

# C10. Untung Waluyo

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# Causative Constructions in Belitong Language

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## Abstract

This study analyses and describes the phenomenon of valency-raising in Belitong language through causativization strategy. This study is conducted under the qualitative descriptive study alongside Relational Grammar (RG) theory. The process of collecting data is done in the forms of elicitation technique, interview with the native speakers, and documentation of the previous studies as well as some additional works of literature. The data were analysed carefully by following six procedural steps of the technique of analysing qualitative data proposed by Creswell (2009). The results of this study showed that: (1) Belitong accounts for two types of causative construction: morphological and analytic causative; (2) morphological causatives are signalled out by certain markers like suffixes *-an*, *-ek*, *-kan* or zero marker  $\emptyset$ ; and (3) analytic causatives are indicated by the insertion of the productive causative additional verbs such as *muat*, *isak*, *gara-gara*, *nyuro*, *base*, *melasa*, *karne*, and *muji*. To sum up, the revaluation principles for morphological causatives constructions are designated as 1–2 (causative); OBL–2, 2–Cho (applicative-causative) for intransitive clause; 1–2, 2–Cho (monotransitive); and 1–2, 2–Cho, OBL–OBL (transitive). Conversely, analytic causatives account for a relational structure such as 1–2.

## Keywords

analytic causative  
morphological causative  
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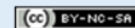
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# Causative Constructions in Belitong Language

## Introduction

Causativization is typically understood as a morphological strategy that accounts for the valency-changing phenomenon in morphosyntactic works. The study about the interrelation of morphology and syntax in terms of causative constructions across languages has been scrutinized under sundries pieces of research such as: [Jerro](#) (2017) who proposed an analysis of a morphological syncretism in the Bantu language Kinyarwanda in terms of causative and applicative. It provides the explanation for the interface between verb meaning and valency-changing constructions; [Mulyadi](#) (2004) who emphasized that verbal inflection and some additional productive causative verbs define the syntactic structure of causative in Indonesian; and [Brahma](#) (2017) describes the attachment of prefix and suffix on the verbs determine the differences between non-causative and causative verbs. He concerns on the analysis of causativization through the process of suppletion in Bodo language, a language spoken by Bodo tribes in the north-eastern India.

[Aronoff & Fudeman](#) (2011: 204) relate the notion of valency-changing into the alternations in the grammatical encoding of referential expressions named grammatical-function-changing phenomena. [Payne](#) (1997: 175 – 222) categorizes the term *valency-changing* mechanism into two big clusters; valence increment or raising and valence decreasing or reduction. Causative is then regarded as one of the valency-raising phenomena. [Comrie](#) (1989) affirms that causative constructions are typically concerned with the involvement of two-component situations, the cause, and its effect or result. In Comrie's view, then, these two situations are regarded as micro-situations which are combined forming a single complex macro-situation that is at the end known as a causative situation. Still, he distinguishes three typological causative cases: analytic causative, morphological causative, and lexical or suppletive causative.

Regarding morphosyntax, the relationship between micro and macro situations bears causative constructions whereby two arguments or valences are connected by causative verbs. Mostly, morphological affixes are added into the parts of the verb in particular sentences as markers of causative in languages. The prototypical case of the analytic causative involves micro-situations which are separated as the notions of causation and effect predicates which then connect each other to create a macro-situation. For example, *I caused John to go*, or *I cannot swim because my mother forbids it*. The appearance of *cause* and *forbid* represents the causative predicates that connect the causee and the causer, whereas *go* and *cannot swim* are predicates of effect.

Next, in the case of morphological causative, a productive change in the verb forms occurs. It involves the entanglement of morphological techniques, for instance by affixation. It marks out the connection between the causative and non-causative verbs in the transitive or intransitive strata. Example (1) demonstrates the process of morphological causative construction in Indonesian (taken from [Hanafi](#), 2006: 55):

- [1] a. *Kuda itu lepas*  
Horse-DET release-PART  
'The horse is released' [initial stratum]
- b. *Anak-anak itu me-lepas-kan kuda itu*  
Children-DET ACT-release-3PL-PART-CAUS horse-DET  
'The children released the horse' [final stratum]

Example (1a) indicates a pre-causative clause, whereas example (1b) bears a causative clause. The attachment of affixes *me-...-kan* in the verb *lepas* converts it into the causative verb as marked by the suffix *-kan* while prefix *me-* represents an active voice. Thus, the appearance of the suffix *-kan* is one of the causative markers in Indonesian.

