Sociative causative *zing* in Cantonese

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Topic

Causatives are understood as consisting of two core concepts: the causing event (**action**) and the caused event (**result**). And languages can have multiple ways to express the causal relationship. Previous studies have worked on finding the difference among different forms.

This study focused on Cantonese causative formation, a topic that has not been discovered before. And it investigated the lexical and periphrastic causatives, 整到 *zingdou*, 令到 *lingdou* and what their differences are.

The current project aims to improve the understanding of the causative formations in Cantonese and in general.

Outline

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- Causative formations in Cantonese
- Internally Caused Change-of-State (ICCOS) Verbs

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Causatives in Cantonese I

- Causative consists of two ideas: the causing event (**action**) and the caused event (**result**)
- Cantonese have the following forms of causative:
  1. Lexical causatives

(1)

小明	開	咗	度	門
siu^{35}*ming*^{21}	*hoi*^{55}	*zo*^{35}	*dou*^{22}	*mun*^{21}
Ming	open	PFV	CL	door

'Ming opened the door.'

Causatives in Cantonese II

2 Resultative causative

(2) a.

小明	推	開	咗	度	門
siu^{35}*ming*^{21}	*teoi*^{55}	*hoi*^{55}	*zo*^{35}	*dou*^{22}	*mun*^{21}
Ming	push	open	PFV	CL	door

b.

小明	推到		度	門	開	咗
siu^{35}*ming*^{21}	*teoi*^{55}	*dou*^{33}	*dou*^{22}	*mun*^{21}	*hoi*^{55}	*zo*^{35}
Ming	push-dou		CL	door	open	PFV

'Ming pushed the door open.'

Causatives in Cantonese III

3 Periphrastic causative

(3) 小明 整到／令到／搞到 度 門
siu^{35}*ming*^{21} *zing*^{35}*dou*^{33}/*ling*^{2}*dou*^{33}/*gau*^{35}*dou*^{33} *dou*^{22} *mun*^{21}
Ming make/cause CL door
開 咗
hoi^{55} *zo*^{35}
open PFV
'Ming made the door open.'

- In the scope of the current study, the resultatives and *gau*-causative are left out. The main focus is on the *zing*-causative as well as its distinction with lexical causatives and the *ling*-causative.

Internally Caused Change-of-State (ICCOS) Verbs

- The change-of-state events are caused internally by the entity itself and the entity is "responsible for bringing about the eventuality" (Alexiadou, 2014, 880). Therefore, they rarely have human causers
- Examples: *bloom*, *blossom*, *corrode*, *decay*, *ferment* (Wright, 2002)

(4) a. The roses bloomed.
b. The sun and water bloom the roses.
c. * John bloomed the roses.
d. John made/ caused the roses bloom.

The sense of unwantedness

- Before the study was conducted, several native speakers of Cantonese from Hong Kong were interviewed for their feeling of *zing* causative
- Speakers cannot pin-point clearly but they agreed that *zing* is mostly used with unwelcomed result

Previous Proposals

Previous Proposal	Cantonese causative
Register	No difference between *zing* and *ling*
Causal necessity & sufficiency	*zing* cannot be used in either
Inadvertence	No difference between *zing* and *ling*
Direct causation	*ling*: indirect lexical: direct *zing*: both
Sociative causative	?

Table: Summary of previous proposals

Direct Causation I

- Wolff (2003) has proposed that the difference between English lexical causative and periphrastic causative is whether the causal relationship is a direct one, i.e. whether the causation is mediated by an intervener in-between

(5) a. *Context 1: Susan opens the door with her hand or by pushing the button*

- Susan opened the door.

b. *Context 2: Susan initially opened the window, and the wind accidentally blew the door open*

- Susan made the door open.

