UKARG (3 June 2006): Malagasy Control Structures
Charles Randriamasimanana
Oxford University

Part One: Malagasy Control Structures vs Verbs of Saying

InflP
    /
   /   
Infl' DP
   /
  /   
Infl VP
Head Complement Specifier

Where head = lexical = \{ V, P, N, A\}; head = functional = \{ voice, tense, aspect, agreement\}; DP = Definite Phrase

Figure 1: X-Bar Theory and Tree Geometry

Subject Control predicate¹ --see Randriamasimanana (1986: 499, ex. 119a)--
Property 1: constituent-selects the tense-marker on the embedded verb
Property 2: allows optional complementizer 'ny'
Property 3: NEVER allows a postposed sentential object, i.e. after the subject

(1) Nikasa (ny) hividy boky i Jeanne.
N-i-kasa² (ny) h-i-vidy boky i Jeanne³,
past-prf-root.\textbf{intend} (comp) fut-prf-root.buy a book(s) D.sg Jeanne
"Jeanne intended to buy a book/books."

Figure 2: Subject Control & Subcategorization
Object Control predicate—see Randriamasimanana (1986: 514, ex. 144.a & 144.b)—
Property 1: constituent-selects the tense-marker on the embedded verb
Property 2: allows optional complementizer 'mba'
Property 3: usually does NOT allow a postposed sentential object, i.e. after the subject.

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(2) Niangavy an'i Jeanne (mba) handeha i Marie.
N-i-angavy an' i Jeanne (mba) h-andeha i Marie.
past-prf-request acc D.sg Jeanne (comp) fut-go D.sg Marie
"Marie asked Jeanne to go."

(2') Evidence for Spec of CP position

Milaza azy ho mahay i Paoly.
M-ilaza azy ho mahay i Paoly.
Pres-say him/her Comp intelligent D.sg Paul
‘Paul considers himself intelligent.’

(2'') I Jeanne handeha.
I Jeanne h-andeha.
D.sg Jeanne fut-go
Lit.’Jeanne will go.’
English:’As for Jeanne, she will go.’ Exhaustive listing interpretation.
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Malagasy verbs:
Subject Control { mikasa ‘to intend’, mitetika ‘to plan’, milofo ‘to strive’, etc}
Object Control { miangavy ‘to request’, mangataka ‘to ask’, manery ‘to force’, etc}
Verb of Saying based on http://users.ox.ac.uk/%7Ecpgl0015/pargram/Frsynsem1.htm
Entry: Verbs of saying - Some properties of verbs of saying
Property 1: does NOT constituent-select the tense-marker on the embedded verb
Property 2: allows complementizer 'fa', but NEVER comp ‘ny’ nor nor ‘mba’
Property 3: typically allows a postposed sentential object, i.e. after the subject

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{V} \\
\text{V'} \\
\text{V} \\
\text{CP} \\
\text{C'} \\
\text{C} \\
\text{InflP} \\
\text{Infl'} \\
\text{Infl} \\
\text{VP} \\
\text{DP} \\
\text{Nilaza (fa) \{m-/h-/n-\} andeha \ø \ i Paoly.}
\end{array}
\]

Figure 4: Verb of Saying & Absence of Subcategorization

(3) Nilaza i Paoly fa handeha.
N-i-laza i Paoly fa h-an-(l>)deha.
"Paul said that he would go."

(3)a Nilaza i Paoly fa nandeha tany.
N-i-laza i Paoly fa n-an-(l>)deha t-any.
past-prf-root.laza D.sg Paul \textbf{comp past}-pref-root.leha perf-there.
"Paul said that he went there."

(3)b Nilaza i Paoly fa mandeha ø-any.
N-i-laza i Paoly fa m-an-(l>)deha ø-any.
past-prf-root.laza D.sg Paul \textbf{comp pres}-pref-root.leha nonperf-there.
"Paul said that he goes there."

(3)c Nilaza (fa) handeha ø-any i Paoly.
N-i-laza (fa) h-an-(l>)deha ø-any i Paoly.
past-prf-root.laza (comp) \textbf{fut}-pref-root.leha nonperf-there D.sg Paul.
"Paul said that he would go."

