

The Verb *Submit* and its Complements 1710-1993:

A diachronic study of a verb's usage and development

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Pro gradu Thesis
May 2010

Tampereen yliopisto
Englantilainen filologia
Kieli- ja käännöstieteiden laitos

VARTIAINEN, ANNA-MARI: The Verb *Submit* and its Complements 1710–1993:
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Pro gradu -tutkielma, 70 sivua
Toukokuu 2010

Tässä pro gradu -tutkielmassa selvitetään englannin kielen *submit*-verbin käyttöä sekä sen kehitystä aikavälillä 1710–1993. Kyseistä verbiä käytetään monien eri komplementtirakenteiden kanssa, ja tutkimuksessa keskitytään erityisesti selvittämään juuri näiden komplementtirakenteiden käyttöä ja niiden keskinäisiä eroja. Tutkimus tarjoaa teoreettista tietoa verbin kehityksestä, mutta sen lisäksi myös eräänlaisen verbin käyttöoppaan ihmisille, jotka puhuvat englantia toisena kielenään.

Tutkimuskysymys rajoitettiin koskemaan vain verbin käyttöä britannianenglannissa. Verbin käyttöä tarkasteltiin tutkimuksessa kahdella tasolla: Ensinnäkin tarkasteltiin, millaisia komplementtirakenteita verbin kanssa on käytetty näinä vuosisatoina. Toiseksi tarkasteltiin merkityseroja näiden komplementtirakenteiden välillä. Niin sanotun Bolingerin periaatteen perusteella voitiin olettaa, että pienetkin rakenteelliset erot muuten samankaltaisissa lauseissa aiheuttavat eron myös merkityksessä. Täten eri komplementtirakenteiden välillä tulisi olla edes jonkinasteisia merkityseroja.

Tutkimus toteutettiin korpuslingvivistisesti käyttäen hyväksi kahta eri britannianenglannin korpusta. Näistä ensimmäinen oli Corpus of Late Modern English Texts, joka tarjosi tietoa verbin käyttötavoista menneisyydessä. Korpus on jaettu kolmeen osaan, jotka kattavat kaiken kaikkiaan vuodet 1710–1920. Tutkimuksen rajallisen koon vuoksi näistä osista kuitenkin tarkasteltiin vain ensimmäistä ja viimeistä, jotka käsittelivät vuosia 1710–1780 sekä 1850–1920. Tietoa verbin käytöstä nykyenglannissa tarjosi puolestaan British National Corpus, joka kattaa vuodet 1960–1993.

Tutkimus paljasti muutoksia verbin käytössä tarkasteltavalla ajanjaksolla. Ensinnäkin verbistä on tullut vuosien saatossa aina vain harvinaisempi. Toiseksi verbin kanssa käytetyt komplementtirakenteet ovat vaihtuneet suurimmaksi osaksi refleksiivisistä komplementtirakenteista ei-refleksiivisiksi rakenteiksi, mikä tarkoittaa muutoksia verbin merkityksissä: Refleksiiviset rakenteet ovat läheisessä yhteydessä merkitykseen, joka voitaisiin suomentaa *alistamiseksi* tai *alistumiseksi*. Ei-refleksiivisiä rakenteita puolestaan käytetään rauhanomaisempien merkitysten esiintuomiseen. Toinen niistä tarkoittaisi suomeksi *ideoiden ja ajatusten paljastamista muiden arvioitavaksi* tai *hakemusten lähettämistä hyväksyttäväksi*. Toinen merkityksistä tarkoittaa kommunikaatiota: *sanoa*.

Avainsanat: korpustutkimus, diakroninen tutkimus, komplementaatio, *submit*

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Methodology	3
2.1	Corpus study as a method of linguistic research	3
2.2	Discussion on the corpora used	4
2.2.1	The Corpus of Late Modern English Texts	4
2.2.2	The British National Corpus	6
3	Complementation and other useful concepts	8
3.1	Complements vs. adjuncts	8
3.2	Other factors bearing on the choice of complements	9
3.2.1	The Great Complement Shift	9
3.2.2	The complexity principle and <i>horror aequi</i>	10
3.2.3	Semantic factors	11
3.3	Phrase structure analysis and rules	11
4	Earlier work on <i>submit</i>	15
4.1	<i>Submit</i> in dictionaries	15
4.1.1	<i>Submit</i> in the <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>	15
4.1.2	<i>Submit</i> in the Collins Cobuild Advanced Learner's English Dictionary ..	20
4.2	<i>Submit</i> in grammar books	21
5	<i>Submit</i> in the historical data	24
5.1	Complementation in the first part of the CLMET	24
5.1.1	The use of different complements in 1710-1780	26
5.1.2	The use of non-sentential complements in 1710-1780	27
5.1.3	The use of sentential complements in 1710-1780	31
5.2	Complementation in the third part of the CLMET	32
5.2.1	The use of different complements in 1850-1920	34
5.2.2	The use of non-sentential complements in 1850-1920	35
5.2.3	The use of sentential complements in 1850-1920	40
6	<i>Submit</i> in present day data	42
6.1	Complementation in the 'Imaginative Prose' section of the BNC	42
6.1.1	The use of different complements in written Present Day English data ..	44
6.1.2	The use of non-sentential complements in written Present Day English data	45
6.1.3	The use of sentential complements in written Present Day English data.	49
6.2	Complementation in the 'Spoken Texts' section of the BNC	50
6.2.1	The use of different complements in spoken Present Day English data ..	53
6.2.2	The use of non-sentential complements in spoken Present Day English data	53
6.2.3	The use of sentential complements in spoken Present Day English data.	57
7	Analysis of the development of <i>submit</i> 1710-1993	58
7.1	The development of the verb's usage	58
7.2	The development of the use of non-sentential complements	61
7.3	The development of the use of sentential complements	65
8	Conclusion	67
	Works cited	69

1 Introduction

English verbs can take a number of different complements. Some only ever occur with a certain type of complement, and this makes it easy to use for a speaker. There are also verbs that take different complement structures in different contexts. *Submit* is one of those verbs. Sometimes it is followed by a direct object: *I submit myself / I submit a paper*. Other times it is followed by a prepositional complement: *I submit to you*. Sometimes by a *that*-clause: *I submit that it could be so*. This makes the verb more difficult to use for a speaker, especially for an English as a Second Language (ESL) speaker – one that does not speak the language as a mother tongue.

The primary research question of my thesis deals with this variation in complement patterns of *submit*. I wish to find out what all the possible complement constructions are for the verb today, and what they have been in the past, namely in the 18th century and at the turn of the 20th century. I will also compare the different time periods with each other, and examine how the use of the verb has developed over centuries. The research method chosen to accomplish this is corpus study. I will examine three different corpora to find how the verb is used in real language: Parts 1 and 3 of the Corpus of Late Modern English Texts and the British National Corpus. Part 1 of the first corpus covers historical data from the years 1710-1780, Part 3 covers 1850-1920, while the British National Corpus provides data from Present Day English and covers the years 1960-1993. The secondary research question I pose for the thesis deals with the differences there is between the various complement patterns. I will examine the use of the patterns and try to determine what meanings they each carry.

I will start my research by explaining some concepts that are relevant in order to understand this research. I will then investigate what earlier works say on the matter of the complementation of *submit*. Finally, I will look into the Corpus of Late Modern English Texts

and the British National Corpus, and compare their data in order to discern the development that has taken place in the verb's usage.

Examining these questions is important for at least two reasons. Firstly, the research at hand may only discuss one verb, but if this research is repeated with many other verbs, it might provide us with new insight into the development of verb complementation. The second reason is more concrete. Mapping out the different uses of a verb in Present Day English will provide a useful 'manual' for the verb for ESL speakers.

2 Methodology

In this Chapter I will introduce the research method used in this thesis, and also provide some discussion on the chosen corpora.

2.1 Corpus study as a method of linguistic research

McEnery and Wilson (2001, 1) simply describe corpus study as a method of linguistic research that is based on examples of real life language. Aston and Burnard (1998, 4), on the other hand, begin their description of the research method by quoting the OED, which says that there are two meanings for *a corpus* in relation to language: either it is ‘a body or complete collection of writings or the like; the whole body of literature on any subject’ or it is ‘a body of written or spoken material upon which a linguistic analysis is based’. According to them (1998, 4), this is the key characteristic of a corpus: it is not just a body of any texts from a particular author or a time period (unless, of course, that is what is being researched), but it is compiled with some linguistic principle in mind. Both corpora chosen for this research are corpora in the latter sense, and the linguistic principles based on which they have been compiled are introduced in the next section.

According to Aston and Burnard (1998, 5-6), the advantage that corpus study has over other methods of linguistic research, such as ‘introspection’, is that it provides researchers with examples of real language in many different registers, and from many different speakers. Even if the researchers themselves do not think that a particular word or structure is ever used in real language, by taking a look at a corpus they can find that other speakers really do use it (Aston and Burnard 1998, 5-6). However, a linguistic research does not have to be either introspective or corpus based, as the two complement each other rather nicely (McEnery and Wilson 2001, 25). Aston and Burnard (1998, 4-5) also note that there is a spectrum of different approaches towards linguistic research between the two methods: some linguists use

corpora as a reliable way to test their own intuition about linguistic phenomena, whereas others ignore their intuition altogether and conduct their research solely based on corpora. The study at hand is settled somewhere in the middle of the spectrum. I will use the corpus to find all the different complement patterns used with *submit*, but I will turn to intuition in analyzing the meanings of the corpus findings in order to figure out what meanings are attached to the different complement constructions.

There are also some problems that may arise in doing corpus research. Firstly, before starting the research, it must be assessed whether the corpus is appropriate for the particular research question (Meyer 2002, 100). After finding a suitable corpus, the researcher must find out how to extract the data they need from the corpus (Meyer 2002, 100). That means that the researcher must know what search strings to use in order to find all the relevant data from the corpus, but also in order to limit the number of irrelevant data coming up, for example words in the wrong word class. These problems in relation to this thesis will be discussed in the next section.

2.2 Discussion on the corpora used

2.2.1 The Corpus of Late Modern English Texts

In order to find genuine historical data, I have decided to use the extended version of the Corpus of the Late Modern English Texts, or the CLMET for short. The CLMET is a fairly large historical corpus, and it covers the period from 1710 to 1920. The corpus is divided into three sub-periods that each cover 70 years worth of data. The first part thus consists of texts from 1710-1780, the second part covers the years 1780-1850, and the third part the years from 1850-1920. In order to increase the homogeneity within each time period, all the corpus texts have been taken from authors born in similarly restricted time spans (De Smet 2005, 70). The first subcorpus contains texts from writers born between the years 1680-1750, the second one

from writers born in 1750-1820, and the last one's writers have been born in 1820-1890 (De Smet 2005, 71). De Smet (2005, 70), the maker of the corpus, says that this procedure helps bring into focus the historical trends and language development, because the authors included in each subcorpus belong to the same generation. De Smet (2005, 71) has also tried to avoid the problem of idiosyncratic language by limiting the contribution of any one author to 200,000 words. Also, De Smet (ibid.) has paid attention to maximizing the variation in genre and register by taking as much texts as possible from different genres and from authors of different sexes and backgrounds, but even after these precautions, he admits that the corpus is biased in some ways (2005, 79): it is still mostly made up of 'formal writings by highly schooled (and linguistically self-conscious) authors'.

The size of the extended version of the corpus is considerable: the first part consists of roughly 3,000,000, the second of 5,800,000 and the third of 6,200,000 words. The size of the corpus is essential for this research, because the linguistic item under examination is rather rare. The size should ensure that enough data can be collected from the CLMET. However, not all three subcorpora will be used here. The purpose of this thesis is to get an overview of the verb's development over centuries, so I have decided to collect data only from the first and the third parts of the corpus. They should provide a sufficient view of the verb's development during the time. The CLMET cannot be searched for all different conjugated forms of a verb just by using the infinitive, in this case *submit*. In order to get all instances of the verb in all its forms, the data must be gathered with four separate searches – one for each conjugated form: *submit*, *submits*, *submitted* and *submitting*. Most of these forms have no additional uses apart from the verbal one. Only the form *submitting* is used as an adjective as well. Because the gerundial form can be used as an adjective as well, great care must be taken in analyzing them, so that no adjectival uses are counted as verbs. Otherwise the search should yield only relevant tokens, and it should bring out all the instances of verbal *submit*.

Because of the size difference between the different corpora consulted here, a method must be introduced in order to make it easier to compare the results from different corpora. This method is called a normalized frequency. A normalized frequency shows how many tokens have been found in every 1,000,000 words of the corpus. For example, if a complement pattern shows up 20 times in the first part of the CLMET, which is three million words, we divide the number of tokens by 3, and thus we can find out how many times the pattern has come up in every 1,000,000 words. By counting this, we get $6.7 \rightarrow 20/3=6.66666\dots$ This would mean that the pattern has emerged 6.7 times in every million words. Thus it shows the relative frequency of the search string, making it easier to make comparisons between different corpora. For ease of reference, I will present the numeric results in this paper both as raw frequencies and normalized frequencies.

2.2.2 The British National Corpus

As the present research is a diachronic one, with an intention to compare historical use of *submit* with present day use, we will also need to employ a corpus that deals with present day language. The chosen corpus for this purpose is the British National Corpus, or the BNC for short. The BNC is similar to the CLMET in that it is monolingual, focusing on British English (Burnard 2009). It has also been fashioned along the same principles as the historical corpus: it is a general sample corpus (ibid.). This means that it includes texts of different styles and varieties of British English, and the texts included in it are samples of their authors' texts – that is, the contribution of a single writer has been limited to 45,000 words (ibid.) The corpus is a synchronic one, so it only contains data from a rather short time period, starting from 1960 and ending at 1993 (Burnard 2007). The size of the BNC overall is 100,000,000 words, 90% of which consist of written data and the rest of spoken material (Burnard 2009).

In the BNC, words have been tagged according to their part of speech, so there is no need to search for each conjugated form of *submit* separately. According to the Simple Query Syntax help (BNCweb 2010), which is a short instructions page found on the web page of the BNC, searching for {submit/V} will bring out all instances of verbal *submit* in the corpus.

As was stated in the previous subsection, despite De Smet's attempts to make the CLMET an unbiased corpus, it still is biased towards literary texts. In order to make the Present Day English corpus more comparable with the historical one, only texts from one written subsection are included in the research: the 'Imaginative Prose' section, which, in accordance with its name, consists of literary texts. The size of the subsection is nearly 16,500,000 words. In order to further increase comparability with the CLMET data, the search within that subsection has been restricted to authors of 25-60+ years of age, which corresponds to the age restrictions enforced in the CLMET. Also, the domicile of the authors was restricted to the United Kingdom and Ireland in order to get as much British English results as possible and to minimize the influence of other varieties of English. With these restrictions, the size of the corpus becomes approximately 6,200,000 words.

In this research, I will also examine data from the 'Spoken Texts' subcorpus, which contains approximately 10,500,000 words. It is not really directly comparable with the literary texts of the other corpora, but it will provide some valuable information on the subject from the point of view of language learners; spoken language is a significant part of language in general, and if we are to give ESL speakers any information on how this verb is correctly used, we need to examine its use in oral communication, too. In order to slightly increase the comparability of this subcorpus with the written corpora, the search has been restricted to speakers of British English, leaving the corpus' size at 3,000,000 words.

3 Complementation and other useful concepts

In this chapter, I will present ideas and concepts that may prove to be useful when studying the complementation of a verb. Firstly, I will discuss the difference between a complement and an adjunct, an important distinction to be made when studying complementation.

Secondly, I will introduce some factors that have a bearing on the choice of complementation.

