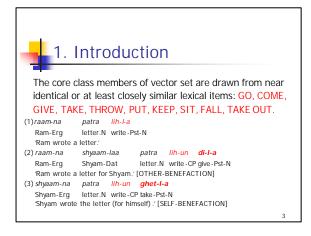


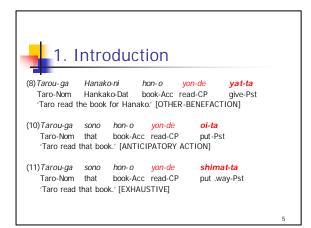
Peter Edwin Hook and Prashant Pardeshi University of Virginia and Kobe University Eleventh Biennial Symposium: Intertheoretical Approaches to Complex Verb Constructions Rice University, 16th - 18th March 2006

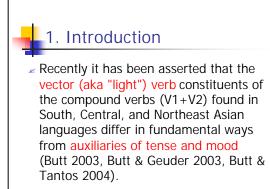
1. Introduction

- The compound verb (CV) is one of the hallmarks of the South Asian linguistic area (Cf. Masica 1976) and has been a topic of debate in traditional as well as modern linguistic descriptions.
- CV is concatenation of two verbs—polar verb V1 (aka as main, or primary verb) and vector verb V2 (aka explicator, light verb, secondary verb, intensifier, operator, etc.).
- The polar verb is in the conjunctive participle (or absolutive) form while the vector verb bears desinential affixes.
- Compound verbs can usually be replaced by corresponding non-compound verbs with little or no difference in meaning translatable into languages (eg, English) that lack them.



.				
1.	Introd	uction		
(4) raam-na	patra	lih-un	Thev-I-a	
Ram-Erg	letter.N	write-CP	keep-Pst-N	
'Ram wrote	a letter.' [AN	ITICIPATORY ACT	ION]	
(5) <i>raam-na</i>	patra	lih-un	Taak-I-a	
Ram-Erg	letter.N	write-CP	throw-Pst-N	
'Ram wrote	e a letter.' [NC	W RID or FREE	of OBLIGATION]	
(6) raam-na	patra	lih-un	kaaDh-l-a	
Ram-Erg	letter.N	write-CP	draw-Pst-N	
'Ram wrote	e a letter.' [EX	HAUSTIVE]		
(7) <i>raam</i>	patra	lih-un	bas-l-aa	
Ram.M	letter.N	write-CP	sit-Pst-M	
'Ram wrote	a letter.' [UN	IDESIRABILITY of	ACTION	





1. Introduction

A central contention (Butt 2003:15-16) is that while auxiliaries may evolve from full verbs over longer or shorter periods of time in ways deemed by students of grammaticalization to be universally valid path-ways; the vector verbs do not evolve along those paths.

1. Introduction

Vector verbs are said to be "form-identical" with their full verb counterparts while tense auxiliaries are not:

" the light verb is always form-identical to a main verb in the language ... historically stable, very much unlike what has been documented for auxiliaries.." (Butt 2003:15)

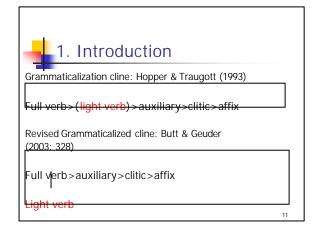
1. Introduction

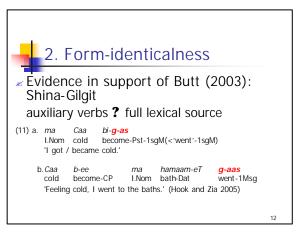
Vector verb's semantics are claimed to be sufficiently abstract to allow them to function immediately as vectors or explicators in compound verbs without semantic bleaching or phonological ablation.

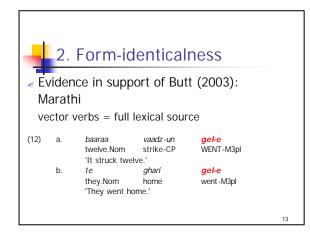


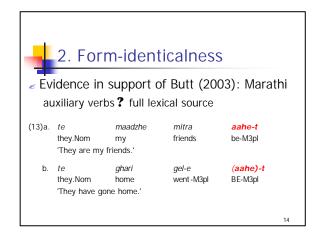
Furthermore, vector verbs are not to be regarded as semantically "bleached" :

