

CAUSATIVE VERBS IN MANIPUR

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ABSTRACT

This paper studies on causative verbs in Manipuri, a Tibeto-Burman language. It is an agglutinative language uses affixes to make causative verbs. In Manipuri causative verbs are formed by attaching the suffix **-hɔn~hɔl** to the verb root. There are two types of causative verbs in Manipuri namely productive and non productive types of causative. The marker **-hɔn~hɔl** is the only marker of both productive and non productive types. The causative suffixes are related to the corresponding verb roots.

Keywords: Affixes, causative, productive and non productive.

1. INTRODUCTION

Causative is a term used in grammatical description to refer to the causal relationship between alternative versions of a sentence ((David, 1985). Causative verb information is that add a new argument that represent a notional causer (Palmer, 1994). Besides, there is (i) marking on the verb (whether morphological or periphrastic), (ii) the addition of a causer in the subject position, (iii) demotion of other arguments and (iv) a causal meaning. A causative situation is without question semantically relevant to the verb, since it affects the event or state of being directly. Causative meanings are often signaled by bound morphemes, e.g. *red* 'cause to be red'. However, a causal situation is often understood rather differently from the literal combination of V + causal (Hopper and Traugott, 2008).

Causative forms are of two types namely morphologically regular and productive forms, and non-productive forms which are morphologically irregular. Productive causative constructions involved either the use of auxiliary causative verbs or the use of affixes (Yashawanta, 2000). With the concept of the above modern linguists, this paper presents that Manipuri causative verbs are made by suffixation **-hɔn~hɔl** to the verb root as described in the following sections.

2. CAUSATIVE VERBS IN MANIPURI

Manipuri is an agglutinative language and has both productive and non productive types of causatives form. Causative verbs are formed in Manipuri by attaching the suffix **-hɔŋ~hɔl** to the verb root.

This marker is the only marker of causation for both productive and non productive types. The causative markers **-hɔn-hɔl** indicates that some action is initiated by one person and carried out by another. These two types of causatives namely, Productive and non productive are discussed below.

2.1. Productive

It is the type of morphological causatives. There is much evidence that the T.B. languages (Tibtan, Kachin, Buremese, Lisu, Radha etc.) once had a highly developed morphological process of forming causative forms. Maintaining the process of regularity for forming causative verbs in T.B. Manipuri has still a uniform strategy for forming causative from all kinds of non causative verbs. All verbs (intransitive and transitive) form their corresponding morphological causatives by suffixing the causative marker **-hɔn-hɔl** directly to the root. When **-hɔl** is attached to the verb root directly than followed by aspect markers as shown in (1) to (4) of the following way.

[Verb root + Causative marker (-hɔl) + Aspect]

- (1). ɔy-nɔ ma-bu ca-hɔl-y
I-nom. he-acc. eat-cau.-asp.simp.
'I make him eat'
- (2). ɔy-nɔ ma-bu pa-hɔl-li
I-nom. he-acc. read-cau.-asp.prog.
'I am making him read'
- (3). ɔy-nɔ p^hi-du ɲaŋ-hɔl-le
I-nom. cloth-det. red-cau.-asp.perf.
'I made that cloth red'
- (4). mɔ-nɔ ɔy-bu kɔp-hɔl-gɔni
he-nom. I-acc. cry-cau.-asp.un.
'He will make me cry'

The causative suffix marker **-hɔn** is attached to the verb root than the benefaction suffix marker **-bi** is needed and followed by the aspect marker. Without the suffix **-bi** the causative **-hɔn** is not matching to their respective aspect markers as shown in (5) to (8) of the following way.

[Verb root + Causative marker (-hðn) + benefaction marker (-bi) + Aspect]

(5). mð-nð ðy-bu tðm-hðn-bi-ri
 he-nom. I-acc. learn-cau.-ben.-asp.prog.

'He is making me learn'

(6). ðy-nð ma-bu ta-hðn-bi-ni
 I-nom. he-acc. listen-cau.-ben.-asp.simp.

'I make him listen'

(7). ðy-nð ca-du lon-hðn-bi-re
 I-nom. tea-det. prepare-cau.-ben.-asp.perf.

'I made that tea prepare'

(8). mð-nð ðy-bu cðt-hðn-bi-gðni
 he-nom. I-acc. go-cau.-ben.-asp.un.

'He will make me go'

This formation is a regular process. So this type of causation is called productive forms and also morphologically regular.

2.2. Non- Productive

It is the type of lexical causation. Manipuri has some suppletive pairs of simple causative verbs as shown below.

si-bð	'to die'	hat-pð	'to kill'
ca-bð	'to eat'	pijð-bð	'to feed (solid food)'
t ^h ðk-pð	'to drink'	pi-t ^h ðk-pð	'to feed (liquid)'
yeŋ-bð	'to see'	ut-pð	'to show' etc.

The causative marker **-hðn - hðl** can be suffixed to these pairs. Here an interesting one is that the meanings are not equal: addition of **-hðn - hðl** to the causative verb gives one meaning, but without the

causative marker the meaning is another as shown in (9) a. & (9) b.

- (9) a. m̄h̄ak-n̄ð tomb̄ð si-h̄ðl-li
 he-nom. tomba die-cau.-asp.simp.
 'He has caused Tomba death'

- (9) b. m̄h̄ak-n̄ð tomba hat-h̄ðl-li
 he-nom. tomba kill-cau.-asp.simp.
 'He has caused (Tomba) killed by someone'

The above sentence (9)a. is the subject as well as the agent of being died of 'Tomba' while (9)b. is the subject but not the agent of killing. In other words, 'he' hired someone to kill Tomba, indirectly related with the action but not directly. So, lexical causatives are very irregular that is why they are classed as unproductive forms.

3. CONCLUSION

In Manipuri causative verbs are formed by suffix **-h̄ðn~h̄ðl** to the verb root. Causative verbs are of two types namely productive and non productive types. Productive type is of morphological causation and non productive type is of lexical causation. The marker **-h̄ðn~h̄ðl** is the only marker of both productive as well as non productive types. Morphological causations are regular while lexical causatives are very irregular. Simply the causative suffix **-h̄ðl** is attached to the verb root with aspect markers while **-h̄ðn** is attached to the verb root than the benefaction suffix marker **-bi** is needed and followed by the aspect marker. Without the suffix **-bi** the causative suffix **-h̄ðn** is not appropriate to their respective aspect markers.

ABBREVIATIONS

acc.	accusative
asp.	aspect
asp.perf.	perfect aspect
asp.prog.	progressive aspect

asp.simp.	simple aspect
asp.un.	unrealised aspect
ben.	benefactive marker
cau.	causative
det.	determiner
nom.	nominative

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