

تراكيب النتيجة في العربية العراقية: تحليل نحوي في ضوء نظرية تركيب المرحلة الأولى

شيرين موسى عبدالحسين

shireenm.alirayfawie@student.uokufa.edu.iq

أ.د. عباس حسن جاسم سلطان

abbash.jasim@uokufa.edu.iq

قسم اللغة الإنكليزية- كلية الاداب- جامعة الكوفة

الملخص:

تتناول هذه الدراسة تراكيب النتيجة في العربية العراقية في ضوء نظرية تركيب المرحلة الأولى التي قدمتها رامتشاند (2008). وقد شكّلت العلاقة بين البنية النحوية والدلالة وتفسير الحدث إحدى القضايا الرئيسية في النظرية اللسانية، إذ تُعد تراكيب النتيجة دليلاً مهماً على تمثيل الأحداث المركبة وأدوار المشاركين في اللغة. وتعتمد الدراسة المنهج الوصفي التحليلي ذي الطابع النوعي، من خلال تحليل ثلاثة تراكيب نتيجة مستمدة من العربية العراقية المنطوقة. ولتحقيق ذلك، توظف الدراسة تحليل بنية الحدث، وتحقيق الأدوار النحوية للمشاركين، والتقطيع الصرفي مع الترجمة البيانية، إلى جانب التمثيلات النحوية الهرمية. وتُظهر النتائج أن المعاني النحوية تُشتق بصورة تركيبية من التفاعل بين إسقاطات الأحداث الفرعية، وليس من المعنى المعجمي وحده. كما تكشف الدراسة أن تراكيب النتيجة تتسم بوجود إسقاط العملية وإسقاط النتيجة، وفي بعض الحالات يقتصر التركيب على إسقاط النتيجة فقط. كذلك تُبين الدراسة أن أدوار المشاركين، ولا سيما المتأثر (ومتلقي النتيجة)، تُحدد بنيوياً من خلال موقعها داخل البنية الحديثة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تراكيب النتيجة، تحليل نحوي، تركيب المرحلة الأولى.

Resultative Constructions in Iraqi Arabic: A First Phase Syntactic Analysis

Shireen MUSA ABDULHUSSEIN *1

Prof. Abbas H J SULTAN (Ph.D) *2

^{1,2} Department of English, College of Arts, University of Kufa, Najaf, Iraq

Abstract

This study examines resultative constructions in Iraqi Arabic in the light of First Phase Syntax (Ramchand, 2008). The connection between syntax, semantics and event interpretation has been a major issue in linguistic theory. Resultative constructions are important evidence for the representation of complex events and participant roles in language. The present study examines the resultative constructions in Iraqi Arabic in the light of FPS. The study adopts a descriptive-analytical qualitative approach and analyzes three resultative constructions drawn from spoken Iraqi Arabic. Event decomposition, argument realization, interlinear glossing, and hierarchical syntactic representations are used to examine the data. The results show that resultative meanings are compositionally derived by the interaction of subeventual projections and not by lexical meaning alone. The analysis shows that resultative constructions are characterized by process and result projections, and sometimes by a result projection alone. The study also demonstrates that the roles of the participants, especially Undergoer and Resultee, are structurally defined by their location in the event structure.

Keywords: First Phase Syntax, Iraqi Arabic, Resultative Constructions, Event Structure, Argument Realization.

1. Introduction

Syntax-semantics interface has been a central issue in linguistic theory, especially in the study of event structure, argument realization and verbal interpretation. Of the phenomena that have received much attention are resultative constructions, which are important in understanding the representation of events and resulting states in grammatical structure. Resultative constructions have an event that results in a state. This construction provides valuable evidence for the interaction between syntax, meaning and event composition.

Previous research has tended to account for resultativity by means of lexical properties of verbs. More recent approaches, however, have turned to decompositional analyses which see the verbal meaning as structurally organized within the syntax. In this view, the interpretation of events is not based on pre-specified lexical representations but on the interaction of smaller subevents. This has had a profound impact on research into argument realization and the representation of complex events.

Among the most influential decompositional model is the one proposed by Ramchand (2008) called First Phase Syntax (FPS). FPS sees verbal events as hierarchically structured configurations, comprising subeventual layers: process (procP) and result (resP), and in some cases initiation (initP). The framework creates a direct link between event structure, participant interpretation and syntactic representation, and offers a unified account of change of state and resultativity.

