

Abrahams-Curiel Department of Foreign Literatures & Linguistics
Academic year 2023-24 (תשפ"ד)

Who Moved My Argument? Identifying Verbal Alternations

מי הזיז את הארגומנט שלי? כיצד לזהות תמורות פועליות

0-133-1-402

2nd and 3rd Year Elective, Fall Semesters (A), 2023

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Room</u>
Sunday	16:00-18:00	90	224
Tuesday	16:00-18:00		

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Diller Building (74) Room 514

Office hours: by appointment

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Course description & objectives:

A single verb may appear in various syntactic constructions; some of the variations result from syntactic movement while others are argued to be lexically determined, being the outcome of verbal alternations. In this course, we will identify the syntactic, semantic, and morphological properties of verbal alternations (*e.g.*, causative/stative/locative verbs). We will discuss theories of argument projection and explore the differences between arguments and adjuncts.

Pre-requisite

Introduction to Linguistics

Introduction to the Lexicon

Introduction to Syntax

Course requirements:

Class Attendance is **Obligatory**

- Participation in Class, Reading Assignments, In-Class Exercises: 40%
- Final assignment: 60%

Material:

The course website is available on Moodle for all registered students. All readings are uploaded as PDF files on the course website. Please make sure **your e-mail address is updated and correct**. Students are expected to check the website regularly for messages and necessary downloads (before class).

Topics

*There might be some changes in the order or content depending on our progress.
You will be notified of any change in our schedule well in advance.

Week 1	Introduction	Terminology Review, the VP, Argument Structure, the Linking Problem
Week 2	Introduction	Review of Lexical Aspect
Week 3	The Properties of Verbal Alternation	Morpho-Syntactic Properties: Arity, Movement, Case, Verbal Morphology. Lexical-Semantic Properties.
Week 4	Types of Verbal Alternation	Looking closely at different types of verbal alternation in light of the identified properties.
Week 5	Types of Verbal Alternation	Looking closely at different types of verbal alternation in light of the identified properties.
Week 6	The Causative-Inchoative Alternation	Causers, Agents, and Actors Passive vs. Unaccusative
Week 6	The Causative-Inchoative Alternation	And other Transitive/Intransitive Alternations.
Week 7	Approaches to Verbal Alternations	A Thematic Approach: The active lexicon in Reinhart's Theta System A Non-Thematic Approach: Verbal Morphology, Arad (2005) - Roots and Patterns
Week 8	Approaches to Verbal Alternations	A Thematic Approach: The active lexicon in Reinhart's Theta System A Non-Thematic Approach: Verbal Morphology, Arad (2005) - Roots and Patterns
Week 9	Approaches to Verbal Alternations	A Non-Thematic Approach: Lexical Aspect, Erteschik-Shir and Rapoport - The Atoms of Meaning
Week 10	Transitive/Ditransitive Alternations	
Week 11	Summary & Discussion: Students' Choice of Verbal Alternation	Final assignment prep