This study aims at analyzing the semantic properties of the verb
phrases preceding /ca?/ and the semantic relationships between the verb
phrases preceding and following /ca?/. It also aims at finding the
conditions governing the occurrence of /ca?/.

There are two types of the verbal elements preceding /ca?/ :
single verbs and verb phrases. The single verbs can be complement-taking
verbs, which are semantically incomplete, or noncomplement-taking verbs,
which are semantically complete. The verb phrases are verbs denoting
physical actions and possession. The relationships between verb phrases
flanking /ca?/ are functional. The preceding verbs function as main verbs
indicating the state-of-affairs. The following verb phrases have one of
the two types of function : complementing or modifying the preceding verbs
or verb phrases. It is also found that the events denoted by the verbs
and verb phrases preceding /ca?/ are realis at speech time except in
hypothetical, advisory and conditional sentences, whereas the events of
the verb phrases following /ca?/ are irrealis at speech time but may be
realized later. In the latter case, there are two possibilities of
realization : sequential or non-sequential. The prediction of the
possibility of occurrence depends on the semantic properties of the verb
phrases preceding /ca?/.

It is also found that /ca?/ flanked by two verb phrases is
either obligatory or optional. When /ca?/ occurs, it is an irrealis marker
of the verb phrases which follow.