

**CAUSATIVES IN PAPUAN MALAY:  
STRUCTURAL AND SEMANTIC PROPERTIES**

Yusuf Sawaki and Jean Lekeneny, CELD-UNIPA Manokwari

Abstract

This paper presents a description of causative constructions in Papuan Malay, a lingua franca spoken in West Papua, especially in the north coast of West Papua. Causatives in Papuan Malay, focussing on structural and lexical-semantic properties.

Lexically, there are two words used to express causative meanings in Papuan Malay, *bikin* ‘make’ and *kase* ‘give’. The resulting causatives differ with respect to their structural and semantic properties.

Structurally, there are two types of causative constructions, serial verb constructions (SVC) and complex predicate constructions (CPC). These two types differ with respect to predication type and argument structure. The SVC type contains a single predicate and has subject argument marking in its argument structure. This is exemplified in (1) and (2).

(1) *Sa bikin menangis dia tadi*  
1SG make cry 3SG a.while.ago  
‘I made him cry a while ago.’

(2) *Nan sa kase menangis dia sebentar*  
Later 1SG give cry 3SG later  
‘I will cause him to cry later.’

The CPC type contains a multi-headed predicate and has argument sharing in its argument structure. This is exemplified in (3) and (4).

(3) *Dong bikin de menangis tadi*  
3SG make 3SG cry a.while.ago  
‘They made him cry a while ago.’

(4) *Nan sa kase de menangis. Kam liat saja*  
Later 1SG give 3SG cry 2PL see only  
‘I will cause him to cry. You will see!’

Semantically, *bikin* ‘make’ and *kase* ‘give’ exhibit slightly different meanings in causative constructions. *Bikin* ‘make’ involves a strong causative expression of the direct agentive-patientive relation. On the other hand, *kase* ‘give’ involves a variety of causative expressions, - agentive-patientive, agentive-benefactive, agentive-experiencer, etc. In many cases, these may be expressed in the same syntactic structures, but in other cases, there are restrictions with respect to two factors – collocation choice of the verb following the causative verb, and the available syntactic structure.

## References:

- Burung, 2008. *Melayu Papua. A hidden treasure*. A paper presented at International Conference on Language Development, Language Revitalization and Multilingual Education in Ethnolinguistic Communities, 1-3 July 2008, Bangkok, Thailand
- Donohue and Sawaki. 2007. Papuan Malaya pronominals: Forms and Functions. *In Oceanic Linguistics* (46), 2007, pp. 253-276.
- Kluge, Angela. 2014. *A grammar of Papuan Malay*. Ph.D. thesis, Universiteit Leiden.
- Sawaki, Yusuf. 2004. *Some morpho-syntax notes on Melayu Papua*. An Unpublished paper. Manokwari. State University of Papua.
- Van Velzen. 1995. Some notes on the variety of Malay used in Serui and vicinity. *In Tales from a concave world- liber amicorum Bert Voorhoeve*, eds. by Connie Baak, Mary Bakker and Dick van der Meij, 311-343.