

## Depictive and Resultative Constructions in Hatam

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### ABSTRACT

This paper examines depictive and resultative constructions in Hatam, a Papuan language spoken in the Bird's Head region of West Papua, Indonesia. The study investigates how secondary predication is syntactically encoded and how multiple predicates interact within a single clause. The data were collected from three native speakers through elicitation sessions and naturally occurring speech and were analyzed using a qualitative descriptive approach. The findings show that Hatam exhibits flexible secondary predication structures in which adjectives, verbs, and adverbs may function as depictive or resultative predicates. Depictive constructions display structural ambiguity because descriptive elements may attach either to noun phrases or to clause-level predicates, resulting in multiple interpretations. Three major types of depictive constructions are identified: (1) adjectives modifying nouns and (2) adjectives modifying nouns while completing the clause predicate. Resultative constructions involve two interacting predicates that together form a complex predicate expressing a causal relationship between an event and its resulting state. This study contributes to the grammatical description of Hatam and provides additional empirical data for typological studies of secondary predication in Papuan languages

## INTRODUCTION

Secondary predication is a syntactic phenomenon in which a clause contains an additional predicate that describes the state or condition of one of the participants involved in the event expressed by the main verb. In such constructions, the additional predicate contributes semantic information about an argument without functioning as the primary predicate of the clause. Secondary predicates may describe either the state of a participant during the event or the state that results from the event itself. Because these constructions involve the interaction of multiple predicative elements within a single clause, they have attracted considerable attention in research on argument structure, event structure, and predicate composition (Rothstein 2004; Levin & Rappaport Hovav 2005).

In the linguistic literature, secondary predication is typically divided into two major types: depictive constructions and resultative constructions. Depictive constructions describe the state of an argument that holds simultaneously with the event expressed by the main predicate, whereas resultative constructions describe the state that arises as a consequence of that event (Levin & Rappaport Hovav 1995; Rothstein 2004). Halliday (1967) asserts that resultatives imply a resultant condition induced by the action specified in the primary predication, while depictives illustrate the state of their subject during the occurrence of the action indicated by the main predication. In English, the sentence *She ate the fish raw* contains a depictive secondary predicate (*raw*), which describes the state of the fish during the eating event. In contrast, a sentence such as *She hammered the metal flat* illustrates a resultative construction in which the adjective *flat* expresses the resulting state produced by the hammering event. These constructions demonstrate how languages encode complex relationships between events and states within a single clause.

Previous research has shown that languages differ significantly in the strategies used to express depictive and resultative meanings. In some languages, adjectives commonly function as secondary predicates, while in others verbs or adverbial expressions may serve similar functions. Furthermore, the syntactic position and interpretation of secondary predicates may vary across languages, sometimes resulting in ambiguity between noun modification and clause-level predication (Levin & Rappaport Hovav 2005; Croft 2001). Cross-linguistic investigations of secondary predication therefore provide valuable insights into how languages organize predicate structure and how lexical categories interact within clause syntax.

Studies of secondary predication have also highlighted the importance of event structure in understanding the relationship between the primary predicate and the secondary predicate. According to Levin and Rappaport Hovav (2005), resultative constructions often introduce a resulting state that delimits the event expressed by the main verb. Importantly, in Resultative Construction, manner and result are causally connected; that is, they follow the same causal path, meaning that manner (partially) comes before result (Celi et.al, 2021).

Among others, Hornstein and Lightfoot (1987) as well as Bowers (1993, 1997, 2000) have also proposed the subsequent two hypotheses: (1) functional

phrase is one that conveys a resultative or a depictive meaning and (2) the counterpart of the head of the functional phrase is a secondary predicate. Similarly, Rothstein (2004) argues that depictive constructions involve a temporal overlap between the event of the main predicate and the state expressed by the secondary predicate. These analyses demonstrate that the study of depictive and resultative constructions contributes to broader discussions about the interface between syntax, semantics, and event structure.