And finally, I will make a short introduction of phrase structure analysis and rules, which are useful tools when examining and writing down sentence complements.

3.1 Complements vs. adjuncts

Sometimes the distinction between complements and adjuncts can be a thin red line, and there is some disagreement between grammarians as to where the line should be drawn (Huddleston and Pullum 2006, 219). However, as my research deals with verb complementation, it is imperative to make some distinction between them.

Generally speaking, the key difference between a complement and an adjunct is that the former is more closely related to the predicate verb (Huddleston and Pullum 2006, 219). This closeness can be seen in several things. Firstly, complements are licensed by the predicate. This means a verb only allows for – or licenses – certain types of complements (Huddleston and Pullum 2006, 219):

- 1) A. For this reason she *thought* him unreliable.
B. *For this reason she *said* him unreliable.

In 1A, the verb *think* licenses for a complement of the type: *him unreliable* (Huddleston and Pullum 2006, 219). Sentence B on the other hand, is ungrammatical because its predicate does not allow for the same type of a complement (ibid). This distinction is not made with adjuncts – the same adjunct, like *for this reason*, can be used with all verbs (ibid).

Secondly, adjuncts are always optional, whereas complements are sometimes obligatory (Huddleston and Pullum 2006, 221).

Thirdly, the predicate of a sentence assigns a thematic role to each of its complements, which means that the complement derives some of its meaning from the verb (Huddleston and Pullum 2006, 227).

- 2) A. John is in the kitchen.
B. John writes a letter in the kitchen.

In 2A the prepositional phrase *in the kitchen* is a complement to the predicate verb. Thus it takes a thematic role from the predicate: it is the *location* where *being* occurs. In 2B however, *in the kitchen* is an adjunct – it only gives additional information in the sentence, and it is not obligatory. Thus, it is not assigned a role; it is just an adverbial of place.

3.2 Other factors bearing on the choice of complements

3.2.1 The Great Complement Shift

Over the past centuries, the sentential complementation system in the English language has been through a massive change, which is now known as the Great Complement Shift (Rohdenburg 2006, 143). This is particularly interesting from the point of view of this thesis because it is closely connected with the research question at hand, which deals with the development of complementation in the past centuries. According to Rohdenburg (2006, 143), the most important change has been the use of gerunds as a new type of non-finite complement with the expense of *to*-infinitives and *that*-clauses:

- 3) She was used/accustomed to do it → He was used/accustomed to doing it.

Other changes brought on by the Great Complement Shift include the following: firstly, the use of marked and unmarked infinitives has changed (Rohdenburg 2006, 144):

- 4) He helped (to) establish the system.

Secondly, changes in dependent interrogative clauses, so that finite clauses have been replaced by infinitives (ibid.):

- 5) She was at a loss (about) what she should do. → She was at a loss (about) what to do.

Thirdly, changes in the control potential of infinitival complements (Rohdenburg 2006, 145):

- 6) A. He promised his friend to return immediately.
- B. He promised his friend (that) he would return immediately.

This means that while in the past the reference of an infinitive complement may have been clear in sentences like 6A above, in Present Day English, the reference has to be clarified by using a finite complement.

3.2.2 The complexity principle and *horror aequi*

The complementation of verbs is also affected by two principles that, in some cases, may have sped up or slowed down the Great Complement Shift: the complexity principle and *horror aequi*. The complexity principle states that sentences that are cognitively more complex prefer to take grammatical structures that are more explicit (Rohdenburg 2003, 205). According to Rohdenburg (2003, 205), these cognitively complex environments are more likely to 1) provide a good place to emerge for new, cognitively explicit constructions, thus speeding up the process of the complements shift, and also to 2) hold on to the use of explicit but obsolescent patterns, thus slowing the process down. Sentences that are categorized as more complex include for example negated sentences and sentences involving extraction or insertion (Rohdenburg 2006, 147-148):

- 7) She advised that it (should) not be done in advance. (From Rohdenburg 2006, 149)
- 8) This is the system that he helped (to) establish. (From Rohdenburg 2006, 152)

The other principle, *horror aequi*, also has some bearing on the choice of complements. The term is Latin, and can be translated roughly as *the dread of similarity*. True to its name, the principle of *horror aequi* means that there is a tendency to avoid the near adjacency of similar linguistic structures (Rohdenburg 2003, 205). Rohdenburg (2006, 156) says that this is shown, for example, in the avoidance of complementing the phrase *to look upon something as something* with a comparative phrase *as good as*: *to look upon this as as good as that*.

Presumably, in such environments there might be a tendency to use even old and obsolete patterns.

3.2.3 Semantic factors

In the case of verbs that allow for several different kinds of complement patterns, there must also be other reasons for sometimes choosing one pattern and another pattern at other times. According to Bolinger (1968, 127), this reason is that the use of different grammatical patterns, however similar they might seem, always spells a difference in meaning. Having many different patterns that did not lead to any difference in meaning would be uneconomical in any language; speakers of that language would have to learn several patterns without gaining anything from it, other than linguistic variance.

Bolinger (1968, 126) illustrates this with the following sentences:

- 9) A. It's nice playing golf in the rain.
B. It's nice to play golf in the rain.

The difference in form between the two sentences is that the sentential complement is a gerund in one and a *to*-infinitive in the other. This results in a difference in meaning: the first sentence could be said by someone actually playing golf in the rain, but the second one is a general observation (Bolinger 1968, 126). Today, this principle is usually called Bolinger's principle.

3.3 Phrase structure analysis and rules

Another possible problem in this research is analyzing and writing down complement constructions. Explaining the constructions with full, complete sentences can produce long and tedious sentences, and it would make the research harder to follow. The complementation of shorter and simpler sentences, such as *I made coffee* can be explained fairly easily, as they

are only complemented by a single noun; a noun phrase followed by a verb phrase, which consists of a verb and a noun phrase. Both noun phrases consist of a noun.

However, a sentence does not have to be much more complex to make its analysis harder. Let us consider the following example:

10) Mary had a little lamb.

This phrase can be described in the following way: it is a noun phrase followed by a verb phrase. The noun phrase consists of a noun. The verb phrase consists of a verb, followed by a noun phrase (which consists of an article followed by an adjective and a noun). The part in parentheses marks the complement. This monster of an analysis includes a lot of information about the structure of the sentence, but it is slow to process and understand. In addition, it only gives a limited view into the complementation of *have*: the verb's complement does not always contain an article, an adjective and a noun. Sometimes it can be, for example, a pronoun, mass noun or another verb.

However, there are two tools that can help with this problem. Firstly, sentence structure analysis can help compress sentences into shorter passages by using common abbreviations of the constituents' names. The ones that are the most common according to Yule (2003, 105), are presented in Table 1 below.

S	sentence	N	noun	Pro	pronoun
PN	proper noun	V	verb	Adj	adjective
Art	article	Adv	adverb	Prep	preposition
NP	noun phrase	VP	verb phrase	PP	prepositional phrase

Table 1 The most common abbreviations in syntactic description

Using these abbreviations, the description of example sentence 3 can be made shorter:

$$S \rightarrow [[NP][VP]] \quad \text{or} \quad S \rightarrow [[[N]]^{NP1} [[V [[Art][Adj][N]]^{NP2}]^{VP}]$$

In the latter example above, the superscripts NP¹, NP² and VP denote what kind of phrases they are: as Table 1 explains, NPs denote noun phrases and VP means a verb phrase. The numbers in NP¹ and NP² denote their order – NP¹ is the first NP that occurs in the sentence, while NP² is the second. The case would be a little different, if the sentence was a reflexive one:

- 11) Mary got herself a little lamb.
 $S \rightarrow [[N]^{NP1} [[V[N]^{NP1+refl} [[Art][Adj][N]]^{NP2}]^{VP}]$

In sentence 11, the verb is ditransitive and it takes two objects. The first object is a reflexive one and refers back to the same entity as the subject. In order to make obvious this connection between the two NPs, the latter one is tagged with the same number as the subject – NP¹. To make it even clearer that the second NP¹ is reflexive, I have added ^{+refl} after the number tag: NP^{1+refl}. This is the policy that will be followed all through this thesis.

Another advantage gained by using phrase structure analysis is that phrase structure rules state that these abbreviated sentence analyses not only represent the one sentence they have been fashioned after, but they also represent a whole number of other similar sentences (Yule 2003, 106). There are also other rules that help create rules for even more sentences:

- NP → { Art (Adj) N
 { PN
 VP → V NP (PP) (Adv)
 PP → Prep NP

The structure of the VP, however, is defined by the predicate verb: intransitive verbs do not take any objects, and with them there is no NP in the VP (Haegeman 1991, 32-33).

Applying these rules to example sentence 10 above we can arrive at the conclusion that the NPs *Mary* and *a little lamb* can be substituted with, for example, proper nouns. The adjective in the latter is also optional.

This tool is thus quite useful in studying sentence structure. It enables us to make generalizations about the patterns that are used with *submit*, rather than to just make a list of words that frequently follow the verb.

In this thesis, the part of sentence under examination is especially the complements of *submit*. Thus I will not use phrase structure analysis as such, but slightly altered. The first alteration is that I will always use two hyphens (--) to demonstrate the place of the verb *submit* in the phrase. The second alteration is that I will not go into the structure of noun and verb phrases. That is because it is not of any great importance, whether the verb is complemented by a proper noun, a pronoun or an article+adjective+noun. It is enough to state that it is a noun phrase. Only when the verb takes a reflexive pronoun as a complement, I will pay special attention to the content of the noun phrase, and this is because there seems to be a different meaning for it than for a non-reflexive noun phrase (consider for example *I submit the paper to them* as opposed to *I submit myself to them*.)

4 Earlier work on *submit*

Before going into the corpus data on *submit*, I will take a look into some earlier work to see what has already been said on the matter of its complementation. In this chapter, I will introduce several sources where the verb has been discussed.

4.1 *Submit* in dictionaries

Larger dictionaries tend to be quite thorough in the way they describe the usage of words, and are likely to provide us with a discussion of *submit*. For the purpose of this research I have chosen to look into two dictionaries to find out how they instruct their readers to use the verb under examination. One of the dictionaries is a comprehensive one – the *Oxford English Dictionary* – and one of them is more concise – the *Collins Cobuild Advanced Learner's Dictionary*.

4.1.1 *Submit* in the *Oxford English Dictionary*

The comprehensive dictionary I chose to use is the *Oxford English Dictionary* (hence referred to as the OED). It is a large dictionary and it lists all the meanings of a word - in the present as well as in the past. In the case of verbs, it also gives extensive information on their complement structures. Due to these facts, it is a very useful tool for my research.

The OED finds eight different meanings for the verb *submit*, and those eight meanings also have several sub-meanings. However, the meanings only have slight differences: they are all related to its Latin origin *submitto/summitto* – *to lower*. The OED divides all the meanings into three larger categories, and these categories I will go through in the next three subsections.

4.1.1.1 The first group of meanings

The first meaning group that the OED lists consist of three submeanings, which all share the meaning of *surrendering or subjecting oneself to something or placing oneself under the power or authority of someone else*. The group is reflexive in meaning: *submitting* is something the speaker does to themselves. According to the OED however, the use of the reflexive pronoun as a direct object is optional:

- 1) The persecutors of those who *submit* themselves. (1638 Baker tr. *Balzac's Lett.*)
- 2) That the greater part of the shire *submitted* easily after the fall of the Capital. (1871 Freeman *Norm. Conq.*)

The OED says that the power or authority that is being submitted to is expressed by a prepositional complement – preposition *to*, followed by a noun phrase: [*to*+NP]. This complement is optional, just like the reflexive pronoun.

- 3) *Submit* yourself quietly to the law. (1909 Oxenham *Greatheart Gillian*)
- 4) What must the King doe now: must he *submit*? (1593 Shaks *Rich.*)

If both objects are omitted this way it seems to result to a shift in meaning. According to the OED, it can carry an additional meaning of *being submissive*, if the verb is used with no complements. The meaning shifts from an actual action to more of a mental state or an attitude:

- 5) 'Miss Marie', as Dinah always called her young mistress... found it easier to *submit* than contend. (1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.*)

The dictionary also acknowledges the use of other prepositions in the complement. Constructions with *under* and *unto* have also been in use, but have now become obsolete. The latest example sentences that the OED has given for these constructions are from the beginning of the 17th century:

- 6) They were enforced to *submitte* themselues vnder the protection of the Florentines. (1601 R. Johnson *Kingd. & Commw.*)
- 7) Your noble self ... Wee thus *submit* unto. (1608 Shaks. *Per.*)

Other obsolete complementation patterns are the sentential complements: [*to*-infinitive] or [*to*+gerund]. The OED does not give example sentences of the latter, but the last entries found of the former in the dictionary are actually relatively recent, from the mid-19th century:

- 8) I..affected gladness when he came, *submitted* to hear when he was by me. (1852 Thackeray *Esmond*)

4.1.1.2 The second group of meanings

The second meaning group in the dictionary can be summarized as having to do with *subjecting someone or something else under the power or judgement of others*. Unlike in the first group, here the activity of the main verb is not something that the speaker does to themselves, but to others.

Apparently, the use of this verb in the meaning of *forcing someone* is now rare. Instead, the dictionary states that this meaning is used more often in the sense of *leaving something in the consideration or judgement of others*:

- 9) How far I have succeeded...I shall *submit* to the candid reader. (1749 Fielding *Tom Jones*)

The OED also says that this complement pattern of the verb is especially frequent in legal parlance. In Scottish law, it is used without any complements, intransitively or as an absolute. It may also be used in the sense of *to say*. Then it takes a *that*-clause as a complement, or sometimes even an indirect object [*to*+NP] and a *that*-clause:

- 10) Counsel, in concluding his speech, *submitted* that the plaintiff was entitled to recover damages. (1907 *Standard* 19 Jan. 4/4)
 11) He humbly presumed to submit to His Majesty, that, before any act was done [etc.]. (1818 Cruise *Digest* (ed. 2) III. 226)

This use, too, is more frequent in legal parlance, although it may be found in other registers, too.

The verb's complementation is different in this meaning than in the first one. Here, the direct object is not optional: if it is omitted from the sentence, it will be understood to be co-

referential with the subject of the sentence. Consider for example omitting the direct object marked off by brackets from the illustration that the OED gives of this pattern:

12) Submitting [all things] to desire. (1850 Tennyson *In Mem. cxiv.*)

If the object was omitted, the sentence would be understood differently: *submitting oneself to desire*. According to the OED, in this sense the complement is rarely omitted, as well.

4.1.1.3 The third group of meanings

The third group in the OED is more literal in meaning than the other two. It has the meaning of *lowering, laying down or becoming lower*. This usage is presumed to be completely obsolete now, and the last entries in the dictionary are from around the 17th century:

13) My lance, *submitted*. (1611 Chapman *Iliad*)

14) Sometimes the Hill *submits* itself a while In small Descents. (1662 Dryden *To Ld. Chanc.*)

As this meaning is transitive, it is not possible to delete the direct object. Also, this meaning does not seem to take a complement as eagerly as the other two. This may be due to the fact that it is so literal in meaning: the act of lowering does not need another constituent apart from the object being lowered.

4.1.1.4 Summary of complements suggested by the Oxford English Dictionary

All in all, the OED suggested several possible complementation patterns for the verb. For ease of reading, I have made a summary of all the patterns in Table 2 below. The table lists all the different complementation patterns that the OED suggests for *submit*. It also shows which patterns are connected with which meaning group. As the table shows, the first meaning group is the one that has by far the most variation in the different complementation patterns, although there is some variation in the second group as well.

