

Valence Matching in Saliba

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20.8.20

Valence Matching in Complex Verbs

- In Saliba complex verbs, all verbs must be either intransitive or transitive
- **Proposal:** matching results from an operation of type-symmetric Event Composition

Margetts (1999): 99, 103

(1) *intr + intr*

Ye-[kamposi]-[dobi]
3SG.S-jump-go.down
'He jumped down'

(2) *trans + trans*

Ye-[koi]-[kesi]-di
3SG.S-hit-break-3PL.O
'He hit-broke them'

(3) *trans + trans*

Ye-[koi]-[*(**he**)-beku]-∅
3SG.S-hit-CAUS-fall-3SG.O
'He made it fall down'

(4) *trans + trans*

Se-[gabae]-[dobi-*(**ei**)]-∅
3SG.S-throw-go.down-APPL-3SG.O
'He threw it down'

Outline

- 1 Saliba outline
- 2 Valence Matching in Complex Verbs
- 3 Analysis
- 4 Outside Saliba
- 5 Conclusion

General Properties (Margetts 1999)

- Papua New Guinea
- SOV, largely head-final
- Subject + object agreement
- **Fundamental intransitivity:**
most verbal roots require derivation in order to license objects
- **Rigid transitivity:**
transitive verbs must take objects / object suffixes

Valence-changing operations

- **Valence-increasing operations:** applicative (7), causative (8)
- **Valence-decreasing operations:** unproductive

Margetts 1999: 41, 47, 78, 165

- | | |
|--|--|
| (5) <i>intr</i>
Se-dobi
3PL.S-go.down
'They went down' | (6) <i>trans</i>
Ya-kita-di-ko
1SG.S-see-3PL.O-PERF
'I saw them' |
| (7) <i>intr</i> ~ <u><i>trans</i></u> <i>via</i> APPL
a. Ye-bahe
3SG.S-carry
'He carried'
b. Ye-bahe-i-di
3SG.S-carry-APPL-3PL.O
'He carried them' | (8) <i>intr</i> ~ <u><i>trans</i></u> <i>via</i> CAUS
a. Ye-bida
3SG.S-dirty
'It is dirty'
b. Ye-he-bida- \emptyset
3SG.S-CAUS-dirty-3SG.O
'She made it dirty' |

Valence Matching in Complex Verbs

Complex verbs

- Combination of 2-4 verbs, most of which occur independently
- **Compactness:** No material can occur between verbs
- One set of agreement affixes

(9) (*Subject*) (*Object*) AGR_S -[V_1 -...- V_n]- AGR_O

Valence Matching I

- In complex verbs, all verbs must be either intransitive or transitive

Margetts (1999): 99, 103

(10) *intr + intr*

Ye-[kamposi]-[dobi]
3SG.S-jump-go.down
'He jumped down'

(11) *trans + trans*

Ye-[koi]-[kesi]-di
3SG.S-hit-break-3PL.O
'He hit-broke them'

Valence Matching II

- In case of a mismatch, the intransitive verb must be transitivized
- This is achieved via the causative (12) or the applicative (13)
- Matching is never achieved via detransitivization

Margetts (1999): 103, Margetts (2005): 79

(12) *trans + trans*

Ye-[koi]-[***(he)**-beku]- \emptyset
3SG.S-hit-CAUS-fall-3SG.O
'He made it fall down'

(13) *trans + trans*

Se-[gabae]-[dobi-*(**ei**)]- \emptyset
3SG.S-throw-go.down-APPL-3SG.O
'He threw it down'

Valence Matching III

- Both verbs may be derived transitives (14)
- An intransitive V_1 cannot be combined with a transitive V_2 (15)

Margetts (1999): 105, Margetts (2005): 67; Anna Margetts p.c.

- (14) Ya-tupa-[**he**-yoli]-[**he**-gehe]-di
1SG.S-IMPACT-CAUS-sink-CAUS-finished-3PL.O
'I will drown all of them'
- (15) *Ye-[sobu]-[kesi]- \emptyset
3SG.S-dance-break-3SG.O
('She broke it by dancing' (e.g. a table))

Valence Matching in Complex Verbs

Positional slots

- Fixed relative order
- Only V_a must be filled

Margetts (1999, 2005)

	V_a	V_b	V_c	V_d
Typical meaning	main event means	main event result	directionality	manner phasal
# of stems	open	≥ 39	closed, 7	closed, 12
Valence increase	CAUS	CAUS	APPL	APPL CAUS

