CAUSATIVIZATION IN NYAH KUR

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1. Introduction

A way of expressing the idea of causing somebody to do something, or making something be as desired, is commonly found in language. Such an idea is generally called causativization.

Causativization in this paper will be defined as the process of making causative sentences which have features as follows:

- 1. A sentence which states that two events happen in sequence in time and are related to each other as "causing" and "caused" events.
- 2. A sentence that can be an answer to "What did X do to Y?" (in order to change the state of Y in either physical or mental condition)
- 3. A simple transitive sentence in which a prefix was added to an intransitive verb; that prefix expresses causative meaning.
- 4. A complex sentence that has <u>paa?</u> 'make' or <u>?uər</u> (?uəl) 'have someone do something' as the main verb of the sentence.

2. Work on Causativization in Nyah Kur

As far as I know, only Payau (1979:145) has done research on causative sentences in Nyah Kur. Payau applied tagmemic grammar to her analysis. Her findings (Payau, 1979:145) can be shown in the formula given below:

From the formula, we can conclude that only P2 obligatory; the other five tagmemes are optional. The first tagmeme (causer:C), which functions as subject of the sentence, a noun phrase (np); this is followed by the first predicate which is filled by a causative verb; then the comes position position, object position followed by the second predicate followed by the subject position (subject of the subordinate followed by the third predicate position. For sentence). example (Payau, 1979:145):

- ne:c ?uəl de: the: si: phliət 1. теw jo:m be color black dye cloth it Ι use S **P3** P1 0 P2 = 'I dye cloth black'.
- ?uəl khle:? 2. wəj pa:? dε: do it short I use **P3** P1 P2 S = 'I made it short'.

Payau doesn't say what verbs can fill the Pl slot. This implies that any verb can go into the slot and only P2 is obligatory. But according to my findings, P2 is optional. Since Payau did her research in Ban Wang Kamphaeng, Chaiyaphum Province, and I did mine in Ban Saphan Hin, Chaiyaphum Province, her findings may be different because of dialect differences. Theraphan (1980:35) however states that there are no differences in lexicon and grammar among Nyah Kur dialects spoken in Chaiyaphum Province; the difference lies in the pronunciation of each Nyah Kur speaker.

3. Causativization in Nyah Kur

Two important things which we have to take into account in analyzing causativization are the verb categories and the case markers for nouns in causative sentences. (See discussions of verb categorization in Chafe [1970] and case markings of nouns in Longacre [1976])

Causativization in Nyah Kur can be divided into 2 processes:

- 1. Morphological processes
- 2. Syntactic processes

Morphological processes

There are 4 causative prefixes in Nyah Kur. They are morphologically conditioned.

- 1. /pə-/ only occurs with $\frac{\text{di\'en}}{\frac{\dot{\text{cu}}?}{\text{t\'un}}}$ 'catch (fire)' $\frac{\dot{\text{c\'u}}?}{\frac{\dot{\text{t\'u}}}{\text{t\'u}}}$ 'be in a large number'
- 2. /tə-/ only occurs with paak be broken in pieces' kal be broken'

- 3. /kha-/ only occurs with loon 'come'
- 4. /kə-/ occurs everywhere else, for example with thriap 'run' phlyt 'be (?), wished'
- 1. kəmát diən ncii? pədiən kəmat fire catch younger catch fire [patient] [state] brother [action process] [patient] [agent] 'Younger brother lit the fire'.
- 2. chúu? kál wéj təkál chúu? stick be broken I break stick [patient] [state] [agent] [action process] [patient] 'I broke the stick'.
- 3. pin loòn péen khəlòon priən pin he come grandfather make come buffalo his [agent] [action] [agent] [patient] 'Grandfather brought his water buffalo'.
- 4. kuənkúən thriəp pʻon kəthriəp khliic children run older brother make run pig [agent] [patient]

'Older brother made the pig run'.

From the above examples, we can see that the intransitive and transitive verbs are alike in their root form. But there are prefixes in the transitive verb forms, and all transitive verb forms require an agentive case.

verb root

prefixes + verb root

transitive

intransitive

The above diagram states that intransitive verbs of state or process or action may be turned into causative transitive verbs if the derivational rule is applied.

Syntactic processes

Causative sentences obtained by the syntactic process are formed by using /páa?/ or /?uər/ as main verbs of the sentence, on the condition that:

--if the main verb to be causativized is an action or an action-process verb, we can use /páa?/ or /?uér/. The subject of /páa?/ and /?uér/ will be in the agentive case; for example:

ròt <u>páa</u>? péen kədóot dáak car make grandfather jump water [agent]

'The car made Grandfather jump into the water'.

phàa <u>?uə́r</u> ncii? thrìəp father have (get) younger brother run [agent]

'Father made younger brother run'.

--if the main verb of the sentence is a process verb, we can only use /páa?/. The subject of /páa?/ in this case will be either in the agentive or the instrumental case; for example:

nin <u>páa</u>? cháan kəcét he make chicken die [agent]

'He killed the chicken'.

hãy <u>páa</u>? namkhén lajlàaj sun make ice melt

[instrument]

'The sun melted the ice'.

When we compare the two processes of causativization, we notice that both processes express the fact that two events happen in sequential time and the first event is the cause of the second. But there are still differences: the agent of the morphological process is the direct causer of the second event while the agent of the syntactic process is the indirect causer.

NOTES

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