	The meaning	Suggested patterns
I	Refl. and intr. To place oneself under the control of a person in authority or power. To surrender oneself to judgement.	[[NP ¹]-[NP ^{1+refl}][to+NP ²]]
		[[NP ¹]-[to+NP ²]]
		[[NP ¹]-[]]
		[[NP ¹]-[NP ^{1+refl}]]
		OBSOLETE [[NP ¹]-[NP ^{1+refl}][under+NP ²]]
		OBSOLETE [[NP ¹]-[NP ^{1+refl}][unto+NP ²]]
		OBSOLETE [[NP ¹]-[NP ^{1+refl}][to-infinitive]]
		OBSOLETE [[NP ¹]-[to-infinitive]]
		OBSOLETE [[NP ¹]-[to+gerund]]
II	Trans. To bring under a certain rule or government; to cause to yield to an authority. To subject to a condition, treatment or operation. To bring under someone's notice or consideration.	[[NP ¹]-[NP ²][to+NP ³]]
		IN LEGAL PARLANCE [[NP ¹]-[NP ²]]
	To say	[[NP ¹]-[that-clause]] [[NP ¹]-[to+NP ²][that-clause]]
III	OBSOLETE (?) To lay down or lower	OBSOLETE (?) [[NP ¹]-[NP ²]]

Table 2 The complements of *submit* as listed in the OED. The Roman numbers represent the three meaning groups.

As was explained in Section 3.3 above, the numbers that are placed after each phrase tag in the table represent the reference of the phrase. For example the NP¹ in [[NP¹]-[NP^{1+refl}][to+NP²]] means that they both refer to the same entity. Thus, the sentence would have to be a reflexive one:

15) [You]^{NP1} should submit [yourself]^{NP1+refl} to [the law]^{NP2}.

Their numbering is determined by the order of the phrases: the first NP in the sentence is NP¹ and so are all the other NP's that refer to the same entity, the second NP is NP² and so on.

4.1.2 *Submit* in the Collins Cobuild Advanced Learner's English Dictionary

In addition to the OED, I decided to search for *submit* in a smaller dictionary as well – namely, *the Collins Cobuild Advance Learner's English Dictionary* (referred to as the Cobuild from now on). The advantage it has over the OED is that, due to its limited capacity, it only gives the bare essentials on a word. Thus it only gives an idea of what the core meanings and uses of *submit* are, at least by today's standards.

As Table 3 below shows, the Cobuild only lists two meanings and two complement patterns for *submit*. The first meaning relates to the first meaning group as listed by the OED. The second meaning relates to one part of the OED's second meaning group.

	The meaning	Suggested patterns
1.	To unwillingly allow something to be done to you, or to do what someone else wants, for example because you are not powerful enough to resist.	[NP ¹][to+NP ²]
2.	To formally send a proposal, report or request to someone who can consider it or decide about it.	[[NP ¹][NP ²][to+NP ³]]

Table 3 The meanings and complements of *submit* as listed in the Cobuild.

Understandably, the meanings that the Cobuild leaves out are the ones that the OED said are obsolete: the non-reflexive meaning of *forcing someone under the rule of someone else* and the literal meaning of *lowering something*. What is interesting to see is if these meanings that the Cobuild lists – the ones that would be relevant to a modern English speaker – were already emerging as the most common ones in the historical data, but also if these meanings really are the most relevant ones for the verb today.

4.2 *Submit* in grammar books

Another source of information on the complementation of verbs are grammar books, four of which I have chosen to take a look at: ones written by Poutsma, Quirk et al., Huddleston and Pullum, and Biber et al., as all these provide some insight into the complementation patterns of the verb. Each of them considers different aspects of the verb's complementation. In this section, I will introduce the ideas that they raise on *submit* and its complements.

In his grammar book, Poutsma talks about the use of reflexive pronouns. He says that sometimes the context of a sentence makes it adequately clear that the object of the sentence is the same as the subject (Poutsma 1914, 845). In these cases, it is possible to omit the reflexive pronoun without changing the meaning of the sentence. With *submit* the omission is frequent or at least occasional (ibid).

- 16) We were a little afraid of Peggotty and *submitted* ourselves in most things to her direction. (Dick., *Cop.*)
- 17) There was nothing to it but to *submit*. (McCarthy, *Short. Hist.*)

This much is consistent with what the OED says about the verb. However, Poutsma's suggests that, in the case of *submit*, there is a tendency to only omit the pronoun when the indirect object is left unexpressed as well (1914, 853). The OED does not make such a distinction. There seems to be a conflict in the information that the two sources give on the matter. This is then one interesting question that my research may provide an answer to.

Huddleston and Pullum touch on the complementation of *submit* in their discussion of verb transitivity. They distinguish ditransitive and monotransitive verbs. The former ones are verbs that take two direct objects, whereas the latter ones only take one. Some verbs, such as *give* in 18 and 19 below, can be used in either way. Sentence number 18 is ditransitive, whereas number 19 is monotransitive:

- 18) I gave her the key.
- 19) I gave the key to her.

In monotransitive sentences, the indirect object is usually expressed by a prepositional complement, headed by either *to* or *for*. Which preposition is used as the head of the phrase is determined by the semantic role of the indirect object: *to* is used with recipients and *for* with beneficiaries. (Huddleston and Pullum 2006, 308-309). Huddleston and Pullum define *submit* as a monotransitive verb (ibid). They also define the semantic role of the indirect object as a recipient (ibid). Thus the only structure they acknowledge for the verb is

[[NP¹]-[NP²][*to*+NP³].

Unlike the previous grammarians, Quirk et al. and Biber et al. examine *submit* from quite a limited perspective. They examine the complements it takes when it is used in the meaning of communicating. For Quirk et al. (2004, 1180-1181) it suffices to state that *submit* is a public factual verb – a verb of speaking and communicating – and that it is complemented by a *that*-clause.

Biber et al. concur with their view, but they also suggest (2007, 666) that the verb may have another complement pattern: [[NP¹]-[*to*+NP²][*that*-clause]].

A compilation of the different constructions that the grammarians suggested as possible can be found in Table 4 below.

The reflexive pronoun can be omitted, at least if the prepositional complement is omitted as well.	[[NP ¹]-]
	[[NP ¹]-[NP ^{1+refl}][<i>to</i> +NP ²]]
	[[NP ¹]-[<i>to</i> +NP ²]]??
A monotransitive verb takes a direct object and a prepositional complement [<i>to</i> +NP]	[[NP ¹]-[NP ²][<i>to</i> +NP ³]]
A factual verb takes a <i>that</i> -clause complement, or a prepositional complement followed by a <i>that</i> -clause complement.	[[NP ¹]-[<i>that</i> -clause]]
	[[NP ¹]-[<i>to</i> +NP ²][<i>that</i> -clause]]

Table 4 The complements of *submit* as listed in the grammar books.

Table 4 shows that the list of complements suggested in the grammar books is shorter than that which was suggested in the OED. The first three constructions seem to relate to the first meaning group – reflexive usage. The last three on the other hand all relate to the second one. None of the grammarians has then taken the third meaning group – the literal meaning – into account. This is natural though, as the OED described the last meaning group as one that is not really used anymore.

5 *Submit* in the historical data

5.1 Complementation in the first part of the CLMET

All in all, in the first part of the CLMET, there were 174 instances of *submit* – or 58 instances per every 1,000,000 words. A glance at these tokens shows that complementation patterns used in actual language seem to differ from those suggested by the dictionaries and grammars. According to Table 5 below, there is one complementation pattern that is by far more common than any other. Well over half the tokens – 114 tokens all in all, or 38 per million words – have had the direct object omitted, and thus are only complemented by the indirect object [*to*+NP]:

- 1) They meet, they speak, they grumble, and finally *submit* to whatever the King orders. (1746-71 Chesterfield *Letters to his Son on the Art...*)

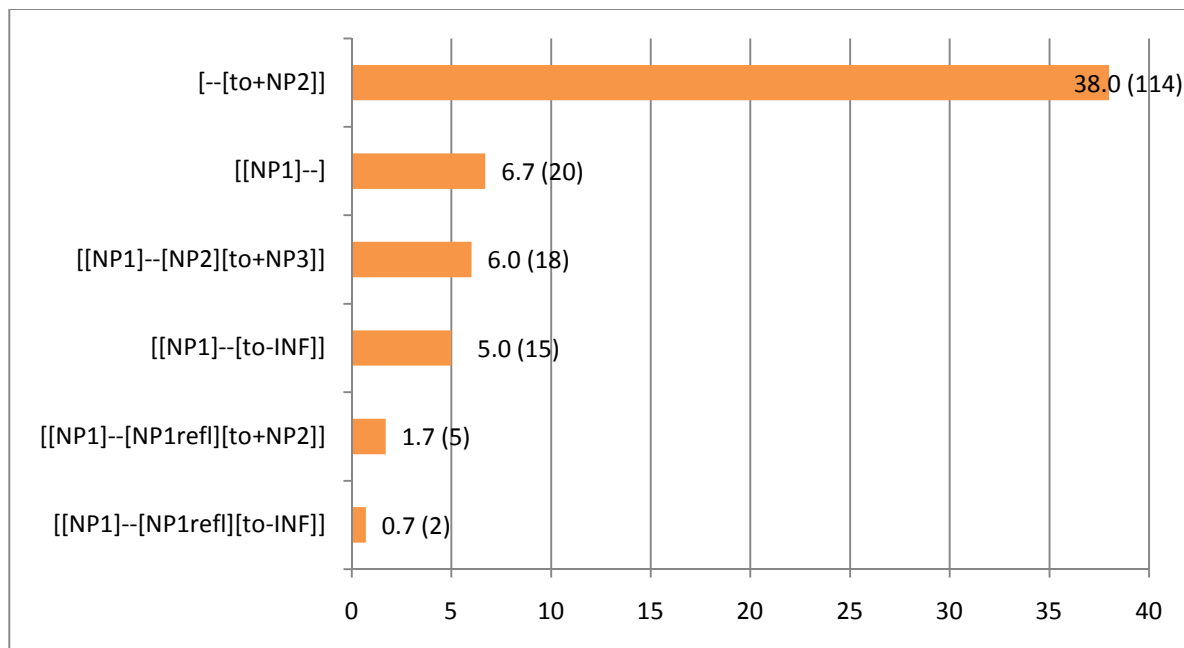


Table 5 The frequencies of the complementation patterns found in the corpus data of CLMET Part 1. The first number after each column represents the normalized frequency of tokens found in the corpus. The number in parentheses represents the actual number of tokens found in the corpus.

In Section 4.2, I noted that there was an inconsistency in information on this matter between the OED and Poutsma. According to the OED, it is possible to omit the direct object

and leave the indirect one in the sentence. Poutsma on the other hand says that this might be possible, but that there is a tendency not to do it. My corpus findings strongly support the OED's opinion. Indeed, in the 18th century data, this kind of complementation is not only found to exist, but it is found to be the dominant complementation pattern.

Table 5 shows that the second most common pattern was one where all the complements had been dropped, [[NP¹]-]. Even though it was the second most common construction, it still only accounted for 20 tokens, or 6.7 tokens per a million words. That is only one sixth of the amount of the most common patterns.

- 2) ... but he has been so beaten in the cabinet council, that in appearance he *submits*. (1735-1748 Walpole *Letters 1735-1748*)

The third and fourth most common patterns yielded relatively many tokens: 18 and 15 respectively (6 and 5 as normalized frequencies). They were [[NP¹]-[NP²][*to*+NP³]] and [[NP¹]-[*to*-infinitive]]:

- 3) I must beg leave to *submit* one more thing to the consideration of the visitors... (1769-1776 Reynolds *Seven Discourses on Art*)
 4) ... whilst he is performing these operations, or the world will not *submit* to be handled by him. (1749 Fielding *Tom Jones*)

The two of the least used constructions, however, only amounted to a few occurrences each: five and two tokens, or 1.7 and 0.7 per million words. They were reflexive uses

[[NP¹]-[NP^{1+refl}][*to*+NP²]] and [[NP¹]-[NP^{1+refl}][*to*-infinitive]] respectively:

- 5) I *submit* myself frankly to an examination of this kind. (1739-1740 Hume *Treatise of Human Nature*)
 6) Well, for once, I'll *submit* myself to tell you, hussy, said he to me... (1740 Richardson *Pamela*)

All in all, there were not that many different patterns used with *submit* in the 18th century. There are only six different patterns that were used in the corpus data, five of which are relatively rare. The OED and the grammars listed a few more possible patterns for the verb than that. At least complement constructions with prepositions *unto* or *under* –

[[NP¹]-[*unto*+NP²]] and [[NP¹]-[*under*+NP²]] – are not found in the material. This was, however, to be expected as the OED determined them obsolete. The structure with a *that*-clause complement is also missing from the corpus data. This is more surprising than the missing of the prepositional constructions, as the OED deems *that*-clause complements still in use today. However, the earliest example that the OED gives of this construction is quite new – from 1818. This could mean that the construction was not in use in the 18th century, but only came into use after that period. If this is true, I should find examples of this complement pattern when I examine the data from the third part of the CLMET.

According to Table 5, there were other complement constructions found in the corpus that were deemed obsolete by the OED: [[NP¹]-[*to*-infinitive]] and [[NP¹]-[NP^{1+refl}]][*to*-infinitive]]:

- 7) ... she would not *submit* to be taught by a child ... (1749 Fielding *The Governess*)
- 8) Well, for once, I'll *submit* myself to tell you, hussy, said he to me, you may stay a fortnight longer, till I see my sister Davers... (1740 Richardson *Pamela*)

However, they only became obsolete after the time when these texts were written, so finding them in the data was not surprising either.

Another complement construction that my background material listed for the verb was a gerundial complement [[[NP¹]-[*to*+gerund]], but it was not found in the corpus data.

5.1.1 The use of different complements in 1710-1780

Now I have answered the question of what complements did *submit* take in the 18th century data. Another question that could be asked here is why it takes just those complements and not some others. One could think that reflexive non-sentential complement constructions such as [[NP¹]-[NP^{1+refl}]][*to*+NP²]], [[NP¹]-[*to*+NP²]] and [[NP¹]-] are basically the same. Some of them have just had one or several constituents omitted. The same applies to constructions with sentential complements: [[NP¹]-[*to*-infinitive]] and [[NP¹]-[NP^{1+refl}]][*to*-infinitive]].

However, according to Bolinger's principle (see Subsection 3.2.3 above) a difference in structure always makes a difference in meaning. Thus, it can be assumed that there must be a reason why all these similar constructions are used. Assumedly, the reason is that they each carry slightly different meanings. In this Subsection, I will examine sentences where these different structures are used. Based on the sentences, I will then attempt to describe which meanings some of the structures carry, and how they differ from each other.

5.1.2 The use of non-sentential complements in 1710-1780

In this subsection, my intention is to examine the corpus sentences, where there are different non-sentential complements used. I will start by examining the reflexive constructions: $[[NP^1]-[to+NP^2]]$, $[[NP^1]-[NP^{1+refl}][to+NP^2]]$ and $[[NP^1]-]$, and move on to the single non-reflexive construction in the corpus. The reason why I categorize all the constructions listed above as reflexive, even though not all of them have a reflexive pronoun as an object, comes from Poutsma. As was explained Section 4.2, it is possible to sometimes omit a reflexive pronoun without changing the meaning of a sentence. It is not possible to omit a non-reflexive object, however, so any constructions of *submit*, where there is no direct object, are to be understood as reflexive in meaning, even if they are not so in structure. This will be the policy maintained all through the research.

