PATIENT SUBJECT CONSTRUCTIONS IN THAI[1]

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this study is to explain how the grammar provides the way for the Patient to appear as a subject in Thai. To begin with, I would like to introduce the terms that are related to this topic. They include Agent and Patient case relations and the characteristics of transitivity as well.

1.1. Agent and Patient

In an accusative language, the grammatical subject occurs in a preverbal argument position. The grammar makes available the construction in which the subject is identified. Dixon (1972) states that there are two grammatical terms to identify a subject. One is an Agent, "the entity that initiates the action," the other is a Patient "the entity that undergoes the action."

Within the lexicase analysis, one of the constructions that allow an Agent to occur as a subject is a transitive clause, e.g., *Mary ate some ice-cream.* The example of a Patient subject is an intransitive clause, e.g., *The apple rotted.*

1.2. Transitivity and a subject choice hierarchy

The occurrence of an Agent is important in determining the transitivity. That is, a clause is transitive if there is an Agent; if not it is intransitive (Starosta 1982). Fillmore identifies the rank of a possible subject in relation to case relations under the notion of subject choice hierarchy. That is, when there is an Agent, it is a subject; when there is no Agent, the subject is an Experiencer, or an
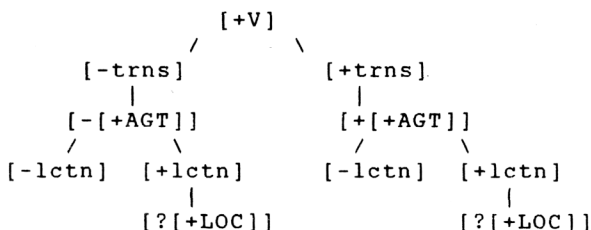

Instrument, or an Object, or a Source, or a Goal, respectively (Fillmore 1968:24).

Thai also follows this tradition. That is, when there is an Agent, it is always a subject. If there is no Agent, there is only one way for a Patient to be a subject in Thai, and that is for it to appear with an intransitive verb.

2. Subclassification of verbs

Within a lexicase analysis, verbs can be subclassified into two main subclasses: transitive and intransitive. A transitive verb requires an Agent, whereas the intransitive verb does not. Transitive and intransitive verbs can also be further subcategorized into two subclasses: locational and non-locational (Starosta 1982, Sayankena 1985, Pagotto 1988).

```
                    [+V]
                   /     \
           [-trns]        [+trns]
              |              |
          [-[+AGT]]       [+[+AGT]]
          /     \         /      \
    [-lctn]   [+lctn]  [-lctn]   [+lctn]
                 |                   |
            [?[+LOC]]           [?[+LOC]]
```

Example of locational intransitive verbs:

```
1.  dek       nOOn      plee
    child     sleep     hammock
    |PAT |    |-trns|   LOC
    |actr|    |-lctn|
    'The child slept in the hammock.'
```

Example of non-locational intransitive verbs:

```
2.  phyng     bin
    bee       fly
    |PAT |    |-trns|
    |actr|    |+lctn|
    'The bees flew.'
```

Example of locational transitive verbs:

```
3.  mxx       say       kung     nay   tuuyen
    mother    put       shrimp   in    refrigerator
    |AGT |    |+trns|   PAT            LOC
    |actr|    |+lctn|
```

`Mother put some shrimp in the refrigerator.

