

Generative Grammar and Historical Linguistics

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Generative grammar has always been focused on introspective data and the Internal(ized) Grammar of a speaker. Since historical stages of a language lack speakers, generative grammar was not initially excited by data from earlier stages. However, detailed corpora now make linguistic patterns obvious and it is easier to establish systematic change. In this talk, I will show how generative grammar provides insight into cyclical change and also on how certain changes help formulate the principles (now third factors) of generative grammar. The talk will examine four cycles and account for these in terms of labeling and derivational determinacy.