

Transitivity and argument roles of verbs of naming

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The naming construction (NAMING):

- (1) *The parents_{NAMER} named/called the child_{NAMEE}
Anna_{NAME}.*

The be-named construction (BE-NAMED):

- (2) *The child_{NAMEE} is called/???named Anna_{NAME}.*

nan-a-t

hide comment

not sure how to express the name

Coding frame ①

V.obj[1] sbj[2] 1

Example ①

(71) *nanat =čx^w tə= čuy'* ★
 nan-a-t-Ø =čx^w tə= čuy'
 name-LV-CTR-3.OBJ =2SG.INDC.SBJ DET= child
 '(You) name the baby!'

Verb meaning ①, **Microroles** ①, **Coding sets** ① and **Argument types** ①

#	NAME	Coding set	Argument type
1	namee	V.obj	P
2	namer	V.sbj	A

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- How are the NAMING and the BE-NAMED construction realized in the languages of the world?
- How common in derivation from one to the other through valency changing operations (and in which direction)?
- What is the argument structure of these constructions? In particular, what is the status of the NAME?



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- Anderson (2007) distinguishes between „true“ verbs of naming and multifunctional call-type verbs.
- Matushansky (2008) analyses naming-verbs as taking small clause complement that have the NAMEE as subject and the NAME the predicate .
- She proposed the following **lexical structure for names**, which includes a naming convention (R) and a representation of the name as a phonological string. R is provided by the naming verb or the context (for names as arguments).

Matushansky (2008: 592):

$$\llbracket \text{Alice} \rrbracket = \lambda x \in D_e . \lambda R_{\langle e, \langle n, t \rangle \rangle} . R(x) (/ælis/)$$

Languages in the Valency Patterns Leipzig Online Database (**ValPaL**: Hartmann et al. 2013):



<http://valpal.info/languages>

Expression of Microroles in Hartmann et al. (2013):

namer: 41 verbs in 31 languages

namee: 40 verbs in 30 languages

name: 36 verbs in 28 languages

- 10 languages only provide examples of „name-calling“ (e.g. *(a) fool*)
- 3 additional only exemplify place or species names
- 16 languages with actual person naming constructions (one not counted in the ValPaL figures) + more data

- BE-NAMED is often derived from NAMING
 - valency decreasing (stative/passive/middle/resultative): e.g. English, Korean
 - reflexivization: French, Barngarla (Clendon 2015:131)
- same verb (no valency change): e.g. Teop
- distinct verb roots: e.g. German *nennen* vs. *heißen*
- BE-NAMED is expressed non-verbal; 'name'(-POSS) (COP) X_{NAME}
- NAMING is NV-compound/light-verb construction ('give name') e.g. Bezhta; with optional incorporation of 'name': Nama-Damara
- NAMING derived from BE-NAMED (nominal): ? Yucatec Maya (usative)
- NAMING derived from BE-NAMED (verbal): ? Turkish

Korean (Kim 2013: ex. 81, ex. 151):

- (3) bumonim-deul-i geu ai-reul anna-rago
 parents-PL-NOM that child-ACC Anna-be:QUOT
 bureu-eoss-da
 call-PST-DECL
 ‘The parents called that child “Anna”.’
- (4) geu-neun chincheok-deul-hante Jjangsuni-rago
 he-TOP relative-PL-DAT Jjangsuni-QUOT
 bureu-li-eoss-da
 call-PASS-PST-DECL
 ‘He is called Jjangsuni by his relatives.’

Teop (Oceanic; Ulrike Mosel personal communication):

(5) me=ori paa dao bari bene Sirivana
 and=3PL TAM call 4PL.OBJ ART Sirivana
 ‘and they named her Sirivana’

(6) nomana na dao ri=ori bona George Brown
 today TAM call TAM=3PL ART George Brown
 High School
 High School
 ‘Today they call it George Brown High School.’

- Teop has no passive (Mosel 2007), which could explain the use of an impersonal construction in (6)

Yucatec Maya (Lehmann 2013: ex. 331, ex.116)

(7) Hwaan u k'aaba' in iihoh
 John POSS.3 name POSS.1SG son
 'My son's name is John.'

(8) le taatah-tsil-o'b-o' t-u ts'a-ah-o'b
 father-ABS-PL-d2 PFV-SBJ.3 put/give-COMPL-PL
 Ana u k'aaba'-int u paal
 Anna POSS.3 name-USAT POSS.3 child
 'The parents named their child Anna.'

Turkish (Lewis 2000: 286):

- (9) Yüzbaşılık-tan emekli ol-an
 captainhood-ABL retired be-PRS.PTCP
 amca-m, yetmiş altı yaş-ı-ndan sonra
 uncle-1SG.POSS seventy six age-CPD-ABL after
 kendi-si-ne, herkes-e paşa
 self-3SG.POSS-DAT every-DAT pasha
de-dir-t-ir-di.
say-CAUS-CAUS-AOR-PST.COP
 ‘My uncle, who retired with (“from”) the rank of
 captain, after the age of 76 used to make everyone
 call him Pasha.’