Despite the increasing amount of research on secondary predication, many languages remain underdescribed in this area, particularly those spoken in the linguistically diverse region of New Guinea. Papuan languages display a wide range of grammatical structures that differ significantly from those found in better-documented languages of Europe and Asia. However, the syntactic behavior of secondary predication in many Papuan languages has not yet been systematically examined.

One language that has received limited attention in this regard is the Hatam language, an endangered Papuan language isolate spoken in the Bird's Head region of West Papua, Indonesia. Although previous descriptive work has documented aspects of Hatam phonology and basic grammatical structure (Reesink 2002; Holton & Klamer 2018), the mechanisms through which Hatam encodes depictive and resultative meanings within clause structure remain largely unexplored. According to Eberhard et al. (2025), Hatam is not known to be related to any other language, is spoken as a first language by a decreasing number of young people, and is not known to be taught in schools. As a result, important questions remain regarding how secondary predicates are integrated into Hatam syntax and how different lexical categories participate in these constructions.

This study therefore investigates depictive and resultative constructions in Hatam, with particular attention to the syntactic structures that allow adjectives, verbs, and adverbs to function as secondary predicates. The analysis demonstrates that Hatam exhibits several strategies for expressing secondary predication. In depictive constructions, descriptive elements may modify noun phrases while simultaneously contributing to the predicate structure of the clause. These constructions may produce structural ambiguity because the descriptive element can be interpreted either as a noun modifier or as a clause-level predicate. In addition, the data reveal three major types of depictive constructions in Hatam: (1) adjectives modifying nouns, (2) adjectives modifying nouns while completing the clause predicate, and (3) verbs modifying nouns while completing the clause predicate.

Resultative constructions in Hatam display a different structural configuration. In these constructions, two predicates interact to form a complex predicate structure in which the first predicate expresses the main action and the second predicate expresses the resulting state of the affected argument. The resultative predicate may be realized by adjectives, verbs, or adverbs depending on the lexical resources available in the language. These constructions illustrate how Hatam encodes the causal relationship between an event and its outcome within a single clause.

By describing the structural characteristics of depictive and resultative constructions in Hatam, this study contributes to the broader grammatical documentation of the language and provides additional empirical data for the typological study of secondary predication. The findings also highlight the flexibility of predicate structures in Hatam and illustrate how different lexical categories may function as secondary predicates within complex clause constructions.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### *Theoretical Background: Secondary Predication*

Secondary predication refers to a construction in which a clause contains an additional predicate that attributes a property or state to one of the arguments of the main clause. Unlike the primary predicate, which establishes the main event or action of the clause, the secondary predicate provides additional information about the state of a participant involved in that event. The interpretation of secondary predicates depends on their semantic and syntactic relationship with the primary predicate and with the argument they describe (Rothstein 2004; Levin & Rappaport Hovav 2005).

In many languages, secondary predicates describe either a state that holds during the event or a state that emerges as the result of the event. Based on this distinction, researchers commonly identify two major types of secondary predication: depictive constructions and resultative constructions (Levin & Rappaport Hovav 1995; Croft 2001). Although both types involve more than one predicate within a clause, they differ in the temporal and semantic relationship between the predicates.

#### *Depictive Constructions*

Depictive constructions describe the state of a participant that holds simultaneously with the event expressed by the main predicate. In this type of construction, the secondary predicate attributes a property to one of the arguments while the action of the main verb is taking place. Because of this temporal overlap, depictive predicates are often interpreted as describing the condition of a participant during the event (Rothstein 2004).

For example, in the English sentence *She ate the fish raw*, the adjective *raw* functions as a depictive secondary predicate that describes the state of the fish during the eating event. The depictive predicate therefore contributes additional semantic information without introducing a separate event. According to Levin and Rappaport Hovav (2005), depictive constructions typically involve a structural relationship in which the secondary predicate is linked to a noun phrase that serves as its semantic subject.

