

**Independent of change or constitutive of change:
Event construal of unstable recipient role in prototypical ditransitive events**

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ABSTRACT. Korean and Central Alaskan Yup'ik (CAY) exhibit an apparent case alternation in the marking of the recipient in prototypical ditransitive events encoded in their verb for 'give': between the dative and the accusative in Korean, and between the absolutive and the allative in CAY. This paper shows that the choices for the case marking are dependent on the conceptual distinction of whether or not the participant in the recipient role is part of a fictive change. Korean encodes the change-constitutive recipient in the structural case and the change-independent one in the semantic case, whereas CAY encodes each one the other way around.*

Keywords: fictive change, participant role, structural case, semantic case, discourse, event conception

1. INTRODUCTION. The present study analyzes typical ditransitive constructions in Korean and Central Alaskan Yup'ik (henceforth CAY) from a perspective of cognitive typology (Croft 2001, Talmy 2000), and demonstrates that they make a distinction between the recipient construed as constitutive of a FICTIVE CHANGE and the recipient construed as independent of the change. This distinction in construal has opposite grammatical manifestations in the two languages: Korean puts change-independent recipients in a semantic case (i.e. dative) and change-constitutive recipients in a structural case (i.e. accusative), while CAY marks the former with a structural case (i.e. absolutive) and the latter with a semantic case (i.e. allative). The two languages are also analyzable as dividing ditransitive events into TRANSFER and CAUSE-CHANGE-STATE (Croft 2001:164), expressing each in distinct constructions.

Typical three-participant (ditransitive) events described in sentences like ‘She gave him a book’ or ‘John has brought the book to Miren’ are encoded diversely in different languages. In languages like Japanese, the agent, recipient, and theme are invariably encoded in the nominative, dative, and accusative NPs, respectively, as illustrated in 1a. In languages like Basque, the three participant roles are constantly marked as ergative, dative, and absolutive, respectively, as exemplified in 1b.¹

(1) a. Kanozyo-ga kare-ni hon-o age-ta. (JAPANESE)

she-NOM he-DAT book-ACC give-PST

‘She gave him a book.’

b. Jon-ek Miren-i liburu-a ekarr-i dio. (BASQUE)

Jon-ERG Miren-DAT book-ABS.DEF bring-PERF A3S-AUX(present)-D3S-E3S

‘Jo[h]n has brought a/the book to Miren.’ (Aske 1987:5)

These two types of languages contrast each other in accusativity and ergativity but are similar in not exhibiting case alternations in encoding the participants.

Some languages, however, manifest case alternations in the coding of participants. In colloquial Korean, the agent and theme roles are usually encoded in the nominative and the accusative, respectively, but the recipient role can either be marked as dative or accusative, as shown in 2.

- (2) a. John-i Mary-**ege** chaeg-eul jueo-ss-dae. (KOREAN)
 John-NOM Mary-**DAT** book-ACC give-PST-EVD
 ‘(I hear) John gave Mary a book.’
- b. John-i Mary-**reul** chaeg-eul jueo-ss-dae. (KOREAN)
 John-NOM Mary-**ACC** book-ACC give-PST-EVD
 ‘(I hear) John gave a book to Mary.’ (Yongtaek Kim, p.c.)

In CAY, the recipient role of the ditransitive construction can appear in either the absolutive or the allative depending on the choice of ditransitive verbs; when *cikir-* ‘give’ is chosen, the recipient role is marked with the absolutive as in 3a, while when *tune-* ‘give’ is employed, it is marked with the allative case as in 3b.

- (3) a. Arna-m angun cikir-a-a aki-nek. (CAY)
 woman-ERG man.**ABS** give-IND.TRANS-3S/3S money-ABL.PL
 ‘The woman gave the man some money.’ (Jacobson 1995:138)

- b. Tun-a-a naca-a angut-**mun**. (CAY)
 give-IND.TRANS-3S/3S hat-3S/3S.ABS man-**ALL.S**
 ‘She is giving her hat to someone.’ (Caan Toopetlook, p.c.)

