

Analytical voice marking as a P-demotion strategy: Synchronic and diachronic insights

Among several P-demotion strategies that have been described in the typological literature, it is presumably the antipassive that has received the most attention to date (cf. Janic and Makarevich 2021). Among the main features of prototypical antipassives, the following have been mentioned: valency reduction, A promotion to S, P-demotion to a peripheral argument (flagged by a non-core case marker), loss of the index on the verb, presence of a voice marker (Zuñiga and Kittila 2019: 103). Regarding voice marking, synthetic rather than analytical patterns dominate cross-linguistically. Consequently, little attention has been given to the analytical voice marking in the literature.

The present study aims to fill this gap, focusing on the brief analysis of constructions that are based on analytical verbal forms. They form complex predicates ('V1+V2'), where the V2 element is a light verb with a detransitivizing force. Pertinent examples have been found in Indo-Aryan (IA) (1). In (1b), the initial A argument loses the ergative flagging. Hence, it becomes S. It also gets verb indexation. In contrast, the initial P loses the verb indexation. We cannot see any change in P flagging, so only verb indexation formally indicates P demotion.

1) Hindi

a. (Hindi Web 2021 accessed on 15.01.2024)
gāy ne kuch nahi̯ khāyā
cow.NOM.M.SG ERG nothing eat.PAST.M.SG
'A cow did not eat anything.'

b. (Hindi Web 2017 accessed on 15.01.2024)
gāy pôlîthīn khā gaī
cow.NOM.F.SG polythene.NOM.F.SG eat go.PAST.F.SG
'A cow ate polythene.'

Such constructions depart from canonical antipassives as they do not satisfy all criteria mentioned above and have been analyzed under one umbrella of non-prototypical or antipassive lookalikes (Zuñiga and Kittila 2019: 104).

Based on our typological survey, which included 56 languages belonging to all major macroareas, we could observe that i) analytical valence-changing markers involved in non-prototypical antipassives are indeed very rare (also found in some Australian languages where verbal classifiers may contribute to valency reduction leading to the loss of P indexation (e.g. Worrora (Clendon 2014: 331)) and that ii) they display very diverse behavior.

Our typological survey will further be supported by a diachronic analysis of analytical markers in IA in order to offer a possible scenario of their emergence from converbal constructions. This part of our study will be based on the analysis of diachronic corpora of early varieties of NIA languages (Jaworski 2014). Specifically, we will explore the development of V1 transitive and V2 intransitive verbal complexes (as in (1)), which have been attested from the early NIA period.

Clendon, Marc. 2014. *Worrora a language of the north-west Kimberley coast*. Adelaide: University of Adelaide Press.

Janic, Katarzyna and Alena Witzlack-Makarevich. 2021. 'The Multifaceted Nature of Antipassive Constructions'. In *Antipassive: Typology, Diachrony, and Related Constructions*, edited by Katarzyna Janic and Alena Witzlack-Makarevich, 1–39. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Jaworski, R. 2014. http://rjawor.vm.wmi.amu.edu.pl/wiki/index.php/Main_Page

Zúñiga, Fernando, and Seppo Kittilä. 2019. *Grammatical Voice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.