Transitivity, and beyond...
We’ve been talking for a while about *transitive* and *intransitive* verbs:

- The children **jumped**
- The ants **ate** the cookies
We’ve been talking for a while about *transitive* and *intransitive* verbs:

The children **jumped**
The ants **ate** the cookies

…but it’s very common for a given verb to be able to be either transitive or intransitive:

The children **jumped** the fence.
The ants **ate**.
Some languages have morphology on the verb marking transitivity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tagalog</th>
<th>Passamaquoddy</th>
<th>Japanese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mag-bukas</td>
<td>'t-apqote-htun</td>
<td>ak-eru       open (trans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b-um-ukas</td>
<td>apqote-sson</td>
<td>ak-u          open (intrans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mag-hinto</td>
<td>'-cone-htun</td>
<td>tom-eru       stop (trans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h-um-into</td>
<td>cone-sson</td>
<td>tom-aru       stop (intrans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mag-akyat</td>
<td>'t-ewep-ehtun</td>
<td>ag-eru        raise (trans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>um-akyat</td>
<td>ewep-iye</td>
<td>ag-aru        rise (intrans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mag-balik</td>
<td>wesuwe-nomon</td>
<td>modo-su        return (trans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b-um-alik</td>
<td>wesuwe-ssu</td>
<td>modo-ru        return (intrans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s-um-unog</td>
<td>'-pokkik-somon</td>
<td>yak-u         burn (trans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ma-sunog</td>
<td>pkik-te</td>
<td>yak-eru       burn (intrans)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Even in languages that don’t have that, it’s common to have ways of increasing or decreasing the transitivity of verbs. We’ll talk about four of these:

- causatives
- passives
- antipassives
- applicatives
Causatives

Japanese morphological causatives:

Ziro-wa Hanako-o ik-ase-ta
Z-TOP Hanako-ACC go-CAUSE-PAST
‘Ziro made Hanako go’

Hanako-wa Ziro-ni heya-dai-o haraw-ase-ta
H-TOP Z-DAT room-rent-ACC pay-CAUSE-PAST
‘Hanako made Ziro pay room rent’
Passive

Consider alternations like:

He is **burning** the leaves
The leaves are **being burned** (by him)

(and compare: The leaves are **burning**)
Passive

Consider alternations like:

He is **burning** the leaves  
The leaves are **being burned** (by him)

(and compare: The leaves are **burning**)

In the **passive**, the phrase that would be the object of the transitive becomes the subject, and the phrase that would be the subject isn’t (obligatorily) present.
Antipassive

ʔaaček-a kimitʔ-ən ne-nɬʔetet-ən (Chukchi)
youth-ERG load-ABS 3PL.SUBJ-carry-3SG.OBJ
‘(The) young men carried away the load’

ʔaaček-ət ine-nɬʔetet-yʔet kimitʔ-e
youth-ABS.PL ANTIPASSIVE-carry-3PL.SUBJ load-INSTR
‘(The) young men carried away a load’
Antipassive

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‘(The) young men carried away a load’

like passive in that the verb becomes intransitive,
but it’s the object that becomes an oblique.
**Antipassive**
Some ergative languages prevent wh-movement of ergatives.

Max wayi naq winaq. [Q’anjob’al]  
ASP sleep the man  
‘The man slept’

Max y-ila’ naq winaq ix ix  
ASP 3ERG-see the man the woman  
‘The man saw the woman’
Antipassive
Some ergative languages prevent wh-movement of ergatives.

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ASP sleep the man
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‘The man saw the woman’

Maktxel max wayi? Maktxel max y-ila’ naq winaq?
who ASP sleep who ASP 3ERG-see the man
‘Who slept?’ ‘Who did the man see?’
Antipassive
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who ASP sleep who ASP 3ERG-see the man
‘Who slept?’ ‘Who did the man see?’

Maktxel max il-\textbf{oni} ix ix?
who ASP see-\textbf{ANTIPASSIVE} the woman
‘Who saw the woman?’
Applicative

Morphology on the verb that can ‘add an argument’:

Umwaana yataaye igititabo mu maazi (*Kinyarwanda*)

child threw book in water

‘The child has thrown the book into the water’
Applicative

Morphology on the verb that can ‘add an argument’:

Umwaana yataaye igititabo mu maazi (Kinyarwanda)
child threw book in water
‘The child has thrown the book into the water’

Umwaana yataaye-\textbf{mo} amaazi igititabo
child threw-\textbf{APPLICATIVE} water book
‘The child has thrown the book into the water’
Applicative

Morphology on the verb that can ‘add an argument’:

‘Kisaqosomoniya masqositol [Passamaquoddy]
they.cooked.them beans
‘They cooked beans’

‘Kisaqosomuwaniya masqositol muhsumsuwal.
they.cooked.them for.him beans their.grandfather
‘The cooked beans for their grandfather’
Applicative

Morphology on the verb that can ‘add an argument’:

Nailyi-i-a mka kelya [Chaga]
he.eats-APPL wife food
‘He is eating food for his wife’

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