

CAUSATIVIZATION IN NYAH KUR

JARON Gainey

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 paa? 'make' or ?uær (?uæl) '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:

$$Cl \text{ caus} = \pm C:np \pm P1:VP_{\text{caus}} \pm O:np + P2: \begin{cases} \text{kul} & \pm S:np \pm P3:VP/\text{reduced} \\ \text{?uæl} & \text{clause} \end{cases}$$

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

1. wəj jɔ:m ne:c ʔuəl dɛ: thɛ: si: phliət
 I dye cloth use it be color black
 C P1 O P2 S P3
 = 'I dye cloth black'.
2. wəj pa:ʔ ʔuəl dɛ: khɛ:ʔ
 I do use it short
 C P1 P2 S P3
 = 'I made it short'.

Payau doesn't say what verbs can fill the P1 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 diən 'catch (fire)'
cú? 'be in a large number'
tún 'be up'
2. /tə-/ only occurs with páak 'be broken in pieces'
kál 'be broken'

Syntactic processes

Causative sentences obtained by the syntactic process are formed by using /páaʔ/ or /ʔuér/ 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 /páaʔ/ or /ʔuér/. The subject of /páaʔ/ and /ʔuér/ will be in the agentive case; for example:

ròt	<u>páaʔ</u>	péeŋ	kədóot	dáak
car	make	grandfather	jump	water
[agent]				
'The car made Grandfather jump into the water'.				

phàa	<u>ʔuér</u>	ŋcǐiʔ	thrləp
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 /páaʔ/. The subject of /páaʔ/ in this case will be either in the agentive or the instrumental case; for example:

ŋìn	<u>páaʔ</u>	cháaŋ	kəcét
he	make	chicken	die
[agent]			
'He killed the chicken'.			

hǎy	<u>páaʔ</u>	namkhéŋ	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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c/o Mr. Jerry Gainey
English Dept.
Kasetsart University
Bangkok, Thailand