Table 1: Positional slots in Saliba complex verbs

Contextual transitivity I

- A handful of verbs in the V_d slot cannot be transitive in isolation

Margetts (2005)

Stem	As main V	As V_d	Valence	Valence change
<i>namwa</i>	'be good'	'properly'	intr	APPL, only as V_d
<i>nogowai</i>	'be slow'	'slowly'		
<i>mwamwayau</i>	'be quick'	'quickly'		
<i>uyo</i>	'return'	'back' 'again' REFL / RECIP		

Table 2: Contextually transitive V_d s

Contextual transitivity II

- E.g. *uyo* 'return' (16) and *namwa* 'be good' (17) ban objects in isolation

Note: (16-b) and (17-b) are constructed

Margetts (2005): 75, Margetts (2013): 13

- (16) a. Se-[uyo]-ma
3PL-return-hither
'They came back'
- b. *Se-[uyo-i]- \emptyset
3PL-return-APPL-3SG.O
('They came back to it')
- (17) a. Kana heyatu ne ye-[namwa]
3SG.POSS tattoo DET 3SG-be.good
'His tattoo is good'
- b. *Ye-[namwa-i]- \emptyset
3SG-be.good-APPL-3SG.O
('She did it well')

Contextual transitivity III

- But they must be transitive in the context of a transitive V_{n-1}
- This is always achieved via the applicative, never the causative

- (18) Ta-[he-yoli]-[uyo-i]- \emptyset
1INC.S-CAUS-sink-return/again-APPL-3SG.O
'We again make it sink'
- (19) Ye-[he-kata]-[namwa-namwa-i]-gai
3SG.S-CAUS-learn-RED-good-APPL-1EXCL.O
'She teaches us properly'

- ☞ There is a **mismatch** between a verb's general and specific morpho-syntactic potential
- ☞ **Contextual transitivity**
- ☞ This is a recurring property of Oceanic complex verbs¹

¹(See e.g. Næss & Hovdhaugen (2011) for Pileni, von Prince (2015) for Daakaka.)

Headedness


- V_n determines the object's sortal properties
- E.g. the object of *ini* 'pour' in isolation denotes the thing poured (20)
- But the object of the complex verb in (21) denotes the thing filled
- I.e. it is the object of the V_n *he-mwayau* 'fill', not the V_{n-1} *ini* 'pour'

$V = ini$ 'pour' \Rightarrow object denotes thing poured

- (20) Ka-m **ti** ya-**ini**- \emptyset ?
CLF2-2SG.POSS **tea** 1SG-**pour**-3SG
'Shall I pour you some tea?'

$V_n = he-mwayau$ 'fill' \Rightarrow object denotes thing filled

- (21) **Kaputi** ku-[ini]-[**he-mwayau**]- \emptyset
cup 2SG.S-pour-**CAUS-full**-3SG
'Pour the cup full'

 **V_n is the syntactic head**

Assumptions I

- V_n is the syntactic head
- $V_1 - V_{n-1}$ are **V^0 -level adjuncts / modifiers**
(cf. Stiebels (1996) on German prefix and particle verbs)
- Semantically, complex verbs involve **Event Cumulation**
- Matching results from type-sensitive **Event Composition**
- Objects are added **after** complex verb formation
(cf. Haider (2010) on restructuring, Williams (2015) on resultatives)

Assumptions II

- Agents are introduced by Voice
- Patients are lexical arguments

Event Cumulation I

- As discussed in Zimmermann & Amaechi (2018), SVCs are semantically heterogeneous, despite being formally similar
- Saliba complex verbs involve **Event Cumulation**:
 - Macro-event E
 - Sub-events e_1 and e_2 , symmetrically related via \oplus

(22) *Event Cumulation*: (Zimmermann & Amaechi 2018)
 $\exists E, e_1, e_2. [E = e_1 \oplus e_2 \ \& \ P(e_1) \ \& \ Q(e_2)]$

Event Cumulation II

- Predicate Modification would express the existence of a single event with multiple event predicates (23)
- It would be impossible to distinguish Patients / objects as functions of distinct sub-events (24)

(23) *Predicate Modification:* (Zimmermann & Amaechi 2018)
 $\exists e. [P(e) \ \& \ Q(e)]$

- (24) a. Kaputi ku-[ini]-[he-mwayau]- \emptyset
cup 2SG.S-pour-CAUS-full-3SG.O
'Pour the cup full'
- b. PAT(*P*) = thing poured \neq PAT(*Q*) = thing filled