Although there is a number of studies on resultative constructions in various languages, there is a lack of studies on these constructions in Iraqi Arabic from a decompositional syntactic point of view. Iraqi Arabic shows different patterns of affectedness and result interpretation. These properties make it a suitable language for the study of the interaction between event structure and argument realization. In this regard, the present study examines the resultative constructions in Iraqi Arabic in the light of First Phase Syntax.

2. The present research

This paper tries to answer the following question:

How does FPS account for the relationship between the lexicon and syntax in resultative constructions in Iraqi Arabic?

Therefore, this paper aims to investigate how resultative constructions in Iraqi Arabic are analyzed within the framework of FPS, with particular attention paid

to how the interaction between lexical roots and syntactic projections (procP and resP) influences event structure and argument roles.

The present study focuses on resultative constructions in Iraqi Arabic in the context of FPS introduced by Ramchand (2008). Specifically, the study investigates the syntactic representation of event structure, the realization of arguments, and the interpretation of verbs in selected Iraqi Arabic constructions.

The analysis is limited to spoken Iraqi Arabic data and does not involve Modern Standard Arabic or detailed comparison with other Arabic dialects. The study is qualitative descriptive analytical without quantitative analysis, statistical measurement and corpus based investigation.

The data analyzed in this study consists of three resultative constructions. These constructions were chosen because they offer good evidence to explore event decomposition and argument realization in the context of FPS.

3. Literature Review

3.1 Resultative Constructions: definition and Classification

Resultative constructions play a significant role in linguistic theory as they represent not only an action or process, but also the resulting state of the participant as a result of the action or process. The resultative construction is not simply the description of an activity, but a complex process result construction, and therefore is of great interest for the study of syntax, semantics, argument realization, and event structure.

The earliest influential discussion of resultative constructions is given by Simpson (1983) who defines resultatives as constructions where the secondary predicate indicates the result of the action of the main predicate. In prototypical resultative constructions the first predicate refers to an activity or process and the second predicate refers to the state that the participant is in as a result of the activity or process.

The investigation of resultative constructions later was closely related to theories of event structure and argument realization. Levin and Rappaport Hovav (2005) suggest that verbal meaning should not be considered a simple lexical unit, but rather a structured representation that consists of subevents and semantic components. In this view, resultative constructions are especially important as they include a process and a resulting change of state.

The increasing interest in event decomposition, scalar change and result states eventually brought the study of resultative constructions back toward syntactic approaches. Ramchand (2008) has proposed First Phase Syntax, which provides a detailed description of the syntactic representation of complex event structures and the emergence of resultative meaning from the interaction of subevental components.

Ramchand's framework is especially important because it questions the traditional lexicalist theories. She suggests that much of the properties that earlier theories claimed the lexicon possesses are actually acquired by means of syntactic composition and hierarchical organization of event structure.

The resultative constructions are also shown to be tightly linked to path interpretations and bounded event progression. Ramchand maintains that the path and the state are not independent semantic properties of the event, but rather are structurally related.

3.2 The Structure of Arguments and Events

The structure of the argument has been a central concern in generative linguistic theory since it is one of the major points of contact between syntax and semantics. In general, argument structure refers to the number and kind of participants involved in an event, and the structural relations between the participants and the predicate.

Traditional lexical approaches often treated verbs as the main source of argument structure. However, later approaches argued that argument realization is better explained through syntactic structure. In this view, participants are not assigned roles only by lexical meaning, but by their position in the event structure.

Ramchand's FPS offers a clear model for this. In this framework, verbal meaning is decomposed into subevents, mainly process and result in resultative constructions. The participant linked to the process is interpreted as the Undergoer, while the participant linked to the result is interpreted as the Resultee.

This is important because it means that the same participant may receive more than one interpretive role depending on the structure of the event. FPS also helps explain why some resultative constructions are direct resultatives, some are true resultatives, and some are path resultatives.

4. Analysis and Discussion

In this section resultative constructions in Iraqi Arabic are analyzed using FPS where verbal meaning is decomposed into fundamental layers of event structure: procP (process) and resP (result), and in some cases no initP (initiation). These projections correspond respectively to the change, the process, and the resultant state or endpoint of the event.