Direct Causation II

(6) a. Only in context 1: (without intervener)

小美		開	咗	道	門
siu^{35}	*mei*^{23}	*hoi*^{55}	*zo*^{35}	*dou*^{22}	*mun*^{21}
May		open	PFV	CL	door

'May opened the door'

b. Only in context 2: (with intervener)

小美		令到		道
siu^{35}	*mei*^{23}	*ling*^{22}	*dou*^{33}	*dou*^{22}
May		make/cause		CL

門	開	咗
mun^{21}	*hoi*^{55}	*zo*^{35}
door	open	PFV

'May made/ caused the door open'

c. In both context 1 and 2:

小美		整到		道
siu^{35}	*mei*^{23}	*zing*^{35}	*dou*^{33}	*dou*^{22}
May		make/cause		CL

門	開	咗
mun^{21}	*hoi*^{55}	*zo*^{35}
door	open	PFV

'May made/ caused the door open' [Cantonese]

Direct Causation III

- Lexical causatives in Cantonese are indeed for a direct causal relationship; *ling*-causative seemingly for indirect one
- But *zing*-causative can be used in direct and indirection causation

Sociative Causatives I

- Shibatani & Chung (2002) has found a type of causatives in Japanese and Korean, which are neither fully direct nor indirect based on the concepts of manipulative and directive causative in Shibatani (1973)
  - Manipulative: the causing event with physical manipulation and contact, and the causer and causee must be under spatio-temporal overlap
  - Directive: directive manipulation over the causee, such as giving out an order, so no time and space overlap is required
- They have termed this type of causative as “sociative causative”
  - It involves an agentive causee and a causer who “actively participates in the execution of the caused events”without direct physical manipulation, and both of them have to be in the same place and at the same time

Sociative Causatives II

(7) a. 母親が 子供を 遊ばせて いる
hahaoya-ga kodomo-ni asoba-se-te i-ru
mother-NOM child-ACC play-CAUS-CONJ be-PRS
'Mother is making the child play.'

b. 母親が 子供に オシッコを させて いる
hahaoya-ga kodomo-ni osikko-o sa-se-te i-ru
mother-NOM child-ACC pee-ACC do-CAUS-CONJ be-PRS
'Mother is making the child pee.'

c. 母親が 子供に 本を 読ませて いる
hahaoya-ga kodomo-ni hon-o yoma-se-te i-ru
mother-NOM child-ACC book-ACC read-CAUS-CONJ be-PRS
'Mother is making the child read a book.' (Shibatani & Chung, 2002) [Japanese]

Research Questions and Hypothesis

1. What is the semantic nature of the *zing*-causative?
2. Is *zing*-causative a sociative causative?

   To do so, the *zing*-causative is compared with its causative counterparts −the *ling*-causative and lexical causative.
3. Research hypotheses:
   1. *Zing* is used more in the direct causative event, compared to *ling*, since it has a higher level of active involvement
   2. *Zing* is unnatural or infelicitous with internal clausal events, compared to *ling*, since human causers cannot actively involve in such events
   3. *Zing* is used more in the unwanted situation, compared to lexical causative, since active involvement consists of responsibility

Method I

- A context forced-choice judgement test was designed with 35 critical items and 65 filler items
- Each item provided a context and two choices

Condition	Target	Between
1 (14 items)	the use of the *zing* in a direct context	zing & ling
2 (9 items)	the use of the *zing* with the internal clausal events	zing & ling
3 (12 items)	the unwantedness attached to the *zing*	lexical & zing

Method II

- Verb choice:
  - In Condition 1 and 3:
    - 開 *hoi*^{55} ‘open’
    - 閂*saan*^{55} ‘close’
    - 沉 *cam*^{21} ‘sink’
    - 熄 *sik*^{55} ‘extinguish’
    - 融 *jung*^{21} ‘melt’
    - 停 *ting*^{21} ‘stop’
  - In Condition 2:
    - 開花 *hoi*^{55}*faa*^{55} ‘blossom’
    - 枯死 *fu*^{55}*sei*^{35} ‘wither’
    - 腐蝕 *fu*^{22}*sik*^{22} ‘corrode’
    - 生鏽 *saang*^{55}*sau*^{33} ‘rust’
    - 膨脹 *paang*^{21}*zoeng*^{33} ‘swell’
    - 發芽 *faat*^{33}*ngaa*^{21} ‘germinate’
    - 起水泡 *hei*^{35}*seoi*^{35}*pok*^{55} ‘blister’
    - 發酵 *faat*^{33} *haau*^{55} ‘ferment’
    - 腐爛 *fu*^{22}*laan*^{22} ‘rot’

Method III

(8) 你打開咗廚房隻窗，同埋對面間房隻窗，但今日風好大，對流好強下，度房門閂埋咗。即係話…

You opened the window in the kitchen and the window in the room opposite to it. But the wind was very strong today and so was the circulation. The door of the room closed. Therefore…

a.

