

**Univerzita Karlova v Praze
Filozofická fakulta**

Ústav anglického jazyka a didaktiky

Bakalářská práce

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**Shoda významového podmětu a přísudku v existenciálních větách
uvozených *there***

Grammatical concord in existential *there*-clauses

Praha, 2016

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Děkuji Mgr. Jiřině Popelíkové za odborné vedení při psaní této bakalářské práce, za její ochotu a trpělivost. Také děkuji Mgr. Ondřeji Tichému, PhD. za pomoc při hledání materiálu pro tuto práci.

„Prohlašuji, že jsem bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně, že jsem řádně citovala všechny použité prameny a že práce nebyla využita v rámci jiného vysokoškolského studia či k získání jiného nebo stejného titulu.“

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Souhlasím se zapůjčením bakalářské práce ke studijním účelům. / I have no objections to this thesis being borrowed and used for study purposes.

Abstrakt

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá otázkou neshody významového podmětu a přísudku v anglických existenciálních konstrukcích uvozených *there*. V těchto větách je gramatickým podmětem existenciální *there*, ale za gramaticky správnou se obvykle považuje shoda s významovým podmětem. Tato práce se zaměřuje na případy, v nichž dochází k rozporu mezi plurálovou formou významové části podmětu a singulárovou formou slovesa *to be*. Fráze *there + sg. to be*, obzvláště redukovaná forma *there's* se zdá se vyvinula v presentativní formuli pomocí procesu gramatikalizace. Tento problém bude tato práce nahlížet z hlediska současného jazyka i z hlediska diachronního. Konkrétně si tato práce klade za cíl identifikovat kontexty, ve kterých byl tento typ neshody možný v rané moderní angličtině. Pro tento účel bylo ze tří korpusů rané moderní angličtiny (CED, EEBO a PCEEC) vybráno 100 příkladů existenciálních konstrukcí obsahující neshodu, jimž je potom věnována analytická část práce. Samotná analýza si všimá v první řadě realizace přísudku; zda je v přítomném či minulém čase a zda je jeho forma redukovaná či ne. Dále se zabývá strukturou významového podmětu, zvláště pak modifikací, přítomností kvantifikátorů a koordinací. Pozornost je věnována také polaritě konstrukcí. Nakonec se zabývá případy, ve kterých mezi slovesem a významovým podmětem stojí interferující materiál ve formě příslovečného určení, případy, kde mezi těmito elementy nestojí materiál žádný a konečně minimálními konstrukcemi. Cílem práce je pozorovat proces gramatikalizace fráze *there + sg. to be* v jeho ranějším stádiu.

Klíčová slova: existenciální konstrukce, neshoda, významový podmět, raná moderní angličtina

Abstract

This thesis is concerned with the issue of non-concord between the notional subject and the verb in existential *there*-constructions. The grammatical subject in these sentences is the existential *there* but it is the agreement with the notional subject that is generally considered grammatically correct. This study focuses on the cases in which there is a discrepancy between the plural form of the notional subject and the singular form of the verb *to be*. The phrase *there* + sg. *to be* and especially the contracted form *there's* has apparently evolved into a presentative formula due to the process of grammaticalization. The thesis approaches this issue from the perspective of today's language as well as diachronically. Specifically, this study aims to identify the contexts in which this type of non-concord was possible in Early Modern English. To this aim 100 instances of existential *there*-constructions displaying a lack of agreement have been selected from three corpora of Early Modern English (CED, EEBO and PCEEC), which will then be examined in the analytical part of this thesis. The analysis itself is firstly concerned with the verb, its tense and whether or not it is contracted. It also considers the structure of the notional subject, most notably modification, the presence of quantifiers and coordination. The polarity of the constructions is also discussed. Lastly, the thesis deals with cases in which there is some intervening material in the form of adverbials between the verb and the notional subject, then with cases, where there is no such material and finally with minimal *there*-constructions. The aim of the thesis is to observe the process of grammaticalization in its earlier stages.

Key words: existential *there*-constructions, non-concord, notional subject, Early Modern English

List of abbreviations

TC *there*-construction

PVNP post-verbal noun phrase

EModE Early Modern English

PDE Present Day English

BNC British National Corpus

CED Corpus of English Dialogues

EEBO Early English Books Online

PCEEC Parsed Corpus of Early English Correspondence

PP prepositional phrase

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1. Introduction

The aim of this thesis is to examine existential *there*-constructions which display a lack of agreement between the verb and the notional subject, more specifically in Early Modern English as opposed to Present Day English. It attempts to explore the different contexts in which non-concord is permissible. Attention is given to the realization of both the verb and the post-verbal noun phrase. This thesis focuses only on instances which contain the verb *to be*.

The thesis provides a survey of the general syntactic, functional and semantic features of *there*-constructions as well as a historical overview of their development. It also addresses the issue of non-concord in existential *there*-sentences in Present Day English.

The analytical part of this thesis aims to inspect this phenomenon in Early Modern English. The verb is examined as to its tense and form in regards to whether or not it is contracted. The polarity of the existential clauses is also remarked upon. The post-verbal noun phrase is analyzed as to its structure and length. The presence of premodifiers as well as postmodifiers and quantifiers is noted. Finally, it focuses on the presence of intervening material in the form of adverbials and on minimal *there*-constructions. The results of the analysis will be summarized in the final section.

2. Theoretical background

2.1. The nature of existential *there*-sentences

2.1.1. General syntactic, functional and grammatical features

English is a language in which both a subject and a finite-verb predicate are required for a sentence to be considered regular and complete. Subjectless sentences, if they do appear, are merely elliptical, and the missing subject or verb can be recovered. (Dušková et al., 2006: 12.3) For that reason, constructions containing a dummy or prop item in place of the grammatical subject, such as the anticipatory or empty *it*, in sentences where the notional subject is postponed are quite common. The existential *there*-constructions are one such example. Similarly to the anticipatory *it*, *there* represents the actual, notional subject in post-verbal position. Unlike the anticipatory *it*, which tends to stand in for either an infinitive or a subordinate clause, *there* corresponds to a nominal or a pronominal subject. Dušková sees this *there* as more than a formal means of filling the subject position; it is a rightful constituent of the existential and existential-locative sentence type. These are to be distinguished from the purely locative type, which only denotes localization of either space or time: “*the girl is in the waiting-room;*” or similarly “*there's a meeting in the afternoon*” – “*the meeting is in the afternoon.*” In the existential type, in a sentence such as: “*there is no exception*” the verb *to be* can be replaced by *exist*. This type often contains a facultative adverbial, usually a locative one, as for example: “*there was no sign of life in the house.*” This type cannot be rephrased as the locative type: “**in the house was no sign of life.*” Also, the existential *there* is obligatory even when the adverbial is placed initially: “*in the house there was no sign of life.*” The existential-locative type, e.g. “*there is a girl in the waiting-room*” differs from the existential type in that the adverbial is obligatory. It expresses the existence of something in a specific place or time. (Dušková et al., 2006: 12.21.4) In this thesis, both of these types – the existential and the existential-locative – will be taken into consideration.

Guerra initially describes the existential *there* as a 'dummy', a meaningless item present in the sentence only due to syntactic factors. The nature of the existential *there* is however problematic. It does not behave in the same way as other dummy items, nor can it be replaced by any of them, suggesting that it somehow does contribute to the meaning of the clause. “*There is a boy in the garden*” cannot be rephrased as “**It is a boy in the garden.*” It

is also unclear whether the insertion of *there* is motivated by syntactic or semantic factors. (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 63) This can be to an extent resolved by analyzing the historical development and the syntactic role of the expletive *there*. For the historical overview, see section 2.2.

