

THE IMPACT OF FRENCH LOAN WORDS ON ENGLISH GRAMMAR

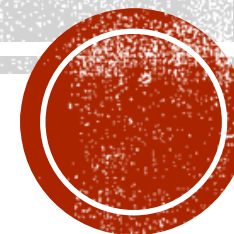
The rise of *do*-support

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In collaboration with Hendrik De Smet
5 August 2022



Research Foundation
Flanders
Opening new horizons



OUTLINE

1. BACKGROUND



2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS



3. DATA AND METHODS



4. FINDINGS



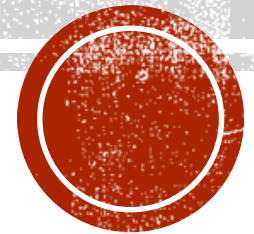
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6. AVENUES FOR FUTURE
RESEARCH



1. BACKGROUND



1. LOAN WORD ACCOMMODATION

- **Loan words** can often be inflected like **native words**
~ loan words are treated like native words (cf. Wohlgemuth 2009; Poplack et al. 2020)

(1a) *refreshen* 'to refresh'

(1b) *fietsen* 'to cycle'

1. LOAN WORD ACCOMMODATION

- **Loan words** can often be inflected like **native words**
~ loan words are treated like native words (cf. Wohlgemuth 2009; Poplack et al. 2020)

(1a) *refresh* **en**
 English stem Dutch inf. marker

(1b) *fiets* **en**
 Dutch stem Dutch inf. Marker

1. LOAN WORD ACCOMMODATION BIASES

Loan words can often be inflected like **native words**

(Wohlgemuth 2009; Poplack et al. 2020)



Loans are **disproportionately** more **frequent**
in **specific** grammatical **structures**

(De Smet 2014; Shaw & De Smet 2022, subm.)

1. LOAN WORD ACCOMMODATION BIASES: METHODS

- Corpus research
- Verbs and adjectives
- Loan words vs. native words: distributional behaviour in **two contact settings**



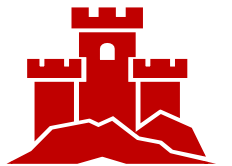
English loans in Dutch

CGN (Nederlandse Taalunie 2004)

French loans in ME

Helsinki Corpus (Rissanen et al. 1991)

PPCME2 (Kroch & Taylor 2000)



1. LOAN WORD ACCOMMODATION BIASES: FINDINGS

Verbs

Non-finite categories



non-finite bias

Without inflection



markedness bias



1. BIASES IN VERBS: EXAMPLES

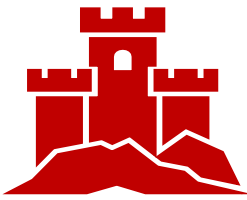
(2) *oké ik ga in mijnen auto **jumpen** [E: jump] en ik ga d'raan komen.*

'okay I'm going to jump in my car and I'm going to arrive.' (CGN)



(3) *Koudwatervrees? Daar heeft deze man geen last van. Hij **sprong** van een klif op Antarctica.*

'Cold feet? Not something this man suffers from. He jumped off a cliff in Antarctica.'
(Twitter, 25 May 2018)



1. BIASES IN VERBS: EXAMPLES

(4) *she saide, ‘more, and **passing** [OF: passen] al þe creatures leuyng of þe worlde.’*

“she saide, ‘more, and more than all the creatures of the world.’” (Helsinki Corpus)



(5) *For olyue **betokeneth** pes , As the storye of Noe **witnesseth***

‘Because the olive means peace, as the story of Noe witnesses.’ (PPCME2)

1. LOAN WORD ACCOMMODATION BIASES: FINDINGS

Verbs

Non-finite categories



non-finite bias

Without inflection



markedness bias

Adjectives

Predicative position



predicative bias

Without inflection



markedness bias



1. BIASES IN ADJECTIVES: EXAMPLES

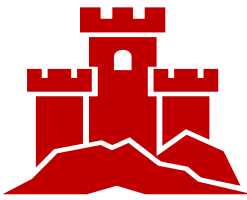
(6) *ja ik denk dat dat iets heel **basic** is hoor*