-True resultative Constructions

1. الغرفة صارت ثلج

il-gurfa	ṣār-at	ṭaliḡ
DEF-room	become-PST.F	ice

The room became ice-cold
Typological Classification

It is True Resultative Construction. The event ends in a clearly identifiable resulting state that is an integral part of the interpretation of the construction. The participant experiences a change of state and a final state described by *ṭalij* ('ice-cold'). Within FPS, the event consists of a process subevent that directly leads to a result state.

Semantic Analysis

This construction is used to describe a non-causative resultative change-of-state event where an entity changes from one state to another without an explicit external causer. The participant *il-ḡurfa* ('the room') is the entity that is affected and undergoes the change. The predicate *ṣār-at* ('became') expresses the transition process, and *ṭalij* ('ice') is the result state that is reached at the end of the process. The meaning of the expression is not that the room actually turned into ice, but that it was extremely cold. The construction thus emphasizes the end point of the event and the state of the affected entity. The event has a clearly identifiable outcome, so it is given a telic interpretation. The construction therefore is a non-causative change-of-state event with a strong resultative meaning.

Decompositional Analysis

The structure has a process subevent (procP) and a result subevent (resP) but no initiation layer (initP). Thus, the sentence is a change of state sentence that leads to a result state without the introduction of an external causer. The construction is thus treated as a non-causative resultative event.

In FPS the sentence *الغرفة صارت ثلج* represents a non-causative change-of-state event whose interpretation is due to the interaction of subeventual structure instead of lexical encoding of causation.

The dynamic verb *صارت* (to become) is not used in the canonical meaning, but rather, it represents a shift to a new state. Decompositionally, there are two subevents in the event. The transition experienced by the entity is captured by the process subevent (procP) and the end state at the end of this transition is captured in the result subevent (resP).

The DP *الغرفة* is both Undergoer and Resullee, whereas *ثلج* is a predicative complement that provides the state of the result.

Event Structure and Argument Realization

The structure of the event of *الغرفة صارت ثلج* includes two subeventual projections procP and resP, and no initiation layer (initP). Ramchand (2008) asserts that the

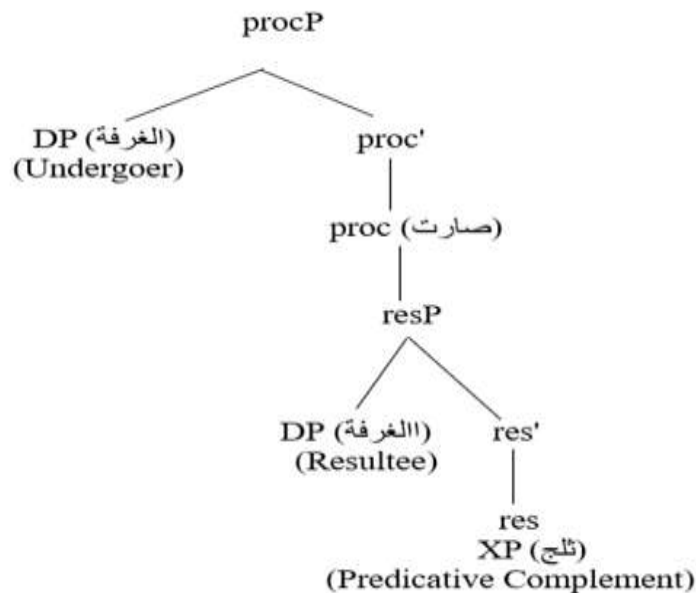
lack of initP signifies that no external causer is syntactically expressed and thus the construction is not causative.

The process sub event is lexicalized by the verb صارت which expresses a transition to a new state and not a dynamic action. This is viewed as a process that is experienced by the subject as time goes by, with a well-defined end result.

There is only one argument in the sentence (الغرفة) :

The DP الغرفة is achieved on two layers of the structure. In procP it is the Undergoer and it goes through the transition. In resP, it serves as the Resultee, which is the object that contains the resulting state.

Element تلج is presented in resP as a complement of the result head. It serves as a predicative complement (result predicate), the last condition of the subject. Its existence helps to make the telic interpretation because the event comes to a clear end, as shown in the following tree diagram.



-Direct Resultative

2. المي بارد

il-may barad

DEF-water become.cold.PST

The water became cold

Typological Classification

This example represents a Direct Resultative Construction. The event involves a change of state in which the affected participant undergoes a transition that directly culminates in a resulting state. No overt causer is expressed in the

construction, and the focus is placed on the process of change and the attainment of the result state. Within FPS, the event is represented through a process subevent leading directly to a result state.

