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THE MORPHOSYNTAX OF CAUSATIVE CONSTRUCTION IN THE DAWAN LANGUAGE

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Abstract. In order to understand the structure, procedure, and causative marking of the Dawan language, this paper addresses causative construction in the Dawan language. Since the writer is a native speaker of the language, the primary data from the field study was corroborated by written materials like the bible in the Dawan language as well as by intuitive data. The elicitation technique combined the two sets of data to obtain valid data. The outcome demonstrates four distinct forms of causative construction: affixation, complex sentences, verb serialisation, and the addition of a causer argument. The transitive form, derived from an intransitive clause, adds the causer argument. S is transferred to the O function, and a causer argument is added to the A function. The conjunction *natuin* or fun indicates causative marking in a complex sentence. This study considers the Dawan language's causative verb serialization is the most fruitful construction. There are two types of this construction: causative serialisation and cause-effect serialisation. In the first type, V1 is an action verb with the lexical meaning "causative," V2 is the outcome (effect) of what V1 has done. In contrast to the first, the causative verbs *moe/mo'e* "make" and *eik* "bring" occupy V1 in causative serialisation, while the outcome of the action in V1 occupies V2. The final method is causative construction by affixation, or the morphological process.

Keywords: causative; construction; morphosyntax; valency

INTRODUCTION

The speakers of the Dawan language refer to it as Uab Meto or Molok Meto. In West Timor, Indonesia, there are about 7000 speakers of this Austronesian language. The Dawan language has been the subject of numerous research, but not all facets of the language—including causal construction—have been examined. Predicates created by fusing an underlying predicate with a causal event are known as causative constructs. A new participant (a causer) adds the causative verbal element, which starts or directs the underlying predicate's occurrence (Comrie, 1989; Dixon, 2000, 2012; Aikhenvald, 2011).

There have been many studies on causative construction with various topics of discussion, such as the strategy of causative construction, the typology of causative, the morphological causative construction, the analytical causative constructions, and the

morphosyntax of causative construction. Those topics have been studied in several languages in Indonesia, such as the Aceh language dealing with typology (Umar et al., 2019). Morphological causative construction in Indonesian and Rembang Dialects of Javanese (Hasisah et al., 2021), Asahan Malay language (Yusuf & Mulyadi, 2021), and Rote language (Rafael, 2022) to analyse the morphemes that formed the causative construction. Analytical causative constructions are a type of causative construction that became a focus by Sianturi and Mulyadi (2020) in the Batak Toba language. The strategy of the causative process has been studied in Javanese (Qomariana, 2016), Nias language (Nasara et al., 2019), Sasak language (Azizah et al., 2020), Belitong language (Darmawan et al., 2021), and Simalungun Batak language (Silaban et al., 2022). Two studies on the Sundanese (Taha et al., 2017) and the Wewewa language (Ate et al., 2021) deal with the morphosyntax of causative construction.

In nature, two conditions make up the causal situation: the cause, its impact, or its consequence (Benu et al., 2022). According to this definition, "two events, namely a precipitating event and a result, or it can be said as a causing event and a caused event," are frequently included in describing a causative structure. Dixon (2000:30) favoured a pretty different interpretation, according to which a causative construction entails the addition of a causer—an extra argument—to a fundamental sentence. Someone or something that starts or directs the action is called the causer. This something or someone can be an occurrence or a state. This defines the syntactic-semantic function of A (transitive subject). Dixon (2012:240) listed the following four ways to characterise a canonical causative derivation: A new argument (the causer) is introduced in the A function; (b) the argument from the underlying S function enters the O (object) function in the causative; (c) the derived transitive is applied to an underlying intransitive clause; and (d) the causative construction is explicitly marked.

According to the preceding description, adding a new parameter to A function (the causer) will be necessary if a causal construction is created by derivation. The original S argument (causee) in the causative of an intransitive clause will nearly always go into the O function in the new transitive clause (causer: A). The causer always becomes A in the causative of a transitive, after which the syntactic roles of the original A (the cause) and O arguments are often redistributed.