Finally, we turn into the lexical or suppletive causative. It denotes that the relationship between causative and effect expressions in macro-situation is wrapped up in the lexical meaning of the predicate of cause itself rather than by any productive process. [Payne](#) (1997: 177) appends three types of lexical causative: (1) no

change in verb, e.g. *the vase broke* become *Maria broke the vase*, (2) some idiosyncratic change in verb, e.g. *the tree fell* become *John felled the tree*, and (3) different verb, e.g. *Lucia died* become *Maria killed Lucia*. The last type is then regarded as suppletive pairs in lexical causative since the verb *die* and *kill* show a strong relationship between the two members of the pair.

In linguistic typology, Relational Grammar (henceforth, RG) is essential for the investigation of how causative constructions are constructed in particular languages. This theory has been widely used to account for the valency-relation changing phenomena across languages. [Blake](#) (1990: 3) emphasizes that RG concerns with a set of basic grammatical relations such as subject, direct object, indirect object along oblique relations include locative, benefactive, and instrumental. These grammatical relations are shown in the level of a hierarchy in (2).

[2]	SUBJECT	DIRECT OBJECT	INDIRECT OBJECT	OBLIQUE
	1	2	3	

In RG, a hierarchy like (2) shows the category of each component whereabouts the most-left two (subject and direct object) are known as nuclear relations, and a direct object – an indirect object is called object relations. Further, [Blake](#) (1990) claims that one sentence may have two strata or levels as the results of valency-changing through revaluations. He additionally affirms that the range of possible revaluations is limited by the existence of RG laws such as Strata Uniqueness Law, the Motivated Chômage Law, and so on. Both terms and non-terms relations can undergo revaluation through the advancement or promotion from the lower to the upper hierarchy, e.g. direct object to the subject position (2–1), or demotion from the upper to the lower position like subject demoted to the chômeur (Cho) position (1–Cho). In principle, the concept of revaluations is illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1. Principles of Revaluation in RG

Advancement or Promotion	Demotion
• 2 – 1 (DO to Subject)	• 1 – 2 (Subject to DO)
• 3 – 1 (IO to Subject)	• 1 – 3 (Subject to IO)
• Oblique – 1	• 1 – CHO
• 3 – 2 (IO to DO)	• 2 – 3 (DO to IO)
• Oblique – 2	• 2 – CHO
• Oblique – 3	• 3 – CHO

The concept of RG revaluations in causative constructions is acknowledged by the initial subject-demotion into the object (1–2) as the results of the addition of a new subject (i.e. causative subject) along with the causative marking on the verb. The appearance of causative verbs emphasizes the relationship between micro and macro situations, or the causer and the causee. For example:

- [3] a. *Pintu*            *terbuka*  
 DET.door        open  
 ‘The door is open’
- b. *Sadeli*            *mem-buka-Ø*            *pintu*  
 Sadeli.MAS    ACT-open-CAUS        door  
 ‘Sadeli opened the door’

Indonesian (taken from [Mulyadi](#), 2004: 141)

In the initial stratum (3a), NP *pintu* acts as the subject of the non-causative sentence and precedes predicate *terbuka*. The idea of revaluation in example (3) is demonstrated as a demotion of initial 1 to 2 in the final stratum (3b). This is caused by the addition of a new subject or agent *Sadeli* followed by the verb inflection morphologically.

Most languages possess the three types of causative or several only have two of them. In addition to the involvement of morphological means in causative construction, the presence of revaluation principles like advancement or demotion in Relational Grammar facilitates the process of grammatical relations identification

among dependents. The notions of causative constructions mentioned earlier have given us important insights regarding the interpretation of how this valency-raising phenomena (i.e. morphosyntactic phenomenon) is constructed.