Semantic Analysis

This construction is used to describe a non-causative change-of-state event where an entity changes without an explicit external causer. The participant il-may (the water) is the entity being affected and undergoes a transition from a warmer state to a colder state. The predicate barad ('became cold') refers to the change itself and the state of the participant that is arrived at by the change. The event is thus a distinct change of state, which leads to a new state, namely coldness. The event has a natural end point and is therefore given a telic interpretation. The source of the change is not mentioned, and the emphasis is on the entity that is affected and the state that it is in, unlike causative constructions. Thus, the construction represents a simple transition from one state to another without an overt causal participant.

Decompositional Analysis

In the context of FPS, the sentence *المى برد* can be interpreted as stative predication structure which does not contain a complete eventive structure. As opposed to constructions that involve change-of-state, where a state is shifted to another, this sentence literally represents a state without any mark of temporal advancement or internal evolution.

In a decompositional point of view, the structure does not admit the partition into several subevents. It is, instead, described by projecting one subeventual layer, the result subevent (resP). Here resP is not the result of a prior process, but as the point of predication, the main locus of predication, which encodes directly the predication of the state of the subject.

Importantly, there is no prediction of a process subevent (procP) since the sentence does not convey a sense of transition or gradual change. Similarly, when there is no initiation subevent (initP) it means that there is no outside causer or initiating force. This structural construction proves that the sentence does not describe an event, but rather a mere state description.

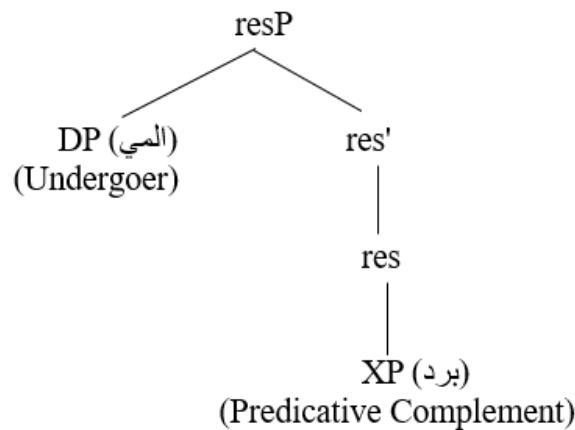
The predicate *برد* represents a quality that is immediately related to the object, instead of being based on a sequence of events. In this sense, this construction is indicative of a minimal syntactic structure that provides a state without the intervention of process or cause.

Event Structure and Argument Realization

The frame of *المى برد* is reduced to just a projection of a result layer (resP) and there is no indication of the existence of procP or initP. In the system of Ramchand, such a configuration indicates the lack of eventual interpretation

since dynamic development and causation are not coded. There is only one argument in the sentence: المي (the water)

The DP المي is an element of the resP domain and serves as the Resultee, that is, the object that has the state of the predicate. The argument is not subject to change as a result of any process and it is not influenced by an external force. Rather, it is directly connected to the state in the form of the structure. The element "برد" is added as the complement of the result head and serves as a predicative complement (XP). It states the attribute of the subject, and does not present an independent argument. In this regard, it is only descriptive, defining the condition of the DP. The construction, as a whole, is a direct predication relation in resP, in which one predicate is linked to a state. The lack of an initiation layer and a process layer proves the absence of events and the stativity of the structure, as shown in the following tree diagram.



--Path

Resultative

3. وكع الولد بالغاع

wiḡaʃ il-walad bi-l-gāʃ
fall.PST DEF-boy PREP-DEF-ground

The boy fell to the ground

Typological Classification

The endpoint of the event is not expressed by a resulting state, but by a goal location, unlike the previous resultative constructions. The construction is thus of the type of Path Resultatives, in which the event is understood as a motion towards a delimited goal. The ground is the completion of the event and gives it a telic interpretation.

Semantic Analysis

Semantically, *wigaṣ il-walad bi-l-gāṣ* ('The boy fell to the ground') is a non-causative change-of-location event in which a participant is moved from one location to another without the presence of an overt external causer. The participant *il-walad* ('the boy') is the entity affected and undergoes a downward movement, which leads to a new spatial position. The prepositional phrase *bi-l-gāṣ* ('to the ground') indicates the goal location and the end point of the movement. The event thus consists of a change of place from a starting point to a landing point on the ground. The movement has a definite end point, so it is given a telic interpretation. The external causer is not mentioned in the clause, and the semantic focus is on the movement experienced by the participant and the location attained at the end of the event.

