

# Table of contents

Acknowledgements	v
<b>Chapter 1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Aim	1
1.2 Stages of English	2
1.3 Context of the study	3
1.4 The Culture of 16th and 17th century England: A review of the cultural literature	7
1.5 Review of the linguistic literature	13
1.6 The novelty of my approach	17
1.7 Sources	18
1.7.1 Dictionaries	18
1.7.2 "Mere emphasis": Trying to describe the meaningless	20
1.7.3 Non-dictionary sources of individual examples	22
1.8 Structure	24
1.9 The value of historical semantics	17
<b>Chapter 2. NSM and historical semantics</b>	<b>30</b>
2.1 NSM Semantics	30
2.1.1 The metalanguage	30
2.1.2 Using NSM for lexical (lexico-grammatical) semantics: NSM explications	33
2.1.3 NSM explications of 16th and 17th century epistemic expressions	40
2.1.4 The contribution of NSM explications	42
2.1.5 Reading NSM: Frequently asked questions	43
2.2 The application of NSM semantics to the language of the past	45
2.2.1 Cultural motivations for semantic change	45
2.2.2 The NSM semantics position on historical semantics	46
2.2.3 Issues in NSM historical semantics methodology	47
2.2.4 Invited inferencing, changing meanings, obsolescence	49
2.2.5 On questions posed in the conventional study of semantic change	50
2.2.6 16th and 17th century epistemic phrases and subjectivity	51



2.3	Concluding remarks on NSM and historical semantics	55
<b>Chapter 3.</b>	<b><i>Verily</i></b>	56
3.1	Introduction to <i>verily</i>	56
3.2	What dictionaries and other commentaries say about <i>verily</i>	56
3.3	How <i>verily</i> is used in 16th and 17th century English	59
3.4	Frequency and register of <i>verily</i>	73
3.5	The decline of <i>verily</i>	75
3.6	Concluding remarks on <i>verily</i>	77
<b>Chapter 4.</b>	<b><i>Surely</i></b>	79
4.1	Introduction to <i>surely</i>	
4.2	What dictionaries and other commentaries say about <i>surely</i>	79
4.3	<i>Surely</i> in present-day English	82
4.4	How <i>surely</i> is used in 16th and 17th century English	84
4.5	Frequency and register of <i>surely</i>	91
4.6	Semantic change in <i>surely</i>	92
4.7	The progression of <i>surely</i>	94
4.8	Concluding remarks on <i>surely</i>	96
<b>Chapter 5.</b>	<b><i>Forsooth</i></b>	98
5.1	Introduction to <i>forsooth</i>	98
5.2	What dictionaries and other commentaries say about <i>forsooth</i>	98
5.3	How <i>forsooth</i> is used in 16th and 17th century English	101
5.3.1	Sentence position of <i>forsooth</i> and an explication	101
5.3.2	<i>Forsooth</i> and the lower classes	104
5.3.3	<i>Forsooth</i> through comparison with <i>verily</i> , parenthetical use of <i>forsooth</i> and the question of genre	110
5.4	Frequency and register of <i>forsooth</i>	117
5.5	The decline of <i>forsooth</i>	119
5.6	Concluding remarks on <i>forsooth</i>	120
<b>Chapter 6.</b>	<b><i>By my troth, in truth</i></b>	122
6.1	Introduction to <i>by my troth</i> and <i>in truth</i>	122
6.2	The context of <i>by my troth</i> and <i>in truth</i>	122
6.3	What does “ <i>by my</i> ” mean?	128
6.4	The significance of <i>troth</i>	130