Firstly though, it is necessary to clearly differentiate between the existential *there* and the locative *there*. That they are both two distinct items can be easily proven by the simple fact that they can both appear in one sentence at the same time, as in: “*There is somebody there.*” There are semantic, syntactic and phonetic differences between the two. The locative *there* is a full lexical item which functions as an adverbial. It is either referring or deictic, meaning that it can be accompanied by an overt referent or a paralinguistic indication of a location. It can be replaced with *here* or a locative phrase, leading some to describe it as a proform of locatives. Unlike the existential *there*, it is in most cases fully stressed and pronounced with a diphthong (in British RP). The fronting of locative *there* is disfavoured by interrogative, negative and embedded clauses. There are also no auxiliaries allowed in a sentence initiated by the locative *there*. On the other hand, the existential *there* is an expletive, meaning that it is in principle neither referring nor deictic; it cannot be replaced with *here* or any other locative and there can be no nominative proforms following the verb. It is also generally unstressed, and therefore, the diphthong is reduced to a schwa. (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 64-67)

2.1.2. Functional features of there-constructions

The information structure of existential *there*-sentences is typically approached as follows: “The rationale of the *there*-construction has been claimed to be the necessity of accommodating notional subjects comprising unshared information within a general theory of word-order ruled by the principle ‘given before new.’” (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 75) This is the standard assumption; the notional subject is moved towards the final position because it carries new information and *there* is inserted to fill the empty initial slot. This notion is supported by functional sentence perspective. According to Firbas, the information conveyed by the verb, or rather its notional component, participates in the development of communication in that it either perspectives the communication towards the quality ascribed to a phenomenon or towards the phenomenon expressed by the subject, performing the dynamic semantic function of presentation. The Presentation Scale is a set of dynamic functions arranged in accordance with a gradual rise in communicative dynamism, i. e. the

rate of their contribution to the act of communication. The setting function is followed by the presentation of the phenomenon and then the phenomenon presented which displays the highest dynamism. (Firbas, 1992: 66)

Existential constructions are associated with the pragmatic function of existence; the presentative function of the actual or metaphorical appearance of a referent on stage. In accordance with the previously mentioned principle of 'given before new', the postverbal position of the constituent brings it into the hearer's or reader's awareness and characterizes it as a part of the extralinguistic world. Both *there* and the verb are semantically mostly empty, and that together with the fact that the postverbal constituents carry new information implies that *there*-sentences as a whole are informatively new. Introducing something entirely new in communication is most easily and naturally done by talking about either its existence or its coming into existence. Since absolutely new sentences are marginal in communication, inserting the expletive *there* is favoured in a standard communicative act. There is the sense of existence incorporated in *there*, which is a part of shared knowledge, and pragmatically speaking, given. A *there*-less structure that makes use of a verb such as *exist*, is pragmatically neutral with respect to the appearance effect. (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 77)

2.1.3. Semantic features of *there*-constructions

The previously mentioned existence aspect establishes *there* as more than just a dummy item; on the contrary, it is a lexical item with semantic consequences in the clause. It is not just the result of filling an empty space in the initial position of the sentence; however, its semantic and pragmatic content is weaker than that of full lexical items, putting it somewhere on the level of prepositions and conjunctions. *There* has been downgraded from the stage of proforms to one of the minor grammatical units. From the semantic point of view, the postverbal segment is the only significant segment present in the sentence, and so any elements that could overshadow that are disfavoured. For that reason, a prototypical *there*-sentence does not contain a full predicator. *Be* and other similar intransitive verbs are preferred over any other. (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 83)

Another possible semantic aspect of existential *there*-constructions is their topical meaning. Some linguists, e.g. Svoboda (1968), Butters (1977) and Erdmann (1990), among others, argue that the postverbal segment in these constructions is to be interpreted as the

topic, even though it is placed in a heterodox position. Guerra does not however see this hypothesis as justifiable. In an existential sentence with only one argument, it will obviously be the only candidate for expressing the topicality of the utterance. Guerra also contends that a *there*-construction may in fact be topicless; it does not have to contain a reference which the sentence is about. In an example such as “*There is a school just round the corner,*” the topic does not necessarily have to be *school*, but it could just as easily be the street or the village it is located in. (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 78)

The expletive *there* is also by some, namely by Lyons (1968), or Allan (1971), associated with other constituents expressing locative meaning. The basis of this idea is the fact that existential expressions derive both diachronically and synchronically from locative or temporal items. Existential sentences are then understood as implicitly locative or temporal as well as existential. (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 78-9) This analysis of existential *there* as a locative particle is relatively common in literature, however, on the basis of the different behaviour of existential and locative *there*, Guerra concludes that the contribution of *there* to the locative meaning should be understood strictly in relation to the semantic aspect of existence discussed above. The existential construction foregrounds a certain lexical item by asserting its existence, or, in other words “by 'placing' the item near the hearer.” (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 80)

Studies have pointed out the relation between *there*-sentences and structures containing possessive *have*, such as: “*There is a hole in Prof Brake's pocket*” and “*Prof. Brake's pocket has a hole.*” These two constructions are undeniably very close in meaning, but they cannot be so easily related on a syntactic basis, unless one subscribes to the principle 'if same meaning, then same deep structure', which was popular in earlier periods of the transformational generative theory of grammar. There are also issues that must be explained in cases in which the possessive meaning is not straightforward, such as “*There is space in the classroom.*” The label 'inalienable possession' was created for this purpose, and it can explain the semantics of practically any existential sentence by positing a related possessive version. Through it, the concept of possession has been broadened. It basically means that any event or object is unalienably “possessed” by its location or its time of occurrence. Guerra concludes that the notion of possessivity in existential constructions has been rejected, since it mainly draws on meaning and not at all on syntax. (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 80-81)

2.2. Historical overview

2.2.1. *There*-constructions in early English

To summarize the situation of existential sentences in the Old English period, one can state that:

- the number of existential verb-first sentences without *there*, though frequent in previous stages of the language, decreased
- the number of existential subject-first sentences without *there* had always been insignificant
- existential *there*-sentences with intransitive active verbs, the now successful type, were uncommon
- the now rare existential *there*-sentences with transitive verbs were at first scarce, but more frequent in intermediate stages of the development of the language. The use of *there* with transitive verbs in the active voice disappeared in the sixteenth century. (Visser, 1970: 52)

It and *there* were first used in main passive clauses, later in subordinate passive clauses. (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 90) The different types of existential clauses will be described in more detail in the following sections.

Guerra's research, based on The Helsinki Corpus of English Texts and the Lancaster-Oslo/Bergen Corpus of British English, shows that existential *there*-clauses have been used commonly throughout the history of English; the statistical rise of their use can be explained by suggesting that the *there*-subsystem has undergone grammaticalization. (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 92)

Table 1: Distribution of existential *there*¹

	IME	eModEI	eModEII	eModEIII	PDE
actual number	93	151	126	119	202
/1,000 words	1.3	2.46	1.66	1.89	2.06
/1,000 clauses	19.48	38.33	22.47	27	29.52

If the irregular figures of eModEI are overlooked, the ratio of *there*-clauses amounts to nearly 3% of the clauses in eModEIII and PDE. It also became clear that there is no significant correlation between the use of existential *there*-sentences and variables such as orality or genre, suggesting it to be a form that is commonly needed in all registers. The only genre where these constructions are not used very frequently are legal texts. (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 92)

The position of the different types of existential sentences illustrates the position and significance of existential *there*-clauses in the history of English. Existential sentences with *there* alternated with *there*-less existentials; in OE, eME and IME the most common type with negative polarity was the one containing no existential item. In fact, *þær*-existentials were very rare until late OE. (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 89) Apart from *there*-constructions, there were sentences with both the notional and grammatical subject in the initial position, sentences beginning with a locative adverbial, and also verb-initial sentences, which were however extremely rare. (Breivik and Martínez-Insua, 2008: 354)

(1) *þær is sum beladung on ðære sægne.*

“There is some excuse in that assertion” (*Ælfric’s Lives of Saints*)

(2) *Micel yfelnyss wæs on iudeiscum mannum.*

“There was great evilness in Jewish men” (*Ælfric’s Lives of Saints*)

¹ Table 1 adapted from Guerra, 1999: 92. Guerra's division of the period is as follows: IME: Late Middle English (1420-1500); eModEI Early Modern English: first subperiod (1500-1570); eModEII Early Modern English, second subperiod (1570-1640); eModEIII Early Modern English: third subperiod (1640-1710); PDE: Present Day English

(3) On ðære byrig wæs sum þegn bonifacius gehaten.

