

Affixal negation in Old and Middle Frisian

Frisian language belongs to the group of North Sea Germanic languages. Despite its close relationship with English, Frisian is still a language that is not as widely discussed and studied by contemporary linguists as English. This work is a part of a broader study of the development and changes in negation in the history of Frisian that is expressed by means of syntactic and lexical structures.

The paper takes the diachronic perspective and seeks to discuss and analyse the changes that took place in the construction of the lexical – affixal negation in both Old and Middle Frisian.

The analysis is carried out on the lexical data retrieved from the texts provided by the online corpus of Frisian language - *The Integrated Scientific Frisian Language Database* that is mainly composed of legal texts and charters from the period 1329 - 1550. The author of the paper attempts to identify and characterise only the affixes that gave a new negative or pejorative character to the analysed expressions and, thus, participated in various word-formation and derivational processes occurring in the discussed language. Special focus is also to be put on the thorough evaluation of the derivational recategorization of the lexical categories. The quantitative analysis of the material will take account of both the types of negative derivatives and their frequency of occurrence. The diachronic corpus analysis aims to apply the methods for morphological productivity measurement that have been proposed by Baayen (1992; 1993; 2009). The adopted approach will, hopefully, allow to determine and assess the productivity and the evolution of negative affixes in Old and Middle Frisian.

The final results of the analysis, contrasted with the available knowledge of the other West Germanic languages, may help us understand the direction and intensity of the word-formation changes that were taking place in the North Sea Germanic language family.

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