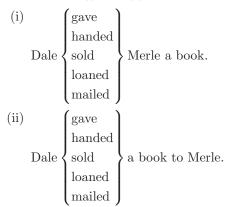
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Problem 3: The Dative Alternation

In Chapter 8, we mentioned the possibility of formulating a lexical rule describing the 'dative alternation' – that is, a class of verbs that appear in both of the valence patterns exemplified in (i) and (ii):



- A. Is this alternation productive? Justify your answer with at least two examples. [Hint: See the discussion of productive lexical rules at the end of Section 8.1 of Chapter 8.]
- B. Formulate a lexical rule for the dative alternation.

[Hint: Consider which kind of l-rule (i-rule or d-rule) this should be, based on the kind of constraints you need to write. You can choose either of the valences THE PASSIVE CONSTRUCTION / 331

illustrated in (i) and (ii) as the input and the other as the output. It should not be easier one way than the other.]

- C. Show how your rule interacts with the Passive Lexical Rule to make possible the generation of both (iii) and (iv). Your answer should include ARG-ST values showing the effect of applying the rules. [Hint: First consider which order the rules apply in, based on the types of the INPUT and OUTPUT values of each rule.]
 - (iii) Merle was handed a book by Dale.
 - (iv) A book was handed to Merle by Dale.
- D. Explain why your rule correctly fails to license (v) (or, more precisely, fails to license (v) with the sensible meaning that the book was the thing handed to Merle).
 - (v) ?*A book was handed Merle by Dale.