Example of non-locational transititive verbs

```
4.  puk       ?àan      kaatuun
    Puk       read      comics
    |AGT |    [-trns|   PAT
    |actr|    |+lctn|
    `Puk is reading comics.'
```

In addition to the two subclasses of locational and non-locational verbs, intransitive verbs in Thai can be further subcategorized into five subclasses (cf. Sayankena 1985:137):

a. Intrinsic intransitive verbs require a subject Patient case relation, and do not require other nouns to cooccur with them. They include action verbs, such as *dèèn* `walk', *wing* `run', *lôm* `fall', and stative verbs, such as *sabaay* `convenient', *suèy*[1] `to be beautiful', *yáp* `wrinkled', and *kaw* `old' as in the following examples:

```
5.  nakrièn   dèèn      rew
    student   walk      fast
    |PAT |    [-trns]
    |actr|
    `Students walk fast.'
```

```
6.  phaa   chin         nii    suèy
    cloth  classifier   this   beautiful
    |PAT |                     [-trns]
    |actr|
    `This piece of cloth is beautiful.'
```

2. Correspondent intransitive verbs ([-trns, +crsp]) require complements marked with the Correspondent case relation to cooccur with them, such as *nak* `be heavy', *myyn* `resemble', e.g.,

```
7.  rièn      nak       sip    kram
    coin      weigh     ten    gram
    |PAT |    |-trns|          COR
    |actr|    |+crsp|
    `The coin weighs ten grams.'
```

---

[1] Following Savetamalya (1989:72-76), *suèy* is treated as a stative verb not an adjective.

```
8.   naa    th@@   myyn       daaraa
     face   she    resemble   movie star
     |PAT |         |-trns|    COR
     |actr|         |+crsp|
     'Her   face looks like a movie star.'
```

The intransitive verbs in (7-8) are different fro
transitive verbs. That is, a **transitive** verb requires
an immediate following noun which is marked with a
Patient case relation and the **noun** can be topicalized,
as in 9b. On the contrary, the immediate following
noun of an intransitive verb which is marked with a
correspondent case relation cannot be topicalized, as
in 10b:

```
9a.  chán   ?aan     nangsyy   nii
     I      read     book      this
     |AGT | [+trns]  PAT
     |actr|
     'I read this book.'
```

```
9b.  nangsyy   na?     chan    ?aan    lxxw
     book      TOPIC   I       read    already
     PAT               |AGT |  [+trns]
                       |actr|
     'The book, I already read it.'
```

```
10b. *sip   kram    na?     ri@n    nak
     ten    gram    TOPIC   coin    weigh
            COR             |PAT |  |-trns|
                            |actr|
```

   3. Locational intransitive verbs ([-trns, +lctn]
require complements marked with the Locus case relatio
to cooccur with them, such as *nang* 'sit', *nOOn* 'sleep'

```
11.  khruu     náng     kaw?ii
     teacher   sit      chair
     |PAT |    |-trns|  LOC
     |actr|    |+lctn|
     'A teacher sat on the chair.'
```

```
12.  dek     nOOn     plee
     child   sleep    hammock
     |PAT |  |-trns|  LOC
     |actr|  |+crsp|
     'A child slept in a hammock.'
```

   4. Mode [+mode] intransitive verbs require
complements marked with **the Means case** relation to
cooccur with them. The complements are marked with th

prepositions *duëy* and *dooy* 'with, by', and have a meaning related to materials, rather than instruments, e.g.,

13. kaw?ii tuë nii hum duëy phaa may
    chair clsf this cover with cloth silk
    |PAT | |-trns| MNS
    |actr| |+mode|
    'This chair is covered by using silk cloth as material.'
    '*This chair is covered with silk cloth.'

    5. Extension intransitive verbs require a sentential complement to cooccur with them. The complements can be either finite or non-finite. The finite complement occurs with the prepositional complementizers *waa* 'that'. These kinds of verbs can be called informative extension verbs ([-trns, +xtns³, +nfrm]), e.g., *khit* 'think', *bOOk* 'tell', or *sabaan* 'promise'.

14. phOO   khit   waa fon ca?   tOk
    father   think   that rain will   fall
    |PAT | |+xtns | [+P]   [+fint]
    |actr| |+[+fint]|
    'Father thought that it would rain.'

The example of extension intransitive verbs occurring with a non-finite complement is *chuëy* 'help':

15. nong   chuëy   tham kaanbáan
    Nong   help   do   homework
    |PAT | |-trns | [-fint]
    |actr| |+xtns |
            |+[-fint]|
    'Nong helped doing the homework.'

