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## Lexik

## About full and underspecified representations of alternations in the lexicon: evidence from sentence reading

Andreas Brocher &amp; Robert D. Van Valin, Jr.

## Abstract

Van Valin (2013) proposed that, in sentence contexts where the causative/inchoative alternation such as *broke/break* (*broke in half/broke it*) or the active/intransitive alternation such as *march/marched* (*marched an hour/march*) are derived from an underspecified lexicon, the causative/inchoative alternation is assumed to be derived from the verb's active form and the active/intransitive alternation from its intransitive form. Our data are compatible with this proposal: the causative/inchoative alternation are lexically underspecified and, importantly, more so than the two forms of the active/intransitive alternation. The active/intransitive alternation is also lexically underspecified and, importantly, more so than the two forms of the causative/inchoative alternation.

## 1 Introduction

Verb alternations such as the causative/inchoative alternation (cf. the English translations in italics) and the active/intransitive alternation (cf. Foley & Van Valin 1984; Goldberg 1990; Levin 1993; Levin & Rappaport Hovav & Pustejovsky 1995; Rappaport Hovav & LaPolla 1997; Verkuyl 1993; Wunderlich 1993) have been much discussed in the literature (cf. Levin & Rappaport Hovav 1995; Van Valin 2005). In this paper, we focus on these alternations: Van Valin (2013).