Negation in Early English

Informed by detailed analysis of data from large-scale diachronic corpora, this book is a comprehensive account of changes to the expression of negation in English. Its methodological approach brings together up-to-date techniques from corpus linguistics and minimalist syntactic analysis to identify and characterise a series of interrelated changes affecting negation during the period 800–1700. Phillip W. Wallage uses cutting-edge statistical techniques and large-scale corpora to model changes in English negation over a period of nine hundred years. These models provide crucial empirical evidence which reveals the specific processes of syntactic and functional change affecting early English negation, and identifies diachronic relationships between these processes.

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Abbreviations

BNC  British National Corpus
C.  Century
CE  Common Era or Current Era
C-I  Conceptual-intensional interface
COCA  Corpus of Contemporary American English
EME  Early Middle English, c.1150–1350CE
iNeg  LF-interpretable negative feature
JC  Jespersen Cycle
LF  Logical Form
LME  Late Middle English, c.1350–1500CE
ME  Middle English, c.1150–1500CE
NC  Negative concord
ND  Negative doubling
NegV1  Clause with a negated finite verb in first position
NI  Negative item
NM  Negative marker
NPI  Negative polarity item
n-word  negative word
OE  Old English, c.800–1100CE
Op  Operator
PCEEC  Penn-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Early English Correspondence (Taylor et al., 2006)
PDE  Present-day English
PF  Phonological Form
PN  Paratactic or redundant negation
PPCEME  Penn-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Early Modern English (Kroch et al., 2004)
PPCME2  Penn-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Middle English (2nd edition)
  (Kroch and Taylor, 2000)
QC  Quantifier Cycle
uNeg  LF-uninterpretable negative feature
YCOE  York-Toronto-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Old English Prose (Taylor et al., 2002)