(3)d Nilaza (fa) nandeha t-any i Paoly.
N-i-laza (fa) n-an-(l>)deha t-any i Paoly.
past-prf-root.laza (comp) \textbf{past}-pref-root.leha perf-there D.sg Paul.
"Paul said that he went there."
Part Two: Brief Review of Contemporary Literature

Putative Subject Control: adapted from Potsdam (2004)

![Diagram of Subject Control]

Figure 5: Subject Control & Subcategorization

(4)a. mikasa ny mpianatra [fa izaho no hangalatra ny toaka]. = NOT Malagasy

intend the student that I focus fut-steal the booze

‘The student intends that I steal the booze’

b. mikasa ahy [hangalatra ny toaka] ny mpianatra. = NOT Malagasy.

intend me fut-steal the booze the student

‘The student intends me to steal the booze’

Object Control: adapted from Polinsky & Potsdam (2005, ex 16a. = 4c. below)

(4)c. niteny tamin-dRasoaj [hianatra teny gasy _*i,j] Rabei = NOT Malagasy

n-iteny t-amin-dRasaj [h-ianatra teny gasy _*i,j] Rabei

past-tell past-to-Rasoa fut-learn language Malagasy Rabe

‘Rabe told Rasoa to learn Malagasy.’

*Rabe told Rasoa that he (Rabe) will learn Malagasy.’

d. niteny tamin-dRasoa Rabe fa/hoe hianatra teny gasy = my version of (4)c

n-iteny t-amin-dRasoa Rabe [fa/hoe h-ianatra teny gasy]

past-speak past-to-Rasoa Rabe comp fut-study language Malagasy

‘Rabe spoke with Rasoa saying that he will study Malagasy.’

NOTE: miteny = ‘to speak, to say’, hoe = comp ‘quote…unquote’; see Note 8.
**Object Control:** Paul et al. (1998: 117, ex. 17a = 5.b below).

(5)a. Manosika miditra\(^{9}\) anay i Sahondra. = NOT Malagasy.
   
   AT.push AT.ebet 1plex(acc) Sahondra
   
   ‘Sahondra urges us to go in.’

   NOTE: manosika = to physically push; see Note 4 for the relevant Malagasy verb.

   b. Anosehan\(^{10}\)i Sahondra anay ny hiditra. = NOT Malagasy.
   
   CT.push Sahondra(gen) 1plex(acc) det fut.AT.enter
   
   ‘Sahondra urges us to go in.’

   lit. ‘to go in is urged us by Sahondra.’

**Object Control:** Pearson (2001: 116, ex. 82 = 6 below).

   
   NomP.push 1ex Irr-NomP.buy bread 2p
   
   “You are urging us [PRO to buy bread]”

   
   TrnP.push-2p Irr-NomP.buy bread 1ex
   
   “Us, you are urging [PRO to buy bread]”

   
   CrcP.push-2p 1ex Irr-AccP.buy Det bread
   
   “The bread, you are urging us [PRO to buy]”

**Passive Control:** Polinsky & Potsdam (2003)

(7) n-andram-an-dRabe no-vono-ina ny akoho

   PAST-try-PASS-Rabe PAST-kill-PASS the chicken

   <---------------------> InflP-Adjunct

   (lit.: the chicken was tried by Rabe to be killed)

   ‘Rabe tried to kill the chicken.’
Conclusions

A. **Subject control** constituent-selects embedded future tense & Comp ‘ny’;
B. **Object control** constituent-selects embedded future tense & Comp ‘mba’
C. **Verb of Saying** does NOT constituent select future tense & requires Comp ‘fa’.
D. **InflP-type of Adjunction** with verbs like ‘manandrana’ ‘to try’.

Adapted from Potsdam, Eric. 2006.

**ORDINARY CONTROL**

(8) a. **nampahatsia**hin - dRasoa ahy [hohidiana ny varavarana] = NOT Malagasy. 
   remind.OT Rasoa me fut-lock.TT the door

**BACKWARD CONTROL**

   remind.OT Rasoa fut-lock.TT-I the door
   ‘Rasoa reminded me to lock the door.’

Adapted from official site of the ‘Église Evangélique luthérienne de France’.