你	**整到**	度	門	閂埋	咗
nei^{23}	*zing*^{35}*dou*^{33}	*dou*^{22}	*mun*^{21}	*saan*^{55}*maai*^{21}	*zo*^{35}
you	make/cause	CL	door	close	PFV

`You made the door close (*zing*-causative).'

b.

你	**令到**	度	門	閂埋	咗
nei^{23}	*ling*^{22}*dou*^{33}	*dou*^{22}	*mun*^{21}	*saan*^{55}*maai*^{21}	*zo*^{35}
you	make/cause	CL	door	close	PFV

`You made the door close (*ling*-causative).'

Participants

- recruited through the investigator's personal network and extended social network
- 43 participants in total, 18 male and 25 female and aged from 25;1 to 46;5 (mean: 33;4, SD: 5;10)

Condition 1: Direct versus Indirect Situation

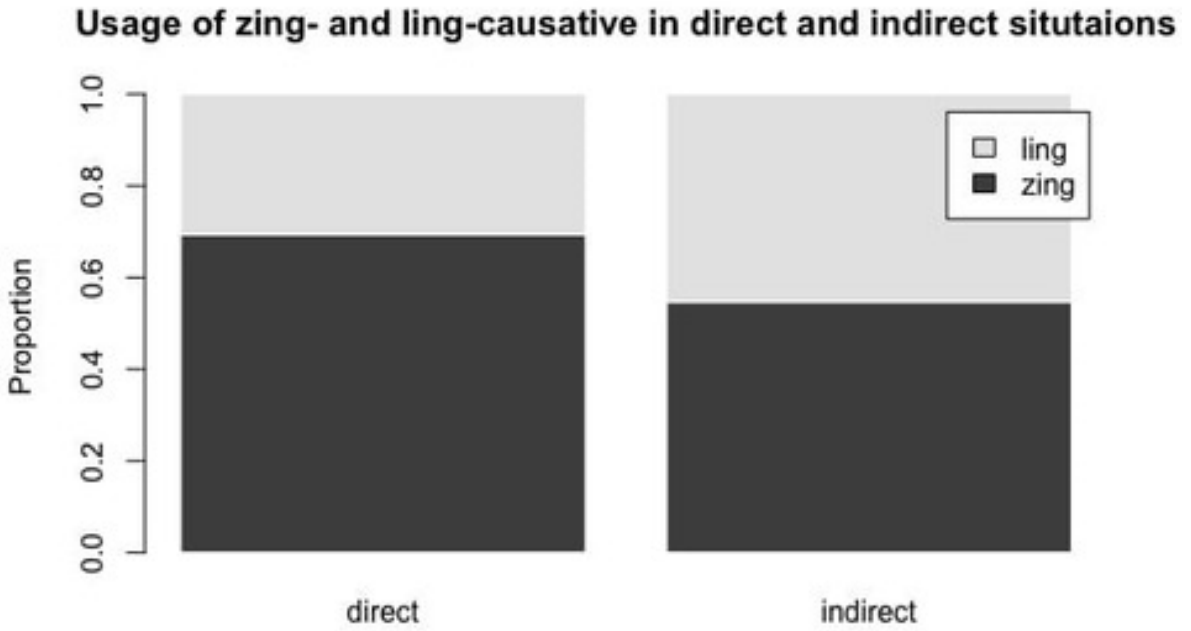


Figure: Usage of the *zing*- and *ling*-causative in direct and indirect situations

The 1st hypothesis is statistically significant (p=0.0002464): a higher tendency to choose the *zing* over the *ling* in the direct situation compared to those in the indirect situation