The area of the morphosyntactic phenomenon in Belitong has been unfolded by [Napsin et al.](#) (1986) by exposing the general morphological and syntactical analysis which deals with the attested constructions of words and sentence in Belitong language. Another study related to the morphosyntactic category of Belitong arises from *Sistem Reduplikasi Bahasa Melayu Belitong* (Reduplication System of Belitong Malay Language) by [Arifin et al.](#) (2002) concerning characteristics, forms, functions, and meanings of Belitong reduplication systems. However, these studies rely on the general descriptions of the morphosyntax phenomenon in Belitong language in the field of functional requirements. Unfortunately, other areas of morphosyntax like causative constructions have been not expanded yet.

Based on the preliminary observation, there are possibilities that the Belitong language possesses the causative constructions in its syntactic structure. At a glance, the behaviour of morphosyntax in building up the structure of a single argument into double arguments in a sentence can be seen by adding affixes on the part of verbs. So far, the constructions of causative in this language are possible to be found in the forms of nominative-accusative cases in its usage. Therefore, this phenomenon is examined correspond to the Relational Grammar theory in case of identifying the relations among dependents.

This study is important for the expansion of morphosyntactic phenomenon in Belitong language from the view of causative treatments. In detail, this study accounted for the expansion of morphosyntactic study in Belitong language in terms of the construction of causative by following the theory of Relational Grammar (RG). This theory concerns the grammatical relations and deals with the argument selection and relational change inter-components. This paper is accounted with the aims to answer the following questions:

- (1) How are morphological causative and their relational structures constructed in Belitong?
- (2) How are analytic causative and their relational structures constructed in Belitong?

These questions were analysed and described regarding morphosyntactic phenomena especially in the process of causative constructions in Belitong language through Relational Grammar (RG) ([Blake](#), 1990).

## Method

This study was conducted under the qualitative descriptive study which describes a particular morphosyntactic phenomenon in Belitong language in the field of morphological and analytic causative constructions. These phenomena were scrutinized by governing some technicalities in RG. The data were collected through elicitation, unstructured open-ended interviews with the native speakers, and documentation of the previous studies and several additional works as well. The elicitations were done to attain the real data and the interviews were conducted to cross-check the validity of the data. Subsequently, the data were organized and analyzed carefully concerning the Relational Grammar theory by identifying the employment of reevaluation along with some additional basic technicalities. The data analysis and interpretation of this study are proceeded and scrutinized by following the six steps of the technique of analyzing qualitative data adopted from [Creswell](#) (2009: 185).

## Results

Belitong causative constructions are clustered into two types of causative: morphological and analytic causatives. They are divided into the basis of one argument intransitive, two arguments intransitive, monotransitive, and transitive sentences. Both morphological and analytic causative constructions in Belitong language are signalled out by the attachment of causative suffixes and productive causative verbs as well as shown in Table 2 below.



Table 2. Morphological and Analytic Causative Markers in Belitong Language

No.	Transitivity	Causative Markers in Belitong Language	
		Types of Causative	Causative Markers
1	One argument intransitive	Morphological Causative	<i>-an, -ek, -kan, -Ø</i>
		Analytic Causative	<i>Muat, isak, gara-gara, nyuro, base, melasa, karne, muji</i>
2	Two arguments intransitive	Morphological Causative	<i>-kan</i>
		Analytic Causative	<i>-</i>
3	Monotransitive	Morphological Causative	<i>-kan, -Ø</i>
		Analytic Causative	<i>Muji, nyuro, gara-gara, base</i>
4	Transitive	Morphological Causative	<i>-kan, -Ø</i>
		Analytic Causative	<i>Nyuro</i>

## Discussion

The results of Belitong causative constructions have suggested that Belitong possesses two types of causative construction; morphological and analytic causative constructions. So far, the analyzed data are in line with Comrie (1989:165) who opines that the construction of causative is indicated by involving two-component situations, the cause, and its effect or result. These two situations are regarded as micro-situations which of combined forming a single complex macro-situation that is at the end known as a causative situation which is indicated by the appearance of a causative verb that links two arguments.

Subsequently, the discussions regarding Belitong causative constructions are explained based on intransitive with single and double arguments, monotransitive, and transitive strata. At the end of the discussion, the analyzed data here attempt to exhibit the valency relationships in Belitong causative constructions.

