

The cake base turns out to be good
The Finnish result sentence under review

This article discusses the Finnish intransitive result sentence (e.g. *Pojasta tuli mies* 'The boy became a man') as a construction in the light of Cognitive Semantics. Based on a large corpus data set, the analysis focuses on the form, the meaning and the distinctive properties of the construction. The data consist of 1000 examples compiled from newspapers and magazines of modern Finnish. In earlier studies, there has been a little consensus on the syntactic function of the final element of the result sentence. In this article, this phrase is argued to be predicative, and contrary to earlier findings, it is demonstrated that it can also appear in the genitive case (*Koirasta tuli minun* 'The dog became mine'). The problematic fact that the sentence final phrase is in the partitive case when negated (*Pojasta ei tullut pappia* 'The boy did not become a priest') can be explained in terms of construction: the syntactic roles are construction specific, and they adapt to the rules of a certain instance. The analysis illustrates that the Finnish result sentence conveys two main meanings, 1) 'change of an existing entity' (*Minustakin tuli helsinkiläinen* 'I too became a Helsinki resident') and 2) 'birth of a new entity' (*Esityksestä tulee hyvä* 'The presentation will turn out to be good') with respect to the construction's initial relative element's referent. The result sentence enables the speaker to conceptualize the state of affairs in a way that the result is emphasized, and the possible agent is backgrounded. Thus, the result sentence agrees with theme orientation strategy.

Keywords: Finnish language, cognitive semantics, construction, result sentence

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