‘yeah I think that’s something very basic you know.’ (CGN)



(7) *ja hij heeft een hele **mooie** ontslagbrief geschreven*

‘yes he wrote a very nice letter of resignation.’ (CGN)



1. BIASES IN ADJECTIVES: EXAMPLES

(8) *And pei are not **obedyent** to the chirche of Rome ne to the pope*

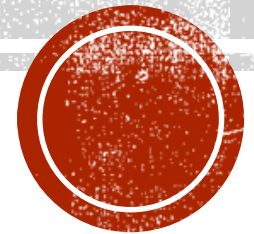
‘And they do not obey to the Church of Rome, nor to the Pope’ (PPCME2)

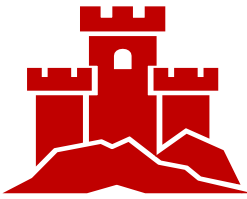


(9) *And pere maken men **grete** festes*

‘And there men make great feasts’ (PPCME2)

2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS





2. ACCOMMODATION BIASES: IMPACT?

- Accommodation **biases**: long-term **impact** on recipient-language grammar?
 - Stronger reliance on periphrastic structures
- Case of French and **Middle English**?

2. ACCOMMODATION BIASES: IMPACT?

Late Middle English (1350-1420)

- General deflection
 - E.g. *walk-en* → *walk-e/walk-ø*
- Greater reliance on non-finite forms ~ periphrastic structures
 - Modal verbs
 - Gerunds
 - Infinitives
 - Light verbs
 - *Do*-support
 - ...

Coincides with peak of **French** influx

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2. *Do*-SUPPORT: DEFINITION

- Synonyms
 - Auxiliary *do*, periphrastic *do*, *do*-periphrasis
- Construction
 - *Do* as pro-verbal/auxiliary/modal (Warner 1993)
 - *Do* as empty ‘operator’ (Denison 1993; De Keyser 2014; Fischer et al. 2017)
 - Non-finite use of lexical verb (Ellegård 1953)

Do: inflected, finite

(10) *worshypfully he dud governe hem.*

‘He governed them with dignity.’ (a1470, MED)

Lexical verb: uninflected, non-finite

2. *DO*-SUPPORT: ORIGIN

Causative use

(11) *The Kyng..ded his officers **arestin**..his uncil, the duke of Gloucetir.*

‘The king had his officers arrest the duke of Gloucester.’ (*John Capgrave’s Abbreviacion of Cronicles*, MEC)

Semantically **near-empty** modal **auxiliary**

(12) *And so bileeue I lelly..pat pardoun and penaunce and preyers don **sauen** Soules pat han sunget.*

‘And so I sincerely believe that pardon and penance and prayer save souls that have sinned.’ (*Piers Plowman*, MEC)

Operator to form certain clauses

(13) *Do ye no **drede** God pat is a-bove?*

‘Don’t you dread God that is above?’ (*The Tale of Beryn*, MEC)

2. *Do*-SUPPORT: SEMANTICS

Do in Early Modern English (cf. Budts 2020a, 2020b)

- Epistemic **modal** marker
- In affirmative declarative contexts: emphatic marker of **truthfulness**
 - Imposes a sense of truthfulness onto the proposition

