

Bare nouns across time and the determiner systems

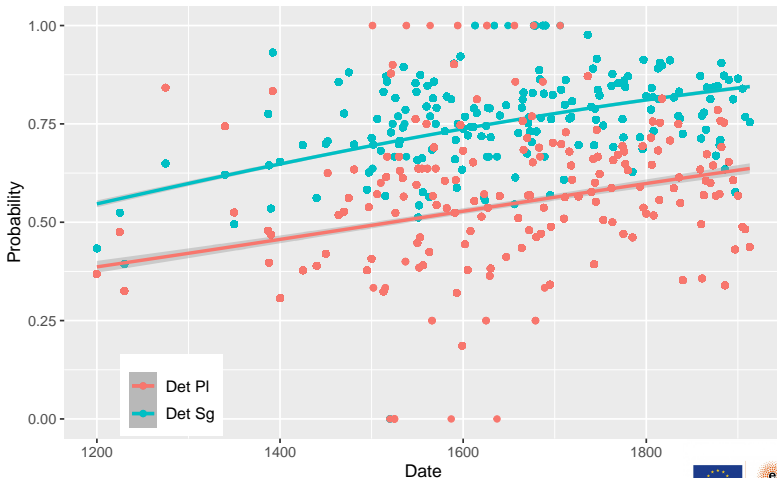
Alexandra Simonenko (Ghent University)

Definiteness across domains: Bare nouns.
University of Wuppertal, March 4–6, 2023

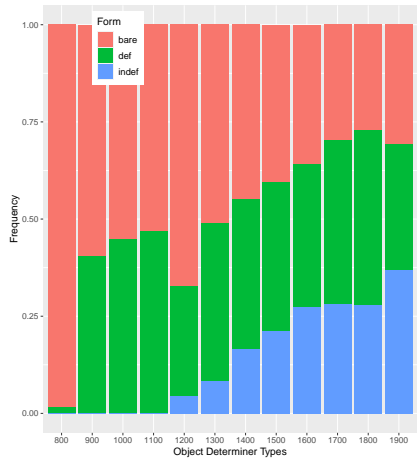
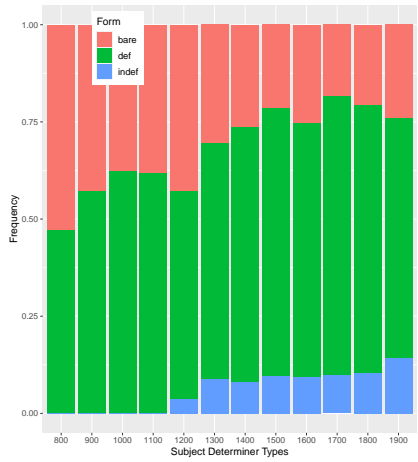
SINGULAR VS. PLURAL

$$P(\text{DET} = \text{yes} | \text{DATE} = d, \text{NUM} = \text{sg}) = \frac{e^{\alpha + \beta * \text{Date}}}{1 + e^{\alpha + \beta * \text{Date}}} : \alpha = -2.349^{***}, \beta = 0.0021^{***}.$$

$$P(\text{DET} = \text{yes} | \text{DATE} = d, \text{NUM} = \text{pl}) = \frac{e^{\alpha + \beta * \text{Date}}}{1 + e^{\alpha + \beta * \text{Date}}} : \alpha = -2.184^{***}, \beta = 0.0014^{***}.$$



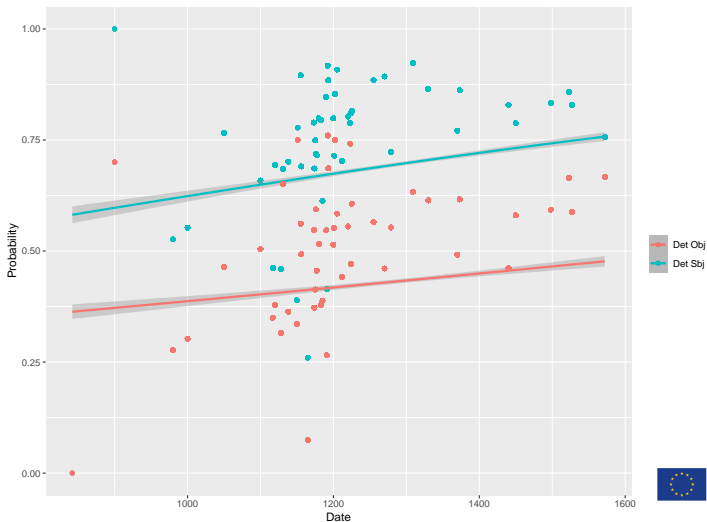
DETERMINER TYPE:



