

# CAUSATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS IN JAVANESE

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## Abstract

This paper aims at analyzing causative constructions found in Javanese. The data were taken from low register of Javanese spoken in Malang, a city in eastern part of Java Island through observation and note taking techniques. Furthermore they were analyzed descriptively against theory of causative construction by Kroeger (2004). The result showed that three types of causative construction: lexical, analytical and morphological causatives exist in Eastern Javanese.

*Keywords: causative, lexical, analytical, morphological, Javanese*

## I INTRODUCTION

There are various relationships between arguments within a sentence. One of the relationships is named causative construction. In this construction, the subject becomes agent that causes an event to occur that affect the object of the sentence. Causative construction can be realized by using verbs with meaning to cause something or by marking verbs with causal morpheme.

Causative construction is found in many languages. The construction is found in Indonesian, a language from the same language family, consider the following examples from Indonesian:

1. Ibu mem-bersih-kan Sayuran  
Mother Caus-clean-Caus Vegetables  
“Mother cleaned the vegetables” (Sukarini, 2015)
2. Kakak me-nyebab-kan Adik Sedih  
Older sibling Caus-cause-Caus little sibling Sad  
“Older sibling caused little sibling to be sad” (Sukarini, 2015)

Sentence (1) and (2) illustrate causative construction in Indonesian. Suffix *-kan* is attached to verbs which gives the causative effect. In sentence (1) causative construction is build by using only one predicate *membersihkan* ‘clean’, while in sentence (2) there are two predicate *menyebabkan* ‘cause’ and *sedih* ‘sad’. The previous study shows that causative construction is also found in Central Javanese. This paper attempts to analyze the causative in Javanese spoken in Malang, East Java.

### 1.1 CAUSATIVE CONSTRUCTION

Kroeger (2004) mentions that causative “describe semantically complex situations in which one event causes another.” The term to name a process of

“cause to X”. The characteristics of this process is presence of one of the following entity: causer which is the actor that conducts the activity X, the causee which is the entity to which the action X occurs and the ‘caused event’ which is the action X.

There are three types of causative constructions (Comrie, 1989; Kroeger, 2004), they are:

1. Periphrastic or analytic is name given to causative construction which uses two verbs. This type of causatives found in English:  
The Mayor caused my cat to die. (Kroeger, 2004)
2. Lexical Causative involves the use of verbs that their lexical meaning is causing an event. In English, there are verbs which have the cause as part of its lexical meaning such as kill, cut destroy and wash (Kroeger 2004, Haspelmath, 2008)
3. Morphological refers to causative meaning that is formed through morphological process.

Morphological causative shows addition of argument which leads to increase in valency. “The semantic valence of the causative verb will always be one greater than the valence of the base verb” (Kroeger, 2004:193).

Haspelmath (2008) divides verbs in causative constructions into two categories: plain verbs and causal verbs. Causal verbs are verbs denoting causing subevent and a resulting situation. The other category, the plain verbs denoting only the resulting situation of the causal verb. Examples for the plain verb category are: verb *kawaku* from Japanese which means ‘become dry’, laugh, and *wanu-chi* from Quechua which means ‘kill’. Whereas, the causal verbs includes: *kawak-asu* ‘make dry’, make laugh and *wanu-chi-chi* ‘make kill’.

Previous research shows that causative verbs can be derived from transitive and intransitive roots. For sentence with causative verbs derived from intransitive roots, usually the causee is the direct object. While the causative verbs derived from transitive roots, the root’s patient is realized as either OBJ2 or OBL. In addition, the theme of ditransitive root is realized as object. (Baker in Kroeger, 2004).

Related to the above, Haspelmath (2008) proposes universal rule regarding causative. The universal rule mentions that if a language has causative verbs derived from transitive root, then it also has causative verbs derived from intransitive roots.

Discussion part of this paper presents analysis of data based on the above aspects of causative construction.

## 1.2 CAUSATIVE CONSTRUCTION IN JAVANESE

Previous study on causative in Javanese was done by Subiyanto (2013) who analyze analytic causative in Central Javanese. In his paper, he mentions two types of causatives in Central Javanese, the analytical and morphological, with the following examples:

- |    |     |          |             |        |
|----|-----|----------|-------------|--------|
| 3. | Adi | Nggawe   | ibu-ne      | Seneng |
|    | Adi | Act-made | mother-poss | Happy  |

“Adi make her mother happy”.

4.     Adi     nyeneng-ake     ibu-ne  
        Adi     made-Caus     mother-Poss

“Adi made her mother happy”.

Sentence (3) above is the example of analytic causative found in Central Java. While sentence (4) shows morphological causative construction by using suffix – *ake*. This study shows that causative construction exist in Javanese. Discussion in a later part of this paper also show that causative construction are also found in East Javanese and also how causative construction in East Javanese is different to one found in Central Javanese.