Condition 2: Internally Caused Change-Of-State Event

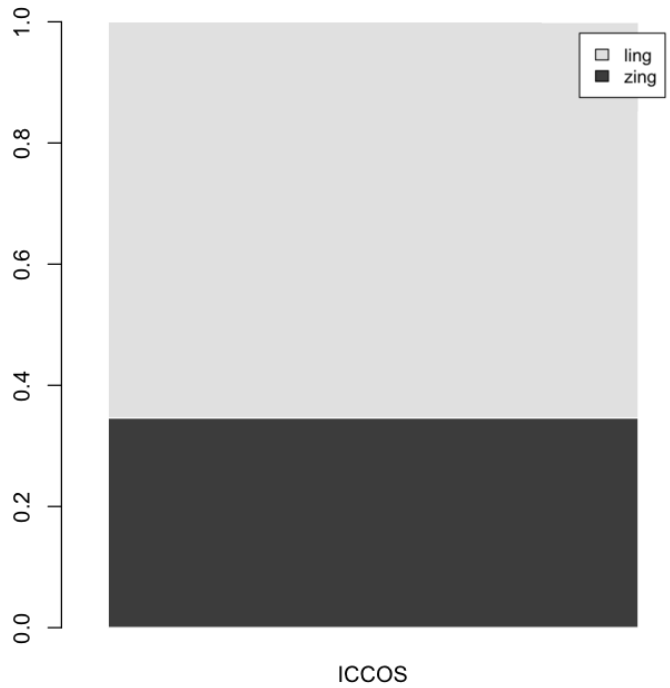


Figure: Usage of the *zing*- and *ling*-causative in internal causal events

Around 35% of participants' choices was the *zing*-causative
The 2nd hypothesis had statistically significant evidence ((p=1.456e-09)) that speakers chose fewer ICCOS verbs with the *zing* than the *ling* in an internally caused changed-of-state event

Condition 3: Wanted versus Unwanted Situation

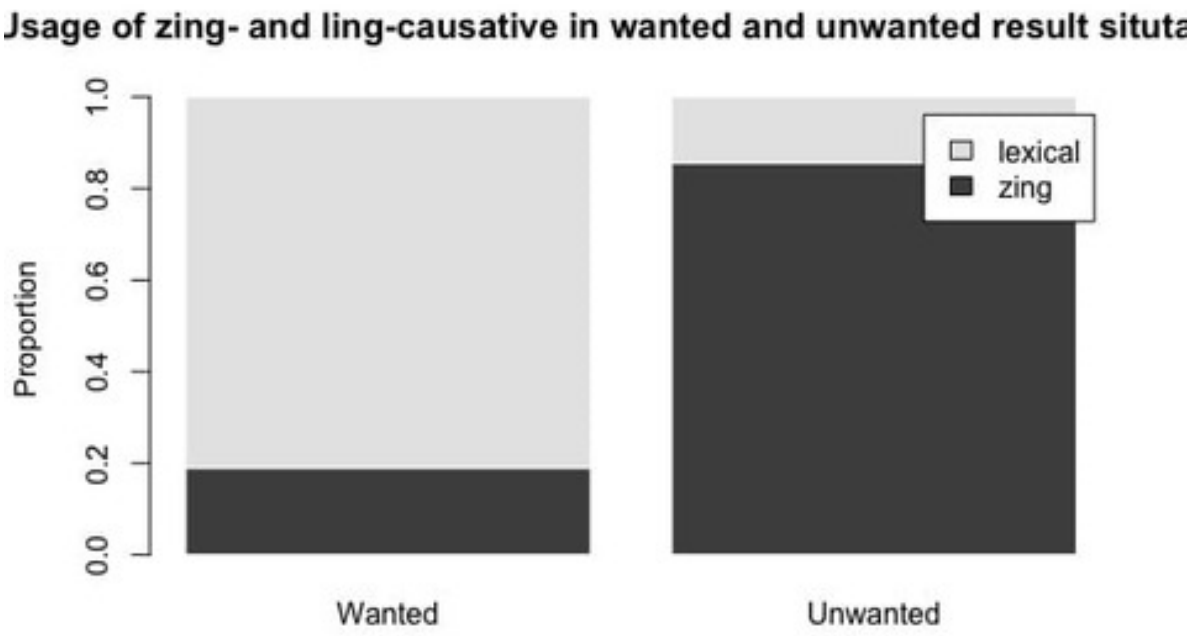


Figure: Usage of the lexical and *zing*-causative in wanted and unwanted result situations

The results showed statistically significant evidence ((p-value < 2.2e-16)): speakers preferred *zing* over the lexical causative in the unwanted situation, compared to in the wanted result situation.

