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## Two types of transitives with inchoative semantics

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A lot of work has been devoted to the question of whether the (intransitive) anticausative (aka *inchoative*) variant (e.g. (1b)) of causative (transitive) verbs (1a) involves causative semantics. The view developed in Kratzer 2005, Schaefer 2008 and Alexiadou et al. 2015 is that Voice put aside, the transitive and intransitive variants of causative verbs have exactly the same semantics: they denote a set of causing events leading to some state. This view gives up the assumption that changes-of-state and causing events are fundamentally different types of events. Rather, changes-of-state are conceived as a subtype of causing events, namely the most proximate causes of the state (i.e., the closest causes in time and space). The difference between causative and anticausative VP is then reduced to the way causing events in the denotation of the VP are identified in the ontology – as changes-of-state for the anticausative, or as mereological sums of actions and changes-of-state for the causative (Martin 2020). In this paper, we contrast agentive causative statements (1a) with two other transitive construals of causative verbs (cf. (2a–b)), as analysed by Martin 2020 and Schäfer 2021 respectively. In line with their proposal, we argue that while in (1a), the causing events denoted by the VP are identified as sums of actions and changes-of-state, in (2a–b), the causing events denoted by the VP are identified as pure changes-of-state, exactly as in anticausative statements (1b). In this respect, both transitive VPs in (2a–b) have inchoative semantics (i.e., they denote a set of causing events identified as changes-of-state). However, while transitive anticausative statements (2b) just describe a change, non-agentive causative statements (2a) express a more complex causal chain, since their subject denotes an external cause of the change-of-state described by the VP.

- (1) a. Des généticiens changeront les formes de la vie sur terre. ‘Geneticists will modify the shapes of life on Earth.’ (agentive causative)  
b. Les formes de la vie sur terre changeront. ‘The shapes of life on Earth will change.’ (intrans. anticausative)
- (2) a. La consommation d’énergies fossiles *aujourd’hui* changera les formes de la vie sur terre *demain*. ‘Today’s consumption of fossil fuels will change the shapes of life on Earth tomorrow.’ (non-agentive causative)  
b. La vie sur terre changera ses formes *demain*. ‘Life on Earth will change its shapes tomorrow’ (trans. anticausative)