“In that city there was a certain noble named Bonifacius” (*Ælfric’s Lives of Saints*)

(4) is þonne on westan medmycel duru þæt mannes heafod ge þa sculdro magan in.

“There is on the western side a moderate-sized door, through which a man’s head and shoulders may enter” (*Blickling Homilies*)

Due to its scarcity, type (4) is not included in the following table.

Table 2: Frequency of the various types of existential sentence in OE, ME, and Early ModE²

	OE	Early ME	Late ME	Early ModE
Type (1)	15.1%	29.9%	81.6%	88.1%
Type (2)	14.7%	14.2%	3%	5.2%
Type (3)	70.2%	55.9%	15.4%	6.7%

It is recognized that OE had some sort of a verb-second constraint. It was however never particularly consistent, as declarative main clauses could also exhibit verb-first or verb-third word order. Still, the prototypical existential clause in OE had the verb-second word order. Its pragmatic function is to introduce new information into the discourse. In the material Breivik used in his research, about 15% of all existential sentences were *there*-constructions, about the same frequency as the subject-initial constructions. At this point, the expletive *there* already functioned as a mere slot-filler. (Breivik and Martínez-Insua, 2008: 353) The insertion of sentence-initial *there* was an important factor in the change of the English word order. Its function was to allow other constituents than verbs to appear in sentence-initial position. It has been suggested that *there* had somehow triggered a verb-second word order pattern by presenting a compromise in the conflict of SV and VS, in the favour of SV. *There* underwent a shift from being the topic of the sentence to becoming the grammatical subject. (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 89) The OE *there* was reanalysed as an empty subject when English typologically changed from verb-second to verb-medial, which explains why this *there*

² Examples and Table 2 adapted from Breivik and Insua, 2008: 354.

sometimes appears in cases where the verb-second constraint does not apply. Existential *there*-constructions massively rose in frequency towards the end of the Middle English period, pointing to the fixation of the verb-medial syntax. Because this construction allowed the postponing of the real subject, the new information, it became more widely used at the expense of all the other types of existential clauses. Also, once this *there* became reanalysed as a subject, it was generalized to previously unavailable contexts. For example, the existential *there* could undergo subject raising in Late Middle English as illustrated by example (5). (Breivik and Martínez-Insua, 2008: 354)

(5) ther is like to be troble in the manner of Oxenhed . . . (Paston Letters)

2.2.2. The development of *there*

There is a disagreement on when exactly the existential *there* established its current semantic and grammatical role. Guerra states that while Breivik has determined that the existential *there* fixed its current form around 1550, other scholars place the reanalysis of *there* into the second half of the 14th century. He mentions Nagashima's (1972, 1974, 1976) view that the OE *þær*, a local adverb, already had an introductory function, though with a lower frequency than today. According to Nagashima, *þær* progressively lost its local sense and began to mainly invoke the attention of the reader, becoming more like *þa* 'then'. Quirk and Wrenn (1957) approach the problem differently. They presuppose the existence of several *there*, one of which was an expletive without full local meaning, although it did retain some locative sense. This idea is supported by sentences in which this *there* is entirely unrelated to any locative phrase, such as: "*þær is sum beladung on þære sægne*," "there is one excuse in their/her saying." (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 88) This *there* is purely existential. Textual evidence also shows that it was compatible with both *here* and full locative *there* in the same sentence. Furthermore, a comparative study of manuscripts suggests that *hit* could sometimes be used in place of *þær*. This would indeed point to the fact that the initial purpose of *there* in earlier English was simply to fill the subject position, which was becoming less and less likely to be empty already in OE. (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 89)

According to Breivik and Swan (2000, in Breivik and Martínez-Insua, 2008: 352), existential *there* and locative *there* were already to an extent distinguished in OE, and this separation represents the first stage of its grammaticalization. This hypothesis makes

reference to data from other Germanic languages, such as Danish, Norwegian and Swedish. These Scandinavian languages are closely related to English and all of them also have an existential particle that is formally identical with a locative adverb. This particle was derived from the adverb, and quite often, a co-referential locative adverb was added to make the existential nature of the particle explicit. This led to its semantic reanalysis in which it lost its stress and locative meaning. (Breivik and Martínez-Insua, 2008: 352) This is sometimes called semantic loss or bleaching and it is a characteristic feature of grammaticalization, in which the original semantic properties have been replaced by pragmatic strengthening. (Breivik and Martínez-Insua, 2008: 356) “Grammaticalization is generally seen as a process whereby a lexical item, with full referential meaning, develops into a grammatical marker. This is accompanied by a reduction in or loss of phonetic substance, loss of syntactic independence and loss of lexical (referential) meaning.” (Fischer et al., 2001: 286-7) The English modal verbs (*will, shall, etc.*) are the result of grammaticalization. An example of this process in PDE is *going to*, which went from a fully lexical concrete directional verb to an auxiliary verb with temporal meaning. These semantic changes are often accompanied by categorial change. Quite commonly, this is a diachronic as well as synchronic development, both the grammaticalized and the non-grammaticalized forms often occurring in the language side by side; the phrase *going to* exists in the language in both forms. Similarly, both the expletive and locative *there* coexist. This phenomenon is called 'layering'. (Fischer et al., 2001: 287-8) Grammaticalization occurs when lexical items or phrases become reanalysed as having syntactic and morphological functions due to their frequent use in certain constrained contexts, and once grammaticalized, they continue to develop new grammatical functions. (Breivik and Martínez-Insua, 2008: 355)

The hypothesis of the increase in subjectification of *there* over time is also worth mentioning. Through its repeated use preceding a subject NP which conveys new information, it acquired the status of a presentative signal. Today it is used as a signal that tells the addressees to prepare to receive new information. “Thus *there* has increasingly come to serve pragmatic, interpersonal, speaker-based functions, whereas in the earliest stages of English it had a purely syntactic function, as a topic-/subject-position holder.” (Breivik and Martínez-Insua, 2008: 356)

2.3. Agreement in existential *there*-constructions

One of the problematic aspects of existential *there*-constructions is the question of concord. Concord, also referred to as agreement, can be defined as the relationship between two grammatical units in which one displays a particular feature that accords with either a displayed or semantically implicit feature in the other. “The most important type of concord in English is concord of 3rd person number between subject and verb.” (Quirk et al., 1985: 755) The normally observed rule is as follows: a singular subject requires a singular verb, and a plural subject requires a plural verb: “*My daughter watches television after supper,*” and “*My daughters watch television after supper.*” The subject, when it is realized by a noun phrase, is considered singular when the head of the phrase is singular. Finite and nonfinite clauses tend to count as singular, along with prepositional phrases and adverbs. One of the exceptions are nominal relative clauses, as they are on the continuum from clause to noun phrase. Their number depends on the interpretation of the number of the *wh*-element. In the case of determiners *what* and *whatever*, it depends on the number of the determined noun: “*Whatever book a Times reviewer praises sells well,*” and “*What ideas he has are his wife's.*” A verb is considered singular, if the first verb in the finite verb phrase has a singular form. (Quirk et al., 1985: 755)

