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pragmatics, stylistics, and corpus linguistics. Two of her major publications are *Vocative Constructions in the Language of Shakespeare* (John Benjamins 2006), and *Language and Style* (Palgrave 2010, co-edited with Dan McIntyre). Among her recent projects are “Speech, writing and thought presentation in the history of English”, “language and urban place” and “language and medicine in Medieval and Early Modern Texts”.

Expressions of stance in the history of english

Stance refers to epistemic or attitudinal comments on propositional information by the speaker and to the information perspectives of utterances in discourse as well as how speakers express their attitudes and sources of information communicated (Biber et al. 1999). Modality and modals, comment clauses, attitudinal expressions and adverbials may function as linguistic indicators of stance. Very fruitful existing diachronic studies exist on, for example, modality and mood (including EModE phenomena) (Krug 2000) and on some individual stance adverbials investigated from a historical point of view (see, for example, Biber 2004, Brinton 1996, Lenker 2003, 2007, 2010, Traugott 1995).

As part of a broader corpus-based investigation of expressions of stance through time, this paper will further identify and analyse the “historical landscape” of stance adverbials such as *by my faith, forsooth, in regard of or to say precisely/true/the truth/the sooth*. In order to establish a preliminary “inventory” of historical stance adverbials, I have focused on Shakespeare plays (Busse 2010). Following a function-to-form and a form-to-function mapping and a discussion of methodological difficulties associated, for example, with modern mappings and categorisations (i.e. Biber et al. 1999, Biber 2004), I have attempted to establish the types of stance adverbials, their semantic categories and frequencies with which they occur in the respective Shakespeare plays, and their potential functions. These results are then compared with data from other (spoken) corpora, such as the *Corpus of Early English Correspondence* and *A Corpus of English Dialogues 1560-1760* (Busse 2012). Against a framework of grammaticalisation and pragmaticalisation it is also necessary to analyse to what extent the Shakespearean inventory of stance adverbials and their individual constructions are qualitatively and quantitatively replicable in these corpora and how individual forms of stance adverbials develop in the course of time. Moreover, the stylistic and rhetorical potential of stance adverbials needs to be diachronically investigated, for example, in respect to their position in the clause and their functions. These observations will also be related to domain, age of speaker, and other contextual factors. Within a more qualitative framework, it is argued that stance adverbials have interpersonal, experiential and textual meanings as discourse markers, indicating scope, attitude and speaker-hearer relationship.