

## Structuring indirect causation

Languages express causation in various ways. Although periphrastic biclausal strategy is universally attested in every language, it coexists with a more parsimonious strategy that involves, depending on language, a light causative verb (e.g. *faire* in French) or a causative morpheme (*-t/r-* in Turkish). It is standardly acknowledged in generative theorizing that both of these causative markers are verbs and carry event semantics. This conception is consistent with a classical semantic definition of indirect causation which involves potential temporal distinctness of the causing event and the caused event (Fodor 1970).

The aim of this talk is to challenge the categorial uniformity of light causative verbs and causative morphemes. I will propose that in many languages, the causative morpheme is an active Voice head, i.e. a transitiviser, without event semantics. Active Voice may not combine with another active Voice, as the result will yield an illicit configuration with stacked Agents in one eventuality. In this case, demotion/deagentivisation of the embedded predicate must take place, as transparently illustrated by Georgian/Hindi/Amharic morphological causatives of transitives. I will further propose that languages where causative marker is not a verb but a Voice head (i.e. transitivizer) conform to another conception of indirect causation based on the presence of an intervening causer between the agent and the caused event (Wolff 2007).