

The history of the present English subjunctive

A corpus-based study of mood and modality

Lilo Moessner

EDINBURGH
University Press

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	xi
<i>List of Tables</i>	xii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xx
Chapter 1 Introduction	I
1.1 Motivations for the aim and scope of the book	I
1.2 The subjunctive and its relation to the categories mood and modality	3
1.3 Corpus considerations	12
1.4 Research agenda and research method	16
1.5 Structure of the book and mode of presentation	19
Chapter 2 The subjunctive in main clauses	21
2.1 Old English main clauses: the subjunctive and its competitors in earlier publications	22
2.1.1 <i>The imperative</i>	22
2.1.2 <i>Modal constructions</i>	23
2.1.3 <i>'Semi-auxiliary (+ to) + infinitive'</i>	23
2.1.4 <i>'Uton + infinitive'</i>	24
2.2 The subjunctive and its competitors in the OE corpus	24
2.2.1 <i>The parameters 'person' and 'number'</i>	26
2.2.2 <i>The parameter date of composition</i>	32
2.2.3 <i>The parameter text category</i>	34
2.2.4 <i>The subjunctive and its competitors in individual text files</i>	36
2.2.5 <i>Other extralinguistic parameters</i>	40
2.2.6 <i>Summary</i>	40
2.3 Middle English main clauses: the subjunctive and its competitors in earlier publications	41
2.4 The subjunctive and its competitors in the ME corpus	43
2.4.1 <i>The parameter 'person'</i>	44
2.4.2 <i>The parameter date of composition</i>	46
2.4.3 <i>The parameter text category</i>	47

2.4.4	<i>Other extralinguistic parameters</i>	48
2.4.5	<i>Summary and comparison with the OE corpus</i>	49
2.5	Early Modern English main clauses: the subjunctive and its competitors in earlier publications	50
2.6	The subjunctive and its competitors in the EModE corpus	51
2.6.1	<i>The parameter 'person'</i>	52
2.6.2	<i>The parameter date of composition</i>	53
2.6.3	<i>The parameter text category</i>	54
2.6.4	<i>Other extralinguistic parameters</i>	56
2.6.5	<i>Summary and comparison with the ME part of the corpus</i>	56
Chapter 3 The subjunctive in adjectival relative clauses		58
3.1	Old English adjectival relative clauses: descriptive parameters	58
3.1.1	<i>Mood</i>	58
3.1.2	<i>The relative marker</i>	61
3.1.3	<i>The antecedent and the relative marker</i>	62
3.1.4	<i>The verbal syntagm in the matrix clause</i>	63
3.2	The subjunctive and its competitors in the OE corpus	64
3.2.1	<i>The parameter date of composition</i>	64
3.2.2	<i>The parameter dialect</i>	65
3.2.3	<i>The parameter text category</i>	66
3.2.4	<i>The parameter format</i>	67
3.2.5	<i>The relative marker</i>	68
3.2.6	<i>The antecedent</i>	69
3.2.7	<i>The matrix clause</i>	71
3.2.8	<i>Summary</i>	73
3.3	Middle English adjectival relative clauses: descriptive parameters	75
3.3.1	<i>The verbal syntagm</i>	75
3.3.2	<i>The relative marker</i>	76
3.3.3	<i>The antecedent</i>	76
3.3.4	<i>The verbal syntagm in the matrix clause</i>	76
3.4	The subjunctive and its competitors in the ME corpus	76
3.4.1	<i>The parameter date of composition</i>	77
3.4.2	<i>The parameter dialect</i>	78
3.4.3	<i>The parameter text category</i>	79
3.4.4	<i>The parameter format</i>	80
3.4.5	<i>The relative marker</i>	80
3.4.6	<i>The antecedent</i>	81
3.4.7	<i>The verbal syntagm in the matrix clause</i>	82
3.4.8	<i>Summary and comparison with the OE corpus</i>	83
3.5	Early Modern English adjectival relative clauses: descriptive parameters	85

3.5.1	<i>The verbal syntagm</i>	85
3.5.2	<i>The relative marker</i>	85
3.5.3	<i>The antecedent</i>	86
3.6	The subjunctive and its competitors in the EModE corpus	86
3.6.1	<i>The parameter date of composition</i>	87
3.6.2	<i>The parameter text category</i>	88
3.6.3	<i>The relative marker</i>	89
3.6.4	<i>The antecedent</i>	90
3.6.5	<i>The verbal syntagm in the matrix clause</i>	91
3.6.6	<i>Summary and comparison with the OE and the ME corpus</i>	92
Chapter 4 The subjunctive in noun clauses		95
4.1	Old English noun clauses: descriptive parameters	95
4.1.1	<i>Function</i>	95
4.1.2	<i>Form</i>	97
4.1.3	<i>Governing elements</i>	99
4.1.4	<i>The verbal syntagm</i>	101
4.2	Noun clauses in the OE corpus	103
4.2.1	<i>The parameter date of composition</i>	103
4.2.2	<i>The parameter text category</i>	104
4.2.3	<i>The parameter prose vs. poetry</i>	105
4.2.4	<i>The parameter noun clause function</i>	106
4.2.5	<i>The parameter meaning</i>	109
4.2.6	<i>The parameter form of the matrix verb</i>	113
4.2.7	<i>The parameter clause type</i>	114
4.2.8	<i>Summary</i>	115
4.3	Middle English noun clauses: descriptive parameters	116
4.3.1	<i>Function</i>	116
4.3.2	<i>Form</i>	117
4.3.3	<i>Governing elements</i>	119
4.4	Noun clauses in the ME corpus	120
4.4.1	<i>The parameter date of composition</i>	120
4.4.2	<i>The parameter text category</i>	122
4.4.3	<i>The parameter prose vs. poetry</i>	124
4.4.4	<i>The parameter noun clause function</i>	124
4.4.5	<i>The parameter matrix verb</i>	132
4.4.6	<i>The parameter clause type</i>	135
4.4.7	<i>Summary</i>	136
4.5	Early Modern English noun clauses: descriptive parameters	139
4.5.1	<i>Function</i>	139
4.5.2	<i>Form</i>	140
4.5.3	<i>Governing elements</i>	141