There are however other principles that can lead to difficulties in concord - the principle of proximity and the principle of notional concord. The proximity principle, also termed 'attraction', denotes agreement of the verb with a closely preceding noun phrase in preference to the head of the noun phrase that functions as the subject. The likelihood of this occurring increases with the distance between the noun phrase head of the subject and the verb, for example in case of lengthy postmodification or the presence of an interfering adverbial or parenthesis. Proximity concord is common in unplanned discourse but it is usually corrected to grammatical concord in writing. The principle of notional concord refers to the agreement of the verb with the subject according to the notion of number rather than the presence of a grammatical marker of number. A typical example in English are collective nouns, such as *government*, which are often treated as notionally plural. English speakers tend to be uncertain about the rule of concord; there is a conflict between the traditional insistence on grammatical concord and the notional concord, which actually tends to prevail. (Quirk et al., 1985: 757)

In the case of existential *there*-sentences, we are concerned with the idea of notional concord. “It is possible to generalize the rule of concord to 'A subject which is not clearly

semantically plural requires a singular verb.” (Quirk et al., 1985: 756) Quirk et al. treat the singular as the unmarked form which is to be used in all neutral circumstances where there is no positive indication of plurality. This is how the tendency for *is/was* to follow the pseudosubject *there* in existential sentences is explained. Similarly, interrogative *who* and *what* as subjects usually take a singular verb even when there is reason to believe that in reality, more than one entity is involved: “*Who is making all that noise?*” Apparent exceptions to the rule of concord are singular nouns ending with the plural *-s*, as e.g. *measles*, *mathematics*, or plural nouns where the plural inflection is missing such as *cattle*, *people* or *clergy*. (Quirk et al., 1985: 756)

Although the grammatical subject in existential *there*-constructions is *there*, the verb regularly displays agreement with the notional subject of the clause. One can approach this from different angles. Because the grammatical subject is the existential *there*, some consider the singular form of the verb as unmarked (as for example the above mentioned Quirk et al.), irrespective of the postverbal actual subject. Plural agreement is then seen as a deviation, caused by the obvious analogy between the *there*-constructions and inverted structures with adjuncts in the initial position, such as: “*In the garden lies a huge bull-dog,*” and “*In the garden there lies a huge bull-dog.*” (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 83) Others take the opposite approach, which is sanctioned by prescriptive grammars - they claim that *there* takes on the number of the NP into whose position it is inserted. This is based on a derivational analysis that presupposes an underlying structure in which the NP holds the initial position. According to this idea, cases where the verb appears in the singular although the NP is plural are considered incorrect and an example of non-concord. There is an undeniable tendency to use *there is* and especially the contracted form *there's* instead of *there are*, particularly in spoken language, which is not subject to written standards. It is interesting to note that the use of singular *be* is not restricted to cases of unclear plurality; in fact, it occurs even in sentences which contain numerals, such as “*There's five manatees in the water, three alligators in the swimming pool.*” This is sometimes attributed to colloquial careless speech, but was apparently quite common in literary English at earlier periods. (Sampson, 1972: 116-117, in Guerra, 1999: 66) It can be justified by the fact that since *there* is the actual grammatical subject of the clause, the verb logically agrees with it in the singular. (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 65-66)

2.3.1. Non-concord in existential *there*-sentences in Present Day English

The topic of non-concord in PDE has been subject of several different studies (e.g. Meechan and Foley, 1994, Martínez-Insua and Martínez, 2003, Olofsson. 2011). For the purposes of this thesis, the corpus-based quantitative study conducted by Insua and Martínez (2003) was deemed most suitable due to its focus on much of the same aspects this thesis deals with in its analytical section. It is a large-scale systematic analysis based on British English and its structure allows for comparison with the results of this thesis. Their aim was to determine whether there is “a direct and/or causative connection between non-concord and factors such as the medium of expression, the type of polarity, the length and structural complexity of the PVNP (notional subject), the presence of co-ordination in the post-verbal sequence or the existence of some intervening element between the verb and the PVNP.” (Martínez-Insua and Martínez, 2003: 262) Considering that existential *there*-sentences do not seem to conform to the norms of concord, they believe that any analysis of these constructions should try to describe and possibly explain the regularities or variations found in agreement. Their hypothesis was as follows: *there*-constructions which contain long and structurally complicated post-verbal sequences or those with an intervening element will display a greater frequency of non-concord. Furthermore, speech, due to its largely unplanned and interactive character, will also have a tendency for the lack of agreement.

The study was based on data from a one-million-word corpus of both spoken and written English, selected from the *British National Corpus*. The selected texts were drawn from 1989 onwards, and equal amounts of words were taken from spoken and written language. After further selection, aiming to isolate prototypical *there*-constructions and to discard unclear examples, the final total number of analyzed *there*-constructions was 2410.

The study was almost exclusively focused on constructions which showed a lack of agreement between the verbal form and the PVNP. The distribution of *there*-constructions which display concord and non-concord in the sample was as follows:

Table 3: Distribution of the TC's showing concord and non-concord

	<i>TC's showing concord</i>		<i>TC's showing non-concord</i>	
	No.	%	No.	%
Written English	932	96.78	31	3.22
Spoken English	1255	86.74	192	13.26
Total	2187	90.75	223	9.25

The hypothesis that non-concord will occur more frequently in speech was thus confirmed. Still, 13.25%, while a significant percentage, cannot be claimed to constitute the majority of the TCs in Spoken English. (Martínez-Insua and Martínez, 2003: 268-9)

The study showed that non-concord in existential TCs is strongly connected to the contracted form *there's*, especially in spoken language. In spoken English, 83.3% of all the verbs *to be* were contracted in contrast to 6.45% in written English.

In the study, it also became apparent that there is an considerable number of negative *there*-constructions with the contracted form *there's*, independently of the PVNP's being plural or singular. In total, 10.76% of the TCs showing non-concord were negative. The findings showed that there was a higher proportion of positive polarity, both in speech and in writing, as is the natural tendency. This applied in the case of *there*-constructions both with and without agreement. However, there was a higher percentage of negative *there*-constructions which displayed concord (18.66%), suggesting that there is no strong correlation between negative polarity and non-concord. (Martínez-Insua and Martínez, 2003: 269-270)

Another aspect the study focused on was the nature of the PVNP. The percentage of minimal *there*-constructions regardless of concord, as opposed to those containing different types of complements or modifiers after the PVNP, was 20.21%, the percentage being higher in spoken language than in written. (Martínez-Insua and Martínez, 2003: 275) In TCs which display non-concord, the percentage was higher - 28.7%. The remaining 71.3% contained some kind of extension. The high frequency of *there*-constructions with long post-verbal sequences is not surprising, considering that these constructions usually function as formal

devices for introducing long notional subjects into the discourse while adhering to the *given-before-new* communicative principle. The study confirmed the hypothesis that non-concord would be higher among *there*-constructions with an extension, especially in writing.

Another possible influence on the presence of non-concord is the co-ordination of PVNPs; the data show there to be a higher frequency of non-agreement when the postverbal sequence is co-ordinated (36.92% of the 65 co-ordinated TCs displayed concord, while 63.08% displayed non-concord). To put it simply: “the longer the post-verbal sequence, the higher the likelihood of non-concord in the TC.” (Martínez-Insua and Martínez, 2003: 277)

The presence of intervening material also appears to influence the rate of non-agreement. The intervening material can be in the form of adverbs and adverbials or parenthetical expressions, which are placed between the verbal form and PVNP. They create distance between these two elements, allowing the main focus to fall on the PVNP. Out of the 223 TCs which contained intervening material, 14.35% showed concord while 85.65 showed non-concord. The study showed that while the presence of intervening material in TCs showing non-concord is important, especially in written language, its incidence is not as high as that of co-ordination and extensions.

2.4. Grammaticalization of *there + be*

The fact that non-concord in existential *there*-clauses is so common points to the grammaticalization of not only the expletive *there*, but the entire phrase *there + be*, especially the contracted singular *there's*. (Breivik and Martínez-Insua, 2008: 359) As was already mentioned, this is accompanied by the pragmatic strengthening or subjectification of the item. It appears that *there + be* has evolved into a presentative formula, and the frequent occurrences of non-concord are the result of this process of grammaticalization. This formula appears to be functioning as one unit whose main purpose is to alert the addressee to incoming new information.

