

Diachrony of present participles and gerunds followed by *not*

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Following on from Nakamura (2000 and 2008) the present paper is a conclusion on the history of present participles and gerunds followed by *not* as exemplified in (1).

(1) a. Perfective Participial *having not* PP

1660 S. Pepys, *Diary*, I 5, *having not eat* anything but bread and cheese, my wife cut me a slice of brawn

b. Passive/Perfective Participial *being not* PP

1660 S. Pepys, *Diary*, I 322, they *being not done*, I went away; 1661 S. Pepys, *Diary*, II 114, they *being not come*, we went over to the Wardrobe

c. Participial V-ing *not*

1660 S. Pepys, *Diary*, I 215, To bed, *having not* time to write letters;

d. Perfective Gerundive *having not* PP

1713, J. Swift, *Journal to Stella*, II 670, *Having not used* riding these 3 years, made me terrible weary;

e. Passive/Perfective Gerundive *being not* PP

1775 J. Woodforde, *Diary*, I 168, she is not at all pleased in *being not invited* to the Christening; 1699 S. Pepys, *Private Correspondence and Miscellaneous Papers of Samuel Pepys*, I 202, your 3d most unwellcome notice of your *being not gone* the 17th is come to hand.

f. Gerundive V-ing *not*

1660 S. Pepys, *Diary*, I 226, many of my things are quite spoiled with mould, by reason of lying so long a-shipboard and my cabin *being not* tight.

An examination of texts and electronic corpora conducted utilized the following sources: 130 volumes of diaries and correspondence written between the mid-seventeenth and early twentieth centuries, the Diachronic Part of the Helsinki Corpus, the CEECS, the Lampeter Corpus, the Newdigate Newsletters, ARCHER 3.1, the LOB Corpus, the FLOB Corpus, the Brown Corpus, the Frown Corpus, the BNC and the OED² on CD-ROM, Version 3.1. Based upon 10,569 examples of the pre- and post-position of *not* collected through the aforementioned texts and corpora, some of the noteworthy results are shown in (2).

(2) a. The percentage of post-position of *not* was higher in the following order: (1a, b) > (1c) > (1d, e) > (1f). The post-position of *not* occurred with a high frequency from approximately the mid-sixteenth to the mid-eighteenth centuries. It was most frequently used with Participial *having* PP, where the post-position of *not* accounted for 72.9% in diaries and correspondence written in 1651-1700. Next stood Participial *being* PP, and next Participial V-ing, whereas the post-position of *not* was sporadic with Gerundive *being/having* PP and very rare with Gerundive V-ing. It is evident that the more verbal force *ing*-forms assume,

the more frequently the post-position of *not* occurred.

- b. Participial V-*ing not* typically occurred with not merely *be* and *have* but also with a closed class of verbs: *know*, *care*, *come*, *do*, *doubt*, and *find*, i.e. verbs which continued to show aversion to the auxiliary *do* in negative declaratives.
- c. The post-position of *not* was used widely by varied individuals, including men of nobility and the educated, throughout Britain and Ireland, and in varied documents including academic and official prose.

It is an accepted theory that the post-position of *not* after *ing*-forms is not acceptable in Present-day English (Quirk et al. 1985: 994; Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 803) and was disliked in Modern English (Bullock 1586: 141; Priestley 1761 [1769]: 124-125). It is likely, however, that this form may have been part of the grammar from the mid-sixteenth to the mid-eighteenth centuries, at least not an idiosyncrasy or mere slip of the pen.

References

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