21.1 Definition and Function

Derivational suffixes have scope only over roots and stems and can form strings on predictive words and derive grammatical words with different meanings. The alternative morpheme `<sega ~ siga> (ALT)` occurs as suffix on verbs and adjectives and as phrasal enclitic on Noun Phrases. In addition, there are some suffixes that change the subclass of certain predicative words, as is described in Chapter 16.

The causative suffix always precedes all other suffixes. The order of the other suffixes, especially the event specifiers amongst one another, is not entirely fixed, but there is a strong tendency for them to occur in the order presented in Table 73. Except for the event specifiers, which are able to co-occur, the other morphemes that appear in the same column cannot co-occur. Because of the order and co-occurrence pattern presented in Table 73, I separate the group of event specifiers from the other derivational suffixes.

Due to limitations of space, not all the derivational suffixes can be treated and exemplified separately in this grammar. Therefore, this chapter simply provides an overview of all of those in columns 1 and 3 and of only some of the event specifiers in column 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 73</th>
<th>Derivational suffixes in the order in which they usually occur on predicative roots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>column 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Causative</td>
<td><code>&lt;et&gt;</code> (CAUS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>column 2</strong></td>
<td>Event specifiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There are a great number of event specifiers in Atong, not all of which have been recorded yet. Those which have been discovered fall into twelve categories, viz. manner, manner/direction, aspect, extent, direction/extent, direction, epistemic, deontic, determinacy, location, conative and quantification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>column 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reciprocal</td>
<td><code>&lt;ruk&gt;</code> (RECP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative</td>
<td><code>&lt;khal&gt;</code> (CP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive</td>
<td><code>&lt;duga&gt;</code> (XS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
21.2 The Causative Suffix <-et>

The causative suffix <-et> (CAUS) appears on intransitive and transitive verbs and on adjectives. It is not attested on any other type of predicative word. The morpheme increases the valency of intransitive verbs by adding an Agent. The intransitive verb *tuŋ-* , for example, means ‘to be hot’, but becomes transitive when causativised, e.g. (660). In that example, the Agent is not expressed but is inferable from the context. The clause was uttered by one of my hosts in Badri Maidugytym when I entered the kitchen and it appeared that I had not yet eaten. There was still half a potful of boiled rice standing around, so she said:

(660) may tuŋetnima?
may tuŋ -et =ni =ma
rice hot -CAUS =UNC =Q
‘Shall [I] heat up the rice?’

In example (661), the intransitive *hoŋkhot-* ‘to go out’ verb is made transitive with the causative suffix. Here, a game is explained where children in one group can make children from the other group go out by whispering matching names into the ear of the person sitting between the two groups.

(661) [. . .] je dolsasangabaməŋaw jamay biməŋ məŋyanba utəmaw hoŋkhotetna manʔaba.
ie dol sa =saŋ =gaba =məŋ =aw jam ay
PROX group one =MOB =ATTR =GEN =ACC complete =ADV
biməŋ məŋ ay an =ba
name call.a.name =ADV =FOC =ADD
u =təm =aw hoŋkhot -et =na manʔ a =ba
DIST =PPP =ACC go.out -CAUS =GOAL be.able =CUST =ADD
‘these [kids] from the other group win when [they] also call [their] names and are also able to make them go out.’

On transitive verbs the causative can have a valency increasing interpretation, introducing a Causer, but there are no cases of this in the recorded corpus. The clause in (662) was obtained by elicitation. The verb *soʔot-* ‘to kill’ is already transitive and is made ditransitive by adding <-et>. There are some more examples of causative clauses in §18.4, viz. (448) and (449); the text preceding these is relevant.

(662) aŋ naŋʔaw wakaw soʔotetwa.
1SG 2SG =ACC pig =ACC kill -CAUS =FACT
‘I made you kill the pig.’