

Causative invitations and types of causation: evidence from Haitian Creole

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Three causative auxiliaries in Haitian

- Different types of causative relations

- ▶ factitive (make X V),
- ▶ permissive (let X V)
- ▶ negative causation (*prevent* X from V)
- ▶ enabling causation (*enable* X to V)

(Shibatani (2002); Shibatani and Pardeshi (2002); Wolff et al. (2002))

- Haitian has several causative constructions

- ▶ the *fè* 'make' causative (factitive)
- ▶ the *bay* 'give' causative (cognate of Fr. *bailler*) => ?
- ▶ the *kite* 'abandon; to let, permit, allow' causative (permissive)

- Antoine (2022) discusses *bay* 'give' and *voye* 'send' as causative constructions in Haitian

- ▶ Not clear that causative *voye* 'send' \neq *send sb to do sth*

Causatives in Haitian

(1) *fè* ‘make’ causative

Manman mwen **fè** Rito fouye twou a. (Haitian)
 mother 1SG MAKE R. dig hole DET

‘My mother made Rito dig a hole.’ (Govain, 2022, 38, ex4b)

(2) *bay* ‘give’ causative

Jan **bay** Mari koupe sak la.
 Jean GIVE Marie cut bag DET

‘J. made M. cut the bag.’ (Glaude, 2012, 169, ex.21b)

(3) *kite* ‘abandon; to let, permit, allow’ causative

M **kite** timoun nan jwe ak chat la.
 1SG LET child DET play with cat DET

‘I let the child play with the cat.’

Claims

- ➊ The three causative constructions contrast with respect to the causative relationships allowed
 - ▶ **Fè** is the neutral causative covering obligation and trigger readings
 - ▶ **bay** expresses an instruction/ an invitation (to an animate causee) to perform an action,
 - ▶ **kite** expresses general permissive:
 - ★ permission to a human agent causee
 - ★ non-intervention (animate or inanimate causee)
- ➋ Differences with respect to
 - ▶ implicativity
 - ▶ type of causer
 - ▶ type of causee
 - ▶ type of predicate
 - ▶ possibility of embedded negation

Outline

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- 3 Fè 'make' causatives in Haitian
- 4 Ba(y) 'give' causatives in Haitian
- 5 Kite 'let' causatives in Haitian
- 6 Conclusion

Haitian

● Haitian - Background

- ▶ French lexifier creole
- ▶ emerged in the context of large scale slavery (plantation)
- ▶ spoken in Haiti on the island of Hispaniola
- ▶ 10 million speakers, main language in Haiti



Haitian

- Grammatical properties

- ▶ DP-final determiner
- ▶ O/w head initial:
 - ★ post-nominal genitive, post-nominal relative clauses
 - ★ Preverbal TAM marking + Negation
 - ★ Head-complement order for V + complement

- (5) mwen suiv [konsèy dokte lazil la]. (Haitian)
 1SG follow recommendation doctor retirement-home DET
 'I followed the recommendation of the doctor of the retirement home.' (A. Camus *L'étranger*, Haitian translation by Frantz Gourdet)
- (6) Li kouri. / Li ap kouri. / Li pa kouri. / Li vle kouri.
 3SG run / 3SG IMPFV run / 3SG NEG run / 3SG WANT run
 'S/he ran / is running / didn't run / wants to run.'

Causatives: implicativity

- Causatives in the strict sense are **implicative**: they entail the occurrence of a result (see Shibatani 2002, 4)
- For an implicative causative the perfective past form implies that an event corresponding to the embedded predication
 - ▶ has taken place for positive causation (7)
 - ▶ hasn't taken place for negative causation (8)

(7) **Implicative causation**

- a. John made Bill read. => Bill read.
- b. John let Bill read. => Bill read.

(8) **Negative implicative causation**

John prevented Bill from reading. => Bill didn't read.

Causatives

- Periphrastic causatives \neq interpersonal verbs
- Interpersonal verbs do not entail the occurrence of a result (Shibatani 2002, 4)

(9) Causation

- John made Bill read. \Rightarrow Bill read.
- John let Bill read. \Rightarrow Bill read.

