

THE FUNCTIONS OF CAUSAL VERBS IN ENGLISH

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The aim of this article is to show the functions of the causal verbs in the English sentence. There are many points of view on the number of causal verbs in English. But after a thorough investigation of these verbs we can see that almost all of them can become causative only in the process of transformations. In this article we do not speak about the transformations which convert the casual verb into a causal one, we speak and analyze only three verbs which we consider to be the truly causal ones. We analyze the verb “to cause” and consider it to be the primary verb with the causative meaning and such verbs as “to make” and “to have” which as we consider have the causal meaning as their arbitrary one.

Key words: *causal verbs, casual verbs, primary meaning, arbitrary meaning, transformations, cause-effect relations.*

The cause-effect relations play a great role in the processes of interrelations of different objects and phenomena of the objective reality. The constant interaction of different phenomena (objects) can give rise to other phenomena and so on. The cause-effect relations exist not only between the objects and phenomena but also between the ideas about them. These relations can be found in all spheres of human activity. The main principles of the cause-effect relations are: - the cause (reason) precedes the effect; - the cause (reason) always leads to some effect.

Each linguistic unit is characterized by the plane of expression and the plane of content. From the point of view of the plane of content the category of causal relations is represented by the binary contradiction between the cause and effect. From the point of view of the plane of expression the causative relations in the English language can be expressed by prepositions (due to, because of...), conjunctions (as, since, because), finite and non-finite forms of the verbs, by double comparatives (The more you learn, the more you know), the order of simple sentences in the text, as well as by the compound and complex sentences.

Masayohi Shibatani lists three criteria of cause-effect relations that must be encoded in linguistic expressions of causation:

An agent causing or forcing another participant to perform an action, or to be in a certain condition.

The relation between two events [=the causing event, and the caused performing/being event] is such that the speaker believes that the occurrence of one event, the “caused event,” has been realized in t2, which is after t1, the time of the “causing event”;

The relation between the causing event and caused event is such that the speaker believes the occurrence of the caused event depends wholly on the occurrence of the causing event—the dependency of the two events here must be to the extent that it allows the speaker a counterfactual inference that the caused event would not have taken place at a particular time if the causing event had not taken place, provided that all else had remained the same (<http://bookos.org/book/685290/5ccdb2>).

Bernard Comrie speaks about the typology of the syntax and semantics of causative constructions. He distinguishes between the linguistic encoding of causal relations and other extra-linguistic concerns such as the nature of causation itself and questions of how humans perceive the causal relations.

Comrie usefully characterizes causative events in terms of two (or more) microevents. Formally, he categorizes causatives into 3 types, depending on the contiguity of the material encoding the causing event and that encoding the caused event. These are: 1) lexical causatives, in which the two events are expressed in a single lexical item; 2) morphological causatives, in which the causing event and the caused event are encoded in a single verbal complex via causative morphology, and, prototypically, morphological marking showing the status of affected arguments; 3) finally, Comrie discusses analytic causatives, in which the causing event and the caused event are encoded in separate clauses (www.barnesandnoble.com/.../language-universals).

Jae Jung Song divides causative constructions into three classes: COMPACT, AND and PURP.

COMPACT, in which [V cause] can be “less than a free morpheme” (e.g., bound morpheme [prefix, suffix, infix, circumfix, reduplication], zero-derivation, suppletion); or “a free morpheme”, in which [V cause] and [V effect] form a single grammatical unit. The AND causative is any construction with a separate [S cause] and [S effect] i.e., in which “two clauses [are] involved”. The PURP causative are constructions which encode intended causation on the part of the causer, but which do not encode any outcome (hamminnkj.tripod.com/babel/cause.htm).

Robert Dixon says that many languages have at least two causative constructions. They are often broadly divided into ‘more compact’ and ‘less compact’ (<http://www.bokus.com/bok/9780521135207/changing-valency>).

