

Applicatives

Syntax 1 handout (J. Merchant)

West Greenlandic Inuttut (Eskimo) / Kalaallisut (spoken by about 48,000 people: guess where)

Sadock, Jerrold. 2003. A grammar of Kalaallisut (West Greenlandic Inuttut). Lincom Europa: Munich.

Applicative morpheme -(v)vigE- applies to the *spatial* cases (allative, locative, ablative)

(NB: the verb *pisiari*- ‘buy’ can be further analyzed as *pisiaq-GE-* ‘(lit.) bought.thing-have.as’, with a verbalizing suffix on the root; this additional morphology is ignored in the glosses here)

- (1) a. Kaalip Hansimut iffiaq pisiarivaa.
Kaali-p Hansi-mut iffiaq-Ø pisiari-vaa
Kaali-ERG Hans-ALL bread-ABS buy-IND.3s/3s
‘Kaali bought bread for Hans.’
- b. Kaalip pisiniarfimmi iffiaq pisiarivaa.
Kaali-p pisiniarfik-mi iffiaq-Ø pisiari-vaa
Kaali-ERG store-LOC bread-ABS buy-IND.3s/3s
‘Kaali bought bread at the store.’
- (2) a. Kaalip Hansi (iffiamik) pisiariffigivaa.
Kaali-p Hasni-Ø iffiaq-mik pisiari-(v)vigE-vaa
Kaali-ERG Hans-ABS bread-INST buy-APPL-IND.3s/3s
‘Kaali bought Hans bread.’
- b. Kaalip pisiniarfik (iffiamik) pisiariffigivaa.
Kaali-p pisiniarfik-Ø iffiaq-mik pisiari-(v)vigE-vaa
Kaali-ERG store-ABS bread-INST buy-APPL-IND.3s/3s
‘Kaali bought bread at the store.’
(loosely) ‘Kaali did some store-buying of bread.’

German

- (3) a. Wir sprechen über das Problem.
we speak about the problem
‘We are speaking about the problem.’
- b. Wir besprechen das Problem.
wir APPL-speak the problem.ACC
‘We are discussing the problem.’
- c. Griechenland siegte über Italien. (G. was.victorous over I.)
- d. Griechenland besiegte Italien. (G. APPL-was.victorous I.)
‘Greece was victorious over/beat Italy.’
- (4) a. Elke zweifelt an deinem Verstand. (E. doubts on your i.)
- b. Elke bezweifelt deinen Verstand. (E. APPL-doubts your i.)
‘Elke doubts your intelligence.’

- c. Kommissar Hesser arbeitet an dem Fall. (Det. H. works on the case.)
 - d. Kommissar Hesser bearbeitet den Fall. (Det. H. APPL-works the case.)
‘Detective Hesser is working (on) the case.’
- (5) a. Sie bauen Häuser auf dem Gelände. (they build houses on the prop.)
b. Sie bebauen das Gelände mit Häusern. (they APPL-build the prop. with h.)
‘They’re building houses on the property.’
- (6) a. Er tritt auf den Rasen. (he walks on the lawn)
b. Er betritt den Rasen. (he APPL-walks the lawn)
‘He trod on the lawn.’
- c. Achten Sie auf die Hinweise! (pay.attention to the instr.)
 - d. Beachten Sie die Hinweise! (APPL-pay.attention the instr.)
‘Pay attention to the instructions!’

English

- (7) a. He strode over the threshold/onto the stage.
b. He bestrode the threshold/the stage.

Others, mostly archaic: begird(le), behead, benim, betroth, bewash, bewrap

Nishnaabemwin (dialect of Ojibwe: Algonquian: Algic; Ojibwe is spoken by about 50,000 people all over central Canada and from Michigan to Montana)
(From J. Randolph Valentine, 2001, Nishnaabemwin Reference Grammar, Univ of Toronto Press)

Applicative -(am)aw-

- (8) mnozang ‘cook something’
mnozmawaad ‘cook (something) for someone’
- zhitang ‘make something’
zhitmawaad ‘make (something) for someone’
- (9) cf. Minnesotan Ojibwe (from John Nichols and Earl Nyholm, 1995, A concise dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe, Univ of Minnesota Press)
cf. ozhi’ ‘make someone’
ozhitoon ‘make something’
ozhitamaw ‘make (something) for someone’
- (10) Aw kwe ndazhtamaag nbabgiyaan.
that woman make.ind.3sProx>>1s my.shirt
‘That woman is making me a shirt.’

Swahili

- (11) A-li-ni-andik-i-a barua.
3s-PAST-1s-write-APPL-IND letter
‘He wrote me a letter.’