The present study demonstrates that the *prima facie* case alternations in Korean and CAY ditransitives are attributable to the unstable status of the recipient role (and possibly some other roles as well) in those languages. Unlike the way Japanese and Basque consistently encode the role in the dative, the two languages mark the role with different cases according to whether the participant in the role is construed as independent of the fictive change involved in the relevant event conceptualization or whether it is construed as constitutive of the fictive change. In general terms, Korean encodes the change-constitutive participants in the accusative case and CAY encodes them in the ablative or allative case.

2. FICTIVE CHANGE. We will argue below that the case alternations in the recipient marking can be accounted for in terms of Talmy’s (2000:101) FICTIVE CHANGE. As he puts it, “[o]f the two discrepant representations of the same object, we will characterize the representation accessed to be more veridical as **factive** and the representation assessed to be less veridical as **fictive**” (2000:100; emphasis added). Accordingly, the conception of change can either be factive or fictive. Talmy exemplifies fictive change by sentences like those in 4.

- (4) a. The soil reddens toward the east.
 b. The road disappears for a while by the lake and then reappears toward the border.
 c. The entering freshmen keep getting younger. (Talmy 2000:170)

In these examples, none of the entities referred to in the subjects are assumed to change in the real world; 4a describes “a spatially distributed difference,” 4b “the spatial arrangement of two sections of road with no road between them,” and 4c the situation in which “the students on average stay the same in age” (Talmy 2000:170). All these situations are presumed to be “factively static.” However, they are assumed to change fictively rather than factively; they are taken to change “in color” in 4a, “from being present, to being absent, to being present again” in 4b, and “downward in age” in 4c, respectively, “as one’s attention fictively moves across the space” or “as one fictively moves one’s attention along this entity” (*ibid*).

Fictive change manifests more broadly in linguistic meaning and function. For example, the change involved in time conceptions can be viewed as one manifestation of fictive change, more specifically fictive motion. Moore (2011:773) points out that the “visually scanned path” relevant to the temporal conceptualization of *nayra* ‘front’ and *qhipa* ‘back/behind’ in Aymara “would involve something akin to fictive motion.” The motion involved in time conceptions represented by the “Moving Time” and “Moving Observer” metaphors (Lakoff and Johnson 1999:Ch.10) can generally be understood as a manifestation of fictive change.

Some notions commonly used in functional and cognitive approaches to grammar and lexicon can also be seen as instantiating a kind of fictive change: “modify” or “introduce”. When grammarians talk of things like “an adjective as something that modifies a noun, and an adverb as something that modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb” (Langacker 1987:242), they do not claim that the adjective makes a factive change in the noun. They refer to the adjectival function as producing a fictive change of the nominal conception in the conceptualization of the composite expression. Likewise, when linguists say something like “the form in question serves to introduce a participant into the discourse” (Hopper and Thompson 1984:708), the participant

is not necessarily assumed to appear factively in the real world event recounted. Rather, it fictively changes from being absent to being present in the relevant event conception.

We maintain that the appearance of an event participant in the discourse representation can be treated as a manifestation of the fictive change conception. An indefinite, unidentified, unexpected, or contrasted participant can readily be seen as changing from being absent to being present in the discourse, as one fictively moves one's attention along or through the relevant event conception. It should be noted, however, that languages may differ in which participants they treat grammatically or pragmatically as a fictive change entity. CAY has seemingly grammaticalized a distinction between the participants already present in discourse (definite or identified) and those newly introduced into the discourse by the current utterance (indefinite or unidentified), treating the latter as fictive-change entities. In contrast, Korean is grammatically indifferent to such a distinction. Colloquial Korean, however, is somehow heedful of the difference between the unexpected or contrasted event participants and those that are not so.

As the next section will demonstrate, the Korean accusative prototypically serves to mark an event participant construed as constitutive of a factive change in location or of state, but it has been extended to marking an event participant that is construed as constitutive of a fictive change. One example is the accusative marking of the recipient in a benefactive/adversative construction (Izutsu & Koguma 2014). A further example is what we deal with in this study, the accusative marking of an unexpected or contrasted recipient. Korean is sensitive to the distinction between event participants construed as independent of such a fictive change and those construed as constitutive of the change.

