

Causative Use of 'Have' in English and its Equivalents in Macedonian

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Abstract

“Causation is a relation between two events: a causing event and a caused event” (Shibatani, 1976:78). The English construction causative use of 'have' has no corresponding verb form in Macedonian. Using the method of contrastive analysis (CA) only translation equivalents can be analyzed. The zero relation between causative 'have' and its Macedonian equivalents represents a major difference between the two languages. The target construction is translated using morphological, lexical or syntactic means. The reasons for the non-existence of such a construction in Macedonian are primarily social and pragmatic. Due to their historical background and poor living conditions in the past most people would rather do or repair things themselves rather than have someone else do that for them. This is mirrored in the language through the use of active voice, a very limited usage of passive or passive-like constructions and invariable usage of animate subjects in sentence-initial position.

Keywords: causative use of 'have', contrastive analysis, translational equivalents, socio-pragmatic factors

Introduction

“In Macedonianthere is no verb form parallel to the causative have” (Murgoski, 1997, p.71). Therefore many Macedonian speaking learners of English as an L2 find it difficult to learn the causative construction. There are several verb forms that can be employed when translating it into Macedonian.

The following paper defines the concept of causation, examines the use of causative form of 'have' in English and provides an overview of Macedonian equivalents.

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These equivalents are analyzed using the method of contrastive analysis (CA). Finally, it discusses the socio-pragmatic reasons for the different constructions used when translating the causative 'have' into Macedonian.

Defining Causation

Any general theory of causation adopts the two following clauses: "a) Causation is a relation between two events: a causing event and a caused event; and b) causation has a temporal dimension: the causing event must precede the caused event". (Shibatani, 1976:78)

All languages have ways of expressing causation; they only differ in the means they employ. Some languages have morphological devices (inflections, like in Sanskrit); others use periphrasis with idiomatic expressions or auxiliary verbs (like English with 'have' or German with 'lassen'-let). Finally, all languages have lexical causative forms (such as English verbs *rise*→*raise*, or their Macedonian equivalent *se krevā*→*krevā*).

Causative Use of 'Have' in English

Causative is a common structure in English. However, there are no regular causative inflections in English so it resorts to idiomatic use of the verbs have/get or make. This type of structure is more complicated than the inflectional causative form exemplified in Sanskrit by "*adding the suffix i to the strengthened root*" (Egenes, 2005:222).

The causative structures with the verb have are used in the three following cases:

a) When arranging someone to do something for us. The causer either pays the causee (cleaning lady, mechanic, architect, hairdresser, doctor) for performing the professional service (cleaning, washing, fixing a car, decorating the flat, doing someone's nails or hair, checking someone's teeth or eyes, etc.) or simply uses his or her power, position or authority to have the action done by someone else. Causative have can be paraphrased as: "I hired/asked someone to do something for me".

The causative construction is as follows:

"to have(conjugated) + **direct object**(noun or pronoun) + **main verb**(in its p

- e.g. (a1) I had my hair cut yesterday.
 (a2) My friends are having their flat renovated.
 (a3) I hope I will have my fridge repaired tomorrow.

b) When something is done to us without our consent, i.e. when we experience something. It refers to negative or unpleasant experiences such as thefts, burglary, or fire. The construction is the same as the one in (a1-3) above. It is primarily used “*colloquially to replace a passive verb, usually one concerning some accident or misfortune*”. (Thomson and Martinet, 1992, p:122)

- e.g. (b1) We had our house broken into.
 (b2) I had my car stolen yesterday evening.
 (b3) The car has had its aerial pulled off.

c) When one wishes to designate the agent of the action, i.e. the person who has carried out the action. In this case there are two possibilities: - **to have** (conjugated) + **direct object** (noun or pronoun) + **main verb** (in past participle) + **‘by’** + **‘agent’** (usually a noun)

e.g. (c1) He always has his homework done by his elder sister.

- **to have** (conjugated) + **agent** (noun or direct object pronoun) + **main verb** (in its infinitive form) + **the object** (in the form of a noun or direct object pronoun)

e.g. (c2) I had my younger brother clean the children’s room. / I had him do that.

