CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background to the study, research question, objectives, significance to knowledge and framework of the theories.

1.1 Background to the study

Causative is an expression in which an event (the caused event) is depicted as taking place because someone does something or because something happens Goddard (1998:260). It is used when one thing or person causes another thing or person to do something. Causative is divided into three types according to Goddard (1998:260): analytical causative, morphological causative, and lexical causative. The analytical causative is expression in which there are two events that have relation where one event shows cause and another one shows result, as in *Mary made her brother do his homework*. The morphological causative is formed by adding suffixation such as *–en* and *–ify*, for example *widen*, *simplify*. The last one is the lexical causative, the expression in which the form does not show causative but it has semantically causative, for example in the verbs like *kill* and *feed.*

Lexical causative is a construction that shows a cause and an effect through one causative verb. For example in:

(I) Danu kills Andrea.

In (I), the cause and the effect are represented by the predicate *kills*. The cause is shown explicitly that *Danu* (causer) causes *Andrea* (causee) to die. In (I), the effect is shown implicitly that *Andrea* dies because of what *Danu* does to *her*. Therefore, semantically *Danu* does something that causes *Andrea* to die. This state is represented by the lexical causative of the predicate *kill*.

Observing the verbs *kill* and *die* from the above illustration, few simple questions appear, why is it only the verb *kill* that is said to be lexically causative, whereas *die* not? The brief answer may go this way, that *kill* is a transitive verb whereas *dies* is an intransitive verb. Simply, because the object *Andrea* follows the verb *kill* whereas no object follows the verb *die*. In addition to that, if both verbs are seen from their shared meaning, *death* for example, should not their meaning be easily accessible through their relation to *death*? When *kill* carries the concept of *die*, does *die* carry the concept of kill? These questions then lead to the difference in the inherent meaning of the verb; *kill* suggests that there seems to be an intention to make one in *death* condition, whereas *dies* does not show the intention though in the end it shows that one is *death*. Eventually, it is simply understood that the sentence **Danu dies Andrea* is not acceptable in English. This phenomenon is one of several cases occurring in the lexical causative verb.

Some may argue that these merely the cases of transitive or intransitive verb. If so, what about the verb *open* that applies for both subjects in the sentences:

II. a I open the door.

II. b the door opens.

In II. a, it is clear that the one who makes the door open is *I*. However, in II. b it is not clear who makes the door open. This case indicates that the form of lexical causative verbs may have same form but carries different information. As stated earlier, lexical causative verb shows a cause and an effect through one causative verb. Then, what are the information and how are they related is a crucial issue to be discussed.

Another case occurs in the sentences:

III. a I lay the book on the table.

III. b The book lies on the table.

III. a suggests the same information as in the II. a, and III. b seems to suggest the same thing as in II. b. However, there is a slight difference in III. b that the verb is not the same as III. a as in II. b is the same as in II. a. It indicates that the discussion of lexical causative is quite complex in the way of understanding what information involve in the verb, who is the causer or the causee, and what is the easy way to recognize the form. These questions stimulate the writer's curiosity to explore the inherent meaning carried by the verbs and at the same time to discover the impact towards the arguments (syntactic unit) following the verb or existing in the construction. The lexical causative seems interesting to be analyzed, because it is different from the analytical causative that shows the cause and the effect in the construction, whereas the lexical causative only shows the cause without the effect, and put one lexical verb that show the cause and the effect at the same time.

In relation to this research, two previous researches about causative have been conducted. The first research is entitled *Analisis Konstruksi Kausatif Sintaksis* (Syntactic Causative) *dalam Novel Congo Karya Michael Crichton (Kajian Sintaksis dan Semantik)* by Yuliana Sari (2006) UNIKOM. It focuses on what is the role existing in the syntactic causative construction, the category of *causee*, what is the kind of predicate of effect, and causative verb meaning. The second research is entitled *Konstruksi Kausatif Morfologis dan Perifratis dalam Bahasa Indonesia* by Winarti (2009) Universitas Indonesia. It focuses on morphological causative and periphrastic construction in *Bahasa* Indonesia.

Both researchers did not analyze about the lexical causative. Therefore, this research, entitled *"English Lexical Causative Construction"* is performed to extend the discussion regarding the issue.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What are the syntactic units following the lexical causative verb?
2. What are the semantic features existing in the syntactic units with the lexical causative verbs?

1.3 Objectives

1. To describe the syntactic units following the lexical causative verbs.
2. To describe the semantic features existing in the syntactic units with the lexical causative verbs.

1.4 Significance to knowledge

This research is expected to have significant benefit, both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, it is expected to give knowledge about the lexical causative to reader in terms of how a lexical causative verb has different form of verb with different syntactic units following it. Additionally, how the semantic features existing in the syntactic units expose the existence of causer and causee within the sentences. Practically, it is expected to give understanding about the lexical causative to reader in how a lexical causative verb has semantically causative by exposing the inherent meaning of the verb. Other than that, the reader is informed how to differ the types of lexical causative verbs in English by looking at the syntactic units following it and the meaning properties contained.

1.5 Framework of the Theory

In this research, several theories are applied to guide the analysis. First, the writer uses the theory of syntax from Miller (2002), Jacobs (1995), and Radford (2004) to analyze the syntactic units and syntactic functions. In addition, the writer also uses other relating theories of syntax to extend the analysis. Other than the syntax theories, the writer also uses the theory of semantics from Palmer (1976), Larson (1984), Fromkin and Rodman (1983) to discover the meaning of the syntactic unit and the componential analysis. As for the theory used to analyze the lexical causative is taken from Goddard (1998:260):

> *"A causative an expression in which an event (the caused event) is depicted as taking place BECAUSE someone does something or because something happens. Lexical causatives are words like kill,*

send, and feed which seem to be related in meaning to other words (such as die, go, and eat).”

According to the theory, it is said that causative is an event occurring because someone does something, or when someone or something causes another thing or person to do something, whereas the lexical causative is one lexical verb that has relation to other words, *kill* and *die*.

Further, Dixon (1994) states that there are three ways to identify the lexical causative, first, identify the lexical verb, second, identify the causer and the last, identify the causee. These are as follows:

i. Relating to the lexical verb involved in the construction, whether the lexical causative verbs are:
    a. Stative vs. active
    b. Intransitive vs. transitive vs. ditransitive

ii. Relating to the causee, whether it is:
    a. Having vs. lacking control
    b. Acting willingly vs. unwillingly
    c. Partially affected vs. completely affected

iii. Relating to the causer, whether it is:
    a. Acting directly vs. indirectly
    b. Acting accidentally vs. intentionally
    c. Acting naturally vs. with effort
    d. Involved vs. not involved in the activity

In addition, Payne (2002), in Winarti (2009:18) it is said that there are three subtypes of lexical causative. There are *no change in verb, some idiosyncratic change in verb,* and *different verb.* Lexical causative with category *no change in verb* means that the verb in the causative and non-causative construction is the same. *Some idiosyncratic change in verb* means that there is vowel change in the verb in the causative and in the non-causative construction but the meaning is synonymous. *Different verb* means that verb in the causative construction changes in the non-causative construction.