# CHANGE OF POSSESSION VERBS, DOC ALTERNATIONS, AND SE AVAILABILITY IN ROMANCE. A PROPOSAL

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# UPSHOT:

- the Double Object Construction [DOC] could not only be possible in Romance but also accommodate interesting facts:
- 1.SE-cl enabling DOC variants in Spanish.
- 2.Configurational asymmetries in DOC vs. dative constructions (Benefactive alternation, Pesetsky1995, Larson1990) may:
- (i)capture diverse readings in SE constructions in Romance, as an aspectually-relevant constituent (SE-cl for Recipient/Possessor) (ii) reveal finer structural contrasts among verbs otherwise lumped together, exposing deviant behavior.

# ANALYSIS

#### Combines

- Hale&Keyser's [HK](2005) P-conflation
- Larson's (1990) Alternative Projection
- Semantic works with new conclusions on DOC (cf. Levin 2008 i.a.).

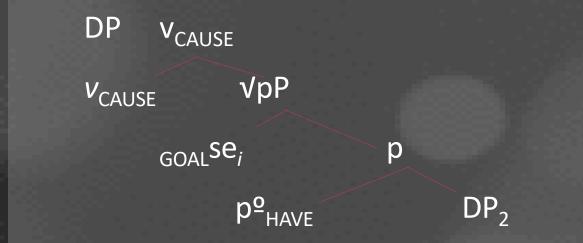
#### PROPOSAL

- ✓ Comprar type combines a nondynamic birrelational head (p°) (Kayne 1993; Guéron 1995), associated with with (HK 2002, McIntyre 2002, Rigau 2005, Rapoport 2012).
- ✓ Pº yields the result state (POSS Small Clause) accounting for the contrasts above.
- ✓ The light verb combined with pois not semantically null: comprar involves a caused event producing spatial contiguity (CENTRAL

#### **Composition: 2 heads**

vº: typically selects for pº: heads SC SCs (vCAUSE, Harley 2004, (result POSS Folli & Harley 2007) state)

- ✓ Asymmetry: composition with pº captures ①contrast CAUSEDPOSSESSION | CAUSED MOTION ② CAUSED POSS meaning across DOC | DC (10)
- ✓ Configuration used to explain possessive meaning in DOC in other languages (Harley & Jung 2015 i.a.)
- ✓ Consistent with instances motivating vCAUSE+PHAVE account in other languages (Harley & Miyagawa 2016).
- ✓ Reflects event complexity (see Krifka 2004)



## RESULTS

- Unified explanation for contrasts in seemingly similar verbs, benefactive PPs distribution, and SE-clinterpretation.
- SE shown as aspectually-relevant element in a different way
- Preserves major oppositions in telicity calculation (measure-out|delimitness)
- Reveals a contrast with usually-regarded SE occurrences (4) (e.g. Kemmer's 1993 opposition) seen as DOC in earlier works or treated as possessive or reflexive dative (cf. Campanini & Schäfer 2011, McDonald 2016)
- Could explain (11) (dative passivization)
- Compatible with major analyses (Pylkännen 2000, Miyagawa&Tsujioka 2004 [Japanese])
- Shows regularities linking verb meaning to argument frame
- Exposes contrasting morphosyntactic resources in each language for argument realization

### change-of-possession [cop] verbs in Spanish: 2 subtypes

(i) vender 'sell', perder 'lose', pagar 'pay' (1) a have passive-impersonal SE-cl reading  $(\alpha)$ 

(ii)comprar 'buy', asegurar 'secure', ganar 'win', robar 'steal' (1)b allow both  $(\alpha)$  and a benefactive reading  $(\beta)$  as well.

 $\textcircled{1}(\beta)$  unavailable in (1)a, and different to reciprocal ( $\gamma$ ) SE (allowed for both) ②(β)-allowing verbs take an PP for COP beneficiary ((8) below) IF CLITICIZED.

③(β) is distinct from the usually-explored aspectual SE like (3) (cf. Campanini & Schäfer 2011, Mc Donald 2016) (4)

④ In (β) the relation between SE and aspect is different. Telicity independent and quite different to (theme) measuring-out, in contrast to  $(\alpha)|(\gamma)$ ⑤ In (β) Event Endpoint is defined by a <sub>POSSESSIVE</sub>GOAL (Levin 2008) (5).

