

pect, the use of the auxiliary verb ལྟོ་ indicates the “imperfective” aspect. The imperfective is used to indicate a verbal action that is repeated, habitual, or otherwise occurring in the past and ongoing.

B. INDICATING THE PAST PERFECT

With verbs that have an inherently complete goal or semantic endpoint (“telic verbs”), a past-tense verb when combined with the auxiliary verb ལྟོ་ indicates the “past-perfect” tense—that is, the completed action, for example, ཞིག་ (“to dissolve”) and ཞིག་པར་ལྟོ་ (“to have dissolved”).

C. FORMING THE SUBJUNCTIVE

The subjunctive mood is used to express a hypothetical situation, a situation that is contrary to facts, or one that expresses a hope or wish. This is represented by an auxiliary construction with the form *verb* + ལྟོ་. Often seen with the conditional marker ཅི་, such a construction usually takes the form of two sentences in which the first sentence (protasis) states the hypothetical situation in the subjunctive (“were X to be the case”), while the second (apodosis) states the conditional resulting state or activity in the perfective aspect (“something would be Y”). Simply stated, it is of the form X ལྟོ་ན་..... Y ལྟོ་.

4. PAST AND FUTURE CAUSATIVES

A. OPTATIVE / FUTURE / FUTURE CAUSATIVE (ཅི་, ལྟོ་, ETC.)

The auxiliary construction *verb* + ལྟོ་ is one way of conveying either the emphatic future (“[I] will do [something]”) or the optative mood (“[something] should be done” or “[you] should do X”). It is typically formed with the future tense of the main verb with ལྟོ་.

When the same construction is formed with the future-tense form of the honorific action verb ལྟོ་, the emphatic future becomes an emphatic future causative, although specifically in the sense of the verbal activity being provoked by an outside agent or event and (with Class V and VI verbs) often with a reflexive sense.

B. PAST CAUSATIVE

Just as the verb ལྟོ་ forms the causative construction, so too the past tense of that same verb, ལྟོ་, forms the past causative (or emphatic). With a present-tense verb it forms the past causative (or emphatic), with a past-tense verb it forms the past perfect causative (or emphatic), and with a future-tense verb it