This last construction frequently suggests that it may be or may have been difficult to produce a certain action on the part of the agent. The construction of the causative use of ‘have’ is a complex predicate, with the subject usually being animate, although as example (b2) indicates the subject may be inanimate as well. Let us now explore the different ways of translating this construction into Macedonian.

Equivalents of Causative Use of ‘Have’ in Macedonian

As it has previously been mentioned there is no single verb form that can be used when translating the causative construction with ‘have’ into Macedonian. We now look at the different equivalents of this construction as presented in 3 above.

a) English examples	Macedonian equivalents
(a1) I <u>had my hair cut</u> yesterday.	Včera(adverb of time)se(reflexive pronoun for direct object)šišav(v.past simple, 1 st p.sg).
(a2) My friends <u>are having their flat renovated</u>	Moiteprijатели(noun phrase) go(short pronoun form for direct object, masculine,3 rd p.sg.)renoviraat (v.presenttense, 3 rd p.pl.)stanot. (noun, sg+definite article'the' in masculine form)
(a3) I hope I <u>will have my fridge repaired</u> tomorrow.	Se(refl.pronoun)nadevam(v.present simple, 1stp.sg.) Deka (conjunction)utre(temporal adverb)kje(future tense verb particle) mi(short pronoun form for indirect object, 1 st .p.sg) go (short pronoun form for direct object, masculine,3 rd p.sg.) popravat(v.presenttense, 3 rd p.pl.)frižiderot(noun, sg+definite article'the' in masculine form).
b) English examples	Macedonian equivalents
(b1) We <u>had our house broken into</u> .	Ni(short pronoun form for indirect object, 1 st .p.pl) provalija(v.pastsimple, 3 rd p.pl.)vo(preposition)kukjata (noun, sg.+definite article'the' in feminine form).
(b2) I <u>had my car stolen</u> yesterday evening.	Mi(short pronoun form for indirect object, 1 st .p.sg) go(short pronoun form for direct object, masculine, 3 rd p.sg.)ukradoa(v.pastsimple, 3 rd p.pl.)avtomobilot (noun, sg+definite article'the' in masculine form) včeravečer(time adverbial phrase).
(b3) The car <u>has had its aerial pulled off</u> .	Nekoj(indefinite pr.masculine form, 3rd p.sg)ja (short pronoun form for direct object, feminine,3 rd p.sg.) izvadil (v.pastsimple, 3 rd p.sg.)antenata(noun, sg+definite article'the' in feminine form) od(preposition)avtomobilot(noun, sg+definite article 'the' in masculine form).
c)	Macedonian equivalents
(c1) He always <u>has his homework done by his elder sister</u> .	(Nemu(long pronoun form for indirect object, masculine,3 rd p.sg.))postaratasestra(noun phrase) sekogaš(time adverb) mu(short pronoun form for indirect object, 3rd.p.sg,masculine form)ja(short pronoun form for direct object, feminine,3 rd p.sg.) pišuva(v.presenttense,3rd p.sg.)domašnata(noun, sg+definite article'the' in feminine form).
(c2) I <u>had my younger brother clean the children's room./I had him do that</u> .	Go(short pronoun form for direct object, masculine, 3 rd p. sg.)naterav(v.pastsimple, 1 st p.sg.) mojtompomal brat(noun phrase) da (infinitive particle)ja(short pronoun form for direct object, feminine,3 rd p.sg.)iščisti(v.presenttense, 3rd p.sg.)detskata soba(noun phrase)./ Go(short pronoun form for direct object, masculine,3 rd p.sg.) naterav(v. pastsimple, 1 st p.sg.) da(infinitive particle) go (short pronoun form for direct object, masculine,3 rd p. sg.) stori(v.presenttense,3rd p.sg.)toa.

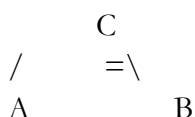
As the chart shows there is no construction in Macedonian identical to the one of the causative 'have'.