A comparable analysis is possible of ditransitive clauses in CAY. The case marking in the recipient encoding is analyzable as being sensitive to a type of fictive change conception, not the

Korean type, as pointed out above. Earlier studies have revealed that in prototypical ditransitives, definite recipients are marked morphologically with the absolutive, whereas indefinite recipients are marked with the allative (Jacobson 1995:118, 137).² As demonstrated in Section 4, those descriptions can be captured anew in terms of whether the recipient is independent of or constitutive of, a fictive change: appearance in the discourse. Definite recipients can be regarded as participants independent of the fictive change. Contrastively, indefinite recipients can be viewed as event participants constitutive of the fictive change.

The independent/constitutive distinction of the recipient entity is instantiated in 3, given in section 1. In 3a, the recipient NP *angun* is definite, and its referent is a discourse-given or identified entity. This entity is construed as independent of the fictive change, i.e. appearance in the discourse; accordingly, the NP is marked as absolutive. In 3b, however, the recipient NP *angut-mun* is indefinite and thus its referent is newly introduced into the discourse along with the relevant event conception. This newly introduced entity is constitutive of the fictive change, and the NP is marked with a semantic case, allative. These two distinct conceptualizations of ditransitive events are based on whether the participant is independent of or constitutive of the relevant fictive change.

3. DITRANSITIVE EVENT CONCEPTION IN KOREAN. In written or non-colloquial Korean, ditransitive clauses normally mark the agent, theme, and recipient roles with the nominative, accusative, and dative cases, respectively, although the agent is often marked with the topic marker *-(n)eun* as illustrated in 5. The accusative case typically serves to mark an event participant that is affected or constitutive of a **factive** change. In typical ditransitive clauses like

5, the theme entity counts as such a participant because it is understood to undergo a factive change in location; it is accordingly encoded in the accusative NP.

- (5) John-eun Mary-ege geu chaeg-eul jueo-ss-da.
 John-TOP Mary-DAT that book-ACC give-PST-DECL
 ‘John gave Mary that book.’ (Yongtaek Kim, p.c.)

In spoken Korean as well, the case marking basically adheres to the same assignment pattern but occasionally can allow the recipient to be encoded in the accusative rather than dative, which amounts to an apparent alternation between the dative and accusative, as illustrated in 2a and 2b above. We will below show that the recipient in examples such as 2b is construed as a participant constitutive of a fictive change: a participant that appears in the event conception unexpectedly or contrastively.

The event conception of sentence 5 can be diagrammed as in Figure 1.³ The agent ‘John,’ the theme ‘that book,’ and the recipient ‘Mary,’ are all given in discourse, in other words they are already introduced and identified, as represented in Figure 1(I). This given status is indicated by the green color in the diagram. Along with the event conception, the theme undergoes a change in location and thus constitutes a factive change, as shown in Figure 1(II), where the yellow ellipse circumscribes the scope of the change.

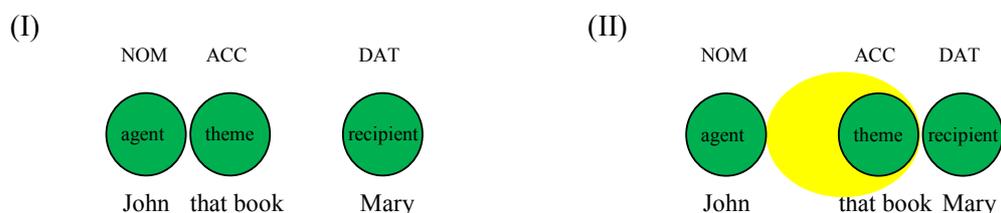


FIGURE 1. Event conception of 5

In this event conception, therefore, the theme is marked with the accusative that primarily serves to mark an event participant constitutive of a factive change. As far as the written language instantiated in 5 is concerned, the recipient ordinarily cannot be marked with the accusative.

