

LINGUISTICS 726: Causative Constructions

Fall 1990

Instructor: Clifton Pye, Blake 420, 864-3450

Office Hours: M 1:30-3:00, or by appointment

Textbook: **Transformational Grammar**, 2nd Ed. (1988) by Andrew Radford.

This course will provide students with a basic introduction to the Government and Binding theory of Chomsky. The text by Radford will provide a background in X bar theory -- the basis for current descriptions of phrase structure. The later half of the course will focus on the grammatical description of transitivity alternations, especially causative constructions. Causative alternations, such as 'the glass broke' - 'Jake broke the glass', add an extra noun phrase to a sentence, thereby producing a basic modification of sentential structure. By investigating causative constructions in a number of languages, students will gain a better appreciation of the ways in which GB theory may be modified in light of cross-linguistic variation.

The course will require all members to read and discuss the assigned readings. Exercises will also be assigned on the chapters in Radford. The final grade for the course will be based on the results of two exams and a final take-home exam in addition to the weekly exercises and class discussion.

$$\frac{116}{417} \text{ total} = 28\%$$

$$\frac{116 \times 2 + X}{116 + X} = \frac{107}{100}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (232 + X)100 &= 107(116 + X) \\ 23200 + 100X &= 12412 + 107X \\ 10788 &= 7X \end{aligned}$$

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND EXERCISES:

Topic	Tentative Dates	Reading	Exercises
Introduction	Aug. 28-30	Rad., Chap. 1	
Constituents	Sept. 4-6	" Chap. 2	VII, IX
Phrase Structure	" 11-18	" Chap. 3	IV, VIII
X-bar: NP's	" 20-25	" Chap. 4	VI, XI
X-bar: etc.	Sept. 27-Oct. 2	" Chap. 5	VI, VIII
Exam 1	Oct. 4		
Clauses	Oct. 9-11	Rad., Chap. 6	IV, VII
Lexicon	" 16-18	" Chap. 7	I, X
Movement	" 23-25	Rad., Chap. 8	II, VII
Wh Movement	Oct. 30-Nov. 1	" Chap. 9	IV, VI
Move α	Nov. 6-8	" Chap. 10	IV-A, C, E, IX
ECP	Nov. 13-15	To be assigned	
Exam 2	Nov. 20		
Causatives	Nov. 27-Dec. 6	To be assigned	
Final Exam	Distributed Dec. 6th, Due Dec. 18th - 12 noon		

ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Weekly readings
- B. Regular weekly assignments

MARKS:

- A. There will be two exams - each worth 20% of the final mark. The Final exam will be assigned on a take-home basis and is worth 40% of the final mark.
- B. There will be ten weekly assignments worth a total of 20% of the final mark. 2 points will be taken off the term mark for each incomplete or late assignment. Late assignments will be accepted up to one week after the due date. 5 points will be taken off the term mark for each missing weekly assignment. Absenteeism is not an acceptable excuse.
- C. Classroom participation is expected and will be taken into consideration for the final mark. The latter may be adjusted up to 10 points in either direction on the basis of classroom participation.

EXAMS:

The exams will cover all material given in class, all material in readings, whether discussed in class or not, and material from assignments.