Furthermore, there is only one verb used, the so called “*effected predicate*” (Verhagen and Kemmer,1997). Three ways of translating the causative‘have’ construction can be identified:

- *morphological*: 1) a personal pronoun for indirect object + short form of the personal pronoun for direct object + verb + direct object (noun or pronoun) (as in examples a3, b1, b2, c1) and 2) a reflexive verb (as in a1);
- *lexical*: using the verb *natera*-make, urge(as in c2);
- *syntactic* means: an active sentence where the subject is not the actual doer of the action (a2) and an active sentence with an indefinite pronoun as a subject (b3).

Analysis of the Equivalents

The analysis of translation equivalents of causative ‘have’ into Macedonian is performed using the method of inter-lingual Contrastive analysis (CA), in particular the structural model. The unit of CA is the sentence, i.e. the construction causative use of ‘have’ and its equivalents in Macedonian are analyzed at a sentence level. According to the CA method causative ‘have’ and its translations in Macedonian are comparable on the basis of semantic criteria, i.e. criteria of meaning. As there is no correspondence relationship, one can only search for translation equivalents of the target construction. The working basis of the CA is the triangle:



in which A stands for English, B for Macedonian and C represents a *Tertiumcomparationis*, which is the third element, (a semantic one) according to which the comparison between A and B is made.

In this case the *Tertiumcomparationis* is the universal feature, i.e. the definition of both constructions in A and B- *expressing an action performed on or for someone or something*.

When comparing the causative 'have' and its Macedonian translation equivalents it can be inferred that there is a zero or nonmatching relation between the two.

This fact leads us to another conclusion, i.e. the non-existence of a Macedonian structure equivalent to the English causative 'have' represents a major difference between the two languages.

The analysis of the morphological means shows that the personal pronoun for indirect object (in both 1st, 2nd and 3rd person singular and plural) is always in clause-initial position, i.e. it is part of the topic. The only instance of a personal pronoun for indirect object being preceded by a subject (pronoun or noun) (see example c1 in 4.) is when causative 'have' is used for emphasizing the doer of the action by placing it at final clause-position (e.g. by his sister). In Macedonian the actual agent is put at the very beginning as this passive-like English construction is not as common in Macedonian as it is in English.

Another morphological means used for translating the causative 'have' is by turning the English verb in past participle into a reflexive verb in Macedonian (see example a1-...cut-se (reflexive pronoun for direct object) *šišav*(v. past simple, 1st p.sg). It is worth mentioning that reflexive verbs are used only when the direct object is part of the body. Other such examples include: have my eyes checked-*si go proverividot*; have his ears pierced-*sigidupnaušite*; have her nails done-*sigisredinoktite*; have my hair highlighted-*se šatirav*. It is interesting to note that when the affectee- (see a3-the fridge*) is inanimate the Macedonian translational equivalent always has the following construction: personal pronoun for indirect object + short form of the personal pronoun for direct object + verb + direct object (noun or pronoun). The direct object is the affectee from the English sentence.

Lexical means include inserting the verb *natera*-make or urge someone to do something (see example c2).

The Macedonian construction is as follows: **optional subject (noun or pronoun) + personal pronoun for direct object-animate (both long and short or short form only) + verb *natera* + 'da' construction *** (to+conjugated verb in present tense) + personal pronoun for direct object-inanimate + conjugated verb in present tense + direct object-inanimate (noun or pronoun).

This construction is only used to translate causative ‘have’ when it implies that it was difficult to make the agent perform the desired action.

The syntactic means in Macedonian include *a)* using an active sentence where the subject is not the actual doer of the action and *b)* an active sentence with an indefinite pronoun as a subject. Such syntactic means are also frequently used as translational equivalents of English passive constructions.

Reasons for Differences

We ought to examine the pragmatic foundations of causatives in order to explain the difference between English and Macedonian concerning causative ‘have’. The question is: How does the human mind cognize causation and how is this reflected in language?

*This type of causative ‘have’ construction is also called ‘transitive effective predicate’ or for short ‘transitive causative’, and it abounds in English and other Germanic languages like German and Dutch (Verhagen and Kemmer, 1997).