    2.1. Patient centrality hypothesis and lexical derivation

    This section emphasizes the concept of a Patient following a lexicase analysis. According to the <u>Patient centrality hypothesis</u> (Starosta 1988:128), every verb has a Patient and an actor in its case frame. In accusative languages, the subject is always an actor, and the Patient can be assigned to either the subject of an intransitive verb or the object of a

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³ [+xtns] (extension) in a lexicase grammar refers to a word which takes a [+prdc] (predicate) complement.

transitive verb. If the verb is transitive, the
subject is an Agent . If the verb is intransitive, the
subject is a Patient. In this case, the transitive and
intransitive verbs are related.

The relatedness of the verbs in the sets as well
as their systematic semantic differences can be
accounted for in accordance with the Patient Centrality
hypothesis by means of lexical derivation rules, such
as the following:

```
┌ +V    |      >-->      ┌ +V     |
| +trns |               | -trns  |
| -lctn ┘               | -lctn  |
                        ┕ -crsp  |
```

The rule states that an intransitive verb, which
does not take an Agent, an inner Correspondent or an
inner Locus as its sisters is derived from a transitive
verb, which requires an Agent case relation but does
not take an inner Locus as its dependent sister. Since
all verbs have a Patient and since the Patient must be
the subject if there is no Agent in the case frame, the
application of the rule results in the appearance of
the transitive Patient as a subject of the
coressponding intransitive verb, e.g.,

a. dek   kin   khanóm   nii
    child   eat   dessert   this
    AGT   [+trns]   PAT
    'The child ate this dessert.'

b. khanóm   nii   kin   ?arOOy
    dessert   this   eat   delicious
    PAT   [-trns]
    'This dessert is delicious to eat.'

The derivation process is non-productive. Non-
productivity refers to the situation where some item
meets the structural description of a rule but does not
undergo it. If the rule does not apply to certain
well-defined sets, they can be excluded from the
structural description.

Some sets of transitive verbs do not have
intransitive counterparts, such as, a verb allowing a
correspondent case, or a locational verb. The examples
are as follows:

1a. naa   ?ǔm   dèk
     Na   carry   child
     ⌈AGT ⌉   ⌈+trns⌉   PAT
     ⌊actr⌋   ⌊-lctn⌋
     'Na carried the child.'

1b. *dek   ?ǔm
     child   carry
     |PAT ⌉   ⌈-trns|
     |actr| |-lctn|
              ⌊-crsp⌋

2a. khruu   sòng   còtmǎay   hǎy   nók
     teacher send   letter   give   Nok
     ⌈AGT | ⌈+trns| PAT
     ⌊actr⌋ |+lctn|
     'The teacher sent the letter to Nok.'

However, there is no intransitive locational
counterpart, e.g.,

2b. *còtmǎay sòng   hǎy   nók
     letter   send   give   Nok
     |PAT ⌉   ⌈-trns| LOC
     ⌊actr⌋   ⌊+lctn|

The sentence (2b) is grammatical if *cotmaay* is
interpreted as a topicalized noun, in which the subject
noun can be inserted, e.g.,

3.   còtmǎay   chǎn   sòng   hǎy   nók   lxxw
     letter   I   send   give   Nok   already
     'The letter, I already sent to Nok.'

There is a mode transitive verb, from which a mode
intransitive verb can be derived, e.g.,

4a. khǎw   húm   bàw?   dú@y   phǎa
     he   cover   cushion   with   cloth
     ⌈AGT | ⌈+trns⌉   PAT   MNS
     ⌊actr⌋ |+mode|
              |-lctn|
     'He covered the cushion with some cloth.'

