TWO VALENCY-INCREASING PROCESSES IN SHESHATSHIT

INNU-AIMUN:

APPLICATIVE AND CAUSATIVE FORMATION

BY

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Abstract

In this thesis, I will examine applicative constructions and causative constructions in Innu-aimun, the Central Algonquian dialect spoken in Labrador, Canada, using the theoretical framework of generative grammar.

Innu-aimun applicative constructions display syntactic properties comparable to, for example, applicatives in Swahili (Bantu) and Tzotzil (Mayan). The theory, developed in the work of Baker (1988), that Case Parameterization may account for these similarities will be explored. Baker (1988) proposes that the number and the type of Cases available in any given language is determined by a three-way parameter. The syntactic properties displayed by structures derived by valency increase, such as applicative and causative constructions, and the proposed Case parameter setting are interdependent. The theory of Case Parameterization is therefore relevant to both types of construction examined in this thesis.

I shall show that morphological causative constructions can only be derived from intransitive verbs and that applicative constructions, on the other hand, can only be derived from transitive verbs. I propose that Case availability may account for these restrictions.

Acknowledgements

List of Figures

List of Abbreviations

1	First person
2	Second person
3	Third person
3'	Obviative third person (verbal agreement)
non3	Non-third person (ie. first or second)
AI	Animate Intransitive verb
AIfin	Animate Intransitive verb final
AGR	Agreement
ASP	Aspect
an	Animate
APP	Applicative morpheme
CAUS	Causative morpheme
CONJ	Conjuct
COT	Cognate-object Transitive verb
dim	Diminutive suffix
EP	Epenthetic 't'
II	Inanimate Intransitive verb
IIfin	Inanimate Intransitive final
inan	Inanimate
IO	Indirect object
LOC	Locative
NP	Noun Phrase
O	Object
OBJ	Object Agreement
OBV_INAN_SG	Obviative inanimate singular nominal
OBV_INAN_PL	Obviative inanimate plural nominal
pl	Plural
POSS	Possessive suffix
PROX_SG(inan)	Proximate singular inanimate nominal
PROX_SG(an)	Proximate singular animate nominal
PROX_AN_PL	Proximate animate plural nominal
S	Subject
sg	Singular
SUB	Subject Agreement
TA	Transitive Animate verb (Animate subject and object)
TAth	Transitive Animate verb theme sign
TI	Transitive Inanimate verb (Animate subject, Inanimate object)
TIth	Transitive Inanimate verb theme sign
Tmorph	'T' morpheme
TIth	Transitive Inanimate theme sign
V	Verb

Contents

Chapter 3 APPLICATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS DERIVED FROM TRANSITIVE
INANIMATE VERBS

Chapter 4 THE APPLICATIVE CONSTRUCTION DERIVED FROM PSEUDO-
TRANSITIVE VERBS AND COGNATE-OBJECT TRANSITIVE VERBS

Chapter 5 THE THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF VALENCY INCREASE

Chapter 6 CONCLUDING REMARKS