1 Introduction

This book investigates semantic aspects of caused motion constructions which involve the inducive causation of a self-agentive locomotion. These types of caused motion construction, commonly treated under the heading of induced action alternations and referred to here as "secondary agent constructions", are exemplified by sentences like *John walked Mary to the station, John danced Mary around the ballroom* or *John jumped the horse over the fence.* The analysis offered here demonstrates that the factors which license the formation of this kind of construction can be identified by appealing to the semantic structure of verbs that enter into them (the verbs' agentive qualia must be homogeneous and their constitutive qualia must be devoid of features that point to the state of the executor of the motion and to the circumstances accompanying the motion) and to the specific interaction between the causer's prior intention and the causee's intention in action (on qualia structures see Pustejovsky 1993 and 1995; on the distinction between prior intention and intention in action see Searle 1983). One outcome of this interaction, iconically reflected in the syntactic configuration (Haiman 1985), is a more or less balanced force-dynamic schema (on force-dynamic patterning see Talmy 1988 and 2000).

The identification of a set of principled connections that hold between the verbal semantic structure and the structure of the causative situation, in terms of the relationship holding between the causer's intention and the causee's intention, enables us to posit the transitive causative construction in question as representing a regular (and hence to a considerable degree predictable) semantico-syntactic configuration, linked in principled ways to caused motion situations that involve coercive force on the part of the causer (i.e. that display a marked imbalance in their force-dynamic patterning). Secondary agent constructions may thus be viewed as verb-class-specific constructions (cf. Croft 2003), providing strong evidence for the interdependence of semantics and syntax.

The material is taken from the British National Corpus. In some cases, in order to further substantiate the argumentation or to provide an example missing in the British National Corpus, attested examples obtained via the Google web search engine have been used.