In spoken Korean as well, the theme participant in typical ditransitive clauses like 2a above is viewed as constitutive of a factive change in location, while the recipient is seen as independent of the change. Notice, here, that the theme is also constitutive of a fictive change in that it is newly introduced into discourse. The NP for the change-constitutive theme is marked with the accusative, and the NP for the change-independent recipient, with the dative. In 2b, however, the recipient as well as the theme is marked as accusative. This sentence can have at least two interpretations: (i) the speaker did not expect John to give a book to Mary; (ii) the speaker expected John to give a book to someone else, for instance, the speaker himself or herself. In other words, the recipient is treated as an unexpected participant or a contrastive participant here. This participant is introduced into the discourse alongside the relevant event conception, which amounts to a realization of fictive change and is responsible for the accusative marking of the recipient NP in 2b.⁴

The event conceptualization of sentence 2a can be visualized as in Figure 2. First, the agent and the recipient, represented by green circles, are already introduced and identified in discourse. And then the theme entity, represented by orange circles, is newly introduced into the discourse in Figure 2(I), in which the orange color indicates this new-participant status. The appearance in the discourse can be viewed as a fictive rather than factive change, the scope of which is specified by the dotted-line ellipse. The theme constitutes a fictive change as well as a factive change in location, as represented by both the yellow and dotted-line ellipses in Figure 2(II).

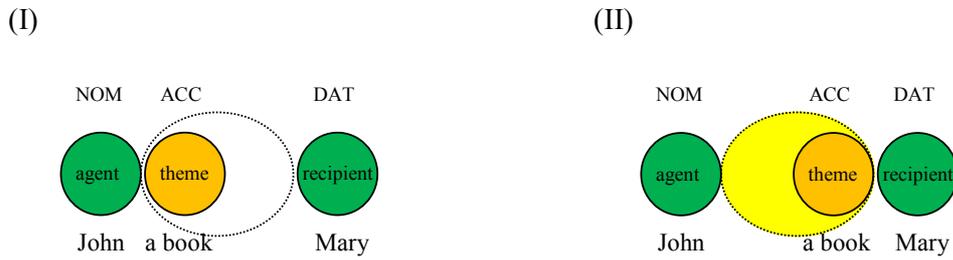


FIGURE 2. Event conception of 2a

Here the accusative serves to mark an event participant that is constitutive of a fictive as well as factive change.

On the other hand, the two possible readings of sentence 2b can be visualized in Figures 3 and 4, respectively. In the first reading ‘John unexpectedly gave a book to Mary,’ the agent ‘John’ is given or already present in discourse, and the theme and recipient are (unexpectedly) brought into the discourse along with the event conception. In Figure 3, accordingly, the given agent is represented by green circles, while the newly-introduced theme and recipient are represented by orange circles. Both the theme and recipient are constitutive of a fictive change, i.e. appearance in the discourse or event conceptualization, as specified by the dotted-line ellipse; they are encoded in the two accusative NPs. The theme is also part of factive change in location, as specified by the yellow ellipse in Figure 3(II).

