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Tropative, Causative and Apparetive in Different Types of Constructed Languages: a Typological Approach

I. Introduction

Conlangs - languages that did not develop as a result of natural evolution, but were deliberately created.

- auxiliary languages (auxlangs) are designed as lingua franca for native speakers of different languages
- zonal auxlangs (zonlangs) are designed as lingua franca for a particular language family or area
- artistic languages (artlangs) are designed for the works of art or as pieces of art themselves. The former languages are sometimes separated and called fictional. However, for this research I do not make a distinction, since both categories of languages have a common aim, which is a recreation
- engineered languages (englangs) are meant to check linguistic hypotheses

Lexical derivations are both grammaticalized derivations and similar analytical constructions.

(1) *simple - simpli-fy* - grammatical causative
(2) *difficult - *difficultify - make difficult* - analytical causative

Papers on conlangs

[Libert 2010], [Libert 2014] - about comparatives and interjections respectively in auxlangs.

[Piperski 2017] - a book on common principles of language construction (in Russian).

[Carpenter 2006], [Windsor & Stewart 2017] - phonology acquisition in conlangs.

[Tarasov 2019], [Tarasov 2020] - my papers about tropative and negative concord, mentioning conlangs.

Pro-conlang arguments

- choice of a model can show the creator's own position on what is easy or naturalistic and what is not
- data can help us explain linguistic universalities and diachronic changes
- no strict border between NLs and conlangs: Newspeak (Orwell) and Basic English (C. Ogden); Modern Indo-European vs Hebrew

II. Methods of research

2 methods:

- grammar descriptions analysis for studying causatives (hard to elicitate due to large number of contexts)
- cross-sectional method (translating 6 sentences from Russian or English) for studying tropatives and apparetives (rarely mentioned in grammar descriptions)

III. Tropative and apparetive in conlangs

Definition and classification

Tropative (introduced in [Larche 1996]) is a derivation having a meaning: X considers Y to be Z'. X is a *subject*, Y is an *object*, Z is a *characteristic*.

Apparetive (introduced in this paper, from Latin *apparere*) is a derivation having a meaning: 'X seems to be Y'. X is a *stimulus*, Y is a *characteristic*.

Direct-reverse and positive-negative symmetry/asymmetry

Type/Derivation	Tropative	Apparetive
Reverse	*He is considered to be intelligent* Symmetry: passivization/intransitivization of a direct	-

Negative	*I do not consider him to be intelligent* Symmetry: grammatical negation of a positive	*He does not seem to be intelligent* Symmetry: grammatical negation of a positive

Tropativity and apparetivity classes

Class / Derivation	Tropative	Apparetive	Extra criteria
1 - grammatical (affix or copula)	e.g. Arabic tropative: *'aqala* 'to be intelligent' - *ist-'aqula* 'to consider intelligent'	e.g. Klingon apparetive: *val* 'to be intelligent' - *vallaw'* 'to seem intelligent'	universality (strong if universal, weak otherwise), polysemy
2 - syntactical analytical (triadic or dyadic predicate expressed with one finite clause)	e.g. English: *I consider him (to be) intelligent*	e.g. English: *He seems (to be) intelligent*	polysemy
3 - (semantical) polypredicative (all arguments stated explicitly)	e.g. English: *I think that he is smart*	e.g. English: *It seems that he is smart*	-
4 - descriptional (tropative only)	e.g. English: *He is probably smart*	-	-

Tropative and apparetive models of auxlangs

Language/Feature	**Tropativity class**	**Polysemy**	**Direct / reverse symmetry**	**Positive / negative symmetry**	**Apparetivity class**	**Polysemy**	**Positive / negative symmetry**
Solresol	2	to praise / to scold	asymmetry - direct instead of reverse	double negation marking	2	monosemic	symmetry

Volapük	2	monosemic	symmetry	symmetry	2	monosemic	symmetry
Esperanto	2	monosemic	symmetry	symmetry	2	monosemic or ‘to be seen by mistake’	symmetry
Sambahsa	2	to say	symmetry	symmetry	2	monosemic	symmetry
Lidepla	3	-	asymmetry, direct instead of reverse	symmetry	2	monosemic	symmetry
Globasa	2	to consider	symmetry	symmetry	2	monosemic	symmetry

Esperanto tropative and apparetive models*:*

(3) *mi opini-as li-n sağa homo*
1sg consider-pres 3sg-ACC intelligent person
‘I find him/her smart’ [Tarasov 2019: 8]

(4) *li opini-at-as sağa homo*
3sg consider-pass-pres intelligent person
‘(S)he is considered to be smart’

(5) *mi ne opini-as li-n sağa homo*
1sg NEG consider-pres 3sg-ACC intelligent person
‘I don’t find him/her smart’ [Tarasov 2019: 9]

(6) *Li aspekt-as sağa*
1sg be.seen-3sg intelligent
‘He seems to be intelligent’ [elic.]

Lidepla direct-reverse asymmetry

(7) *me opini ke ta es intele*
1sg consider.pres comp 3sg cop intelligent
‘I think he is intelligent’ [elic.]

(8) *oni opini ke ta es intele*
3pl consider.pres comp 3sg cop intelligent
‘They think he is intelligent’ [elic.]

