

第24回名古屋大学大学院人文学研究科言語学分野公開講演会  
(The 24th Nagoya U. Linguistics Dept. Colloquium)

# Causative and anticausative verb formation

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**Abstract:** For the comparative study of causative and anticausative verb forms, Japanese linguists and Japanese studies have played an important role (ever since Shibatani 1976 and Jacobsen 1985). An example of a causative formation is *sizumeru* ‘make sink’ (from *sizumu*), and an example of an anticausative is *wareru* ‘break (intr.)’ (from *waru*). In this presentation, I will focus on cross-linguistic generalizations, not on language-particular analyses, and I will argue that the observed general correspondences between (anti)causative verb formation and causal/noncausal meanings can be explained by the efficiency theory of asymmetric coding (Haspelmath 2021). This theory is a social-functional theory, not primarily a cognitive-functional theory (thus contrasting with Shibatani 2016), let alone a cognitive-naturalistic theory (thus contrasting with Alexiadou et al. 2006). I will focus on examples from English, Spanish, Indonesian and Japanese, which suffice to illustrate the range of cross-linguistic variation. Like Shibatani (2016), I will highlight the role of frequency of occurrence, but I argue that grammatical coding patterns are best explained by social-functional efficiency, rather than by cognitive transparency.

- 日時：2024年2月1日 (木) 16:30~18:00 (Feb 1 (Th), 16:30-18:00, 2024)
- 場所：名古屋大学東山キャンパス全学教育北棟406室 (Room 406, North wing, Zengaku-kyoiku building, Higashiyama campus, Nagoya University)
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