Cross-linguistically, depictive constructions may involve various lexical categories, including adjectives, participles, or verbs. The syntactic position of the depictive element may vary depending on the language, and in some cases the depictive predicate may appear either within the noun phrase or as part of the clause predicate. This flexibility may lead to structural ambiguity, since the descriptive element may be interpreted either as a modifier of the noun phrase or as a clause-level predicate (Croft 2001).

#### *Resultative Constructions*

Resultative constructions differ from depictive constructions in that the secondary predicate expresses a state that results from the event described by the main predicate. In other words, the state introduced by the secondary predicate represents the outcome or culmination of the action expressed by the primary predicate (Levin & Rappaport Hovav 1995).

An example of a resultative construction in English is the sentence *She hammered the metal flat*. In this example, the adjective *flat* describes the resulting state of the metal after the hammering event. The resultative predicate therefore introduces a state that is causally related to the event described by the main verb.

Researchers have noted that resultative constructions often form complex predicate structures in which two predicates interact to express both the action and its resulting state. Levin and Rappaport Hovav (2005) argue that resultative constructions play an important role in understanding how verbs encode event structure, since the resulting state typically defines the endpoint or culmination of the event. Similarly, Croft (2001) suggests that resultative constructions illustrate how languages combine lexical meaning with syntactic structure to represent causal relationships between events and states.

Cross-linguistic studies have also shown that the expression of resultative meaning varies widely among languages. While some languages employ adjectival resultatives similar to those found in English, others use serial verb constructions, adverbial expressions, or separate clauses to express the resulting state. These differences highlight the importance of descriptive studies of individual languages, particularly those that have not been extensively documented.

In the case of the Hatam language, the syntactic strategies used to express depictive and resultative constructions have not been systematically analyzed. Investigating how these constructions are realized in Hatam can therefore contribute both to the grammatical description of the language and to the broader typological understanding of secondary predication.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study adopts a qualitative descriptive approach to analyze depictive and resultative constructions in the Hatam language. The data used in this study were collected from three native speakers of Hatam from the Bird's Head region of West Papua, Indonesia. The speakers consisted of adult male and female speakers who actively use Hatam in daily communication. Data collection was conducted through semi-structured elicitation sessions and was supplemented by naturally occurring examples from everyday speech. During the elicitation process, speakers were asked to produce sentences describing actions, events, and the states associated with those actions.

Particular attention was given to constructions in which descriptive elements such as adjectives, verbs, or adverbs occur alongside the main predicate and potentially function as secondary predicates within the clause. The elicitation sessions were audio-recorded and later transcribed for analysis. The collected data were transcribed and analyzed using standard linguistic glossing conventions in order to illustrate the morphological and syntactic structure of the examples. Each sentence was examined to determine whether the descriptive element expressed a state that occurred simultaneously with the event or a state that resulted from the event. Based on this distinction, the constructions were classified as depictive or resultative following the analytical framework proposed in previous studies on secondary predication (Levin & Rappaport Hovav 2005; Rothstein 2004). To ensure the reliability of the data, the elicited examples were checked repeatedly with the speakers to confirm grammatical accuracy and semantic interpretation. Data validation was further conducted through follow-up discussions and repeated confirmation sessions with the language consultants. This analysis aims to identify the structural patterns that characterize secondary predication in Hatam and to explain how different lexical categories participate in these constructions.

## RESULTS

### *Depictive Construction*

In Hatam, depictive constructions are formed through specific syntactic arrangements of lexical items within grammatical categories such as Noun Phrase (NP) and Verb Phrase (VP). These constructions are structurally and functionally distinct from resultative constructions. The distinction lies in both the structural configuration and the interpretation of adjectives within the clause.

Depictive constructions in Hatam involve two syntactic heads, each containing a predicate. The first head typically comprises an NP and a VP, while the second head consists of a VP followed by an NP and an adjective. Although the surface order of elements remains consistent, differences in interpretation arise depending on the syntactic role of the adjective.

The following sentence illustrates this ambiguity:

*Maria ngat Enos bon oto nitimey*  
*Maria see Enos fix car old-DEP*

Two interpretations are possible:

1. 'Maria sees Enos fix an old car.'
2. 'Maria sees Enos take a long time to fix a car.'