### Morphological Causative in Belitong

#### Intransitive

First of all, we encounter the discussion about morphological causative with single valency intransitive predicate in the initial stratum. As we shall see subsequently, the presence of morphological causative markers such as *-kan*, for example, on the predicates causes the demotion of the initial 1 into 2. The missing subject slot is occupied by new agent *Pak Long* as a causative subject. For instance:

[4]

- a. *Anak e Patima la kawin ne kemarik*  
 Patima.POSS.son PERF.marry yesterday  
 'Patima's son got married yesterday' (first stratum)
- b. *Pak Long la ng-awin-kan anak e Patima kemarik*  
 Uncle PERF.ACT-marry-CAUS Patima.POSS.son yesterday  
 'Uncle married Patima's son yesterday' (second stratum)

Hence, the relational structure is designated as follow:

- 1 P (first stratum)  
 1 P 2 (second stratum)

Moreover, under Relational Grammar analysis, Belitong accepts the concept of causative-applicative constructions. It is started by the fact that there are some cases in which one non-causative intransitive clause is constructed in two different final strata and one of them is then organized and categorized as a causative-applicative structure. The term of causative-applicative construction refers to a single syncretic form that encompasses the combination of the traditional view of causative as a subject adder and applicative as object adder (Jerro, 2017). The term causative-applicative constructions are simply understood as the advancement of oblique relation to object in the causative constructions. Briefly, this concept is represented by the example in (5).

[5]

- a. *La kenal aku kan Bupati Belitong nok sekarang*  
PERF.know I the current Regent  
'I already know the current Regent' (first stratum)
- b. *Mak Long la ng-enal-kan aku kan Bupati Belitong nok sekarang*  
Aunt-DET PERF.introduce-CAUS me with current Regent  
'My aunt has introduced me the current Regent' (second stratum)
- c. *Mak Long la ng-enal-kan Bupati Belitong nok sekarang kan aku*  
Aunt-DET PERF.introduce-CAUS current Regent to me  
'My aunt has introduced the current Regent to me' (third stratum)

Regarding example (5), the patterns of relational structure are typically depicted as follows:

- 1 P OBL (first strata)  
1 P 2 OBL (second strata) *causative construction*  
1 P 2 Cho (third strata) *applicative-causative construction*

Belitong causative constructions for double arguments intransitive clause appear on a non-causative clause in which the predicate is preceded by a subject and followed by a pseudo-object (i.e. look like object). The appearance of causative marker *-kan* right on the verb and the new agent *Bini e Pak Dul* cause the demotion of the initial 1 successfully to 2 and the pseudo-object is preferred as a locative OBL as emphasized by preposition *ke*, seen in (6):

[6]

- a. *Uto Pak Dul la masok garasi e tadik*  
Mr. Dul.POSS.car PERF.enter garage-DET earlier  
'Mr. Dul's car has entered the garage earlier' (first stratum)
- b. *Bini e Pak Dul la nge-masok-kan uto belau ke garasi tadik*  
Mr. Dul.POSS.wife PERF.put-CAUS car.3SG.POSS into garage earlier  
'Mr. Dul's wife has put his car into the garage earlier' (second stratum)

Example (6) suggests the pattern of relational structure such as:

- 1 P 2 (first stratum)  
1 P 2 Cho (second stratum)

### **Monotransitive**

Let's pay close attention to the following example!

[7]

- a. *Pancing e ng-ait sendal burok*  
Fishhook-DET ACT-hook worn sandal  
'The fishhook hooked a worn sandal' (first stratum)
- b. *Samsul ng-ait-kan pancing e jok sendal burok*  
Samsul ACT-hook-CAUS fishhook.3SG.POSS on worn sandal  
'Samsul hooked his fishhook on the worn sandal' (second stratum)

- c. *Samsul ng-ait-kan sandal burok kan pancing e*  
 Samsul ACT-hook-CAUS worn sandal with fishhook.3SG.POSS  
 ‘Samsul hooked his fishhook on the worn sandal’ (third stratum)

Beginning with (7a), under Relational Grammar analysis, the revaluation of each causative construction is determinable. In (7b) it is understood the presence of causative marker *-kan* on the verb and causative subject *Samsul* relegate the initial 1 *pancing e* to 2 and the initial 2 is forced down into chômeur marked by additional preposition *jok*.

