencer or AcExp (1a)/(2a) – have appeared with some frequency in both the written and spoken language with a change in sentence order and a dative experiencer (1b)/(2b). This accusative/dative alternation has generated considerable academic debate. In most instances, the rules of the Institute of Catalan Studies (IEC) governing the Catalan language do not countenance this change in case marking, although the IEC's new normative grammar (d'Estudis Catalans 2016) and the changes introduced on 5 April 2017 to its online normative dictionary (DIEC2) accept the dative case marking

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many
ex. dont
have
proper
glossestranslations.
please
revise.

- as well as the accusative - in some particular predicates: including the verbs encantar 'delight', estranyar 'surprise', molestar 'annoy' and preocupar 'worry'.

- (1) a. Els nens van molestar la Maria (or
 The kids annoyed.Aux+INF ART Maria.ACC (or her.CL.ACC:3
 la van molestar).
 annoyed.Aux+INF)
 - b. A la Maria li molesten els nens. to ART Maria.DAT CL.DAT annoy the kids TRANSLATION
- (2) Cabré & Mateu 1998: 77
 - a. Les teves paraules la van sorprendre,
 ART your words her.cl.Acc:3.F surprised.Aux+INF /
 preocupar, molestar molt.
 worried / annoyed a lot
 TRANSLATION
 - b. Li sorprèn, preocupa, molesta que la joventut d'avui CL.DAT:3 surprises worries annoys that the youth of today fumi tant.
 smoke so much TRANSI.ATION

This change has not had a uniform impact on Catalan dialects. Moreover, notable differences often occur within each dialect and even in the use that a specific speaker makes of these predicates (cf. Cabré & Mateu 1998: 70). Indeed, some predicates have become more entrenched than others, something that is irregularly reflected in several lexicographical collections in the Catalan language. It is common for AcExp verbs in Spanish to present this argument alternation (cf. Mendívil Giró 2005; Marín & McNally 2011, among others). For this reason, psychological verbs that are used with dative constructions in Catalan, when they have traditionally been used with accusative constructions (AcExp), have often been regarded as syntactic calques of the Spanish; yet, some studies describe the change as being inherent to the Catalan language.

This paper argues that in a stative sentence containing these verbs the experiencer is a real dative, not only when it presents the dative morphology, but also

¹Before publication of the GIEC, the IEC accepted the intransitive nature of the verb *interessar* 'interest' as well as an accusative case marking.

when it presents the accusative form (see also and, about the different natures of datives). I also argue that the accusative morphology of such stative sentences is facilitated by a mechanism of differential indirect object marking (DIOM).

2 Syntactico-semantic configuration of sentences with accusative and dative

Ynglès (1991) and Cabré & Mateu (1998) point out that the syntactico-semantic configuration differs when some AcExp verbs are used with the accusative and when they are used with the dative: see the contrast in (3).². In (1a) and (1a), three components of causative verbs imply a change of state: cause + process (change) + resulting state (cf. Levin & Rappaport Hovav 1995; Cabré & Mateu 1998; Rosselló 2008). The verb needs to be followed by an accusative in an eventive sentence of external causation and a neutral subject-verb-object (SVO) order. On the other hand, (1b) and (2b) do not have these three components, and the verb requires the dative in a stative sentence and a neutral object-verb-subject (OVS) order and clitic doubling (see also).

- (3) a. Els nens van molestar la Maria expressament i on purpose and the teachers also it did.AUX+INF els mestres també ho van fer.
 - b. * A la Maria li molesten els nens expressament i els on purpose and the teachers also it do mestres també ho fan.

Two mechanisms help differentiate the causative structure in (1a)/(1a) from the stative structure in (1b)/(2b). On the one hand, their verbal aspect: the perfective aspect contributes to a causative interpretation while the imperfective aspect contributes to a stative interpretation; hence, there is a relation between the lexical aspect of the sentence (eventive or stative) and the verbal aspect of the predicate (perfective or imperfective). And, on the other, the sentence order: a neutral SVO order gives a causative interpretation and a neutral OVS order gives a stative interpretation.