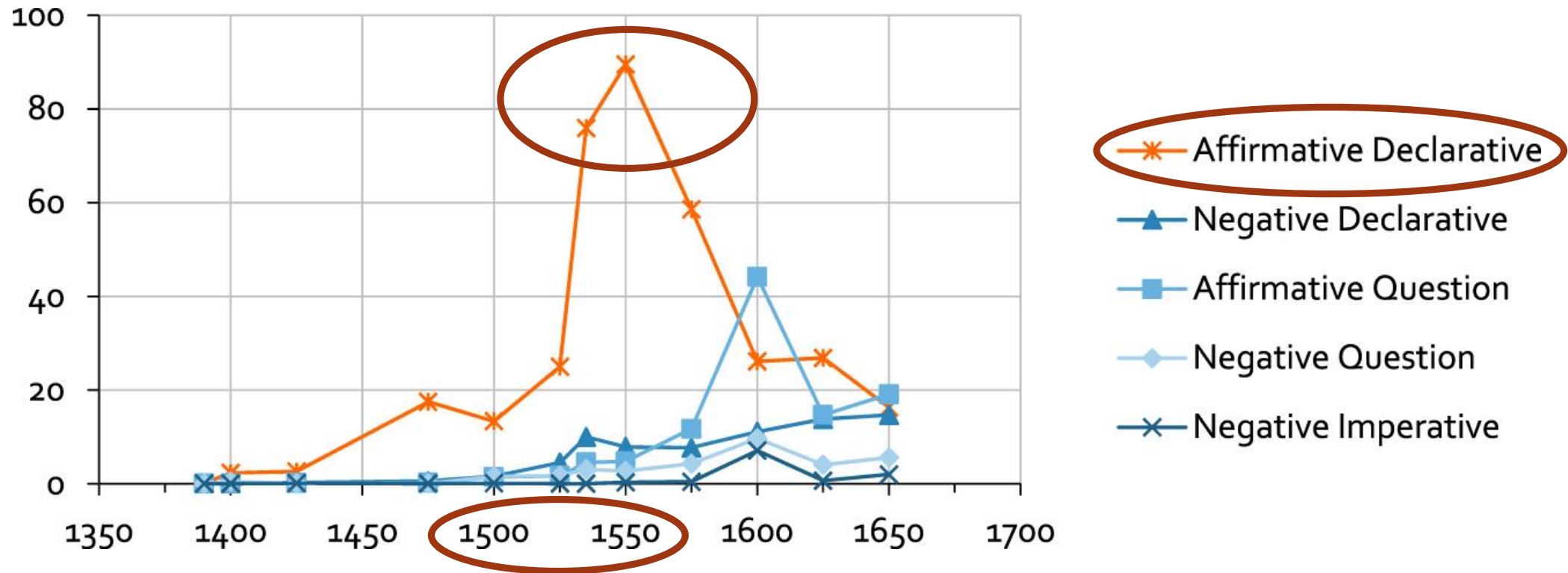
2. *DO*-SUPPORT: EVOLUTION

- PDE: syntactic environments

<u>N</u> egation	(14a) I <u>do</u> /will/shall/must not love you.
<u>I</u> nversion	(14b) <u>Do</u> /will/shall/must you love me?
<u>C</u> oding previously mentioned material	(14c) So you ate all the cookies, <u>did</u> you?
<u>E</u> mphasis	(14d) I <u>dó</u> /wíll/sháll/múst love you! *I lóve you

Huddleston (1976) in Budts (2020a: 3; 2020b: 1)

2. *Do*-SUPPORT: EVOLUTION



Normalised frequency of *do* per thousand finite clauses. Based on counts in Ellegård (1953: 161-162).
From Budts (2020a: 4; 2020b: 12).

2. *Do*-SUPPORT: EVOLUTION

- Changes of *do* starting in ME ~ triggered by **changes** in ME **word order** (for evidence, see Fischer et al. 2017: 130-131)
 - Distinguishing negatives and interrogatives from declaratives
 - A more uniform account for negatives and interrogatives

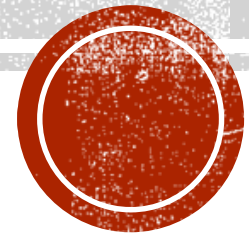
2. *Do*-SUPPORT: ROLE OF FRENCH

- Speakers of Middle English may have used **French loan verbs** mainly with ***do*-support** (Fischer & van der Wurff 2006: 155)
 - Lexical verb = used non-finitely
 - Avoiding recipient-language inflections
- “the possibility to use a semantically neutral device like auxiliary *do* served to **facilitate** the **adoption** of new vocabulary items” (Moretti 2021, subm.: 25)
 - E.g. French-origin items?