The method of causation used by the causative structure is one in which an outside force has compelled an ordinary circumstance to result in a cause. Causative structures fall into three categories. The first is lexical causative, in which a language contains a verb form that is lexical and distinct from its non-causative version semantically. Eat = feed, for instance, and die = kill. The second type of causative verb is morphological causative, in which a few morphemes affix to the verb root or stem and change the verb into a causative form. For example: *Satu= menyatukan* 'to make something (X) to become united' as in *Kita harus menyatukan pendapat. Budaya = membudayakan* 'to make something (X) to become cultural.' as in *Pendidikan dapat membudayakan masyarakat.* Syntactically, morphological causatives differ. They only apply to intransitive verbs in some languages, simple transitions that are intransitive (but not extended transitive), and all verbs in other languages. The final type is known as periphrastic causative, in which a second complete lexical verb serves as a causation

marker element in the languages after undergoing the process of "grammaticalisation." For example, *I made him write my letter; John had/made/got/(caused) Albert to peel the potatoes.* The following are some essential ideas that must be comprehended in order to create causal constructions: Causative constructions appear to add an argument to the argument structure's thematic grid. This is supported by the fact that, by adding the created causative marker, they can change most intransitive verbs into transitive verbs. Applying a morphological process to the clause's verb can identify a causative construction. Dixon (2012) stated that such a process might include the following: (a) internal changes, such as mutations in vowel quality; (b) consonant repetition; (c) vowel lengthening; (d) tone changes; (e) reduplication; or different affixation processes, such as the use of a prefix, suffix, or circumfix (combination of prefix and suffix).

Researchers Tarno et al. (1991). Mekarini (2000) and Reteg (2002) all mentioned causative construction in the Dawan language, stating that it occurs via affixation. Nevertheless, a detailed explanation of the formation mechanism was not provided. The causative was identified as one of the processes in the transitive process in a different study (Benu et al., 2022) that examined the valency-increasing mechanism in the Dawan language. However, it was not given a precise explanation. In the Dawan language, the problem of causative construction arises from the following preliminary data.

a. *Au u-sae-ba oli n-eu me tuna-n*
1sg 1sg-up- CAUSE brother 3sg-PREP table up-3sg.POSS
“I raised my brother on the table.”

b. *Au u-sanu oli na-ko me tuna-n*
1sg 1sg-down brother 3sg-PREP table up-3sg.POSS
“I get my brother down from the table.”

The causative word usaeba in (a) has a causative affix but not in (b), which lacks that affix. This is a significant difference between the two data above. According to Benu (2019; Benu et al., 2023), the prefix u-in that word is proclitic, meaning it agrees with the subject au (causer). These two pieces of data raise some questions that need to be addressed: Does a causative morpheme exist in the Dawan language? Is there another causative process in the Dawan language? The structure of the causative construction and the morphological marking on the causative construction in the Dawan language constitute the language's morpho-syntactic aspect that will answer these two questions.

METHOD

This paper is the result of research using a qualitative approach. The data in this article were obtained directly from field research on the Amanuban dialect, which is one of the dialects in the Dawan language located in South Central Timor (TTS) Regency, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT). The differences among dialects in the Dawan language are found in four areas (Benu, 2022). First, the tone and accent of pronunciation. Second, phoneme differences, for example, the consonants */r/* and */l/.* This difference can be seen in the word *raku* 'casava' or *kero* 'monkey' in the Amarasi dialect, but it is pronounced as *laku* or *kelo* in the Amanuban dialect. Third, the absence and presence

of certain consonants, such as the consonant /j/, are found in the Molo and Amfoang dialects but not in the Amanuban dialects. The fourth is lexical differences, but very few; for example, the word *cow* in the Amanuban dialect is *bie*. In contrast, Molo *bijae* or the word *noso* in the Amanatun dialect is *shirt*, but in Amanuban, it is *pants*.

The type of data used is qualitative data in the form of sentences or clauses which contain causative construction. All data is primary data obtained directly in the field where researchers are directly involved with speakers of the Dawan language to collect data. Data were obtained from conversations, both formal and informal, between researchers and data sources as well as between data sources. Data also came from five informants obtained through critical persons on the field that the researchers already understood the initial information about the research object. Informants were selected based on several criteria following Benu et al. (2023), namely (1) native speakers, (2) born and raised in the South-Central Timor District, (3) aged between 20 to 60 years, and (4) had adequate knowledge and language skills.