4b. bàw?   húm   dú@y   phǎa
     cushion   cover   with   cloth
     ⌈+PAT⌉   ⌈-trns⌉   MNS
     |+actr| |+drvn|
               |-lctn|
               ⌊-crsp⌋
     'The cushion was covered with cloth.'

Since the mode intransitive verb is derived from
the transitive counterpart, the Means case relation is
included in the case frame, but need not be included in
the derivation rule. On the other hand, the Locus and
Correspondent (represented by [lctn] and [crsp]) case
relations are included.

Having discussed the subclasses of intransitive
verbs which take Patient subjects within a lexicase
analysis, I shall now turn to discuss alternate
strategies and mechanisms for expressing non-subject
Patients as subjects in Thai.

3. Derivation

There is only one way for a Patient to be a
subject in Thai, and that is for it to appear with an
intransitive verb through derivation rules.

3.1. Derivations focused on an Agent

The first type of derivation rules focuses on the
Agent's role. The Agent can be affected either by
being demoted or subtracted from the case frame,
thereby the grammar allows the Patient, which remains
the same to appear and function as a subject. There
are two types of derivations that affect the Agent.
One is called an Agent demotion, the other is an Agent
subtraction. These derivational processes follow a
fixed Patient strategy[4], in which the original Patient
is unaffected in the process of deriving an
intransitive verb from a transitive source (cf.
Starosta 1988:164).

3.1.1. Agent demotion

Agent demotion is a strategy in which an Agent
subject of a transitive verb is reinterpreted as a
Means. This results in a changing of transitivity of a
verb root into an intransitive form. The morphological
form of the derived intransitive verb is unchanged,
(cf. Kullavanijaya 1972, Sayankena 1985,
Prasithrathsint 1985). The appearance of a Means case

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4 The term is originally used by Starosta in
connection with causativization. It is extended here
to account for the Patient-subject constructions in
Thai.

relation requires the prepositions either *dooy* or *duey*
'by, with'. Since the derived verb is intransitive, it
takes the Patient as its subject. A set of verbs that
undergo this strategy is limited to factitive verb, as
in (1-3), not other kinds of verbs, as in (4-5),

```
1a.  wisawakOOn  saang      baan      nii
     engineer    build      house     this
     ⌈AGT  ⌉     [+trns]    PAT
     ⌊actr ⌋
     'The engineer built this house.'

1b.  baan  nii  saang      dooy  wisawakOOn
     house this build      by    engineer
     ⌈+PAT ⌉     ⌈-trns ⌉        MNS
     ⌊+actr⌋     ⌊+mode ⌋
     'This house was built by the engineer.'

2a.  mxxkhrue  tham       ?aahaan  caan        nii
     cook      make       food     classifier  this
     'The cook made this dish.'

2b.  ?aahaan  caan        nii  tham  dooy  mxxkhrue
     food     classifier  this make  by    cook
     'This dish was made by a cook.'

3a.  nakkhien  miichyy  plxx       nangsyy  lem
     writer    famous   translate  book     clsf

     nii
     this
     'A famous writer translated this book.'

3b.  nangsyy lem  nii  plxx       dooy  nakkhien
     book    clsf this translate  by    writer

     miichyy
     famous
     'This book was translated by a famous writer.'

4a.  khaw     tii        maa
     he       hit        dog
     ⌈AGT  ⌉  [+trns]    PAT
     ⌊actr ⌋

4b.  *maa     tii        dooy  khaw
      dog     hit        by    him
     ⌈+PAT ⌉  ⌈-trns ⌉         MNS
     ⌊+actr⌋  ⌊+mode ⌋
```

```
5a.  mxxkhaa     khaay    khaaw
     seller      sell     rice
     `The seller sold some rice.'

5b.  *khaaw    khaay    dooy    mxxkhaa
      rice     sell     by      seller
```

Unlike factitive verbs *saang, tham,* and *plxx* in (1-3),
tii and *khaay* in (4-5) are not factitive verbs.
Therefore the corresponding intransitive clauses in (b)
are ungrammatical.