(9) **Ampahatsia**hinina fa miskatra hoan’ny rehetra ny fotoam-pivavahana 
   amin’ny teny frantsay isan’alahady maraina amin’ny 10 h 30.
   "(It) is recalled that is open to all the religious service 
   in the French language every Sunday morning at 10:30."

a. Ø-amp-aha-tsiahiv-ina fa m-isokatra … ny fotoam-pivavahana 
   Pass.pres-amp-aha-stem.tsiahiv-suff.ina comp pres-open Det religious service

b. Ø-amp-aha-tsiahiv-ina fa n-isokatra … ny fotoam-pivavahana 
   Pass.pres-amp-aha-stem.tsiahiv-suff.ina comp past-open Det religious service

c. Ø-amp-aha-tsiahiv-ina fa h-isokatra … ny fotoam-pivavahana 
   Pass.pres-amp-aha-stem.tsiahiv-suff.ina comp fut-open Det religious service

Note: Also consult Note 11.

**NOTES**

1. **Subject control** sample from Malagasy language website
   http://taratramada.com/ Date: 30-11-2004
   **Mitetika ny** hanakorontana ireo sendikan'ny mpampianatra. 
   M-i-tetika ny h-anakorontana ireo sendika-n' ny mpampianatra. 
   Pres-pref.i-intend comp fut-disturb DX.plur association(s)-of Det teachers 
   ‘those teachers’ associations intend to disturb.”

2. The **subject control** predicate ‘mikasa’ means ‘to intend’ and as a result 
   requires as a subject a referent **DP capable of intentions**. This rules out the sequence 
   shown in b. under note 3, where the grammatical subject of ‘mikasa’ is ‘ny fiara’ ‘the 
   car’.

3. A Double Passive construction involving a subject control matrix predicate 
   requires that both matrix and embedded verbs be in the passive voice. This rules out: 
   a. nijanona novaki-nao (ve) ny boky (*ve)? 
      stop.ACT read.PASS-2SG Q the book Q
      ‘Did you stop reading the book?’ (=28a)
b. tsy nikasa hosasan-dRasoa (intsony) ny fiara (*intsony)
    NEG intend.ACT wash.PASS-Rasoa any.longer the car any.longer
    ‘Rasoa didn’t intend to wash the car (any longer).’ (=\(28b\))
from Polinsky & Potsdam (2003).

4. **Object control** sample from Malagasy language website
   http://taratramada.com/ Date: 21/1/2005
   Manentana ny mpitondra taksy mba hividy « lanterne » ny kaominina.
   M-an-entana ny mpitondra taksy mba h-ividy « lanterne » ny kaominina.
   Pres-prf.an-urge Topic driver taxi comp fut-buy lanterns Det commune(s)
   “(All) communes urge taxi-drivers to buy lanterns.”

5. **Verb of Saying** sample from Malagasy website
   http://www.lexpressmada.com/
   Ny senatera Arema, Lucien Andrianirina, dia nilaza fa…
   Ny senatera Arema, Lucien Andrianirina, dia n-i-laza fa…
   Topic senator Arema, Lucien Andrianirina, part past-pref.i-say that…
   “Arema (party) senator Lucien Andrianirina said that …”
   With a Verb of Saying we have one type of Adjunction, i.e. CP-type of
   Adjunction, which allows any tense inside the adjoined clause; when Adjunction is to
   the right of the subject, Comp is obligatory, whereas when it occurs to the left of
   subject, Comp is optional. A different type of Adjunction is required with a verb like
   ‘manandrana’ ‘to try’, an InflP-type of Adjunction where the conjoined elements share
   the same tense and where the adjoined element necessarily shows up to the left of the
   grammatical subject.

6. There is a fundamental distinction in Malagasy between Embedding and
   Adjunction: Subject control and Object control involve Embedding whereas a Verb of
   Saying involves an Adjunction. A subject control predicate can\(\text{NOT}\) accommodate a
   pronoun inside an embedded structure like the following from (Law (1995), (8)),
   which is irretrievably ungrammatical:
   kasain-dRasoa ho-sasa-ko ny zaza
   intend.PASS.by-Rasoa FUT.wash.PASS.by-me the child
   ‘It is intended by Rasoa that the child will be washed by me.’
   For the sequence to be grammatical, the genitive clitic pronoun –ko must be
   Rakibolana malagasy. [ Malagasy encyclopedia ] Ambozontany, Fianarantsoa,
   Madagascar, we have one crucial example:
   Raharaha inona no kasainao hatao …?
   Raharaha inona no o-kasa- in(a) /nao h-atao
   occupation what focus pass.pres-stem.kasa-suff.ina/clitic.by.you fut-be.done
   Lit.”What occupation is intended by you to be done …?” where both passive verbs
   share the same grammatical subject.
   Equally irretrievably ungrammatical is the following sequence from Polinsky
   and Potsdam (2003) for exactly the same reason as mentioned above:
   tian-dRasoa hilaoya-ny i Tana
   want.PASS-Rasoa leave.PASS-3SG Antananarivo
   ‘Rasoa wants to leave Antananarivo.’
By contrast, where a Verb of Saying involving a CP-Adjunction is the case, a
coreferential pronoun may be retained in the adjoined, i.e. NOT embedded structure:
Nilaza i Jeanne fa izy no handeha.
N-i-laza i Jeanne fa izy no h-andeha.
Past.prf.i-say D.sg Jeanne that she focus will.go
“Jeanne said that it is she who will go.”