Cabre & Fábregas

Ledgeway Schifano & Silvestri, this volume

Fábregas & Marín, this volume

²For further information on the proof and examples that show that sentences such as that in (1a)-(1a) are configured differently from those illustrated in (1b)/(2b), see Royo (2017: Section 4.1)

In line with Ynglès (1991), Cabré & Mateu (1998), Rosselló (2008) and d'Estudis Catalans (2016: Section 21.5) for Catalan, Pesetsky (1995) for English, Bouchard (1995) for French and Acedo-Matellán & Mateu (2015) for Spanish, I consider that Catalan psychological verbs with an accusative experiencer (AcExp) generally cause a change of state:³ in these sentences subjects are agents or inanimate causes and accusative experiencers are strictly speaking patients, even though conceptually they can be regarded as experiencers. I also concur with several authors who point out that the OVS stative construction of some AcExp Catalan verbs is the same as that of psychological verbs with a dative experiencer (Dat-Exp, for example *agradar* 'to like'; cf. Cabré & Mateu 1998; Ramos 2004; Rosselló 2008; Cuervo 2010a, among others): the subject is a stimulus or source of the psychological experience and the dative experiencer is not a patient, it does not undergo a change of state. What is more, clitic doubling occurs when the experiencer phrase appears in preverbal position.⁴.

These data suggest that many speakers need to change both the syntactical pattern of AcExp verbs and the sentence order when they use these verbs in a stative construction: the different semantic or lexical-aspectual interpretation of these sentences is reflected in the different syntactic configuration of constructions that contain Catalan AcExp verbs.⁵ According to (Ginebra 2003: 29-30), however, the examples in (4) show that Catalan can also denote a stative OVS construction without changing from the accusative to the dative with some predicates. These can be AcExp verbs (4a) or non-psychological causative verbs that become psychological by means of a metaphorical expansion of the meaning (4b) (the psych constructions described by Bouchard 1995). Therefore, the lexical na-

³According to other authors, the characterization of these sentences is different or allows different structures: cf. Voorst1992; Arad (1999); Landau (2010) and Marín & McNally (2011) and Fabregas2015. Several authors, including FabregasMarín2012, Fábregas, Fábregas et al. (2012), Marín & Sánchez Marco (2012) Marco2012, Ganeshan (2014) and Viñas-de-Puig (2014), study these constructions in their general analyses of the stative and eventive nature of Spanish sentences with psychological verbs (note Viñas-de-Puig do the same also with Catalan psychological verbs). Acedo-Matellán & Mateu (2015: 83) (4)) also accept that these verbs cause a change of state in Spanish but point out that there is a less common construction of AcExp verbs with the accusative, that is, stative causative transitive (*Este problema la ha preocupado desde siempre*).

⁴ Acedo-Matellán & Mateu (2015) have questioned this assumption in psychological verbs in Spanish and draw a distinction between DatExp verbs (unaccusative statives) and AcExp verbs that are constructed with the dative (unergative statives). For a discussion of this issue, see Royo (2017: Section 6.2.4.1)

⁵Several authors claim that the change between causative and stative interpretation implies a change in the Spanish case marking, between accusative and dative respectively: cf. Fabregas2015, Viñas-de-Puig (2017) and Ganeshan (2019).

ture of the verb plays an important role in the alternation since some verbs tend not to construct stative sentences with the dative.

(4) Ginebra 2003: 29-30

- a. Al seu germà l' atabala la nova responsabilitat. to+art his brother cl.acc:3.m overwhelms the new responsibility
- b. Al Xavier el destrossa aquesta tensió contínua. to+art Xavier cl.acc:3.m destroys this tension constant.adj

What is more, with AcExp verbs such as those identified by Cabré & Mateu (1998) – *molestar*, *preocupar*, *sorprendre* (see (2)) – speakers may hesitate between accusative and dative case marking in OVS stative sentences. Some examples of this hesitation in a Catalan/Spanish bilingual newspaper are shown in (5). The print edition of the paper includes an OVS sentence with the verb preocupar 'worry' that governs the accusative in Catalan (5a) and the dative in Spanish (5b); on the other hand, in the Catalan online edition the same sentence appears with a dative (5c). Examples (6) and (7) show the same hesitation with the verb *molestar* 'annoy', in the same news item reported by six media in Catalan on 5 December 2012: three use the accusative (6) and three the dative (7).⁶

