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**REGULATIONS ON USE**

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This website and the materials herewith supplied have been developed by members of the Language and Cognition Department of the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics (formerly the Cognitive Anthropology Research Group). In a number of cases materials were designed in collaboration with staff from other MPI departments.

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**Background**

The field manuals were originally intended as working documents for internal use only. They were supplemented by verbal instructions and additional guidelines in many cases. If you have questions about using the materials, or comments on the viability in various field situations, feel free to get in touch with the authors.

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## 8. Intransitive Predicate Form Class Survey

Eve Danziger, FGKA, summer 1995.

You are being asked to fill in the following questionnaire as best you can. The questionnaire asks how the Stative, Inchoative and Agentive possibilities of the best-translation equivalents of a set of English predicates are encoded in your field language. Which aspect-causative type(s) are basic and which derived, for a given predicate? How in particular, is encoding of the Inchoative accomplished? Does the Inchoative pattern independently of other aspect-causative types? Or does it pattern like the Stative? like the Agentive?

For each English original, there is room for two translation equivalents to be filled in, if necessary (e.g. in case you can't decide between two translations of "fly": one for insects and one for birds). This is not intended to preclude the possibility that there might be three (or more) relevant translation equivalents. Feel free to add more predicates where you feel that it is necessary or interesting. On the other hand, it may be that in many cases, there is only one relevant form and that the "English Original" and that the "English Gloss" column are filled in identically. If you cannot fill in one or more slots (no translation equivalent, or for example no Agentive possibility exists, in a given case) simply note this fact on the form and continue.

In order to fill in the column "Aspect-Causative Type", apply the following characterizations (modified from Talmy 1985, p 145, who cites Chafe 1970. See also of course, Vendler 1967, Dowty 1979, Foley and Van Valin 1984):

- (A) STATIVE: "a body or object is in a state non-causatively, or else an animate being self-agentively maintains itself in the state" *Being in a state*  
 (B) INCHOATIVE: "a body or object comes into a state non-causatively, or else an animate being self-agentively gets itself into the state" *Getting into a state*  
 (C) AGENTIVE "an agent puts a body other than its own, or some other object, into a state". *Putting X into a state*

The questionnaire asks you to circle the underived forms which express any of the three "aspect-causative types". Talmy (1985: 87) provides the following diagram which illustrates the role of derivation across the three types for English, Japanese and Spanish. Talmy claims that in English, the Stative is underived ("sit") while the Inchoative is derived ("sit" + "down"), and so is the Agentive ("make" + "sit" + "down"). Whether or not one agrees with his analysis of English (to me and many others, "sit down" is as good a Stative as an inchoative, and vice versa for plain "sit") the principle of distinction between derived and underived members of the set is clear.

Table 2.5. Lexicalization patterns for verbs of posture (v = verb root, SAT = satellite, PP= past participle inflection)

	be in a posture	get into a posture	put into a posture
English:	v	v+SAT	v + CAUS + SAT
Japanese	'be' +v + PP	v	v ++ CAUS
Spanish	'be' + v + PP	v + REFL	v

## EXAMPLE OF COMPLETED ROW:

<u>LANG-SPECIFIC FORMS</u>		<u>ASPECT-CAUSATIVE TYPES</u>			
ENGLISH ORIGINAL	TRANS. EQUIV.	ENGLISH GLOSS	STAT. (BE IN)(GET IN)	INCHOAT. (PUT IN)	AGENT.
go	<u>go</u>	/	<u>be gone</u> 1)	<u>be going</u> 1)	<u>make</u> <u>go</u>
				2) <u>go</u> 2)	disappear (tr.)

*circle the underived forms*

## Intransitive Predicate Form Class Survey

Eve Danziger, FGKA, summer 1995, in consultation with Sotaro Kita, Steven Levinson, Eric Pederson and David Wilkins.

Language \_\_\_\_\_ Researcher \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Comments on Research Circumstances \_\_\_\_\_

LANG-SPECIFIC FORMSASPECT-CAUSATIVE TYPES

ENGLISH ORIGINAL	TRANS. EQUIV.	ENGLISH GLOSS (BE IN)	STAT. INCHOAT. (GET IN)	AGENT. (PUT IN)
		<i>circle the underived forms</i>		

go

---



---

ascend

---



---

enter

---



---

exit

---



---

leave

---



---

arrive

---



---

open

---



---

fall

---

---

boil

---

---

grow

---

---

melt

---

---

break

---

---

explode

---

---

breathe

---

---

laugh

---

---

spit

---

---

die

---

---

stretch

---

---

bend

---

---

lie down

---

---

sit down

kneel

stand

get up (out of bed)

remain

be inside

be on top

be straight

be blind

fly

dance

swim

walk

---

---

run

---

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Others of interest?