(10) Interpersonal verbs

- John **told** Bill to read. \nRightarrow Bill read.
^{ok} *But Bill didn't read because he didn't have his glasses.*
- John **sent** Bill to buy bread. \nRightarrow Bill bought bread.
^{ok} *But Bill didn't buy bread because the bakery was closed.*

Causatives

- Periphrastic causatives are **one-way implicative**: they entail the occurrence of a result but their negation does not imply the non-occurrence of a result
- Periphrastic causatives \neq *manage*

(11) Causation

- John made Bill read. \Rightarrow Bill read.
- John didn't make Bill read. \nRightarrow Bill didn't read.

(12) Two-way implicative

- John **managed** to buy bread. \Rightarrow J did buy bread.
- John **didn't manage** to buy bread. \Rightarrow J didn't buy bread.

Different causation relations

- Causative verbs can express different causation relations (e.g. Wolff et al. (2002) following Talmy 1988)

	Tendency of Affectee to Act	Opposition between Affector / Affectee	Result to Affectee Action
CAUSE	N	Y	Y
PREVENT	Y	Y	N
ENABLE	Y	N	Y

(Wolff et al., 2002, Table 2)

Fè 'make' causatives: word order

- The *fè* 'make' causative contrasts with the *faire* 'make' causatives in French wrt **word order** (Govain 2022).
- In Haitian *fè* 'make' causatives the causee has to separate *fè* and the embedded predicate

- (13) i. Mari **fè** Jan **li**. (Haitian)
 ii. *Mari **fè** **li** Jan.
 Mari MAKE Jan read Jan
 'M. made J. read.'

- French *faire* 'make' causatives do not allow an argument to intervene between *faire* and the verb (Abeillé et al., 1997, 62)

- (14) i. *Marie **fait** Jean **lire** (French)
 ii. Marie **fait** **lire** Jean.
 Mari MAKE Jean read Jean
 'M. makes J. read.'

Fè 'make' causatives are implicative

- In the perfective past the event in the complement of the *fè* 'make' causative cannot be denied.

(15) Mari fè Jan lave rad yo. (Haitian)

Mari MAKE Jan wash clothes DET.PL

Men li pa lave rad yo.

but 3SG NEG wash clothes DET.PL

'M. made J. wash the clothes.

But he didn't wash the clothes.'

Fè 'make' causatives: causative relationships

- The *fè* 'make' causative is used for **coercion** and **triggers**
- **Coercion**: an animate causer intentionally forces an animate causee to carry out an action under the control of the causee
 - ▶ an animate causer
 - ▶ intentional causation
 - ▶ action under the control of the causee

(16) Mari fè Jan lave rad yo (Haitian)
 Mari MAKE Jan wash clothes DET.PL
 'M. made J. wash the clothes.'

Fè 'make' causatives: causative relationships

- The *fè* 'make' causative is used for coercion and triggers.
- **Trigger:**
 - ▶ the causer need not cause intentionally (**inanimate causer** (17)-c)
 - ▶ the event is not under the control of the causee
 - ★ due to the nature of the **predicate** (*laugh, love literature* (17)-a/b)
 - ★ due to the nature of the **causee** (inanimate causee (17)-c)

- (17) a. Fim nan fè Mari ri.
 film DET MAKE M. laugh
 'The film made M. laugh.'
- b. Pwofesè a fè timoun yo renmen literati.
 professor DET MAKE children DET.PL love literature
 'The professor makes the children love literature.'
- c. Van an fè mi an tonbe.
 wind DET MAKE wall DET fall 'Le vent a fait tomber le mur.'
 'The wind made the wall come down.' (Govain 2022:40,ex 10b)

Fè causatives 'make' can embed negation

- The *fè* 'make' causative is not a serial verb construction.
- **Negation** in the complement is possible

(18) Pwofesè a fè timoun yo **pa** renmen literati
 professor DET MAKE children DET.PL NEG love literature
 'The professor makes the children **not** love literature.'

(19) Papa m fè m **pa** manje.
 father 1SG make 1SG NEG eat
 'My father made me **not** eat.' (ex. Michelet Michel)

Fè causatives: embedding *vle* 'want'

- The speakers I consulted fall into two groups for ex (20)-a
 - ▶ Group A disallows modal *vle* 'want' under the *fè* 'make' causative.
 - ▶ Group B allows modal *vle* 'want' under the *fè* 'make' causative.
- All speakers agree that the natural expression of volition/ desire under *fè* is with *anvi* 'desire' (20)-b
- Note that CH contrasts with the English **make**-causative (21).

