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SUPPORT VERB CONSTRUCTIONS IN EARLY ENGLISH; 2.2 DATA AND METHOD; 2.2.1 METHOD; 2.2.2 DATA; 2.3 CONTENT OF THE INVESTIGATION; 2.3.1 OLD ENGLISH DON
2.3.1.1 DON IN OLD ENGLISH 2.3.1.2 EXCURSUS: THE POST-OLD ENGLISH DEVELOPMENTS OF DO SUPPORT; 2.3.2 OLD ENGLISH GEWYRCAN; 2.3.3 OLD ENGLISH FREMMAN; 2.3.4 OLD ENGLISH MACIAN; 2.3.5 OLD ENGLISH HABBAN; 2.3.6 OLD ENGLISH SELLAN; 2.3.7 OLD ENGLISH BÆLAN; 2.3.8 OLD ENGLISH BERAN; 2.3.9 OLD ENGLISH GIEFAN; 2.3.10 OLD ENGLISH NIMAN; 2.3.11 OLD ENGLISH TACAN; 2.4 ASPECTUAL SUPPORT VERBS WITH INFINITIVES; 2.4.1 OLD ENGLISH ONFON; 2.4.2 OLD ENGLISH ONGINNAN; 2.4.3 OLD ENGLISH BEGINNAN; 2.4.4 OLD ENGLISH (GE-)WUNIAN; 2.4.5 OLD ENGLISH BLINNAN; 2.4.6 OLD ENGLISH SWICAN
2.5 STRUCTURE OF THE OLD ENGLISH DATA 2.5.1 NUMBERS AND FREQUENCY OF ATTESTATION; 2.5.2 SEMANTIC STRUCTURE OF OLD ENGLISH SUPPORT VERBS; 2.5.3 PREPOSITIONAL STRUCTURES IN OLD ENGLISH SUPPORT VERBS; 2.5.4 DISTRIBUTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF OLD ENGLISH SUPPORT VERBS; 2.6 DISCUSSION OF THE OLD ENGLISH DATA; 2.6.1 THE DATA IN THE CORPUS; 2.6.2 FREQUENCY OF THE CORPUS DATA; 2.6.3 GRAMMATICALISATION OF THE SUPPORT VERB CONSTRUCTIONS; 2.6.4 VARIABILITY OF THE STRUCTURE; 2.6.5 LANGUAGE CONTACT IN EARLY ENGLISH; 2.6.6 STATUS AND RELEVANCE OF SUPPORT VERB CONSTRUCTIONS IN OLD ENGLISH; 2.7 SUMMARY
3 SUPPORT VERB CONSTRUCTIONS IN OLD IRISH 3.1 PREVIOUS RESEARCH ON SUPPORT VERB CONSTRUCTIONS IN OLD IRISH; 3.2 DATA AND METHOD; 3.2.1 METHOD; 3.2.2 DATA; 3.3 THE OLD IRISH SUPPORT VERB CONSTRUCTIONS IN THE CORPUS; 3.3.1 DO-BEIR 'GIVES' IN THE OLD IRISH CORPUS; 3.3.2 DO-GNI 'DOES, MAKES' IN THE OLD IRISH CORPUS; 3.3.3 GAIBID 'TAKES, TAKES TO, UTTERS' IN THE OLD IRISH CORPUS; 3.3.4 CON-ICC 'IS ABLE' IN OLD IRISH; 3.3.5 IMFOLNGI 'CAUSES' IN THE OLD IRISH CORPUS; 3.3.6 FO-CEIRD 'PUTS' IN THE OLD IRISH CORPUS; 3.3.7 BERID 'BRINGS' IN THE OLD IRISH CORPUS 3.3.8 FERAID 'BRINGS' IN THE OLD IRISH CORPUS

Sommario/riassunto

This corpus-based study examines the use of support verb constructions in Old English and Old Irish. It determines in how far these constructions can be seen as a means to offer semantic specification of existing verbal expressions. The study further investigates whether support verb constructions may be employed to create periphrastic verbal expressions to denote concepts for which no simple verb exists in the language at that stage. This latter situation may particularly arise as a consequence of contact with new cultural concepts. The approach of the study is both qualitative and quantitative.
