Causatives & Applicatives
Causatives add a causer (an agent who caused the event to happen but is not an essential part of the event)

(1) Cortez ate possum.

(2) Montezuma made Cortex eat possum.

All types of causatives increase semantic valence. Morphological also increases syntactic valence.
- Lexical
- Morphological
- Syntactic/periphrastic/analytic
There are 3 subtypes of lexical causatives.

**Isomorphism**

Isomorphism (no difference between non-causative and causative verb):

(77) a. NON-CAUSATIVE: The vase broke.
   b. CAUSATIVE: Calvin broke the vase. (i.e., Calvin caused the vase to break.)

**Weak suppletion**

Weak suppletion (some idiosyncratic difference between verbs):

(78) a. NON-CAUSATIVE: The tree fell. (verb = ‘to fall’)
   b. CAUSATIVE: Bunyan felled the tree. (verb = ‘to fell’)

**Strong suppletion**

(Strong) suppletion (completely distinct verbs):

(79) a. NON-CAUSATIVE: Inigo’s father died.
   b. CAUSATIVE: You killed Inigo’s father.
   also: see/show, teach/learn, etc.
Morphological Causatives

Some languages have 2 distinct causative suffixes, 1 for intransitives and one for transitives.

**Turkish**

- **Intransitive** – *dur* (patient subject becomes object)

(80) **INTRANSITIVE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Patient</th>
<th>Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hasan</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>öl-dü</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.</td>
<td>die-PAST</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Hasan died.’

(81) **CAUSATIVE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Patient</th>
<th>Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ali</td>
<td>Hasan-t</td>
<td>öl-dür-dü</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.</td>
<td>H.</td>
<td>die-CAUSE-PAST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Ali killed Hasan.’
Morphological Causatives

Turkish

- Transitive –t

(82) TRANSITIVE: Agent Patient
    ↓    ↓
    A    O
Müdür. NOM mektub-ü imzala-di
director letter-ACC sign-PAST
‘The director signed the letter.’

(83) CAUSATIVE: Agent\_cause Patient Agent\_effect
    ↓    ↓    ↓
    A    O    DATIVE
Dişçi mektub-ü müdür-e imzala-t-t
dentist. NOM letter-ACC director-DAT sign-CAUSE-PAST
‘The dentist made the director sign the letter.’
Some languages allow the same morphology for both intransitives and transitives.

**Quecha**

(86) **CAUSATIVE OF INTRANSITIVE STEM** (go up):

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{AGENT}_{\text{cause}} & \text{AGENT}_{\text{effect}} & \text{PATIENT} \\
\downarrow & \downarrow & \\
A & O & \\
\emptyset & \text{Qetunra-ni} & \text{tage-vkar-aa} \\
(3\text{SG}) & \text{son-ABS.HGEN} & \text{go:up-CAUSE-3SG > 3SG} \\
\end{array}
\]

‘He makes/lets his own son go up.’

(87) **CAUSATIVE OF TRANSITIVE STEM** (eat):

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{AGENT}_{\text{cause}} & \text{AGENT}_{\text{effect}} & \text{PATIENT} \\
\downarrow & \downarrow & \\
A & \text{OBLIQUE} & O \\
\text{Arnam} & \text{irnia-mi-nun} & \text{neqerrlu-ut} & \text{nere-vkar-ai} \\
\text{woman-\text{ERG}} & \text{child-POS-OBL} & \text{dryfish-\text{ABS.PL}} & \text{eat-CAUSE-3SG > 3PL} \\
\end{array}
\]

‘The woman makes/lets her child eat the dryfish.’
Transitives: what happens to the agent of the transitive sentence (causee)?

- Agent takes the dative case (Turkish)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Turkish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Müdür N.O.M mektub-ü imzala-dt</td>
<td>TRANSITIVE: ( \downarrow \rightarrow A \rightarrow O )</td>
<td>The director signed the letter.</td>
<td>'The director signed the letter.'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dişçi mektub-ü müdür-e imzala-tt</td>
<td>CAUSATIVE: ( \downarrow \rightarrow A \rightarrow O \rightarrow DATIVE )</td>
<td>The dentist made the director sign the letter.</td>
<td>'The dentist made the director sign the letter.'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Morphological Causatives

Transitives: what happens to the agent of the transitive sentence (causee)?

- Agent takes directional locative (Yupik)

(87) CAUSATIVE OF TRANSITIVE STEM (eat):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENT_{cause}</th>
<th>AGENT_{effect}</th>
<th>PATIENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>OBLIQUE</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


woman-ERG child-POS-OBL dryfish-ABS.PL eat-CAUSE-3SG > 3PL

‘The woman makes/lets her child eat the dryfish.’
Transitives: what happens to the agent of the transitive sentence (causee)?