- (20) a. Group A: # Sa a fè m **vle** ri
 Group B: ok Sa a fè m **vle** ri
 DEM DET make 1SG **want** laugh
- b. Sa a fè m **anvi** ri.
 DEM DET make 1SG desire laugh
 'That makes me want to laugh.'

- (21) That makes me want to laugh.

Fè causatives: embedding *vle* 'want'

- In ex (20): *ri* 'laugh'
- Possibility of *fè* 'make' embedding *vle* 'want' depends on the type of predicate.
- *fè* > *vle* better with volitional predicates (predicates under the control of the subject)

- (22) a. ^{ok}Sa a fè m vle kouri.
 DEM DET MAKE 1SG want run
 'That makes me want to run(away).'
- b. ^{ok}Sa a fè m vle etidye lengwistik.
 DEM DET MAKE 1SG want study linguistics
 'That makes me want to study linguistics.'

Fè causatives summary

	FÈ
Implicativity	yes
Negation	yes
Modals	yes
Causers	
Animate	yes
Inanimate stative	yes
Natural force	yes
Predicates	
Involuntary	yes
Voluntary	yes
Causative relationships	Coercion Trigger

Bay causatives are not implicative

- The event in the complement of the *bay* 'give' causative is implied, but not entailed.
- In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the event is assumed to have taken place.
- But: in the perfective past the event in the complement of the *bay* 'give' causative can be denied.

(23) Mari bay Jan lave rad yo. (Haitian)
 Mari MAKE Jan wash clothes DET.PL

^{ok} Men li pa lave rad yo.
 but 3SG NEG wash clothes DET.PL

'M. invited J.to wash the clothes.
^{ok} But he didn't wash the clothes.'

Ba(y) 'give' causatives - causers

- The *ba(y)* 'give' causative is used for contexts of invitation to an action
- **Invitation:** a typically animate causer invites/ instructs an animate causee to carry out an action under the control of the causee
 - ▶ an animate causer
 - ▶ invitation, authorisation or instruction
 - ▶ action under the control of the causee

- (24) a. Mari bay Jan lave rad yo. (Haitian)
 Mari MAKE Jan wash clothes DET.PL
 'M. made J. wash the clothes.'
- b. M ap ba ou benyen avan nou sòti
 1SG ASP GIVE 2SG take.bath before 1PL go.out
 'I let you have a bath before we go out.'

Ba(y) causatives - interactional causers

- The *ba(y)* 'give' causative is used for invitations from the causer.
- Invitations are possible from **interactional machines**.
- **Invitations:**
 - ▶ the causer can be **animate** (25)-a
 - ▶ the causer can be **inanimate** (25)-b, if able of interaction
 - ▶ the causee has to be **in control** of the event

- (25) a. Jann ap bay sè mwen an chwazi mizik la.
 Jan ASP give sister 1SG DET choose music DET
 'Jeanne invites [lit. give] my sister to **choose the music**
 (and she chooses the music).'
- b. Òdinatè a ba w met modpas la.
 computer DET give 2SG enter password DET
 'The **computer** invited you to **enter the password**.'

Ba(y) causatives - no natural forces as causers

- The *ba(y)* 'give' causative is used for invitations from the causer.
- **Invitations:**
 - ▶ *bay* causatives do not allow **inanimate dynamic causees/ natural forces** *van an* in (26)
- Donazzan et al. (2020): natural forces # in *laisser*-causatives in Fr

(26) # Van an / # Lapli a bay Mari kouri.
 wind DET / rain DET GIVE M. run
 'The wind / The rain made M. run (for cover).'