Meanwhile (7c) is understood as the demotion of initial 1 immediately into chômeur whilst the initial 2 does not undergo demotion or advancement. Though both chômeur in (7b-c) is marked by additional prepositions, they are grammatically not interpreted as oblique under The Oblique Law. Therefore, their advancement is denied by Chômeur Advancement Ban (Blake, 1990: 10). Example (7) generates the relational structure for monostransitive morphological causative construction as follow:

1	P	2		(first stratum)
1	P	2	Cho	(second stratum)
1	P	2	Cho	(third stratum)

### Transitive

The following example illustrates an ordinary morphological causative construction based on transitive stratum:

[8]

- a. *Mutor Rahamin n-erepak lubang dekat aik arongan*  
 Rahamin.POSS.bike ACT-hit hole near stagnant water  
 ‘Rahamin’s bike hit the hole near the stagnant water’ (first stratum)
- b. *Rahamin n-erepak-kan mutor e ke lubang dekat aik arongan*  
 Rahamin ACT-crash-CAUS bike.3SG.POSS into the hole near stagnant water  
 ‘Rahamin crashed his bike into the hole near the stagnant water’ (second stratum)

In (8b) case it is understood that the attachment of causative marker *-kan* right on the verb bears the demotion of the initial 1 to 2 whilst the initial 2 is relegated into chômeur. The additional subject *Rahamin* occupies the subject slot that has been left out by the early subject. The former transitive object *lubang* is not categorized as an oblique despite it is preceded by preposition *ke* (i.e. denied by the Oblique Law), therefore, it is known as a chômeur. The OBL does not undergo revaluation here. Structurally, example (8) accounts for the valency relationships as follow:

1	P	2	OBL		(first stratum)
1	P	2	Cho	OBL	(second stratum)

### Analytic Causative in Belitong

#### Intransitive

In Belitong, the availability of causative verbs such as *muat*, *isak*, *gara-gara*, *nyuro*, and *melasa* treat the valency relationship as the demotion of the initial 1 into 2. This notion is represented in the subsequent example.

[9]

- a. *Petugas kantor gemijer*  
 Office clerk shaky  
 ‘The office clerk was shaky’ (first stratum)
- b. *Emosi tinggi Sulai muat petugas kantor gemijer*  
 Sulai high emotions make-CAUS office clerk shaky



‘Sulai high emotions made the office clerk shaky’ (second stratum)

Typically, the availability of causative verbs such as *muat*, *isak*, *gara-gara*, *nyuro*, and *melasa* in Belitong define the relational structure such as,

1 P (first stratum)  
1 P 2 (second stratum)

Besides, causative verbs like *karne*, *base*, and *muji* treat the final valency relationships inversely. Ordinarily, they appear right after the initial predicate and they are understood as being co-referential with the initial predicate of the main clause. The initial 1 does not undergo demotion due to it is employed to be the main subject of the whole sentence. For example:

[10]

a. *Kik Samad ndak dapat tidur*  
Kik Samad NEG-MOD. sleep  
‘Kik Samad could not sleep’ (first stratum)

b. *Kik Samad ndak dapat tidur base sakit giginye ndak ilang*  
Kik Samad NEG-MOD.sleep because-CAUS 3SG.POSS.toothache NEG.go away  
‘Kik Samad could not sleep because his toothache did not go away’ (second stratum)

Meanwhile, causative verbs like *karne*, *base*, and *muji* denote a different pattern of relational structure such as,

1 P (first stratum)  
1 P Cho (second stratum)

### **Monotransitive**

The treatments of causative verbs like *muji*, *base*, and *gara-gara* typically does not involve either promotion or demotion of valency (i.e. arguments). The new arguments and those verbs appear as complements of the main clause. For example,

[11]

a. *Die ndak n-erimak lamaran itu*  
She NEG.ACT-accept proposal-DET  
‘She did not accept that proposal’ (first stratum)

b. *Die ndaq n-erimak lamaran itu muji agik tenga menderite penyakit kelamin*  
She NEG.ACT-acceptproposal-DET because.CAUS PROG.suffer venereal disease  
‘She did not accept that proposal because she was suffering from venereal disease’ (second stratum)

The relational structure of example (11) is simplified as follow:

1 P (first stratum)  
1 P Cho (second stratum)

Contrarily, causative verb *nyuro* in monotransitive analytic causative appears to maintain the position of the initial arguments in the final strata. In this case, the initial 1 is pushed down into 2 immediately whilst the initial P and 2 seemed down as complementizer. The missing subject is occupied by a new agent. Simply stated, these notions are suggested by example (12):

