African Journal of Biological Sciences

Journal homepage: http://www.afjbs.com

Research Paper   Open Access

LEXICAL WAY OF EXPRESSING CAUSATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

Abdulhamidov Sanjarbek Xusnitdin õg'li[1], Parmonov Alisher Abdupattoyevich[2]

[1]Institute teacher, The department of foreign language in preschool and primary education, Kokand State Pedagogical Institute named after Muqimiy, Kokand, 150700, Uzbekistan
[2]Institute teacher, The department of foreign language in preschool and primary education, Kokand State Pedagogical Institute named after Muqimiy, Kokand, 150700, Uzbekistan
ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0007-0393-8933

E-mail: [1]s.abdulhamidov07@gmail.com, [2]parmonovalisher@bk.ru

Article Info

ABSTRACT:

This study explores the lexical way of expressing causative constructions in English and Uzbek languages, focusing on how each language uses specific verbs to inherently convey causative meanings. Lexical causatives are verbs that encapsulate the notion of causation within their structure, allowing for concise and direct communication of actions where one entity causes another to act or change state. Furthermore, Uzbek utilizes affixes to derive new causative verbs from existing ones, showcasing a high degree of morphological productivity. The study highlights the efficiency of lexical causatives in both languages while noting the broader metaphorical applications in English and the straightforward, affix-driven approach in Uzbek. This comparative analysis enhances our understanding of the linguistic strategies for expressing causation and the cognitive and cultural factors influencing language use.

Keywords: Lexical causatives, causative constructions, English language, Uzbek language, morphological causatives, syntactic causatives, verb semantics, linguistic typology, language comparison, causation in linguistics

1. INTRODUCTION

The expression of causative events in natural language has been a topic of significant interest in linguistics, as it sheds light on the fundamental mechanisms underlying the encoding of causal relations in human cognition. One prominent approach to the study of causative constructions is the examination of their lexical representation, which can provide insights into the semantic and syntactic properties of these structures. Constructionist approaches to language, as outlined in, posit that the form-meaning pairings, or "constructions," are the basic units of linguistic analysis. [1, p.39] This perspective suggests that rather than deriving complex constructions from simpler building blocks, the constructions themselves carry semantic and syntactic information that may not be reducible to their individual components. In the domain of causative expressions, this view challenges the traditional assumption that the meaning of a causative construction can be entirely derived from the lexical semantics of the verb. Instead, the constructionist approach proposes that the interpretation of causative expressions may be shaped by the interaction between the verb's lexical meaning and the constructional patterns in which it appears. Detailed analyses of the lexical semantics of verbs involved in causative constructions, such as the study of the *"qualia structures"* underlying denominal verbs. [2, p.312]

2. METHODOLOGY

Causative constructions in languages are a fascinating aspect of linguistic study, as they demonstrate how speakers can express the idea of causing someone or something to do something. In this article, we will explore the lexical ways in which causative constructions are expressed in both English and Uzbek languages. As such, one has multiple ways to express a causative construction; this could happen through a non-verbal predicate, through morphological kun 'cause' conversion, and also through the usage of "compulsive" modality of verbs. There's also the pairing of a simple verb and a releasing verb that is dedicated to expressing either releasing assets or causing them. Causative constructions, as significant universal expressions that demand an analogous encoding in many different languages, are widely represented; they are completely elaborated and distinguished from related constructions. As such, the current research explores a simple way to express causative constructions—using lexical means in English language, thereby uncovering supposedly undiscovered meanings of verbs.