3. Material and Method

The previous sections have provided the theoretical background on the topic of non-concord in *there*-constructions. The following section of the thesis will focus on the analysis of concrete examples of this phenomenon in Early Modern English.

3.1. The Corpora

This thesis is based on authentic instances of the researched phenomenon taken from a three different corpora of EModE, chosen to encompass a significant spectrum of language in terms of genre and mode of communication (speech-related texts, fiction, non-fiction and letters).

3.1.1. Corpus of English Dialogues (CED)

The Corpus of English Dialogues is a 1.2 million computerized corpus of EModE speech-related texts. It includes texts from the years 1560 to 1760. Its focus on dialogue is meant to assist in the study of language change, as the interactive nature of face-to-face communication is an important factor. The texts contained within the corpus can be divided into two categories: *authentic dialogue* and *constructed dialogue*. *Authentic dialogues* are written accounts of real speech events, namely trial proceedings and witness depositions. *Constructed dialogues* are mostly fictitious dialogues constructed by an author, and as such include drama comedy, didactic works and prose fiction. There is also a section titled *miscellaneous*, which rather than a text type is a collection of dialogues that could not be classified as belonging to any of the previously mentioned categories. It is the closest approximation to a spoken language corpus in EModE.

3.1.2. Early English Books Online (EEBO)

This corpus is a collection of more than 125,000 volumes on literature, philosophy, politics, religion, geography, science and other areas from the first printed books in English, published between 1475 and 1700. It consists of the works from the English Short Title Catalogue I and II (based on the Pollard & Redgrave and Wing short title catalogues), the Thomason Tracts and the Early English Books Tract Supplement. It contains 8.5 million words in total.

3.1.3. Parsed Corpus of Early English Correspondence (PCEEC)

The Parsed Corpus of Early English Correspondence is a 2.5 million-word corpus which covers a period of four hundred years from 1400 to 1800. It is based on the original CEEC corpus which covers mostly personal correspondence, with some differences: it contains not only plain text files, but also part-of-speech tagged files, and syntactically parsed files. Due to copyright restrictions, it contains slightly less material than the original (unpublished) CEEC.

3.2. Selection of the instances

The analytical section of this thesis is based on a selection of 100 instances of existential *there*-sentences displaying non-concord excerpted from the aforementioned corpora: CED, EEBO and PCEEC. While these constructions can be formed with other, generally intransitive verbs (*exist, stand, arrive*), this study only focuses on *there*-constructions which contain the verb *to be*, as it is the most commonly used verb in these constructions and considering the untagged nature of most of the material, obtaining instances containing other verbs would have been problematic. In light of that, the data was collected using a basic query in the form of *there is* with a specified context – that being a word ending in *-s* in a window up to 7 tokens to the right. The individual instances then had to be selected manually, since the resulting list contained a large amount of irrelevant data. A separate query had to be formulated to gain instances with the past tense. Another query was necessary to gain instances containing the contracted form *there's*. Due to the nature of the texts, the individual examples rarely occurred in complete short sentences, therefore only the relevant part of the sentence was included. For the purposes of this study, repetition of the existential *there* within the sentence is counted as a single instance.

The objective was to extract 100 instances from the differently sized corpora so that the various registers were adequately represented. EEBO is significantly larger than the other two corpora, so the intention was to take a larger amount of instances from this corpus – 50, and then 25 from both CED and PCEEC. CED is half the size of PCEEC, but it contains texts closest to spoken discourse; the planned ratio intended to take this into consideration and reach a compromise between the size of the corpus and the type of texts it contains. However, due to the chosen methodology in selecting the instances, it proved difficult to obtain enough instances from CED and PCEEC after eliminating those that were not suitable. In the end, 25 instances were taken from CED, 58 from EEBO and the rest - 17 - from PCEEC. The complete list of the selected instances can be found in the appendix.

3.2.1. Eliminated instances

1) locative *there*

As has already been mentioned, this thesis will focus on existential and existential-locative sentence type. To that aim, all instances which contained the locative *there* as opposed to the existential, unstressed *there* had to be eliminated.

*And in this yle is the mount Athos that passeth the clowdes / & there is many speches
& many coutrees that are obeysaut to themperour of Constantynople (EEBO)*

In the example above, *there* is most likely locative or ambiguous at best. The previous part of the sentence contains an adverbial of place with which this *there* could be coreferential.

2) instances containing words such as *odds*, *hopes*, *news* or *means* in the PVNP

All cases in which the number of the head of the noun phrase could be questioned have been omitted. Words such as *news* have the form of a plural but behave as singular, and as such they can be counted among singularia tantum. (Dušková et al., 2006: 3.13.1) As was confirmed in the three corpora used in this thesis, these nouns display both singular and plural agreement in Early Modern English, and would perhaps better be subject of their own study.

*I heare in generall that there is great hopes of a good progress in parliament this session,
[...] (PCEEC)*

3.3. Method

The focus of this thesis is a qualitative study of *there*-constructions which display non-concord in Early Modern English corpora. The selected examples of *there*-constructions are examined as to the nature of the verb *to be* and of the postverbal phrase – the notional subject. The first section is concerned with the verb (Section 4.1) and its form – whether it is contracted or not (Section 4.1.1), and to its tense (4.1.2). The following section focuses on the postverbal noun phrase (Section 4.2). Special attention is paid to premodification of the notional subject (Section 4.2.1), postmodification (Section 4.2.2), the presence of quantifiers and numerals (Section 4.2.3) and coordination (Section 4.2.4). The next part of the analysis concentrates on negation (Section 4.3). The presence of adverbials intervening between the verb and notional subject is discussed in the following section (4.4). The final section (4.5) examines instances in which there are no intervening elements between the verb and notional subject.

3.4. Hypothesis

The lack of agreement between the notional subject and the verb in existential *there*-constructions is considered grammatically incorrect, but despite this fact it occurs fairly frequently, especially in spoken language. The assumption is that the phrase *there + sg. be* is in the process of undergoing grammaticalization as an introductory particle. The hypothesis of this study is that *there*-constructions which display non-concord between the verb and the notional subject will occur in fewer contexts in Early Modern English than they do in PDE, as the grammaticalization would have been in its earlier stages.

4. Analysis

The following section endeavours to identify different contexts in which non-concord in existential *there*-constructions was possible in Early Modern English, focusing especially on the form of the verb – its tense and whether or not it is contracted, negation and the nature of the PVNP – pre- and post-modification, the presence of quantifiers and co-ordination. Intervening material in the form of adverbials will also be noted.

4.1. The verb

The first element to be examined is the verb. As was already mentioned, although existential *there*-constructions can take other verbs as well, this thesis only takes TCs with the most frequently used verb *to be* into consideration. More precisely, only the present, past tense and the contracted form are taken into account.

4.1.1. The contracted form *there's*

One of the factors connected to non-concord in existential TCs in PDE is whether or not the verb *to be* is contracted, as there is a tendency to use the contracted form regardless of the number of the notional subject. (Pérez-Guerra, 1999: 65-66) In spoken PDE, over 80% of existential TCs showing non-concord contained the contracted form *there's*. (Martínez-Insua and Martínez, 2003: 273)

In the sample, 5 instances containing the contracted form *there's* accompanied by non-concord can be found. Different spellings of the contracted form are possible, as evidenced by instance 4).

