

助動詞 *will* の通時的研究

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This presentation examines the questions concerning diachronic change of the English auxiliary *will*: i) the constructions in which *will* has been used, and ii) the period when its epistemic meanings have developed. See (1a, b), for the schematic representations for each question:

- (1) a. full verb > auxiliary
b. root > epistemic

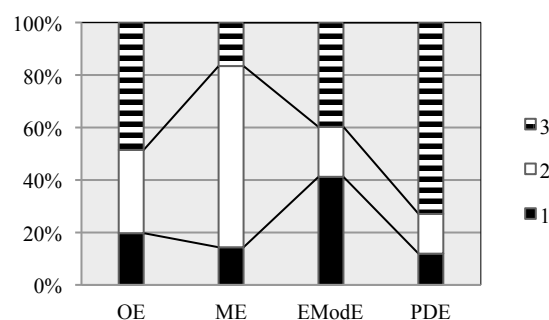
We will first briefly review widely known syntactic approach of Hopper and Traugott (1993) and semantic study of Wischer (2006), and have a closer look on how the epistemic meanings have derived from the original (volitional) sense, and in what construction (1b) has got triggered.

The materials of this study are *Matthew* and *Mark* of the four Gospels. The representatives of each period are: Skeat's *Anglo-Saxon Gospel* for Old English, Wycliffe's Bible for Middle English, Authorized Version for Early Modern English, and *Good News Bible* for Present-day English.

Based on the *Oxford English Dictionary* five categories are set to label the meanings of *will*: volition, imperative, request, conjecture, and mere future. All examples are categorized into these groups.

The total number of the examples of *will* has gradually increased from Old English text to the Wycliffe's, and grown rapidly from Early Modern English to Present-day English. When it comes to the persons of the subject, *will* with

second person subjects increased in Middle English. Also it is clearly shown that its use with third person subjects increases from Middle English to Present-day English. First-person *will*s also gained, doubled in the Authorized Version, and decreased in Present-day English, as Figure 1 shows:

Figure 1. Numbers of *will* examples of each person

Concerning the complements of *will*, Noun Phrase objects amount to 30% of all cases in the *Anglo-Saxon Gospels*, and gradually got lost from Middle English to Present-day English, as Figure 2 shows.

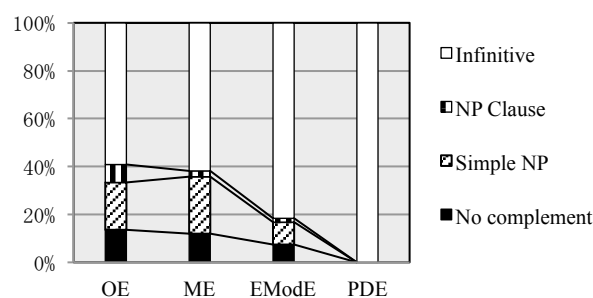


Figure 2. Distribution of complements

On the other hand, the data taken by the meanings shows that the number of epistemic (Conjectural/future) *will*s grew rapidly from Middle English to Present-day English.

Imperative use had a remarkable share until Middle English, but disappeared completely in Early Modern English, as Figure 3 shows.

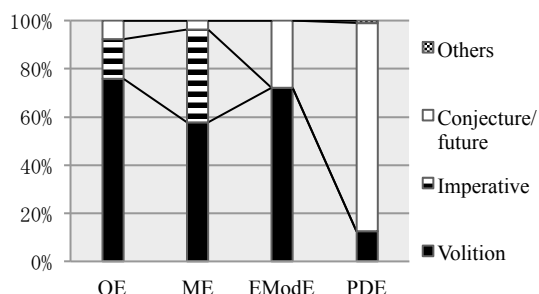


Figure 3. *Will* in the four texts - Distribution of meanings

Though the total number of *will* increased in Present-day English, 40 examples in Early Modern English text are lost in Present-day English, and verbs for volition are used there instead. Figure 4 shows the percentages of *will* in Early Modern English replaced by verbs of volition in Present-day English.

I examine the factors that set off the rise of epistemic meanings of *will*. Figure 4 shows that the numbers of the epistemic *will*s increased from Early Modern English to Present-day English, accompanied with the examples co-occurring with inanimate subjects and passive complements.

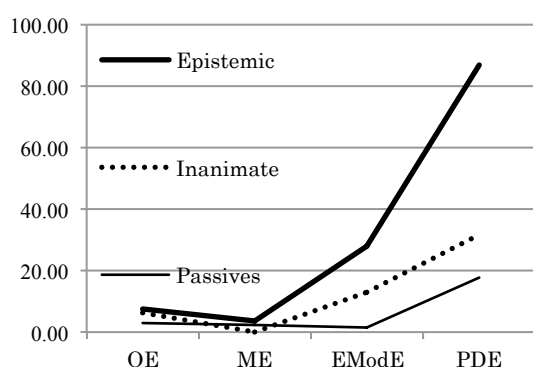


Figure 4. The development of the types of *will*

Language materials

- 1) Bright, J. W. *The Gospel of Saint Matthew in West-Saxon Edited from the Manuscripts*. 1904². New York: AMS Press.
- 2) Bright, J. W. *The Gospel of Saint Mark in West-Saxon Edited from the Manuscripts*. 1905². New York: AMS Press.
- 3) Wycliffe, J. 1384. Forshall, J and Madden, F .ed. 1850². *The Holy Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 4) King James Translation from *The New Layman's Parallel Bible*. Michigan: Zondervan Bible Publishers Grand Rapids.
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References

- 1) Fischer, Olga. 2000. *The Syntax of Early English*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 2) Hopper, Paul J., and Elizabeth Closs Traugott. 2003 [1993]. *Grammaticalization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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- 5) Visser, F. Th. 1963-73. *An Historical Syntax of the English Language*, Parts 1-111. Leiden: E. J. Brill.
- 6) Warner, Anthony. 1993. *English Auxiliaries: Structure and history*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Cambridge Studies in Linguistics 66).
- 7) Wischer, Ilse. 2006. *Markers of futurity in Old English and the grammaticalization of shall and will*. *Studia Anglica Posnaniensia* 42: 165-178.
- 8) Wischer, Ilse. 2009. "Will and shall as markers of modality and/or futurity in Middle English", *Language* 65 (1): 125-143.