Abstract

This paper investigates the periphrastic causative –*ing* constructions in present-day British English. Complex transitive complementation in which the direct object is followed by the –*ing* participle is abundant in perception verbs, but a number of verbs take the –*ing* complements when they have causative meaning. Four verbs *get, send, set, start* followed by NP –*ing* participle are taken from the British National Corpus. The searched results show that each main verb attracts a specific verb class in –*ing* and denotes onset causation or the causative ingressive. The force-dynamic analysis of causation, the meaning of the –*ing* form, the original sense of the main verb and its extension in the construction are discussed in the framework of construction grammar.