<ul> <li>(1)a. Se vendieron los coches importados. (Lit. se sold the cars)</li> <li>(α) 'The imported cars were sold'</li> <li>(γ) 'They sold the imported cars to each other'</li> </ul>	VENDER 'SELL' PASSIVE/IMPERSONAL DISTRIBUTIVE
<ul> <li>b. Se compraron los coches importados. (Lit. se bought the cars)</li> <li>(α) 'The imported cars have been bought *?[in/out]'</li> <li>(β) 'They bought the imported cars for themselves'</li> <li>(γ) 'They bought the imported cars to each other'</li> </ul>	PASSIVE/IMPERSONAL POSSESIVE RESULT (= GO TO SUBJECT) DISTRIBUTIVE
<ul> <li>(2) a. (Se) {vendieron/perdieron} ??coches importados en una hora.</li> <li>'Imported cars were sold/lost within an hour'</li> <li>b. *(Se) {compraron/ganaron} coches importados en una hora.</li> <li>'They got (bought/won) imported cars [for themselves] in an hour'.</li> </ul>	(α)-READING (β)-READING
(3) Se comió todo. (Lit. She ate all) 'She ate it all [up]'	ARGUMENT-TO-EVENT HOMOMORPHISM
(4) a. Se compró (el) postre (para ella) 'She bought (the) desert (for herself)'	INHERENTLY DISJOINT VERBS
<ul><li>b. Se comió *(el) postre (*para ella)</li><li>She ate the desert *for herself) 'She ate up the desert'</li></ul>	INHERENTLY REFLEXIVE VERBS

#### ADVANTAGES:

- ✓ Explains the relation between the two arguments not being change (motion) but stasis (POSS state) yielded by po (shown by for-x-time adv (6))
- ✓ Explains the additional benefactive PP in (8), as further instantiation of the incorporated po (expected in P-incorporation Mateu 2012, Haugen 2009) consistent with hyponymic (=possessor) interpretation.
- ✓ THEME trivial to telicity (2) follows: the DP is not in relevant position for measure-out.
- ✓ Telicity is instead defined based on the Possstate yielded by the SC (expected in such configurations, Harley 2005) (5)
- ✓ SE, as silent 'indefinite' (possessor) subject of the predicative relation (subject binder, Torrego 2013) acts as adequate controller (8).
- ✓ Contrast with two other cases:

#### VERBS NOT ALLOWING PPHAVE COMPOSITION (vender)

- $\checkmark$  do not allow possessors to c-command possessees, and disallow ( $\beta$ ), where GOAL would c-command theme.
- ✓ SE-cl is only ok with passivization and benefactive PPs are not selected
- ✓ the configuration is different: THEME in int argument position and GOAL (headed by the lexical P a 'to') as its complement (vs. comprar, allowing a DOC-like structure with GOAL as inner SC subject (Kayne 1993) and THEME as its complement. (cf. Harley 2002, Folli&Harley 2007 i.a.)
- ✓ Structural opposition in line with a major aspectual opposition between delimitness (GOAL-driven) and measure-out (THEME-dictated telicity) (Tenny 1994)
- ✓ REAVEALS STRUCTURAL CONTRASTS IN POTENTIAL ROLES OF SE IN ASPECT DETERMINATION

# VERBS ALLOWING NON-DEFAULT (LEXICAL INHERENT) COMPOSITION (POWITH)

- Leads to the expected CAUSED POSSESION | CAUSED MOTION opposition,
- Explains why lexically-coded direction of motion is trivial (traer|llevar 'bring from|to' both give (β)) (9)a. Or why *dejar* (9)b and verbs of dispossession like robar 'steal' apparently similar to vender, readily allow  $(\beta)/DOC.$ 
  - (6) *(se) compró un coche por una hora*. 'She bought a car for an hour' (≈the car was hers/with her for 1h)
  - (8) (Los inspectoresi) \*(sei) {quedaron/acapararon/incautaron/alquilaron} coches (para ellosi). The officers kept/monopolized/confiscated/rented cars for themselves (≈they got them by renting)
  - (9) a. Se trajeron/llevaron los coches 'They brought/carried the cars to themselves' (≈they got the cars). b. Se dejaron/cortaron/sirvieron/separaron postre 'Theyi left/cut/served/cut off dessert (for themi)'
  - DOC: se compró el coche (CAUSEDPOSSESSION)
    - DC: compró el coche a Juan (CAUSEDPOSSESSION)
  - (11)DOC: se llevó el coche (CAUSEDPOSSESSION) DC: llevó el coche a Juan (CAUSEDMOTION)
  - (12) El presidente fue robado (lit. The president was stolen) 'The president was burglarized'