

## Today's topic:

- **Morphological and syntactic change: Examples and discussion**

# Review: Types of 'syntactic change'

- What is syntax?
- What is syntactic change, in general?
- What general categories or examples of syntactic change have we discussed over the last few classes?

# Review: Types of ‘syntactic change’

- Change in morphological type
  - Are you wondering why this is in the chapter on ‘syntactic change’? Hold that thought...
- Change in basic constituent order
  - This is an example of a type of change involving the abstract syntactic rules of a language
- Grammaticalization – change from ‘less grammatical’ to ‘more grammatical’ on a continuum
  - Again: Why is this in the ‘syntax’ chapter?

# Grammaticalization: Morphology and syntax

- Why is grammaticalization relevant for syntax or syntactic change?
  - Balto-Finnic example from HW #3
  - Can changes related to grammaticalization have implications for the syntactic structure?
  - Can the outcome of grammaticalization potentially provide clues about the syntax of earlier stages of the language?

# Morphological type: Morphology and syntax

- Return to the last slide ('Morphological type') from W Sept 26
  - Why are these morphological types discussed in the chapter on 'Syntactic change'?
  - Is there anything about the 'cycle of change' in morphological typology that is related to **grammaticalization**?

# Mechanisms of grammatical change

## Review:

- What did we say were likely mechanisms at play in sound change?
- What did we identify as an important force operating in morphological change?

# Mechanisms of grammatical change

- Sound change often involves
  - (1) Articulatory variability and/or acoustic ambiguity
  - (2) **Reanalysis** of the intended phonological representation
- Morphological change often involves
  - **Analogical** change – applying some morphological relationship to a new form
  - Other types of morphological **reanalysis**, such as boundary shift

# Mechanisms of grammatical change

- Likewise, grammatical change (syntactic change) also often involves
  - (1) **Reanalysis** (when a construction is ambiguous)
  - (2) **Analogy**
  - [(3) also **diffusion** = syntactic borrowing]
- Sometimes there is a sound change or a morphological change that sets the stage for syntactic change

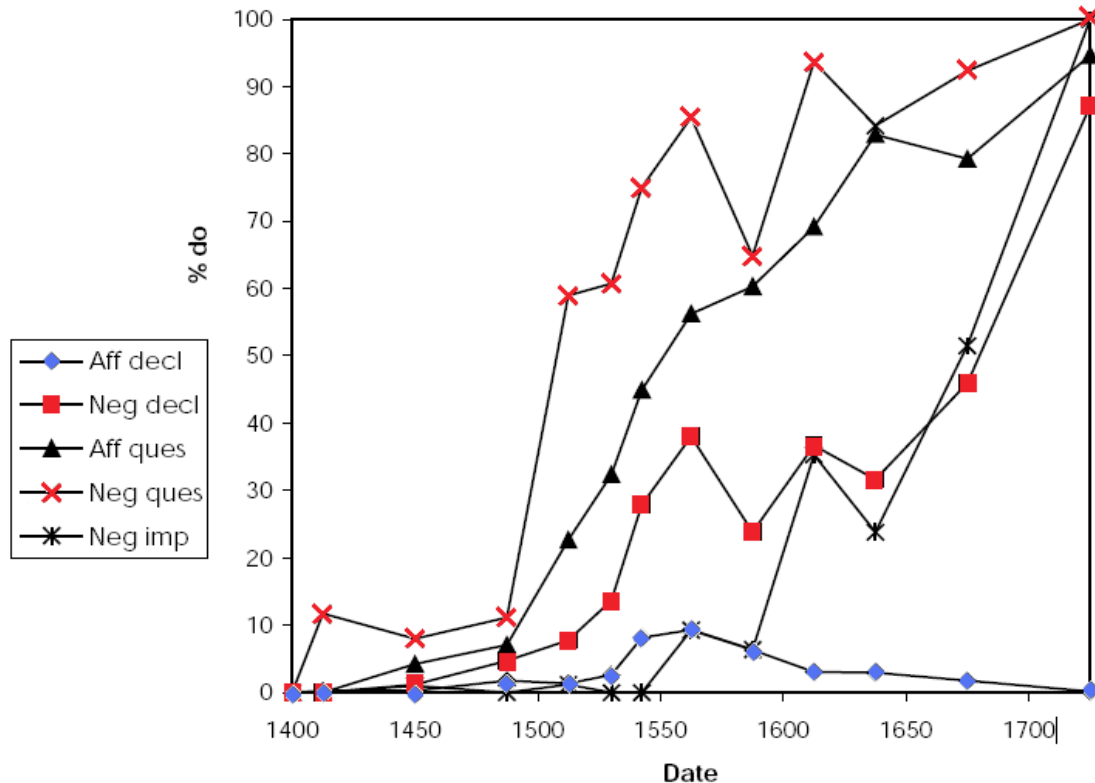


# Syntactic (and morpheme-type) change: More examples

- See posted data set handouts and HW
  - Finnish relative clauses
  - Discussion from HW #3
  - Early Modern English main verb + *not*
- Discuss these examples in the context of:
  - What piece of the grammar of the language is changing?
  - Is this a named type of change?
  - Is there a process of analogy or reanalysis that we can identify?

# Is syntactic change instantaneous?

- *do* as an auxiliary verb in English over time



(via Han & Kroch 2000)

Figure 1: Percent of do forms in various sentence types (from Ellegård 1953:162)

- Is there an instantaneous change between a verb-raising and a *do*-support grammar?

# Is syntactic change instantaneous?

- Just as there can be variation in phonology or morphology, there can be variation in syntax
- So, a new construction or syntactic rule can be introduced without the older one necessarily vanishing immediately
  - The proportion of one variable form or another can change over time (including 100%/0%)
  - Do we predict an influence of social factors in syntactic change?