The methods that were applied in this study were observation and interview methods. The observation was used to capture the conversational discourse data of the speakers. The researchers were directly involved in the conversation and listen to the conversation. The involvement of researchers in these discussions was active and receptive, depending on the situation in the field. Both of these techniques were combined with recording and note-taking techniques. The following method was the interview method, which tests the acceptability and non-acceptability of causative data in a clause or sentence. In-depth interviews used elicitation techniques (induction) to obtain the desired data. With this technique, the researcher directed the informants. Researchers as speakers of the Dawan language also play a role as data sources and simultaneously control the validity of the data concerned. In this case, data made based on the researcher's linguistic intuition, if considered doubtful, was asked or re-checked through other informants through the interview method to test the acceptability and non-acceptability of the data. In other words, this method is used to check the validity of the data. The information from Si Knino and Beno Alekot, written in Dawan, completed the data. Deductive-inductive reasoning was used in conjunction with descriptive-analytic technique to analyse the data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Three methods of causative construction are identified morpho-syntactically based on data analyses. Syntactically, a causer argument is added and expressed in a complex sentence, and verb serialisation results in a causative construction in the Dawan language. It occurs by affixation both morphologically and phonologically.

Adding Causer Argument

This process is the addition of an argument to an intransitive to create a transitive. The argument is added this way: moving S to the O position and filling the A position. In the Dawan language, the causative process can also come from other categories, like nouns and adjectives, in addition to the verb category. These are a few instances:

1) **Verb**

a. *Au ʔ-mouf*
1sg 1sg-fall
'I fall'

b. *Ho mu-mouf kau*
2sg 2sg-fall 1sg
'You make me fall/ you caused me to fall'

2) **Adjective**

a. *In lul-na me*
3sg lip-3sg-POSS red
'His lips are red'

b. *In na-me lulu-n*
3sg 3sg-red lip-3sg-POSS
'He redden his lips'

3) **Noun**

a. *Ume na eno-n*
House that door-POSS
'That house' door'

b. *Bapa na-eon ume na*
Father 3sg-door house that
'Father is making the door for that house'

The verb in the derived transitive is always marked with proclitic to mark the agreement with A (causer).

Complex Sentence

Complex sentence construction is one of the well-known methods of demonstrating causation; one clause illustrates the cause, and the other the effect. A conjunction with a causative meaning in a complex sentence connects the two clauses. In Dawan, the causative complex sentence is connected by the conjunctions *fun* and *natuin*. As seen in the following data, a test of these connectors revealed no difference because they can be used in the same construction to mean because.

4) *In n-tup natuin in n-sesaʔ*
3sg 3sg-sleep CONJ 3sg 3sg-sleepy
"he sleeps because he is sleepy."

The phrase *in n-sesaʔ* "he is sleepy" is the one that indicates the cause of the previous sentence. The outcome is that *in ntup* "he sleeps." Therefore, effect-CONJ-cause is the sentence's order. By substituting the conjunction *talantia* for *natuin*, the clause's order can be altered to become Cause-CONJ-Effect, illustrating the resultative meaning as in (5).

5) *In n-sesaʔ talantia in n-tup*
3Sg 3Sg-sleepy CONJ 3Sg 3Sg-sleep
'he is sleepy. That is why he sleeps.'

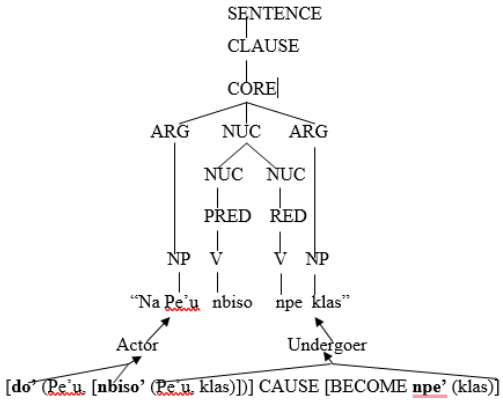
Verb Serialization

There are two types of causative verb serialisation: cause-effect and causative serialisation. Both are explained below.

a. Cause-effect serialisation

In the Dawan language, cause-effect serialisation indicates that the cause verb comes before the effect verb (Benu, 2014b). Additionally, it is demonstrated that V1 is a transitive verb and V2 is an intransitive verb based on the order. Put differently, V2 is the result of V1. As demonstrated below, this kind of SVC is immensely fruitful in the Dawan language.

6) *Na Pe'u n-biso n-pe'e klas*
ART NAME 3sg-hit 3sg-break glass
"Pe'u is breaking the glass (by hitting it)."