At first, the differences in meaning between these different reflexive constructions seem quite unnoticeable. Yet, comparing different sentences where they have been used reveals some subtle differences between them. Firstly, I examined the sentences where the main verb was only complemented by a prepositional complement: $[[NP^1]-[to+NP^2]]$. Closer inspection revealed a common feature in the complements. Most of the NPs in them seem to deal with *authorities, laws, punishments*, and generally things that bind and constrict people, or are disagreeable to them:

- 9) And what philosophers could possibly *submit* to so rigid a rule? (1779 Hume *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*)
- 10) ... no man will *submit* to any regulations inconvenient to himself ... (1740-41 Johnson *Parliamentary Debates 1*)
- 11) ... if I would not renounce my heretical errors, and *submit* to such penance as the church should think fit to prescribe. (1751 Smollett *The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle*)

The theme of disagreeable things can be seen throughout the corpus data. The following are a few examples of the NPs found in the verb's prepositional complements: *this degradation, popery and slavery, hourly grievances* and *those ignominious terms*.

Certainly, there are those complements, whose noun phrases do not carry a negative meaning in themselves. For example, personal pronouns are commonly used as NPs here. There are even those NPs that, in other contexts, would be downright positive, for example *to your pleasure*. However, even in these cases the sentences seem to be somewhat negative in meaning: *submitting* is not done happily and voluntarily, but is a forced behaviour:

- 12) No way is open but the third and last, --to comply with the American spirit as necessary; or if you please, to *submit* to it as a necessary evil. (1775 Burke *On Conciliation with America*)
- 13) 'Ah, my Lord! he is your creature, your servant; he puts his fate into your hands, and will *submit* to your pleasure in all things!' (1777 Reeve *The Old English Baron*)

Another case in point that supports this idea is that *submit* often seems to be collocated with verbs such as *oblige* or *force*:

- 14) ... that all inferior offices were obliged to *submit* to his will ... (1735-48 Walpole *Letters 1735-1748*)
- 15) ... Mr. Betterton was forced to *submit* to outward applications ... (1753 Cibber *The Lives of the Poets 3*)

Both these patterns are reflexive, so they relate to the first meaning group. All the meanings that the OED listed for this group dealt with *subjecting yourself to an authority or person*. Thus it is not surprising that these sentences carry a negative connotation; in most western societies being forced to yield to someone else's authority seems to be regarded as a naturally unpleasant thing.

However, there seems to be a complementation pattern that softens the unpleasantness raised by the idea of *submitting*. Sentences where neither object has been omitted – [[NP¹]-[NP^{1+refl}][to+NP²]] – feel a lot more positive in meaning than the other two types I have mentioned above. In these sentences, *submit* seems to occur with words that express voluntariness and free will, such as *be ready* or *let*:

- 16) ... but soon thought it was some kind of fairy sent to protect her, and was very ready to *submit* herself to her guidance and protection. (1749 Fielding *The Governess*)
- 17) ... 'let us *submit* ourselves to heaven ...' (1764 Walpole *The Castle of Otranto*)

However, this construction was unfortunately rare in the CLMET; only 5 tokens were found in the corpus, making its normalized frequency 1.7. Due to this, the relation between these two constructions still needs to be studied further in order to reach conclusive results.

The construction where both the objects have been omitted – [[NP¹]-] – was relatively common in the corpus data. As Table 5 above shows, it was the second most common construction with 20 tokens, or 6.7 tokens per million. The OED suggested that this pattern carried the meaning of *being submissive*. This suggestion is supported by the corpus data. Most example sentences in this group do not deal with the *action of submitting to something* but rather a *mental state of being submissive*:

- 18) But the extent of a city serves only to render it more accessible to the enemy: Rome had long since been accustomed to *submit* on the approach of a conqueror... (1776 Gibbon *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire 1*)

Example sentence 18 seems to corroborate the notion of *submitting* being an ongoing state (or a repetitive action), rather than a single action – in it, *submitting* is said to be something that the Romans are *used to*. In the corpus data, however, there also seems to emerge another slightly different meaning for this construction, which is *assuming a state of submission*. This meaning differs from the previous one in that here the state of mind is not a present one for the subject of the sentence, but rather a state he/she is going to assume or is asked to assume:

- 19) ... for he apprehended a fever was coming on, which he would have prevented by bleeding, but Jones would not *submit*, declaring he would lose no more blood... (1749 Fielding *Tom Jones*)

However, this was not always the reason why both the complements had been omitted. Sometimes they had just been mentioned in the previous sentence, thus making it unnecessary to repeat them. This can be seen in sentence number 20 below. There the object being submitted to is presented in the first sentence, but not repeated in the next one:

- 20) ... think I can thus tamely submit to such heterodox doctrines?’—‘What,’ replied the ‘Squire, as if in a passion, ‘not *submit!* ...’ (1766 goldsmith *The Vicar of Wakefield*)

There also seems to be another meaning that triggers the omission of both complements. Quite often in this group, the verb seems to have the meaning of *complying with someone’s requests*:

- 21) ... you shall say the word, and I’ll *submit*. (1710 Richardson *Pamela*)
 22) ... if the queen, her mother, thought it her duty to take the crown, she would cheerfully *submit* ... (1749 Fielding *The Governess*)

In addition to the reflexive patterns, the data also contained one type of non-reflexive monotransitive pattern: [[NP¹]-[NP²][to+NP³]]:

- 23) Notwithstanding the justice of the Persian cause, he was empowered to *submit* the present differences to the decision of the emperors themselves... (1776 Gibbon *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire 1*)

The obvious difference this pattern has compared to the reflexive one is that here the object of submission is not the subject of the sentence. However, there seems to be another difference in meaning between the reflexive and non-reflexive patterns. Whereas the former ones mostly deal with *submitting people to power and authority*, the latter ones are almost uniquely concerned with *submitting things and ideas to someone’s attention, consideration or approval*. This is in accordance with what the OED said about the verb’s modern usage (see Subsection 4.1.1.2 above). It would seem that this trend has been emerging already in the 18th century.

5.1.3 The use of sentential complements in 1710-1780

As for constructions with sentential complements, they were unfortunately rare. Only constructions with *to*-infinitive were found with the verb. There were 15 tokens of this kind found in the corpus, so its normalized frequency was 5:

- 24) ... for it is not to be supposed that a prince of high spirit will tamely *submit* to be thwarted in all his measures... (1771 Smollett *The Expedition of Humphrey Clinker*)

Construction with a direct object – [[NP¹][NP^{1+refl}][*to*-infinitive]] – was also found in the corpus, but its normalized frequency was only 0.7. In a corpus of this size, that means two tokens.

- 25) Well, for once, I'll *submit* myself to tell you, hussy, said he to me... (1740 Richardson *Pamela*)

Due to this infrequency of variance with infinitival complements, it is not possible to make conclusive comparisons between the two constructions.

An interesting notion that can be considered, however, is the absence of gerund complements. As I mentioned in Subsection 4.1.1 above, both are possible complements for *submit*: [[NP¹][*to*-infinitive]] and [[NP¹][*to*+gerund]]. Also, although they are now obsolete, they would not have been so in the 18th century. Thus, I would have expected to find examples of both in the corpus data.

A possible answer to this absence is provided by Uwe Vossberg. In his article, *Cognitive Complexity and the Establishment of –ing constructions*, he studies the use of *–ing*-forms as complements of retrospective verbs. He says that the use of *–ing*-complements became much more common with writers born around 1770 than it had been with older writers. All the writers in the corpus were born 1680-1750 (De Smet 2005, 71), so they would have all been of the age group that would not have used *–ing*-forms as frequently.

Certainly, one must keep in mind that in his article Vossberg only makes this claim about retrospective verbs, of which *submit* is not one. Thus, further research should be

conducted before one could say for certain if this phenomenon would also have occurred with *submit*. However, one could imagine that if 18th century speakers of English shunned the *ing*-form with one type of verbs, they would have done so with other types as well.

5.2 Complementation in the third part of the CLMET

Coming to the turn of the 20th century, *submit* seems to have lost some of its popularity. The third part of the CLMET contained all in all 256 instances of the verb *submit*, or 41.3 instances in every 1,000,000 words. In the 18th century data the corresponding number had been 58, so the verb has become quite significantly less common.

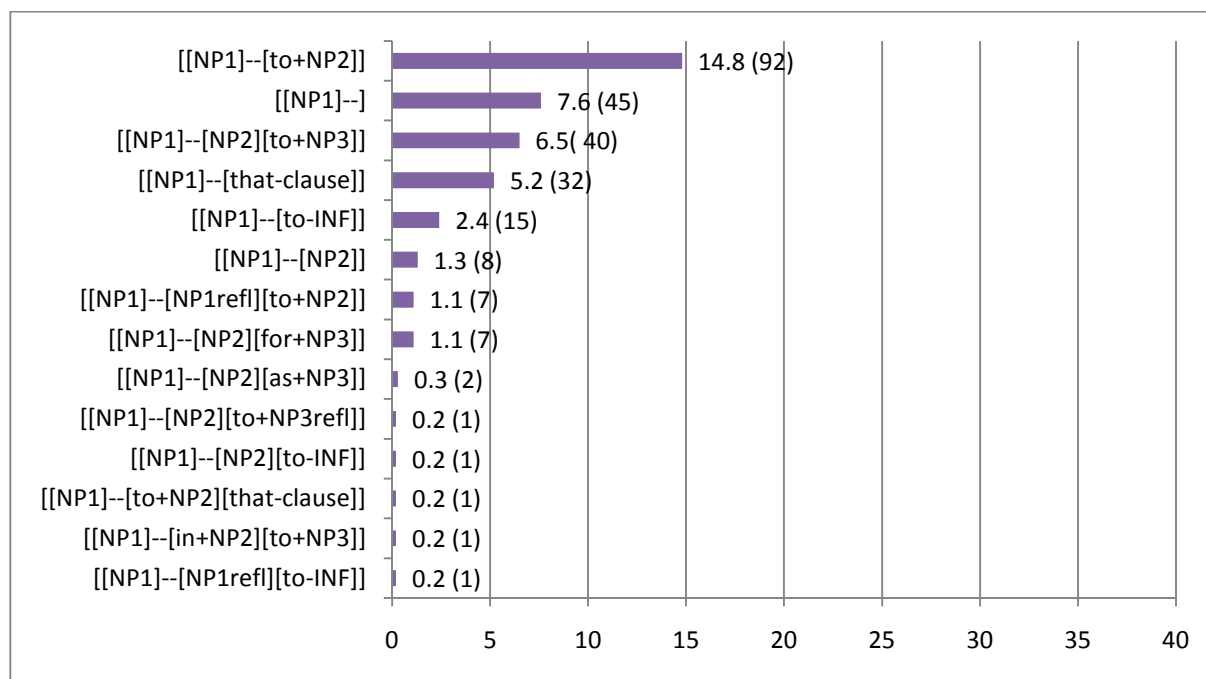


Table 6 The frequencies of the complementation patterns found in the CLMET Part 3 data. The first number after each column represents the normalized frequency of tokens found in the corpus. The number in parentheses represents the actual number of tokens found in the corpus.

A closer analysis of the tokens of the 1850-1920 data reveals that there have also been other changes in the verb's usage after the 18th century. In this later corpus data, the verb has acquired several new complement constructions, and overall there were a total of 14 different

patterns found with the verb. They are represented in Table 6 above. The table shows that by far the most common complement used with *submit* during the time period was a structure where the direct reflexive object has been omitted, but the indirect object has been left in the sentence – [[NP1]--[to+NP²]] – just as it had been in the previous corpus data:

- 26) Marian was not like her mother; she could not *submit* to tyrannous usage. (1891 Gissing *New Grub Street*)

This pattern was used 92 times, and its normalized frequency was 14.8. Thus it accounts for about a third of all tokens. The three of the next most common structures were only half as common as that, but they were nearly equals among each other. They were [[NP¹]--], [[NP¹]--[NP²][to+NP³]] and [[NP¹]--[that-clause]], and they were found in the corpus 45, 40 and 32 times respectively, or 7.6, 6.5 and 5.2 times per million words.

- 27) Once they had *submitted*, their power was gone. (1899 Churchill *The River War*)
 28) It may be like *submitting* the design of an architect known to hold ‘mediaeval principles’ to a committee wedded to ‘classical principles’. (1902-03 Wells *Mankind in the Making*)
 29) With all due deference he *submitted* that Mr. Forsythe’s expression nullified itself. (1906 Galsworthy *The Man of Property*)

The data contained four more complement structures that can be called even remotely frequent: one with a sentential complement [[NP¹]--[to-infinitive]], one construction with only a direct object [[NP¹]--[NP²]], one with a direct reflexive and an indirect prepositional object [[NP¹]--[NP^{1+refl}][to+NP²]] and one with a direct and an indirect object with the preposition *for* [[NP¹]--[NP²][for+NP³]]. There were 15, 8, 7 and 7 instances of each respectively (2.4, 1.3, 1.1 and 1.1 per million words):

- 30) When a man cannot *submit* to be helped he dislikes the benevolent friend who offers assistance worse than an avowed enemy. (1893 Rutherford *Catherine Furze*)
 31) ... important propositions which I shall venture to *submit* on the present occasion. (1867 Bagehot *The English Constitution*)
 32) *Submitting* herself to Reardon’s influence, she passed through what was a highly useful training of the intellect... (1891 Gissing *New Grub Street*)
 33) While they talked, she went through a volume of specimen cards, and *submitted* one for Mrs. Wilcox’s inspection. (1910 Foster *Howards End*)

The rest of the constructions were only represented by infrequent instances in the data. There were two tokens where *submit* occurred in the frame [[NP¹]-[NP²][*as*+NP³]], which, in a corpus of this size, means that it would occur only 0.3 times in a million words of the corpus:

- 34) I *submit* it as the result of my own poor observation... (1903 Butler *The Way of All Flesh*)

In addition to this, there were five constructions that were represented by single tokens, so their normalized frequency is only 0.2. They were [[NP¹]-[NP²][*to*+NP^{3+refl}]], [[NP¹]-[*to*+NP²][*that*-clause]], [[NP¹]-[*in*+NP²][*to*+NP³]] and [[NP¹]-[NP^{1+refl}][*to*+INF]], [[NP¹]-[NP²][*to*+INF]]:

- 35) ... she wishes the deed to be first *submitted* to myself, as her family solicitor... (1859-60 Collins *The Woman in White*)
- 36) Yet probably it would be in vain to *submit* to apologetic critics that possibly... the passage was not derived from Mark... (1889 Cassels *A Reply to Dr. Lightfoot's Essay*)
- 37) The House of Commons may ... *submit* in matters about which it cares little to the suspensive veto of the House of Lords ... (1867 Bagehot *The English Constitution*)
- 38) ...or shall we *submit* ourselves again to be dominated by the desire of the few? (1844 Carpenter *The Healing of Nations and the Hidden Sources of their Strife*)
- 39) ... students could *submit* difficulties in writing to be dealt with by the Professor... (1902-03 Wells *Mankind in the Making*)

It could, however, be argued that the pattern in the last of these illustrations is not in fact [[NP¹]-[NP²][*to*+INF]], but rather [[NP¹]-[NP²]]. Then the infinitival clause *to be dealt with* would be seen as an adjunct: *submit difficulties in writing in order that they may be dealt with by the Professor*. In this thesis, the pattern is considered as an example of infinitive complement.

5.2.1 The use of different complements in 1850-1920

In Subsection 5.1.1 above, I started to examine the different complement constructions of *submit* in order to find out why all these constructions are used, and what separates them from one another. In this subsection, I will further analyze the different constructions found with

the verb in the CLMET Part 3 data, and try to determine what it is that triggers the choice between two, nearly identical structures in this time period. I will first focus on the different non-sentential complement patterns and then take a look at the sentential ones.