The original Agents of (1a-3a), *wisawakOOn, mxxkhrue,*
and *nakkhien* are reinterpreted as Means in (1b-3b).
Thus, *baan, ʔaahaan,* and *nangsyy* remain as the Patient
but they are reinterpreted as subjects of intransitive
verbs.

```
     Derivation rule 1:  Agent demotion
          |+trns  ˥    >-->    |¯-trns   |
          |+fctt  |            |+fctt    |
          |n[+AGT] |           |+mode    |
                               |n[+MNS] |
```

This rule states that an Agent of a transitive
verb is reinterpreted as a Means, and also it results
in a derivation of an intransitive verb from a
corresponding factitive transitive verb.

3.1.2. Agent subtraction

In this study, the subtraction involves the
reduction of the number of noun phrase arguments
without requiring any to be reinterpreted. The Agent
of a transitive verb is subtracted, and the Patient of
a transitive verb automatically becomes the subject
Patient of the derived intransitive verb.

There is a potential ([+ptnl]) or resultative
([+rslt]) meaning increment in a Patient subject of a
derived intransitive verb. The additional meaning
shows the semantic feature of being a property or a
result of a verb. Consider the following sentences:

```
     1a.  khaw      dyym      mailoo
          he        drink     Milo
          |AGT |    [+trns]   PAT
          |actr|
          `He drank Milo.'
```

1b. mailoo   dyym   ?arOOy
     Milo   drink   delicious
     |PAT | |-trns|
     |actr| |+pntl|
     'Milo makes a good drink.' or 'Milo is a good
     beverage.'

1c. mailoo   dyym   lxxw
     Milo   drink   already
     |PAT | |-trns|
     |actr| |+pntl|
     'Milo was already drunk.'

2a. nun   sak   phaa
     Nun   wash   clothes
     |AGT | [+trns] PAT
     |actr|
     'Nun was doing the laundry.'

2b. phaa   sak   ngaay
     clothes   wash   easy
     |PAT] |-trns|
     |actr| |+ptnl|
     'The clothes were easily washed.

2c. phaa   sak   lxxw
     clothes   wash   already
     |PAT | |-trns|
     |actr| |+rslt|
     'The clothes were already washed.

     The intransitive verbs *dyym* and *sak* are derived
from their corresponding transitive counterparts in
(a). In (b), the derived verbs carry a potential
feature, whereas in (c), they carry a resultative
feature.

     Not every verb can undergo the Agent subtraction
strategy. The non-affected [-afct] verbs, such as
perceptual or cognitive verbs, e.g., *hen* 'see', *mOOng*
'look at', *fang* 'listen', etc., and mirror-image verbs,
e.g., *myyn* 'resemble' are of this type. The examples
are provided as follows:

3a. khaw   hen   phuying
     he   see   girl
     [AGT | [+trns] PAT
     |actr|
     'He saw some girls.'

```
3b.  *phuuying  hen       ngaay
      girls      see       easy
```

```
3c.  *phuuying  hen       lxxw
      girl       see       already
```

```
4a.  khaw       myyn      mxx
      he         resemble  mother
      |AGT ]  [+trns]   PAT
      |actr|
      'He resembles his mother.'
```

```
4b.  *mxx       myyn      ngaay
      mother     resemble  easy
```

```
4c.  *mxx       myyn      lxxw
      mother     resemble  already
```