Semantic and syntax relation in Cause-effect serialization.

Semantic and syntax relation in Cause-effect serialisation.

The action verb V1 *nbiso* "3sg hit" in the data above describes the action taken by *Na Pe'u,* identified as the causer. On the other hand, V2 *npe* "broke" is an intransitive noun that illustrates how V1's action affected *klas* "glass" as the patient. The tree diagram displays the clause's structure.

b. Causative serialisation

The verb in the V1 position of cause-effect serialisation, an action verb that precisely explains the action taken by the subject, is not the same as the causative serial verb. While in causal serialisation, the action is not explicitly shown in V1. In the Dawan language, causative serialisation manifests as analytical causative, a causative construction comprised of the causative verb mo'e, which consistently occupies the V1 position. The causal serialisation in the Dawan language is displayed in the following data.

7) *Au ʔ-moʔe ʔ-pe'e klas*
1Sg 1Sg-make 1Sg-break glass
'I broke the glass (because I made it)"/ I made the glass broke.'

The verbs *mo'e* (meaning "make") and *pe'e* (meaning "break") with two core arguments—*au* and *klas*—form the causative serialisation mentioned above. Another verb that fits the definition of a lexical verb with a causative meaning is *eki*, which means "bring." By using the verb *mo'e*, morphological processes, or adding a causer argument, this verb can be applied to some verbs that may not be causative. Take the

directional verb come, for instance. This verb always appears as a causer subject in the bound root form in Dawan, as in the following example.

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	Pronoun		"come"	Example
1	1T	*au*	*om*	*Au om* "I come."
	1Ji	*hit*	*tem*	*Hit tem* "we come"
	1Je	*hai*	*em*	*Hai em* "we come "
2	2T	*ho*	*om*	*Ho om* "you come."
	2J	*hi*	*em*	*Hi em* "you come."
3	3T	*in*	*nem*	*In nem,* "he/she comes."
	3J	*sin*	*neman*	*Sin neman* "They come."

Look at the use in sentences as the following.

8) a. *Polisi na nem*
police that 3sg.come
'that police comes'

b. *Atoni na n-moe pulisi na-m nem*
person that 3sg-make police that-CONJ 3sg.come
'that person made that police come.'

c. *Atoni na n-eik pulisi na nem*
Person that 3sg-bring police that 3sg.come'
'that person made that police come.'

The predicate nem in the data above is "3sg come," making it an intransitive clause. As previously mentioned, the causative process of this verb cannot be completed by adding a causer argument, and there are no affixes to indicate the causative meaning. As in the data above, the conjunction ma "and" transforms the causative process with the verb *mo'e* into a complex sentence, as in (b). Due to a phonological requirement, the verb *mo'e*, which means "make," in (b) causes causativation, resulting in a complex sentence denoted by the suffix -m in na-m, which means "that-and." The verb *nem'* as *the* causative process can only be carried out through serialisation, as shown in (c), whereby the verbs *eik* and *nem* "bring" and "come," respectively, to V1 and V2. If you substitute another verb for "*eik*," a cause-and-effect serialisation will result.

Morphological Process

Data obtained in this research found variations of morphological processes in causative construction. They are internal change, vowel addition, and affixation.

a. Internal change of verb

The verb undergoes a form change during this process. The differences most likely reflect phonological harmony, which has affix-like appearances. Here is an illustration of this procedure in action. According to the author, the suffix *-u* is a

phonological variation that results from the verb's metathesis rather than a causative marker. The information below will support the claim.

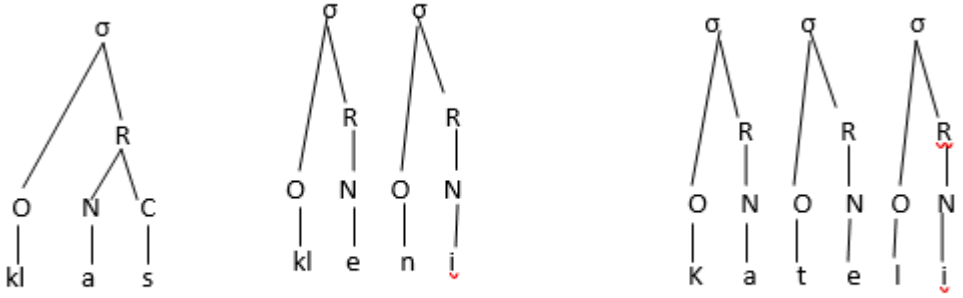
9) a. *klas an-mouf*
glass 3Sg-drop
'the glass dropped.'