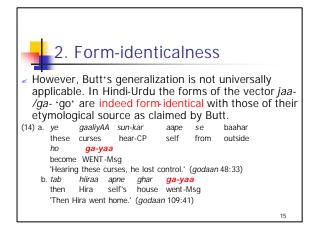
"... light verbs do not enter the grammaticalization cline, i.e., they are not main verbs which have been reanalyzed as light verbs and which are now prone to further reanalysis. ... light verbs are intimately connected to their main verb counterpart in the lexicon. They are so intimately connected that we assume just one lexical entry which can give rise to both light and main verb meanings." (Butt 2003:16)

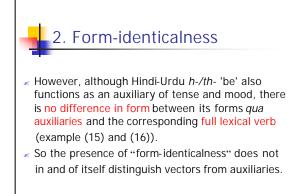


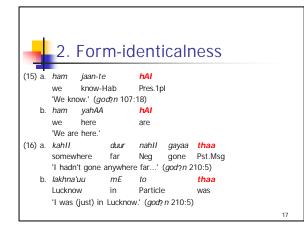


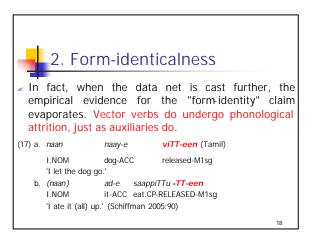










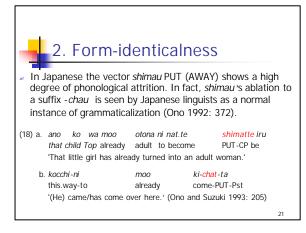


2. Form-identicalness

- About vector koL-/koo- HOLD; CONTAIN Schiffman says: "The phonology of the spoken form of this aspectual verb differs much more from its literary Tamil counterpart than could be predicted by regular historical or morphophonemic rules." (2005: 96)
- Schiffman adds a footnote: "The extreme variability of the phonology of this aspectual verb bespeaks a radical departure of some sort that is one of the symptoms of the process of grammaticalization" (2005:105).

2. Form-identicalness

- Dictionaries specify forms for the imperative of koL-/ koo- when it occurs as a vector that are different from those of koL-/koo- as a main verb
- These facts are not consonant with Butt's and Tantos's claim that "... historical changes that apply to change the surface form of the verb (changes in morphology, form, etc.) will apply to both the light and the main verb uses..." (2004:126)



2. Form-identicalness

We may conclude that the tendency over time for function as opposed to content verbs to undergo (or not to undergo) phonological attrition in a particular language or language family does not depend on whether they are functioning as vectors or as auxiliaries of tense or mood.

3. Semantic bleaching

- Is the contribution of the vector verb to the semantics of a compound verb something that needs to be separately accounted for? Or is the meaning of the vector isotopic with that of its full lexical counterpart, hence not subject to independent specification?
- What are the consequences of this hypothesis? If the isosemantic assumption were correct, we should expect differences in the semantic range of a given lexical verb to be reflected by parallel differences in the range of functions of the corresponding vector. And vice versa.

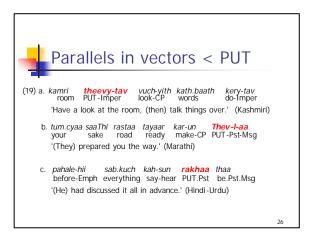
3. Semantic bleaching

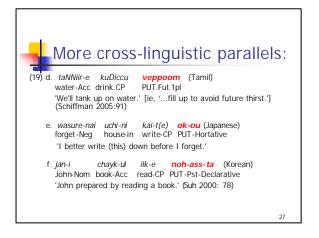
- These correlations should be observable both within and across languages. As the semantics of a main verb evolve, the functions and distribution of the vector should evolve *pari passu*.
- If cognate lexical verbs have the same or nearly the same range of meanings in languages x and y, their vector counterparts should have the nearly the same distributions in x and y. This seems to be true in the case of PUT/KEEP in (19).

24

3. Semantic bleaching

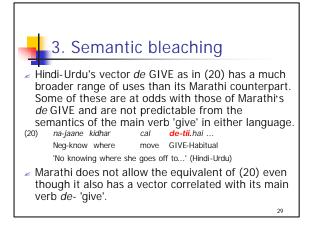
- Masica (1976) has noticed the cross-linguistic parallel in the function of vectors whose lexical counterparts mean 'put' or 'keep'.
- Regardless of their etymological source or phonological shape, vectors PUT/KEEP are used in the sense of performance of an act with future use or benefit in view.
- Such parallels can be seen in the uses of Kashmiri's *thav* (19a) and Marathi's *Thev* (19b), Hindi-Urdu's (non-cognate) *rakh* (19c), Tamil's *vayyi* (19d), Japanese's *ok* (19e), and Korean's *noh* (19f) and *twu* (19q).

