Voice and valency change in ergative and accusative languages: Focusing on Chukchi and Mongolian

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Chukchi is an absolutive-ergative language with double marking. Mongolian is a nominative-accusative language with a dependent-marking.　This paper is examines the mechanism of voice and valency change in these languages.

In Chukchi, the antipassive, reflexive and anticausative are reduces the valency and the causative and benifactive increase valency. At the same time, object incorporation also increases valency. When the object is incorporated into the verb form, it loses its status of as an objective syntactic argument. In Chukchi, valency-increasing derivations are more common than valency-reducing derivations. Chukchi has three different processes to form causatives: morphological, analytic and lexical. The morphological causative includes the 'single causative', marked by one causative affix, and the 'double causative', marked by two causative affixes. The analytic causative is formed by the combination of the causative suffix and the auxiliary verb. The lexical causative is formed by the lexical circumfix te-…-⬚, etymologically related to the verb 'to make'.

In Mongolian, the anticausative and passive are valency-reducing and the causative is valency-increasing.　Most Mongolian scholars recognize that the causative voice and the passive voice are distinguished from each other in Mongolian. But in fact, the causative suffix sometimes expresses a passive meaning and some verbs with causative suffix can be interpreted as either causative or passive meaning. It is interesting to note that the passive suffix rarely expresses a causative meaning. Additionally, the detail of the causative and passive are complicated across dialects.