Class discussion: Baker (1985) — Interpreting examples and argumentation
W Feb 8

- Note #1: Think of the questions raised in this class discussion handout as examples of the kinds of questions it's very useful to ask yourself when you read a linguistics paper. In particular, try to pay attention to:
    - How do we 'read' the formal notation that the author is using or proposing?
    - Why is a particular language example being shown? How does it fit into the author's argument? (And does it support the argument as well as the author thinks it does?)

- Note #2: In a RR, if you plan to discuss a data example from the article, you must GIVE THE DATA EXAMPLE before you can talk about it. Include the morpheme-by-morpheme glosses and the more "naturalistic" translation, if provided (or if you can supply them).

(1)   How do we 'read' this GF rule?

> (12) *Passive*
>
> NP1 VERB NP2 → NP2 VERB — NP1
> subj   obj   subj   obj obl

(2)   How does the (English) Passive GF rule in B's ex (12) relate to the following examples?

> (8) a.   The cats chase the mouse every day.
>   b.   The mouse is chased by the cats every day.
>
> (9)   NP1   VERB   NP2   —   —
>   subject   object i-object oblique . . .
>
> (10) NP2 VERB —   — NP1
>   subj   obj i-obj obl

(3)   Here are some examples of agreement rules. How do we 'read' these? Are either of these rules found in English? If so, what features are involved in the agreement?

> (13) a.   NP1^i VERB^i NP2 NP3   (subject agreement)
>   subj   obj obl
>   b.   NP1 VERB^j NP2^j NP3   (object agreement)
>   subj   obj obl

(4)   Does the relative order between a certain GF rule and an agreement rule potentially matter? Why might this be important in discussing the Mirror Principle?

- What is the relative order between Subject Agreement and Passive in English?

(5)   What does it mean to say that
- Rule 1 *feeds* Rule 2?
- Rule 3 *bleeds* Rule 4?

(6) Chamorro: Why is this example shown? What does it illustrate?

(17) a. Si Juan ha#dulalak si Jose.
         PN Juan 3sS-follow SN Jose
         'Juan followed Jose.'
     b. D-in-ilalak   si Jose as Juan.
           pass-follow PN Jose obl Juan
         'Jose was followed by Juan.'

(7) Chamorro: Can you relate the stated Causative Rule to the data in B's (19)–(20)?

(18) *Causative (Chamorro)*

NP1 V (NP2) . . . → NP3 V NP1 (NP2) . . .
subj   obj   subj   obj obl

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(19) Ha#na'-maipi si Maria i hanum.
     3sS-caus-hot PN Maria the water
     'Maria heated the water.'
(20) Ha#na'-taitai ham   i ma'estru ni esti na lebblu.
     3sS-caus-read 1pex-obj teacher obl this   book
     'The teacher made/let/had us read this book.'

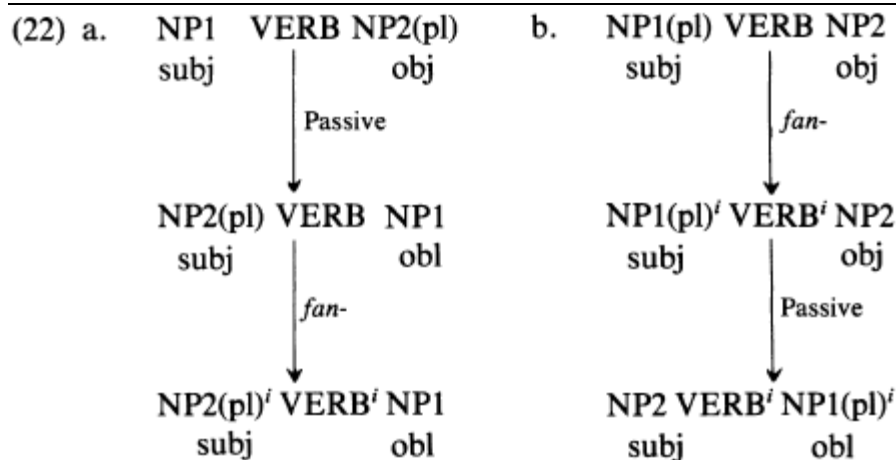(8) Chamorro: Can you relate the stated Number Agreement Rule to the data in B's (15a)?

