

A typological perspective on morphological and periphrastic combinations of valency operations

This talk presents a cross-linguistic study on combinations of morphologically and periphrastically marked valency operations.

Most studies in the field of voice and valency operations focus on broadly describing the voice system of a language, analyzing the properties of a particular voice, or establishing a contrast between two voices, e.g. active and passive voice. Phenomena of iteration of voice marking, i.e. marking of two or more valency operations on the same predicate, have received little attention (e.g. [Lyutikova & Tatevosov, 2015](#); [Letuchiy, 2015](#); [Gibson et al., 2023](#)). However, these phenomena can potentially shed light on much-debated questions in the voice domain, e.g. whether voice is a grammatical category with different voices as its values, or where it is positioned on the continuum from inflection to derivation.

The talk compares two types of combinations of valency operations: combinations of two morphological voice markers, such as causative and passive suffixes in Turkish (Turkic; [nucl1301](#)), as in (1), and combinations of analytical valency operations, such as reflexive constructions embedded in causative periphrases in German (West Germanic < Indo-European; [stan1295](#)), as in (2).

- (1) *Bütün öğrenci-ler-e resim-ler öğretmen tarafından yap-tır-ıl-dı.*
all student-PL-DAT picture-PL teacher by paint-CAUS-PASS-PRET
'All the students were made to paint pictures by the teacher.' (Turkish; [nucl1301](#))
- (2) *Hans ließ seine Kinder sich schnell umzieh-en.*
Hans let.PST his children REFL quickly change-INF
'Hans made his children change their clothes quickly.' (German; [stan1295](#))

The first type is analyzed, for instance, in Turkic and Bantu languages; the second type can be identified in several European branches of the Indo-European family. Languages that feature both morphological and periphrastic marking of valency operations, e.g. Danish (North Germanic < Indo-European; [dani1285](#)), form an intermediate type.

Our analysis is based on literature and elicitation data. Its focus is descriptive and typological. From a cross-linguistic perspective, we survey which combinations of valency operation marking are theoretically possible, which of them actually occur, and which grammatical restrictions operate on such combinations.

The talk establishes clear contrasts in how combinations of valency operations work in the language types described above, but highlights cross-linguistic parallels with respect to which particular operations are compatible and which are not. Thereby, the talk contributes to the fundamental discussion about the nature of grammatical voice and valency operations, and sets up the foundation walls for a typology of valency operation combinatorics.

Abbreviations

CAUS = causative, DAT = dative, INF = infinitive, PASS = passive, PL = plural, PRET = preterite, PST = past, REFL = reflexive.

References

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