5.2.2 The use of non-sentential complements in 1850-1920

The third part of the CLMET contained a wealth of different non-sentential complement constructions. Many of them were very similar in meaning, but slightly different in form. The most prominent of these constructions in this subcorpus were the same as in the previous one: different reflexive patterns. The most common one – $[[NP^1]--[to+NP^2]]$ – still seemed to follow the same rules of usage as it had done in the 18th century data, and it was still found collocated with words of *force* and *unpleasantness*:

- 40) ... these people were never taught to submit *to the authority of their parents*. (1879 Booth *Papers on Practical Religion*)
- 41) ... the poor things, being utterly friendless, have to submit *to these infamous extortions*. (1890 Booth *In Darkest England and the Way Out*)

The next most common reflexive pattern – $[[NP^1]--[]]$ – had also maintained its meaning. In this time period, too, it differed from the previous construction in that it did not convey a meaning of *an act of submission towards something specific*, but rather *a mental state assumed by the subject*:

- 42) Elfride gave up the idea and *submitted* quietly. (1873 Hardy *A Pair of Blue Eyes*)
- 43) She must be patient and *submit*... (1850 Craik *Olive*)

One pattern, whose meaning seems to have changed, however, is the one where neither object has been omitted – $[[NP^1]--[NP^{1+refl}][to+NP^2]]$. As was explained in Subsection 5.2.2 above, this pattern seemed to carry a meaning of *willing and voluntary submission on the part of the subject* in the 18th century. This is not seen in the data collected from texts of the CLMET Part 3, where the pattern was used even when talking about a forced submission:

- 44) ...the thumbscrews were instantly applied, and Ernest, demoralized as he already was, recanted and *submitted* himself to the powers that were. (1903 Butler *The Way of All Flesh*)

- 45) ... who are ever faced with the alternative of being turned out of doors if they refuse to *submit* themselves to the infamous overtures of those around them. (1890 Booth *In Darkest England and the Way Out*)

In the CLMET Part 3 data, there was also one new reflexive monotransitive complementation pattern introduced. In this construction, the verb was followed by two prepositional complements: [[NP¹][in+NP²][to+NP³]:

- 46) The House of Commons may ... *submit* in matters about which it cares little to the suspensive veto of the House of Lords ... (1867 Bagehot *The English Constitution*)

The use of this pattern seems to have been triggered by the need to express that the submission is not total – the subject only submits in some parts (namely the ones that suit themselves). However, there was only one example of this pattern in the whole corpus, so it would be impossible to draw any absolute conclusions on the matter based on this data alone.

In addition to the reflexive monotransitive patterns, the data from this time period also contains non-reflexive patterns that were not found in the data from the previous time period. In these patterns, *submit* was followed by a direct object, conveying *who was the person/what was the object being submitted*, and a prepositional object, conveying the *person or thing that the object was to submit to*. Of course, there was no variation in the direct object in these cases: it was always a simple NP. Because in these constructions the direct object is not reflexive, it cannot be omitted either (see Chapter 4 above). The indirect prepositional object, on the other hand, has five variations in the data. The most common one of them is

[[NP¹][NP²][to+NP³]:

- 47) During the day she reads and makes digests of letters received, which she *submits* to him at night. (1914 Cheyne *The Reconciliation of Races and Religions*)

There are also some sentences where the indirect object has been omitted entirely:

[[NP¹][NP²].

- 48) ... a certain proportion of their men, their ‘decent’ men, and every artist or writer who could *submit* a passable diploma work... (1902-03 Wells *Mankind in the Making*)

Also, in some sentences the preposition in the indirect object was changed: [*for*+NP³] and [*as*+NP³]. The last variation was one where the indirect object was a reflexive pronoun: [[NP¹]-[NP²][*to*+NP^{3+refl}]].

The meanings of the two most common complement patterns, [[NP¹]-[NP²][*to*+NP³]] and [[NP¹]-[NP²]], overlapped in some areas. They each carried the meaning of *bringing something under someone's consideration*, which was also the meaning the non-reflexive pattern had had in the 18th century data. The former had also two additional meanings: *causing someone to yield to an authority* and *subjecting them to a treatment*. This is very much in compliance with what the OED said about them (see Subsection 4.1.1 above). The OED also suggested that the difference between the two forms would be that the latter one would only be used in legal parlance in the sense of *submitting for arbitration*. The corpus data lends some support to the suggestion of the pattern being common in legal style of writing, but not to the suggestion of the sense in which it would be used. The pattern was only used in three sources: *The English Constitution* by Walter Bagehot, *Mankind in the Making* by H.G. Wells and *Sea-power and Other Studies* by Sir Cyprian Bridge, and it mostly took the meaning of *bringing something to someone's consideration*. Two of the sources are not exactly legal texts, but studies. However, their authors were learned writers and it may have been possible for them to use a legal style of writing for effect. The sentences, where they used the construction, were quite similar to those where they were used in *The English Constitution*:

- 49) The error of having two supreme courts, to both of which as time goes on, the same question is sure often enough to be *submitted*, and each of which is sure to every now and then to decide it differently. (1867 Bagehot *The English Constitution*)
- 50) ... private individuals or the advocates of vigilance societies might appear against any particular candidate and *submit* the facts about any doubtful affair, financial or otherwise, in which that candidate has been involved. (1902-03 Wells *Mankind in the Making*)

- 51) Several of the many plans *submitted* by private persons, who here describe them in their own words, are worth examination... (1899-1902 *Bridge Sea-power and Other Studies*)

The corpus did not contain many tokens of this type. As Table 6 above showed, this pattern was represented by only 8 sentences in the data (or 1.3 as a normalized frequency). In itself, this data would not be enough tokens to make any conclusive statements about the ‘legal’ nature of the pattern. However, the view that the pattern [[NP¹][--][NP²]] was connected with legal texts was put forward by the OED. That alone is enough to make the suggestion believable, especially when it is supported by the corpus data.

The OED also suggested that the pattern [[NP¹][--][NP²]] had been used in the sense of *physically laying lower*. The last example the dictionary gave of this use was from the beginning of the 19th century, so it would seem that it had not been obsolete during the time when the texts in the CLMET had been written. However, this usage was not found anywhere in the historical data.

The difference between these forms and the ones where the preposition had been changed - [[NP¹][--][NP²][*for*+NP³]] and [[NP¹][--][NP²][*as*+NP³]] – may arise from the meaning of the preposition. Francis et al. claim (1996) in the grammar book *Collins Cobuild Grammar Patterns 1: Verbs* that verbs that are complemented by the structure [[NP¹][--][NP²][*to*+NP³]] ‘are all concerned with changing something to something else’. Perhaps in the case of *submit*, this could mean *changing the status of something to ‘subordinate to something else’*. The use of another preposition in the frame, for example *for* or *as*, however produces another meaning. According to Francis et al. (1996), verbs that are used in the frame [[NP¹][--][NP²][*for*+NP³]] belong in two meaning groups: 1) the *buy* group, where ‘the verbs are concerned with doing something for someone’ or 2) the *exchange* group, where ‘verbs are concerned with exchanging one thing for another’. Of these, the first group seems more appropriate in the case of *submit*. Most of the tokens of this type can be

interpreted to mean that someone has requested that someone should submit something, and thus submitting is done *for their sake* (not *to* them):

- 52) If the students of a class could be induced to *submit* propositions for discussion... (1902-03 Wells *Mankind in the Making*)

The use of *as* in the frame, on the other hand can mean five things (Francis et al. 1996). The first group is the *name* or *consider* group, and sentences of this type are concerned with giving people roles or categorizing them as being a certain way. To clarify the meaning of this group, Francis et al. (1996) give the following example of it: *I consider him as a friend*. The second group is the *stamp* group, where the verbs ‘are used to indicate that something shows the nature of someone or something’: *It was a performance that stamped him as the star we had been searching for in a season of relative mediocrity* (Francis et al. 1996). The third group is the *use* group that carries the meaning of assigning someone/something a role or a ‘job’. The following example sentence was provided in the grammar for the clarification of this group: *One recent development is the creation of lots of factories which illegally employ children as cheap labour*. The fourth group is the *quote* group, and its verbs are concerned with quoting someone. The last group is one reserved for the verb *depose*. Of these groups, *submit* might be categorized into the first, since in the corpus data the verb would be quite interchangeable with another verb from that group. In the next example sentence, for instance, *submit* could be changed into *consider* quite freely:

- 53) He merely *submits* this, however, as ‘a new hypothesis to the judgement of the reader’. (1889 Cassels *A Reply to Dr. Lightfoot’s Essay*)

The last variation of this pattern is the one where there is a reflexive pronoun used in the indirect prepositional object: $[[NP^1]--[NP^2][to+NP^{3+refl}]]:$

- 54) ... she wishes the deed to be first *submitted* to myself, as her family solicitor... (1859-60 Collins *The Woman in White*)

When we examine the single token of this type more closely, we see that the reflexive object does not really refer to the subject: *she* wishes the deed to be submitted to *myself*. The use of a

reflexive pronoun here is a hypercorrection, and it should just be *me*. Thus it would seem that this pattern is not really a possibility with *submit*. It is just a grammatical error made by the writer of the text.

5.2.3 The use of sentential complements in 1850-1920

Compared to the data collected from the CLMET Part 1, the data from the third part of the CLMET contained more tokens of *submit* with sentential complementation. Overall, the corpus contained two types of sentential complements: *that*-clauses and *to*-infinitives, and as we remember from Table 6 above, each of these types had variations. First, I will examine *that*-clauses. As the OED said, this kind of complementation with *submit* is used to denote *saying or communicating your ideas to others*. In the corpus data, however, there were two kinds of *that*-clause complements, which, according to Bolinger's principle, should have a difference in meaning between them. The first one of these two *that*-clause complements was one with just a *that*-clause [[NP¹]-[that-clause]]. The second one also had an indirect prepositional object [[NP¹]-[to+NP²][that-clause]].

- 55) I *submit* that there is no other way for Christians to deal with strong drink. (1879 Booth *Papers on Practical Religion*)
- 56) ... yet probably it would be in vain to *submit* to apologetic critics that possibly, not to say probably, the passage was not derived from Mark... (1889 Cassels *A Reply to Dr. Lightfoot's Essay*)

As the example sentences show, the longer pattern with the additional indirect object [to+NP²] differs from the shorter one in that there it is specified *to whom the subject is communicating their ideas to*. Although the pattern with the indirect object was only represented by a single token in the corpus, this distinction between the two patterns seems strong enough. If the indirect object is omitted, it changes the meaning of the sentence.

Consider, for example, taking out the indirect object from the sentence:

- 57) Yet it would be in vain to *submit* [...] that possibly the passage was not derived from Mark.

If you omit the [*to*+NP²] construction, the sentence would mean that it is in vain to submit the information to *anyone in general*. If you leave in the sentence, however, it limits the group to whom it is vain to submit the information. Then the sentence would suggest that it is in vain to submit it to *apologetic* critics, while saying nothing about, for instance, critics that are *not apologetic*.

In addition to the two types of *that*-clause complements, the corpus data also contained three types of *to*-infinitive complements: [[NP¹]-[*to*-infinitive]], [[NP¹]-[NP^{1+refl}][*to*-infinitive]] and [[NP¹]-[NP²][*to*-infinitive]]:

- 58) ‘Have you never discovered anything which will enable us to *submit* to be useless?’ (1896 Rutherford *Clara Hopgood*)
- 59) Is the desire of the many to have its chance when this war shall be ended, or shall we *submit* ourselves again to be dominated by the desire of the few? (1915 Carpenter *The Healing of Nations and the Hidden Sources of their Strife*)
- 60) ... students could *submit* difficulties in writing to be dealt with by the Professor in conversational lectures... (1902-03 Wells *Mankind in the Making*)

The difference between the reflexive types (the first two) and the non-reflexive one (the last one) is self-evident. In the last type, the direct object is a noun phrase that refers to some other entity than the subject of the sentence. Thus it has to be mentioned in the sentence. The difference between the other two types, however, is not that clear cut. Nearly all the tokens were of the type, where the reflexive object has been omitted: [[NP¹]-[*to*-infinitive]]. In only one token the reflexive object had been left in the sentence with the *to*-infinitive complement. This makes it impossible to draw any other conclusion of their uses than that the latter type is very rare.

6 *Submit* in present day data

In this chapter, I will move on to examine the usage of the verb in written and spoken varieties of Present Day English. I will first examine the written variety by taking a look at the ‘Imaginative Prose’ subsection of the BNC and then the spoken variety by examining the ‘Spoken Texts’ subsection of the corpus. As was explained in Subsection 2.2.2 above, the search from both of these subsections has been further restricted in order to increase the comparability between it and the other corpora. The data has been collected from each subsection by using the search string {submit/V}, which should turn out all instances of the verb in all its different forms – *submit*, *submits*, *submitted* and *submitting*. First, I will take a look at what complement patterns it generally takes. Then I will compare some of the constructions that are similar to one another, and examine what triggers the choice of one over another.

6.1 Complementation in the ‘Imaginative Prose’ section of the BNC

When moving on to examining the usage of *submit* in Present Day English data, it is found that the overall use of the verb has continued its decline in popularity. All in all, the verb *submit* occurred in the BNC 67 times, making its normalized frequency 10.8. This is only about a fourth of the occurrences the verb had had at the change of the 20th century. Also, the data was further diminished as it contained one example, where the entry was not so clear that one could conclusively determine which complement category it belonged to:

- 1) He’ll be fightin’ for his European Plan as *submitted*; including the UK element. (AC2 1118)

The sentence could be understood to mean ‘he will fight in order to get his European plan accepted in the original form in which he had submitted it’. It could also mean ‘it has been submitted that he would fight in order to get his European Plan accepted, and now it has indeed come to pass’. The data collected from the corpus was not too extensive, with only 67

tokens all in all, but it still is large enough, so that it will not affect the results of the analysis to any significant extent, if this one unclear token is omitted from the analysis. After all, there will still be 66 tokens left to analyze even without it. Thus the overall frequency of the verb is left at 10.6 per million words.

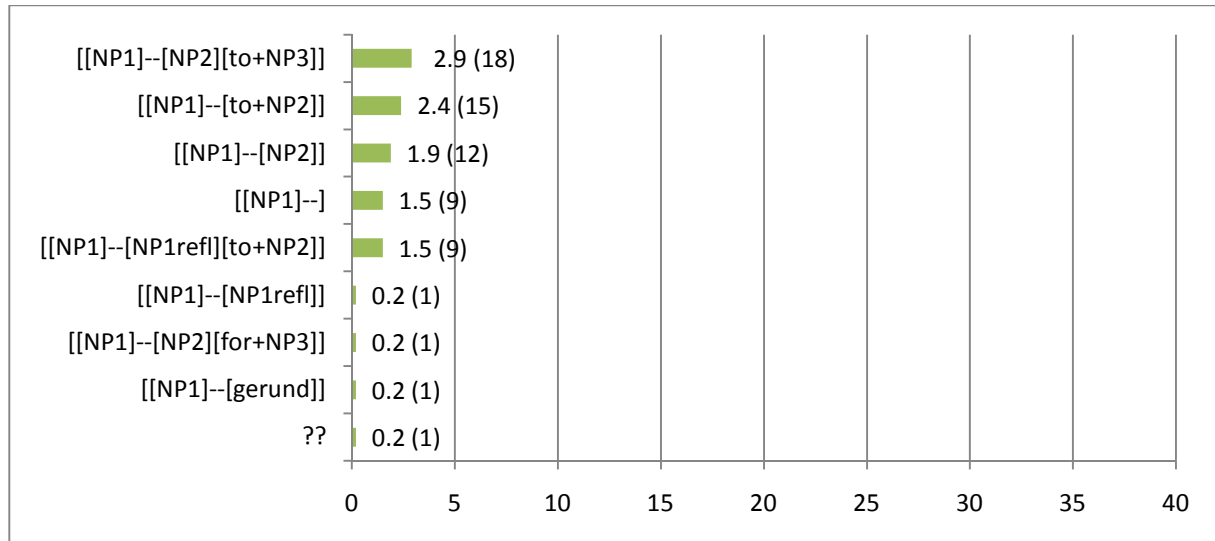


Table 7 The frequencies of the complementation patterns found in the ‘Imaginative Prose’ section of the BNC. The first number after each column represents the normalized frequency of tokens found in the corpus. The number in parentheses represents the actual number of tokens found in the corpus.

