Contents

List of Figures page ix
List of Tables xi
Acknowledgements xiv
List of Abbreviations xvi

1 Introduction
1.1 Theoretical Framework: Construction Grammar 1
1.2 Methodology: Corpus Data and Statistical Analysis 6
1.3 Overview 17

2 Previous Research
2.1 Typological Studies 27
2.2 Synchronic Syntactic and Semantic Properties of English CC Constructions 28
2.3 Diachronic Studies: From Old English to Present-day English 44

3 The Diachronic Evolution of English CCs: A Constructionist Account
3.1 Analogization in OE 61
3.2 Actualization in ME: Corpus of Middle English Prose and Verse Study 61
3.3 From ME to Modern English 72

4 Synchronous Properties of the Standard British and American English CC Construction Network
4.1 BROWN Corpora Family Study 101
4.2 COCA Corpus Study 101
4.3 The Construction’s Prosodic Contour: The ICE-GB Corpus Study 112
4.4 Discussion and Theoretical Analysis 127

vii
## Contents

5  A Contrastive View: German versus English Comparative Correlatives
   5.1  German CCs: A Closer Look
   5.2  Syntactic Properties of the CC Construction
   5.3  Data and Methodology
   5.4  Results
   5.5  Discussion and Theoretical Analysis

6  Variation and Mental Grammars: The View from World Englishes
   6.1  World Englishes: Introduction
   6.2  The Dynamic Model: Basic Assumptions and Predictions
   6.3  Constructions in the Dynamic Model
   6.4  Comparing Comparative Correlatives in PCEs
   6.5  English CCs around the World

7  Conclusion: The Role of Constructional Networks

References
Index