**Applicatives**

*Kinyarwanda*

(1)  
(a) Umwaana yataaye igitabo mu maazi  
child threw book in water  
‘The child has thrown the book into the water’
(b) Umwaana yataaye-mo amaazi igitabo  
child threw APPL water book  
‘The child has thrown the book into the water’

(2)  
Swahili
(a) Nilimsom-e-a [kila mwandishi] [kitabu chake]  
I-read APPL each writer book his  
‘I read for each author his book’
(b) Nilimsom-e-a [mwandishi wake] [kila kitabu]  
I-read APPL writer its each book  
‘I read for its author each book’

(and also...)

(3)  
*English*
(a) I read each author his book.
(b) I read its author each book.
• there seems to be more than one kind of applicative:

“high applicatives”
• can appear on intransitives
• no possessive relation necessary
• either “object” can be affected by passive

“low applicatives”
• restricted to transitive verbs
• implies possessive relation between obj.s
• only the applicative object can passivize

Pylkkänen (2000):

(4)

a. “high applicative”:
   vP
   subject v’
   v ApplP
   ApplObj Appl’
   Appl VP
   V Obj

b. “low applicative”:
   vP
   subject v’
   v VP
   ApplP
   ApplObj Appl’
   Appl Obj

transitivity

Chaga: high benefactive applicative [tones ruthlessly suppressed]

(5)  a. Nailyi-i-a mka kelya
    he-eats-APPL wife food
    ‘He is eating food for his wife’

   b. Naizric-i-a mbuya
    he-runs-APPL friend
    ‘He is running for a friend’

English: low benefactive applicative

(6)  a. I baked him a cake

   b.* I ran him
**possessiveness**

(7) a. Nailyi-i-a mka kelya  
   he-eats-APPL wife food  
   ‘He is eating food for his wife’

b.* He is eating **his wife** food  

**English:** low benefactive applicative

**passivization (a)symmetries**

Chaga: high benefactive applicative

(8) a. Naimlyi-i-a mka kelya  
   he-eats-APPL wife food  
   ‘He is eating food for his wife’

b. Mka nailyi-i-o kelya  
   wife is-eaten-APPL food  
   ‘The wife is eaten food for’

c. Kelya kilyi-i-o mka  
   food is-eaten-APPL wife  
   ‘The food is eaten for the wife’

**Chi-mwi:nii:** low “recipient” applicative

(9) a. Mwa:limu tet-**el-ela** chibu:ku na Nuru  
   teacher was-brought-APPL book by Nuru  
   ‘The teacher was brought the book by Nuru’

b.* Chibu:ku chitet-**el-ela** mwalimu na Nuru  
   book was-brought-APPL teacher by Nuru  
   ‘The book was brought (to) the teacher by Nuru’