

**Valence orientation and valence change
in Surgut Khanty: Causation
(a preliminary study)**

Surgut Khanty belongs to the group of transitivizing languages because it morphologically marks transitive verbs in contrast with intransitive ones (cf. Grünthal et al. 2021). The present paper provides a detailed overview of a set of 18 verbal pairs expressing basic concepts like 'to fear' / 'to frighten', 'to eat' / 'to feed' in Surgut Khanty following Nichols et al. (2004). Our results show that while native speakers prefer transitivizing strategies to detransitivizing ones, they also use suppletive forms to express such meanings. Additionally, we found examples for ambitransitives with unproductive stems that are inherently not sensitive to transitivity. However, there is a variation between transitive and intransitive usage among them, which can be a result of dialectal or idiolectal preferences. Thus, it is not surprising that morphological causation is common in Surgut Khanty, however, it is mainly restricted to intransitive verbs. Our data elicited from native speakers show that transitive verbs can also serve as basis for such encoding. It is worth mentioning that another common strategy is periphrastic causation, which contains the auxiliary-like verb *part* 'to order' and an infinite verb that bears the lexical meaning. The lexeme *part* has, however, not fully grammaticalized into a causative verb. Finally, lexical causation expressed by suppletive forms are also known in the language.

Keywords: valence orientation, transitivization, detransitivization, causation, Surgut Khanty

MÁRTA CSEPREGI – NIKOLETT F. GULYÁS