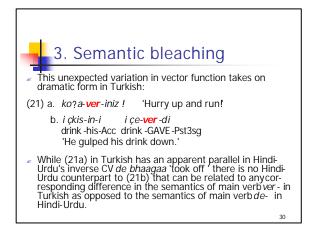






However, the cross-linguistic parallels in the meanings of vectors that are homophonous with main verbs meaning 'put' or 'keep' are the exception rather than the rule. Let us look at some exceptions.

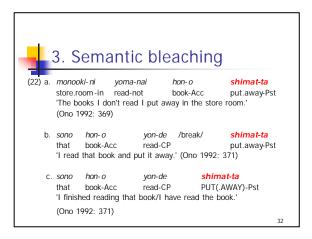


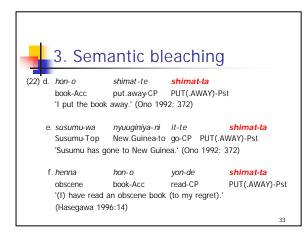


3. Semantic bleaching

The Japanese vector shimau PUT (AWAY) also exhibits a profound degree of semantic bleaching. As pointed out by Ono (1992:371) some dictionaries even have a separate entry for the grammaticalized usage and the Ministry of Education in Japan is trying to abolish use of the Chinese character (which denotes its lexical meaning) for the rendering of the grammaticalized usage. Example (22 a-f) shows the spectrum from lexical to grammatical usages of shimau.

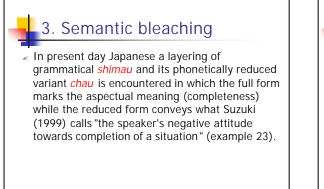
31

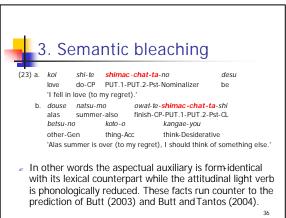






Example (22a) represents the lexical use of *shimau* while (d-f) represent its grammatical uses. Examples (22b, 22c) straddle between the lexical and grammatical use with the former having a phonological break while the latter doesn't. This according to Ono represents the iconic relationship holding between phonological distance and conceptual distance: In (22b) the presence of a phonological break has a two-event interpretation wherein *shimau* maintains its lexical meaning while (22c) with its absence of a phonological break has a one-event interpretation in which *shimau* does not have its lexical meaning. Example (22d) shows a concatenation with two *shimau*'s in a row. The first one has the lexical interpretation while the second one is grammaticalized.





34

3. Semantic bleaching

- Furthermore, it is interesting to note that the acquisition of the reduced form -chau precedes its non-reduced counterpart _te shimau. Through the analysis of mother-child interaction data, Suzuki (1999) demonstrates that -chau which is the most grammaticalized form occurs much more frequently than its full form counterpart _te shimau.
- She claims that the earliest meaning of -chau as shown to the child by his mother is affective, expressing a negative attitude toward completion of a situation, rather than mere completion. This according to her is one of the morphological tools that a Japanese mother uses in socialization, trying to teach a child how to behave, how to move his own body, and how the world around him is structured.

4. Entanglement

In a more recent study Butt and Tantos (2004) assert that the vector and its main verb counterpart are so closely linked that if the either one disappears from its language then so does the former, simultaneously.

4. Entanglement

"... evidence for the intimate connection between main and light verb ... is the observation that when a verb ceases to exist in a language, then both the main and the light verb usage disappear simultaneously (if both exist). ... if the lexical entry is deleted from the grammar of the language, then both the main and the light verb use will cease to exist at the same time. ... This situation stands in stark contrast to that of auxiliaries, which tend to develop away from the original main verb form until they are almost unrecognizable." (2004:126)

4. Entanglement

- Further: "The available diachronic evidence... shows that one never finds a light verb on its own; there is always a form-identical main verb in use as well." (2004:126).
- The clearest counter-example to this generalization is Hebbar Tamil's kyo:- which as a vector is cognate with Tamil's ko:/koL- CONTAIN (Sriram 2004) but which in contemporary Hebbar Tamil does not have a main verb counterpart. kyo:- is an "orphan" vector, a status that, by Butt's claims, should be impossible.