(5) La Vanguardia, 15 May2015, p. 15 (headline),

- a. Catalan, printed version

 Per què a Ciu la preocupa Ciutadans

 why to Ciu CL.ACC:3F worries Ciutadans
- b. Spanish, printed version
 Por qué a Ciu le preocupa Ciutadans
 why to Ciu CL.DAT:3 worries Ciutadans
- c. Catalan, online version

 Per que a Ciu li preocupa Ciutadans
 why to Ciu cl.dat:3 worries Ciutadans
- (6) a. VilaWeb (headline)
 Rigau: 'A Wert el molesta l'èxit del model d'
 Rigau to Wert CL.ACC:3.M annoys the success of-the model of immersió'
 immersion

⁶The three sentences in the accusative use direct speech while the three in the dative use indirect speech, which may indicate that the person making the statement conceptualizes the verb differently from the journalists who report it.

- b. El Periódico de Catalunya (headline)
 Rigau: "A Wert el molesta l'èxit de la immersió CL.ACC:3.M of the immersion language.ADJ lingüística"
- c. Ara (headline)
 Rigau: "A Wert, el que el molesta és what CL.ACC:3.M model educational.ADJ Catalan.ADJ
 l'èxit del model educatiu català"
- (7) a. 3/24, www.ccma.cat (headline)
 Rigau creu que a Wert li molesta "l' èxit" del
 Rigau believes that to Wert CL.DAT:3 annoys the success of-the
 model català
 model Catalan.ADI
 - b. diaridegirona.cat (headline)
 Rigau creu que a Wert li molesta "l'èxit" del model
 Rigau believes that to Wert CL.DAT:3 annoys the success of-the
 català
 model Catalan.ADI
 - c. El Punt Avui
 La titular d' Ensenyament, creu que a Wert li
 the minister of Education CL.DAT:3 the model of success
 "molesta" el model "d'èxit" de l'escola catalana.
 of the school Catalan.ADJ

In fact, if in (1b) and (2b) we replace the dative clitic with the accusative clitic – *A la Maria la molesten els nens*; (*A ella*) *La sorprèn*, *preocupa*, *molesta que la joventut d'avui fumi tant* — our discussion above about distinguishing these sentences from those in (1a) and (2a) is still valid: they are useful ways of characterizing both constructions differently, but they do not help determine the case marking.

The ability of Catalan to construct a stative sentence with an AcExp verb and an accusative experiencer makes it necessary to analyse this accusative in those cases of hesitation with the dative (that is, in OVS stative sentences). We need to know whether the order of the sentences and clitic doubling in Catalan are sufficient to denote a lexical-aspectual change in the sentence or whether a change in case marking is also required.

3 Nature of the accusative and dative experiencer in OVS stative sentences

In the sentences in (1b)/(2b) and (4)-(7), whether the verb governs the accusative or the dative, the subject is a stimulus of the emotion and the object is not a patient but an experiencer of the whole event in a more prominent structural position than that occupied by the stimulus. It can be shown that this experiencer argument, regardless of whether it is accusative or dative, is not a topicalized element and that it has properties of a subject: cf. examples a and b in (8)-(13). It behaves just like the experiencer in sentences with DatExp verbs such as agradar 'like' (see the c examples in (8)-(13)) and other canonical subjects (see the d examples in (8) and (12) and example (10e)): it behaves quite differently from topicalized objects (see the d examples in (9)-(11) and (13)).⁷

The experiencer can link an anaphora in the subject (cf. EgurenFernandez2004; Demonte 1995) (8), be modified by the adverb només 'only' (cf. Cuervo 1999) (9), allow *Wh*-extraction (cf. Belletti & Rizzi 1988) (10), be an indefinite generalized quantifier in initial position (cf. Belletti & Rizzi 1988; Masullo 1992; Cuervo 1999) (11), control the subject of an infinitive clause (cf. Campos 1999; Alsina 2008) (12) and it cannot be separated, in Catalan, by a comma from the rest of the sentence (cf. 2005; Ginebra 2003) (13).

