

Documentation of Old English dialects.

Documents that survive only in much later copies, with (mostly) Late West Saxon phonology and morphology, are in parentheses. Those whose original dialect cannot be determined are entered in the West Saxon column. Dates are very approximate.

Other documents of more or less mixed dialect are in the West Saxon column in brackets.

Authors are in Roman type, original works in Italics, translations underlined.

	Kentish	West Saxon	Mercian	Northumbrian
600	(<i>Laws of Æthelberht</i>)			
650				
700		(<i>Laws of Ine</i>)		<i>Cædmon's Hymn,</i> <i>Bede's Death Song,</i> <i>the Leiden Riddle,</i> <i>various inscriptions</i>
750		(<i>Beowulf</i>)		
800			<u>Leiden Glosses,</u> <u>Corpus Glosses,</u> <u>Épinal Glosses</u>	
850	<i>K. Charters</i>		<u>Lorica Prayer,</u> <u>Erfurt Glosses,</u> <u>Vespasian Psalter,</u> (<i>Cynewulf</i>)	
900		<i>Parker Chronicle,</i> <u>Pastoral Care,</u> <u>Orosius, [Bede]</u>		
950	<u>K. Glosses</u> & <u>Hymn,</u> <u>Psalm 50</u>	<i>Lǣcebōc, [Battle of Brunnanburh,]</i> <u>Junius Psalter,</u> <u>[Boethius]</u>	<u>Rushworth Gl.¹</u>	<u>Lindisfærne Glosses,</u> <u>Durham Ritual,</u> <u>Rushworth Gl.²</u>
1000		<i>Ælfric, Wulfstan,</i> <i>[Battle of Maldon,]</i> <u>Gospels</u>		
1050		<u>Paris Psalter</u>		
1100		<i>[Life of St. Chad]</i>		
1150		last addenda to the <i>Peterborough Chronicle</i>		

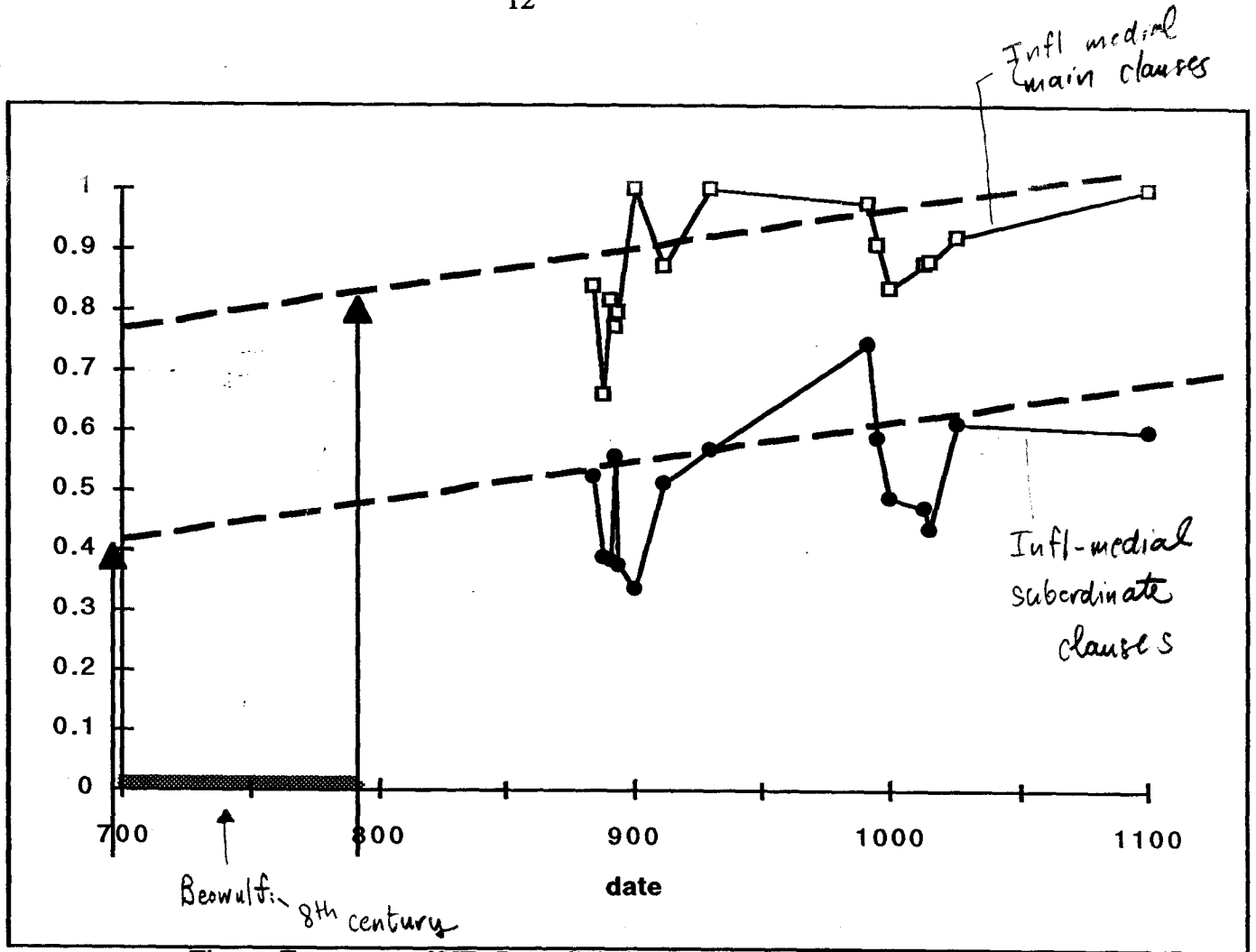


Figure: Frequency of VERB-medial phrase structure in Old English

Constant Rate Hypothesis