

शिखागोविश्वविद्यालये

प्रारम्भिकसंस्कृतम्

FIRST-YEAR SANSKRIT

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



अल्लटाचार्योद्भावितः पाठक्रमः  Designed by Andrew Ollett

CAUSATIVE VERBS: SYNTAX

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CAUSATIVE VERBS

Sanskrit can **increase the valency** of any verbal root creating a new verbal root, called the **causative**, by the addition of a suffix that Pāṇini calls *ṆiC*.

CAUSATIVE VERBS

Verb type	Valency	Example
Impersonal	0	[It] ₀ rains.
Intransitive	1	She ₁ sits.
Transitive	2	She ₁ eats rice ₂ .
Ditransitive	3	She ₁ teaches the students ₂ the Veda ₃ .

CAUSATIVE VERBS

The causative suffix works by adding a new argument to the verb. In semantic terms, this argument is called the **cause** (*hētuh*). I will call this argument the **causer** (for reasons that should become clear soon). A **causer** is a special kind of **agent** (*kartr*).

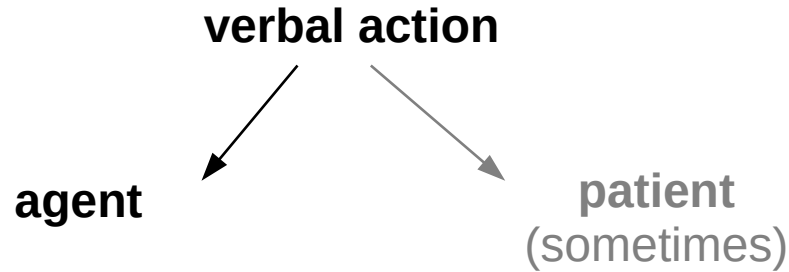
CAUSATIVE VERBS

The terms used in Sanskrit are:

- employing agent (*prayōjaka-karṭṛ*) = **causer**
- employed agent (*prayōjya-karṭṛ*) = **causee**

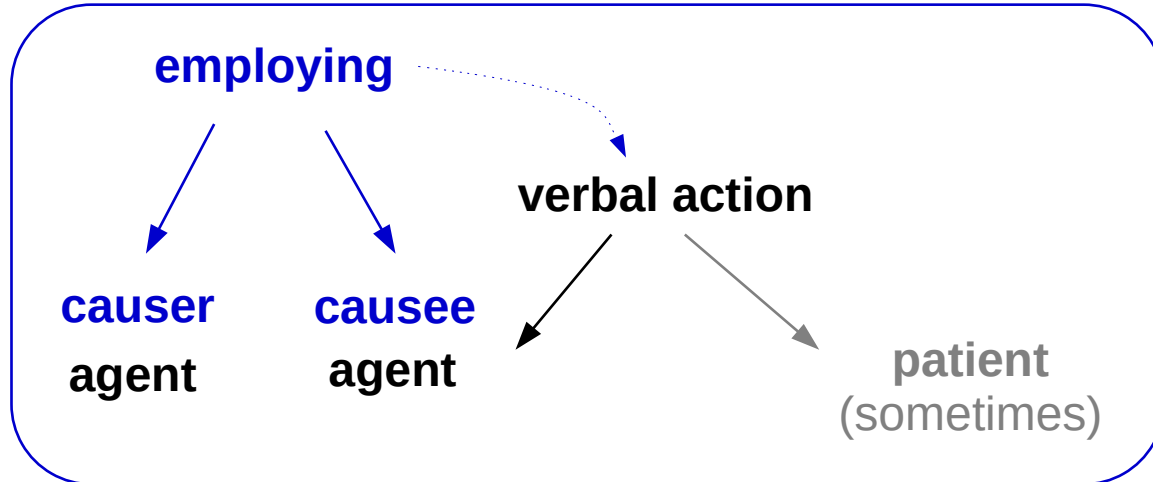
SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

The framing of “employment” allows us to conceptualize the relationship between the simple verb and the causative verb as follows:



