

As always, it is the combination of the two analyses, the transitive and the ergative, that gives the essential insight.

In the transitive analysis we introduced the notion of an Initiator, a participant who brings about the action performed by the Actor. This function appears in the explicit causative structure with the verb *make*. We can then, of course, extend the agency further: *Mary made John roll the ball*, as in Figure 7-27.

Mary	made	John	roll	the ball
Initiator Agent		Actor Agent		Goal Medium

transitive:
ergative:

Fig. 7-27 A three-participant causative

Note that in the ergative analysis the function of Agent recurs, allowing for indefinite expansion along the lines of *Fred made Mary make John* . . .

But there is still only one process, that of rolling; so we can still represent it as two verbal groups in hypotactic relationship. In this instance, however, they are discontinuous (see Figure 7-28):

John	made	the ball	roll	Mary	made	John	roll	the ball
	Pro		-cess α → x β		Pro		-cess α → x β	

Fig. 7-28 Hypotactic verbal group complex:causative

Causatives with *make*, *get/have* and *let* are of the enhancing type. But there are causative forms in all three types of expansion. We will consider each of them in turn.

(i) Elaborating: phase.
(a) Reality-phase. It would be possible to recognize causative forms of reality-phase, as follows:

- (1) apparent: John seems to be responsible
(caus.) Mary considers John to be responsible
- (2) realized: John turns out to be responsible
(caus.) that proves John to be responsible

But *consider* and *prove* are better treated as, respectively, mental and verbal processes, with the proposition/process being projected; note the closely agnate finite clauses with *that*, and cf. *it seems/turns out that John is responsible*.

(b) Time-phase. Here the same verbs *keep*, *start/stop*, also function causatively:

- (1) durative: the ball kept rolling
(caus.) John kept the ball rolling
- (2) inceptive: the ball started/stopped rolling
(caus.) John started/stopped the ball rolling

Note that these then have passives: *the ball was kept/started/stopped (from) rolling (by John)*.

(ii) Extending: conation.

(a) Conation. There is no causative form of the conative — that is, no word meaning 'make . . . try'; this can of course be expressed analytically, for example

(she) | made | (him) × |β try + |β to eat it | (it)

The causative of the reussive has *help*, and perhaps *enable*:

reussive: John managed to open the lock
(caus.) Mary helped John to open the lock

(b) Potentiality. Here there are causative forms as follows:

- (1) potential: the patient can see clearly
(caus.) this enables the patient to see clearly
- (2) achievement: John learnt to fly
(caus.) Mary taught John to fly

Again, these causatives have passives: *the patient is enabled to see clearly*, *John was taught to fly by Mary*.

(iii) Enhancing: modulation. Only one or two modulations have causative equivalents; e.g.

John remembered to do it
(caus.) Mary reminded John to do it

However, there is a special set that exist only as causatives, where the meaning is simply that of agency: *make*, *force*, *let*, *allow* etc. These admit of three degrees of modulation:

- (high:) this made (forced, required) them (to) accept our terms
- (median:) this had (got, obliged) them (to) accept our terms*
- (low:) this let (allowed, permitted) them (to) accept our terms

The concept of agency is inherently a circumstantial one. We have already seen that the Agent, which from one point of view is a participant in the clause (*John did it*), is from another point of view a kind of Manner (*it was done by John*). It is thus not surprising that the causative Agent enters into this kind of hypotactic structure, with the agency expressed as a process through verbs like *force* and *allow*. Furthermore, causatives have passives; so we can have

- (high:) they were made/forced/required to accept
- (median:) they were got/obliged to accept
- (low:) they were allowed/permitted to accept

and this enables us to interpret modulation as it occurs within the verbal group:

- (high:) they are required to accept they must accept
- (median:) they are obliged to accept they should accept
- (low:) they are allowed to accept they may accept

* Also imperfective: *got them working, had him begging for mercy*.