5. The end of the line.

- A central contention (Butt 2003:15-16) is that while auxiliaries may evolve from full verbs over longer or shorter periods of time in ways deemed by students of grammaticalization to be universally valid path-ways; the vector verbs do not evolve along those paths.
- ∠ However...

5. Vectors do evolve.

- The verb *la* 'put, place' was already in use as a vector in the 8th century CE and was also used as a suffix:
- "The absolutive form of the verb *la* used as an auxiliary has ... become the mark of the absolutive..." ('absolutive' = conjunctive participle) ..." (Paranavitana 1956 1.clvii)

5. Vectors do evolve.

[pi]rimi bäNä la-ta tama-haTa speak PUT-Cond men self-with

rava-<mark>la</mark> [bäl]u dik-net frown-PUT looked long-eye

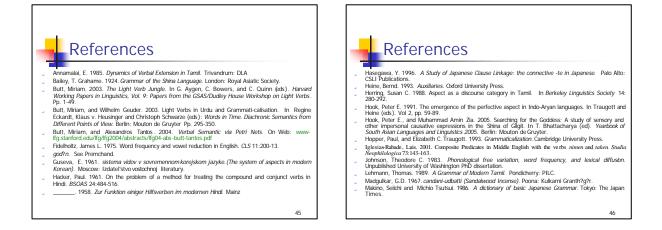
'Were men to speak to her, the long-eyed one looked (at them) frowning." (Paranavitana 1956:2.119, 8th cent)

6. Conclusion

We conclude that any differences in the speed of phonological attrition or semantic bleaching that may seem to discriminate vector verbs from auxiliaries of tense/mood should be ascribed to the greater text frequency of the auxiliaries and not to some fundamental or categorial distinction between vector verbs and other kinds of auxiliaries. (cf. Fidelholtz 1975 and Johnson 1983 as discussed in Newmeyer 1998:256)

Thank you for your kind attention!

(Comments, suggestions, criticisms most welcome.)



47

43

References

Martin, Samuel, Yang Ha Lee, and Sung-Un Chang. 1967. A Korean-English Dictionary. New Haven: Yale University Press.

- Newmeyer, Frederick J. 1998. Languge form and language function. MIT Press. Ono, Tsuyoshi. 1992. The grammaticalization of the Japanese verbs oku and shimau. Cognitive Linguistics 3 (4): 367-390.
- Ono, Tsuyoshi and Ryoko Suzuki. 1992. The development of markers of speaker's attitude: The pragmatic use of the Japanese grammaticalized verb shimau. Proceedings of the eighteenth annual meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society. Berkeley: University of California. Paranavitana, S. 1956. Sigiri Graffiti, (two vols.) Oxford University Press.
- Communication 20, 1720, Signi Granifit. (two vols.) Uxtord University Press. Pardeshi, Prashant, Kaoru Horie & Shigeru Sato. 2005. An anatomy of the posture verb basNe Sit in Marathi. A cognitive-functional account. In Newman and Rice (eds). Experimental and empirical methods. CSL1.

References

- Pompur, Rasool. 1986. vwany koor gatshi (Where will I go now?) Bijbehara: Sangam Publishers Premchand. god?n. Saraswati Press.
- Premchand god?n. Saraswati Press. Schiffman, Harold. 2005. Grammaticalization of aspect in Tamil. In S.S. Mufwene, E.J. Francis, and R.S. Wheeler (4s). Polymorphous Linguistics: Jim McCawley's Legacy. Cambridge: MIT. Pp. 83-107. Sirraw, Vasanth. A brief survey of Hebbar Tamil's verb morphology. Language in India IV. (online at http://www.languagelinidia.com/aug/2004/hebbartamili1.html) Strauss, Susan. 2003. Completive aspect, emotion, and the dynamic eventive: the case of Korean V-a/e pelita, Japanese V-te shimau, and Spanish se. Linguistics 41:655-679. Suh: Yongyhan. 2000. Study of the auxillary verb construction and verb serialization in Korean Seoul: Hankuk. Suzuki, Ryoko. 1999. Language socialization through morphology: The affective suffix -CHAU in Japanese. Journal of Pragmatics 31: 1423-1441. Traugott, E.C., & B. Heine (4s). 1991. Approaches to Gramma-ticalization (2 vols). Amsterdam: J Benjamins. Yoshida, Kanehika. 1971. Gendaigo jodooshi no shiteki kenkyuu [Historical study of contemporary Japanese auxiliaries]. Tokyo: Meiji Shoin.