Type-sensitive Event Composition (EC_{TS}) I

1. EC_{TS} takes two predicates P and Q of like types as input
2. It co-indexes the internal arguments of P and Q (with transitives)
3. It existentially binds all of P 's arguments
4. It requires the arguments of Q as input

(25) *Intransitive EC_{TS} :*
 $\lambda P_{\langle s,t \rangle} \lambda Q_{\langle s,t \rangle} \lambda e_2 \exists e_1. [P(e_1) \ \& \ Q(e_2)]$ $\langle st, \langle st,st \rangle \rangle$

(26) *Transitive EC_{TS} :*
 $\lambda P_{\langle e,st \rangle} \lambda Q_{\langle e,st \rangle} \lambda y \lambda e_2 \exists x \exists e_1. [P(e_1, x_i) \ \& \ Q(e_2, y_j)]$ $\langle est, \langle est,est \rangle \rangle$

Generalized EC_{TS}

(27) $\lambda P_{\langle \alpha \rangle} \lambda Q_{\langle \alpha \rangle}, R(P, Q). [P(e_1) \ \& \ Q(e_2)]$ $\langle \alpha, \langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle \rangle$

Type-sensitive Event Composition (EC_{TS}) II

- Valence matching does not follow from any general property of Saliba
- Most languages lack it, apparently even if they pattern with Saliba:
 - Nuclear-layer composition
 - Fundamental intransitivity
 - Rigid transitivity
- EC_{TS} ties matching to complex verb formation
- Some degree of parametrization seems independently necessary
 - E.g. some languages have nuclear-layer, others core-layer SVCs, some both

Derivations

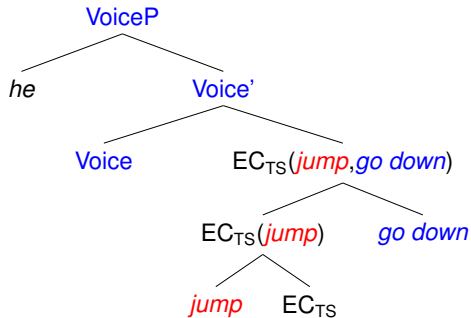
(28) Ye-[*kamposi*]-[*dobi*]
3SG.S-jump-go.down
'He jumped down'

(29) $\llbracket \textit{kamposi} \rrbracket = \lambda e_1. \text{jump}(e_1)$; $\llbracket \textit{dobi} \rrbracket = \lambda e_2. \text{go.down}(e_2)$ <s,t>

(30) a. $\lambda Q_{(s,t)} R(P,Q). [\text{jump}(e_1) \ \& \ Q(e_2)]$ $\text{EC}_{\text{TS}}(\textit{jump})$
b. $\lambda e_2 \lambda e_1. [\text{jump}(e_1) \ \& \ \text{go.down}(e_2)]$
c. $\lambda e_2 \exists e_1. [\text{jump}(e_1) \ \& \ \text{go.down}(e_2)]$ $\exists\text{-closure}(\textit{jump})$
 $= \text{EC}_{\text{TS}}(\textit{jump}, \textit{go down})$

(31) a. $\exists e_2 \exists e_1. [\text{jump}(e_1) \ \& \ \text{go.down}(e_2)]$ $\exists\text{-closure}(e_2)$
b. $\lambda E \exists e_2 \exists e_1. [E = e_1 \oplus e_2 \ \& \ \text{jump}(e_1) \ \& \ \text{go.down}(e_2)]$ E-cumulation
c. $\lambda z \lambda E \exists e_2 \exists e_1. [E = e_1 \oplus e_2 \ \& \ \text{jump}(e_1) \ \& \ \text{go.down}(e_2) \ \& \ \text{AGT}(E,z)]$ Agent

(32) $\exists E \exists e_2 \exists e_1. [E = e_1 \oplus e_2 \ \& \ \text{jump}(e_1) \ \& \ \text{go.down}(e_2) \ \& \ \text{AGT}(E,\text{he})]$ $\exists\text{-closure}(E)$
 $= \text{'He jumped and went down'} \approx \text{'He jumped down'} = (28)$



Tree 1: intr + intr

- (33) a. $\lambda Q_{(s,t)} R(P, Q). [\text{jump}(e_1) \ \& \ Q(e_2)]$ EC_{TS}(jump)
 b. $\lambda e_2 \exists e_1. [\text{jump}(e_1) \ \& \ \text{go.down}(e_2)]$ EC_{TS}(jump, go down)
 c. $\exists e_2 \exists e_1. [\text{jump}(e_1) \ \& \ \text{go.down}(e_2)]$ \exists -closure(e_2)