Leonard Talmy presents the list of possible (semantic) causative types:

-autonomous events (non-causative). The vase broke. -resulting-event causation The vase broke from a ball’s rolling into it.- causing-event causation A ball’s rolling into it broke the vase.- instrument causation A ball broke the vase.- author causation (unintended) I broke the vase in rolling a ball into it.- agent causation (intended) I broke the vase by rolling a ball into it.- undergoer situation (non-causative) My arm broke (on me) when I fell.- self-agentive causation I walked to the store.- caused agency (inductive causation) I sent him to the store (<http://www.amazon.com/...Cognitive-Semantics-Structuring>)

The aim of our article is to show the difference between such causal verbs as “to cause”, ‘to make’, and “to have”. Many verbs can have a causative meaning. Sometimes they get it when they are paraphrased and connected with adjectives: to clean = to make clean; to clear = to make clear; to easy = to make easy. In all these cases the transformations are done with the help of the verb ‘to make’ which is considered to be a causative verb.

Some causative verbs are formed with the prefix ‘en-’. Act-enact; camp-encamp.

Prefix **en-** is a productive prefix in modern English. It appears in loan words especially from French. It forms verbs with the sense “to cause (a person or thing) to be in” the place, condition, or state named by the stem; more specifically, “to confine in or place on” (enshrine; enthrone; entomb); “to cause to be in” (enslave; entrust; enrich; encourage; endear); “to restrict” in the manner named by the stem, typically with the additional sense “on all sides, completely” (enwind; encircle; enclose; entwine). This prefix is also attached to verbs in order to make them transitive, or to give them a transitive marker if they are already transitive (enkindle; enliven; enshield; enfaced). *Origin: Middle English < Old French < Latin in-* (<http://www.collinsdictionary.com>) /

*Though Andrew **encountered** death often enough and was trained to know the signs of death's approach, he still was uncertain about communicating with a dying person's friends or famil* (Hailey, 2001:37).

*I was, and still am, grateful to those millions of readers worldwide who have **enriched** my life in many ways, including making retirement possible* (*ibidem*: 54).

Some causative verbs are formed with suffixes -en, -ify, -ize.

Suffix '-en' currently is not very productive. When it is added to some adjectives it forms a transitive verb. *Origin: Middle English, Old English; cognate with Old High German -īn, Gothic -eins, Latin -īnus. Instead of improving, Mary Rowe's condition **worsened*** (*ibidem*: 54).

The verb 'worsen' is formed from the adjective 'worse' that is the comparative degree of the adjective 'bad'. We can transform this sentence and say *Instead of improving, Mary Rowe's condition became worse*. The same transformations can be done with the verbs with the suffix '-en' in the following sentences: *The saleswoman raised an eyebrow skeptically; her voice **sharpened*** (*ibidem*: 122). *The resident **hastened** from the elevator, Andrew following* (*ibidem*: 54).

Suffix '-fy' is used to produce causal meaning usually with intermediate 'i'. *Origin: from Old French -ifiert, from Latin -ficare and -facere. It was rumored that her move to CBA was a trial run to see whether she would demonstrate sufficient toughness to **qualify** as eventual chairman of the parent company.* (*ibidem*: 198) *Chippingham said. "I simply don't think it has enough possibility to justify the effort"* (*ibidem*: 234).

One of the most productive causal suffix in English is suffix '-ize'. It appeared in the late 16th century. It came from Greek and entered English through Latin or French (baptize; barbarize; catechize). *In English it is often added to the adjectives and nouns to form transitive verbs with causal meaning* (actualize; minimize; emphasize; computerize; dramatize; hospitalize; terrorize). Also formed with -ize, are a more heterogeneous groups of verbs, usually intransitive, denoting a change of state (crystallize), kinds or instances of behavior (apologize; moralize; tyrannize), or activities (economize; philosophize; theorize). *Origin: < Late Latin -izāre < Greek -izein; replacing Middle English -isen < Old French -iser < Late Latin* (<http://www.collinsdictionary.com>).

*An obstacle to recovery, he **realized**, was that accumulation of ammonia.* (*ibidem*: 13).

*Andrew began reading an article: "Eight Ways to **Minimize** Your Taxes in Private Practice" (ibidem: 55).*

*He turned to Mary Rowe's husband. "I want to **emphasize** again, John, this is a long shot, a very long shot (ibidem: 54).*

*Over the years Andrew had tried to understand his mother and **rationalize** her behavior (ibidem: 210).*

In our article we do not investigate the processes which transform the casual verbs into causative; we investigate only those verbs which show their causative meaning in their surface form.

To such verbs we refer the verb 'to cause'. We consider it to be the primary causal verbs. To the verbs with the arbitrary causal meaning we refer the verbs 'to make' and 'to have'.

