

- Title: **Transitivity of Resultative Verbs and Word Order Typology**
- Category: **oral/poster**

Resultative Serial Verb Constructions (RSVCs) can be found in many languages. RSVCs generally consist of an action verb (V1) and a resultative verb (V2). One key syntactic characteristic is the sharing of internal argument by the two verbs (Collins, 1997). This paper focuses on the relationship between the transitivity of resultative verbs (V2) and word order typology.

As shown in (1), both Mandarin Chinese and Yoruba are VO languages where V1 is followed by V2. (1a) differentiate itself from (1b) by the position of internal arguments. Both V2s are unaccusative but V2 in (1a) is argued to be shelled by a causative *v*P (R. Sybesma, 1999; R. Sybesma & Shen, 2006). Comparatively, V2 in the Jingpo language of (2a) is affixed by a causative morpheme *ja-*. The dropping of the morpheme leads to ungrammaticality (2b). Besides of Jingpo, other OV languages such as Korean also select a transitive verb as their V2 (Lee, 1996).

- (1) a. Zhangsan tui dao le Lisi.
 Zhangsan push (V1) fall (V2) ASP Lisi
 Zhangsan pushed Lisi down. (Mandarin Chinese)
- b. Femi ti Akin subu.
 Femi push (V1) Akin fall
 Femi pushed Akin down. (Yoruba, Lord, 1974)
- (2) a. Palong hkrut ja-hpro kau sai.
 clothes wash(V1) CAUSE-be.white(V2) AUX 3SG(Subj)PERF
 He made the clothes white by washing.
- b. *Palong hkrut hpro kau sai.
 clothes wash(V1) be.white(V2) AUX 3SG(Subj)PERF
 He made the clothes white by washing. (Jingpo, Peng & Gu, 2006)

In this paper, we argue for Principles of Resultative Verbs (PRV) shown in (3). (3a) shows that the syntactic order of V1 and V2 in VO/OV languages remain the same. (3b) rules out the intransitivity of resultative verbs in OV languages. We further argue that V2 being transitive is a remedy to keep syntactic derivation away from crashing.

- (3) **Transitivity Constraint of Resultative Verbs (TCRV)**
- a. **Iconicity Condition:** the resultative verb (V2) always follows the action verb (V1) in VO and OV languages;
- b. **Transitivity Constraint:** The resultative verbs can be unaccusative or transitive in VO languages, but only transitive in OV languages.

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