2. ACCOMMODATION BIASES: IMPACT?

- Accommodation **biases**: long-term **impact** on recipient-language grammar?
 - Stronger reliance on periphrastic structures
- Case of French and **Middle English**?
 - Rise of **do-support** in Early Modern English: linked to avoidance of finite forms for French-origin verbs?

3. DATA AND METHODS

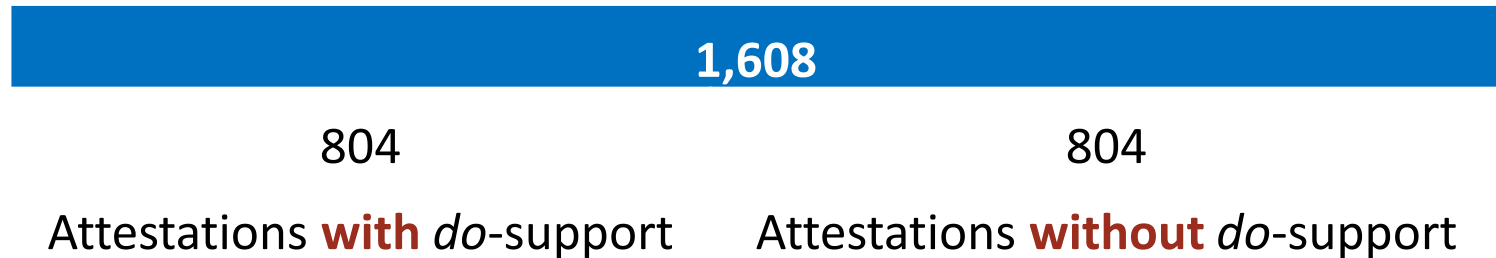


3. DATA AND METHODS

- Corpus research: variation between verbs with and without *do*
- PPCEME (Kroch et al. 2004)
 - **Early Modern English**: peak of affirmative *do*
 - Focus on first period: 1500-1570

3. DATA AND METHODS: DATA EXTRACTION

- **Text-matched** sample
 - With *do*-support vs. without *do*-support
 - Control for genre, register and dialect differences
 - Max. 25 attestations of *do* per text file
 - Randomly matched



3. DATA AND METHODS: ANNOTATIONS

- Manual annotations
 - Source language
 - French-origin
 - English-origin
 - Lemma frequency
 - Clause structure

3. DATA AND METHODS: ANNOTATIONS

- Manual annotations
 - Source language
 - Lemma frequency
 - Cf. frequency of lexical verb lemma in 1500-1570 period EEBO (Text Creation Partnership 2014-2016)
 - Clause structure

3. DATA AND METHODS: ANNOTATIONS

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- Clause structure

Interrogation	(15a) polar: <u>Doe</u> ye (not) lacke money ? (15b) wh-: Howe long (<u>did</u> not) they stande prating ?
Negation	(15c) he <u>do</u> not endent the grasse
Adverbial between S and V (‘medial adverbial’)	(15d) I <u>humbly</u> beseече you to giue me such Benefite
Inversion of S and V	(15e) Then <u>do</u> I deuide that corde in the middle

Source: PPECME

3. DATA AND METHODS: ANNOTATIONS

- Manual annotations

- Source language
- Lemma frequency
- Clause structure

→ Multiplicity of factors potentially involved in variation

3. DATA AND METHODS: ANNOTATIONS

- Manually excluded
 - Proform *do*
(16a) *and so he dede all the tyme that we war ther* (PPCEME)
 - Lexical *do*
 - Including causative *do*
 - Verbs resisting *do*-support

3. DATA AND METHODS: ANNOTATIONS

- Manually excluded
 - Proform *do*
 - Lexical *do*
 - (16b) *a thinge which I neuer did* (PPCEME)
 - Verbs resisting *do*-support

3. DATA AND METHODS: ANNOTATIONS

- Manually excluded

- Proform *do*

- Lexical *do*

- Including causative *do*

- (16c) they did hys master **to understand** whate hys man had sayed unto them (PPCEME)

