1. Record Nr. UNINA9910457418003321 Autore Lemmens Maarten **Titolo** Lexical perspectives on transitivity and ergativity [[electronic resource]] : causative constructions in English / / Maarten Lemmens Amsterdam;; Philadephia,: J. Benjamins, c1998 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-283-31228-X 9786613312280 90-272-7566-1 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (280 p.) Collana Amsterdam studies in the theory and history of linguistic science. Series IV, Current issues in linguistic theory, , 0304-0763 ; ; v. 166 415 Disciplina Soggetti Grammar, Comparative and general - Verb Causative (Linguistics) Semantics English language - Transitivity English language - Ergative constructions Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Monografia Livello bibliografico Note generali Revision of the author's thesis (doctoral). Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (p. [243-256]) and indexes. Nota di contenuto LEXICAL PERSPECTIVES ONTRANSITIVITY AND ERGATIVITY CAUSATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS IN ENGLISH; Editorial page; Title page; Copyright page; ACKNOWLEDGMENTS; Table of CONTENTS; PART I. THEORETICAL PREMISES: CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION: 1.1 Constructional variation with causative verbs; 1.2 Structural organization of this book; 1.2.1 Part I: Theoretical Premises: 1.2.2 Part II: Case Studies: 1.3 Theoretical framework; 1.3.1 Cognitive Grammar; 1.3.2 Systemic Functional Grammar; 1.3.3 Generative and Relational Grammar; 1.4 Empirical methodology; 1.4.1 Advantages of corpus-based research 1.4.2 Corpora consulted CHAPTER 2. THE SEMANTICS OF CAUSATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS; 2.1 Analytical versus lexical causatives; 2.2 Transitive versus ergative lexical causatives; 2.2.1 Traditional formbased transitive/ergative typology; 2.2.2 Langacker's cognitive

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Sommario/riassunto

Fusing insights from cognitive grammar, systemic-functional grammar and Government & Binding, the present work elaborates and refines Davidse's view that the English grammar of lexical causatives is governed by the transitive and ergative paradigms, two distinct models of causation (Davidse 1991, 1992). However, on the basis of extensive synchronic and diachronic data on verbs of killing (e.g. kill, execute, choke or drown), it is shown that 'transitivity' and 'ergativity' are not absolute but prototypical characteristics of verbs which may be overruled by the semantics of the co