

## Cognitive Features of Causative Verbs in English

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### Abstract

The article deals with contextual features of causative verbs in English. Causative verbs have been investigated from the cognitive, linguocognitive and communicative-pragmatic point of view and realization of linguistic units based on the role of human factor.

**Key words:** cognitive, causative, pragmatic, lingo cognitive, contextual, contemporary.

Causation is very important from social and communicative-pragmatic point of view and is closely connected with the rapid development of cognitive linguistics. The modern linguistics is characterized by investigating the real task of the language in linguocognitive aspect. This process is focused on putting the cognitive semantics into the first place. Investigating the view of the world from the cognitive point of view is taken place in every field of language layer, it is because it gives opportunity to learn the essence of the language in every aspect and realizing the main role of the language. Moreover, the basic task of contemporary linguistics, mainly, cognitive linguistics is to investigate the role of human factor in language and realization of language facts.

So, let's analyse contextual realization of the causative verbs (*to make, have, get*). Now we give causative meaning of the verb *to make* in Oxford English dictionary:

1) to cause a person or thing to do something; to have something done to a person or thing;

2) to constrain (a person) to do something, by an exercise of influence, authority, or actual or threatened violence; to compel, force [1, 240-241]. The verb *to make* in its LSV (lexic semantic variant) doesn't denote forcing, because it is identified with the verb *cause* and expresses causation.

The verb *to make* like the verb *to force* can be used in passive voice. Here is doer of the action is implicit:

He was made to face-down on the floor with his hands behind his head [1,516];

Then the French doctor was made to collect the parts. He was forced to wash them reverently and pick out as much sand as possible [2,382].

So, the verb *to make* doesn't denote the actions of the causer clearly.

In the context the direction of the influence is clarified by some lexic identifiers:

**"I never wanted to do anything. He made me"**. That's what she said [2,328];

**I really didn't want to go** but she made me [1,516].

They made us write it out **again ten times** [1,865].

Besides that the verb *to make* has different physical semantic features:

They slapped his face, **wrung** his ears, **pulled** his hair, **made** him stand on one leg, **refused** him leave to urinate, **shone** glaring lights in his face until his eyes ran with water [2,371];

She gives him the wallet but it's not full enough so he **starts to cut** her **to make** her tell him where her stash is [3,52];

...it would take hours of **blandishments, threats and promises to make** her lend me for a few seconds her brown limbs in the seclusion of the five-dollar room [3,269].

The verb *to make* can express self-forcing and can be given with the reflexive pronoun:

I made myself stay where I was as long as I could, about a minute and a half, I think [2,351];

... and **my teeth** started chattering like hell. I couldn't make **them** stop [1,360].

**It was hard as hell** to make myself do that, especially now that it was almost completely dark [2,354].

"Did I... was it something you didn't want to do?" He **swallowed** and made himself say it [3,381].

There are some constructions with the verb *to make*. In this construction the modal verbs *can*, *could*, *ought to*, *have to* also takes part:

They **can** make you say anything - *anything* - but they can't make you believe it [4,385];

The police probably **could** make him talk [4,165];

I'm trying to find noodles for Hatsumomo, and she's going **to** make me eat some too. I'm afraid I'll throw up all over her [4,341];

I **tried to** make her get back in bed, but she wouldn't go. Finally I stopped [4,375].

By God, I **could** make myself bring her that economically halved grapefruit, that sugarless breakfast [4,320];

I crutched back to my Duster and got in. I used the crutches more clumsily than I had to, **tried to** make myself look more incapacitated than I really was [2,78].

...and still I **could not** make myself drown the poor, slippery, big-bodied creature [3,37];

...nor Friday, **nor** any other day or night, **could** I make myself put her to death [2,71].

Janis wasn't sure when Entre Nous **began making** their pledges steal something as part of their initiation ... [1,118]

It is necessary to point out that in the constructions with *to make* usually denoting an implication of force or coercion, the object doesn't want to do the action:

My wife made me go to the doctor. I was planning to go anyway, but I kept putting it off, so she rang and made an appointment for me [3,156].

He thrashed me within an inch of my life, and then he made me marry Captain Johnson. **I did not mind**. He was older, of course, but he was good-looking too. [1,364]

She **made** me put it on before I went out, because my hair was still pretty wet [4,453];

I'm quite a heavy smoker, for one thing — that is, I used to be. They **made** me cut it out [4,223].

The verbs *to have*, *to get* fulfill the causation. Such case L. Talmy names “caused – agency situation”:

*To have* - If you have someone do something, you persuade, cause, or order them to do it [1,719];

*To get* — to cause or persuade [1,592].

Now let's observe constructions with the verb *to get*.

She got the dog swallow the pill.

**verb + object + to-infinitive (to get)/infinitive without to (to have):**

She got two other girls **to go** with her [1,258];

I had him **sign** the contract [1,592].

**verb + object + V-ing**

We got her **singing** [4,592];

Mr Gower had had us all **working** so hard [3,719].

Now let's observe constructions with the verb *to have*.

*She had him brought in (by two burly officers) [3].*

And the Government, seeing how advantageous it was to have people reading only about passionate lips and the fist in the stomach, circled the situation with your fire-eaters [1,286].

"I've tried to imagine," said Montag, "just how it would feel. I mean to have firemen burn our houses and our books" [2,34].

Why was he forever dragging her in among the "natives", **trying to get** her to take an interest in them [3,257].

That she **had been able to get** him to kick his two-pack-a day cigarette habit in two half-hour sessions was not a surprise [1,11].

I tried to get them to stick around for a while, but **they wouldn't** [1,123];

We tried to get old Marsalla to rip off another one, right while old Thurmer was making his speech, **but he wasn't in the right mood** [1,152];

"First I can't calm you down", I said at last, "and now I **can't get** you to speak..." [1,237].

As a conclusion we can say that the semantic and syntactic features of causative verbs are very disputable topic and we tried to find solution of the problem from the cognitive view point. Moreover, the problem of causative verbs may be the object of investigation of the other modern trends of linguistics.

#### **The list of used literature**

1. Random House Unabridged dictionary. - Second edition: Random House, NY. 1987. - 2478 p.

2. Oxford English Dictionary. - Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989. V.1 - XX.

3. Collins Cobuild English Dictionary for Advanced Learners. - Glasgow: Harper Collins Publishers, 2001. - 1824 p.

4. The New Oxford Dictionary of English. - Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. - 2152 p.