

## CAUSATIVE CONSTRUCTION

As the title of the topic suggests, Causative employs a process of causation i.e. we assume that there is an external factor, which has forced the normal situation to cause something.

There are three main types of Causative constructions:

1. Lexical Causative
2. Morphological Causative
3. Periphrastic Causative [Roundabout and unnecessary wordy]

1. Lexical Causative is the one where we have a lexical verb form, which exists semantically as opposed to the non-causative form of the verb.

For example,

EAT = FEED , DIE = KILL etc.

2. Morphological Causative is the one where there are some morphemes which get attached to the verb root or stem and transform the verb into a causative verb form.  
For example:

Hindi:

I	II	III
so-na	sul-a-na	sul-w-a-na
'to sleep'	'to make sleep'	'to make sleep by someone'
pəɾ <sup>h</sup> -na	pəɾ <sup>h</sup> -a-na	pəɾ <sup>h</sup> -w-a-na
'to read'	'to teach'	'to make someone teach'

3. Periphrastic Causative is the one where there is another full lexical verb that having gone through the process of 'grammaticalization', functions as causation marker element in the languages.

For example:

I made him write my letter.

John had/made/got/(caused) Albert peel the potatoes.

The necessary concepts that we need to understand the process of CAUSATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS can be mentioned as follows:

1. In causative constructions, we seem to add an argument in the thematic grid of the argument structure.
2. The proof of this point is that we can transform most of the intransitive verbs into a transitive verb by putting the devised causative marker.

=====

Further readings:

Katamba, F. 1993. **Morphology**. London: Macmillan.

Bauer, L. 1983. **English Word-formation**. Cambridge: CUP.