

Causative Verbs in Kalasha

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ABSTRACT

The case of causative verb constructions has implications for morphological theory, in particular, the status of the causative affixes and word formation rules in the lexicon, as well as the role of the semantic and pragmatic information in the process. The results of my fieldwork study in the Kalasha language can be interpreted as evidence for an output-oriented model of the formation of causative verbs, in which the meaning of the derivative results from the interaction of the meaning of the initial verb stem with the semantic structure of the potential causative affixes {-a-} or {-awa-}. The purpose of these affixes is: (a) to turn an intransitive verb into a transitive one, and (b) to turn an intransitive verb into an indirect causative, in the sense of “getting something done through another person.” For example, pash-ik “to see” → pash-a-ik > pash-ek “to cause to see; to show,” pash-awa-ik “to show somebody something through somebody else”; nash-ik “to die” → nash-a-ik > nash-ek “to cause to die,” nash-awa-ik ‘to kill somebody through somebody else’, etc. The paper is organized as follows: First, the formation of causative verbs is shown in detail (Section 1.1 – 1.3). Then in Sections 2 and 3 causatives from unaccusative verbs, as well as impersonal causatives are discussed. Finally, (Section 4), my hypothesis of the semantic decomposition of causative verbs in Kalasha is bolstered up.

Keywords: Causative, unaccusative, deverbal, lexical conceptual semantics.

1. THE FORMATION OF CAUSATIVE VERBS IN KALASHA

Formally, in Kalasha¹, any verb², of any category, may turn into a causative, depending on its semantic structure. This can be