

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910787288603321
Titolo	Corpus interrogation and grammatical patterns // edited by Kristin Davidse [and three others] ; in collaboaration with Tinne van Rompaey
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam, Netherlands ; ; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : , : John Benjamins Publishing Company, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	90-272-6974-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (368 p.)
Collana	Studies in Corpus Linguistics, , 1388-0373 ; ; Volume 63
Disciplina	420.1/88
Soggetti	English language - Grammar - Data processing English language - Research - Data processing English language - Discourse analysis - Data processing Computational linguistics
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"This volume is a selection of strictly refereed and extensively revised papers from the ICAME 33 International Conference "Corpora at the Centre and Crossroads of English Linguistics", organised in Leuven from 30 May to 3 June 2012"--Cover.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references at the end of each chapters and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Corpus Interrogation and Grammatical Patterns; Editorial page; Title page; LCC data; Table of contents; Acknowledgements ; List of contributors ; Interrogating corpora to describe grammatical patterns ; References ; Part 1. Patterns in the verb phrase; Light verb constructions in the history of English ; 1. Introduction ; 1.1 Definition of light verb constructions ; 1.2 Use of light verb constructions and their development ; 2. Studies on the development of light verb constructions in the history English ; 3. Data and method ; 4. Data from the history of English ; 4.1 Old English data 4.2 Middle English data 4.3 Early Modern English data ; 5. Discussion ; 6. Conclusion ; References ; What happened to the English prefix, and could it stage a comeback? ; 1. The prefix then and now ; 2. Particles and their variation in early English ; 3. The decline of the prefix: Theories ; 4. The decline of the prefix: Quantitative evidence ; 5. The decline of the prefix: Interpretation ; 6. Could the prefix stage a

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 Provisional quantitative analysis ; 6. Concluding interpretation ;  
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 English ; 3.4 The Corpus of Historical American English ; 4. Summary  
 and attempted explanation ; Sources ; References  
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 References ; The case of focus ; 1. Introduction  
 2. The distribution of pronoun case forms in English: A brief survey

## Sommario/riassunto

This article proposes a classification of speech functions of variable tag  
 questions in British English conversations. Based on intonational,  
 conversational and formal criteria the analysis shows that tag questions  
 can not only function as questions and statements, but also as  
 responses, commands and offers. A large group of tag questions  
 cannot be captured by any of the traditional speech functions and are  
 classified instead as Statement-Question blends. The article  
 investigates the impact of the LLC and COLT corpora, and features such  
 as gender, age and social roles, on the distribution of t