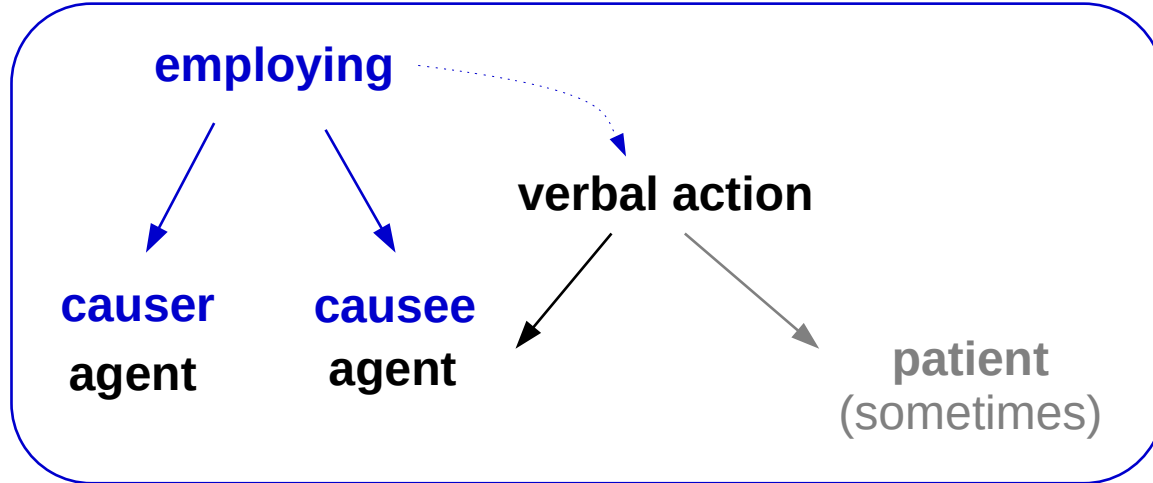
SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

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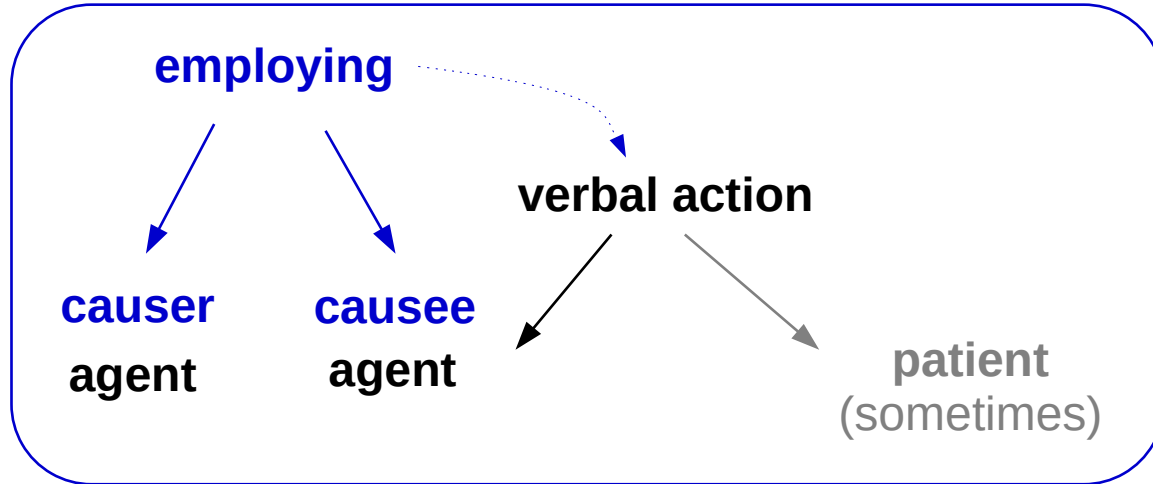
SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

This representation holds for **all** causative constructions.



SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

Here we have **two** agents. But that isn't a problem. In active constructions, the **causer** appears in the nominative, and the **causee** appears in the instrumental.



SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

कर्मकराः सेतुम् कुर्वन्ति

The workers make the bridge.

SEMANTICS

agent

patient

SYNTAX

subject

verb

object

valency: 2

SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

राजा कर्मकरैः सेतुम् कारयति

The king has the workers make the bridge.

SEMANTICS	<i>causer agent</i>	<i>causee agent</i>	<i>patient</i>
SYNTAX	<i>subject</i>	<i>oblique [instrumental]</i>	verb <i>object</i> valency: 3

SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

रामो वालिनं हन्ति

Rāma kills **Vālī**.

agent

patient

subject

verb

object

valency: 2

SEMANTICS

SYNTAX

SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

सुग्रीवो रामेण वालिनं घातयति

Sugrīva has Rāma kill Vālī.

SEMANTICS

*causer
agent*

*causee
agent*

patient

SYNTAX

subject

*oblique
[instrumental]*

verb *object*

valency: 3

SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

In cases like this, it might help to think of the semantics of the causative verb as “*A has B x-ed through C.*”

- ❁ The king **has the bridge built** through the workers.
- ❁ Sugrīva **has Vālī killed** by Rāma.
- ❁ Note that in English it is clear that *B* (the bridge, Vālī, and in general the **patient** of a transitive verb) is the **internal argument** of the verb. It appears within the causative construction (*has B x-ed*). Keep this in mind for later.

PASSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

When causative verbs like this are used in **passive constructions**, the *patient* (the internal argument) appears as the subject, and **both** of the agents must appear in the instrumental (although, since the point of using the passive is generally *not* to express the agent, they will often be left out):

- ❁ The bridge is caused to be built [by the workers] [by the king]

सेतुः कार्यते [कर्मकरैः] [राज्ञा]

PASSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

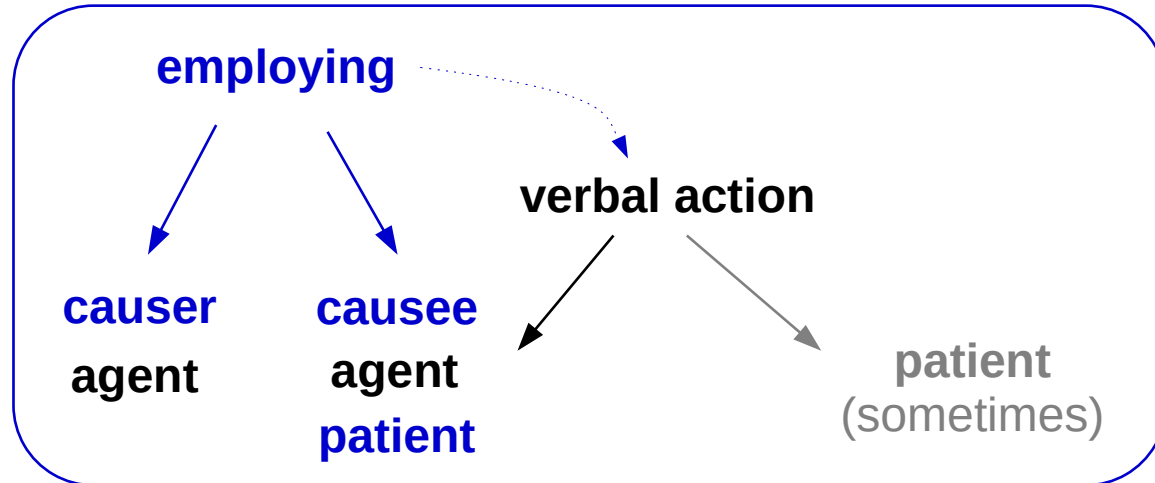
When causative verbs like this are used in **passive constructions**, the *patient* (the internal argument) appears as the subject, and **both** of the agents must appear in the instrumental (although, since the point of using the passive is generally *not* to express the agent, they will often be left out):

❁ Vālī is caused to be killed [by Rāma] [by Sugrīva]

वाली घात्यते [रामेण] [सुग्रीवेण]

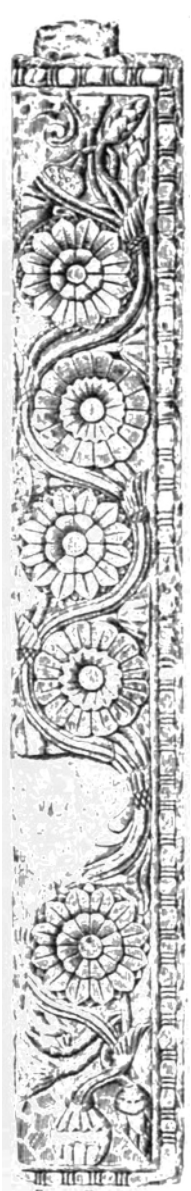
SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

But there is one complication: in certain types of verbs, the **causee** is considered to be a **patient** as well as a kind of **agent**:



SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

This means that in **active** constructions, both the **causee** and the original **patient** (if there is one) will appear in the **accusative** case, while the **causer** appears in the nominative case.



PASSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

In **passive** constructions, the **causer** is expressed in the instrumental, and **one** of the **patients** — either the causee or the original patient — is expressed in the nominative, while the other **stays** in the accusative.

We'll see a few examples.

SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

These verbs are:

- ❁ **All intransitive (*akarmakaḥ*) verbs**
- ❁ **Verbs of motion** (not *nī* and not usually *vah*)
- ❁ **Verbs of thinking**
- ❁ **Verbs of eating** (not *ad* or *khād*)
- ❁ **Verbs of which the patient is a linguistic expression** (e.g., studying, speaking, etc.)

SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

These verbs are all either intransitive or “pseudo-transitive,” i.e., the **internal argument** of the basic verb is the **agent** and not the patient. For example:

- ❁ The host **has the guest sit**. (= seats the guest)
- ❁ The king **has the general go** to Mathurā.
- ❁ The Buddha **has the monk think** about momentariness.
- ❁ The host **has the guest eat** rice.
- ❁ The teacher **has the student study** the Veda.

SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

हनुमान् लङ्कां गच्छति

Hanumān goes to Laṅkā.

