

**‘I make them drink heartily of warm Water three or four Times’:  
Periphrastic Causative Constructions in Late Modern English Scientific Writing**

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**Abstract:**

Periphrastic causative constructions or analytic causative constructions could be defined as “two-part configurations such as *He makes me laugh* or *I had my hair cut*, where a causative verb controls a non-finite complement clause and which express a causal relation in which the occurrence of the effect is entailed” (Gilquin 2010: 1; Wolff and Song 2003). According to Gilquin, different structural patterns have different distributions (from the very frequent [X *make* Y V<sub>INF</sub>], [X *get* Y V<sub>PP</sub>] and [X *have* Y V<sub>PP</sub>]; to the extremely rare [X *make* Y V<sub>PP</sub>], [X *have* Y V<sub>PRP</sub>] and [X *have* Y V<sub>INF</sub>]), a fact which may depend on the characteristic features of specific text types, the structure [X *cause* Y V<sub>TO-INF</sub>] being “typical of scientific and technical genres [due to a] higher proportion of nominal (rather than pronominal) elements” (2010, 277). These structures could be understood as a chain in which the energy is transmitted from one entity to the next, as in *Fear*<sub>CAUSER</sub> *caused* *John*<sub>CAUSEE</sub> *to kill*<sub>EFFECT</sub> *the burglar*<sub>PATIENT</sub> (Langacker 2002: 254).

In the literature, Stocker (1990) and Hollmann (2000, 2003) assessed the phenomenon from a diachronic perspective, and Talmy (1986), Kemmer and Verhagen (1994), Stefanowitsch (2001) and Gilquin (2010) did so following a cognitive approach. Moreover, Cottier (1991) focused on *cause*, *get*, *have* and *make*, Ikegami (1989, 1990a, 1990b) studied the use of *have* and *get*, and Kemmer (2001) analysed *make*. Apart from these approaches, as far as I have been able to investigate, the quantitative (distribution of different causative verbs and their competition over time) and qualitative (different meanings and structural patterns) aspects of the phenomenon have not been studied in Late Modern English scientific writing so far. The present study pursues, therefore, the following objectives: 1) to study the distribution of *cause*, *get*, *have* and *make* in causative constructions in Late Modern English scientific writing; 2) to assess the different levels of attestation in the different text types in the corpus (from medical recipe collections to scientific periodicals, among others); 3) to analyse the different structural patterns in causative constructions over time; and 4) to provide the typology of verbs that have been found to occur in the causative constructions, i.e. ‘I make them drink heartily of warm Water three or four Times’. The source of evidence comes from *The Corpus of Late Modern English Medical Texts* (Taavitsainen and Hiltunen 2019), a 2-million-word corpus covering the period 1700-1800, whose textual division will allow for the detection of different tendencies in different text types over time.

**References (maximum 150 words) (Chicago style)**

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**Keywords:**

Late Modern English, Causative constructions; have; make; get; cause