

Morphological directionality and event structure of the psych-alternation: the case of Spanish, Korean and Finnish

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Recently, inchoative states have been proposed as a subclass of stative eventualities (Bar-el 2005). For Spanish, Marín & McNally (2011) suggest that reflexive psych verbs can be categorized into *inchoative states* (e.g. *angustiarse* ‘get/be distressed’) and *punctual states* (e.g. *enfadarse* ‘get angry’). Likewise, Korean has two types of basic psych items, one denotes *pure states*, which include gradable adjectives (e.g. *koylopta* ‘distressed’), the other consists of a verbal subclass denoting *inchoative states* (e.g. *hwanata* ‘get angry’) (cf. Choi & Demirdache 2014). Finnish morphologically yields inchoative psych verbs by means of affixation of the suffix *-u*; these verbs have been generally categorized as achievements (Nelson, 1999; Pylkkänen, 2000). We propose that a classification along the lines of Marín & McNally (2011) is more appropriate for this language, hence yielding a division of the intransitive psych verbs into *pure states* (e.g. *pelä-tä* (fear-INF) ‘fear’), *inchoative states* (e.g. *ila-htu-a* (joy-INCH-INF) ‘get delighted’) and *punctual states* (e.g. *suutahtaa* (angry-MOMENTANE-INF) ‘burst out with anger’). The psych items of all three languages regularly participate in the psych alternation by means of causativization or anticausativization. The aim of this talk is to present results of an ongoing typological study on psych-alternations through the examination of the semanto-syntactic properties of the alternating pairs and their directionality. We present empirical data for the languages mentioned above, examining properties related to (a) the semantics of aspect (i.e. eventive vs. stative) (b) ‘boundary’ (i.e. left-boundary or onset of the state), and (c) the type of stimulus such as agent, causer, subject matter (Pesetsky, 1995). We examine and expand such premises systematically to both experiencer-subject and experiencer-object alternants in the three languages. **Keywords:** psych-verbs, inchoative states, Spanish, Korean, Finnish, event structure.