

Causation in Semantics and Grammatical Structure

Response questions for Week 4

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Due by: October 31, 2019

You can submit the response by email to `prerna.nadathur@phil.hhu.de`, hand it in in class next week, or turn in a paper copy to my mailbox in the Linguistics department office (24.53.00.86).

Assigned reading: Levin, B. & M. Rappaport Hovav. 1994. A preliminary analysis of causative verbs in English. *Lingua* 92: 35–77.

In one short essay (no more than 2 pages), address the following questions:

1. First, what is the causative alternation? Describe it briefly (in your own words).
2. What is the difference between internally- and externally-caused changes of state?
3. Does this difference fully predict which verbs show the causative alternation? Say a little bit about why or why not.

Remember: these questions are not meant to be tricky, but to give you a sense of what to look for and focus on as you read. Don't worry if you're not sure about an answer, just make your best guess based on what you understood from the reading.