(16) *Number Agreement (Chamorro)*

NP1 VERB . . . → NP1^i VERB^i . . .
subj   subj

Condition: Nothing fills the object slot.

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(15) a. Man-dikiki'.
         pl-small
         'They are small.'

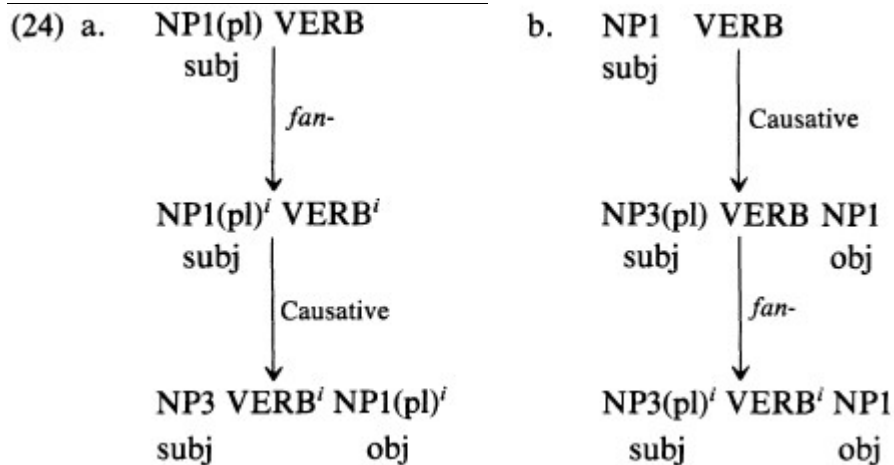(9) Which of these derivations is the correct one for the Chamorro passive in B's (15b)?
     • What is the evidence from morphology?
     • What is the evidence from syntax?

(15) b. Para#u#fan-s-in-aolak i   famagu'un gi as tata-n-niha.
         irr-3pS-pl-pass-spank the children obl father-their
         'The children are going to be spanked by their father.'

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(22) a. NP1 VERB NP2(pl)   b.   NP1(pl) VERB NP2
         subj   obj   subj   obj

              │ Passive   │ fan-
              ↓   ↓

         NP2(pl) VERB NP1   NP1(pl)^i VERB^i NP2
           subj   obl   subj   obj

              │ fan-   │ Passive
              ↓   ↓

         NP2(pl)^i VERB^i NP1   NP2 VERB^i NP1(pl)^i
           subj   obl   subj   obl

(10) Which of these derivations is the correct one for the Chamorro causative in B's (15c)?
- What is the evidence from morphology?
- What is the evidence from syntax?

(15) c. Hu#na'-fan-otchu siha.
         1sS-caus-pl-eat   them
         'I made them eat.'

(24) a. NP1(pl) VERB   b. NP1   VERB
            subj | subj |
                  | fan- | Causative
                  ↓   ↓
         NP1(pl)ⁱ VERBⁱ   NP3(pl) VERB NP1
            subj | subj   obj
                  | Causative | fan-
                  ↓   ↓
         NP3 VERBⁱ NP1(pl)ⁱ   NP3(pl)ⁱ VERBⁱ NP1
            subj   obj   subj   obj

(11) What would be the correct derivation for this Chamorro example containing both a passive and a causative as well as agreement? Why?

(25) Hu#na'-fan-s-in-aolak i famagu'un gi as tata-n-niha.
      1sS-caus-pl-pass-spank children obl father-their
      'I had the children spanked by their father.'

(12) Baker claims that the Mirror Principle makes the following predictions.
- Why?
- How is this diagram related to the rest of the discussion in sec 3?

(27)   Syntax   Morphology
   a.   +   agreement with semantic GFs   agreement is closer to V
   b.   *   agreement with semantic GFs   GF-morpheme is closer to V
   c.   *   agreement with surface GFs   agreement is closer to V
   d.   +   agreement with surface GFs   GF-morpheme is closer to V

(13) Any other data examples from the Baker paper you particularly want to discuss?