As Table 7 shows, the verb had not only decreased in popularity, but it had also lost some of its potential complementation patterns. When in the CLMET Part 3 data the verb could take a total of 14 different patterns, in the BNC it was only found with 8. Table 7 also shows that the verb did not seem to particularly favour any single complementation pattern in the BNC data, but there were five constructions that were all quite common. The three most common ones covered 20-25% of all the tokens each, and the two next ones cover about 13% each. However, all their normalized frequencies were still quite low; even the most common ones settled between two and three instances per million words. The most common one – [[NP¹]--[NP²][to+NP³]] – was found in 18 tokens, the second – [[NP¹]--[to+NP²]] – in 15 and

the third – [[NP¹]-[NP²]] – in 12, and their normalized frequencies were 2.9, 2.4 and 1.9 respectively:

- 2) I did not plan to *submit* it to anyone. (AON 731)
- 3) But our complicity in taking those dreadful little uppers, of which I thoroughly disapproved, as I do of all narcotic stimulants, drew us closer together, so I *submitted* to their influence. (AC6 1109)
- 4) The clients chose the dullest and safest of the half dozen *submitted*, as was their wont. (ABW 335)

The next two complementation patterns – an intransitive one: [[NP¹]-] and a reflexive one with a prepositional object: [[NP¹]-[NP^{1+refl}][to+NP²]] – were found in 9 tokens each, which makes their frequency 1.5 per million words of corpus:

- 5) ‘I will not *submit*,’ she told herself. (GVL 2221)
- 6) Like Georg, she felt the need to *submit* herself to the possibility of seeing the one she loved who had rejected her. (J19 3006)

The last three patterns are only represented by single tokens in the data, and they were a reflexive use: [[NP¹]-[NP^{1+refl}]], a monotransitive use: [[NP¹]-[NP²][for+NP³]] and a sentential complement with a gerund: [[NP¹]-[to+gerund]].

- 7) No need, I *submit* myself, I own my terrible sin! (GOM 2043)
- 8) ‘We have two wills on file,’ Timothy Hutton said, reaching the end of whatever internal debate he had been having, ‘but the second, which was made in anticipation of her marriage to Mr Hawick, cannot of course be *submitted* for Probate since that marriage did not take place. (AB9 1687)
- 9) To have to *submit* to having a part of one’s body removed while one slept was going to bad. (AC5 2434)

What is significant in the gerundial complement is that, according to the OED (see discussion in Subsection 4.1.1.1 above), this pattern is obsolete in Present Day English. However, it was not found at all in the historical corpus data, and it makes its first appearance in this data collected from Present Day English.

6.1.1 The use of different complements in written Present Day English data

The next two subsections are again devoted to distinguishing the possible differences in meaning that the different complement patterns should have.

6.1.2 The use of non-sentential complements in written Present Day English data

Like the historical data collected from the CLMET, also the present day data contained some complement constructions that are very close to each other. Again, different reflexive constructions are found. The ones found in the Present Day English data are the same ones as were found in the two parts of the CLMET examined above – $[[NP^1]--[to+NP^2]]$, $[[NP^1]--[NP^1+refl][to+NP^2]]$. The first two of these had maintained stable meanings in the first and the third parts of the CLMET, and they seem to carry the same meanings in Present Day English, too. The most common one of these three was again the one where the reflexive pronoun has been omitted, but the indirect prepositional complement has been left in, just as it had been in the two historical corpora. It still carried the same meaning of *submitting unwillingly* or *to the authority of others* as it had done in the past:

- 10) She was probably delighted that someone else had to *submit* to his unsavoury need now and then. (BP7 2695)

The use of the construction with no complements – $[[NP^1]--[]]$ – had also stayed much the same between the last part of the CLMET and the BNC. It was still used to denote *having or assuming a mental state of submission* rather than *performing an act of submission to an authority*:

- 11) When the nurses – who, to encourage morale, insisted that every patient, however ill, should wash – came to help her, she *submitted* with an indifference that alarmed her. (A7J 1502)

The last of these patterns – $[[NP^1]--[NP^1+refl][to+NP^2]]$ – had not however been used in a consistent manner in the historical data. First it had been used to convey a sense of *voluntary submission*, but coming to the mid-19th century, this meaning had disappeared. In Present Day English, the meaning of this pattern seems to have reverted to its roots from the 18th century:

- 12) ... People must be out of their minds, *submitting* themselves to this sort of occasion quite voluntarily. (G0Y 1738)
 13) He is probably downstairs, knocking back a stiff gin and tonic before *submitting* himself to the milder offering of champagne. (FB0 1670)
 14) I remember the helpless, almost childlike way he *submitted* himself to my ministrations. (AC6 1730)

In example number 12, the idea of willing submission is made absolutely clear by the word *voluntarily*. The next example is not as clear, but it even there, there is an idea of willingness present: it would seem obvious that the person in the text wants to drink. Even in example 14 there seems to be a sense of voluntary and maybe even thankful submission, even though it is not made entirely obvious in the token. This is made certain by looking at longer excerpt from the corpus:

- 15) Nevertheless, I rushed him back to our nearby hotel, where I cleaned the wounds and fixed three or four large Band-Aids on them. I remember the helpless, almost childlike way he submitted himself to my ministrations. He, too, needed someone to watch over him. At that moment my feelings of love for him became somewhat abstract, like a mother bandaging her little boy's playground cuts and sores. (AC6 1729-1732)

With some tokens this distinction was even less clear cut, but even in most of those cases, too, one could ascertain that they conveyed the meaning of voluntariness on the part of the subject by looking at a longer excerpt from the text that the token had been taken from. In the next excerpt, I have italicized the actual token:

- 16) He didn't know why he had come, hated himself for coming, but had by now tormented himself into a state of mind where he was deliberately looking for fresh spasms of anguish. ... Something had gone wrong between him and Suzi that was nothing to do with the theatre. Every time he saw her it hurt him, and he knew it would hurt him even more tonight, to see her cavorting with her lover on the stage. *He didn't know what was happening between Gesner and Suzi any more, hadn't seen either of them since the Season began, since that dreadful scene at Willi's party, but he knew he had to submit himself to yet another bout of torture and watch them together on the stage.* (J19 2426-2430)

The excerpt makes it clear that, even though the actual token talks about *submitting to a bout of torture*, the submission is completely free-willing for the subject. Nobody is forcing the person, but it is his own obsession.

The data also contained a single instance of $[[NP^1]--[NP^{1+refl}]]$:

- 17) No need, I *submit* myself, I own my terrible sin! (G0M 2043)

Unfortunately, in this case one token is not enough even to make an assumption as to what makes this pattern different from the other reflexive patterns. Reaching a conclusion that would be in any way plausible would require more research.

As to the non-reflexive, non-sentential patterns, the corpus contained three:

[[NP¹]-[NP²][*to*+NP³]], [[NP¹]-[NP²]] and [[NP¹]-[NP²][*for*+NP³]]. The first one was the most common pattern found with *submit* in the corpus and the second one was the third most common one, but the last one only emerged once. The use of these non-reflexive patterns was much along the same lines as their use had been in the historical data. They were almost exclusively used with the meaning of *bringing things under the consideration and approval of people*, instead of *subjecting people under the power or authority of others*:

- 18) Mary Smith will act as housekeeper and she will *submit* all bills to you. (CFY 1330)
- 19) Willi, at first, couldn't see the appeal of the designs *submitted* by Madge Grimsilk. (J19 2)
- 20) 'We have two wills on file,' Timothy Hutton said, reaching the end of whatever internal debate he had been having, 'but the second, which was made in anticipation of her marriage to Mr Hawick, cannot of course be *submitted* for Probate since that marriage did not take place. (AB9 1687)

The differences these patterns have when compared with one another is a more difficult question to consider. The first two patterns, the monotransitive pattern with the indirect *to*+NP object and the transitive pattern, are used in much the same way, and do not seem to differ much. In Subsection 5.2.2, it was speculated that perhaps the shorter pattern could be connected with a more legal meaning, since it is suggested by the OED that the pattern is more common in legal parlance. This suggestion seems plausible even with the data from the written BNC material.

Based on the corpus material, there may perhaps be another reason, too, for choosing the transitive pattern. Sometimes it is not necessary to explicate *to whom* you are submitting something, because leaving it out will not lead to any confusion. Then you can use

the shorter transitive pattern with no indirect object. This can be seen in example sentence 19 above, and also in other tokens of the type:

- 21) I suddenly decided I didn't see any point in *submitting* them, I said. (A08 863)
- 22) What is Serafin's report going to conclude, on the basis of the evidence *submitted* here? (J17 3181)

In the tokens where there is an indirect object, omitting it could make the sentence more unclear, as would be the case in example sentence 18 above:

- 23) Mary Smith will act as housekeeper and *submit* all bills.

In this sentence it would be unclear as to whom the housekeeper will submit the bills. It could be understood that she will submit them straight to the bank for payment. There are also tokens where the indirect object could be omitted without any significant confusion:

- 24) Dear Prime Minister, In spite of the most helpful representation and advice from my staff, I have decided to continue *submitting* my reports [to you] in the informal way I settled upon initially ... (J17 1457)

Thus there does not seem to be any definitive difference between the use of these two patterns, other than the preferring of the transitive pattern in legal parlance and the tendency to use the transitive pattern over the monotransitive one whenever it does not lead to any confusion.

As I already pointed out, the last of the different non-sentential, non-reflexive patterns only yielded one token in the corpus, which makes it more difficult to determine the difference it has with the other patterns. However, it also emerged in the last part of the CLMET, and some discussion on its meaning was already provided in Subsection 5.2.2 above. Thus we can also provide some discussion of this one here by comparing it to the tokens that were found in the CLMET. As was already mentioned in Subsection 5.2.2, the use of the preposition *for* could mean that *something is done for the sake of someone*. Usually the preposition would be used with the NP that has requested that something be submitted to them. This was the case with the tokens in the CLMET:

- 25) The Head Secretary Spinster requests your commands as to the hour at which she shall wait on you to *submit* for your corrections the lists and descriptions of the dresses of the Royal Family... (1884 Webster *Daffodil and the Croäxicans*)

It is to be noted that the example sentence 20 is different in this respect. According to the OED, the word *probate* in connection with wills is a legal official that approves of a will. It is quite unlikely that any legal organ or official would ever request that someone should send them wills for their approval. Thus it cannot be said that, in sentence 20, the will would have been submitted *for the sake of the Probate*. However, in a way this token might still fit into this category; it is clear that someone, namely Mr. Hawick, would wish that the will be approved. Thus *submitting the will* would be done for the sake of Mr. Hawick.

6.1.3 The use of sentential complements in written Present Day English data

Sentential complements in the Present Day English data seem to have become very rare. In the whole of the Imaginative Prose section of the BNC, there was only one sentential complement found with the verb *submit*. What is interesting about this token is that it is not a *that*-clause complement or a *to*-infinitive, although they were the ones that were used in the historical data. It is a gerundial complement [[NP¹]-[*to*+gerund]]:

- 26) To have to *submit* to having a part of one's body removed while one slept was going to be bad. (AC5 2434)

What is more, according to the OED this complement pattern should have been obsolete in today's language. The use of an obsolete complement construction might be explained by the Complexity Principle (see Subsection 3.2.2 above) and the two *to*-infinitives preceding the complement in the sentence. Three verbs in the same form, one after another, might make for worse language than using an obsolete complement.

6.2 Complementation in the ‘Spoken Texts’ section of the BNC

A search for the string {submit/V} in the ‘Spoken Texts’ subsection of the BNC yielded 92 tokens altogether. The search was only conducted from texts that had been labeled as spoken by speakers of British English. This was done to maximize the comparability of the results to the results gotten from the corpora of written texts, which contained only British English. The size of the British English section of the subcorpus is 3,000,000 words, so the normalized frequency of the search string is 30.7. This means that *submit* was nearly three times as common in the spoken variety of Present Day English as it was in the written variety, where it only came up about ten times in every million words. This is surprising considering the somewhat formal nature of the verb; according to the OED, several of the verb’s different meanings are used especially in legal parlance. Generally one might think that in spoken language formal words and constructions are rarer than in written language, but here the verb is considerably more common in the spoken variety than in the written one. This may be due to the make of the corpus: the subcorpus probably contains texts that have been spoken in situations, where speakers tend to favour a more formal style of speech, for example in a court room or the Parliament. It is possible that most of the tokens here may be from such texts.

In addition to relevant data, the corpus yielded some problematic cases as well, and they are found under the label ‘??’ in Table 8 below. They were the following sentences:

- 27) Mr [unclear] that was a long quotation, can you *submit* [unclear] It’s in it’s in. (HVF 1161)
- 28) ... my Lord this is your duty under article five I would *submit* to enforce article eighty five and three F yeah, er... (JSC 242)

In the case of example sentence 27, the confusion of the complementation of *submit* is caused by the fact that this excerpt, like all others in this subsection of the BNC, has been transcribed from real speech. The part right after the verb under observation has been unclear on the tape, and so the complement of the verb has been left out and marked as [unclear].

Thus it is impossible to try to guess, which complement category the sentence would belong

to. In the case of example sentence 28, the sentence is ambiguous, and that makes it difficult to determine what the intended complementation of *submit* has been. Either the verb could be seen to take a *that*-clause complement: ‘My Lord, I would submit [that] this is your duty under article five...’, or it could be seen to take a *to*-infinitive: ‘... I would submit to enforce article five and three F...’ These two sentences account for nearly 3% of all the data collected from this part of the BNC. However, discarding them should not affect the results on too significant a level. After discarding these tokens, the normalized frequency of the verb *submit* would be left at 30 instances per 1,000,000 words.

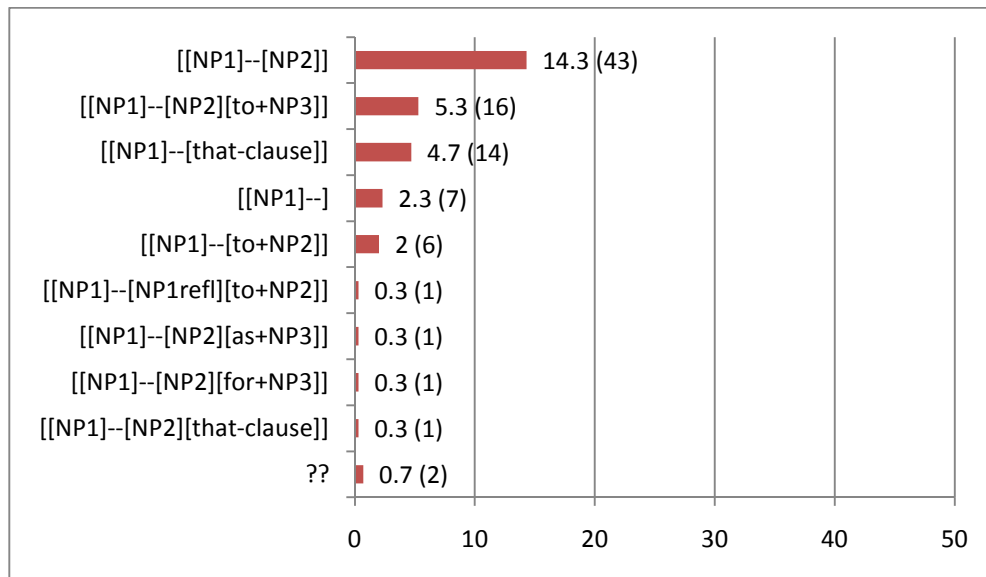


Table 8 The frequencies of the complementation patterns found in the ‘Spoken Texts’ section of the BNC. The first number after each column represents the normalized frequency of tokens found in the corpus. The number in parentheses represents the actual number of tokens found in the corpus.

