

# Split Intransitivity in Mayan, with special reference to Mopan

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Morphologically defined intransitive predicate classes in Mayan have identifiable semantics related to aspect and energy

- Transitive
- Positional
- Intransitive
  - Activity: e.g. *run, dance, swim, squeak*
    - Energy always required in order to continue
  - Change-of-State: e.g. *descend, arrive, die, fall*
    - Energy required in order to continue, if IPFV
    - Energy required in order to cease, in non-IPFV
  - State: e.g. *be hungry, be afraid, be a woman*
    - Energy always required in order to cease

Late Proto-Yucatecan: Full ergativity.  
 Intransitive argument (S) is represented by:

Predicate Type	Activity e.g. 'walk, run, jump, spit, yell ... '	Change-of-State e.g. 'come, go, enter, exit, fall, die, melt, dry out ... '	State e.g. 'hungry, red, human, round I ...'
Imperfective	Set A Possessor	Set A Possessor	Set B Absolutive
Non-imperfective	Set B Absolutive	Set B Absolutive	Set B Absolutive

## Split Intransitivity in Mopan (Yucatecan)

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Imperfective	<b>Set A Possessor</b>	<b>Set A Possessor</b>	<b>Set B Absolutive</b>
Non-imperfective	<b>Set A Possessor</b> Innovation: No surviving 'antipassive' morphology (Danziger 1996)	<b>Set B Absolutive</b>	<b>Set B Absolutive</b>

Common Mayan: 'Antipassive' morphology allows the argument of an Activity to be marked with Set B (like the Transitive Patient).

Mopan has lost this possibility. In Mopan, Activities can only be inflected with Set A (like the Transitive Agent).

Itza' (after Hofling 2017: 712)

*looch-n-aj-ij*

bend-AP-PFV-B3.PFV

'S/he bent (things)'

Mopan (Danziger 1996)

uch-ij

occur-B3.PFV

'S/he fought'

(LIT. his/her fighting continued)

u-lox

A3-fight

Mopan Activities and States are completely distinct in their case-role-marking

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## Split Intransitivity in Mopan is a matter of meaning differences between Activities and States

- Distinctions between Activities and States are also, to varying extents, cryptotypically present in many languages of the Mayan family
- Further affinities of Mayan languages with Agentive, or Active-  
Stative, languages remain to be discovered

# Some Relevant References

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# Mopan: Three classes of intransitives, example sentences

Predicate Type	Activity (Energy required in order to continue)	Change-of-State (Energy required to continue in IPFV, to stop elsewhere)	State (Energy required in order to stop)
Imperfective	tan-0 <b>in</b> -siit' continue-B3 <b>A1</b> -jump 'My jumping continues'	tan-0 <b>inw</b> -em-el continue-B3 <b>A1</b> - descend-IPFV 'My descending continues'	wi'ij- <b>en</b> hungry- <b>B1</b> 'I am hungry'
Non-imperfective	uch-uk-0 <b>in</b> -siit' happen-IRR-B3 <b>A1</b> -jump '(so that) my jumping happens'	em-ek- <b>en</b> descend-IRR- <b>B1</b> '(so that) I descend'	wi'ij- <b>en</b> hungry- <b>B1</b> 'I am hungry'