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Canadian English'; Chapter 7. Manfred Krug and Ole Schutzler (Bamberg), 'Recent change and grammaticalization'; Chapter 8. Magnus Levin (Vaxjo), 'The progressive verb in modern American English'; Chapter 9. Meike Pfaff, Alexander Bergs and Thomas Hoffmann (Osnabruck), 'I was just reading this article - on the expression of recentness and the English past progressive' Chapter 10. Marcus Callies (Bremen), 'Bare infinitival complements in Present-Day English' Chapter 11. Jose Ramon Varela Perez (Santiago de Compostela), 'Operator and negative contraction in spoken British English: a change in progress'; Chapter 12. Gunther Kaltenbock (Vienna), 'The development of comment clauses'; Chapter 13. Jill Bowie, Sean Wallis and Bas Aarts (University College London), 'The perfect in spoken British English'; Chapter 14. Christopher Williams (Foggia) 'Changes in the verb phrase in legislative language in English' Chapter 15. Stig Johansson (Oslo) 'Modals and semi-modals of obligation in American English: some aspects of developments from 1990 until the present day'<sup>2</sup> Choices over time: methodological issues in investigating current change; 2.1 Introduction; 2.2 The Diachronic Corpus of Present-Day Spoken English; 2.3 Focusing on true alternation: the progressive; 2.3.1 Changes in frequency per million words; 2.3.2 Changes in frequency as a percentage of the total number of VPs; 2.3.3 Changes in one choice out of a set of alternants; 2.4 A case study: the alternation shall versus will; 2.4.1 Background 2.4.2 Mair and Leech's work on written English 2.4.3 Experimenting with shall/will alternants in DCPSE; 2.4.4 Examining the contracted form II; 2.4.5 Plotting trends over time; 2.4.6 Modal meaning; 2.4.7 be going to versus the modals; 2.5 Conclusions; Appendix 1: Employing statistical tests and handling small, skewed samples; Appendix 2: Measures of change; Chapter 3: Recent shifts with three nonfinite verbal complements in English: data from the 100-million-word Time corpus (1920s-2000s); 3.1 Introduction; 3.2 Using text archives: the Time Magazine Corpus of American English 3.3 Three shifts in verbal complementation during the 1900s

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### Sommario/riassunto

The chapters in this volume feature new and groundbreaking 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 papers 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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