

535 Assignment 11

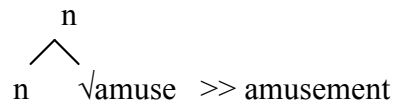
Harley, l-syntax

Due: Tues, Feb. 24

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1. *Harley claims, following Kratzer, that external arguments are added to roots by a separate projection in the syntax. What is the importance of the example "Opus's amusement of Ronald-Ann"? (2-3 sentences)*

The functional head introducing the external argument is crucially a verbal head. Thus even though the verb *amuse* always has CAUSE, its nominalization cannot have it since little *v* is impossible in a nominal environment and the Agent/Causer cannot be projected.



2. *The causative morpheme -sase- in Japanese exhibits an effect familiar from our discussions of inflectional morphology, when it's a **lexical** causative. What is this effect?*

Blocking of CAUSE by a more specific form: if there is a VI that is the closest match in features, it will block the elsewhere form -(s)*ase-*. We observed the same effect in English plural forms, *-en* being more specific than the elsewhere *-z*.

3. *For Hale and Keyser, unaccusative verbs have no additional verbal projection in l-syntax; only causative verbs do. What fact about Japanese unaccusative variants of causative verbs does Harley point to to argue that this is incorrect?*

Unaccusative variants of causative verbs have a separate morpheme (*-ar-* in *ag-ar-u* 'rise') which cannot be accounted for, unless unaccusative verbs have a functional projection with say a BE head. This form disappears when lexical CAUS is present, but it surfaces when the syntactic/analytic causative *-sase-* is added, proving that *-ar-* is present not just to ensure the well-formedness of the structure.

4. *(Cryptic argumentation bonus question: no need to attempt it if you don't want to): If a PDS account like that of Miyagawa 1989 tried to explain the unavailability of lexical causatives of unergative verbs like waraw- via Blocking, it would be led into a paradox. Why?*

The formation of the unergative *waraw-* from *DO-waraw* must take place after PDS, since the blocking of **waraw-ase* happens at PDS, but the formation of other lexical causatives like **koe-sase* 'enrich' should take place before PDS to ensure that they are blocked by existing transitive forms (*koyas*). Thus word formation is predicted to occur both before and after PDS >> a paradox.