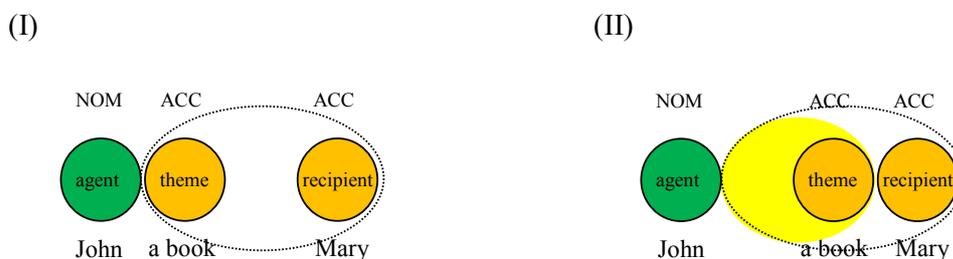


FIGURE 3. Event conception of the first reading of 2b

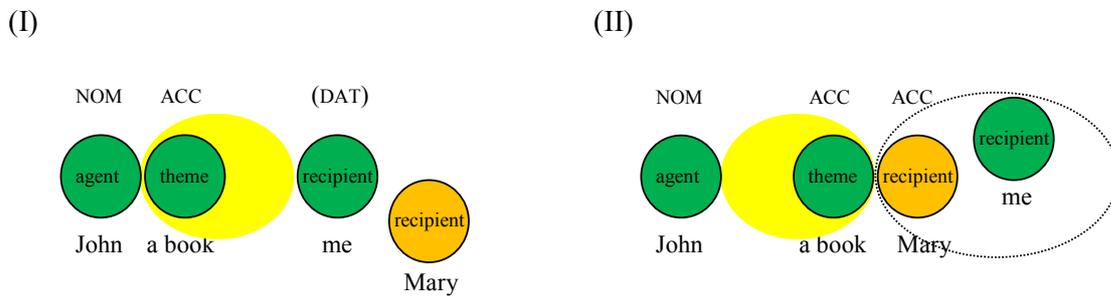


FIGURE 4. Event conception of the second reading of 2b

In the second reading ‘John gave a book to Mary, not to me!,’ as diagramed in Figure 4, the expected recipient ‘me!’ as well as the agent and the theme is somehow given or already present in discourse, represented by green circles, and the unexpected or contrasted recipient (‘Mary’) is introduced into the discourse, represented by orange circles. In the discourse-based event conception, the expected recipient is replaced by the unexpected recipient. This participant replacement amounts to a fictive change; the unexpected recipient that is constitutive of the change is accordingly encoded in the accusative NP.

In both of the two readings, the recipient ‘Mary’ is very likely understood to have enjoyed an unexpected benefit or favoritism from ‘John.’ This benefactive understanding also accounts for a fictive rather than factive change interpretation.

4. DITRANSITIVE EVENT CONCEPTION IN CENTRAL ALASKA YUP’IK. Typical ditransitive events like the ones expressed by *give* in English divide themselves into two distinct classes in CAY. Such events with a definite theme are denoted by *tune-* ‘(he/she/they) give (it/them to),’ while such events with an indefinite theme are designated by *cikir-* ‘(he/she/they) give (him/her/them)’

(Jacobson 1995:138). The case-marking patterns of the agent, theme, and recipient roles and the verb roots used are tabulated in Table 1.

	ERGATIVE	ABSOLUTIVE	ALLATIVE	ABLATIVE	VERB ROOT USED
(a)	agent	recipient		theme	<i>cikir-</i>
(b)	agent	theme	recipient		<i>tune-</i>
(c)	agent	theme	recipient		<i>tune-</i>
(d)	agent	theme	recipient		<i>tune-</i>
(e)		agent	recipient	theme	<i>cikir-</i>
(f)	agent	theme	recipient		-
(g)	agent	theme	recipient		-
(h)		agent	recipient	theme	-
(i)	agent	recipient		theme	-
(j)	agent	recipient		theme	-

N.B. boldfaced roles are encoded in definite NPs)

TABLE 1. Case marking of agent, theme, and recipient in CAY ditransitive events

Here, the boldface indicates that the NP for the participant role is definite. The patterns in (a) through (e) are possible but those in (f) through (i) are not. Both *tune-* and *cikir-* require two definite event participants, only one of which must be in the absolutive, which accounts for the unattested patterns. The two verb roots in patterns (d) and (e) take only one definite participant; they must be put in the antipassive as will be seen below.

These case-marking patterns and the verb root distinction speak eloquently of the CAY's dichotomous categorization of ditransitive events. The events encoded in *tune-* primarily involve a human agent and an inanimate theme that are given or already identified in discourse, whereas those encoded in *cikir-* concern an agent and recipient, both human, that are given or already identified in discourse. The two event types correspond to Tuggy's (1998:38) "manipulation" and "human interaction," respectively. They should be understood to be maximally distinguished in the linguistic and conceptual categorization of CAY.

participants construed as independent of the discourse-based fictive change and those construed as constitutive of the change.

