Dative passivization

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It is standardly assumed that dative Case does not alternate with nominative in passives and unaccusatives (Chomsky 1986 and much related literature). However, it has been shown that in certain languages, dative arguments enter into case alternations. For instance, dative indirect objects become nominative in Japanese passives (Larson 1988; Baker 1988; Miyagawa 1997 among many others); German and Dutch datives surface as nominative in a particular type of passive formed with the auxiliaries *kriegen/ bekommen* 'become' (Haider 1984, 1985; Reis 1985); Ancient Greek datives (and genitives) become nominative in passives (Adams 1971; Feldman 1978); finally, Icelandic datives become nominative in "middles", certain unaccusatives and stative passives (Svenonius 2002, 2005; Sigurðsson 2009).

But dative-nominative alternations do not happen across the board: In Japanese, datives alternate only in ditransitives, not in monotransitives. In German and Dutch, datives alternate only in *bekommen/ krijgen* passives, not in *werden* passives and the alternation seems to be limited to ditransitives (though there is a considerable amount of dialectal variation). In Icelandic, datives alternate with nominative in "middles", unaccusatives and stative passives, but not in eventive passives. Ancient Greek, on the other hand, has a dative-nomanative alternation in a very general form in passives of monotransitives and ditransitives (Anagnostopoulou & Sevdali 2009).

In this paper, we will investigate the conditions under which dative-nominative alternations take place across languages. We will focus on German (and Dutch) *kriegen/bekommen* passives which we will compare to the other cases mentioned above. We will consider two parameters of variation: a) the environments where dative-nominative alternations take place and b) the extent to which these depend on the organization of the Voice systems in the languages under discussion. Assuming the basic decomposition of verbs into Voice and v put forth in Alexiadou, Anagnostopoulou & Schäfer (2006) and exploring further the system proposed in Anagnostopoulou & Sevdali (2009), we will examine the properties of the functional heads responsible for dative assignment and absorption, i.e. whether this is Voice or v.