- (34) $\exists E \exists e_2 \exists e_1. [E = e_1 \oplus e_2 \ \& \ \text{jump}(e_1) \ \& \ \text{go.down}(e_2) \ \& \ \text{AGT}(E, \text{he})]$
 = 'He jumped and went down' \approx 'He jumped down' = (28)

(35) Ye-[koi]-[kesi]-di
 3SG.S-hit-break-3PL.O
 'He hit-broke them'

(36) $[[koi]] = \lambda x \lambda e_1. \text{hit}(e_1, x)$; $[[kesi]] = \lambda y \lambda e_2. \text{break}(e_2, y)$ <e,st>

(37) a. $\lambda Q_{(e,st)} R(P, Q). [\text{hit}(e_1, x) \ \& \ Q(e_2)]$ $\text{EC}_{\text{TS}}(\text{hit})$
 b. $\lambda y \lambda e_2 \lambda x \lambda e_1. [\text{hit}(e_1, x) \ \& \ \text{break}(e_2, y)]$
 c. $\lambda y \lambda e_2 \lambda x \lambda e_1. [\text{hit}(e_1, x_i) \ \& \ \text{break}(e_2, y_i)]$ co-indexation
 d. $\lambda y \lambda e_2 \exists x \exists e_1. [\text{hit}(e_1, x_i) \ \& \ \text{break}(e_2, y_i)]$ \exists -closure(*hit*)
 $= \text{EC}_{\text{TS}}(\text{hit}, \text{break})$

(38) a. $\lambda e_2 \exists x \exists e_1. [\text{hit}(e_1, x_i) \ \& \ \text{break}(e_2, \text{they}_i)]$ FA(*they*)
 b. $\exists e_2 \exists x \exists e_1. [\text{hit}(e_1, x_i) \ \& \ \text{break}(e_2, \text{they}_i)]$ \exists -closure(*e*₂)
 c. $\lambda E \exists e_2 \exists x \exists e_1. [E = e_1 \oplus e_2 \ \& \ \text{hit}(e_1, x_i) \ \& \ \text{break}(e_2, \text{they}_i)]$ E-cumulation

(39) $\exists E \exists e_2 \exists x \exists e_1. [E = e_1 \oplus e_2 \ \& \ \text{hit}(e_1, x_i) \ \& \ \text{break}(e_2, \text{they}_i)]$ & AGT(E, she)
 = 'He hit and broke them' \approx 'He hit-broke them' = (35)

Non-shared objects

- In transitive complex verbs with non-shared objects (42), co-indexation of internal arguments fails
- The object of V_1 / P remains implicit (43)
- It cannot be realized as an optional oblique (Anna Margetts p.c.)

(42) Kaputi ku-[ini]-[he-mwayau]- \emptyset
cup 2SG.S-pour-CAUS-full-3SG
'Pour the cup full'

(43) $\exists E \exists e_2 \exists x \exists e_1$. [$E = e_1 \oplus e_2$ & pour(e_1, x_i) & fill($e_2, \text{the cup}_k$) & AGT(E, you)]
= 'Pour (something) and fill the cup' \approx 'Pour the cup full' = (21)

Contextual Transitivity I

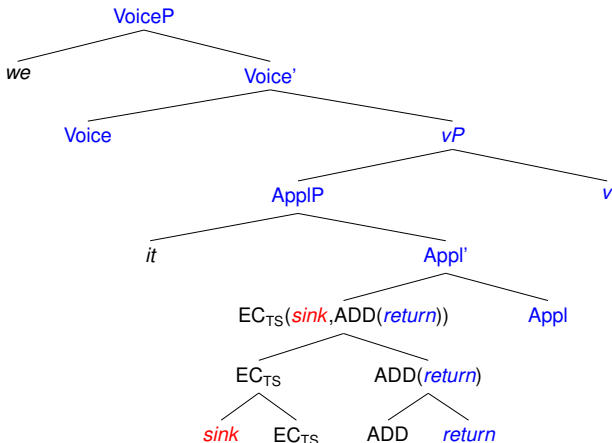
- ☞ The trigger ('CAUS-sink', (44-a)) must be present before the target ('return', (44-b))
- ☞ Otherwise the context for exceptional transitivity would not be given
- ☞ This follows from EC_{TS}