The distinct event conceptions denoted by *cikir-* and *tune-*, each exemplified in 3a and 3b, can be visualized as in Figures 5 and 6, respectively. In 3a, the agent and the recipient are given or already present in discourse and thus represented with green circles in Figure 5(I). The theme entity is later introduced into the discourse together with the event conception as seen in Figure 5(II). The theme undergoes a further factive change in location in Figure 5(III). Here the theme does not only constitute a factive change in location (represented with the yellow ellipse) but also a fictive change in the sense of appearance in the discourse (specified with the dotted-line ellipse); hence, it is encoded in an ablative NP (*aki-nek*). By contrast, the recipient is seen as independent of the change, and it is thus encoded in an absolutive NP (*angun*).

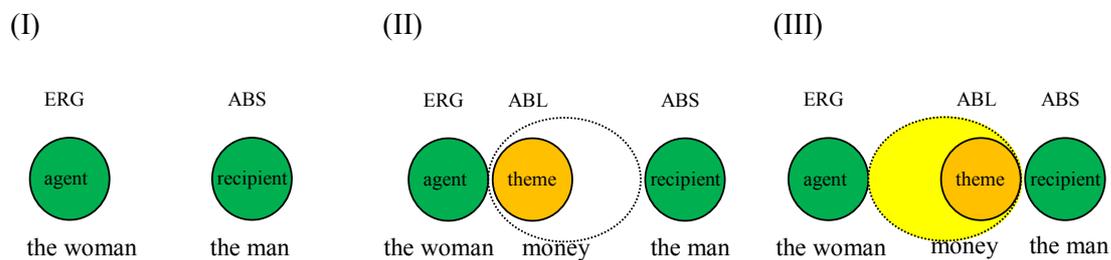


FIGURE 5. Event conception of the second reading of 3a

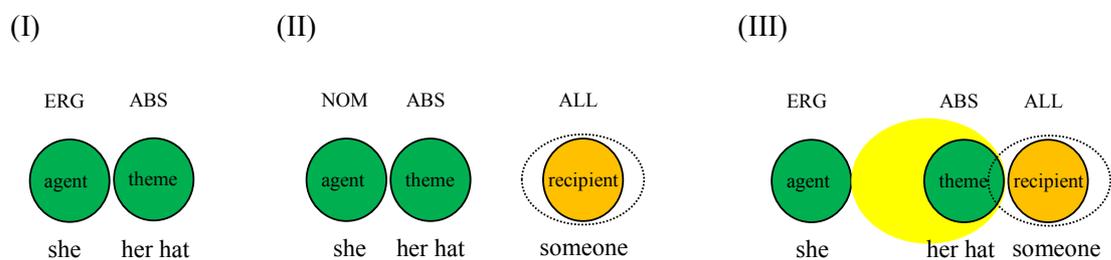


FIGURE 6. Event conception of the second reading of 3b

In 3b instead, the agent and the theme are given or already present in discourse as in Figure 6(I) and the recipient is newly introduced alongside the event conception as in Figure 6(II).

Subsequently, the theme undergoes a factive change in location as shown in Figure 6(III). This time, the recipient is constitutive of the fictive change in the sense of appearance in the discourse, and therefore it is encoded in an allative NP (*angut-mun*).

Our hypothesis is supported by further evidence from the language. In 6 above, the agent alone is a definite entity, given or already present in the discourse. Hence, it is construed as independent of the fictive change and is encoded in an absolutive NP (*arnaq*). Contrastively, both the recipient and the theme are indefinite or unidentified rather than definite or identified entities. They are newly introduced into the discourse by the sentence together with the event conception; therefore, they are constitutive of the fictive change. One linguistic manifestation of those participants is the encoding with semantic cases such as the allative for the recipient and the ablative for the theme, as seen in 6a. Interestingly, the change-constitutive theme can also manifest in the noun incorporation instead of the ablative NP, as instantiated by *aki-kir-u-q* in 6b. These examples also corroborate our hypothesis that CAY exhibits a case distinction between event participants construed as independent of a fictive change (encoded in the absolutive) and those construed as constitutive of the change (encoded otherwise).