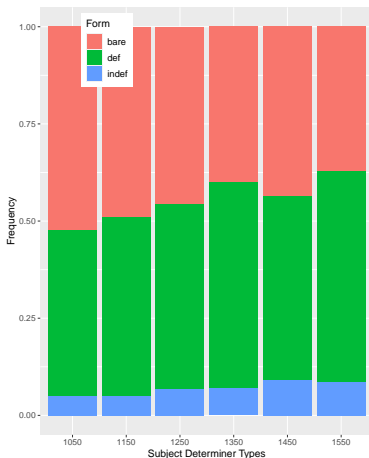
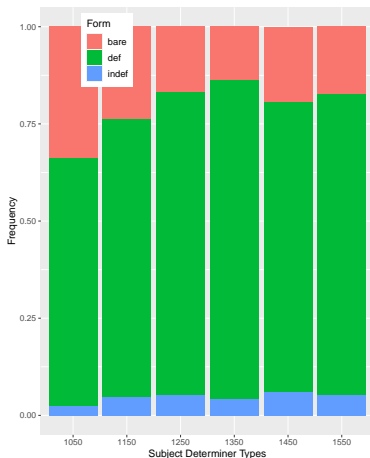
SYNTACTIC FUNCTION FACTOR: FRENCH

$$P(\text{DET} = \text{yes} | \text{DATE} = d, \text{FUNCTION} = \text{sbj}) = \frac{e^{\alpha + \beta * \text{Date}}}{1 + e^{\alpha + \beta * \text{Date}}} : \alpha = -0.926^{***}, \beta = 0.0018^{***}.$$

$$P(\text{DET} = \text{yes} | \text{DATE} = d, \text{FUNCTION} = \text{obj}) = \frac{e^{\alpha + \beta * \text{Date}}}{1 + e^{\alpha + \beta * \text{Date}}} : \alpha = -1.440^{***}, \beta = 0.0012^{***}.$$



DETERMINER TYPE: FRENCH



SINGULAR BNs AS OBJECTS: THE 900s, FREQ > 10

#	noun	
15	anwald	"jurisdiction"
11	betonican	"a betony"
32	blod	
13	drenc	"a drink"
11	eced	"vinegar"
22	fird	"an army"
20	fri+d	"peace"
12	god	
13	men	
11	pipor	
14	sealt	
15	So+d	"truth"
15	w+ater	
26	yfel	"evil"

- (2) Darius fird gegaderode
 Darius army gathered
 "Darius gathered together an army/a force" (coorosiu,Or_3:9.69.9.1346)

SINGULAR BNs AS OBJECTS: THE 900s, $FREQ > 10$

- (3) ne magon we næafre gereccan ðone yflan mon clæanne
 not may we never tell the/that evil man pure
 & untwifealdne, ðon ma ðe we magon hatan oþþe
 and undivided, that more rel we may call or
 habban **deadne mon** for cwucone.
 have dead man for alive
- “Nor may we ever account the evil man pure and undivided,
 any more than we may call or hold a dead man for a live
 one.”³ (coboeth,Bo:36.109.25.2151)

³Translation from Discenza (2012, 42).

SINGULAR BNs AS OBJECTS: THE 1000s, FREQ > 30

#	noun	
44	dea+d	
33	fri+d	"peace"
56	god	
45	hlaf	"bread"
46	lac	"an offering"
77	lif	"life"
42	man	
47	martyrdom	
65	Men	
36	mynster	"monastery"
49	riht	"a right"
45	sunu	"a son"
42	unriht	"a sin"
42	w+astm	"a fruit"
53	W+ater	
35	weorc	"work"
62	wif	"a woman"
38	win	"wine"
43	wundra	"a miracle"
64	yfel	"evil"

SINGULAR BNs AS OBJECTS: 1100s, FREQ > 5

#	noun	
6	a+das	
11	bearn	"a child"
7	dea+d	
6	feoh	"money"
11	fri+d	
6	gafol	"a tax"
10	gislas	"a hostage"
8	god	
7	here	"an army"
6	lif	"life"
10	man	
16	yfel	"evil"

SINGULAR BNs AS OBJECTS: 1100s, FREQ > 5

- (4) He him nalde **neowne biscop** hadian
he him not.want new bishop ordain
“He didn’t want to ordain him as a new bishop.”
(cochad,LS.3.[Chad]:39.26)

SINGULAR BNs AS OBJECTS: 1200s, FREQ > 10

#	noun		#	noun	
11	+ting		13	mihte	"power"
32	blisse		18	Mon	"man"
15	blod		14	pine	"pain"
22	child		14	so+d	"truth"
28	dea+d		13	sunne	"sun"
26	god		14	witt	
11	leauē		11	word	
35	lif	"life"			
16	luue	"love"			
12	man				
37	mann				

- (5) he **sunne** atēnd
 he sun kindled
 "(that) he kindled the sun"
- (6) he luue+d us mare +tenne animoder **child**.
 he loves us more than any.mother child
 "he loves us more than any mother loves her child" (CMANCRIW-2,IL.290.749)

SINGULAR BNs AS OBJECTS: 1300s, FREQ > 10

#	noun	#	noun
12	+ting	12	nede
15	conseil	15	pees
15	grace	13	penaunce
15	harm	13	power
17	lijf	14	self
18	MAN	32	synne
11	Merci	11	werre
15	mercy	18	wickednes
19	Mesure	20	witnessyng
11	mete	12	ydolatrie
14	Mon	17	yuel