The ambiguity observed in the sentence *Maria ngat Enos bon oto nitimey* can be explained by examining how depictive constructions allow multiple relationships between predicates and their arguments. In this construction, the sentence contains two predicative heads within a single clause, and each head consists of a predicate. This structural configuration makes it possible for the sentence to produce more than one interpretation.

The first head consists of a noun phrase (NP) followed by a verb phrase (VP), which represents the main perception event. In this event, *Maria* functions as the experiencer, while the verb *ngat* 'see' expresses the act of perception. Structurally, the NP *Maria* functions as the subject, and the VP expresses what

Maria perceives. This structure establishes the main clause of the sentence. The second head represents the action being perceived, expressed by the verb *bon* 'fix'. In this event, *Enos* functions as the agent who performs the action, and *oto* 'car' functions as the object of the verb. Structurally, this second head can be described as VP + NP (Adj), since the predicate *bon* introduces the action and is followed by the noun phrase *oto* with the descriptive element *nitimey*. Thus, although the grammatical constructions appear similar, the interaction between the two heads creates the possibility of different interpretations.

The element *nitimey* appears at the end of the sentence and functions as an additional descriptive component within the construction. Because of its position and grammatical flexibility, it can attach to different parts of the structure, which results in ambiguity. The adjective can modify either the noun in the second head or the larger predicate structure formed by the two heads. In the first interpretation, *nitimey* modifies the noun *oto* 'car'. In this case, it functions as an adjectival modifier within the noun phrase, forming the phrase *oto nitimey* 'old car'. Under this interpretation, the sentence means that Maria sees Enos fixing an old car, and the adjective simply describes the property of the object involved in the action. In the second interpretation, *nitimey* does not modify the noun directly but instead modifies the complex predicate formed by the first and second heads. Here the adjective functions as a depictive or secondary predicate describing the manner or duration of the event. In this reading, the sentence conveys that Maria sees Enos taking a long time to fix a car. Thus, the adjective describes the event itself rather than the object.

This dual interpretation is possible because the language allows depictive elements to attach either to a noun phrase or to the predicate describing the event, and there is no overt grammatical marker indicating which element the adjective modifies. As a result, both interpretations remain grammatically valid, and the intended meaning must be determined through context. Therefore, this finding demonstrates that depictive constructions with two predicative heads can create structural ambiguity when a descriptive element has more than one possible syntactic attachment. The interaction between the perception predicate in the first head and the action predicate in the second head allows the adjective to modify different components of the clause, which ultimately leads to the different interpretations observed in the sentence.

This structural ambiguity also reflects the different ways depictive elements can function within the clause. In Hatam, three types of depictive constructions can be identified: (1) adjective modifies a noun, (2) adjective modifies a noun and completes the clause, and (3) verb modifies a noun and completes the clause.

**Adjective Modifies Noun**

In the example below, the adjective modifies the noun in two different positions:

Sentence (a): Adjective Modifies Object Noun

$$S \rightarrow CP$$

$$NP \rightarrow VP (\text{Head 1}) \rightarrow VP (\text{Head 2})$$

$$N \rightarrow V \rightarrow V \rightarrow NP (N + Adj)$$

*Anes dor kat wou tendak-tendak*

*Anes run catch snake alive-DEP*

Interpretation: 'Anes runs and catches a snake alive' (i.e., the snake is alive)

Sentence (b): Adjective Modifies Subject Noun

$$S \rightarrow CP$$

$$NP (N + Adj) \rightarrow VP (\text{Head 1}) \rightarrow VP (\text{Head 2})$$

*Anes dor kat wou tendak-tendak*

*Anes run catch snake alive-DEP*

Interpretation: 'Anes, who is alive, runs and catches a snake' (i.e., Anes is still alive)

In sentence (a), the adjective *tendak-tendak* modifies the noun *wou* ('snake'), indicating that the snake is still alive. In contrast, in sentence (b), *tendak-tendak* modifies the subject *Anes*, indicating that Anes is alive while catching the snake. These findings indicate that secondary predication in Hatam displays a notable degree of flexibility, as evidenced by the two possible readings of *tendak-tendak* 'alive' in the examples. In sentence (a), the adjective modifies the object *wou* 'snake', yielding an object-oriented depictive interpretation in which the snake remains alive during the event of being caught. This interpretation aligns with cross-linguistic observations that depictive constructions often specify the state of an object throughout the event described by the verb (Schultze-Berndt & Himmelmann 2004).