(8) a. OVS AcExp, dative/accusative

A l' Albert $\{li_i / el_i\}$ molesta aquesta fotografia de to art Albert cl.dat:3 / cl.acc:3.m annoys this photo of si mateix.

himself

translation

b. DatExp, dative

A l'Albert $_i$ el $_i$ neguiteja aquesta fotografia de si mateix $_i$. to art Albert cl.acc:3.m annoys this photo of himself translation

c. OVS AcExp, accusative

A l' Albert $_i$ li $_i$ agrada aquesta fotografia de si mateix $_i$. gloss

translation

⁷In examples (8)-(13), as in the other examples employed in this paper, I conduct a descriptive rather than a prescriptive assessment.

d. Subject, dative

L' Albert $_i$ envia una fotografia de si mateix $_{i/^*j}$ a la art Albert sends a photo of himself to art Nuria Núria $_j$.

translation

(9) a. OVS AcExp, dative/accusative

Només a l' Albert {li / el} molesta aquesta only to art Albert Cl.dat:3 / Cl.acc:3.m annoys this situació.

situation

translation

b. OVS AcExp, accusative

Només a l'Albert el neguiteja aquesta situació. CL.ACC:3.M disturbs GLOSS

translation

c. DatExp, dative

Només a l'Albert li agrada la cervesa. CL.DAT:3 likes the beer GLOSS gloss gloss translation

- d. Topicalized dative
- (10) a. OVS AcExp, dative/accusative

La situació que a l' Albert {li / el} molesta és the situation that to ART Albert CL.DAT:3 / CL.ACC:3.M annoys is aquesta.

this

'La situació que a l'Albert (el) neguiteja és aquesta.'

b. OVS AcExp, accusative

La situació que a l'Albert (el) neguiteja és aquesta. GLOSS cl.Acc:3.M disturbs

translation

c. DatExp, dative

Els llibres que a l' Albert (li) han agradat són the books that to ART Albert CL.DAT:3 liked.AUX+PART are these

aquests.

translation

d. ?? Topicalized dative

Els llibres que a l'Albert (li) \varnothing he donat són GLOSS cl.dat:3 I gave.aux+part aquests.

translation

e. Preverbal subject

Els llibres que l'Albert m' ha donat són aquests. GLOSS CL.DAT:1 gave.AUX+PART translation

(11) a. OVS AcExp, dative/accusative

A ningú (no) {li / el} molesta aquesta situació. to nobody (NEG) CL.DAT:3 / CL.ACC:3.M annoys this situation translation

b. OVS AcExp, accusative

A ningú (no) (el) neguiteja aquesta situació. GLOSS cl.acc:3.m disturbs translation

c. DatExp, dative

A ningú (no) li va agradar la pel·lícula. GLOSS cl.dat:3 liked.aux+inf the film

translation

d. * Topicalized dative

A ningú (no) li vaig donar el quadre. CL.DAT:3 gave.AUX+INF the painting gloss translation

(12) a. OVS AcExp, dative/accusative

A l' Albert $_i$ {li $_i$ / el $_i$ } molesta PRO $_i$ parlar en to art Albert cl.dat: $_3$ / cl.acc: $_3$.m annoys speak.inf in public públic.

translation

(13)

b. OVS AcExp, accusative el_i neguiteja PRO_i parlar en públic. l'Albert_i GLOSS textbfcl.Acc:3.M disturbs translation c. DatExp, dative l'Albert_i li_i agrada PRO_i parlar en públic. GLOSS CL.DAT:3 likes translation d. Subject L'Albert_i vol PRO_i arribar aviat. GLOSS wants arrive.inf early translation a. OVS AcExp, dative/accusative A l' Albert $(*, /\emptyset)$ {li / el} molesta aquesta to ART Albert CL.DAT:3 / CL.ACC:3.M annoys this situation situació. translation b. OVS AcExp, accusative l'Albert_(*, /Ø) el neguiteja aquesta situació. CL.ACC:3.M disturbs GLOSS translation c. DatExp, dative l'Albert_(*, / Ø) li agrada aquesta situació. CL.DAT:3 likes GLOSS translation

4 OVS sentences with AcExp verbs and an accusative experiencer

he vist que

Ø saw.aux+part that he cried GLOSS

Ø plorava.