- 1) *Cylindrus, take the Hand - basket, and heere, **there's** ten shillings is there not?* (CED)
- 2) ***There's** no such Crawlers in the Ocean.* (EEBO)
- 3) [...] ***there's** many waies of multiplying and encreasing lyes.* (EEBO)

4) *Sir, it ys let us to understand that **thers other tenaunts**, that are cast forth, hath bene at Cothorpe, and made one ragman to compleane on my sone and you, that ye take ther goods from them.* (PCEEC)

In 1) there is a question tag in which the verb is repeated with the opposite polarity, this time not in a reduced form, but still in the singular, despite the numeral *ten*. For the purposes of this study, this is seen as a single instance of the existential *there*. 2) and 3) both contain a quantifier; *many* in 1) and a negative *no* in 2). The presence of quantifiers will be further discussed in section 4.2.4.

In 4) we can see that the first verb *to be* is singular, following the existential *there*, although the notional subject *tenaunts* is plural. In the next clause, however, the second verb *to be* agrees with *tenaunts* this time in plural. The spelling *thers* suggests that it was seen as a single unit by the author, who clearly saw the grammatical subject *there* as the deciding factor, and did not take the notional subject into consideration when deciding on the form of the verb.

In all the examples, we can find stressed intervening material between the verb and the notional subject. Although the contracted form *there's* is very common in PDE, especially in spoken language, in which it is strongly connected to non-concord, it is relatively scarce in Early Modern English, which is not surprising as we only have access to written texts. As such it is difficult to say whether it is in any way connected with the rate of non-concord in TCs in this time period.

4.1.2. Past tense

The verb in existential TCs which display a lack of agreement in EModE can be in the present and past tense both, as supported by these instances found in the sample:

5) [...] and **there was** some Souldiers that would have had me go in, and Smoak and Drink with them: [...](CED)

6) *My Lord, Mrs. Broadstreet said at first there was but one Key; but before the Duke of Monmouth she said **there was** six or seven Keys.* (CED)

7) [...] *which Debt was heightned by the supplies of his Majesties Stores, so exhausted at that time, that **there was** not Arms for 5000 men, not Provisions for the setting out ten new ships.* (EEBO)

8) [...] *for surely, **there was** then excessive Sports, Pastimes, & Revels, that it would make a bodies haire stand an end to heare and see it.* (CED)

A total of 16 instances in which the verb *to be* is in the past tense can be found in the sample. The examples show that non-concord in existential TCs with the verb in the past tense could occur in as many contexts as those in the more common present tense. They can contain quantifiers (5), numerals (6) and be in the negative (7). The notional subject in 5) is postmodified by a relative clause, in 7) by a prepositional phrase. The notional subject in 8) is premodified, and in 7) and 8) it is coordinated.

In 6), the phrase *there was* is repeated twice; first with a singular subject and then with a plural notional subject, suggesting that the grammatical subject was considered to be the deciding factor.

4.2. The post-verbal phrase

Another element to be analyzed is the realization of the notional subject itself. The structure of the PVNP and especially the presence of modifiers, quantifiers and coordination is the main focus of the following sections.

4.2.1. Pre-modification

It has been hypothesized that intervening material between the verb and the NP is a factor which influences the rate of non-concord in existential TCs. Premodification comprises all items placed before the head of the NP other than determinatives, and as such form an interference. They are usually adjective phrases and nouns. (Quirk et al., 1985: 1239) Out of the 100 examples, 27 were premodified.

9) *hee speaketh with them vpon hyls, where as **there is** great heapes of earth, as namely in Dorsetshiere.* (CED)

10) *Fourthly, **There is** certain wayes of grafting of them to have two Flowers spring from one root, and that is done thus; [...]* (EEBO)

11) *For **there is** no earthlie things which haue in them any force or vertue to help men, except they be made effectuell by the power of him is y • Omnipotent.* (EEBO)

Instances 9-10) are examples of non-restrictive premodification by an adjective; the modification does not restrict the possible reference of the head of the NP. In 11), the premodifier is restrictive.

4.2.2. Postmodification

One of the reasons for the use of existential TCs is that it makes it possible to postpone the notional subject and thus allow for lengthy postmodification. The instances found in the sample support that idea as a significant number - 57% - are in fact postmodified. Postmodification comprises all the items placed after the head within the NP, notably: prepositional phrases, nonfinite clauses, relative clauses and complementation. (Quirk et al., 1985: 1239)

In our material, 25% of all the NPs contained a postmodification by a prepositional phrase. In instance 9) and 10) above, the head is both pre- and postmodified.

12) *I think **there is** seven steps of judgement which is like to overtake us, if we hearken not o his voice: [...]* (EEBO)

Postmodification by a non-finite clause can also be found in the sample. Out of the 100 examples, 10 were postmodified in this manner.

13) *Hee will therefore doe more, for in Winter, when **there is** no greene leaves to be got, he will burne an old one to ashes, [...]* (EEBO)

27% of the total instances were postmodified by a relative clause. Relative clauses are introduced by *that* or a *wh*-word, which has both a grammatical role in the clause and a linking function, as it points back to the head of the NP. (Biber et. al, 1999: 195)

14) *Yes truly some of them are; but **there is** othersome who have laid out more money then was their owne for the purchasing of places in our Offices.* (CED)

In 14) the head noun is postmodified by an adnominal non-restrictive clause. The verb it contains (*have laid out*) shows that *othersome* is indeed considered to be plural, not singular. This is further supported by the possessive pronoun *their* in the next clause.

15) *let vs returne to old England againe, where **there is** many honest men will welcome you home, one Mr. Cipres.* (CED)

In instance 15), the relative clause is introduced by a zero-relative. PDE English would not allow the omission of the relative pronoun in this example, as modern grammatical rules require the subject of the verb to be present, but it was permissible in EModE. (Brinton and Arnovick, 2006: 355)

In one instance, the notional subject is modified by both a relative clause and a postponed adjective *Flemish*.

16) [...] *whereas I am informed by the marchant whome I haue imployd to receaue the mony for me, that **there is** but 21 poundes Flemish which amounts but to gilders and some odd shillings more then is due to me vpon the exchange for the pistols, [...]* (PCEEC)

There are also two instances which contain postmodification a peripheral modifier in the form of the adjective *more*. Peripheral modifiers can also have the form of adverbs, PPs or reflexive pronouns, and they occur either initially or finally. (Huddleston et. al, 2002: 331) In 17) it is placed finally and the PVNP is also postmodified by an infinitival clause.

17) [...] *and that **there was** Ten Thousand Pounds to be paid for it, and afterwards there was Five Thousand Pound more to be added; [...]* (EEBO)

In the sample, 68% of all the instances contained some sort of modification, be it premodification or postmodification. In 22 cases, the PVNP had more than one modifier. An overview of the total number of all modified PVNPs in our sample is given in Table 4.

Table 4: Modification

	<i>Postmodification</i>				<i>Premodification</i>	<i>Peripheral modifier</i>
	<i>Prepositional phrase</i>	<i>Relative clause</i>	<i>Non-finite clause</i>	<i>Postponed adjective</i>		
CED	6	5	2	0	6	0
EEBO	15	15	5	0	18	1
PCEEC	4	7	3	1	3	1
Total %	25%	27%	10%	1%	27%	2%

4.2.3. Presence of quantifiers

A large number of the instances surprisingly contained explicit quantifiers and numerals. They are present in 69 instances out of the total 100. Non-concord in these cases is not uncommon despite the definitive plurality of the notional subject. Quantifiers are indefinite pronouns, and can be divided into several groups: universal (*every, each, all, both*), existential (*some, any, either*), negative (*no, none, neither, nobody no one, nothing*) and those that express a certain non-specific amount (*much, many, few, little, a few, a little, several, enough*). (Dušková et al., 2006: 4.7)

The following Table 5 contains an overview of the total number of quantifiers as well as numerals modifying the PVNP found in our sample.

