

Review by Christine Meklenborg Nilsen

Does the paper make a novel contribution to the understanding of the topic under investigation? [max 250 words]*

Yes. The paper builds on previous literature and provides a new account for a phenomenon that has been investigated from different angles. It brings together different phenomena and analyses the fronted infinitive as a transparency effect due to restructuring.

Is the empirical content of the paper sound (i.e. the data are collected and presented properly, the experiments are well designed, the statistics is well done, the examples contain no spelling mistakes, etc)? [max 400 words]*

Overall, yes. However, the paper makes claims about Middle French that are not really sustained by examples or statistics. The lion's share of the examples is from Old French. I would have liked to see more examples from the later periods.

A couple of glossing/spelling mistakes:

(11) and (43) - given that the relative in French is the complementizer, it makes more sense to gloss it "that" rather than "which".

Joam Maling is a woman - therefore "SHE claims" on p. 6.

Is the argument coherent and sound, with no major flaws and/or shortcomings, within the context of the theoretical assumptions made by the author? [max 500 words]*

One problem that is not addressed is the fact that the underlying structure of Old French changes during the period that is being discussed in this paper. I believe it would be useful to discuss this. While OF had an active CP layer with obligatory V-to-C-movement, this is not the case for MF. Could the structure undergo reanalysis during this period? What is the relation between this structure and V2. (Given the data provided, the link to V2 may be weaker than previously assumed, which is also an interesting point.)

I also believe it should be made explicit what role SpecTP plays in the structure and where Case is assigned. (It is stated between the lines.)

Section 4.1. deserves a brush-up to make sure that the reader understands that the absence of complementizers relate to the complementizer introducing the infinitive, not the embedded clause.

Are there any relevant scholarly works that have been overlooked by the author? If the answer is YES, please provide the full references.*

No

Have you seen this paper, its content, the proposed analysis, or the conclusions published in other venues? [If your answer is YES, please add the relevant reference.]*

No

If you accept the paper with minor revisions, please list the revisions you would advice (you are not required to proofread the paper) [max 500 words]

See above.