SINGULAR BNs AS OBJECTS: 1400s, FREQ > 10

		#	noun
#	noun	11	mede
19	bataile	47	Mercy
13	charite	11	mervayle
12	cher	19	mete
12	drede	11	mynde
11	fruyt	47	nede
29	good	15	pees
71	Grace	23	power
13	harm	11	reste
12	homage	19	sege
17	Ioye	16	sorow
18	joy	18	sorwe
43	leue	12	soth
11	lif	34	synne
11	lyf	12	werre
45	Man	19	WYN
		12	yeme

SINGULAR BNs AS OBJECTS: 1500s, FREQ > 10

#	noun	#	noun
11	Answer	24	Power
19	good	17	selfe
21	grace	16	Treason
13	Masse	14	tyme
40	mercy	17	Vsurie
12	Money	12	water
13	nede	11	Witness
15	Occasion	13	word
25	Order		

- (7) The duke Maurice made **answere** to th'emperour, that if the council were not fre he would not come at it. (EDWARD-E1-P2,292.30)
- (8) and receyued from him **answere** of dirision, as affermyth the Englysshe booke. (FABYAN-E1-P2,578.118)

SINGULAR BNs AS OBJECTS: 1600s, FREQ > 10

#	noun	#	noun
14	Care	10	Power
6	Fire	7	Reason
10	Good	7	self
7	hold	7	selfe
12	leave	7	time
9	Money	8	use
18	notice	11	water
7	occasion	6	way
6	order	12	word
6	Part		

SINGULAR BNs AS OBJECTS: 1700s, FREQ > 10

#	noun
26	Answer
30	Care
23	Leave
38	Life
28	Notice
19	Occasion
12	Room
15	Sail
11	Sense
21	Sight
17	Tea
14	use
17	witness

(9) and apply it when you have occasion. (ALBIN-1736,4.77)

SINGULAR BNs AS OBJECTS: 1800s, FREQ > 10

#	noun
12	care
14	good
12	hold
20	life
18	Notice
16	Part
40	place
15	Power
11	strength
11	time
22	witness

SINGULAR BNs AS OBJECTS: 1900s, FREQ > 1

#	noun
3	attention
2	corn
2	criticism
2	hold
2	part
2	place
2	produce
3	time
4	work

SINGULAR BNs AS SUBJECTS

- (10) swa swa **scearp sword** +da wunde toseat on tu
so as sharp sword the/that wound cuts on you
“just as a sharp sword cuts this wound on you” **the 800s** (cocura,CP:60.453.14.3268)
- (11) swa swa **bearneacen wif** acen+d bearn
so as pregnant woman brings.forth child
“just as a pregnant woman brings forth a child” **the 900s** (coboeth,Bo:31.70.10.1306)
- (12) **cyning** beo unrihtwis
king was unjust
“the king was unjust” **the 1000s** (coaelive,+ALS[Pr_Moses]:123.2933)
- (13) and werede +te croune oppon his heuede, as neuer **kyng** dede bifore;
and wore the/that crown upon his head as never king did before
the 1400s (CMBRUT3,23.699)
- (14) For tyme is maad for **man**, and not **man** for tyme. **the 1400s** (CMCLOUD,20.117)
- (15) We schal wyte +tat **myracle of Crist** was wroht here. **the 1400s**
(CMWYCSE,362.2415)

for thou haste done the moste worshyp that ever ded **knyght** in tl
the 1400s (CMMALORY,196.2977)

SINGULAR BNs AS SUBJECTS

- (17) If ever **war** can be justified, surely the present is the case.
(WOLLASTON-1793,23.181)
- (18) as if **old age** had brought a disposition to cling to the remnant of the once
inconveniently large family (YONGE-1865,184.627)
- (19) and **freedom** is everything. (WILDE-1895,43.113)
- (20) Although both **farmer** and **gardener** have to practise the same principles of
cultivation for outdoor crops, the gardener, even with these, will devote far
more attention to detail, (WEATHERS-1913,1,1.21)

INSTEAD OF ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS II

More generally, diachronic quantitative data emerges as one more – in addition to synchronic distribution patterns – source of falsifiability for the theory of nominal (non) determination.

Disenza, Nicole Guenther. 2012. *The king's english: Strategies of translation in the old english boethius*. State University of New York Press.

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Kroch, Anthony, and Beatrice Santorini. 2021. *Penn-BFM Parsed Corpus of Historical French (PPCHF)*. URL <https://github.com/beatrice57/mcvf-plus-ppCHF/>.

Martineau, France, Paul Hirschbühler, Anthony Kroch, and Yves Charles Morin. 2010. *Corpus MCVF annoté syntaxiquement, (2005–2010), dirigé par France Martineau, avec Paul Hirschbühler, Anthony Kroch et Yves Charles Morin*.