Refining "active involvement" in sociative causative

- In the Shibatani & Chung (2002), they have defined the causer has an active involvement in the causing event, despite the fact that the causee is the agent for that action
- The idea of active involvement is not further defined
- Further conceptualisation for "active involvement" with the level of responsibility and controllability:
  - The more responsible to the event the causer is, the more active involvement they have
  - The more control they have over the event and the result, the more active involvement they have

Association with unwantedness

- Correlation with unwantedness is expected:
- It is common that whenever an undesired result happens, people tend to seek who and what caused the event to happen, and who was responsible for that. Thus, there is a correlation between unwantedness and responsibility.

Zing-causative as sociative causative I

- In indirect causal event:

(9) Your mum lit up an incense stick. When you got back home and opened the door, the wind blew in and the stick extinguished. In other words⋯

你	**整到／令到**		枝	香		熄		咗
nei^{23}	*zing*^{35} *dou*^{33}	/*ling*^{22} *dou*^{33}	*zi*^{55}	*hoeng*^{55}		*sik*^{55}		*zo*^{35}
you	make/cause		CL	incense	stick	extinguish		PFV

'You made the stick extinguish (*zing*-causative).'

- Although 'you' as a causer did not directly cause the incense stick to extinguish, the causer responsible for (i.e. actively involved in) the caused result because the causer are the one who opened the door and let the wind blow in

Zing-causative as sociative causative II

(10) The fire alarm of your living building was activated falsely. Therefore, you called the property management office and asked them to handle this. After a while, the alarm stopped. So…

你	# **整到**	/ **令到**	火警鐘	停	咗
nei^{23}	*zing*^{35}*dou*^{33}	/ *ling*^{22}*dou*^{33}	*fo*^{35}*ging*^{35}*zung*^{55}	*ting*^{21}	*zo*^{35}
you	make	/ cause	fire alarm	stop	PFV

'You made the fire alarm stop.'

- On the contrary, when 'you' were not actively involved in the caused event (here: *the stop of the fire alarm*), then *zing* was not favoured

Zing-causative as sociative causative III

(11) From the day of sowing, May took care of the plant every day. And it finally blossomed one day. In other words…

小美	# 整到	/ 令到	朵	花	開	咗
siu^{35}*mei*^{23}	*zing*^{35}*dou*^{33}	/ *ling*^{22}*dou*^{33}	*doe*^{35}	*faa*^{55}	*hoi*^{55}	*zo*^{35}
May	make	/ cause	CL	flower	blossom	PFV

'May made the flower blossom.'

- The same phenomenon in the internal events with ICCOS verbs: the causer could not actively involve, *zing* also sounds infelicitous

Zing-causative as sociative causative IV

- In direct causal event, the difference between lexical and *zing* causative - unwantedness

(12) You were listening to music at home. Your dad passed-by and kicked the plug, and thus the music stopped. In other words…

爸爸	整到	音樂	停	咗
baa^{21}*baa*^{55}	*zing*^{35}*dou*^{33}	*jam*^{55}*ngok*^{22}	*ting*^{21}	*zo*^{35}
Dad	make/cause	music	stop	PFV

'Dad made the music stop (*zing*-causative).'

(13) After a party, your friend helped you to clean and tidy the place. He/ she helped you to tidy up the iPod and stereo system. And you wanted to thank…

朋友	幫	你	撳	停	咗	音樂
pang^{21}*jau*^{23}	*bong*^{55}	*nei*^{23}	*gam*^{22}	*ting*^{21}	*zo*^{35}	*jam*^{55}*ngok*^{22}
friend	help	you	press	stop	PFV	music

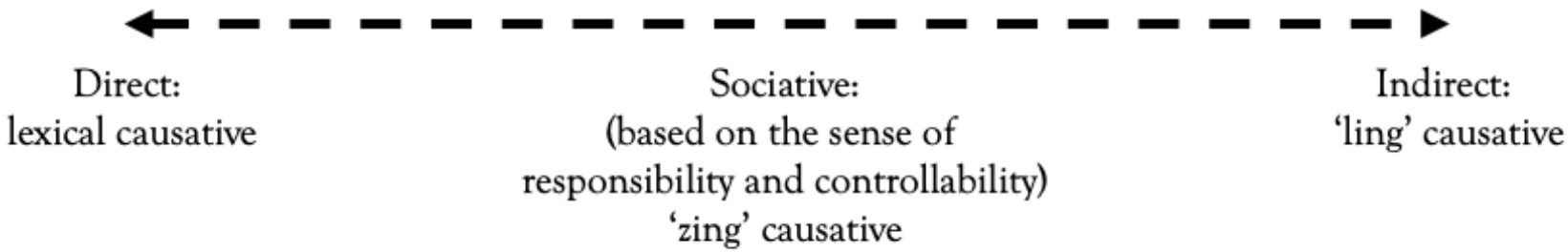
'The friend helped you stop the music (lexical causative).'