Cause-verb [with obj.] make (something, especially something bad) happen. Derivatives: causeless adjective causer noun. Origin: Middle English: from Old French, from Latin *causa* (noun), *causare* (verb).

<http://www.collinsdictionary.com>). *Now the bureau man returned and what he reported caused the national editor to smile broadly (Hailey, 1998:43).* This is a composite sentence. It consists of two clauses connected by the conjunction and. The first clause is a simple sentence with one subject expressed by the phrase bureau man and predicate returned expressed by a verb in the past simple tense. The second sentence is a complex one. The subject here is expressed by the subordinate clause what he reported and the predicate is expressed by the verb caused to smile. It is a causal verb and it shows the reason why the editor smiled. We can ask a question: Why did the national editor smile broadly? Answering this question we uncover the reason which is expressed by the subject. The predicate here is a compound one. It consists of the verb 'to cause' and an infinitive. It is clearly seen that the causative verb 'to cause' is used here as a link verb. The thought of her caused him to seek Rita out and ask, "Has anyone talked with Crawford?" (ibidem: 22).

In this sentence the verb "to cause" is also used as a link verb. In these cases we can say that by themselves they do not show an action, an action can be seen only when the verb "to cause" is connected with the infinitive of some other verbs.

Partway there some more police radio exchanges caused him to change direction (ibidem: 75). We can put a question to this sentence: 'Why did he change his direction? What was the cause to change his direction?'

In the following sentences the verb 'to cause' is used as a simple predicate in a sentence and expresses the act of causing something to happen.

Is there anything you might have reported on the news which could have caused special antagonism on the part of someone, or some group? (ibidem: 89)
Delays and rerouting which the storm had caused were taxing both scheduling and human patience (Hailey, 1969:20).

He had, however, made certain that the widely circulated report would cause a maximum of embarrassment and irritation to Mel Bakersfeld (ibidem: 55).

He managed not to cause a disaster today, but will he have the same luck tomorrow? (ibidem: 153).

But because of his condition, he suffered a relapse after reading it, and might have remained under treatment indefinitely if a government review board had not refused to pay hospital bills for his care, maintaining that his mental illness had not been caused through government employment (ibidem: 162).

One good thing was that the category of three emergencies had just been declared concluded, the air force KC-135 which caused it, having landed safely (ibidem: 20).

We see that the verb ‘cause’ can be used in all tenses and aspects but it is never used as a modal verb. It can be used as a link verb and as a main verb. It can be used as a non-finite verb. It is always followed by the object which can be a human being or some non-human object. But the subject is mostly often a non-human being or phenomenon. This verb never forms phrasal verbs. It is monosemantic. After this verb infinitive is used with the particle ‘to’.

The verb “**to make**” in the English language is a polysemantic one.

*Make-cause (something) to exist or come about; bring about; [with obj. and complement or infinitive] cause to become or seem; carry out, perform, or produce (a specified action or sound); enable a teammate to score (a goal) by one's play; communicate or express (an idea, request, or requirement); enter into a contract of (marriage); [with obj. and complement] appoint or designate (someone) to a position; [with obj. and complement] represent or cause to appear in a specified way; cause to be successful
(<http://www.collinsdictionary.com>).*

The verb “make” is used in the formation of phrasal verbs:

make of, make up, make for, make into, make off, make out, make over, make after, make towards, make up to, make up for, and make away with (Macline 98).

In our article we analyze the verb “to make” only with the causal meaning: *Be sure your news people **make** that clear (ibidem: 65).*

In this sentence we see that the verb *make* is used as a part of a compound predicate. We can put a question: Why does that become clear? The verb “make” is used as a link verb here. In the following sentences the relations are the same:

*He **makes** me **feel insecure** (ibidem: 67).*

*When he does those bits from overseas, especially about our military forces, he **makes** me **feel proud** to be American too.*

In the following sentences the verb ‘to make’ is used as a part of the infinitive constructions which in the sentence function as an object.