- Verbs resisting *do*-support

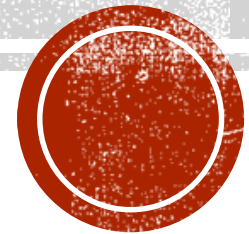
3. DATA AND METHODS: ANNOTATIONS

- Manually excluded
 - Proform *do*
 - Lexical *do*
 - Including causative *do*
 - Verbs resisting *do*-support
(16d) *will*, *would* (meaning ‘wish’), *quoth* and impersonals (e.g. *me liketh*) (PPCEME)


3. DATA AND METHODS: ANALYSIS

- Binary logistic **regression** model
- Mosaic **plot**

4. FINDINGS

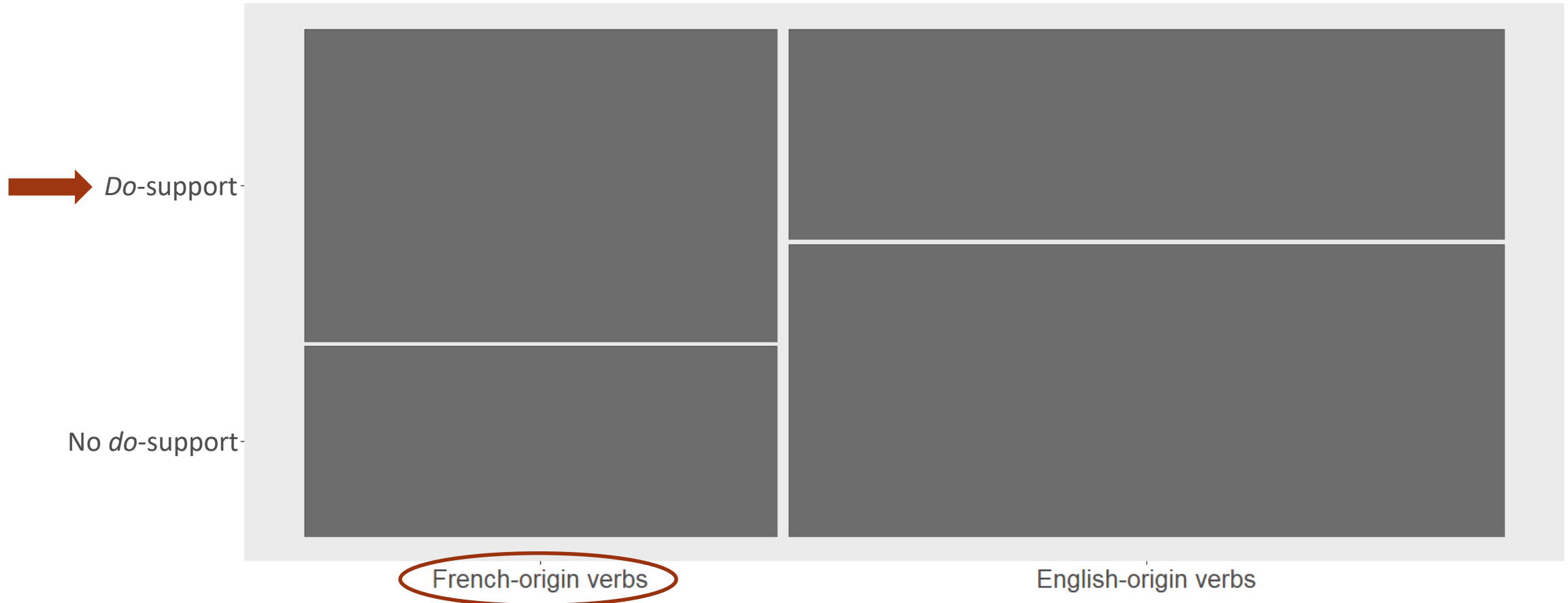


4. FINDINGS: REGRESSION MODEL



	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z)
(Intercept)	-2.173e-01	9.834e-02	-2.209	0.02716
SourceFrench	4.028e-01	1.226e-01	3.286	0.00102
Lemma_frequency	-7.654e-06	1.121e-06	-6.827	8.70e-12
ClauseInterrogative	2.628e+00	4.514e-01	5.821	5.85e-09
ClauseNegative-interrogative	1.707e+00	4.521e-01	3.775	0.00016
ClauseNegative	9.971e-01	2.292e-01	4.350	1.36e-05
Medial_adverbial	1.105e+00	1.669e-01	6.621	3.56e-11
Inversion	9.011e-01	2.149e-01	4.192	2.76e-05