In contrast, sentence (b) demonstrates that *tendak-tendak* can also modify the subject *Anes*, resulting in a subject-oriented depictive. In this interpretation, the adjective describes the state of the agent performing the action, indicating that Anes remains alive while catching the snake.

The coexistence of these two interpretations within similar syntactic structures suggests that Hatam allows both subject- and object-oriented depictive constructions, with interpretation determined by the syntactic attachment of the adjective and possibly supported by prosodic or pragmatic factors. This flexibility contributes to a broader typological understanding of secondary predication. Hatam appears to pattern with languages that permit both types of depictive constructions, such as English (*John ate the fish raw* vs. *John ate the fish naked*), rather than restricting depictives to a single argument position.

Overall, these findings demonstrate that depictive constructions in Hatam allow flexible orientation of secondary predicates, where the same adjective may attach to different noun phrases within the clause. Consequently, the same sentence structure can produce multiple interpretations depending on the syntactic relationship between the depictive element and the arguments of the verb. From a broader typological perspective, this pattern highlights how Hatam encodes the interaction between verbs, arguments, and secondary predicates, and it provides further evidence that the interpretation of depictive constructions

may be determined not only by syntactic structure but also by contextual and pragmatic factors.

These findings, therefore, expand the descriptive account of Hatam syntax and contribute to typological discussions of depictive constructions. Future research should examine whether similar patterns occur with other adjectives or in more complex clauses, as well as whether prosody or discourse context influences the interpretation of depictive predicates. Such investigations would clarify the extent to which Hatam's system reflects general typological tendencies or language-specific strategies for encoding secondary predication.

The structure of resultative constructions in Hatam is formed both lexically and through their distribution within grammatical categories. The lexical items involved in these constructions are systematically organized into a larger syntactic configuration that contains two heads, each projecting its own predicate phrase. The first head typically encodes the causing event or situation, while the second head introduces the resultative predicate, which denotes the resultant state or outcome of the event. This bi-clausal-like structure is nevertheless monoclausal at the syntactic level, as both predicates together form a single complex predicate.

In Hatam, resultative predicates may be realized as either verbs or adjectives, a typologically significant fact since many languages restrict resultatives to a single lexical category (often adjectives, as in English). This flexibility suggests that Hatam permits a broader range of secondary predication strategies.

Consider the following example:

Kejeiya cuk srat biyeiya cut

*Lightning strike flame wood fall-RES*

'Lightning strikes a piece of wood until it falls.'

[CP [VP [VP1 *kejeiya cuk srat\_biyeyia*] [VP2 *cut*]]]

Here, *cuk* ('strike') represents the first predicate, introducing the event of striking, while *cut* ('fall') functions as the resultative predicate, specifying the final state reached by the theme (*srat biyeiya* 'flame wood'). Importantly, these two predicates occur under separate heads, yet they are interpreted together as a single event description. This structural configuration supports the view that Hatam resultatives instantiate a complex predicate construction, where the meaning of the sentence emerges compositionally from the interaction of the two heads.

From a theoretical perspective, this pattern aligns with cross-linguistic findings on resultative constructions. Like other languages that allow complex predicates, Hatam uses a head-head configuration in which the first head introduces the event and assigns a thematic role to the internal argument. The second head contribute a result state predicated over the same argument. The resultative predicate, therefore, is not an adjunct but an integral part of the event structure. This provides evidence that Hatam encodes resultatives within a monoclausal, compositional syntax, rather than by conjoining two independent clauses.