- mostly obligatory in English and other languages, but not expressed/optional in some languages in Hartmann et al. (2013)
- no (real world) referent distinct from NAMEE (though the referent might be a phonological string)
- does not allow/appear to be affected by verb alternations (but cf. Yoruba)
- selection restrictions on NAMEE? (probably social rather than linguistic, cf. *a boy named Sue*)

Hypothesis:

NAME can be analyzed as a quotation in many languages

(10) The parents_{NAMER} named the child_{NAMEE} Anna_{NAME}.

(11) *The parents_{NAMER} named Anna_{NAME} to the
child_{NAMEE}.

- secondary/indirect object? (no dativ alternation)
- (equative) nominal predicate/ verbal complement?
(Matushansky 2008)
- NP in apposition to NAMEE?
- quotation/citation (“mention not use”)!

Yoruba (Atoyebi 2013: ex. 186, ex. 187)

(12) ìyáà mí pè mí ní Adé
 mother.POSS 1SG.POSS call 1SG.OBJ PREP Ade

‘My mother called/named me Ade.’

(13) ìyáà mí fi Adé pè mí
 mother.POSS 1SG.POSS PREP Ade call 1SG.OBJ

‘My mother called/named me Ade.’

- *ni/fi* alternation: selects theme argument of ditransitive verb (most commonly: GIVE)

Modern Greek (Anderson 2007: 219, 180):

(14) onomazete Vasilis
he.is.called Basil
'He is called Basil.'

(15) aftos ine o Vasilis
this is the Basil
'This is Basil.'

- Greek: names as arguments = definite article; names in NAMING (address) = no article (Anderson 2007: 219)
- Anderson cites Seri as behaving parallel to Greek. However, the situation is more complex; only names in BE-NAMED cannot be marked as definite. NAMING allows for definiteness-marking (Marlett 2016:364)

	ValPaL	also found in:
not definite/indefinite	5	Greek
definite/referential	(1)	Teop, Seri
zero/default-Case	3	Croatian
ACC-Case	3	
OBL-Case	7	
Quote/Citation	8	Nama-Damara, Turkish

(16) tsî=ts go |î-b |on-s-a
and=2SG DECL 3-3SG.M name-3SG.F-OBL

jesu-b ti nî †gai
Jesus-3SG.mas QUOT FUT call

‘and you will call him Jesus’ (lit. ‘... will call his name
“Jesus”’) (Bible trans.)

(17) ama mî=ts kha ra [[nam-te=ts
real say=2SG.M Q PROG love-1SG=2SG.M
a] ti=ts ra mî-o?
PRS.STAT QUOT=2SG.M PROG say-EMPH

‘Are you really saying, are you saying that you love
me?’

Turkish (pons.com; Göksel & Kerlake 2005:147; Lewis 2000:41)

(18) Köpeğ-i-ne Kastor ad-ı-nı ver-di
 dog-3SG.POSS-DAT Kastor name-CPD-ACC give-PST
 'He named his dog Kastor.'

(19) Orhan ism-i [Orhan name-CPD] 'the name "Orhan"'

(20) Bazı insan-lar çocuk-lar-ı-na tuhaf
 some person-PL child-PL-3POSS-DAT strange
 ad-lar koy-ar-lar.
 name-PL put-AOR-PL
 'Some people give their children strange names.'

Turkish (Lewis 2000:176, Göksel & Kerslake 2005:175; Ketrez 2012:171):

- (21) Liva di-ye bir dost-um var.
Liva say-CVB one friend-1SG.POSS EXIST
'I have a friend named Liva' (colloquial)
- (22) Mehmet di-ye bir oğl-u daha var.
Mehmet say-CVB one son-3SG.POSS another EXIST
'S/he's got another son, called Mehmet.' (informal)
- (23) Biz-e 'gel-iyor mu-sunuz?' di-ye sor-du.
1PL-DAT come-PRS Q-2PL say-CVB ask-PST
'She asked us: "Are you coming?"'

- NAMING and BE-NAMED construction quite diverse in the languages of the world with respect to their lexical structure, range of meanings, as well as the encoding of the NAME (and further studies will most likely reveal much more variation).
- NAME does not behave like a regular NP-argument in many languages! How common is this?
- Overt markers of quotation/citation are found with the NAME in various areas of the world. But other markers (Accusative, Instrumental, Compound, Vocative . . .) are also found.

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naming

1/2/3/4	1st/2nd/3rd/4th person	OBL	oblique
ABL	ablative	PASS	passive
ACC	accusative	OBJ	object
AOR	aurist	PL	plural
ART	article	POSS	possessor
CAUS	causative	PREP	preposition
COP	copula	PRS	present tense
CPD	compound	PST	past tense
CVB	converb	PTCP	participle
DAT	dative	Q	interrogative
DECL	declarative	QUOT	quotation
EMPH	emphatic	SG	singular
EXIST	existential	STAT	stative
F	feminine	TAM	tense/aspect/mode
FUT	future	TOP	topic
M	masculine	USAT	usativ
NOM	nominative		

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