1.1 Resultatives

- Monoclausal causatives in which an agent performs an activity that brings about a change of state in (another) entity; the result is encoded as a secondary predicate.

**English**
Mary hammered the spoon flat.

**ASL**
\(I_{HAMMER \ SPOON \ FLAT}X_{caus} \)

“Did you hammer the spoon flat?”

1.2 Directness of causation

- a. Mary hammered the spoon flat.
- b. Mary caused the spoon to become flat.

Possible factors:
- causee’s degree of control [2]
- causee’s intentions [5, 17]
- physical contact [14]
- shared spatio-temporal profile [7]
- adjacency in the causal chain [1, 4, 13]

1.3 Causative affix vs. operator

- Concealed causatives have no overt morphological exponent of causation
- Where does the causal meaning come from?

1. silent causative verb/affix [10, 16]

\((cause) = \lambda x.\_x, \lambda x.\_ , \text{mate}\_x \text{ and event}_x \) & \(\text{P} \) & \(\text{CAUS}_x(\_x)\)

2. compositional semantic rule [16]

Causation as a type-shifting operator that takes a transitive verb \((<e,e'>)\) and an adjectival \((<e,r>)\) and outputs a complex verb \((<e,e'>,r>)\).

Aims

1. Establish empirically which factors impact directness of causation in English and ASL resultatives
2. Focus on theoretically established factors (a) temporal distance, (b) intervening cause(r), and (c) causee intentionality
3. Show that the empirical results support an analysis of concealed causation in English resultatives as a null affix

**Background**

**Directness of causation in English and ASL resultatives: Evidence for a null causative affix**

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**Results**

- Resultatives are more appropriate in Direct causation scenarios than in Indirect ones.
- Temporal distance is more acceptable than intervening cause(s) (Temp + Intervening < 0.01).
- In English, causee intentionality raises appropriateness of an intermediate cause(r) (Intervening > 0.001)

**Discussion & Conclusion**

1. At least 3 levels of directness need to be distinguished:
- Direct
- Protrusive
- Temporal distance
- Intervening cause(s)

2. Causation in English resultatives is likely encoded by a causative affix:
- Type-shifting operators contribute only logical meaning.
- Causee intentionality affects immediate precedence in the causal chain (making ‘tools’ invisible in the chain).
- Intentionality is more likely encoded by a null lexical element.