§??

d. Topicalized object

CL.ACC:3.M I translation

L'Albert(,) l'

The analysis conducted in section §3 highlights the similarity between the dative experiencer in sentences with DatExp verbs and the experiencer object in OVS stative sentences with AcExp verbs, whether the morphology is dative or accusative. When the experiencer has accusative morphology, there is evidence to show that it is in fact a dative if we place it in sentence-initial position by using a relative pronoun ((14a)-(14b)) (adjectival relative clause and noun relative clause),⁸ an interrogative pronoun ((14c)-(14d)) (direct and indirect interrogative) or a determiner phrase (14e). In this context, the experiencer can optionally take either the accusative or dative morphology in the corresponding agentive sentences with AcExp verbs (16), which is similar to how the person semantic object behaves in transitive sentences of non-psychological verbs, whether they are causative or not (17). But in stative sentences with AcExp verbs (14), the experiencer in initial position behaves like the dative experiencer in the corresponding sentences with DatExp verbs (15): it can only be dative, even though in (14) the morphology is still accusative clitic within the sentence (cf. Royo 2017: Section 4.3.4.

To illustrate this contrast, the examples below are of stative sentences with an imperfective verbal aspect (14)- (15) and causatives and non-causative transitives with a perfective aspect (16)-(17). What is more, in (14) and (16) I use an AcExp verb that can easily be conceived as causative of change of state, such as atabalar 'overwhelm', unlike other AcExp verbs such as molestar 'annoy', which in some contexts can have the meaning of 'desagradar molt' ('displease a lot').

- (14) a. Ø És una persona {a qui /*que} (l') atabala
 He/She is a person to whom.dat / who.acc (cl.acc) overwhelms
 el record d'aquell fracàs.
 the memory of that failure GLOSS
 translation
 - b. {A qui /*Qui} (l') atabala el record d'aquell fracàs to whom.dat / who.acc (cl.acc) is to / Ø ART és {a /*Ø} la Maria.

 Maria.dat GLOSS

translation

c. {A qui / *Qui} (l') atabala el record d'aquell fracàs? to whom.dat / who.acc (cl.acc) GLOSS translation

⁸In the examples, I do not consider the use of the relative often referred to as the relatiu popular (cf. Ginebra 2005: 154-155), which is always marked with an asterisk.

d. Ø Voldria saber {a qui / *qui} (l') atabala el record I would like to know to whom.dat / who.acc (cl.acc) GLOSS d'aquell fracàs.

translation

- e. {A / *Ø} la Maria_(*,) l' atabala el record d'aquell fracàs. to /Ø ART Maria.DAT CL.ACC GLOSS translation
- (15) a. Ø És una persona {a qui / *que} no (li) agrada el record d'aquell fracàs. He/She is a person to whom.dat / who.acc doesn't (cl.dat) likes translation
 - b. {A qui / *Qui} no (li) agrada el record d'aquell to whom.dat / who.acc (cl.dat) is to / Ø art fracàs és {a / *Ø} la Maria.

 Maria.dat GLOSS translation
 - c. {A qui / *Qui} (l') atabala el record d'aquell fracàs to whom.dat / who.acc (cl.acc) is to / Ø ART és {a / *Ø} la Maria.

 Maria.dat GLOSS
 - d. {A qui /*Qui} no (li) agrada el record d'aquell to whom.dat / who.acc (cl.dat) GLOSS fracàs?

translation

translation

e. Ø Voldria saber {a qui / *qui} no (li) agrada el to whom.dat / who.acc (cl.dat) GLOSS record d'aquell fracàs.

translation

f. $\{A / *\emptyset\}$ la Maria(*,) no li agrada el record d'aquell to $/\emptyset$ ART Maria.DAT CL.DAT GLOSS

fracàs.

translation

(16)a. Ø És una persona {a qui (1') / que} person to whom.dat (cl.acc) / who.acc He/She is a han atabalat continuament somebody.PL overwhelmed.AUX+PART continuously with insídies. malicious acts translation b. {A qui (1') / Oui} Ø to whom.dat (cl.acc) / who.acc overwhelmed continuously atabalat continuament amb insídies és {a / Ø} la Maria. is to.Dom/ Ø ART Maria.Acc translation 9 c. {A qui (l') / Oui} Ø han atabalat amb aquestes to whom.dat (cl.acc) / who.acc these GLOSS insídies? translation d. Ø Voldria saber / qui} Ø han atabalat amb {a qui (1') to whom.dat (cl.acc) / who.acc GLOSS aquestes insídies. translation /Ø}la Maria Ø ľ han atabalat continuament e. {A to.dom / Ø art Maria.acc cl.acc GLOSS amb insídies. translation És una persona {a qui (17)a. Ø (l') / que} He/She is a person to whom.dat (cl.acc) / who.acc Ø han {mullat / vist} amb una somebody.pl {wet.aux+part / saw.aux+part } with a