b. Na *Simon na-mouf kateli*
ART NAME 3Sg-drop-ϕ scissors
'Simon dropped the scissors'

c. Na *Simon na-mof-u kleni*
ART NAME 3Sg-drop-CAUS ring
'Simon dropped the ring'

d. Na *Simon na-mof-u klas*
ART NAME 3Sg-drop-CAUS glass
'Simon dropped the glass'

e. Na *Simon na-mouf bol*
ART NAME 3Sg-drop-ϕ ball
'Simon dropped the ball'



1. 2. 3.

The information above indicates that if the syllable begins with a double voiceless sound after the verb, the vowel /u/ at the end of *namouf* is required.

b. Vowel addition

This process is shown in the following verb *tup* 'sleep' data.

10) a. *Oli n-tup*
younger brother 3Sg-sleep
'Younger brother sleeps.'

b. *Au u-tup-a oli*
1Sg 1Sg-sleep-CAUSE younger brother
'I make my younger brother sleep.'

For example, *tup* means "sleep," and *fen* means "wake up." Adding/a/ is limited to intransitive verbs with three sounds in a single syllable. This phenomenon arises because sentences in Dawan are read aloud rather than word by word. Due to phonological interference, data (10 a) must be spelt ol in tup rather than as it is written; otherwise, it will be read *au-u-tu-po-li*. Data (10 b) requires adding the vowel /a/ to the verb *tup*. The sentence will be spelt *au-u-tu-pa-o-li* after adding the vowel /a/.

c. Sufiks –b (and its variations)

In their earlier research, Tarno (1991:53) and Reteg (2002:122) found that the suffix -b is a causative marker. The two researchers claim this suffix is attached to state, action, and numerals. The usage of the suffix -b as a causative marker is shown in the data below.

11) *Ho mu-suse-b kau* (Reteg, 2002)
2Sg 2Sg-sad-CAUSE 1Sg
'you make me sad.'

The author evaluated both the distribution and use of the data provided by Reteg above. As a result, it is equivalent to the suffixes -u and -a, which are merely a sound harmony and not the causative marker. Additionally, the author discovered two variations of this suffix: *-ab* and *-ba*.

12) a. *Au u-sae-b/ba pena neu pana*
1Sg 1Sg-rise-CAUSE corn PREP loft
'I put the corn on the corn loft.'

b. *Au u-sanu-ʔ pena nako pana*
1sg 1Sg-down-CAUSE corn PREP loft
'I take the corn down from the corn loft.'

The distinction between the two data points above is that the suffix -b is allowed for the verb sae but not for the verb *sanu*. The verb *sanu* can sometimes be changed into the metathesis form *saun*. The suffix -b or -ba is added to complete the syllabic pronunciation, making reading as u-sa-eb or u-sae-ba possible. It differs from *usanu* even without an additional sound because it already complies with the phonological rule.

d. Consonant mutation

There is a prefix-like in the Dawan language that carries a causative meaning, and at the same time, it derives an adjective to the verb as follows.

13) a. *Oe ma-putu*
water hot
'hot water

b. *Mama n-haput oe*
mother 3Sg-CAUSE-hot water
'mother heats water

Data b illustrates the causal process, wherein the adjective *maputu*, meaning "hot," in 13a is changed to *haput*, meaning "heat." The adjective *maputu*, "hot," has a phonological process whereby its initial sound, /h/, becomes *haput*, which means "to heat." Because the following sentence is grammatically incorrect, it should be noted that the verb *nhaputu* is not derived from the root *putu*.

14) ** *Oe putu*
water hot
'hot water

Other adjectives in the Dawan language that begin with *ma-* such as *manikin* 'cold', *manuan* 'wide', *malin* 'happy', and *ma'kafa* 'light'. These words cannot be separated from their root, so the causative process is done by the consonant mutation, where /*m*/becomes/*h*/.

CONCLUSION

The discussion concludes that various forms of causative construction in the Dawan language include affixation, complex sentences, adding causer argument, and verb serialisation. Since affixation is described as a phonological variation in this analysis, a closer examination of affixation is necessary.

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