Ba(y) causatives - no inanimate stative causers

● Invitations:

- ▶ *bay* causatives do not allow **inanimate dynamic causees/ natural forces** *van an* in (26)
- ▶ *bay* causatives do not allow **inanimate stative causees** (28)

● *kite* causatives + **inanimate stative causees**: literary texts (27)

- (27) [...] **pòt louvri a** te **kite** sant lannwit ak flè rantrè.
 [...] door open DET PST GIVE smell night and flower enter
 'The open door let a smell of night and flowers come in.'
 (*Yon nèg apa*, p. 24, translation by F. Gourdet of *L'Étranger*, A. Camus)

● Parallel examples with *bay* are not acceptable (28)

- (28) #**pòt louvri a** te **bay** sant lannwit ak flè rantrè.
 door open DET PST GIVE smell night and flower enter

Ba(y) causatives - predicates

- The *ba(y)* 'give' causative is used for invitations from the causer to perform an action.
- **Invitations:**
 - ▶ *bay* causatives do not allow **involuntary actions** (29)

- (29)
- #Jann bay Mari ri
J. GIVE M. laugh
#‘J. made [lit *gave*] M. **laugh**.’
 - #Jan bay Mari tonbe.
J. GIVE M. fall
‘J. made M. **fall down**.’

Ba(y) causatives - types of causees

- The *ba(y)* 'give' causative is used for invitations from the causer to perform an action.
- **Invitations:**
 - ▶ *bay* causatives do not allow **inanimate causees** (30)

- (30)
- #Jann bay dlo bouyi.
J. GIVE water boil
#‘J. made [lit *gave*] **the water boil.**’
 - #Jan bay mi an tonbe.
Jan give wall DEF fall
‘Jan made/allowed **the wall fall down.**’

Ba(y) causatives - restrictions on predicates

- The *ba(y)* 'give' causative is used for invitations from the causer.
- However, *bay* causatives do not allow all **voluntary actions** (31)
- Speaker variability: *vini* 'come' is problematic for many (but not all) speakers
- Not clear why - maybe a clash between centrifugal *give* and centripetal *come*

(31) # Jan bay Mari **vini** **lekòl** [la].
 J. GIVE M. come school
 #'J. made [lit *gave*] M. **come to school**.
 (Antoine, 2022, 13, ex 8)

(32) Jan bay Mari pote liv.
 J. GIVE M. take book
 'Jean a fait apporter des livres à Marie'. (Glaude, 2012, 169)

Ba(y) causatives - restrictions on predicates I

- Speakers that reject *vini* 'come' with *bay* causatives accept a wide range of other movement verbs

- (33)
- ok Jan bay Mari ale / pase.
J. GIVE M. go/ go.past
ok 'J. made [lit gave] M. leave/ go past.' JPEF: ok
 - M ba w al depose sa a.
1SG give 2SG go hand.in DEM DET
 - Ou ba m pote liv la.
2SG GIVE 1SG carry book DET
'You invited/ asked me to bring the book.' JPEF: ok
 - Manman m ba m rimèt lajan an.
mother 1SG give 1SG give.back money DET
'My mother instructed me to give back the money.'

Ba(y) causatives - negation in complement

- All speakers agree that the *ba(y)* 'give' causative does not allow **negation** in the complement (34)-a.
- \neq *fè* causatives
- The speakers proposed the alternatives in (35).

(34) #Maman m ba m **pa** ale lekòl la.
 mother 1SG give 1SG NEG go school DET
 Not 'My mother invites me **not** to go to school.'

(35) a. Manman m **di** m **pa** ale lekòl la.
 mother 1SG **tell** 1SG NEG go school DET
 b. Manman m **konseye** m **pa** ale lekòl la.
 mother 1SG **recommends** 1SG NEG go school DET

Bay causatives - forces

- The causative auxiliaries express different causation relations

	Tendency of Affectee to Act	Opposition between Affector / Affectee	Result to Affectee Action
FÈ	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes (entailed)
BAY	(?)	(?)	Yes (implied)
KITE	Yes	No	Yes (implied)

adapted from (Wolff et al., 2002, Table 2)

- so far: *bay* exs with causee willing or in principle disposed to act
- Open Q: does *bay* allow contexts (36) with
 - ▶ causee **unwilling** to act and
 - ▶ **no plausible presumption** that the causee may be **willing to act**?