Another surprising matter here is the fact that in the spoken corpus *submit* seems to prefer different complement patterns as it did in the written one. The most common pattern was a transitive, non-reflexive one: $[[NP^1]--[NP^2]]$. This pattern had been the third most common one in the written corpus, but in this spoken corpus it was by far the most common. It accounted for nearly half of all the data with 43 tokens. The normalized frequency of this pattern was 14.3.

29) That is the only correction I wish to *submit* to table nine yes. (JAC 82)

The second most common pattern was the non-reflexive monotransitive one, which had been the most common one in the written corpus, [[NP¹]-[NP²][to+NP³]]:

30) I I take your point that yes you have *submitted* er a a proposal as have other parties er to the discussion. (HVH 133)

This pattern yielded 16 tokens in the corpus, which is approximately the same as it did in the written corpus. However, the spoken corpus is smaller than the written one by half, so actually it was more common in spoken language. The normalized frequency of the pattern was 5.3.

Other patterns whose popularity had changed were *that*-clause complements and ones with just an indirect prepositional object – [[NP¹]-[*that*-clause]] and [NP¹]-[to+NP²]]. *That*-clause complements did not come up once in the ‘Imaginative Prose’ section of the BNC, but ended up being the third most common pattern in the ‘Spoken Texts’ section with 14 tokens, or 4.7 ones in every one million words:

31) And indeed I would *submit* that Leeds would find it difficult to actually accommodate the migration assumption which is w-- would be implied by sticking to the revised plan, mid-year estimate figure. (HVG 69)

The intransitive use with the indirect object had been by far the most common pattern in the historical data, and it had still been quite common in written Present Day English as well. In spoken English, however, its use has had to give way for other patterns. It was found 7 times in the corpus, which corresponds to less than 8% of all the tokens of *submit* in the corpus. The normalized frequency of the pattern was 2.3.

32) ... but he comes in by the holy spirit and as Christ is the centre of our life so he, as we *submit* to him and to his authority as we become obedient to his word... (KN6 23)

An intransitive pattern – [[NP¹]-] – was the fourth most common one with 7 tokens, or 2.3 tokens in every one million words of text in the corpus:

33) But you see the point I’m making that, that in mammals it’s easy to get the impression that, that you know er particularly in, in, in, in harem-type mammals

like, like, like erm stags, that the males mount and females *submit*, they don't.
(HUK 340)

The rest of the patterns only came up in single tokens: [[NP¹]-[NP^{1+refl}][to+NP²]],
[[NP¹]-[NP²][as+NP³]], [[NP¹]-[NP²][for+NP³]] and [[NP¹]-[NP²][that-clause]]:

- 34) And you know, as we come and *submit* ourselves to God... (KNB 188)
- 35) ... based on economic analysis which has been *submitted* as part of my finding...
(JAC 162)
- 36) ... er but we have put in er an amendment to [pause] another motion *submitted* for
Cardiff er [pause]... (JTF 136)
- 37) Well yes, of course it would, I *submit* to you that building rates are in that context
are are an... (HVG 437)

6.2.1 The use of different complements in spoken Present Day English data

Having examined the numbers and frequencies of the different complement patterns in spoken Present Day English, we will now move forward to examining the reasons for using all of them.

6.2.2 The use of non-sentential complements in spoken Present Day English data

The use of reflexive non-sentential complement patterns in the spoken language data – which are in order of frequency [[NP¹]-], [[NP¹]-[to+NP²]] and [[NP¹]-[NP^{1+refl}][to+NP²]] – has much the same characteristics it has in the written material. To some extent, all of them are used in the same senses here as in the written texts. The intransitive use [[NP¹]-] still carries an air of *being submissive* or *being in a submissive state*:

- 38) ... er that I, that I said that females always had to *submit* [unclear] erm [pause] I was very angry about that. (HUK 334)

The use with the prepositional complement [[NP¹]-[to+NP²]] is also used to convey a meaning of *subjecting [oneself] to someone's authority*, as it was in the data from the other corpora:

- 39) Males erm are rather coy and, and retiring and er *submit* to er females planting their eggs inside their pouches. (HUM 549)

The meaning of the monotransitive reflexive construction, with the verb complemented with a reflexive object and a prepositional object still seems to be same, too. The single token where it was used had a sense of *willing submission*:

40) And you know, as we come and *submit* ourselves to God... (KNB 188)

However, the difference between the two complement patterns, the one with the reflexive object and the indirect object, and the one with just the indirect object, was not as clear cut as it was in the other corpora. There were two tokens where the construction with just the prepositional complement was used in just the same way as in example sentence 40 above:

41) ... Christ is the centre of our life so he, as we *submit* to him and his authority... then the power of his spirit in our life starts operating... (KN6 23)

42) How few there are who have *submitted* to Jesus Christ and have received him as their saviour or so it seems. (KN7 2)

Verifiably, these differences are found in Present Day English, since they were present in the data collected from the written part of the BNC. Perhaps the fact that their boundaries are more unclear in the spoken subcorpus can be explained by the inaccuracy of spoken language. After all, in speech it is natural that the speaker may not think through what they are about to say before they start saying it. They may start a sentence, then pause halfway through and continue the sentence in a slightly different way than what they had planned. This could lead to a speaker using words in a way they may not have meant.

The corpus data also contained some different types of non-reflexive complement constructions. Two of the most common patterns were of this type: a transitive pattern [[NP¹]-[NP²]] and a monotransitive one [[NP¹]-[NP²][to+NP³]]. The monotransitive pattern also had two alternatives with different prepositions in the indirect object: [[NP¹]-[NP²][as+NP³]] and [[NP¹]-[NP²][for+NP³]], and they both came up with single tokens in the subcorpus. All the patterns are used with the sense of *bringing something to a person's consideration or approval*, which had been the tendency in the other corpora as well:

- 43) Yes I wonder if it might help you sir if I erm if I *submit* a copy of the plan? (J9T 291)

What is noteworthy here is not the fact that the verb was used in this meaning with non-reflexive complement patterns, but rather the transitive pattern, which it was the most common one in this meaning. As was said in Section 4.1 above, the dictionaries consulted for this research suggested that the pattern would only be used in legal parlance, in the meaning of *referring to arbitration*. Indeed, most of the tokens of this type in the spoken subcorpus are from the field of law, but they are not used in that sense.

As to the differences in use between the different patterns, again there were not many. The choice of having an indirect object in the sentence or omitting it seems to be influenced by its necessity, just as it was in the spoken language corpus data. If it is necessary to make the sentence clear and understandable, it is not omitted, but if not, there is a tendency to omit it:

- 44) And what the folks had done, with their quarterly newsletter that they send to both villages, North and South [gap:name], on the back, they'd put a form requesting that every household *submitted* their five favourite hymns. (FYB 11)
- 45) Actually, er, as a point, if you find a client who goes hand-gliding, who goes stock car racing, don't always assume that they're going to be rated, you just *submit* it to the underwriters, and they make their own decision. (JK7 478)

In addition to this, it seems possible that there is another factor that triggers the choice of the monotransitive pattern over the transitive one. In tokens involving extraction or insertion there seems to be tendency to favour the longer monotransitive construction, which could be seen as a cognitively more explicit pattern in accordance with the complexity principle (see Subsection 3.2.2):

- 46) ... my Lord er as indicated to your Lordship yesterday, erm, er the primary position of [gap:name] er is that these issues can be decided and should be decided that in the manner that I've *submitted* to your Lordship, er and in the societies favour. (K73 456)
- 47) We've also *submitted* er on your behalf er motions to the er regional conference er and to the er Cardiff er [pause] federal conference, which I mistakenly referred to as a national conference. (JTF 135)

There are also some indications that the extractions or insertions might not be the factor causing the choice of the monotransitive pattern, or at least not the only factor. Firstly, many of these tokens would be left unclear of meaning, if the indirect object was omitted, as would be the case in example sentence 47. Secondly, there are some tokens involving extraction that take the transitive pattern:

- 48) But erm er on on on the figures that I've I've *submitted*, erm we've already got three of those five districts gave got s-- fairly high affordable housing percentage requirements. (HVG 106)

In the example sentence 48, it is quite clear that the people the speaker submit the figures to, are the ones that are hearing his/her speech. However, in this token the speaker has not taken great care to make the point of his speech act abundantly clear: at least on the basis of this extract alone, it is not possible to get a good idea of what the speaker is actually trying to communicate. This is also true of many of the other tokens of this type. This supports the notion that perhaps, in accordance with the complexity principle, in cases of complex sentence structures such as extractions and insertions, it is advisable to use a monotransitive complement pattern. The notion is also supported by the fact that each and every one of the tokens with a monotransitive complementation pattern involved either extraction or insertion, which seems like more than just coincidence.

There were also two alternative monotransitive patterns, $[[NP^1]--[NP^2][as+NP^3]]$ and $[[NP^1]--[NP^2][for+NP^3]]$:

- 49) ... based on the economic analysis which has been *submitted* as part of my findings... (JAC 162)
 50) ... er but we have put in er an amendment to [pause] another motion *submitted* for Cardiff... (JTF 136)

The difference these patterns have with the other two non-reflexive patterns already discussed above seems to arise from the choice of preposition in the indirect object. As was pointed out in Subsection 5.2.2, the use of the preposition *as* in this frame triggers the meaning of *naming* or *considering*, and that sentences of this type are concerned with giving something a role or

categorizing it as being a certain way. In sentence 49 above, it can be considered that the *economic analysis* is being named as *a part of someone's findings*. The use of *for*, on the other hand, carries the meaning of *doing something for the sake of something else* rather than *doing something to them*. The meaning of example sentence 50 could then be thought to be that *the motion has been submitted because Cardiff has requested it*.

6.2.3 The use of sentential complements in spoken Present Day English data

Unlike in the written corpus data of Present Day English, the use of sentential complements was quite common in the spoken corpus data. The third most common complementation pattern for *submit* in spoken English was a *that*-clause complement, and it covered more than 15% of all tokens in the subcorpus. Like in the other corpora, this pattern was used exclusively in the factual sense:

- 51) ... the actual nu-- proportion of people using the rail, I would *submit* it would be very small... (J9T 1095)

The *that*-clause complement also had a variant with an indirect object [*to*+NP]:

- 52) Well yes, of course it would, I *submit* to you that building rates are in that context are are an irrelevance because erm all that building rates tell you is what's been built in the past. (HVG 437)

This distinction was also found in the historical corpus data from 1850-1920, where it was analyzed as specifying *to whom the subject is communicating their ideas to*. This analysis also holds true in the spoken corpus data.

7 Analysis of the development of *submit* 1710-1993

Now the use of the verb *submit* has been examined in three different time periods and also in the spoken variety of Present Day English, and some comparisons have been made between them. In this chapter, I will concentrate on further comparing the use of the verb in these time periods. I will also describe the development that has taken place in the use of *submit* during the time covered by the corpus material, starting from 1710 and ending at 1993. Certainly, it must be kept in mind that the corpus data used in this thesis does not cover all the 283 years in that period. It has been collected from three corpora that cover some decades each, with a gap of some decades between them. It is thus possible that there have been changes in the use of the verb that have not come up in this research. However, the three periods examined here should provide a reasonably accurate view of the verb's essential development during these centuries. After all, the purpose of this research is not to describe all the minute changes in the verb's usage, but rather to map out the main changes.

7.1 The development of the verb's usage

When looking at the general frequency with which *submit* has been used over the recent centuries, it would seem that the verb's usage has been in a steep and steady decline ever since the 18th century. This can be seen more clearly in Table 9 below. The table also shows that there is a large disparity between the written and spoken varieties of Present Day English: the spoken subcorpus contained nearly three times as many instances of the verb under examination as the written material.

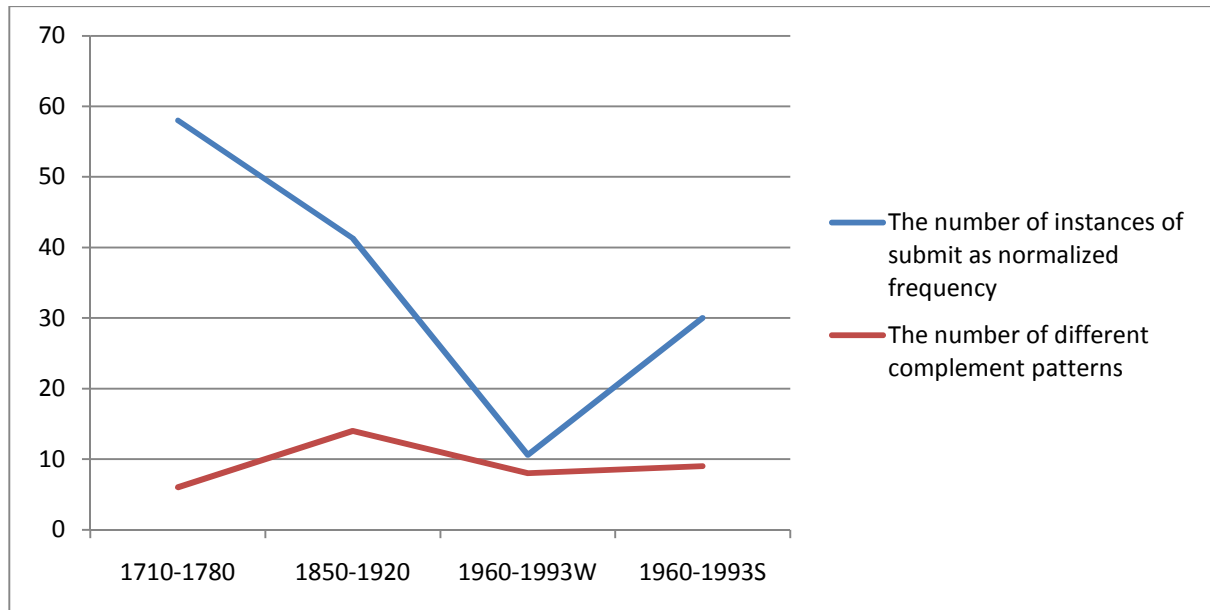


Table 9 The occurrences of *submit* in different time periods as normalized frequency, and the number of different complement patterns found with the verb in the corpus. The written and spoken data that were both collected from the same corpus are separated by a letter at the end of the years: 1960-1993W stands for written data and 1960-1993S for spoken data.

As opposed to the number of instances of *submit*, the number of different complement patterns available for the verb has increased a little. At the turn of the 20th century there even seems to have been a small peak in the number of possible constructions, and at that period the verb was found with 14 different patterns. Table 10 below further clarifies how common the different patterns have been compared with each other. The increase in available patterns for the verb is not only seen in the growing numbers of different constructions found with it. It is also seen in the fact that, during the passing of time, it started to be used more evenly with different patterns, and it is not dominated as much by some single pattern anymore. Table 10 below shows that, in the 18th century, its use was dominated by the pattern $[[NP^1]--[to+NP^2]]$. It covered nearly two thirds of all the tokens in the era, while even the second most common pattern accounted for only a little more than 10%. As is also shown in Table 10, when coming to the second half of the 19th century, this gap had evened out a little, although the construction still accounted for over a third of the tokens.