Zing-causative as sociative causative V

- Direct & indirect causative: *Zing* for seeking responsibility and controllability. and thus association with unwelcomed result
- Direct causative with welcomed event: lexical causative
- Indirect causative without active involvement: *ling* causative
- *Zing*-causative similar to the sociative causatives discussed in Shibatani & Chung (2002)

Final remarks

- Sociative causative is not a categorical causation, but rather on a continuum between direct and indirect causation



- Languages employ different linguistic codes for this causative type: Japanese uses the same form as periphrastic causative; Korean uses the same form as lexical causative; Cantonese uses a unique form of periphrastic causative
- The finding of sociative causatives in Cantonese shows that this type of causative may not be just a language-specific phenomenon. Future investigation of sociative causative in other languages can be made

Thank you!

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Causatives in general

- Generally, causative can be understood in two separate ideas: the causing event (**action**) and the caused event (**result**)
- In the literature, there are mainly three types of verbal causative:
  1. Lexical causative
     (14) Mary opened the window.
  2. Morphological causative
     (15) Ali Hasan-ı öl-dür-dü.
     Ali Hansan-ACC die-cause-PST
     'Ali caused Hasan to die.' (= 'Ali killed Hasan.') (Nguyen, 2020) [Turkish]
  3. Periphrastic causative
     (16) Mary made the door open.
  4. Resultative causative (Song & Wolff, 2003)
     (17) Peter pushed the door open.

Explicit agentive causee

- *Zing* is a lexical verb in Cantonese, which has the meaning of 'to make/ to do' as in 整蛋糕 'make a cake'
- Thus, there are some observable syntactic differences between *zing* and *ling* causatives even they are both periphrastic causative
- While the *ling*-causative always requires an extra explicit agentive causee in the sentence, the *zing*-causative does not

(18)

小明	**整到／令到**	小美	喊
siu^{35}*ming*^{21}	*zing*^{35}*dou*^{33}/*ling*^{2}*dou*^{33}	*siu*^{35}*mei*^{23}	*haam*^{33}
Ming	make/cause	May	cry

'Ming makes May cry.' [Cantonese]

(19)

話	兩	句	**整到／ * 令到**	喊	啄	吓嘛
waa^{22}	*loeng*^{23}	*geoi*^{33}	*zing*^{35}*dou*^{33}/**ling*^{2}*dou*^{33}	*haam*^{33}	*tim*^{55}	*haa*^{23}*maa*^{21}
say	two	CL	make/cause	cry	SFP	INT

'Just saying two sentences and that made cry, or?' (Chin & Tweed, 2019) [Cantonese]

Serial Verb Construction

- *Zing*-causative can exist in a serial verb construction, with the *dou* truncated, but *ling*-causative cannot

(20)

小明	整／＊令	喊	小美
siu^{35}*ming*^{21}	*zing*^{35}/**ling*^{2}	*siu*^{35}*mei*^{23}	*haam*^{33}
Ming	make/cause	cry	Mei

‘Ming makes Mei cry.’ [Cantonese]

Passivization

- Only the *zing*-causative can enter passivization, but the *ling*-causative will create an ungrammatical passive sentence

(21)

小美	比	小明	**整到／＊令到**	喊
siu^{35}*mei*^{23}	*bei*^{35}	*siu*^{35}*ming*^{21}	*zing*^{35}*dou*^{33}/**ling*^{2}*dou*^{33}	*haam*^{33}
Mei	by	Ming	make/cause	cry

‘Mei is made cry by Ming.’ [Cantonese]

1st: Register

- Matthews & Yip (2011, 173) stated that “zing dou... ‘make...’ is a colloquial causative construction.” whereas “ling dou... is used in more formal contexts.”