6.5	How <i>by my troth</i> is used in 16th and 17th century English	133
6.6	How <i>by my troth</i> is translated into modern English	139
6.7	How <i>in truth</i> is used in 16th and 17th century English	141
6.8	<i>In truth</i> used today	146
6.9	Frequency and register of <i>by my troth</i> and <i>in truth</i>	147
6.10	Concluding remarks on <i>by my troth</i> and <i>in truth</i>	148
<b>Chapter 7.</b>	<b><i>By my faith, in faith</i></b>	<b>150</b>
7.1	Introduction to <i>by my faith, in faith</i>	150
7.2	The context of <i>by my faith</i> and <i>in faith</i>	150
7.3	By the <i>faith</i> of a gentleman: identity and the culture of <i>faith</i> in 16th and 17th century England	155
7.4	<i>My faith to you, my faith to God</i> : the religious connotations of <i>by my faith</i> and <i>in faith</i>	158
7.5	How <i>by my faith</i> is used in 16th and 17th century English	160
7.6	How <i>in faith</i> was used in 16th and 17th century English	166
7.7	How <i>in faith</i> is translated into modern English	170
7.8	Frequency and register of <i>by my faith</i> and <i>in faith</i>	174
7.9	<i>Faith</i> and class	175
7.10	Concluding remarks on <i>by my faith</i> and <i>in faith</i>	176
<b>Chapter 8.</b>	<b><i>Methinks, I think</i></b>	<b>178</b>
8.1	Introduction to <i>methinks</i> and <i>I think</i>	178
8.2	<i>I think</i> and <i>it seems to me</i> in present-day English	178
8.3	<i>Methinks</i> and <i>I think</i> in 16th and 17th century English	182
8.3.1	<i>I think</i>	183
8.3.2	<i>Methinks</i>	183
8.3.3	What do <i>methinks</i> and <i>I think</i> mean and is there a difference in their meanings?	185
8.4.	<i>Think</i> in 16th and 17th century English and in NSM	188
8.5.	How <i>methinks</i> and <i>I think</i> are used in 16th and 17th century English	191
8.6.	Collocations of <i>methinks</i> and <i>I think</i>	194
8.6.1	Collocations with adverbial and exclamatory expressions	194
8.6.2	<i>By guess I think</i>	195
8.6.3	Non-attested collocations	196
8.7	Individual examples of <i>I think</i> and <i>methinks</i>	199



8.8	Did the 16th and 17th century <i>I think</i> have a meaning of uncertainty?	200
8.9	Frequency and register of <i>methinks</i> and <i>I think</i>	203
8.10	Concluding remarks on <i>methinks</i> and <i>I think</i>	204
<b>Chapter 9.</b>	<b><i>I wot</i></b>	206
9.1	Introduction to <i>I wot</i>	206
9.2	What the Dictionaries Say about <i>wot</i>	206
9.3	How <i>I wot</i> is used in 16th and 17th century English	207
9.4	<i>Knowing</i> in English	208
9.5	Discussion of the meaning of <i>I wot</i> in the 16th and 17th centuries	210
9.6	Frequency and register of <i>I wot</i>	216
9.7	<i>You wot well</i>	216
9.8.	<i>I wot not</i>	219
9.9	Concluding remarks on <i>I wot</i>	220
<b>Chapter 10.</b>	<b><i>I ween</i></b>	222
10.1	Introduction to <i>I ween</i>	222
10.2	What the dictionaries say about <i>ween</i>	222
10.3	How <i>ween</i> is used in 16th and 17th century English	224
10.4	<i>I ween, you ween, they ween</i>	226
10.5	"Thinking" in English	229
10.6	Initial hypotheses on the meaning of <i>I ween</i>	231
10.7	Evidence from collocations of <i>I ween</i>	232
10.8	<i>Ween</i> with <i>well</i>	233
10.9	Evidence from specific examples of the use of the verb <i>ween</i>	234
10.10	<i>Weening</i> and <i>overweening</i>	235
10.11	Frequency and register of <i>I ween</i>	240
10.12	Concluding remarks on <i>I ween</i>	241
<b>Chapter 11.</b>	<b><i>I suppose</i></b>	244
11.1	Introduction to <i>I suppose</i>	244
11.2	<i>I suppose</i> in present-day English	244
11.3	How <i>I suppose</i> is used in 16th and 17th century English	247
11.4	What dictionaries and commentaries Say about <i>I suppose</i>	249
11.5	Evidence from collocations of <i>I suppose</i>	251
11.6	Evidence from individual examples of <i>I suppose</i>	254



11.7	Evidence from nouns related to <i>suppose</i> and an explication	257
11.8	<i>I suppose</i> and the verb <i>suppose</i>	259
11.9	Frequency and register of <i>I suppose</i>	260
11.10	Concluding remarks on <i>I suppose</i>	261
<b>Chapter 12.</b>	<b><i>I trow</i></b>	263
12.1	Introduction to <i>I trow</i>	263
12.2	How <i>I trow</i> and <i>trow</i> are used in 16th and 17th century English	263
12.3	On the meaning of <i>I trow</i>	266
12.4	<i>Trow</i> used with questions	268
12.5	<i>Trow</i> and <i>I trow</i> used in exclamation	271
12.6	Frequency and register of <i>I trow</i>	272
12.7	Collocates of <i>I trow</i>	273
12.8	How does one tell what <i>I trow</i> means?	274
12.9	<i>Trow</i> vs. <i>wonder</i>	274
12.10	Concluding remarks on <i>I trow</i>	279
<b>Chapter 13.</b>	<b>Concluding remarks</b>	280
	Notes	289
	References	296
	Name index	311
	Subject index	314