⁹DOM = Differential object marking (see Manzani, this volume).

mànega.

hose

translation

b. {A qui (l') / Qui} Ø han {mullat / vist} amb to whom.dat (cl.acc) / who.acc is to.dom / Ø art Maria.acc una mànega és {a / Ø} la Maria.

translation

c. {A qui (l') / Qui} Ø han {mullat / vist} amb una to whom.dat (cl.acc) / who.acc GLOSS mànega?

translation

d. Ø Voldria saber {a qui (l') / qui} Ø han {mullat / vist} to whom.dat (cl.acc) / who.acc GLOSS amb una mànega.

translation

e. {A / Ø} la Maria_(,) Ø l' han {mullat / vist} amb una to.dom / Ø ART Maria.ACC CL.ACC GLOSS mànega.

translation

Bearing in mind that stative sentences of AcExp verbs are constructed with a real dative, regardless of the morphology of the experiencer clitic, I use the abbreviation Dat(>|<Ac)Exp to differentiate these constructions from both AcExp causatives and DatExp statives. The abbreviation can be used in cases of hesitation between the accusative and the dative form and, at the same time, to differentiate Dat(>Ac)Exp when the morphology is dative and Dat(<Ac)Exp when the morphology is accusative.

5 Argument structure of stative sentences with AcExp verbs

According to Rosselló (2008: Sections 13.3.6.2a-b and 13.3.7.2b) and d'Estudis Catalans (2016: 21.2.2b and 21.5a), one characteristic of Catalan psychological verbs

with an experiencer object (AcExp and DatExp) is that they can elide their object in the absolute use of the verb. Sentences with the absolute use of these predicates can express the property of a stimulus to affect a hypothetical experiencer, a stative construction with both DatExp verbs (18a) and AcExp verbs (18b), which in this case does not express an action.¹⁰

(18) a. La xocolata agrada ('és agradable'); La família importa ('és the chocolate likes is pleasant the family matters is important').

important

TRANSLATION

Els nens molesten ('són molestos'); El teu caràcter atabala
the kids annoy are annoying ART your character overwhelms
('és atabalador').

is overwhelming

TRANSLATION

Following Cuervo's proposal (2003: Section 1.3.3.2) for verbs that she calls predicational statives, all the sentences in (18) have an underlying stative unaccusative structure. For sentences with an experiencer, we need a functional head that introduces a dative with experiencer semantics and the characteristics of a subject in a hierarchically superior position and which relates it to the whole event that indicates a property of the stimulus: a high applicative head (external argument), with the dative in the position of specifier (cf. Pylkkänen 2008; Cuervo 2003; 2010b; see also) (19).¹¹

(19) a. DatExp

A la Maria li agrada la xocolata.

GLOSS

(lit.) 'to Maria chocolate is pleasant'

Cuervo, this volume

¹⁰The GIEC (Section 21.2.2c) points out that in absolute use those verbs that have an instrumental value (*tallar* 'cut', *obrir* 'open', *tancar* 'close', *tapar* 'cover', etc.), which like AcExp verbs are generally causative of change of state, express a property of the subject rather than a particular action.

¹¹Other authors explain the variability between the stative and the causative reading of these verbs without a high applicative head that introduces the experiencer in the stative construction (see Viñas-de-Puig 2014; 2017, and references therein). For example, Viñas-de-Puig proposes that in both readings the experiencer is licensed for a Sv_{EXP} head above the root, in a basic stative structure, which will take a causative reading by adding a Sv_{CAUS} above the Sv_{EXP} .

b. Dat(>|<Ac)Exp
 A la Maria li/la molesten els nens.
 GLOSS
 (lit.) 'to Maria kids are annoying'