4.6	Noun clauses in the EModE corpus	141
4.6.1	<i>The parameter date of composition</i>	141
4.6.2	<i>The parameter text category</i>	143
4.6.3	<i>The parameter noun clause function</i>	144
4.6.4	<i>The parameter matrix verb</i>	146
4.6.5	<i>The parameter clause type</i>	149
4.6.6	<i>Summary</i>	149
Chapter 5	The subjunctive in adverbial clauses	153
5.1	Old English adverbial clauses: descriptive parameters	153
5.1.1	<i>Clauses of time</i>	153
5.1.2	<i>Clauses of place</i>	155
5.1.3	<i>Clauses of reason</i>	155
5.1.4	<i>Clauses of concession</i>	155
5.1.5	<i>Clauses of condition</i>	156
5.1.6	<i>Clauses of purpose and result</i>	156
5.1.7	<i>Clauses of comparison</i>	157
5.1.8	<i>Summary</i>	157
5.2	Adverbial clauses in the OE corpus	157
5.2.1	<i>The parameter date of composition</i>	158
5.2.2	<i>The parameter text category</i>	158
5.2.3	<i>The parameter dialect</i>	160
5.2.4	<i>The parameter prose vs. poetry</i>	160
5.2.5	<i>The parameter clause type</i>	161
5.2.6	<i>The parameter matrix clause</i>	168
5.2.7	<i>Summary</i>	171
5.3	Middle English adverbial clauses: descriptive parameters	172
5.3.1	<i>Clauses of time</i>	173
5.3.2	<i>Clauses of place</i>	173
5.3.3	<i>Clauses of reason</i>	173
5.3.4	<i>Clauses of concession</i>	173
5.3.5	<i>Clauses of condition</i>	174
5.3.6	<i>Clauses of purpose and result</i>	174
5.3.7	<i>Clauses of comparison</i>	175
5.3.8	<i>Summary</i>	175
5.4	Adverbial clauses in the ME corpus	176
5.4.1	<i>The parameter date of composition</i>	176
5.4.2	<i>The parameter text category</i>	177
5.4.3	<i>The parameter dialect</i>	179
5.4.4	<i>The parameter prose vs. poetry</i>	180
5.4.5	<i>The parameter clause type</i>	180
5.4.6	<i>The parameter matrix clause</i>	185
5.4.7	<i>Summary</i>	188

5.5	Early Modern English adverbial clauses: descriptive parameters	190
5.5.1	<i>Clauses of time</i>	191
5.5.2	<i>Clauses of place</i>	191
5.5.3	<i>Clauses of reason</i>	191
5.5.4	<i>Clauses of concession</i>	191
5.5.5	<i>Clauses of condition</i>	191
5.5.6	<i>Clauses of purpose and result</i>	192
5.5.7	<i>Clauses of comparison</i>	192
5.5.8	<i>Summary</i>	192
5.6	Adverbial clauses in the EModE corpus	193
5.6.1	<i>The parameter date of composition</i>	193
5.6.2	<i>The parameter text category</i>	194
5.6.3	<i>The parameter clause type</i>	196
5.6.4	<i>The parameter matrix clause</i>	198
5.6.5	<i>Summary</i>	200
Chapter 6 A bird's eye view of the English subjunctive		202
6.1	The subjunctive in Old English	202
6.1.1	<i>The subjunctive and its competitors</i>	202
6.1.2	<i>The influence of linguistic and extralinguistic parameters on subjunctive use in all construction types</i>	204
6.1.3	<i>The influence of linguistic and extralinguistic parameters on subjunctive use in selected construction types</i>	208
6.2	The subjunctive in Middle English	212
6.2.1	<i>The subjunctive and its competitors</i>	213
6.2.2	<i>The influence of linguistic and extralinguistic parameters on subjunctive use in all construction types</i>	213
6.2.3	<i>The influence of linguistic and extralinguistic parameters on subjunctive use in selected construction types</i>	218
6.3	The subjunctive in Early Modern English	221
6.3.1	<i>The subjunctive and its competitors</i>	222
6.3.2	<i>The influence of linguistic and extralinguistic parameters on subjunctive use in all construction types</i>	222
6.3.3	<i>The influence of linguistic and extralinguistic parameters on subjunctive use in selected construction types</i>	226
6.4	Subjunctive use from Old English to Early Modern English	228
6.4.1	<i>The frequency development of the subjunctive and its competitors</i>	229

6.4.2	<i>The simplification of the verbal paradigm</i>	230
6.4.3	<i>The parameter construction type</i>	231
6.4.4	<i>The parameter text category</i>	233
6.4.5	<i>The expression of modality</i>	235
Epilogue: Summary and outlook		241
Appendix I: Matrix verbs of Old English object clauses		245
Appendix II: Matrix verbs of Middle English object clauses		248
Appendix III: Matrix verbs of Early Modern English object clauses		251
<i>References</i>		254
<i>Name index</i>		266
<i>General index</i>		268