*Adjectives modify nouns and complete the Clause Predicate*

This section examines a type of depictive construction in which an adjective may either modify a noun or function as an element that completes the clause predicate. Because the adjective can attach to different parts of the clause structure, the construction may result in more than one possible interpretation. The following example illustrates this pattern:

*Maria toukeb noni kwen Enos pas moy*

*Maria watch 3SG.OBJ cook Enos.POSS rice spoil.PAST-DEP*

1. 'Maria watches him cook Enos's spoiled rice.'
2. 'Maria watches him cook Enos's rice until it is spoiled.'

The data show that in Hatam, adjectives may function not only as modifiers of nouns but also as elements that complete the clause predicate. This pattern demonstrates the flexibility of secondary predication in the language, where an adjective can attach either to a noun phrase or to the broader predicate structure of the clause. As a result, the same sentence may produce more than one interpretation depending on how the adjective is syntactically associated with other elements in the clause.

In this type of construction, the clause contains two verbal heads that form a complex predicate. The first head typically expresses a perception or observation event, while the second head describes the action being perceived. Because these two heads occur within the same clause, an adjective appearing at the end of the sentence may relate either to the noun phrase within the second verb phrase or to the entire predicate formed by the two verbs. Consequently, the adjective may function either as a noun modifier or as a secondary predicate that completes the clause predicate.

Two types of modification can therefore be identified. The first type occurs when the adjective modifies a noun within the second verb phrase. In this case, the adjective forms part of the noun phrase and directly describes the state or property of the noun. The adjective is syntactically associated with the object of the verb in the second verb phrase and functions as a typical attributive modifier. Under this interpretation, the adjective provides descriptive information about the entity involved in the action.

The second type occurs when the adjective completes the clause predicate. In this interpretation, the adjective does not modify a single noun but instead describes the resulting state or outcome of the event expressed by the two verbs. The adjective therefore functions as a secondary predicate that relates to the entire complex predicate formed by the first and second heads. Rather than describing a property of a noun, the adjective characterizes the state that results from the event described in the clause.

This pattern can be illustrated in the following example:

*Maria toukeb noni kwen Enos pas moy*

*Maria | toukeb | noni | kwen | Enos | pas | moy*

*Maria | watch | 3SG.OBJ | cook | Enos.POSS | rice | spoil. PAST-RES*

This sentence allows two possible interpretations depending on how the adjective moy 'spoiled' is interpreted.

In the first interpretation, the adjective moy modifies the noun pas 'rice'. In this case, the phrase pas moy forms a noun phrase meaning 'spoiled rice'. The adjective functions as a noun modifier that describes the condition of the rice.

The sentence therefore means ‘Maria watches him cook Enos’s spoiled rice.’ In this reading, the rice is already spoiled, and the adjective simply specifies its state.

In the second interpretation, the adjective *moy* does not modify the noun directly but instead functions as a secondary predicate that completes the complex predicate of the clause. In this reading, the adjective describes the resulting state of the rice after the cooking event. The sentence therefore means ‘Maria watches him cook Enos’s rice until it is spoiled.’ Here, the adjective characterizes the outcome of the event rather than the inherent property of the noun.

These two interpretations demonstrate that the adjective may attach to different structural levels within the clause. When it modifies the noun phrase, it functions as an attributive modifier within the object noun phrase. However, when it completes the clause predicate, it functions as a secondary predicate describing the state or result associated with the event.

Overall, this finding indicates that adjectives in Hatam participate in flexible secondary predication structures. The same adjective may function either as a noun modifier or as a predicate-level element that completes the clause. This flexibility allows a single sentence structure to produce different meanings depending on the syntactic attachment of the adjective and the interpretation of the event described in the clause. From a broader typological perspective, the data suggest that Hatam permits adjectives to operate both at the level of noun phrase modification and at the level of clause-level secondary predication, highlighting the dynamic interaction between adjectives, arguments, and predicate structures in the language.

