An account for Change of State verbs cross-linguistically

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Change of state verbs (CoS) lexicalize a function that measures scalar change (Kennedy & Levin 2008; Kennedy & McNally 2005, inter alia). Typically CoS verbs undergo the causative/anticausative alternation (*He broke the window* vs. *the window broke*) (e.g. Levin & Rappaport Hovav 1995; Alexiadou et al. 2006, 2015; Schäfer 2008, 2021). Building on Levin's (1993) non-deadjectival CoS verbs (*break*, *cook,* and other alternating CoS verbs, e.g. *close, melt*) (Beavers & Koontz-Garboden 2020), I present evidence from the morphological typology of this verb class in English, German - they appear (i) as morphologically unmarked (unmarked anticausatives) (*die Sonne schmilzt das Eis* vs. *das Eis schmilzt*), (ii) as (reflexively) marked (marked anticausatives) with the reflexive pronoun 'sich' (Schäfer 2008, Haspelmath 2019, inter alia) (*Hans öffnet die Tür* vs. *die Tür öffnet sich*) - and Greek: they appear (i) with a morphological marking (*i Ana vrazi ti supa*, the Ana boils.ACT the soup.ACC vs. *i supa vrazi*, the soup.NOM boils.NACT), (ii) without a morphological marking (*i Ana anikse tin porta*, the Anna.NOM opened the door.ACC vs. *i porta anikse*, the door.NOM opened), (iii) with an optional marking (*to trapezomantilo lerose apo mono tou*, the tablecloth.NOM dirtied.ACT by self it vs. *to trapezomantilo lerothike apo mono tou*, the tablecloth.NOM dirtied.NACT by self it, from Schäfer 2008: 26 (43b,c respectively)). This talk aims to present a set of rules for CoS verbs cross-linguistically (cf. Sioupi 2019, 2021a). I outline a template that looks at the (non-deadjectival) CoS verbs from different angles, i.e. argument structure and valency theory (Herbst 1992, 2011), taking also into account decomposition structure formally (Dowty 1979), providing more evidence for the different patterns found in the languages under investigation.

References: • Alexiadou A., E. Anagnostopoulou and F. Schäfer. (2015): External arguments in transitivity alternations: a layering approach. Oxford: Oxford University Press. • Kennedy, C. & L. McNally (2005): Scale Structure, Degree Modification and the Semantic Typology of Gradable Predicates, Language 81, 345-381.