Bay causatives - forces

- The causative auxiliaries express different causation relations

	Tendency of Affectee to Act	Opposition between Affector / Affectee	Result to Affectee Action
FÈ	No/Yes	Yes/No	Yes (entailed)
BAY	Yes/ (No)	No / (Yes)	Yes (implied)
KITE	Yes	No	Yes (implied)

adapted from (Wolff et al., 2002, Table 2)

- some speakers allow unwilling/ coerced causee with *bay* (36)
 - ▶ speaker 2: difference in recognised authority (mother, police vs. bandit)?

(36) Bandi a bay Jan remèt lajan an.
 bandit DET GIVE J. hand-over money 3SG
 'The bandit made J. hand over the money.'
 ok speaker 1 / # speaker 2

Bay causatives summary

	FÈ	BAY
Implicativity	yes	no
Negation	yes	no
Modals	yes	no
Causers		
Animate	yes	yes
Inanimate stative	yes	no
Natural force	yes	no
Interactional machine	yes	yes
Causees		
Animate	yes	yes
Inanimate	no	no
Predicates		
Involuntary	yes	no
Voluntary	yes	yes
Causative relationships	Coercion Trigger	Invitation

Kite 'let' causatives: word order

- The HC *kite* 'let' causative contrasts with the *laisser* 'let' causatives in FR wrt **word order**.
- In HC *kite* causatives the causee has to separate *kite* and the embedded predicate (37)-i.

- (37) i. Mari **kite** Jan **manje** gato a (HC)
 ii. *Mari **kite** **manje** gato a Jan.
 Mari LET J. eat cake DET J
 'M. let J. eat the cake.'

- Fr *laisser* 'let' causatives: two word orders Donazzan et al. (2020)

- (38) i. Marie a **laissé** Pierre **manger** le gâteau. (French)
 ii. Marie a **laissé** **manger** le gâteau à Pierre.
 Mari has LET P. eat the cake to P
 'M. let P. eat the cake.' (Donazzan et al., 2020, ex 1b/2b)

Kite causatives are not implicative

- In the perfective past the event in the complement of the *kite* 'let' causative can be denied.

(39) Mari kite Jan lave rad yo. (Haitian)
 Mari LET Jan wash clothes DET.PL

^{ok} Men li pa lave rad yo.
 but 3SG NEG wash clothes DET.PL

'M. let J. wash the clothes. ^{ok} But he didn't wash the clothes.'

Kite 'let' causatives: causal relationships

- The *kite* 'let, allow' causative is used when the causer allows the embedded action either
 - ▶ by giving permission (**before** the action takes place) or
 - ▶ by not opposing/not stopping it (**while** the action is already taking place).

- (40) M ap kite timoun nan jwe avèk chat la
 1SG ASP LET child DET play with cat DET
 'I let the child play with the cat.'
- (i) permission before the event
 (ii) non-interference while the action takes place.

Kite causatives: animate or inanimate causees

- The causee of a *kite* causative need not be in control of the action (**involuntary actions** (41)).
- The causee of a *kite* causative can be **inanimate** (41)-b.

(41) a. Jann kite Mari mouri.

J. let M. die.

'J. let M. **die**.'

b. Jann kite mi an tonbe.

J. let wall DEF fall

'J. let **the wall fall down** (did nothing to prevent it falling down).'

c. Ou kite dlo a bouyi.

2SG let water DET boil

'You let **the water boil** (from a recipe)'

Kite causatives: causers - natural forces

- The causer of a *kite* causative can be **inanimate**.

(42) Li te fè bon, kafe a te cho fe kò m e pòt
EXPL PST make good, coffee DET PST heat up **door open** DET
louvri a te kite sant lannwit ak flè rantre.

let smell night and flower enter

'**The open door** let a smell of night and flowers come in.'

(*Yon nèg apa*, p. 24, translation by Frantz Gourdet of

L'Étranger, Albert Camus)

(43) Cheve blan l yo te yon ti jan fen, yo te kite w we
hair white 3SG PL PST a litte bit fine 3PL let 2SG see ears
zorèy dwòl anpil li yo, mal bòde, wouj san
funny a.lot 3SG PL badly xx red blood

'His white hairs was a bit thin, they let you see his very funny
ears with a bad rim, blood red.' (*Yon nèg apa*, p. 38,

translation by Frantz Gourdet of *L'Étranger*. Albert Camus)

Kite causatives: causers - natural forces

- The causer of a *kite* causative
- cannot be a **natural force**.
 - ▶ natural forces cannot give permission
 - ▶ natural forces cannot refrain from interference

- (44) a. Van an *kite mi an tonbe.
 wind DEF let wall DEF fall
 Not: 'The wind caused the wall to fall.'
 Ok: Van an **fè** mi an tonbe.
- b. Solèy *kite glason yo fonn.
 sun let ice-cube DET.PL melt
 Not: 'The sun caused the ice cubes to melt.'
 Ok: Solèy **fè** glason yo fonn.