#### ***Resultative Secondary Predicate***

Another construction found in the data involves a resultative secondary predicate, in which a verb expresses the resulting state of an event described by the main predicate. In this construction, the secondary predicate does not describe the state of a participant during the event, but rather the state that arises as a consequence of the event. In other words, the secondary predicate denotes the outcome or endpoint of the event introduced by the primary verb.

In Hatam, this pattern may occur when a clause contains two verbal heads forming a complex predicate, followed by an additional verb that expresses the outcome of the action. The first verbal element typically introduces the main activity or event, while the following verb describes the state that results from that activity. The final verb therefore functions as a resultative predicate, specifying the state achieved by one of the participants after the event has been completed.

The following example illustrates this construction:

*Maria paypak Yakobus kwen hanghui humyem*  
*Maria inform Yakobus cook meat(chicken) burn-PAST-DEP*

One possible interpretation of this sentence is:

*'Maria informs Yakobus to cook the chicken meat until it becomes burnt.'*

In this interpretation, the verb *humyem* ('burnt') functions as a resultative predicate that describes the outcome of the cooking event. The primary predicate *kwen* ('cook') introduces the main event, while *humyem* expresses the resulting state that the chicken meat reaches as a consequence of the cooking process. The resultative predicate therefore provides additional semantic information about the final state of the affected participant.

From a structural perspective, the noun *hanghui* ('chicken meat') participates in both predicates. It functions as the object of the main verb *kwen* ('cook') and simultaneously as the subject of the resultative predicate *humyem* ('burnt'). This type of configuration is commonly referred to as argument sharing, where a single argument is interpreted with respect to more than one predicate within the clause. In this case, the argument *hanghui* is the entity that undergoes the cooking event and also the entity that reaches the resulting state of being burnt.

The relationship between the predicates can be illustrated as follows:

*Primary event: Yakobus cooks the chicken meat.*

*Resulting state: the chicken meat becomes burnt.*

Thus, the event structure of the clause can be understood as a causal sequence, in which the cooking activity leads to the resulting state expressed by the secondary predicate. The resultative verb therefore completes the semantic interpretation of the clause by specifying the final state achieved by the affected participant. In many languages, such constructions are used to express complex events where an action brings about a change of state in an entity.

Unlike depictive constructions, where the secondary predicate describes a temporary state that holds simultaneously with the event, the resultative predicate describes a state that is achieved after the event has taken place. Depictive predicates typically indicate the condition of a participant during the action, whereas resultative predicates indicate the state that emerges as a consequence of the action. This distinction is important because it highlights the different semantic roles played by secondary predicates in clause structure.

In this sense, the resultative predicate contributes a telic interpretation to the clause, indicating the endpoint or outcome of the event. The presence of the resultative element signals that the event leads to a particular state, thereby giving the clause a sense of completion or culmination. The verb *humyem* therefore functions not only as an additional predicate but also as an element that shapes the overall event structure of the clause.

Another property that supports the resultative interpretation is that the secondary predicate may be omitted without making the clause ungrammatical, although the meaning of the resulting state would no longer be expressed. For example:

*Maria paypak Yakobus kwen hanghui*

*Maria inform Yakobus cook chicken meat*

This sentence simply describes the cooking event without specifying the outcome of the action. The clause remains grammatically well-formed, but it lacks the information about the final state of the chicken meat. The addition of

humyem therefore enriches the event structure by indicating that the cooking process leads to a particular result, namely that the chicken meat becomes burnt.

Furthermore, the presence of the resultative predicate allows the clause to encode a more complex event structure within a single syntactic unit. Rather than expressing the action and its outcome in two separate clauses, the language integrates both components into a single construction. This structural compactness is a common characteristic of resultative constructions in many languages, where the result state is tightly integrated with the event that causes it.