Table 5: Quantifiers

	<i>Many</i>	<i>Much</i>	<i>Some</i>	<i>Several</i>	<i>Few</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Any</i>	<i>Numerals</i>
CED	2	0	3	0	1	2	0	9
EEBO	10	0	1	1	1	10	1	18
PCEEC	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	9
Total %	13%	1%	4%	1%	2%	14%	1%	36%

13 instances had the quantifier *many*, which expresses a non-specific higher amount, and therefore presupposes plurality. This quantifier can behave syntactically as an adjective or a noun. (Dušková et al., 2006: 4.74)

18) ***There is many** such idle people as you both are in this countrey, and if I knewe where there were authority.* (CED)

19) [...] *tenne dayes iourney, in the whiche waye **there is many** Cities and Townes.* (EEBO)

20) *Alfo in this Countrey **there is many** faire riuers, and a multitude of good fishe.* (EEBO)

21) *But the truth is, that Lynceus of whom **there is fo many** fables of his eiefight, [...]* (EEBO)

22) *And saide it is conuement for a kyng or aprince to lerne and knowe but not all for **there is many** thinges that a kyng or a prince ought not to knowe nor vnderstonde.* (EEBO)

In the sample, *many* as a proform did not occur. In all these instances (18-22), *many* holds the syntactical position of an adjective. In 21), it is premodified by *fo*. In the rest, there is no intervening material between the quantifier and the verb.

Another quantifier found in the sample was *some*, an existential quantifier. It occurred four times in the sample. *Some* can function as a determiner, a proform or a quantifier (which

is then simultaneously a determiner as well) (Dušková et al., 2006: 4.72.1) When it is a quantifier, it has some stress and its form is not reduced [sʌm].

23) *Certainly, either in that letter, or some other, **there was** some such expressions.*
(CED)

24) *[...] and her said master Raph Blaikston then lieing very sicke, and examine knowing **there was** some differences betwixt Sharpe and him, [...]* (CED)

Several is another quantifier found in the sample, though in only 1 instance out of the total 100.

25) *For as in the time of the Law, **there was** severall Ceremonies which poynted at the appearing of Chrif in the Flefh; [...]* (EEBO)

2 instances contained the quantifier *few*, which indicates a small amount.

26) *Why every where, **there is** few or no Markets but what yields little or much, [...]*
(CED)

27) *it is a gode londe a playne/but **there is** fewe ryuers and **there is** but two hylles in that londe.* (EEBO)

One instance contained the existential quantifier *any*. In negative and interrogative sentences, this quantifier has the same function as *some* in a positive sentence. (Dušková et al., 2006: 4.72.21)

28) *[...] but **there was** never any fuch civill wars as did disturb the Halcyon Serenity of their Loves.* (EEBO)

A significant amount of instances (14%) contained the negative quantifier *no*. This quantifier, together with *neither* will be further discussed in section 4.3 which is concerned with negation.

Numerals, as a part of speech, are also classified as quantifiers like *all*, *many*, *some*, etc., only they express a concrete number, and not a non-specific indication of an amount. Syntactically, cardinal numerals behave like adjectives in that they modify the head noun. They can also function as nouns. (Dušková et al., 2006: 5-5.1) If they are present, the plural

number of the following noun phrase cannot be questioned. However, a lack of agreement occurs even if there are numerals involved. Out of the 100 examples, 36 contained a numeral.

29) *Yes per - lady: if he ha's a quarter of your coat, **there is** but three Skirts for your selfe, in my simple coniectures; [...]* (CED)

30) ***There is** but two paire of hose and shooes, In all his Parish.* (CED)

31) *Sir, **there is** but two of them cleane.* (CED)

In instance 31), the numeral is used as a noun. The instances 29) to 31) together with 27) all contain the word *but*, used as an adverb in the meaning of *only*, *merely* or *just* immediately after the verb. In total, this applies to 9 out of the 36 instances with numerals found in the sample. The high rate of the co-occurrence of the existential TCs and the adverb *but* modifying a numeral suggest this may have been a fairly commonly used phrase at the time.

32) ***There is** two waies to humble the heart for fin, There is looking upward unto God, and seeing whom it is thou haft finned against: And looking downward to thine own miserie [...]*(EEBO)

33) *Gentlemen, **there is** eight Shillings for Wine, pay what you please for the rest.* (CED)

34) *Now in guilt **there is** two things.* (EEBO)

35) *I pray you: now let vs vnderstand: **there is** three Vmpires in this matter, as I vnderstand; [...]*(CED)

36) *There is 17 Gallons.* (PCEEC)

37) *[...] surely I doo thinke that **there is** two kindes of bewtie which is amongst mortall men, the one heauenly, the other common; [...]* (EEBO)

38) *Your matter in the Exchequer is grevous; **there is** iij wryttes agaynst you.* (PCEEC)

In 32-38), there are no lexical units after the verb that would form an interference between it and the numeral. 36) demonstrates that even when the numbers are spelled using the arabic numerals, non-concord can still occur. Roman numerals are used in 38).

4.2.4. Coordination

One of the factors that could affect agreement is the coordination of the notional subject. Research has shown that in PDE, there is a higher frequency of non-agreement when the postverbal sequence is coordinated. (Martínez-Insua and Martínez, 2003: 277) In our sample, 24 of the total 100 instances were coordinated.

39) *during the Kings minority **there was** some troubles and diftempers in the State ()*

40) *So when **there is** no such Apofitles nor Evangelifts, nor no need of baptifme, (as is ufually the caufe of Chriftians arifing out of popery) [...] (EEBO)*

41) *That afternone y went ayen to Lambeth to my lord after his commaundement aboveseid and when y come thider to hym yn to his ynner chamber, **there was** myche peeple, lordes and other, my lord Tresorer, under Tresorer, the pryvy seel, land FOR_and? dyvers abbottes and pryours, and meny strangers aleyns of other londys. (PCEEC)*

42) ***There is** neither pennes, nor ink. (CED)*

The most commonly used conjunction was unsurprisingly *and*, which was used 16 times in the sample. The notional subjects could also be coordinated asyndetically. *If not* appeared in one instance. In 2 instances *no...nor* was used such as in example 40) and two instances contained *neither...nor*, as seen in 42).

In instance 41) the coordinated notional subject is extremely lengthy, containing as many as 11 NPs.

43) *There he feyde is day & neuer nyght the is euer youthe & neuer age there is euer helthe & neuer fikenesse **there is** rofes lylyes & flowree with otewel owyng ther b*

popyngaey's & nyghtyngales & diuerſe briddes euer ſingyng loue reſte and peſe with euer laſting charite (EEBO)

In some cases, such as 43) the lack of agreement can possibly be explained by stylistic motives. In this particular instance, the phrase *there is* is repeated several times, and does not change when the notional subject is plural.

4.3. Negation

Clausal negation serves to deny or reject a proposition. It is carried out by the insertion of the negator *not* or some other negative word such as *no*, *nothing* and others. Negation using the negator *not* is the most frequent in PDE. (Biber et al., 1999: 158-9)

It would appear that at least in PDE, there is no particular correlation between non-concord and polarity of these constructions, whether it be positive or negative, as shown by Martínez-Insua and Martínez's research. (2003: 269) Still, the types of negation that could be used in existential TCs in EModE are interesting to note as they help to demonstrate the different contexts in which non-concord can be found. 18% of all the instances in the sample were negative. There is an overview of all the types of negation found in Table 6.

Table 6: Types of negation

	<i>No</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Neither.. nor</i>	<i>Adverbial</i>
CED	2	0	1	0
EEBO	10	1	1	1
PCEEC	2	0	0	0
Total %	14%	1%	2%	1%

The majority of the instances which displayed negative polarity contained the previously mentioned negative quantifier *no*. Out of the 18 negative *there*-constructions, 14 were negated with *no*.

44) Yet when **there is** no examples at all, but men take up evil of themselves, and are rather examples to others: this is a great aggravation of their sin. (EEBO)

45) I assure you Madam, replied Cydnon, **there is** no Quarks in what I say; [...] (EEBO)

46) **There is** no bonds to keep in the infected hunger - starved poore, whose breaking out jeapoardeth all the Neighbour - hood. (EEBO)

47) Now **there is** no bodyes existing but these two balles or spheres. (PCEEC)

In the sample, 2 instances out of the total 100 contained the coordinated disjunctive conjunctions *neither... nor*.