Complement patterns in 1710-1780		Complement patterns in 1850-1920	
[[NP ¹ --[to+NP ²]]	65.5 %	[[NP ¹ --[to+NP ²]]	35.9 %
[[NP ¹ --]]	11.5 %	[[NP ¹ --]]	17.6 %
[[NP ¹ --[NP ²][to+NP ³]]	10.3 %	[[NP ¹ --[NP ²][to+NP ³]]	15.6 %
[[NP ¹ --[to-INF]]	8.6 %	[[NP ¹ --[that-clause]]	12.5 %
[[NP ¹ --[NP ^{1+refl}][to+NP ²]]	2.9 %	[[NP ¹ --[to-INF]]	5.9 %
[[NP ¹ --[NP ^{1+refl}][to-INF]]	1.1 %	[[NP ¹ --[NP ²]]	3.1 %
		[[NP ¹ --[NP ²][for+NP ³]]	2.7 %
		[[NP ¹ --[NP ^{1+refl}][to+NP ²]]	2.7 %
		[[NP ¹ --[NP ²][as+NP ³]]	0.8 %
		[[NP ¹ --[in+NP ²][to+NP ³]]	0.4 %
		[[NP ¹ --[to+NP ²][that-clause]]	0.4 %
		[[NP ¹ --[NP ²][to-INF]]	0.4 %
		[[NP ¹ --[NP ²][to+NP ^{3+refl}]]	0.4 %
		[[NP ¹ --[NP ^{1+refl}][to-INF]]	0.4 %
Complement patterns in 1960-1993 (Written)		Complement patterns in 1960-1993 (Spoken)	
[[NP ¹ --[NP ²][to+NP ³]]	25.4 %	[[NP ¹ --[NP ²]]	46.7 %
[[NP ¹ --[to+NP ²]]	22.4 %	[[NP ¹ --[NP ²][to+NP ³]]	17.4 %
[[NP ¹ --[NP ²]]	19.4 %	[[NP ¹ --[that-clause]]	15.2 %
[[NP ¹ --]]	13.4 %	[[NP ¹ --[to+NP ²]]	7.6 %
[[NP ¹ --[NP ^{1+refl}][to+NP ²]]	13.4 %	[[NP ¹ --]]	6.5 %
[[NP ¹ --[NP ^{1+refl}]]	1.5 %	[[NP ¹ --[NP ^{1+refl}][to+NP ²]]	1.1 %
[[NP ¹ --[NP ²][for+NP ³]]	1.5 %	[[NP ¹ --[NP ²][as+NP ³]]	1.1 %
[[NP ¹ --[to+gerund]]	1.5 %	[[NP ¹ --[NP ²][for+NP ³]]	1.1 %
??	1.5 %	[[NP ¹ --[NP ²][that-clause]]	1.1 %
		??	2.7 %

Table 10 The different complement patterns used in each corpus examined presented as percentages of the all instances of *submit* in the corpus.

As Table 10 shows, this trend continues to the written Present Day English data as well. Despite there being a lot less possible complement structures in the present day data than what there was in CLMET Part 3, the differences in frequency between the constructions has evened out even more, and no single pattern comes out as ‘by far the most common one in use’. In the spoken part of the BNC data, however, the trend of having one complement pattern as a dominant one seems to rise again. In this data the dominant pattern is not the

same one as in the historical data: it is a transitive construction [[NP¹]-[NP²]], which covered just under 50% of all the tokens.

In addition to gaining more possible complement constructions, the use of *submit* also developed in other ways. While in the 18th century the verb favoured reflexive, non-sentential complement patterns, in the corpora of later dates, the use of non-reflexive patterns as well as sentential ones seems to have gained ground. In CLMET Part 1, non-reflexive, non-sentential patterns covered just above 10% of the token. In Part 3, the percentage had risen to 23% and in the written BNC data to over 46%. In the spoken subcorpus the percentage was even higher: over 67%. Likewise, the use of sentential complement patterns has gained ground from non-sentential ones, even though in the written BNC material their use was low. In the oldest material, less than 10% of all tokens were sentential, while at the turn of the 20th century, their use had doubled and there had emerged new sentential patterns. Even in Present Day spoken English they are used as the complement of *submit* in about 15% of times.

As has already been shown in the previous chapters, a change in grammatical pattern seems to lead to a change in the meaning. In the use of *submit* there has been a shift from reflexive, non-sentential patterns towards non-reflexive and sentential ones. Based on this, it would seem clear that there has been a change in the meaning in which the verb is commonly used, and this matter is discussed in the next two sections.

7.2 The development of the use of non-sentential complements

In Chapter 1, I gave two goals for this thesis. The first one was to find out how the verb under examination has been used in the past and in the present, and to map out the main changes that have happened in it. The second goal was to find out how the different complement structures differ from one another in an attempt to make it easier for ESL (English as a Second Language) speakers to use the words correctly in different contexts. It has already

been discovered that, in the passing of time, the verb has acquired new possible complement patterns, and it is used in a more diverse way now, than what it was in the 18th century. That only makes the verb more difficult to use correctly for ESL speakers, but in the next two sections I will make a point of examining how the verb's meanings and uses have changed over time, and what they are today. Hopefully in the end, these sections will provide a sufficient analysis of the meanings that come with each pattern, and the way they have developed over the years, so that it makes it easier for ESL speakers to use them in a correct manner.

The most visible change there is in the use of non-sentential complement patterns, is that, over time, there has been a shift in the use of non-sentential complements of *submit* from a dominance of reflexive patterns to a dominance of non-reflexive patterns. As has been pointed out in previous chapters, the use of reflexive patterns seems to have been closely connected with the meaning of *submitting oneself to the power and authority of others or some other unpleasant thing*, whereas the non-reflexive ones have mostly been used in the meaning of *submitting things and ideas to someone's consideration and approval*:

- 1) And Rosalba roused her heavy, hollow limbs and *submitted* to the tasks... (GUX 550)
- 2) I think, in the circumstances, I shall not *submit* this manuscript to Mrs Padmore for typing. (J17 3117)

Thus there seems to have been a shift in the way the verb is commonly used. When in the past it was mostly used to convey the sense of *submitting to people*, it has now become more common to use in the sense of *submitting things*. This shift could probably be explained by the change in the western civilization in general. As time has passed, democracy has increased, and the freedom of individuals with it. Citizens have become less submissive to their leaders, and it has become rare for anyone in western countries to have to submit to anyone else's concrete rule.

Even though today *submitting* is mostly done to *things* rather than *people*, it is still possible to this day to use in the other sense, too. Then it is most common to use one of the reflexive constructions. The most common of these throughout the different corpora were [[NP¹]-[to+NP²]] and [[NP¹]-], and their use maintained quite stable all the while. The first pattern carries the meaning of *forced or unpleasant submission to someone's authority*, while the second one denotes more of *a submissive state than a single act of submission*:

- 3) ... [t]hey were evident survivals of those primitive times when the bride was taken from her tribe by force and compelled to *submit* to violence, before dawning civilization made the whole matrimonial transaction a matter of sale and barter. (1885 Linton *The Autobiography of Christopher Kirkland 1-3*)
- 4) They pulled out his fingernails. Still he did not *submit*. (G15 2799)

The meaning attached to the reflexive, monotransitive pattern – [[NP¹]-[NP^{1+refl}]][to+NP²]] – also stayed much the same during the period under examination in this thesis: it had a more voluntary, or even a joyous feel to it than the other two patterns. Only in the data from the years 1850-1920, was this voluntary meaning less visible. There it was used when the act of submission was clearly meant as forced:

- 5) ...the thumbscrews were instantly applied, and Ernest, demoralized as he already was, recanted and *submitted* himself to the powers that were. (1903 Butler *The Way of All Flesh*)

There were also two reflexive patterns that emerged in the corpus data with single instances: [[NP¹]-[in+NP²]][to+NP³]] and [[NP¹]-[NP^{1+refl}]]. Due to their infrequency, it is impossible to draw any decisive conclusions as to what their intended meaning is. In the case of the latter one it is only safe to say that it does not belong among the most common patterns used with *submit*. In the case of the first one, however, it is possible to speculate on its possible meaning: the use of this pattern seems to have been triggered by the need to express that the submission is not total – the subject only submits in some parts (namely the ones that suit themselves):

- 6) The House of Commons may, as was explained, assent in minor matters to the revision of the House of Lords, and *submit* in matters about which it cares little to

the suspensive veto of the House of Lords... (1867 Bagehot *The English Constitution*)

However, there was only one example of this pattern in the whole corpus, so even in this case it would be impossible to draw any absolute conclusions on the matter based on this data alone.

In addition to these, the data also contained several different non-reflexive patterns, the most common of which were the monotransitive pattern $[[NP^1]--[NP^2][to+NP^3]]$ and the transitive $[[NP^1]--[NP^2]]$. The difference in meaning between the two patterns was not a clear as the difference was between the reflexive patterns, but most of the corpus data seems to corroborate the OED's view that the transitive pattern is mostly reserved for legal uses:

- 7) At question time in the House, the Prime Minister agreed that a paper *submitted* by a European Planning Manager, now being studied by the Government and the European Commission appeared to offer real solutions to Britain's excessive contribution to the European budget. (AC2 2160)

In Subsection 6.1.2 it was further speculated the transitive pattern may also have another usage attached to it in Present Day English. It is preferred over the monotransitive construction when leaving out the indirect object does not make the meaning of the sentence unclear:

- 8) The clients chose the dullest and safest of the half dozen *submitted*, as was their wont. (ABW 335)

As to the alternative monotransitive patterns, with a different preposition in the indirect object, there were two types found in all the corpora: $[[NP^1]--[NP^2][as+NP^3]]$ and $[[NP^1]--[NP^2][for+NP^3]]$. In none of the corpora were they common, reaching the normalized frequency of just over 1 at best. In the BNC, their usage had become ever lower, and they were only represented by single tokens in both the present day subcorpora. The difference between them and the patterns with a $[to+NP]$ complement, however, was stable all the while: it arises from the choice of preposition:

- 9) 'It's been put on again, y'reince, and by y'reince's own orders!', and other printed notices were *submitted* for inspection. (1889 Carrol *Sylvie and Bruno*)

- 10) I *submit* it as the result of my own poor observation... (1903 Butler *The Way of All Flesh*)

The last non-reflexive complement pattern was $[[NP^1]--[NP^2][to+NP^{3+refl}]]$. This was found to be a hypercorrect use of a reflexive pronoun, and it is not actually an available complement option for *submit*.

7.3 The development of the use of sentential complements

According to the OED, *submit* is able to take three kinds of sentential complements: *to*-infinitives, *to*+gerund complements and *that*-clauses, with the first two being obsolete in today's language. Indeed, these were the types of sentential complements that emerged in the corpus data. In the oldest data, *to*-infinitives were the sole type used, but it had two variants: one with a reflexive object $[[NP^1]--[NP^{1+refl}][to\text{-infinitive}]]$, and one without $[[NP^1]--[to\text{-infinitive}]]$. These complements also emerged in the 1850-1920 data, but by then they had had to give way to *that*-clause complements, which had become the most common sentential complement. Despite the diminishing usage of infinitival complement construction, there was a new type of them that came up in this time period: $[[NP^1]--[NP^2][to\text{-infinitive}]]$. *That*-clause complements, too, had variation among them: there was a simple *that*-clause complement $[[NP^1]--[that\text{-clause}]]$, and also one that had an indirect object $[[NP^1]--[to+NP^2][that\text{-clause}]]$.

In the Present Day English data the *to*-infinitive complement had disappeared altogether. This is partly in accordance with the Great Complement Shift. As was explained in Subsection 3.2.1 above, this theory states that over the past centuries *to*-infinitive complements have become ever rarer. According to the theory, however, gerundial complements should have become more and more common with the disappearance of the *to*-infinitives, but this has not happened with the verb *submit*. With it, it became increasingly common to use *that*-clauses as complements. However, to be fair, in written Present Day

English all kinds of sentential complements seem to be rare, even *that*-clauses: all the data from that part of the BNC only contained one example of any sentential complements.

Incidentally, this single instance of sentential complements in the written data was not a *that*-clause, but a gerundial complement. This was surprising, as it should be obsolete in modern language. The frequency of *that*-clauses only comes up in the spoken subcorpus of the BNC.

All in all, it seems that the use of sentential complementation patterns with *submit* has developed by moving away from *to*-infinitives and gerunds, and towards *that*-complements. This is not surprising, because, according to the OED, the last of these complements is the only one that would be used today. This shift in the use of the patterns seems to indicate a change in the meanings that the verb is used. The obsolete patterns take a meaning of *yielding so far as to do so-and-so, consenting to do or undergo something*:

- 11) ... and to do it – pop – at first sight, by declaration – is *submitting* the offer, and themselves with it, to be sifted with all their pours and contres, by an unheated mind. (1768 Sterne *A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy*)
- 12) To have to *submit* to having a part of one's body removed while one slept... (AC5 2434)

The pattern still in use, on the other hand, is only used in the meaning of *saying*, which is quite different from the meaning of the other two.

- 13) We answer we have had long patience, and the times of ignorance both God and man were willing to wink at, but we *submit* the time for patience has passed. (1879 Booth *Papers on Practical Religion*)

8 Conclusion

Over the centuries, the use of the verb *submit* has changed in many aspects. Firstly, it has become a lot less common. Secondly, it has gained some new complement patterns. Thirdly, there has been a shift in the use of complement patterns commonly found with the verb. The meanings that are attached to each pattern have maintained a level of stability through the centuries, though. Thus the shift in the use complements seems to mark a shift in the use of meanings. In the past the verb was often used in the meaning of *submitting oneself to someone's authority*, which takes a reflexive pattern. Today it is mostly used in its sense of *(formally) submitting things such as papers and ideas for other people's consideration*, which takes a non-reflexive transitive or monotransitive pattern. The same thing has happened to sentential complements, too. In the historical data, the one possible sentential complement was a *to*-infinitive, which carried the same submissive meaning as the non-sentential reflexive pattern: *to yield as far as to do so-and-so*. The sentential pattern that is found in modern language is a *that*-clause complement, whose meaning is a more peaceful one: *to say or communicate something*. As was already speculated in the previous chapters, it is possible that this change is caused by the change in western societies towards democracy, where people do not often have to submit to anyone else's rule.

The overall number of tokens examined for this thesis was a little under 600. Thus there was a reasonable data analyzed to reach these conclusions. However, it must be kept in mind that especially the historical corpus used in the research was biased in some ways. The corpus consisted mostly of literary texts written by educated white males. It is possible that if all writers of that era were included in the corpus, the results would be a little different. On the other hand, being more formal, the verb is not that common in every day speech. Thus it is also possible that it would not have been found at all in texts of uneducated writers. The reliability of the research can also have been affected by the size of the data, but only slightly.

The number of tokens analyzed is so large that it is possible, if not probable, that there have been some errors in the analysis that have been left unnoticed. Their effect on the reliability should not be significant, as the results gotten from the different corpora were consistent with each other and, to some extent, with the background material.

This thesis has provided a general picture of the complementation of *submit* in the recent centuries, but there is still room for further research in the field. Firstly, one could examine even larger quantities of data on this verb, and try to reach more conclusive results on the use of its complementation, perhaps paying special attention to the patterns that were very uncommon in the data at hand. Secondly, this research concentrated on a standard variety of written British English, so one could examine regional variation or register variation with the verb.

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