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978-1-107-01635-4 - The Verb Phrase in English: Investigating Recent Language Change with Corpora

Edited by Bas Aarts, Joanne Close, Geoffrey Leech and Sean Wallis

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The Verb Phrase in English

The chapters in this volume feature new and ground-breaking research carried out by leading scholars and promising young researchers from around the world on recent changes in the English verb phrase. Drawing on authentic corpus data, the contributions consider both spoken and written English in several genres. Each contribution pays particular attention to the methodologies used for investigating short-term patterns of change in English, with detailed discussions of controversies in this area. This cutting-edge collection is essential reading for historians of the English language, syntacticians and corpus linguists.

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Comparison (Cambridge University Press, 1995), *Corpus Linguistics: Investigating Language Structure and Use* (with Susan Conrad and Randi Reppen, Cambridge University Press, 1998), *The Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English* (with Stig Johansson, Geoffrey Leech, Susan Conrad and Edward Finegan, 1999), *University Language: A Corpus-Based Study of Spoken and Written Registers* (2006), *Discourse on the Move: Using Corpus Analysis to Describe Discourse Structure* (with Ulla Connor and Thomas A. Upton, 2007), *Register and Genre Variation* (with Susan Conrad, Cambridge University Press, 2009).

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American English (1920s–2000s), the 450-million-word *Corpus of Contemporary American English* (COCA, 1990–present), and the 400-million-word *Corpus of Historical American English* (COHA, 1810–2009) (see corpus.byu.edu).

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a comparative case study of contact-induced language change, investigating the different relativization strategies of Irish English and Scottish English.

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Preface

The origin of this book can be traced back to a symposium held at the University of London on Tuesday, 14 July 2009, organized by Bas Aarts and Joanne Close in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Survey of English Usage (SEU) by Randolph Quirk (now Lord Quirk) at University College London. We were fortunate that Randolph himself was able to attend part of the symposium, and to listen to an address entitled ‘Surviving surveying’ by David Crystal, who light-heartedly reminisced on the early days of the Survey in the 1960s when spoken materials which eventually became part of the *SEU Corpus*, the *London Lund Corpus* (LLC), the *ICE-GB Corpus* and the *Diachronic Corpus of Present-Day Spoken English* (DCPSE) were transcribed.

The majority of papers given at the symposium have been reworked as contributions to this edited collection. As often happens with symposia, not all the major figures active in this research field could attend, but we were subsequently able to invite contributions from other international leaders in the field such as Douglas Biber and Mark Davies. These have enhanced the present volume’s representation of the state of current research in this fast-developing field.

The editors would like to thank Merja Kytö, General Editor of the Studies in English Language series, Helen Barton at Cambridge University Press, our copy-editor Kay McKechnie and proofreader Michael Sheppard for their help along the way.

We are also extremely grateful to a number of colleagues who acted as readers of draft versions of the chapters in this book, namely Lieselotte Anderwald, David Denison, Johan Elness, Sebastian Hoffmann, Marianne Hundt, Alison Johnson, Svenja Kranich, Christian Mair, Paloma Núñez-Pertejo, Jennifer Smith, Erik Smitterberg and Anthony Warner.