CHAPTER NINE
CROSS-LINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVES

Applicatives can be defined as constructions in which a semantically oblique nominal appears as an object, signalled by overt verbal morphology. The Salish phenomena that we have discussed here straightforwardly fit this definition; the main use of the relational and directive suffixes discussed in Chapters 3 and 4 is to mark a construction in which a semantically oblique noun phrase is the direct object. There are obvious parallels between applicative constructions in Salish and phenomena that have been referred to as applicatives in other languages. Compare the benefactive applicatives in (1) and (2), the instrumental applicatives in (3) and (4), the psych (circumstantial) applicatives in (5) and (6), and the directional applicatives in (7) and (8):

(1) Okanagan (A. Mattina 1994:211)
kaʔkíč-x-t-m-әn t a-kł-ʔaʔxán.
find-rdr-tr-2sg.obj-1sg.sub obl 2sg.poss-fut-shoes
‘I found you some shoes.’

(2) Ilocano (Gerdts, f.n.)
In-sapul-an ni Juan ni Maria i-ti trabaho.
past-find-appl det Juan det Maria obl-det job
‘Juan found Maria a job.’

(3) Bella Coola (P. Davis and Saunders 1997:52)
̓kč-a-yamk-i-s ti ʔimlk tx
chop-intr-appl-3sg.obj-3sg.sub art man dem
ti ʔič tx ʔał ti stn tx.
ART axe dem prep ART log dem
‘The man used the axe to chop on the log with.’

(4) Tukang Besi (Donohue 2001:221)
No-tu’o-ako te baliu te kau.
3r.s/a-fell-appl core axe core tree
‘He used the axe to chop the tree.’

1 The term “core” is used for non-oblique case marking.
Overall, there are many similarities between applicatives in Salish and those in other languages, as will be seen by surveying the key typological parameters of their morphology, syntax, and semantics. In this chapter, we discuss the similarities and differences between Salish applicatives and those found in other languages of the world. We noted many of these points in passing in the discussion above, but we take the opportunity here to compile the typologically significant properties of Salish applicatives and to contrast them with applicatives in other languages.

Our research on Salish is situated in a broad understanding of applicatives and related phenomena in languages of the world mostly due to relationally-based accounts of the phenomena, but also by Gerdts’s fieldwork on Ilocano and Kinyarwanda applicatives.2 In 1992, Gerdts undertook a survey of applicatives in thirty-five languages, coding

---