

Passives in Distributed Morphology

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Pick 16

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Office hours: Thursdays 2-3pm. Location TBA.

Course description:

In a syntacticocentric morphology, morphological operations must obey what Koontz-Garboden (2010) called the Monotonicity Hypothesis: syntactic and semantic functors can be added, but not deleted, by morphological processes. In fact, there are only two ways in which a morpheme realizing the head of a terminal node in the syntax can affect the argument structure of the clause in which it occurs: by requiring (or not) a specifier, and/or by selecting for a complement XP with particular properties. These constraints alone entail that VoiceP, the locus of external argument introduction and of passive morphology, must be separate from the vP or VP constituent which includes a verb's internal arguments. Related issues include the role of Voice in the +human requirement on many verbal passives, the dynamicity requirement on many such passives, and the problem of passive morphology on unaccusative and raising predicates. In this course, we will explore these and other issues from a syntacticocentric perspective on the passive, with special attention to data from Italian and Hiaki.

Course requirements:

Pass/Fail grade: Attendance at all lectures, tracked by sign-in sheet, **AND participation at least once on discussion board on coursesite.**

Letter grade: Writing assignment.¹

If you have enrolled in this course and wish to receive a grade other than pass/fail, you must complete a writing assignment. The assignment is to write between 500 and 1000 words on passives or a related topic, due on July 31, 2015. Possible structures include:

- a) summary of or response to the discussion of a question that came up in class*
- b) a summary of one of the readings in any of the three supplemental folders of readings in the 'Content' section of the course (Varieties of Voice, Impersonals and Anticausativization).*
- c) A sketch of an original research project on passives. This could be a (very) short squib or a longish abstract (like a NELS abstract) of a larger project.*

DO NOT EXCEED 1000 WORDS!

→ I have 5 main papers in mind for you to read for the class, of wildly varying degrees of approachability. Start with the first two pages of Koontz-Garboden's paper on the derived stative (that's all of that paper I want you to look at for the class for now). Then Maling & O'Connor, then Kiparsky, then Bruening. Then the more semantics-oriented papers by Malamud and Lechner. All are on the website. Also see 'Supplemental Readings' section below for additional suggestions in case you're bored.

¹ If you can't attend all lectures, you can do the writing assignment instead.

Lecture 1

Syntax all the way down, compositionality, and monotonicity
How to spot a passive according to Kiparsky, Maling, Bruening
Syntactic ways to 'eliminate' an argument & the relevance of impersonal arguments, reflexivization, Voice, Case

Lecture 2

Hiaki passives: Impersonal
Hiaki passives: Personal
Differentiating null impersonals from passives: Malamud, Koenig
Hiaki syntax, case, etc.

Lecture 3

A unified approach to -wa
Reflexivization: -wa vs -tevo
-wa on unaccusatives

Lecture 4

The right answer to -tevo and unselective binding
Wrap-up: Typologies, bundling

Readings (available on website)

Lectures 1-2:

0. Pages 286-287 only of Koontz-Garboden, Andrew. 2011. The lexical semantics of derived statives. *Linguistics and Philosophy*, 33: 285-324.
1. Maling, Joan and Catherine O'Connor. 2015. Cognitive Illusions: Non-promotional passives and unspecified subject constructions. In Ida Toivonen, Piroska Csúri, and Emile Van Der Zee, eds., *Structures in the mind: Essays on Language, Music and Cognition in honor of Ray Jackendoff*. Cambridge: MIT Press.
2. Kiparsky, Paul. 2013. Towards a null theory of the passive. *Lingua* 125, 7-33.
3. Bruening, Benjamin. 2013. By-phrases in passives and nominals. *Syntax* 16.1, 1-41.

Lectures 3-4:

4. Malamud, Sophia A. 2013. (In)definiteness-driven typology of arbitrary items. *Lingua* 126, 1-31.
5. Lechner, W. 2012. Towards a theory of transparent reflexivization. Ms. University of Athens.

A few supplemental readings—not for now, for later: Download from site before August 5

Null impersonals:

- Jaeggli, O. 1986. Arbitrary Plural Pronominals. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 4.1 43-76
- Williams, Alexander. 2012. Null Complement Anaphors as definite descriptions. *Proceedings of SALT 22*: 125–145, 2012
- Koenig, J-P and G. Mauner. 2000. A-definites and the discourse status of implicit arguments. *Journal of Semantics* 16. 207-236.
- ter Meulen, Alice G. B. Dynamic definite descriptions, implicit arguments and familiarity. In M. Reimer and A. Bezuidenhout, eds, *Descriptions and beyond*. pp. 544-557. Oxford: OUP.

Variations on Voice

- Legate, Julie Anne. 2015. *Voice and v: Lessons from Acehnese*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Schafer, Florian. In prep. Medio-passives within a formal typology of Voice. <http://ifla.uni-stuttgart.de/institut/mitarbeiter/florian/papers/mediopassives.pdf>
- Bruening, Ben. Word Formation is Syntactic: Adjectival Passives in English. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 32: 363-422.
- Bruening, Ben and Thuan Tran. In prep. The Nature of the Passive, with an Analysis of Vietnamese. Ms, University of Delaware. <http://udel.edu/~bruening/Downloads/VietnamesePassives5.pdf>
- Wood, Jim and Alec Marantz. In prep. The interpretation of external arguments. <http://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/002487>.

Other syntacticocentric approaches to passive:

- Baker, Mark, Kyle Johnson, and Ian Roberts. 1989. "Passive arguments raised." *Linguistic Inquiry* 219-251.
- Collins, C. (2005). A smuggling approach to the passive in English. *Syntax* 8(2), 81.
- Gehrke, B., & Grillo, N. (2009). How to become passive. *Explorations of phase theory: Features, arguments, and interpretation at the interfaces*, 231-268.

Reflexivization, anticausativization:

- Koontz-Garboden, A. (2009). Anticausativization. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 27(1), 77-138.
- Schäfer, F., & Vivanco, M. (2013). Reflexively marked anticausatives are not semantically reflexive. Talk at Going Romance, University of Amsterdam. Paper in prep, available at <http://ifla.uni-stuttgart.de/institut/mitarbeiter/florian/papers/going%20romance.pdf>