

The do-Periphrasis



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(Kevin Quigley)

THE DO-PERIPHRAISIS



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GRIN Verlag Dez 2009, 2009. sonst. Bücher. Book Condition: Neu. 210x147x1 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject English - Pedagogy, Didactics, Literature Studies, printed single-sided, grade: 1, 0, University of Würzburg, language: English, abstract: As a feature that does not occur in any other language in Europe, the do-periphrasis is a peculiar phenomenon of English grammar. Across the centuries it has gradually replaced certain other grammatical uses and has in this way developed to an indispensable construction in the standard speech of Present-Day English. In the following, this paper will examine the history of the do-periphrasis and its functions in Modern English. Therefore, the investigation first focuses on possible origins of the do-periphrasis and its further development during Early English times. On this historical basis, then the functions and occurrences of the do-periphrasis in Modern English are described in the second part of the paper. As one of the most intriguing phenomena in the English language the do-periphrasis has found widespread scholarly interest and, therefore, was investigated and portrayed in a great variety of studies. In recent years, David Denison, Matti Rissanen, Terttu Nevalainen and Arja Nurmi have produced the most influential works on the do-periphrasis, based on earlier ideas of thinkers such as Visser, Engblom or Ellegard. The examples in the second part of this investigation are taken from the British National Corpus in its online version provided by the British Library. In Old English times, the verb *don*, predecessor of the modern verb *do*, was exclusively functioning as a main verb and, therefore, did not have any auxiliary qualities. In this sense, it could on the one hand be used as a full verb, a function the verb has maintained throughout the...



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