## Comments on and Discussion of Intransitive Predicate Form Class Survey

Eve Danziger

Talmy (1985) claims that the three "aspect-causative types" form a cross-linguistic continuum -- at least for verbs encoding human postures -- such that, although some languages encode all three differently, and some languages conflate two or even all three of these "aspect-causative types" in encoding them (cf. English, where "I am sitting" is ambiguous as to Stative or Inchoative reading), no language will encode Stative and Agentive forms alike, while encoding the Inchoative differently. The Inchoative "aspect-causative type" always lies in the middle of a continuum, with Statives on one side of it and Agentives on the other.

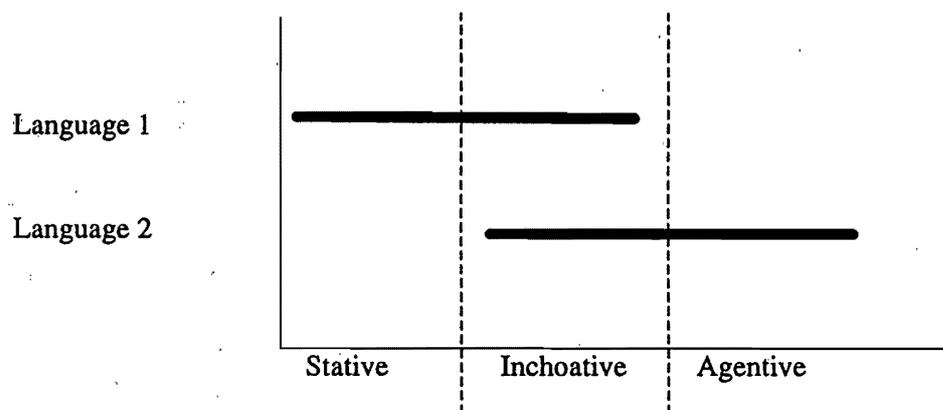
i.e. Talmy predicts that (at least for posture verbs):

- i. There are languages which encode all three "aspect-causative types" with a single general morpho-syntactic and/or lexical form.
- ii. There are languages which encode the three "aspect-causative types" with three different morpho-syntactic and/or lexical forms.
- iii. There are languages which encode the Inchoative and the Stative "aspect-causative types" with a single morpho-syntactic and/or lexical form, but the Agentive with a different form.
- iv. There are languages which encode the Inchoative and the Agentive "aspect-causative types" with a single morpho-syntactic and/or lexical form, but the Stative with a different form.
- v. There are NO languages which encode the Stative and the Agentive "aspect-causative types" with a single morpho-syntactic and/or lexical form, but the Inchoative with a different form.

The data from this survey will help to answer the following cross-linguistic questions:

1. Does Talmy's generalization hold true at least for posture verbs? (See also the more detailed "Posture Verb" survey).
2. Is the generalization that the Inchoative occupies a mid-point on the continuum between Stative and Agentive applicable to predicates other than posture verbs?
  - 2a. Are there identifiable groups of predicates which have distinctive patterns with respect to the encoding of "aspect-causative types" within one language? Are "posture verbs" one such group? Conversely, do all or most predicates within a language show similar patterns with respect to this variable?
3. Can we characterize groups of languages according to their coding of the Inchoative? For Posture verbs? For other verbs?

If the generalization holds true that the Inchoative occupies a middle ground between the Agentive and the stative, and that one group of languages exist which encodes the Inchoative like the stative, while another group encodes the Inchoative like the Agentive, we will be in a position to make a "linguistic relativity" argument like that of Lucy (1992). Speakers of languages in the first group might be expected to think about changes of state in terms of the end-result (resulting in Japanese "enter" type intuitions?? -- see ENTER/ EXIT survey), while speakers of languages in the second group might be expected to think about changes of state in terms of the change itself (resulting in Tamil "kill" type intuitions??? -- see Event Realization Survey).



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