

# CAUSATIVIZATION IN NYAH KUR

JAROON Gainey

## 1. Introduction

A way of expressing the idea of causing somebody to do something, or making something be as desired, is commonly found in language. Such an idea is generally called causativization.

Causativization in this paper will be defined as the process of making causative sentences which have features as follows:

1. A sentence which states that two events happen in sequence in time and are related to each other as "causing" and "caused" events.
2. A sentence that can be an answer to "What did X do to Y?" (in order to change the state of Y in either physical or mental condition)
3. A simple transitive sentence in which a prefix was added to an intransitive verb; that prefix expresses causative meaning.
4. A complex sentence that has paa? 'make' or ?uær (?uəl) 'have someone do something' as the main verb of the sentence.

## 2. Work on Causativization in Nyah Kur

As far as I know, only Payau (1979:145) has done research on causative sentences in Nyah Kur. Payau applied tagmemic grammar to her analysis. Her findings (Payau, 1979:145) can be shown in the formula given below:

$$C1 \text{ caus} = \pm C:np \pm P1:VP_{\text{caus}} \pm O:np + P2: \begin{cases} \text{kul} & \pm S:np \pm P3:VP/\text{reduced} \\ \text{?uəl} & \text{clause} \end{cases}$$

From the formula, we can conclude that only P2 is obligatory; the other five tagmemes are optional. The first tagmeme (causer:C), which functions as subject of the sentence, is a noun phrase (np); this is followed by the first predicate position which is filled by a causative verb; then comes the object position followed by the second predicate position, followed by the subject position (subject of the subordinate sentence), followed by the third predicate position. For example (Payau, 1979:145):





### Syntactic processes

Causative sentences obtained by the syntactic process are formed by using /páaʔ/ or /ʔuér/ as main verbs of the sentence, on the condition that:

--if the main verb to be causativized is an action or an action-process verb, we can use /páaʔ/ or /ʔuér/. The subject of /páaʔ/ and /ʔuér/ will be in the agentive case; for example:

ròt	<u>páaʔ</u>	péep	kəđóot	dáak
car	make	grandfather	jump	water
[agent]				

'The car made Grandfather jump into the water'.

phàa	<u>ʔuér</u>	ncíiʔ	thriəp
father	have (get)	younger brother	run
[agent]			

'Father made younger brother run'.

--if the main verb of the sentence is a process verb, we can only use /páaʔ/. The subject of /páaʔ/ in this case will be either in the agentive or the instrumental case; for example:

ɲìn	<u>páaʔ</u>	cháaŋ	kəcét
he	make	chicken	die
[agent]			

'He killed the chicken'.

hãy	<u>páaʔ</u>	namkhén	lajlàaj
sun	make	ice	melt
[instrument]			

'The sun melted the ice'.

When we compare the two processes of causativization, we notice that both processes express the fact that two events happen in sequential time and the first event is the cause of the second. But there are still differences: the agent of the morphological process is the direct causer of the second event while the agent of the syntactic process is the indirect causer.

## NOTES

\*This paper is part of my M.A. thesis presented to Chulalongkorn University. I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Pranee Kulavanijaya and Dr. Theraphan L. Thongkum my advisors, for their kind assistance and helpful advice and many thanks also go to Mr. Nut Yuenjaturat and Mrs. Luam Yuenjaturat my major informants.

## REFERENCES

- Chafe, Wallace L. 1970. Meaning and the Structure of Language. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Longacre, R.E. 1976. An Anatomy of Speech Notions. Lisse: Peter De Ridder Press.
- Theraphan L. Thongkum. 1980. Register without Tongue Root. Paper presented at the 15th International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics, Beijing, PRC.
- Payau Memanas. 1979. A Description of Chaobon (Nyah Kur): An Austroasiatic Language in Thailand. Bangkok: Mahidol University, MA thesis.

Received 1988

c/o Mr. Jerry Gainey  
English Dept.  
Kasetsart University  
Bangkok, Thailand