

## Dative object as high applicative in Spanish constructions with *permitir*

The goal for this study is to examine the syntactic properties of the verb *permitir* (to permit) in Spanish. There have been established several classifications of *permitir*: object control verb (Bordelois 1974; Tubino Blanco 2010), object control (restructuring) verb (Moore 1996; Nishida 2012), hidden causative verb (Kayne 1989; Cinque 2004, 2006), and causative verb (Alfonso Vega 1998). This work assesses the internal syntactic structures that the different classes of *permitir* have based on its semantic or pragmatic features. Moreover, by explaining the syntactic properties of the verb *permitir*, it is possible to explain why *permitir* shows optionality regarding clitic climbing when compared with the causative verb *hacer* (to make), as shown in (1):

(1) a. Juan me<sub>i</sub> permitió [PRO<sub>i</sub> tocar-lo].

Juan 1SG.DAT permitted to play 3SG.ACC  
'Juan permitted me to play it'

a'. \*Juan me<sub>i</sub> lo permitió [PRO<sub>i</sub> tocar].

Juan 1SG.DAT 3SG.ACC permitted to play  
'Juan permitted me to play it'

b. Juan me hizo tocarlo.

Juan 1SG.DAT made to play 3SG.ACC  
'Juan made me to play it'

b'. Juan me lo hizo tocar.

Juan 1SG.DAT 3SG.ACC made to play  
'Juan made me to play it'

To analyze the internal structure of *permitir*, this study adopts the theory of applicatives (Marantz 1993; Pylkkänen 2002, 2008; Cuervo (2003). In Spanish there are three applicative heads that are defined based on their syntactic position (high applicative, low applicative, and affected applicative). This study analyzes all the possible positions of applicative heads that the internal structure of *permitir* licenses. Furthermore, the properties of the dative arguments in constructions with *permitir* were analyzed based Pylkkänen (2002) and Cuervo's (2003) diagnostics for applicatives — i. descriptive adjective, ii. agentive adverb, iii. semantic relation between dative object and accusative object, iv. restriction of animacy, v. binding of

anaphor, vi. binding of possessive pronoun, vii. weak crossover, viii. scope of quantifier, and ix. passivization. The data analyzed in this study suggest that the dative argument in constructions with *permitir* is a high applicative head. Based on this hypothesis, it is argued that the phase of the high applicative does not allow clitic climbing of the accusative object of the infinitive verb to the matrix sentence, which is different from the causative construction with *hacer* where the dative argument is a causee, as an external argument (Tubino Blanco 2010).

## Reference

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