

Transitivity morphology

Syntax 1 (Fall 2006)

Mokilese (Ponapeic: Micronesia: Oceanic: Austronesian, spoken by fewer than 500 people on Mokil Island and another 500 elsewhere, mostly Pohnpei [Federated States of Micronesia])
 (Data from Sheldon Harrison with Salich Albert. 1976. *Mokilese reference grammar*. The Univ of Hawaii Press: Honolulu.)

	<i>Transitive</i>	<i>gloss</i>	<i>Intransitive</i>	<i>gloss</i>
(1) a.	okoj	burn something	ok	to burn
b.	wideki	pour s.t.	widek	to pour
c.	japwoli	shovel s.t.	japwol	to shovel
d.	oaki	hide s.t.	oak	hidden [i.e. 'to be hidden']

E.g.

(2) Ngoah *okojda* angen majisse. 'I lit this match.' (p. 160)
 Angen majisse *ok*. 'This match is burning.'

(3) Ngoah pirin *oaki* jahrro. 'I'll hide that knife.' (p. 155)
 Jahrro *oak*. 'That knife is hidden.'

Yaqui (Uto-Aztecan, spoken by 400 people in Arizona and 16000 in northern Sonora, Mexico)
 (From Eloise Jelinek. 1998. Voice and transitivity as functional projections in Yaqui. In Miriam Butt and Wilhelm Geuder (eds.), *The projection of arguments*, 195-224. CSLI: Stanford, Ca.)

Yaqui has different suffixes for transitive (*-(t)a*) and intransitive verbs (*-(t)e*):

<i>Transitive</i>		<i>Intransitive</i>	
chep-ta	'step on x'	chep-te	'jump'
'om-ta	'anger x'	'om-te	'be angry'
noi-ta	'take/bring x'	noi-te	'go/come'
vee-ta	'burn x'	vee-te	'burn'
kot-ta	'break x'	kot-te	'break'
sip-a	'cool x'	sip-e	'become cool'

Transitive:

(4) a. 'ume 'o'ow-im 'uka maaso-ta me'-a-k
DET:PL man-PL DET:ACC deer-ACC kill-TR-PERF
 'The men killed the deer.' (active)

Intransitive

(5) a. 'ume 'o'ow-im pahko-po ye'-e-ka
DET:PL man-PL ceremony-PP dance-INTR-PERF
 'The men danced at the ceremony.' (active)

b. 'u kari vee-te
DET house burn-INTR
 'The house is burning.' (active)