Decompositional Analysis

In the context of the First Phase syntax (Ramchand, 2008) *وگع الولد بالگاع*, is a non-causative change-of-location that describes a situation where the eventuality occurs without an external initiator. The verb *وگع* (fall) is used to describes an event affecting the participant *الولد* and is not triggered by an external argument, and hence no *initP* is projected.

Decompositionally, can be decomposed into two fundamental sub events: a process and a result. The process subevent (*procP*) records the dynamic process occurring of the falling event with time. The result subevent (*resP*), on its part, represents the terminus of the movement, which is represented by the locative prepositional phrase *بالگاع* (on the ground)

Notably, the outcome in this construction is not a modification in an inseparable property (i.e. to be broken or clean), but a locative goal. This means that the outcome is path-based, which is a move between one place to another. This type of structure aligns with how Ramchand treats resultative subevents, where *resP* is capable of encoding either a state or a spatial endpoint.

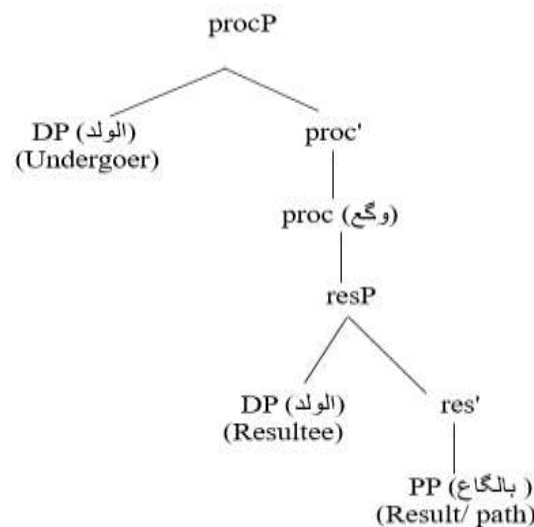
Event Structure and Argument Realization

The event structure of this sentence will be two subeventual projections of *procP* and *resP*, and no initiation layer. Ramchand (2008) points out that the presence of an initiation subevent (*initP*) is necessary to represent causation. The sentence is examined as non-causative since there is no projection of such a layer in this construction.

The verb *وگع* lexicalizes the process subevent and is realized in the head of *procP*. The DP *الولد* is merged in the specifier position of *procP* and it is construed as the Undergoer, i.e. participant in the event. It is a feature of unaccusative constructions where the only argument is internal and not an external argument.

This is achieved by the realization of the result subevent via resP which adds the endpoint of the event. The prepositional phrase بالمكان is used to define the end result of the movement as the complement of the result head. This locative outcome adds to a telic interpretation, in that the event has a natural end point.

Generally, the sentence has a procPresP structure (no initP) and it has a non-causative unaccusative structure. This discussion concurs with the model proposed by Ramchand (2008), where the structure of events and argument realization are based on the interaction of sub evental projections, as shown in the following tree diagram.



5. Results and Conclusion

The analysis shows that resultative constructions in Iraqi Arabic are systematically represented through event decomposition in FPS. The data confirm that resultative meaning is not stored as a fixed lexical property, but is compositionally derived from the interaction of process and result.

One important result is that resultative constructions differ in their structural realization, but all of them share a common event-based organization. The first construction expresses resultative meaning through an internal change of state. The second makes the result state more explicit through a result predicate. The third resultative shows that the result layer can also encode spatial endpoints.

Another important finding is that the participant roles in these constructions are structurally determined. The same DP may function as Undergoer in procP and as Resultee in resP. This pattern appears consistently across the data and supports Ramchand's claim that argument interpretation depends on structural position rather than lexical labeling.

The analysis also shows that the initiation layer is absent in the resultative constructions examined here. This absence is crucial because it distinguishes resultatives from causative constructions. In the Iraqi Arabic data, the resultative meaning emerges from the relationship between process and result, not from an external causer.

Finally, the study shows that Iraqi Arabic offers clear and productive evidence for the analysis of resultative constructions within FPS. The dialect provides examples of direct resultatives, true resultatives, and path resultatives, all of which can be explained through the same theoretical framework.

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