Kite causatives: causers - interactional machines

- The causer of a *kite* causative with a permission reading
- can be a **machine capable of interaction** (computer, ticket-machine)
 - ▶ machines capable of interaction can give permission

(45) Òdinatè a kite w chwazi modpas la.
 computer DEF let 2SG choose password DET
 'The computer let me choose a password.'
 % Certain speakers prefer an animate in this context.

Kite causatives

- **Negation** in the complement of *kite* is possible
- Hyp1: The *kite* 'let, allow' causative is not a serial verb construction
- Hyp2: The *kite* that allows negation is the full verb 'allow'
- => need to establish diagnostics to distinguish causative *kite* vs. full verb *kite*

- (46) a. Maman m kite m **pa** ale lekòl.
 mother 1SG let 1SG NEG go school
 'My mother lets me not go to school.'
 '(Elle permet que je n'y aille pas / elle ne me force pas d'y aller).'
- b. maman m kite m **pa** pran travay sa a.
 mother 1SG let 1SG NEG take work DEM DET
 'My mother lets me not take that job.'
 '(Elle permet que je ne le prenne pas).'

Kite causatives summary

	FÈ make	BAY give	KITE let, allow
Implicativity	yes	no	no
Negation	yes	no	yes
Modals	yes	no	-
Causers			
Animate	yes	yes	yes
Inanimate stative	yes	no	(yes - literary)
Natural force	yes	no	no
Interactional machine	yes	yes	yes
Causees			
Animate	yes	yes	yes
Inanimate	no	no	yes
Predicates			
Involuntary	yes	no	yes
Voluntary	yes	yes	yes
Causative relationships	Coercion Trigger	Invitation	Permission Non-intervention

Conclusion

- The three causatives differ with respect to their syntax.
 - ▶ The bay causative bars negation in the complement
 - ▶ Fè and Kite allow negation in the complement
- The three causatives differ with respect to their semantics.
 - ▶ Differences wrt the types of predicates
 - ▶ Differences wrt the types of causers
 - ▶ Differences wrt the types of causees

Conclusion

- The causative auxiliaries express different causation relations

	Tendency of Affectee to Act	Opposition between Affector / Affectee	Result to Affectee Action
FÈ	No/Yes	Yes/No	Yes (entailed)
BAY	Yes(/No?)	No/(yes?)	Yes (implied)
KITE	Yes	No	Yes (implied)

adapted from (Wolff et al., 2002, Table 2)

Conclusion

causatives	Fè 'make'	Bay 'give'	Kite 'let, allow'
Predicates			
predicates not under control of causee (psychological predicates/ involuntary CAUSATIVE <i>laugh</i> ; intransitive non-agentive (CAUSATIVE <i>me/the vase fall</i>), Intransitive non-agentive locus of change (<i>melt</i>)	+	—	+
transitive agentive (<i>wash clothes</i>)	+	+	+
Causees			
Animate intentional agentive subject (human: CAUSATIVE X <i>wash clothes</i> /inanimate: CAUSATIVE <i>cat play with mouse</i>)	+	+	+
Animate non-intentional causee (CAUSATIVE X <i>fall</i> CAUSATIVE X <i>die</i>)	+	—	+
Inanimate causee (X CAUSATIVE <i>wall fall down</i>)	+	—	+
Causers			
Animate (<i>my mother make sb dig a hole</i>)	+	+	+
Inanimate dynamic causee - control (sun CAUSATIVE ice melt) causee + control (sun CAUSATIVE X take out sunscreen) Inanimate interactional (computer CAUSATIVE X choose password)	+	—	—
	+	—	—
	+	+	+

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