SEMANTICS

agent

[patient]

SYNTAX

subject

verb *[object]*

valency: 2 [1]

SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

रामो हनुमन्तं लङ्कां गमयति

Rāma has Hanumān go to Laṅkā.

SEMANTICS	<i>causer agent</i>	<i>causee agent patient</i>		<i>[patient]</i>
SYNTAX	<i>subject</i>	<i>object</i>	verb	<i>[object]</i>

valency: 3 [2]

PASSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

In the passive, there is a strong preference for “passivizing on” the **internal argument**, which means in this case making the **causee** into the subject of the verb, and retaining the original patient (if there is one) in the accusative:

❁ Hanumān is **caused to go** to Laṅkā [by Rāma]

हनुमान् गम्यते लङ्कां [रामेण]

SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

Also optionally *kṛ* and *hr̥*.

कर्मकराः सेतुम् कुर्वन्ति

The workers make the bridge.

SEMANTICS

agent

patient

SYNTAX

subject

verb

object

valency: 2

SEMANTIC ROLE ASSIGNMENT

Also optionally *kr̥* and *hr̥*.

राजा कर्मकरान् सेतुम् कारयति

The king has the workers make the bridge.

SEMANTICS	<i>causer agent</i>	<i>causee agent patient</i>	<i>patient</i>
	SYNTAX	<i>subject</i>	<i>object</i>
			verb
			<i>object</i>

valency: 3

PASSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

With some verbs — namely *kṛ* and *hr̥*, and probably others — there is an **option** of passivizing either on the original patient or the causee.



When passivizing on the original patient, the causee is in the instrumental, as in the first scenario:

The bridge is caused to be built [by the workers] [by the king]

सेतुः कार्यते [कर्मकरैः] [राज्ञा]

PASSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

With some verbs — namely *kṛ* and *hr̥*, and probably others — there is an **option** of passivizing either on the original patient or the causee.



But with verbs of studying, speaking, etc., the causee is said to remain in the accusative in such cases.

The Veda caused to be studied by the students [by the teacher]

वेदः शिष्यान् अध्याप्यते [आचार्येण]

PASSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

With some verbs — namely *kṛ* and *hr̥*, and probably others — there is an **option** of passivizing either on the original patient or the causee.



When passivizing on the causee, the original patient remains in the accusative:

The workers are caused to build a bridge [by the king]

कर्मकराः सेतुं कार्यन्ते [राज्ञा]

PASSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

With some verbs — namely *kṛ* and *hr̥*, and probably others — there is an **option** of passivizing either on the original patient or the causee.



When passivizing on the causee, the original patient remains in the accusative:

The students are caused to study the Veda [by the teacher]

वेदं शिष्या अध्याप्यन्ते [आचार्येण]

PAST PASSIVE PARTICIPLE

These remarks apply also to the **past passive participle** of the causative, which can only modify:

- ❁ A “real” patient (i.e., the patient of a simple verb)
- ❁ A causee in **one of the verbs** that marks the causee as a patient (i.e., intransitive and “pseudo-transitive” verbs, and *kr*, *hr*, and a handful of others).

PAST PASSIVE PARTICIPLE



The students were **made to study** the Veda [by the teacher]

वेदं शिष्या अध्यापिताः [आचार्येण]



Hanumān was **made to go** to Laṅkā [by Rāma]

हनुमान् लङ्कां गमितः



Vālī was **caused to be killed** by Rāma [by Sugrīva]

वाली घातितो रामेण [सुग्रीवेण]

IDIOMATIC USES

English typically uses periphrastic or auxiliary constructions to express a causative sense (e.g., *has B x*, *causes B to x*, *makes B x*) but note:

- ❁ The vase **broke**. / He **broke** the vase. [unmarked alternation]
- ❁ The tree **fell**. / He **felled** the tree. [morphological alternation]
- ❁ The statue **stood**. / He **stood** the statue **up**. [preverb alternation]
- ❁ He **eats**. / He **feeds** him. [lexical alternation]

IDIOMATIC USES

When translating Sanskrit causatives, you probably **first** want to use an English periphrastic construction and **then** see if there is a more idiomatic translation:

इदं दर्शयति

He causes this to be seen.

He **shows** this.

इदं स्थापयति

He causes this to stand.

He **stands** it up.

[In fact this is often used with a **dative** or **genitive** of the person to whom something is shown.]

IDIOMATIC USES

There are a few verbs that are almost always used in the **causative** forms:

इदं ते निवेदयति [नि-√विद्]

He causes this to be known to you. → He **informs** you of this.

इदं त आज्ञापयति [आ-√ज्ञा]

He causes this to be understood to you. → He **commands** this of you.

इदं त अर्पयति [√ऋ]

He causes this to come to you. → He **presents** this to you.

