Causative Constructions and Control in Toba Batak

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1. General Remarks on Causative Constructions

According to Shibatani (1976) there are two conditions to have two events constitute a causative situation: the "caused event" is believed to be realized after the time of the "causing event". And the speaker believes that there is dependency of the caused event from the causing event; the caused event would not have taken place without the causing event.

Givón (1980) proposed a 'semantic binding scale' defined in terms of influence by the manipulator, independence on the part of the manipulatee and the degree of manipulation. Higher binding on the binding scale comprises stronger influence by the manipulator, less independence on the part of the manipulatee, and stronger manipulation.

One of the basic attempts to systematize causation is Comrie's (1981) concept of a causative continuum divided into analytic (periphrastic), morphological and lexical formations.

As Haiman (1983) illustrated for a number of languages, the formal distance between the expression of cause and the expression of effect—from least to greatest: synthetic or lexical, agglutinative or morphological, analytic, periphrastic—corresponds to the conceptual distance between cause and effect.

2. General Information on Toba Batak

Toba Batak is a West Austronesian and a West Indonesian language spoken in central North Sumatra by about 2 million speakers. They inhabit the area of the island of Samosir and the east, south and south-west of Lake Toba. They possess a script of their own which is influenced by the Devanagari alphabet since many religious and cultural terms are influenced by Sanskrit, but the language is now written only in Latin characters. The Hindu-Buddhist maritime empire of Srivijaya with its capital in southern Sumatra obviously had influenced the Toba Batak region too. Toba Batak is one of the important regional languages in Indonesia, and it is one of five Batak languages spoken in North Sumatra with five major subdialects of its own.
Phonologically, Toba Batak's Indian heritage can be seen as well in diverse sandhi-rules. There is a strong predominance of disyllabic lexemes; however, there are monosyllabic lexemes too. Morphologically Toba Batak is strongly agglutinative. It uses affixes to build verbs and nouns from simple bases. There is no basic verb-noun differentiation. About 20 affixes are known for verb formation, mostly prefixes and infixes. The intransitive verbs can be differentiated into stative and active verbs. Toba Batak is a predicate-initial language; the word order is VAO or VOA. It mainly uses object-orientated constructions like most Indonesian-Malay and most Austronesian languages.

3. Causative Constructions in Toba Batak

Here I try to show by which constructions Toba Batak expresses causative situations and explore if and how the formal distance between the expression of cause and the expression of effect represents the degree of semantic binding between cause and effect.

There exist morphologically irregular, nonproductive forms that are referred to as lexical causatives. These generally express manipulative causation: the causer physically manipulates a nonvolitional causee for the effect of the caused event.

As an agglutinative language Toba Batak uses affixes for the morphologically regular and productive forms of causation. The causee here is often but not always involved as a volitional entity directed by the causer. Morphological causative expresses directive causation. Toba Batak has analytic causatives too. They are formed by causatives verbs as bahan 'make'.

3.1 Transitive Constructions

The intransitive verb can be active or stative. A prefixed ma-, mang-, mar-, f.i., marks the active; a prefixed m-, um-, tar-, f.i., marks the stative intransitive verb in Toba Batak.

\[\begin{align*}
mar= & \text{dalan ahu} & 'I walk' \\
mang= & \text{huling ho} & 'you speak' \\
m= & \text{odom namboru} & 'aunt sleeps' \\
tar= & \text{songgot ibana} & 'he/she is terrified'
\end{align*}\]

There are several derivational processes to form transitive verbs as ha-, maN-, pa-, par- + root, or root + -hon, -i. As Schachter (1984)
investigated for transitive verbs, there is an actor-trigger prefix *maN*- and a non-actor-trigger prefix *di-* on the basis of the semantic roles. With a *maN*- verbal construction the external NP is the actor, with a *di-* verbal construction the external NP is never the actor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb-Constr.</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>maN</em>- + Verb</td>
<td>UNDERGOER-ACTOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>di-</em> + Verb</td>
<td>ACTOR-UNDERGOER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1a. *MaN*=urat surat i si Tigor  
    +AT-write letter DEM PNM Tigor

1b. *Di*=surat si Tigor surat i  
    -AT-write PNM Tigor letter DEM

Both versions read 'Tigor writes the letter'.

3.2 Causative Constructions

Causative constructions in Toba Batak are either lexical or morphological or analytic.

3.2.1 Lexical Causatives

There are lexical causative verbs such as *tipa* 'squeeze', *buha* 'open', *bunu* 'kill', *hona* 'be affected'.

2a.  *di*=tipa ibana lasina i  
    +AT-squeeze 3SG pepper DEM  
    'he/she squeezes the pepper'

2b.  *di*=bunu halak i  
    -AT-kill man DEM  
    'he/she kills the man'/the man is killed'

2c.  *hona* udan boru i  
    be affected rain woman DEM  
    'the woman is affected by the rain'
The lexical causatives show low interpersonality. Interpersonality is low when the participants or the affected one do not have volition or control or are not self-movable or not human.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>V Constr</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>CAUSE</th>
<th>PAT</th>
<th>CONTROL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Verb</td>
<td>CAUSE-PAT</td>
<td>nat. force</td>
<td>+/--anim</td>
<td>+CAUSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+AT-Vb</td>
<td>PAT-CAUSE</td>
<td>nat. force or + human</td>
<td>or +CAUSE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-AT-Vb</td>
<td>CAUSE-PAT</td>
<td>+ human</td>
<td>+/--anim</td>
<td>+CAUSE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.2.2 Morphological Causatives

Grammars of Toba Batak generally regard the prefix *pa*- as the causative affix, 'to cause someone/something to be in a condition, place, posture, etc'. However, we find *pa*- in different functions:

- *pa*- + intransitive verb means reciprocity or intensity;
- *pa*- + numeral + *-hon* makes ordinal numbers;
- *pa*- + numeral, *pa*- + noun means distribution;
- *pa*- + imperative means explicit plural;
- *pa*- is also possible in instrumental function as in *pa=*si=eme 'money to buy rice' compared to *ma=*si=eme 'to buy rice'

Besides, the intransitive verb with prefixed *pa*- is often used to represent a voluntary act as *pa=*surut 'to move oneself backward deliberately' in contradiction to *s=*um=urut 'to retreat unwillingly'. Or, as the following example shows, *pa*- serves to build a transitive verb: *donok* 'near', *pa=*donok 'to approach'. The original function of *pa*- is locative, indicating the movement to a final goal. This is altogether on the way to become a vehicle for causative constructions, as well as *pa*- indicating reciprocity and intensity is on the way to indicate a causative relation between two participants.

3. *di=*pa=*donok ma tu si Kondar*
   -AT-CADS-near EMPH DIR PNM Kondar
   'he/she approaches Kondar'