
Abstract**Null Subjects in Old English Interlinear Glossed Psalms****KOBAYASHI Shigeyuki**

The null subject phenomenon has been cited as a typical example of the linguistic parameters fundamental to the principles and parameters (P&P) theory of generative grammar which has been the subject of numerous theoretical studies. However, as the Minimalist Programme (MP) became mainstream in generative grammar, there has been a growing suspicion of the concept of linguistic parameters.

This paper reviews Biberauer's (2018) proposal of a drastically revised concept of parameters that abandons their innateness in the P&P theory and adopts third factors in the MP to explain linguistic variations, though historical data are needed to fully explain null subjects in OE. Walkden (2016) proposes dialectal variation in null subjects in Old English. However, contrary to these treatments of null subjects in Old English, Rasten (2019) argues against the status of null subjects in OE based on wide-ranging statistical data.

This paper points out differences in null subjects between the first and second persons and the third in the Old English Psalms, which can be explained by Gelderen's (2011) theory based on their syntactic features. This leads to the conclusion that statistics can effectively specify the factors that condition null subjects, but cannot explain the reasons for the phenomenon, which must be explored by linguistic theory.