5. STRUCTURAL/SEMANTIC CASE DISTRIBUTION IN THE MARKING OF CHANGE-

CONSTITUTIVE/INDEPENDENT PARTICIPANTS. The present discussion reveals both the similarity and difference between (spoken) Korean and CAY. Both are similarly sensitive to a comparable distinction between change-independent and change-constitutive event participants. Korean prefers to encode the change-constitutive participants in the accusative (structural case), whereas

CAY prefers to encode the change-constitutive participants in the ablative or allative (semantic case).

What we have demonstrated so far can be summarized as in Table 2. Korean typically encodes participants constitutive of a factive change in accusative NPs, as in 2a and 5. Spoken Korean tends to encode an unexpected or contrasted event participant, recipient in 2b, as well in an accusative NP, although it ordinarily encodes expected or topical participants in dative or topic-marked NPs, as in 2a and 5.

	EVENT PARTICIPANT CONSTRUED AS CONSTITUTIVE OF A FICTIVE CHANGE	EVENT PARTICIPANT CONSTRUED AS INDEPENDENT OF A FICTIVE CHANGE
Korean	unexpected or contrasted participant (just like factive-change participant) accusative case (e.g. 2b)	expected or topical participant dative case or topic marker (e.g. 5)
CAY	unspecified or unidentified participant allative/ablative case (e.g. 6a)	specified or identified participant absolute case (e.g. 3a)

TABLE 2. Case marking in spoken Korean and CAY ditransitive clauses

Meanwhile, CAY encodes unspecified or unidentified (indefinite) participants in allative/ablative NPs, whereas it encodes specified or identified (definite) participants in absolute NPs. The middle column in the table corresponds to event participants construed as constitutive of a fictive change, while the right column amounts to event participants construed as independent of a fictive change.

The accusative (and nominative) in Korean and the absolutive (and ergative) in CAY can be regarded as structural cases, while the dative, allative, (and ablative) can be safely identified as semantic cases. Tables 3 and 4 are, respectively, the recapitulations of how the recipient and the theme manifest themselves grammatically in Korean and CAY ditransitive clauses.

	RECIPIENT ENTITY CONSTRUED AS CONSTITUTIVE OF A FICTIVE CHANGE	RECIPIENT ENTITY CONSTRUED AS INDEPENDENT OF A FICTIVE CHANGE
Korean	accusative (structural) case	dative (semantic) case
Yup'ik	allative (semantic) case	absolutive (structural) case

TABLE 3. Structural/semantic-case distribution in the recipient marking

	THEME ENTITY CONSTRUED AS CONSTITUTIVE OF A FICTIVE CHANGE	THEME ENTITY CONSTRUED AS INDEPENDENT OF A FICTIVE CHANGE
Korean	accusative (structural) case	accusative (semantic) case or topic marker
Yup'ik	ablative (semantic) case or noun in corporation	absolutive (structural) case

TABLE 4. Structural/semantic-case distribution in the theme marking

The languages are both sensitive to the distinction between the event participants constitutive of a fictive change and those independent of the change, but they have opposite manifestations of this distinction in addition to the difference in what constitutes the relevant fictive change.

Korean puts change-independent participants in semantic cases like dative or topic marking and change-constitutive ones in structural cases like accusative. CAY marks the former with

structural cases like absolutive and the latter with semantic cases like allative and ablative, otherwise noun incorporation.

A brief comparison between Korean sentence 2b (the first reading) and the CAY sentences in 6 will further clarify how the two languages are similar and how they differ. In the context of those sentences, the agent is the only entity that is obviously present in discourse prior to the utterance, while the theme and recipient are newly introduced into the discourse. In Korean sentence 2b, the NPs for ‘Mary’ and ‘a book’ are both marked as accusative, **structural** rather than semantic case, because the theme and recipient are interpreted as constitutive of a factive (change in location) or fictive (unexpected or contrasted appearance) change. Contrastively, CAY sentence 6a marks both of the NPs for ‘money’ and ‘a man’ with **semantic** rather than structural cases, ablative and allative. 6b makes a further contrast in that the theme NP is encoded as part of the verb for ‘give.’ In 6a-b, the theme and recipient are construed as constitutive of a fictive change in which they appear in the discourse together with the current event conception.

