CHAPTER III

RESEARCH OBJECT AND METHOD

This chapter illustrates the object of the research in relation to the topic under discussion. It also covers how the research is conducted; comprising the research method and technique, the description of data collection, and the data analysis.

3.1 Research Object

The object of the research is lexical causative construction in English. The data of the lexical causative construction is taken from the British National Corpus (BNC) through several steps of selection from Thomas E. Payne (1997) and Tanja Samardžić and Paola Merlo (2012) (see: 3.2.1 Data Collection for details). The data is accessed on early February until late May to finish.

The lexical causative construction also known as lexical verb or transitive verb is a verb that shows the cause and effect of the properties or semantic features of the verb. The inherent meanings of the verb in the syntactic construction indicate the existence of participants or argument involved in the action carried by the verb itself. This suggests that through the verb the existences of causer and causee can be indicated. In addition, both terms (causer and causee) can be switched to show the nature of the lexical verb itself through the shifting of the causer in the non-lexical causative into the causee in the lexical causative verb.

3.2 Research Method

This research is qualitative. Flick (2009:90) states that "qualitative research comprises a specific understanding of the relation between issue and method". The quotation suggests that the issue taken in this study is qualified and described to give particular understanding or findings. In addition, the analysing process is guided through specified method.

The method of this study is descriptive-analytic. Sugiyono (2007:14) states, *"Metode deskriftif analisis adalah yang digunakan untuk menganalisa data dengan cara mendeskripsikan atau menggambarkan data yang telah terkumpul sebagaimana adanya".* This simply suggests that the data is analyzed through the description or illustration. The description and illustration discuss the facts of the data through the relation among the elements in the data. This method illustrates the steps taken to describe the topic under discussion through the analysis.

In addition, the writer uses distributional method to expose the data, as stated by Sudaryanto (1993:15) *"... metode agih itu alat penentunya justru bagian dari bahasa yang bersangkutan itu sendiri"*. From the quotation, it can be inferred that this method is applicable for the study since the analysis exposes how the elements of language combine to expand one's understanding towards the syntactic structure for example. In addition, Sudaryanto also argues that *"Alat penentu dari metode agih ini jelas, selalu berupa bagian atau unsur dari bahasa objek sasaran penelitian itu sendiri; kata, fungsi sintaksis, klausa, silabe kata, titi nada"* (1993:15).

3.2.1 Data Collection

In collecting the data, several steps are taken. First, to guide writer's for the lexical verbs, the writer uses selected article and book in order to figure out the verbs. The article is *"The Meaning of Lexical Causative in Cross-Linguistic Variation"* by Tanja Samardžić and Paola Merlo and the book entitled *"Understanding English Grammar"* by Thomas E. Payne. The writer marks the lexical verbs found in the book and article. Second, writing out the lexical causative verbs that have been marked to ease the searching of the data. Third, the writer looks over the use of these lexical causative verbs in the sentences from the BNC in order to see the varied constructions as well as to enrich the discussion. Fourth, copying the selected data to the data collection file to be classified into its categories; *no change in verb*, *some idiosyncratic change in verb*, and *different verb.* After that, the writer picks out the representative data to be analyzed.

3.2.2 Data Analysis

After collecting the data, they are analyzed through several ways. First, the lexical causative verb construction is analyzed by finding its syntactic features to determine the constituent and their function in the sentences. Second, the character of the lexical causative verb is determined to see for its transitivity. Third, the inherent meaning of the lexical causative verb is described by examining the semantic features of the verb. Fourth, the semantic role in construction of the arguments/constituent in the sentence is described to see the

existence of causer and causee. Then, the constituents/arguments involved in the sentence undergo a simple test by moving them to be placed as subject or object of the sentences. This test is set to simply see the causer and cause of the verb and to prove that the verb is lexical causative verb.

The data analysis below illustrates the process of analyzing the data:

Data

Miserable, she broke a breadstick into pieces.... (GV8:116)

Analysis

She	broke	a bread stick	into pieces
Agent		Affected	Resultant
S	P	O	Complement of Object

Relating to the lexical causative verb existing in the data above, the construction is formed by the nominal subject *she* followed by the dynamic-transitive verb *broke*, the nominal object *a breadstick*, and the prepositional phrase *into pieces*, that serves as the complement of object. Syntactically, *broke* is dynamic verb since it shows the process of broking that occurs with some duration of time. Additionally, *broke* is transitive verb since it is followed by the object *a breadstick* receiving the action from the subject *she*. The prepositional phrase *into pieces* serves as the complement of object since it complements the object after receiving the action from the subject.

Semantically, the subject *she* has the properties of [female] + [animate] indicating that the subject is human who has the capability of doing things. This indicates that the subject may serve as an agent who does the action suggested by the verb *broke*. The verb *broke* has the properties of [separation] + [suddenness] indicating that the action performed by the agent may make the object *a breadstick* to separate and that the separation occurs suddenly without duration of time. The object *a breadstick* has the properties of [kind of bread] + [having longer form than the commonly known bread] + [the form may somehow be like a stick]. The object *a breadstick* has the role of affected since it experiences an action from the agent *she* and that the action has somehow made the object becomes no longer in its condition as suggested by the properties, which is like a stick. The adverb *into pieces* has the properties of [to become into separation] + [the separation may be more than one]. This adverb has the role of resultant since it describes the condition of the object *a breadstick* which is no longer in pieces since it has undergone the action from the agent *she*.

To show the causative construction, the data is made into the analytical causative using *made* as predicate of cause to show the existence of the causer and the causee.

(i) She made herself break the breadstick into pieces

Someone made something (the breadstick) break

The breadstick breaks into pieces

In (i), *she* has two roles, as an agent and as a causer. Relating to the causer, *she* does the action directly, intentionally, with effort and involved in the action.

Directly, in terms that the subject *she* does the action of breaking directly to the object by herself. Intentionally, means that the subject *she* has the intention to *break* (the infinitive, present form of *broke*) the object *a breadstick*, as indicated by the resultant that *the breadstick* is to be made *into pieces* to be eaten by the subject herself or for others. The subject causer s*he* also does the action with effort because, in order to fulfill subject's intention; to eat the breadstick for example, the subject must put some effort (action) upon it, *broke* is a verb that needs an action from the subject. The subject *she* also involves in the action because *she* is the causer and the agent of the action.

Relating to the causee, *herself,* as the reflexive pronoun to the subject *she,* does the action willingly, is completely affected, and has control to the action. As a causee, *herself* acts willingly without force from the causer, because the causee is the causer itself. *Herself* also is affected completely by the action *broke*, *herself* makes the object broken and has control to the action because *herself* is the one that does the action. To show that this is lexical causative with category *no change in verb*, the causative construction and the non-causative construction are shown:

(i) She broke a breadstick into pieces.

(ii) The breadstick broke into pieces.

Construction (i) is the causative construction as illustrated above, whereas construction (ii) is the non-causative construction because it shows the effect of construction (i).