- (44) a. $[[he-yoli]] = \lambda x \lambda e_1. CAUS-sink(e_1, x)$ <e, st>
b. $[[uyo]] = \lambda e_2. return(e_2)$ <s, t>
- (45) Ta-[he-yoli]-[uyo-i]- \emptyset
1 INC.S-CAUS-sink-return-APPL-3SG.O
'We again make it sink'
- (46) *Se-[uyo-i]- \emptyset
3PL-return-APPL-3SG.O
'(They came back to it)'

Contextual Transitivity II

- EC_{TS} takes 'CAUS-sink' as its first argument (47-a)
- To be a well-formed second argument to EC_{TS} , 'return' exceptionally shifts to $\langle e, st \rangle$
- This happens via the operator ADD, which adds a dummy argument to 'return' (47-c)

- (47) a. $\lambda Q_{\langle e, st \rangle} R(P, Q). [\text{sink}(e_1, x) \ \& \ Q(e_2)]$ $EC_{TS}(\text{sink})$
b. $ADD(\lambda e_2. [\text{return}(e_2)]) = \lambda y \lambda e_2. [\text{return}(e_2) \ \& \ \mathbf{DUM}(e_2, y)]$ $ADD(\text{return})$
c. $\lambda y \lambda e_2 \exists x \exists e_1. [\text{sink}(e_1, x_i) \ \& \ \text{return}(e_2) \ \& \ \mathbf{DUM}(e_2, y_i)]$
 $EC_{TS}(\text{hit}, ADD(\text{return}))$
- (48) $\lambda e_2 \exists x \exists e_1. [\text{sink}(e_1, x_i) \ \& \ \text{return}(e_2) \ \& \ \mathbf{DUM}(e_2, it_i)]$ $FA(it)$
- (49) $\exists E \exists e_2 \exists x \exists e_1. [E = e_1 \oplus e_2 \ \& \ \text{sink}(e_1, x_i) \ \& \ \text{return}(e_2) \ \& \ \mathbf{DUM}(e_2, it_i) \ \& \ \mathbf{AGT}(E, we)]$
= 'We sink it and return' \approx 'We again make it sink' = (45)



Tree 3: trans + contextual trans

- (50) $\exists E \exists e_2 \exists x \exists e_1. [E = e_1 \oplus e_2 \ \& \ \text{sink}(e_1, x_i) \ \& \ \text{return}(e_2) \ \& \ \text{DUM}(e_2, it_i) \ \& \ \text{AGT}(E, we)]$
 = 'We sink it and return' \approx 'We again make it sink' = (45)

Prediction I

- Matching is due to a local binary operation
- ☞ Correctly predicts across the board matching with >2 verbs

Margetts (2005): 67

(51) *trans + trans + trans*

Kabo ya-[tupa]-[he-yoli]-[he-gehe]-di

TAM 1SG.S-bump-CAUS-sink-CAUS-finished-3PL.O

'I'll drown all of them'

(52) *trans + trans + lab + trans*

Ye-[tu]-[isini]-[sae]-[kasaya-i]-∅

3SG.S-throw-raise-put.up-in.vain-APPL-3SG.O

'He threw it up in vain'

Prediction II

- Matching is sensitive to **valence**, not transitivity
- ☞ Correctly predicts that transitive, and **intransitive but bivalent** verbs can combine (54)

Margetts (2005): 73, 83, Margetts (2013): 3

- (53) Ye-lao bili wa unai
3SG-go room inside POSTP
'She went into the room' <e,st>
- (54) a. Ye-[kai-kaikewa]-[lao] ka-na kaha ne unai
3SG.S-RED-look(.at)-go CLF2-3SG.POSS friend DET POSTP
'He is looking over to his friend' <e,st> + <e,st>
- b. Kabo ya-[lao]-[gabae]-go
TAM 1SG.S-go-throw-2SG.O
'I will leave you' <e,st> + <e,st>

Toqabaqita

- When V_1 is transitive and V_2 intransitive, the object is realized oblique (55)
- Neither V_1 nor V_2 license obliques in isolation
- When V_2 is also transitive, the object is direct (56)

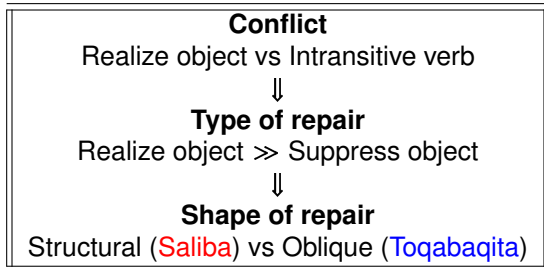
Lichtenberk (2008): 265ff.

