

Toward an analysis of transitive resultatives

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Transitive resultatives (TRs) are sentences in which the internal argument NP of a transitive verb V is followed by an adjective phrase denoting the state of NP as a result of the action described by V. An example is (1).

(1) he will pound the metal flat

In Vietnamese, TRs exhibit interesting distributional facts. For example, functional heads such as T, Neg, or modals can appear at exactly two places, after the subject, or after the direct object.

- (2) a. no se dap mieng sat bet
he will pound the metal flat
b. no dap mieng sat se bet
- (3) a. no khong dap mieng sat bet
he not pound the metal flat
b. no dap mieng sat khong bet
- (4) a. no phai dap mieng sat bet
he must pound the metal flat
b. no dap mieng sat phai bet

As for English, TRs also present some puzzles. For example, they call for an explanation of the fact that both the direct object and the resultative AP behave like a selected argument. As Carrier & Randall (1992) point out, extraction out of the direct object in TRs seems fine, unlike extraction out of a small clause subject, for example.

- (5) a. which gang did you shoot the leader of dead?
b. * who did you consider a friend of intelligent?

Also, movement of the resultative AP out of an island seems to incur subjacency, not ECP violation, in contrast to movement of an adverb phrase out of an island.

- (6) a. ? how flat did you wonder whether he pounded the metal?
b. * how severely did you wonder whether he punished these boys?

In this talk, I propose an analysis for TRs in Vietnamese. I then extend that analysis to English TRs, showing that it can solve some analytic problems posed by this sentence type, among them the one presented above.

References

Carrier, J. and Randall, J. H. 1992. The Argument Structure and Syntactic Structure of Resultatives. *Linguistic Inquiry* 23: 173 – 234.