Solresol double negation in tropative constructions

(9) *dore milado dofa domisolfa*

1sg praise 3sg intelligent
‘I find him/her smart’ [Tarasov 2019: 9]

(10) *dore dolami dofa fasolmido*
1sg scold 3sg stupid
‘I do not find him/her smart’ [Tarasov 2019: 10]

Tropative and apparetive models of zonlangs

Language/Feature	Tropativity class	Polysemy	Direct / reverse symmetry	Positive / negative symmetry	Apparetivity class	Polysemy	Positive / negative symmetry
Interslavic	2	to have, to respect, etc	symmetry	symmetry	2	to look or to show oneself as	symmetry
Folkspraak	2	to find, to consider	symmetry	symmetry	2	monosemic or ‘to look’	symmetry
Guosa	3	-	asymmetry - direct instead of reverse	symmetry	3	-	symmetry
International Sign	2	to see	asymmetry - independent constructions	symmetry	2	monosemic	symmetry

Direct-reverse asymmetry in International Sign

(11) 1sg see 3sg intelligent
‘I consider him to be intelligent’ [elic.]

(12) 3sg to.have.reputation intelligent
‘He is considered to be intelligent’ [elic.]

Tropative and apparetive models of artlangs

Language/Feature	Tropativity class	Polysemy	Direct / reverse symmetry	Positive / negative symmetry	Apparetivity class	Polysemy	Positive / negative symmetry
Sindarin	3	-	asymmetry - direct instead of reverse	symmetry	2	probability adverb	symmetry
Klingon	3	-	asymmetry - direct instead of reverse	symmetry	1 strong	monosemic	symmetry
Na'vi	3	-	asymmetry - direct instead of reverse	symmetry	3	-	symmetry
Dothraki	4	-	-	symmetry	3	-	

Descriptional tropative construction in Dothraki

(13) *Me* *nem* *nesa* *fin* *yotnhare*
3sg postp known conj.anim brain
mae *haj-a*
3sg.poss strong-3sg
'It is known that his brain is strong' [elic.]

Klingon apparetive

(14) *val-law'*
intelligent-app
'He seems to be intelligent' [elic.]

Klingon tropative. Correcting my mistake.

(15) *val* *ghaH* *'e'* *vI-Har*
intelligent 3sg TOP 1sgS.3O-believe
'I find him/her smart' [Tarasov 2019: 9]

Tropative and apparetive models of englangs

Language/Feature	Tropativity class	Polysemy	Direct / reverse symmetry	Positive / negative symmetry	Apparetivity class	Polysemy	Positive / negative symmetry
Toki Pona	3	-	asymmetry - direct instead of reverse	symmetry	3	-	symmetry
Ithkuil	2	-	asymmetry - descriptive instead of reverse	symmetry	1	-	symmetry
Lojban	1 strong or 2	special copulative predicate	symmetry	symmetry	1 strong or 2	special copulative predicate	symmetry
Laadan	4	-	-	symmetry	2	monosemic	symmetry
aUI	2	in-prox-mind-verb	symmetry	symmetry	2	feel-shine-verb	symmetry

Lojban tropative and apparetive

(16) *Mi jinvi lodu'u ra mencre*
1sg trop top 3sg intelligent
'I consider him to be intelligent'

(17) *ra simlu mencre*
3sg app intelligent
'He seems intelligent'

Ithkuil tropative and apparetive

(18) *Thuzaleoč üode*
intelligent.3sg 1sg.rel
'He is intelligent, according to my opinion'

(19) *tv-älo-rd-a ma*
intelligent-state-app-3sg 3sg

‘He seems to be intelligent’

Laadan tropative/apparetive

(20) *bii* *wotha* *wa*
decl intelligent evid.pers
‘She is intelligent (perceived by the speaker)’ [elic.]

IV. Causative in conlangs

Causatives in auxlangs

Language/ Feature	Grammaticalization	Analytical strategies
Solresol	no	stem alteration, non-integrating verbs, caused state (impilicit causative)
Volapük	weak verbal	stem alteration, non-integrating verbs
Esperanto	strong universal	stem alteration, non-integrating verbs
Sambahsa	strong universal	stem alteration, non-integrating verbs
Lidepla	strong universal	stem alteration, non-integrating verbs
Globasa	strong universal	non-integrating verb

Implicit causative in Solresol

(21) *simisol* ‘simple’, ‘simplify’

Causatives in zonlangs

Language/Feature	Grammaticalization	Analytical strategies
Interslavic	weak non-verbal	stem alteration, causative verbs
Folkspraak	strong non-verbal	causative verbs
Elefen	strong non-verbal	stem alteration, causative verbs

Causatives in artlangs

Language/Feature	Grammaticalization	Analytical strategies
Sindarin	strong universal	non-integrating causative verbs
Klingon	strong universal	stem alteration, non-integrating causative

		verbs
Na’vi	strong universal	stem alteration, non-integrating causative verbs
Dothraki	strong universal	non-integrating causative verbs

Causatives in englangs

Language/Feature	Grammaticalization	Analytical strategies
Toki Pona	no	non-integrating causative verbs
Ithkuil	no	stem alteration, caused action
Lojban	strong universal	non-integrating predicates
Laadan	strong universal	non-integrating causative verbs
aUI	strong universal	no

Implicit causative in Ithkuil

(22) *atř* ‘to be observable’ — *atř* ‘to make observable’

V. Conclusion

- The aim of a conlang is the most important factor having an influence on its derivational model. Englangs show the highest degree of variation, since their aims are also extremely different.
- Tropative, apparetive and causative show different rates of grammaticalization. This discrepancy could be explained by the fact that different methods were applied, but tropative and apparetive still show different results. Explanation through a level of coverage also seems unsuitable, since both tropative and apparetive are equally poorly explored. The most probable explanation is that there are different ideas about structures of these derivations.

Sources

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