4. FINDINGS: MOSAIC PLOT



4. FINDINGS: EXAMPLES

French origin: **more** *do*-support

(17) a. *The xxiiij day of September dyd **pryche** master doctur Fecknam at Powlles crosse*

‘The 24th day of September master doctor Feckenham preached at Paul’s Cross.’

b. *And this square doth **contain** the first quadrate A.B.C.D*

‘And this square contains the first quadrate A.B.C.D.’

c. *How now ? doth this superscription **agree** ?*

‘How now? Does this inscription agree?’

Source: PPECME

4. FINDINGS: EXAMPLES

English origin: **less** *do*-support

(18) a. *The ix day of August **cam** the bysshope of Wyncheaster owt of the Towre*

‘The 9th of August the bishop of Winchester came out of the tower.’

b. *Our Lord **knowith** my wyll and mynde .*

‘Our Lord knows my will and mind.’

c. *Yea **sayst** thou me that dame ?*

‘Do you say that to me, lady?’

Source: PPECME

4. FINDINGS

- *Do*-support is **favoured** in contexts with
 - French-origin verbs
 - Low-frequency verbs
 - Marked clause structures (e.g. inversion, interrogatives, negation, medial adverbials)
 - Multiplicity of factors involved in variation

4. FINDINGS: UNEXPECTED USE OF *DO*

- *Do*-support is **attested** in contexts combining
 - English-origin verbs
 - High-frequency verbs
 - Unmarked clause structures (e.g. declaratives)

(19) *I do well **know** that thys thyng wvll be comfortabyll to yow to understand : therfor I wrytt itt unto yow at thys tyme .*

‘I know well that this thing will be comfortable to you to understand. Therefore, I write it to you at this moment.’ (*Original Letters, Illustrative of English History*, PPCEME)

→ Role of **semantics**?

4. FINDINGS: SEMANTICS

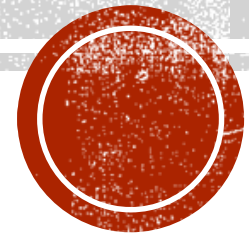
- Findings

- *Do* = modal of truth (cf. Budts 2020a, 2020b)
- *Do* conveys contrastive emphasis



(20) *euen as it is that we **do** digest meates , that we haue eten without thynkyng thereon howe it is digested and as we **do** take wynde and breathe in slepe , not knowing thereof .*

‘Even as it is that we digest meat, that we have eaten without thinking how it is digested and as we breathe in our sleep, not knowing it.’ (PPCEME)

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION



5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- **French**-origin verbs: more frequent with **do-support** than English-origin verbs
(cf. Fischer & van der Wurff 2006: 155; Moretti 2021, subm.)
- Rise of *do*-support is due to French influx 
 - Multiplicity of factors involved
- **Acceleration** of rise of *do*-support is due to French influx 
 - French influx promotes rise of non-finite forms

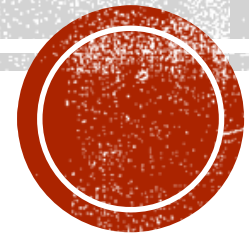
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- Accommodation **biases**: long-term **impact** on recipient-language grammar?
 - Stronger reliance on periphrastic structures
- Case of French and **Middle English**?
 - Rise of **do-support**: linked to avoidance of finite forms for French-origin verbs

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6. AVENUES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH



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- **Further impact** of French influx on the history of the English language?
 - E.g. rise of gerunds
 - E.g. rise of light verbs
- ...

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS?

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