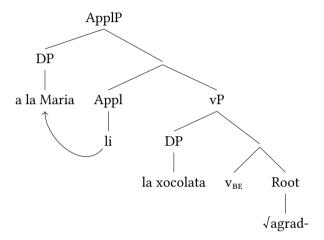


Figure 1: Please provide a caption

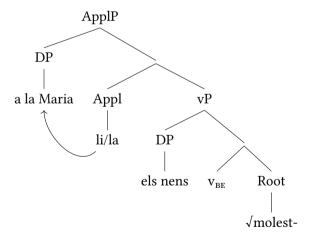


Figure 2: Please provide a caption

The unaccusative structure of (19a) for DatExp verbs matches (Belletti & Rizzi 1988) characterisation of type-III predicates. The construction of (19b), however,

requires some additional clarifications. Apparently, we should reject an unaccusative structure with an accusative experiencer – and in Catalan we do not expect an accusative to be an external argument – but if we bear in mind that it is a superficial accusative and that it is really a dative (cf. §3), this objection disappears. We also need to be explain how some verbs can optionally use the accusative and dative forms (5)-(7), and other verbs the accusative form in OVS stative sentences, whether they are AcExp (4a) or causative predicates with a metaphorical psychological meaning (4b).

In these sentences, the experiencer is a non-topicalized element with subject properties and a real dative, regardless of the form it takes. The syntactic mechanism that can explain sentences in which the experiencer has an apparent accusative morphology (20b) is differential indirect object marking or DIOM (cf. Bilous 2011; Pineda 2016; 2019; Pineda & Royo 2017), which is not necessary when the clitic takes a dative morphology (20a).

- (20) a. Dat(>)Exp
 A la Maria li molesten els nens.
 GLOSS
 (lit.) 'to Maria kids are annoying'
 b. Dat(<Ac)Exp</p>
 A la Maria l'atabala el teu caràcter.
 GLOSS
 - (lit.) 'to Maria your character is overwhelming'

The dative case marking of these sentences is congruent with the semantic and syntactic characteristics of the experiencer and with the function of the high applicative heads in a Romance language like Catalan. A DIOM accusative morphology would allow speakers to use these constructions with verbs that are difficult to conceive as stative, because in the minds of speakers they are closely related to verbs that cause a change of state (4). The morphological aspect of the experiencer depends on the lexical characteristics of the verb: even though the sentence is always stative, we can regard DIOM as being an anti-stativization mechanism in the minds of speakers. In this sense, it is significant that non-psychological causative verbs with a metaphorical psychological meaning present the superficial accusative form in OVS stative sentences (destrossar 'destroy', enfonsar 'sink'). Like some psychological verbs (commoure 'move, touch', esparverar 'terrify'), 12 they are verbs that speakers conceptualize habitually as being causative

¹²Ginebra (2003: 14, 29-30) offers more examples of OVS stative sentences of this type with a

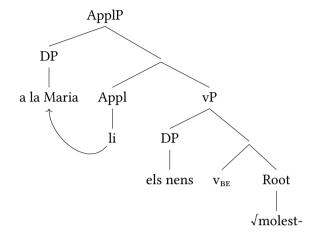


Figure 3: Please provide a caption

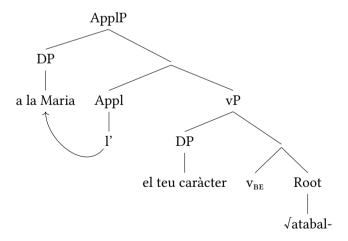


Figure 4: Please provide a caption

of change of state, unlike other verbs that more readily permit a stative conceptualization in certain contexts: for example, molestar 'annoy', which can sometimes have the meaning of *desagradar molt* ('displease a lot'). ¹³

6 Conclusions

The main argument presented in this article is that in stative sentences of Catalan AcExp predicates, the experiencer is a real dative. In stative sentences of some AcExp verbs and other non-psychological causative verbs with metaphorical psychological semantics, the experiencer may present an external accusative morphology by means of differential indirect object marking (DIOM). DIOM is the manifestation in the minds of speakers of their difficulty to conceive certain verbs as being stative or, in other words, of their tendency to conceive them as being causative of change of state.

Acknowledgments

 $year = \{1988\}$

}

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superficial accusative in both verb types, that is, psychological and non-psychological verbs with metaphorical psychological meaning.

¹³For an explanation of other factors that intervene so that an AcExp verb can participate in sentences such as Dat(<Ac)Exp or Dat(>Ac)Exp, see Royo (2017: Section 5).

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