The following are examples of more verbs that introduce a Patient subject through the Agent subtraction strategy:

```
5a.  tum        chiik     kradaat
      Tum        tear      paper
      |AGT  |  [+trns]  PAT
      |actr|
      'Tum tore off a piece of paper.'
```

```
5b.  kradaat    chiik     lxxw
      paper      tear      already
      |PAT|      |-trns|
      |actr|     |+rslt|
      'A piece of paper was already torn off.'
```

```
5c.  kradaat   chiik     ngaay
      paper     tear      easy
      |PAT |    |-trns|
      |actr|    |+ptnl|
      'A piece of paper was easily torn off.'
```

```
6a.  dek       khon  nii  txxng    phleeng   keng
      child     clsf  this compose  song      smart
      |AGT |             [+trns]  |PAT  |
      |actr|
      'This child composed songs well.'
```

```
6b.  phleeng   nii  txxng    phrx?
      song      this compose  beautiful
      |PAT |             |-trns|
      |actr|             |+ptnl|
      'This song was composed beautifully.'
```

```
6c.  phleeng  nii   txxng    ngaay
     song     this  compose  easy
     ⌈PAT ⌉         ⌈-trns⌉
     ⌊actr⌋         ⌊+rslt⌋
     'This song was composed easily.'
```

The Patient objects of (5a-6a) *chiik* and *phleeng* become
the Patient subjects of (5b-6c) when the Agents
kradaat, and *dek* are subtracted.

```
Derivation Rule 2:  Agent subtraction
       ⌈+trns⌉   >-->    ⌈-trns⌉
       ⌊+afct⌋           |+ptnl|
                         ⌊+rslt⌋
```

This rule states that an Agent of an affected
transitive verb is subtracted from a case frame. Thus,
it results in an object Patient appearing as a subject
Patient in the derived verb.

3.2. Derivations focused on a Patient

The second type of derivation focuses on a
Patient. The Patient is affected in two ways. That
is, the Patient is added, or it is subtracted. Again,
this kind of derivation affects the property of a verb.
If the original verb is transitive, and the process of
a Patient subtraction is involved, it results in
deriving a corresponding intransitive verb. On the
contrary, if the original verb is intransitive, and the
process of a Patient addition is involved, it results
in deriving a corresponding transitive verb.

The correlation between these two sets of verbs,
transitive or intransitive, related by some lexical
derivations sometimes cannot be clearly described.
There is no absolute answer to determine which
direction the derivation goes, since no morphological
distinction is involved[5].

It could be that an intransitive verb is derived
from a corresponding transitive verb through a Patient
subtraction. Or, a transitive verb is derived from a

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[5] Hopper and Thompson's tests are for semantic
transitivity. They state that semantic transitivity
tends to correlate with grammatical transitivity, but
the correlation is not absolute. For one thing,
semantic transitivity is scalar while lexicase
grammaticality is polar.

corrsponding intransitive verb through a Patient
addition. Let us assume the latter assumption first.

3.2.1. Patient Addition

Consider the following pairs of sentences:

1a. phOO   krot   day ngáay
     father angry   get easy
     |PAT | |-trns|
     |actr| |+ptnl|
     'Father gets angry easily.'

1b. phOO   krot   luuk
     father angry   child
     |AGT] [+trns] PAT
     |actr|
     'Father gets angry at his children.'

The correlation between these two sentences can be
explained along the following lines: The intransitive
verb in (1a) seems to be more basic than the transitive
verb in (1b). Intuitively, emotional verbs (except ra⊬
'to love') do not require a following noun, such as
krot, which does not need to specify whatever or
whoever is the cause of anger. Thus, the intransitive
is more basic. The transitive sentence is related to
the intransitive sentence through the derivation called
Patient addition.

It could be that a transitive verb is derived from
a corresponding intransitive verb through a Patient
addition strategy. For example, the following English
transitive verb in (2b) is derived from the
intransitive verb (2a):

2a. The gun   fired into the crowd.
       |PAT | [-trns]
       |actr|

2b. The troop fired   rubber bullets into the
crowd.
       |AGT | [+trns]   PAT
       |actr|