Overall, this construction demonstrates that Hatam allows resultative secondary predicates expressed by verbs, where the final verb specifies the resulting state of an argument affected by the main event. The presence of argument sharing between the predicates enables the language to represent both the action and its outcome within a single clause. This pattern suggests that secondary predication in Hatam is not limited to depictive constructions but also includes resultative constructions that describe the outcome or culmination of an event. The analysis therefore contributes to a broader understanding of how Hatam encodes complex event structures through the interaction of multiple predicates within a single clause.

## DISCUSSION

The analysis presented in this study shows that the Hatam language employs several strategies to encode secondary predication within clause structure. The findings indicate that depictive constructions in Hatam display a relatively flexible syntactic organization in which descriptive elements may function both as noun modifiers and as clause-level predicates. In particular, the data reveal three main patterns of depictive constructions: adjectives modifying nouns, adjectives modifying nouns while completing the clause predicate, and verbs modifying nouns while completing the clause predicate. These constructions demonstrate that descriptive elements in Hatam are not strictly limited to attributive functions but may also contribute to the predicate structure of the clause.

This flexibility also creates the possibility of structural ambiguity. In some cases, an adjective may appear adjacent to a noun and function as a modifier within the noun phrase, while in other contexts the same element may operate as a secondary predicate describing the state of a participant during the event. Similar patterns have been discussed in cross-linguistic studies of depictive constructions, which note that the syntactic attachment of depictive predicates may vary across languages (Levin & Rappaport Hovav 2005; Croft 2001). The Hatam data therefore provide additional evidence that depictive constructions may occupy different structural positions depending on how the descriptive element interacts with the clause predicate.

Resultative constructions in Hatam display a more clearly defined predicate structure. The analysis suggests that these constructions involve two predicate elements that together form a complex predicate. The first predicate expresses the main action, while the second predicate introduces the resulting state of the affected argument. In this respect, the Hatam data align with theoretical accounts that describe resultative constructions as involving a causal relationship between an event and its resulting state (Levin & Rappaport Hovav 1995; Rothstein 2004). The second predicate therefore functions as the element that specifies the outcome or culmination of the event introduced by the main verb.

Another notable feature of the Hatam data is that resultative predicates may be realized by several lexical categories, including adjectives, verbs, and adverbs. This suggests that Hatam does not rely on a single grammatical category to express resultative meaning but instead allows different lexical resources to function as secondary predicates depending on their syntactic position within the clause. Such flexibility highlights the importance of predicate interaction in the language and reflects broader typological patterns observed in the expression of secondary predication across languages.

Overall, the analysis demonstrates that Hatam makes use of both depictive and resultative constructions to encode relationships between events and states. These constructions illustrate how multiple predicates may combine within a single clause to convey complex semantic information about participants and outcomes.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This paper has examined depictive and resultative constructions in the Hatam language in order to identify how secondary predication is expressed within the language. The analysis demonstrates that Hatam employs several structural strategies that allow descriptive elements to function as secondary predicates. The study identifies three major types of depictive constructions in Hatam: (1) adjectives modifying nouns, (2) adjectives modifying nouns while simultaneously completing the clause predicate, and (3) verbs modifying nouns while completing the clause predicate. These constructions demonstrate that descriptive elements may function both as modifiers within noun phrases and as clause-level predicates, resulting in potential structural ambiguity.

The analysis also shows that resultative constructions in Hatam typically involve two predicate elements that together form a complex predicate structure. The first predicate expresses the main action, whereas the second predicate expresses the resulting state of the affected argument. The resultative predicate may be realized by adjectives, verbs, or adverbs, indicating that Hatam employs flexible grammatical strategies for encoding event outcomes. These findings contribute to the grammatical description of Hatam and provide additional empirical evidence for typological studies of secondary predication. The study further demonstrates how Hatam encodes relationships between events and states through the interaction of multiple predicates within a single clause. Future research may investigate the interaction between secondary predication,

argument structure, and clause linkage in order to develop a more comprehensive understanding of predicate structure in Hatam.

### **FURTHER STUDY**

This research still has limitations, so it is necessary to conduct further research related to the topic of Descriptive and Resultative Constructions in Hatam in order to perfect this research and increase insight for readers.

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