*Steeling herself, she did her best to **make** the opening phrases **sound** convincing (ibidem: 122).*

*"What's happening presents an opportunity to **make** the government there **look good**, and CBA should use it." (ibidem: 67).*

*It's the way almost all you TV news folk have of denigrating everything, especially our own government, quarreling with authority, always trying to **make** the President **look small**. (ibidem: 69).*

*Juggling his business inventory to **make** the three caskets **disappear** from his books would be easy (ibidem: 294).*

Thus we see that the verb ‘to make’ as a causative verb expresses not only the idea that a person causes somebody do something (*They made us read this text*) but also that something makes (causes) something to happen.

The verb “**Have**” is a polysemantic verb. Its causative meaning is on the periphery and is arbitrary. “Have” as a causative verb expresses the idea that the person wants something to be done for them. This causative verb is often used when speaking about various services. We can speak about two forms of the causative constructions with the verb “to have”: In the first construction the subject is mostly often expressed by a human being and after the verb “to have” the simple infinitive is followed.

*Celia's own contribution to the Lotromycin launch caused executives of the company to endorse Sam Hawthorne's willingness **to have her return** (Hailey, 2001:43).*

*"Dr. Townsend, I have never been spoken to in that manner before, and do not intend **to have it happen** again (ibidem: 123).*

*Those who will tell him anything, even lie, **to have him prescribe** what they are selling (ibidem: 62).*

*I have tried since last year **to have** someone at headquarters **listen to me and go through** my file (ibidem: 63).*

*"If you don't mind, Irving, there's something I'd like to say, and **have** everyone **here**, before Mrs. Jordan goes."(65).*

*The leader had probably speeded up because of the expected wind shift and the need **to have** the runway **open** soon (ibidem: 123).*

*If this man had been coming in from overseas, Standish **would have had** him **open** the case, and would have examined its contents (ibidem: 238).*

*Suggest return or alternate landing at captain's discretion,' and **have** the dispatcher **give** them the latest weather (ibidem: 382).*

The second construction differs from the first one by the use of the Participle II instead of the infinitive. This form is used to speak about something that you arrange to have done for you. This form is also known as the causative “have” because it expresses something which someone else causes to happen. This form is similar in meaning to the passive.

*While waiting for a flight, and without ever leaving the terminal, a visitor could shop, rent a room and bed, and take a steam bath with massage, **have** his hair **cut**, suit **pressed**, shoes **shined**, or even die and **have** his burial **arranged** by Holy Ghost Memorial Gardens which maintained a sales office on the lower concourse (ibidem: 123).*

*Captain Demerest may want to **have him identified** without his knowing (ibidem: 380).*

The verb “have” can form the phrasal verbs: *have against, have down as, have in, have on, have it away, have it in for, have it off, have it out with, have off, have on, have over, have round, have up.*

Conclusions

- The cause-effect relations exist not only between the objects and phenomena but also between the ideas about them. These relations can be found in all spheres of human activity. The main principles of the cause-effect relations are:
 - the cause (reason) precedes the effect; - the cause (reason) always leads to some effect.

- Cause-effect relations in the English language can be expressed by prepositions (due to, because of...), conjunctions (as, since, because), finite and non-finite forms of the verbs, by double comparatives (the more you learn, the more you know), the order of simple sentences in the text, as well as by the compound and complex sentences.

- Many verbs in English can have a causative meaning. Sometimes they get it when they are paraphrased and connected with adjectives sometimes by means of prefix “en-“ and such suffixes as “-en”, “-fy” and “-ize”.

- The primary causative verb in English is the verb “to cause” which can function as a main verb and as a link verb. It is a monosemantic verb and is not used in the formation of the phrasal verbs.

- The verbs “to make” and “to have” are also considered to be the causative verbs. They are polysemantic and their causative meaning is an arbitrary one. They take part in the formation of phrasal verbs.

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Talmy, Leonard. *Toward a Cognitive Semantics. Volume 1: Concept Structuring Systems*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2000. <http://www.amazon.com/.../Cognitive-Semantics-Structuring>.

Functional verbs differ from notional ones of lacking lexical meaning of their own. They cannot be used independently in the sentence; they are used to furnish certain parts of sentence (very often they are used with predicates). Functional verbs are subdivided into three: link verbs, modal verbs, auxiliary verbs. Link verbs connect the nominative part of the predicate (the predicative) with the subject. They can be of two types: pure and specifying link verbs. Pure link verbs perform a purely predicative-linking function in the sentence; in English there is only one pure link verb to be; spec