## II MATERIALS AND METHOD

Data in this paper are sentences that contains causative construction of low register of Javanese (Ngoko) taken from speakers of Javanese spoken in Malang by using elicitation. The data is described descriptively using theory by Kroeger (2004).

## III RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Generally, causative construction is characterized by the presence of causer that cause an event and causee which is an entity to which the event is affected.

### 3.1 ANALYTIC CAUSATIVE IN MALANG JAVANESE

The characteristic of analytic causative is that the cause event is shown by two verbs. The sentences below demonstrates the analytic causative in Javanese.

(3-1) Panganan iki Nggawe arek iku loro.

Food that Made child that Sick

“This food caused that child to be sick”

(3-2) Masalah ikunggara-i Bapak ngamuk.

Problem thatCause Father Angry

“This problem caused father to be angry”

The sentences above show two verbs in every sentence that cause an event to occur. In sentence (3-1) the verbs are *nggarakno* ‘cause’ and *loro* ‘sick’. While in sentence (3-2) the verbs are *nyebabno* ‘cause’ and *ngamuk* ‘angry’.

### 3.2 LEXICAL CAUSATIVE

There are verbs in Javanese that mean to cause an activity which belongs to lexical causatives. The verbs includes *nutup* ‘close’ (to cause something close), *ngobong* ‘burn’, *ngadem* ‘to cause something to be cool’

Bapak nutup lawang

Father Close Door  
 “father closed the door”

(3-3) Wong sing demo ngobong ban.  
 People who demonstrated burnt Tire  
 “People who demonstrated burnt tires”

(3-4) Aku Kate ngadem.  
 I Will cool down  
 “I will cool down”

The sentences above shows causative relationship between causer and cause. The causer are: father, wong sing demo and aku; the causer are lawang and ban.

### 3.3 MORPHOLOGICAL CAUSATIVE

Morphological Causative in Javanese is realized by suffix *-no* and *-i*. Verbs used in the construction can be derived from transitive or intransitive verbs. As mentioned in part 2 of this paper, there are languages that show morphological verbs derived from intransitive root.

#### 3.3.1 MORPHOLOGICAL CAUSATIVE DERIVED FROM INTRANSITIVE ROOTS

The following are sentences which verbs are derived from intransitive roots.

(3-5) Putra Guyon  
 Putra had fun  
 “Putra had fun”

(3-6) Putra ng-guyon-i adik-e  
 Putra Act-had fun with-Caus little sibling-poss  
 “Putra had fun with his little sibling”

(3-7) Penjahat-e mati  
 Criminal-Det died  
 “The criminal died”

(3-8) Polisi iku mate-ni penjahat-e  
 Police that kill-Caus criminal-Poss  
 “That policeman killed the criminal”

(3-9) Tamu-ne m(p)ecah-no piring  
 Guess-the broke-Caus plate  
 “The guess broke the plate”

(3-10) Adik ngrusak-no dulinan

Little sibling      damaged-Caus      toy

“Little sibling damaged the toy”

All causative verbs above are derived from intransitive verbs, and after the causative process the verb can take additional argument Object. Arguments in the subject position are the actors which causes the event that affect the arguments in the object position. The sentences also show that all the causee are direct object. This confirms Baker’s generalization (in Kroeger, 2004).

The use of suffix to form morphological causative is similar to strategy found in Central Javanese; although suffix which is used in Central Javanese is –ake.

### 3.3.2 MORPHOLOGICAL CAUSATIVE VERBS DERIVED FROM TRANSITIVE ROOTS

Sentences below demonstrate morphological verbs in Javanese that are derived from transitive roots.

(3-11) Pak Guru              mbukak lawang      kelas

Mr Teacher              Opened door      class

“Mr. Teacher opened the class door”

(3-12) Pak Guru              mbukak-no              murid      lawing      kelas

Mr Teacher              open-Caus              Students door      class

“Mr. Teacher opened the students class doors”

The sentences above show causative verbs derived from transitive roots. The causee in sentence (3-11) is Object 2. This also confirms Baker’s generalization (in Kroeger, 2004).

Malang Javanese shows causative verbs derived from intransitive roots as well as transitive roots. This agrees with Haspelmath universal rule of deriving causative verbs as mentioned in part 2 of this paper.

## IV CONCLUSION

Three types of causative constructions are found in Malang Javanese, they are: lexical, analytic and morphological. For morphological causative Malang Javanese shows similar strategy to Central Java in deriving morphological causative verbs, which is by using suffix. However, the suffixes employed by Malang Javanese are –i and –no. This is different with suffix –ake which is used in Central Javanese.

Causative verbs can be derived from intransitive or transitive roots which confirms the rule proposed by Haspelmath (2008). The change of argument structure after the causative morphological process agrees to Baker’s generalization.

It is suggested to analyze morphological causative verbs with a larger data. Specially to draw the parameter for the use of suffix –i and –no.

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