**In Macedonian the subject can be omitted as the verb always has a personal ending which indicates the person.

*** The ‘da’-construction is actually the equivalent of the infinitive of purpose, where the particle ‘da’ has the same function as ‘to’ in English. A personal pronoun can be put between the particle ‘da’ and the conjugated verb. This personal pronoun can either be one for indirect or direct object, or both pronouns can be used with the pronoun for indirect object preceding the one for direct object.

In causative sentences where the causer is animate there is always some kind of power relationship; one person or human entity has the power to command or change other person’s actions.

“In Macedonian, we do not always put emphasis on the difference between things that we have done ourselves, and things that somebody else has done for us.” (Murgoski, 1997, p.71). Unlike in Macedonian, the causative use of ‘have’ is a prominent feature of the English language.

There are three main socio-pragmatic reasons for the non-existence of this construction in Macedonian:

1. Historically most people in Macedonia used to do things for themselves instead of paying for a service, which is due to two historic facts: a) the country was under Turkish occupation for nearly five centuries, i.e. from the end of the 15th to the beginning of the 20th century and consequently b) the low standard of living. Macedonians used to be in a subordinate position, both politically and economically, for a long period. This means they were most often, from a linguistic point of view, in the position of a causee, rather than a causer.

2. Passive or passive-like constructions are not so frequent in Macedonian since Macedonian people are direct and tend to use the subject in the sentence as the doer of the action not as the recipient or sufferer. With transitive verbs that take a direct object the subject is invariably the doer of the action, though it may not always be placed initially. The reason behind this directness may be attributed to the fact that until 1990 Macedonia was a communist and socialist country. Under such a regime class division was made almost invisible. Most people considered themselves middle class citizens; modesty and submissiveness were appreciated, rather than boasting that someone had his flat painted by someone else. Everybody was 'equal' so there was not much need for politeness, which led to extensive use of active constructions as opposed to passive ones.

3. If a service is provided by a person who has, in most cases, been paid to do the service, Macedonians, being more direct, would mention the person first, and i.e. place the noun or pronoun at a sentence initial position, thus making the service provider the subject, and not the actual user of the service. The reason for such directness probably stems from the fact that Macedonia was not a kingdom like Britain was, at least not in the last six centuries. This means that people were not obliged to follow certain rules of politeness and regal conventions regarding distance and communication.

Even today, proxemics differs between Macedonian and English speakers. Macedonians tend to stand closer to the speaker and use more gestures than the British. This kind of behavior can actually be related to the sociocultural factor of prestige, a term that is a relatively new category in Macedonian society, which is likely to influence the language in the near future.

The pragmatic factor of social setting plays an important role in English. However, this is not the case in Macedonian, as the same 'active' constructions are used both in public and private settings.

What can cause *what* is defined by a culture's worldview. Another pragmatic factor to be considered is the cultural or referential framework of the speaker. The existence of cause and effect is a universal quality of man, but its perception, scope and conditions are culturally defined. The animacy of something, which relates to its ability to be a causer and a causee, is specific to the culture of the speaker. When the causee in English is inanimate as in (b3) *The car has had its aerial pulled off.*, in Macedonian the causee, in this case- the car, is never used as a subject. An animate subject (the indefinite pronoun *nekoj*- someone) is used instead. This proves that in Macedonian the subject in the translational equivalents of the English construction of causative 'have' can only be animate.

Conclusion

The construction causative use of 'have' is used to express an action done to us (with or without our consent), a service we pay to be done to or for us or when we want to emphasize the actual doer of an action. According the method of Contrastive analysis this construction has no corresponding equivalent in Macedonian and represents a major difference between the two languages. Therefore, only translation equivalents can be analyzed. In fact, it is translated using morphological, lexical or syntactic means.

The reasons for the non-existence of such a construction in Macedonian are primarily social and pragmatic. As a result of their historical background and poor living conditions in the past most people would rather do or repair things themselves rather than have someone else do that for them.

This is mirrored in the language through the use of active voice and a very limited usage of passive or passive-like constructions.

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