Causative constructions typically involve three core participants: the causer (the one who causes or forces the action or undergoing of the state denoted in the verb), the causee (the one who carries out the action or undergoes the state), and the prop (expressed as an oblique adjunct). They also contain either a transitive or an ambitransitive verb. Causative constructions also exhibit valency increase, allowing one to derive causatives of intransitive verbs and passives of causativized sentences. Causatives resolve various ambiguity sources in the following domains: lexical semantics (as polysemy encasing), discourse-anaphoric processing, and diathesis alternations, as well as preserving psycho- and cognitively advantageous abilities. One of the pivotal reasons that causative constructions exhibit such considerable interest is that these constructions rely on profound universal grounding, thereby encoding typologically salient cognizee relationships. [3, p. 423]

The causative construction is a grammatical construction encoding the meaning of "creating the situation in which the person, the animal, the object, or the condition denoted by the verb is doing something" rather than "making" in Hungarian. The Hungarian causative construction means *"make + do,"* which means that the meaning of *"make"* and "doing something" must be expressed together as separate words. Moreover, this construction can be

formed in three different ways by combining the main predicate with another predicate, but mainly with a non-finite verb or infinitive. Causative constructions can be realized in a lexical, periphrastic, and auxiliary way, with three different functions: the lexical causative construction created with a causative verb; the periphrastic causative construction formed with a semantic combinative, namely *"make" or "have"* plus an infinitive sentence, and the auxiliary causative construction synthesized by *"be"* or *"get"* in the progressive form or in the passive voice. The functionality includes both the external and the internal argument.

3. DISCUSSION

In English, causative constructions can be expressed using auxiliary verbs such as "make," "let," or "have." For example, in the sentence "I made him do his homework," the verb "made" indicates the causative relationship between the subject "I" and the object "him." Similarly, in the sentence "She let me borrow her car," the verb "let" conveys the idea of permission or allowance for the borrowing to occur. Another way causative constructions are expressed in English is through phrasal verbs. Phrasal verbs are a combination of a verb and one or more particles (prepositions or adverbs), such as "turn on," "take off," or "put up with." These phrasal verbs often have causative meanings when used in certain contexts. For example, in the sentence "She turned on the light," the phrasal verb "turned on" implies that the subject caused the light to be switched on. [4, p. 95]

In Uzbek, causative constructions are typically expressed by adding suffixes to verbs to indicate the causative relationship. For example, the suffix "-tar" can be added to a verb to show that the action was caused to happen by someone else. In the sentence "U o'qishga ketdi" (He went to study), adding the causative suffix "-tar" changes the meaning to "U o'qish ga kertti" (He made him go to study).

Additionally, causative constructions in Uzbek can also be expressed through verb compounds. Verb compounds are formed by combining two verbs together to convey a single meaning, such as "to cause to go" or "to make to do." For example, the verb compound "o'qit tomoq" means "to cause to learn."

Characteristics of Lexical Causatives
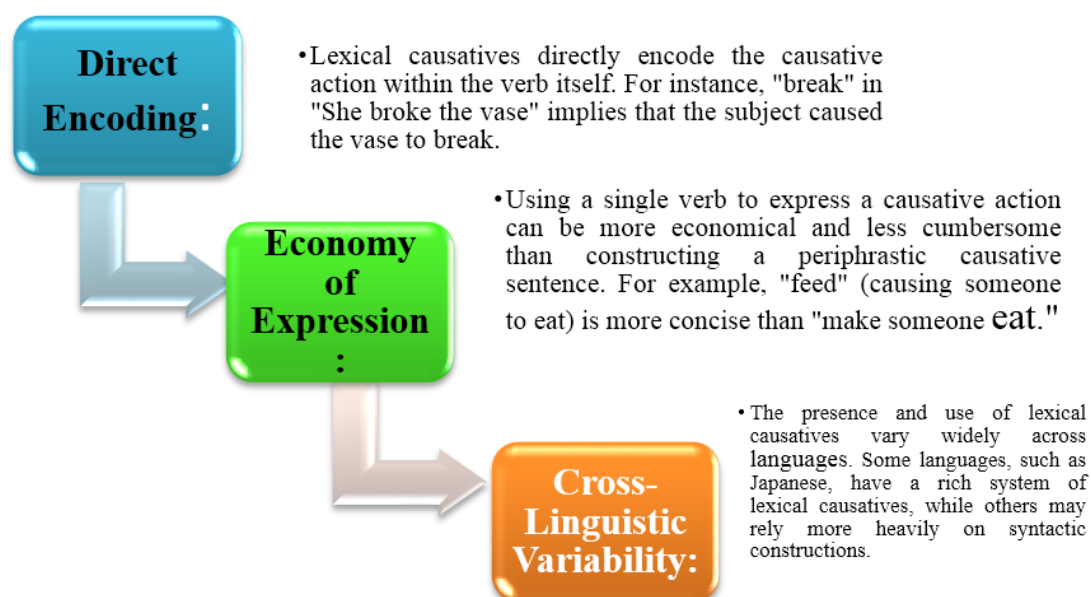
Examples Across Languages

