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Nominals as a probe into argument structure and event structure

Malagasy has a type of nominalization that attaches *f-* to a particular form of the verb (circumstantial topic form) (Paul 1996). While the resulting nominal might have an idiosyncratic meaning (Root *ome* : *manome* 'to give: *fanomezana* 'gift'), there is always a productive and predictable counterpart where the full argument structure of the embedded verb can be realized (*ny fanomezan'dRakoto boky ho an'iBakoly* 'Rakoto's giving of books to Bakoly'). There is a form of the verb, with the prefix *aha-*, that only allows the idiosyncratic meanings and never preserves the argument structure (Root *finaritra*: *mahafinaritra* 'to please': *fahafinaretina* 'pleasure': **ny fahafinaretin'dRakoto ny ankizy* 'Rakoto's pleasing the children'). In this paper, I explain this restriction through an analysis of the event structure and argument structure of the *aha*construction.