  - But this proposal has been challenged by Cantonese native speakers’ in a preliminary interview
  - No research studies have investigated and confirmed this proposal

2nd: Causal Necessity and Causal Sufficiency I

- According to Nadathur & Lauer (2020)'s discussion on the difference between *make* & *cause* in English:
  - Causal Necessity: the causing event is the possible cause of the result state
  - Causal Sufficiency: provides the "inevitable" cause, which is sufficient for the caused result
- They claimed that *cause* associates with causal necessity and *make* is used to state the inevitable cause

(22) MADDOW: [...] What caused you to change your mind about what you were doing and leave?
POTTER: Well, two things. One, it was kind of gradually. [...] The other thing that really made me make this final decision to leave the industry occurred [...] and [narrates the experience]

2nd: Causal Necessity and Causal Sufficiency II

- This has been put into testing the difference between Cantonese *zing*- and *ling*-causative, but the same difference cannot be found, as both of the occasions prefer *ling*-causative

(23) Interviewer:

乜嘢	* 整到／令到		你	改變	諗法
mat^{55}*je*^{23}	**zing*^{35}*dou*^{33}	*/ling*^{2}*dou*^{33}	*nei*^{23}	*goi*^{35}*bin*^{33}	*nam*^{35}*faat*^{33}
what	make/cause		you	change	thoughts

'What caused you to change your mind?'

Interviewee:

[...] 另一	件	事	真正	* 整到／令到		我
[...] *ling*^{22}*jat*^{55}	*gin*^{22}	*si*^{22}	*zan*^{55}*zing*^{33}	**zing*^{35}*dou*^{33}	*/ling*^{2}*dou*^{33}	*ngo*^{23}
[...] another	CL	thing	truly	make/cause		I

決意	離開	呢	個	行業	嘅	係
kyut^{33}*ji*^{33}	*lei*^{21}*hoi*^{55}	*nei*^{55}	*go*^{33}	*hong*^{21}*jip*^{22}	*ge*^{33}	*hai*^{22}
determine	leave	DEM	CL	industry	POSS	COP

'[...] Another thing that truly made me determine to leave this industry is…'

[Cantonese]

3rd: Inadvertence I

- Based on the data from Thai, Vichit-Vadakan (1976) has suggested that the concept of "inadvertence" is another way to differentiate various forms of periphrastic causatives:
  - *tham* is used in accidental and unintentional causal events
  - *hây* for intentional ones
  - the combination of the two *tham hây* has a neutral interpretation
- Therefore, any intentional causation cannot be formed with *tham*

(24) a. *Saakhaa tham kràcòk tœœk dooy tâŋcay
Saka cause mirror break by intend

b. Saakhaa hây dèk wîn dooy tâŋcay
Saka have child run
'Saka had the child run intentionally.'

c. Saakhaa tham hây kâw-ʔîi lóm dooy tâŋcay
Saka cause ? chair fall by intend
'Saka intentionally caused the chair to fall.' [Thai]

3rd: Inadvertence II

- This has been put into testing the difference between *zing*- and *ling*-causative, but the same difference cannot be found, as both of the options can be used in the intentional or inadvertent causation

(25) a.

佢	唔	小心	**整/令到**	個	蠟燭	熄	咗
keoi^{23}	*m*^{21}	*siu*^{35}*sam*^{55}	*zing*^{35}/*ling*^{22}*dou*^{33}	*go*^{33}	*laap*^{22}*zuk*^{55}	*sik*^{55}	*zo*^{35}
he/she	NEG	careful	make/cause	CL	candle	extinguish	PFV

'He/she carelessly made the candle extinguish.'

b.

佢	專登	**整/令到**	個	蠟燭	熄	咗
keoi^{23}	*zyun*^{55}*dang*^{55}	*zing*^{35}/*ling*^{22}*dou*^{33}	*go*^{33}	*laap*^{22}*zuk*^{55}	*sik*^{55}	*zo*^{35}
he/she	intentionally	make/cause	CL	candle	extinguish	PFV

'He/she intentionally made the candle extinguish.' [Cantonese]

The subcategories of sociative casuatives

- Sociative causative and the subtypes of the sociative causative are on the continuum between direct and indirect causation, depending on the involvement the causer has



Figure: the Representation of Sociative Causatives in Japanese and Korean by Shibatani & Chung (2002)