[12]

- a. *Nek Mot*                      *ny-eruk*                      *Cik Saida*  
 Nek Mot.FEM                      ACT-call out                      Cik Saida.FEM  
 ‘Nek Mot called out Cik Saida’ (first stratum)
- b. *Semek*                      *nyuro*                      *Nek Mot*                      *ny-eruk*                      *Cik Saida*  
 Semek                      tell.CAUS                      Nek Mot                      ACT-call out                      Cik Saida  
 ‘Semek told Nek Mot to call out Cik Saida’ (second stratum)

Eventually, example (12) accounts for the relational structure such as,

- 1     P     2                      (first stratum)  
 1     P     2     3                      (second stratum)

The correspondences between clauses in (12) and the notion of Causative Union are accounted for the agreement of relational hierarchy for the causative clause as proposed by Comrie (1989: 176) such as:

subject>direct object (DO)>indirect object (IO)>other oblique object

**Transitive**

Also, the phenomenon of causative clause union occurs on transitive analytic causative construction in Belitong. In this case, the productive causative verb *nyuro* can alter the non-causative clause with benefactive oblique relations to fit in the causative clause at least in two possible versions, seen in (13):

[13]

- a. *Semek*                      *m-eli*                      *rukuk*                      *idang Rahamin*  
 Semek                      ACT-buy                      cigarette                      for Rahamin  
 ‘Semek bought cigarettes for Rahamin’ (first stratum)
- b. *Nek Mot*                      *nyuro*                      *Semek meli*                      *rukuk*                      *idang Rahamin*  
 Nek Mot                      tell.CAUS                      Semek                      INF-buy                      cigarette                      for Rahamin  
 ‘Nek Mot told Semek to buy cigarettes for Rahamin’ (second stratum)
- c. *Nek Mot*                      *nyuro*                      *Semek*                      *m-eli-kan*                      *Rahamin*                      *rukuk*  
 Nek Mot                      tell.CAUS                      Semek                      INF-buy-APPL                      Rahamin  
 cigarette  
 ‘Nek Mot told Semek to buy Rahamin cigarettes’ (third stratum)

When Belitong causative is set out in this way, the distribution of the components of the clause is accounted for the establishment of a grammatical relations hierarchy, as follows: subject>direct object>indirect object>oblique object, similar as presented by Comrie (1989: 176) for Turkish data. Therefore, the possible patterns of Relational Grammar structure for example (13) are depicted such as:

- 1     P     2     OBL                      (first stratum)  
 1     P     2     3     OBL                      (second stratum)  
 1     P     2     3     Cho                      (third stratum)

Moreover, the hierarchy for clause (13c) is quite different as situated at the lowermost level where the common accessibility to causative clause formation is linked to the oblique object, now it is replaced by the additional chômeur. It is emerged by the demotion of the initial 2 to chômeur (2 – Cho) because the OBL experiences an increment to object relation (OBL – 3) under the causative-applicative construction. Applicative marker *-kan* is attached to the unemployed predicate *meli*. The hierarchy is assigned as subject>direct object>indirect object>chômeur.

## Conclusion

The main objective of this study is to recognize the morphosyntactic phenomenon regarding valency-raising cases in terms of causative constructions in Belitong language. This study is done by employing of Relational Grammar approach in case of profiling the characteristics of causative constructions in Belitong language. In detail, causative constructions are considered dealing with the reevaluation, promotion, and demotion, as the analysis of arguments interchange from initial stratum to final stratum. Belitong accounts for two types of causativization: morphological and analytic causativizations.

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### List of Abbreviation

1	= subject
2	= direct object
3	= indirect object
3PL	= Third person plural
3SG	= Third person singular
ACT	= Active voice
APPL	= Applicative marker
CAUS	= Causative marker
Cho	= chômeur
DET	= Determiner
FEM	= Feminism
INF	= Infinitive marker
MOD	= Modal
NEG	= Negative marker
OBL	= Oblique
PART	= Participle
PAST	= Past Tense
PERF	= Perfective
PL	= Plural marker
POSS	= Possessive
PRO OBJ	= Objective Pronoun
PROG	= Progressive

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