6. CONCLUSION. The present study showed that the alternation between the structural and the semantic cases in Korean and Central Alaskan Yup’ik ditransitives is attributable to the unstable status of the recipient role in those languages. Unlike languages such as Japanese and Basque, which stably encode the role in the dative, languages like Korean and CAY give the recipient entity different treatments according to whether it is viewed as independent of, or constitutive of, the fictive change involved in the relevant event conceptualization.

Although “the ditransitive events are events of various types of transfer, while transitive events are prototypically cause-change-states” (Croft 2001:164), recipients in transfer events can

by nature be either the goals of transferred themes (independent of change) or the patients affected by the transfer (constitutive of change). Korean and CAY differ remarkably from other languages like Japanese and Basque in that they are both sensitive to the fictive change: the appearance of an event participant in the discourse conception.

In Korean, recipients are encoded in accusative NPs when viewed as patients constitutive of a fictive as well as factive change but in other oblique NPs when viewed as goals independent of such a change. In CAY, recipients are marked as absolutive when construed as change-independent participants, while they are marked as allative when the theme participant serves as a focal participant encoded in the absolutive. Although Korean and CAY are both sensitive to a similar change-independent/constitutive distinction of event participants, Korean encodes the change-constitutive participants in a structural case (accusative) and CAY encodes them in a semantic case (ablative or allative).

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* We are indebted to Yongtaek Kim, Takeshi Koguma, and Mitsuko Narita Izutsu for useful comments and valuable suggestions on earlier versions of the present discussion. We are grateful to Caan Toopetlook and Yongtaek Kim for patiently answering troublesome questions and providing us with helpful and insightful examples of their languages, and to Matthew Carmody for his generous proofreading assistance before submitting this work to the editors of the HDLS proceedings. We would also like to thank the editors and reviewers of the proceedings, especially Aubrey Healey and Ricardo Napoleão de Souza for their useful clarification questions and beneficial comments on earlier versions of this paper in review processes.

¹ The following abbreviations are used in glosses of example sentences below: ABL: ablative, ABS: absolutive, ACC: accusative, ALL: allative, AUX: auxiliary, DAT: dative, DEC: declarative, DEF: definite, ERG: ergative, EVD: evidential, IND: indicative, NOM: nominative, PERF: perfective, PL: plural, PST: past, TOP: topic, TRANS: transitive, S: singular. What is referred to as ablative in CAY examples corresponds to Jacobson's (1995:32) "ablative-modalis case." Notice that it seems to have been so named because it marks the entities in a modal (indefinite) status as well as those viewed as sources or origins of some kind ('from ...' or 'of ...').

² This bifurcation is comparable with Dryer's (1987) distinction between the primary/secondary objects and the direct/indirect objects.

³ The representations of event conceptions adopted in this study are somewhat congruous with those in Langacker's (2008, 2009) Cognitive Grammar analysis but are different in a number of respects because of our intent to accommodate the accompanying discourse factors.

⁴ Unlike Korean, Japanese does not allow the accusative to mark such an unexpected recipient, as shown in (i) below. However, the unexpectedness status can be pragmatically marked by means of a discourse marker such as *nanto*, as in (ii).

(i) *John-ga Mary-o hon-o age-ta-nda-tte.

John-NOM Mary-ACC book-ACC give-PST-EVD-EVD

'(I hear) John gave Mary a book.' (Constructed sentence)

(ii) John-ga **nanto** Mary-ni hon-o age-ta-nda-tte.

John-NOM **what** Mary-DAT book-ACC give-PST-EVD-EVD

'(I hear) John unexpectedly gave a book to Mary.' (Constructed sentence)

On the other hand, Basque seemingly “uses word (constituent) order” to mark the status (Aske1987:4), as illustrated in (iii).

- (iii) Miren-i ekarr-i dio Jon-ek liburu-a.
 Miren-DAT (FOC) bring-PERF A3S-AUX-D3S-E3S Jon-ERG book-ABS.DEF
 ‘It is to Miren that John has brought a/the book.’ (Aske 1987:5)