

Covert Generic Causatives as Dispositional Ascriptions

Lightning Talk
Sinn und Bedeutung 29

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What are covert generic causatives?

- Covert generic causatives consist of:

- a sole causer subject which is strictly **non-agentive**
- a verb which is strictly **non-causative**

(*agentive subject)

(*causative verb)

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knife-TOP get.hurt-DECL

‘Knives hurt e.g., people’

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- Is this really a causative?

- ⇒ Yes! They describe a dispositional causative property of the subject that brings about a result state described by the verb.

My proposal in a nutshell

- I argue that the verb undergoes **covert/zero causativization**.
- Why is this interesting?
 - (i) Locally unexpected: Korean already has an overt causativizing strategy.
 - (ii) Typologically unexpected: covert causativization shows a restriction on one semantic domain, namely non-agentive causers.

Three research questions & my answers

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3. What are covert generic causatives? \Leftarrow Middles?

Covert generic causatives vs. dispositional middles

- Covert generic causatives look awful lot like dispositional middles.

(2) *khal-un tachy-e.*
knife-TOP get.hurt-DECL
'Knives hurt e.g., people.'

(3) *This bread cuts smoothly.*
(English)
[Dispositional middle]

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- (ii) They are both **intransitive**.

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- Only difference: one talks about a causer and the other about a patient.

- If you would like to learn more about this typological beast,
 - A causative with a non-agentive subject/non-causative verb
 - A dispositional middle with a causer subject

So...

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 - A dispositional middle with a causer subject

<p>Covert Generic Causatives as Dispositional Ascriptions (SeYeon Park)</p>

- Please come see my poster presentation this afternoon!

Thank you!

Selected References

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