- **Agent takes comitative case (Quecha)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(92)</th>
<th>TRANSITIVE STEM (hit):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGENT</td>
<td>PATIENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>↓</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qam</td>
<td>noqa-ta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2SG</td>
<td>1SG-ACC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(93)</th>
<th>CAUSATIVE OF TRANSITIVE STEM (hit):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGENT\textsubscript{cause}</td>
<td>AGENT\textsubscript{effect}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>↓</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>OBLIQUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay</td>
<td>qam-wan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3SG</td>
<td>2SG-COM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘He makes you hit me.’
Morphological Causatives

Transitives: what happens to the agent of the transitive sentence (causee)_TYP

- Agent takes accusative case (Sanskrit)

(94) a. Rama-m veda-m adhyapa-yate.
    Rama-ACC Veda-ACC learn-CAUSE
    ‘He teaches Ram the Veda.’

b. Batu-m odana-m bhoja-yati.
    boy-ACC food-ACC eat-CAUSE
    ‘He makes the boy eat food.’
Morphological Causatives

Morphology may be a prefix or suffix.

(97) **TRANSITIVE (know/meet):**

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{EXPERIENCER} & \text{THEME} \\
\downarrow & \downarrow \\
A & O \\
\end{array}
\]

Gi-ila \_ ni \_ Doro \_ si \_ Marco

**PERF.TRNS-meet** \_ ERG.PN \_ Doro \_ ABS.PN \_ Marco

‘Doro met Marco.’

(98) **CAUSATIVE OF TRANSITIVE (know/meet):**

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{AGENT}_{\text{cause}} & \text{THEME} & \text{EXPERIENCER} \\
\downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\
A & O & \text{OBLIQUE} \\
\end{array}
\]

Gi-\_pa-ila \_ ni \_ Cora \_ si \_ Marco \_ kang \_ Doro

**PERF.TRNS-CAUSE-meet** \_ ERG.PN \_ Cora \_ ABS.PN \_ Marco \_ DAT \_ Doro

‘Cora introduced Marco to Doro.’ (She made Doro meet Marco.)
Biclausal structures (causer’s action and causee’s’s action are in different clauses)
Not valency increasing because they involve the addition of a controlling agent via the addition of a verb.

(1) Kinyarwanda (Kimenyi 1980: 172)

umukoóbwa y-a-tum-ye n-á-andik-a amábárúwa meênshi

girl she-pst-cause-asp I-pst-write-asp letters many

‘The girl caused me to write many letters.’
Applicative constructions are sentences that take a peripheral element and make it an object.

- Makes a 2 place predicate a 3 place predicate

(1) Tukang Besi (Donohue 1999a: 256)

a. Basic construction, two-place predicate

   no-ala   te  kau  

   3._REALIS-fetch   the wood

   ‘She fetched the wood.’

b. Applicative construction, three-place predicate

   no-ala-ako   te  ina-su   te  kau

   3._REALIS-fetch-APPL   the mother-my   the wood

   ‘She fetched the wood (as a favor) for my mother.’

- The extra object is called the applied object
- It is most commonly a benefactive
### Applicatives defined

- Makes a 2 place predicate a 3 place predicate
- Yagua

#### (102) TRANSITIVE, NON-APPLICATIVE (‘poke’):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENT</th>
<th>PATIENT</th>
<th>INSTRUMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>↓ A</td>
<td>↓ O</td>
<td>↓ OBLIQUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>si-ichití-rya</td>
<td>javanu</td>
<td>quiichi-tya</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3SG-poke-INAN.OBJ meat knife-INST

‘He poked the meat with a knife.’

#### (103) TRANSITIVE APPLICATIVE (‘poke-with’):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENT</th>
<th>INSTRUMENT</th>
<th>PATIENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>↓ A</td>
<td>↓ O</td>
<td>↓ ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>si-ichití-tya-ra</td>
<td>quiichiy</td>
<td>javanu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3SG-poke-TA-INAN.OBJ knife meat

‘He poked meat with the knife.’
Applicative typology

- **Base:** transitive, intrans, or both
- **Semantic role of applied object**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Representation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benefactive object only; both bases</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefactive object only; transitive base only</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefactive and other; both bases</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefactive and other; transitive base only</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-benefactive object only; both bases</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-benefactive object only; transitive base only</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-benefactive object only; intransitive base only</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No applicative construction</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 183

Applicatives are common in three geographical areas: Africa (mostly in Bantu), the western Pacific region (Austronesian), and North and Meso-America (Salish, Mayan, Uto-Aztecan).

Map 109b
A language may have several applicative operators depending on the role of the applied object.

Kinyarwanda

- Nomatsiguen ga (Pre-Andine Maipuran Arawakan: Peru) has 9 applicative suffixes.
### Applicative typology

- **Multiple applicative suffixes**

**Kinyarwanda**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(108)</th>
<th>BENEFACTIVE APPLICATIVE PLUS SECOND LOCATIVE APPLICATIVE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AGENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben. appl:</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loc. 2 appl:</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Umugóre a-ra-geend-er-á-mo**
- **woman she-PR-g0-BEN-ASP-LOC2**
- **‘The woman is driving the car for someone.’**