(55) Nau ku [fanga]-[baqita] **qana alo**
1SG 1SG.NFUT eat.CF-be.big PREP taro
'I ate a lot of taro' trans + intr

(56) Nau ku [qala]-[muu-si]-a **si qoko**
1SG 1SG.NFUT bite.CF-sever-TR-3.O CLF vine
'I severed the vine by biting it' trans + trans

Contextual transitivity as a repair

- We can think of contextual transitivity as a morpho-syntactic repair
- I.e. a property illicit in the general case, but well-formed in a specific case (cf. Murphy 2019)



- 👉 **Applicative** *-(e)i*: Saliba's generic transitivizer
- 👉 **Preposition** *qana*: Toqabaqita's generic oblique marker
- 👉 **Pileni**: generic vs stem-conditioned allomorphic transitivizer

👉 It's not clear whether an OT analysis is the way to go

The domain of matching

- Descriptions of SVCs in other languages are not as detailed as for Saliba
- A few generalizations nevertheless emerge:
 - Matching is typically found in more cohesive domains
 - Matching may be localized to SVC sub-types or individual verbs

Contextual transitivity in Oceanic

- A systematically recurring property, e.g. in Daakaka (57)
- Perhaps due to the need to realize the object of a preceding transitive verb, indirectly via 'parasitic binding'
 - The combination **trans + intr** seems to be most restricted
 - In Äiwoo, only the final verb shows matching (Næss & Boerger 2006)
- For Saliba, suggests that complex verb formation is layered:
 - One component for matching
 - One component for contextual transitivity

von Prince (2015): 315

- (57) Ma [ling] [bup-ane] ding
REAL put tumble(INTR)-TR mat
'(S)he put the mat the wrong way up / with the wrong side facing up'

Sub-types of SVCs: Tariana

- Matching is only found in directional SVCs (60)
- It is absent in e.g. motion modification SVCs (61)

Aikhenvald (2018): 116

- (60) a. [di-ka] [di-ruku-ita]
3SG.NF-see 3SG.NF-go.down-CAUS
'He looked down (at something)' trans + trans
- b. [di-ka] [di-ruku]
3SG.NF-see 3SG.NF-go.down
'He looked down' intr + intr

Aikhenvald (2006): 190

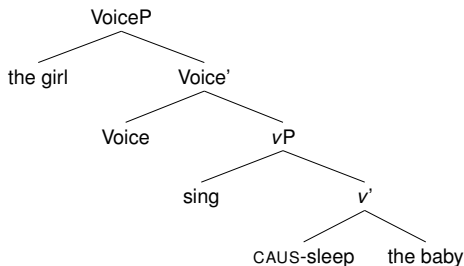
- (61) nama-ita [nu-eku] [nu-pinita-ka-na]
two-NUM.CL:ANIM 1SG-run 1SG-pursue-DEC-REM.PST.VIS
'I pursued two (pigs) by running' intr + trans

Presence vs absence of matching

- Strong correlation with rigid transitivity
- Apparent ingredients:
 - Mode of semantic composition
 - Mode / level of syntactic composition
- E.g. vP adjunction in Samoan (62) Hopperdietzel (2019)
- E.g. complementation in Niuean Massam (2013)

Hopperdietzel (2019): 1

(62) Sa [pese] [fa'a-moe-moe] e le teine le pepe
PST sing CAUS-RED-sleep ERG SPEC mother SPEC baby.ABS
'The girl sang the baby to sleep' intr + trans



Tree 4: vP manner modification via adjunction in Samoan

Hopperdietzel (2019)

- (63) Sa [pese] [fa'a-moe-moe] e le teine le pepe
PST sing CAUS-RED-sleep ERG SPEC mother SPEC baby.ABS
'The girl sang the baby to sleep'

intr + trans

Conclusion & Outlook

- Valence matching follows from type-symmetric Event Composition at the V^0 -level
- EC_{TS} takes two predicates of like types as its input
- Contextual transitivity instantiates a morpho-syntactic repair
- Apparent ingredients for matching include:
 - Rigid transitivity
 - Cohesive morpho-syntactic domain
 - Certain semantic and syntactic mode of composition
- Open issues:
 - Exact distribution of matching
 - Other modes of achieving matching
 - Relation to other phenomena:
 - Resultatives
 - Transitivity agreement / transitivity-conditioned allomorphy

Thank you

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