3.2.2. Patient subtraction

Patient subtraction is a derivation process by
which the original Patient object of a transitive verb
is subtracted from the case frame, thereby requiring

the Agent of the source verb to be reinterpreted as a
Patient subject in accordance with the Patient
centrality hypothesis (Starosta 1982).

```
1a.  khonngaan sáang    dáy   rew  dii
     worker    build    get   fast good
     ⎡PAT ⎤    ⎡-trns⎤
     ⎣actr⎦    ⎣+pntl⎦
     'The workers built (it) really fast.'
```

```
1b.  khonngaan sáang    báan
     worker    build    house
     ⎡AGT ⎤    [+trns]  PAT
     ⎣actr⎦
     'The workers built the house.'
```

On the contrary, the (1a) sentence is conceptually
more basic than the (1b) sentence. The verb *sáang* is
an action verb which requires a Patient object. Thus,
the intransitive verb is the result of a Patient
subtraction.

Consider the following pairs of transitive and
intransitive verbs:

```
2a.  fay     máy     tyk        nii
     fire    burn    building   this
     |AGT |  [+trns] PAT
     |actr|
     'The fire burnt down this building.'
```

```
2b.  fay     máy     nay  tyk        nii
     fire    burn    in   building   this
     ⎡PAT ⎤  [-trns]      LOC
     ⎣actr⎦
     'The fire burnt (something) in this building.'
```

```
3a.  phaayú  thalòm   cangwàt   chumphOOn
     storm   destroy  province  Chumporn
     ⎡AGT ⎤  [+trns]  PAT
     ⎣actr⎦
     'The storm destroyed Chumporn.'
```

```
3b.  phaayú  thalòm   thii  cangwàt   chumphOOn
     storm   destroy  at    province  Chumporn
     ⎡PAT ⎤  [-trns]        LOC
     ⎣actr⎦
     'The storm destroyed at Chumporn.'
```

In both (2a-3a) and (2b-3b), there is a noun
immediately following a verb, one is a full-fledged

noun, the other is a relator noun. The question arises
of how to categorize these verbs. Which one is
transitive and which one is intransitive? Hopper and
Thompson (1980:251-299) proposed some parameters to
justify the degree of semantic transitivity for verbs.
Some criteria can be applied here to test the
transitivity of verbs in Thai. The (a) sentence is
more transitive than the (b) sentence by the following
criteria:

1. The sentence (a) is more telic in aspectuality
than the sentence (b). Therefore, the appearance of an
aspect marker *lxxw* in (b) results in ungrammaticality
of (d), whereas it is grammatical in (c):

2c. fay   máy   tyk   nii   lxxw
     fire   burn   building this   already
     'The fire burnt down this building already.'

2d. *fay   máy   nay   tyk   nii   lxxw
     fire   burn in   building this   lxxw

2. The affected objects of the two sentences are
different. In (2a), the Patient object is affected; it
means 'the building was burnt down', whereas, in (2b)
it was something in the building, not the building
itself, that got burnt. In (a), the object is more
affected; therefore the verb is more transitive than
the one in (b).

Following Hopper and Thompson, the generalization
captured here is that the verb in (a) is transitive,
whereas that in (b) is less transitive or intransitive.
The immediate noun following a verb in (a) is a Patient
noun, whereas the one in (b) is a Locus noun and is
marked by a relator noun *nay*.

4. Conclusion

According to the syntactic structure of Thai,
there is a way in which a non-subject Patient can
appear as a subject through a lexical derivation. When
the process of a lexical derivation occurs, it effects
the transitivity of the original clauses or sentences.
That is, the original transitive construction loses its
transitivity and derives an intransitive counterpart.

The lexical derivation affects either an Agent or
a Patient of an original transitive clause. If the
Agent is affected, there are two derivations involved:

Agent demotion and fixed Patient strategy. If the Patient is affected, it results in the following derivations: Patient addition and Patient subtraction.

Lexicase illuminates how the grammar provides the way for the non-subject Patient to appear as a subject in Thai. It seems that by using different syntactic framework, the result of the analysis may be different. Therefore, the study under this topic is still left open for other syntacticians who would like to do more research using frameworks, other than the lexicase.

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