7. The **subject control** predicate ‘mikasa’ ‘to intend’ requires the **same subject**
on the matrix as well as the embedded predicate.

8. There is amalgamation here between two different constructions. Construction
A where ‘miteny’ means ‘to have a word (with someone)’ subcategorizing for an
object complement and construction B where ‘miteny’ means ‘to speak with someone
saying…’ requiring a Comp. In construction B the relevant and obligatory comp is
‘hoe’ as in the following sample from the Malagasy language site
http://www.forum.serasera.org/?rub=dinika/
ny vadiko no niteny tamiko hoe makanesa eto
ny vadi-ko no n-i-teny t-amiko hoe makanesa eto
Topic spouse-of.mine focus pres-prf.i-speak past-with-me comp imper.come here
“It is my spouse who spoke with me saying:’Come here!’
On the other hand, with construction A, ‘miteny’ ‘to have a word with’ requires a
human direct object:
Niteny azy aho.
N-i-teny azy aho.
Past-prf.i-speak acc.him/her nom.I
Lit.”I gave him/her a talking-to.”
English:”I had a word with him/her.”

9. The hallmark of an InflP-type of Adjunction in Malagasy is the presence of
the same tense-marker on two subsequent verbs. Here ‘manosika m-iditra’ ‘present-
push present-enter’ represents a putative adjoined sequence, as explained and
illustrated in Randriamasimanana (1999:522-525). However it is to be noted that
‘manosika’ ‘to physically push’ is not of the same subtype as ‘manandrana’ ‘to try’.

10. The function word ‘ny’ can be either a determiner meaning ‘(all) the’, a topic-
marker meaning ‘as for … ’ or a complementizer meaning something like ‘that’. It is
a Det(eratorner) when its complement is a Noun, whereas it is a Comp(lementizer)
when its complement is a Verb. In this specific case, the complement is definitely a
Verb, therefore ‘ny’ must be analyzed as a Comp and NOT as a Det.
In addition, we are dealing here with a straightforward Comp ‘ny’ as the
accompanying verb is a root and NOT a stem. Indeed the relevant root for the verb
‘miditra’ to enter is ‘iditra’, which is what we have, whereas the corresponding stem
is ‘idir’. On the other hand, if ‘ny’ was accompanied by a verb stem, say ‘idir’, then
we would have a deverbal construction and ‘ny’ can be a Det, i.e. with a nominal
island DP.

De : FPMC <fpm_c@...>
Date : Vendredi 24, F©vrier 2006  21:30
Objet : JOBILY FAHA-10 TAONA, VOLANA FAHAROA      fpm_c
ampahatsiahivina ny fandaharam-potoana
"The timetable is being recalled."
Ø-amp-aha-tsiahiv-suff.ina ny fandaharam-potoana ...
pass.pres-amp-aha-stem.tsiahiv-inasm 
Lit.:"Is being recalled the schedule."

Note that in this last sequence instead of the sentential subject with Comp ‘fa’, which we have in the sequences in (8), we have a nominative subject DP with Det ‘ny’ accompanying a verbal stem.andahar; the relevant corresponding root would be ‘lahatra’. This in turn contrasts with Comp ‘ny’ accompanying a Verb, i.e. a root ‘iditra’ as shown in sequence (5)b.

References

Malagasy control document at http://users.ox.ac.uk/%7Ecpgl0015/pargram/data/Control-testfile.txt
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Malagasy language website http://taratramada.com/ Date: 21/1/2005
Malagasy language forum at http://fr.groups.yahoo.com/group/serasera/message/25806
De : FPMC <fpm_c@...> Date : Vendredi 24, Février 2006 21:30
Objet : JOBILY FAHA-10 TAONA, VOLANA FAHAROA fpm_c
Department of Linguistics, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
Ambozontany, Fianarantsoa, Madagascar