- English: Verbs like "kill," "teach," "raise," and "feed" are common lexical causatives.

- Japanese: Japanese has verbs such as "shinu" (to die) and its causative form "shinimasu" (to cause to die, to kill).
- French: Verbs like "faire" (to make/do) can form causative constructions, though they also have distinct lexical causatives like "tuer" (to kill).

Lexical Causatives vs. Morphological and Syntactic Causatives

Lexical causatives are distinct from morphological and syntactic causatives:

- Morphological Causatives: These involve adding affixes to a verb to denote causation. For example, in Turkish, "yaz-" (to write) becomes "yaz-dır-" (to cause to write).
- Syntactic Causatives: These use separate auxiliary verbs and syntactic constructions. For example, in English, "She made him eat" uses the causative verb "make."

Lexical causatives tend to be more idiomatic and less productive than morphological and syntactic causatives. This means that while new morphological or syntactic causative forms can often be created relatively freely, lexical causatives are typically fixed within the language's vocabulary. [5, p. 47]

The Role of Context

The interpretation of lexical causatives can depend heavily on context. For example, "break" can be interpreted in different ways depending on the situation:

- Literal: "*She broke the vase.*" (She caused the vase to break physically.)
- Figurative: *"He broke her spirit."* (He caused her to lose morale or hope.)

Contextual cues are crucial for understanding the specific nature of the causative relationship.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the lexical ways in which causative constructions are expressed in English and Uzbek languages showcase the diversity of linguistic strategies employed to convey causation in different linguistic systems. While English uses auxiliary verbs and phrasal verbs, Uzbek relies on suffixes and verb compounds to express causative relationships. Studying these lexical variations can provide valuable insights into the underlying structures and processes of language use in different cultures. The lexical way of expressing causative constructions is a fascinating aspect of linguistic study. It highlights how languages can compact complex ideas into single words and how different languages adopt various strategies for expressing causation. Understanding lexical causatives enriches our comprehension of language efficiency and diversity, offering insights into the cognitive and cultural factors that shape how we communicate cause and effect. Both English and Uzbek languages utilize this method, albeit with some differences in approach and productivity. In English, lexical causatives are typically standalone verbs that inherently include causative meaning. Examples such as "*kill," "teach," "raise,"* and "feed" illustrate how English speakers convey complex causative actions succinctly and effectively. These verbs do not require additional words or syntactic structures to express causation, which highlights the efficiency of the lexical approach in English.

Uzbek, a Turkic language, also makes extensive use of lexical causatives. Verbs like *"o'ldirmoq" (to kill), "o'rgatmoq" (to teach), "ko'tarmoq" (to raise*), and "boqmoq" (to feed) function similarly to their English counterparts, embedding causative meaning within the verb itself. Additionally, Uzbek employs affixes to create new causative forms from existing verbs, demonstrating a higher degree of productivity in forming causative expressions. While both languages effectively use lexical causatives, English tends to have a broader range of metaphorical uses for its causative verbs, allowing for more nuanced expressions. Uzbek, on the other hand, maintains a more direct and straightforward use of causative verbs, often enhanced by its morphological capabilities.

Understanding these linguistic strategies in both English and Uzbek enriches our comprehension of how different languages handle the expression of causation. It showcases the diversity and adaptability of human language in efficiently communicating complex ideas. By examining the lexical causative constructions in these languages, we gain insight into the cognitive and cultural factors that shape how causative actions and states are conveyed across different linguistic landscapes.

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