48) If wicked Men only were persecuted here, we should easily believe, that out of this World **there is** neither Punishments nor Rewards; [...] (EEBO)

The negative particle *not* was also used, though only in 1 instance, despite it being the most common means of negation in PDE.

49) [...] which Debt was heightned by the supplies of his Majesties Stores, so exhausted at that time, that **there was** not Arms for 5000 men, not Provisions for the setting out ten new ships. (EEBO)

In our sample, 1 instance was negated using other means, specifically the negative adverbial *never*.

50) [...] but **there was** never any such civill wars as did disturb the Halcyon Serenity of their Loves. (EEBO)

4.4. Adverbial intervening material

Adverbials as elements can have three major functions: they add circumstantial information about the proposition in the clause, express speaker/writer stance towards the clause, or link the clause to another unit in the discourse. (Biber et. al, 1999: 762) They can be realized in a number of different ways: adverb phrases, noun phrases, prepositional phrases, finite clauses, non-finite clauses, *ing*-clauses, *ed*-clauses, *to*-infinitive clauses or verbless clauses. (Biber et. al, 1999: 767-8)

Out of the total 100 instances in our sample, 11 contained an adverbial between the verb and the notional subject, forming an interference between the two elements. This is listed as one of the possible factors which make the occurrence of non-concord more likely. Unsurprisingly, most of these intervening adverbials were adjuncts of place – 8 in total, and in 3 cases an adjunct of time. In 7 out of the 11 total instances was the adverbial realized by a prepositional phrase.

51) *Of the suffrings of Christ **there is** heere two words.* (EEBO)

52) *Ye are yet carnal: for whereas **there is** among you envyings, and strifes, and divisions (or, factious), are ye not carnal, and walk as men?* (EEBO)

53) *and **there is** in the coutre many barons and other seruauntes that ar crysten and conuerted to the good feyth thorowe prechyng of goode crysten men that dwell there.* (EEBO)

54) *I can write noe nuse, but that **there is** in these parts many trubbles: the Prince of Orringe his armies and the French are joined together, [...]* (PCEEC)

Examples 51) to 54) contain adverbials of place. In 51), the adverbial is realized by the adverb *heere*. 52-53) are all realized by a prepositional phrase.

55) ***There was** then no memoriall dayes appoynted in the new testament, but a morall day for the worship of God.* (EEBO)

Instance 55) is one of the three which contained an intervening adverbial of time. It is realized by the adverb *then*. The same adverb is used in instance 8). The third case is instance 50), which contains the negative adverb *never*.

4.5. No intervening material

It has been stated that intervening material is a factor that favours the occurrence of non-concord. There are however 14 instances in the sample in which there is no element that could work as an interference between the verb and the notional subject.

56) *But as there is no Grief there, or occasions of Sorrow, fo **there is** multitudes of objects and occasions of Joy and Triumph, the felicitating object, the place, the company, the duration; all afford matter of Comfort: [...]* (EEBO)

57) ***There is** reports heere that come from Calais as if they should haue past a vote in the house for king, lords, and commons, the truth of which you know by this time.* (PCEEC)

58) *And tho in all quarrels betwixt a man and his wife, if it come to a hot dispute, **there is** faults in both Parties, [...]* (EEBO)

In 56), the notional subject is not only plural, but coordinated as well. These instances show that the non-concord is not caused by the author not yet knowing the number of the following notional subject. All of these instances are however posmodified.

4.6. Minimal TCs

In PDE, the majority of the existential there-constructions contain some kind of an extension after the PVNP as in the form of some adverbial elements, relative clauses, participial ing-clauses or to-infinitival clauses. In the study conducted by Martínez-Insua and Martínez (2003: 276), the percentage was 71.3%. Minimal TCs, which do not contain any of the aforementioned elements, display a lower rate of non-concord. Despite that, 11 of these can be found in our sample.

59) *[...] Gentlemen, and you will find, that **there is** seven Crowns.* (CED)

Instance 59) contains no extension, though there is the numeral *seven* present. There are no instances in the sample that contain neither any premodifying element nor an extension.

5. Conclusion

The objective of this thesis was to examine different contexts in which existential *there*-constructions displayed a lack of agreement between the verb and the notional subject in Early Modern English. It analyzed the verb forms as well as the structure of the post-verbal noun phrase.

The hypothesis was based on research from Present Day English, which suggested that the phrase *there + to be*, and especially the contracted *there's*, is undergoing the process of grammaticalization, and slowly becoming a presentative formula, which as a unit serves to alert the addressee to new information. Therefore, it would be expected that when looking at earlier stages of the language, one would find a lower rate of non-concord, as well as fewer permissible contexts as the grammaticalization would have been in its earlier stages. However, the analysis of the material has shown that is not the case. The material gathered from the three different EModE corpora (CED, EEBO, PCEEC) revealed that a lack of agreement in existential *there*-constructions appears in as many contexts as in PDE.

Non-concord occurs both with the contracted form *there's* and the full form *there is* or *there was*. Considering the relative scarcity of the contracted form *there's*, it was most likely not an established introductory particle in EModE. The verb *to be* was also found in the past tense in the sample, specifically in 16 instances. The instances proved that a lack of number agreement between the verb in the past tense and the notional subject was possible in as many contexts as in the present tense. They can contain quantifiers, be pre- and postmodified and be coordinated. They can also contain different types of negation such as a negative adverbial or the negative particle *not*.

A significant number – 68% – of all the instances examined were either pre- or post modified, often by prepositional phrases or lengthy relative clauses. 27% were premodified, while 57% were postmodified. A large number (69%) of existential TCs contained quantifiers and even numerals, which served to make the plural number of the notional subject explicit. 24% of the TCs had a co-ordinated notional subject, also resulting in lengthy post-verbal phrases. 18% of the instances were negated, most usually using the negative quantifier *no*, which was used 14 times. Out of the 100 instances, 11 contained an adverbial between the verb and the notional subject. As evidenced by these figures, the majority of the instances contained some form of interference between these two elements, which is considered to be a

significant factor in the occurrence of non-concord. Regardless, 14% instances contained no intervening material in that position. There were also 11 instances which could be classified as minimal TCs in that they did not contain any extension after the PVNP, despite the fact that in PDE, minimal TCs display a lower rate of non-concord.

There + singular *be* is used even if there is a verb following the notional subject which agrees with it in plural. This would suggest that grammaticalization has already, to an extent, taken place. These sentences, especially when written, and therefore premeditated, do not display a bad knowledge of grammar; it is obvious that the author knew whether the noun phrase was plural or not. The author treated *there* as the deciding factor in whether the verb should be plural or singular. As was already mentioned previously, some regard *there* + sg. *to be* as the unmarked, grammatically correct form regardless of the number of the notional subject.

The different contexts in which a lack of agreement is possible demonstrate that the process of grammaticalization which the phrase *there* + *to be* has undergone is not entirely linear. While non-concord occurs frequently in PDE, it is almost solely the domain of spoken language. In EModE, however, this phenomenon was apparently common in written literary language as well. The Corpus of English Dialogues was chosen for this thesis because of its relative closeness to spoken English and as such it contained no shortage of *there*-constructions which displayed non-concord. The same can be said about The Parsed Corpus of Early English Correspondence which, due to its content of mostly personal letters, is also quite close to spoken, informal language. The largest corpus used in this thesis was Early English Books online, which comprises volumes on literature, philosophy, politics, religion, geography, science and other areas. These texts cannot be described as either informal or approximating spoken language, however a lack of agreement was no rare occurrence. That suggests that deeming the grammatical concord superior to notional concord was a common notion at the time, unlike it is today.

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7. Resumé

Úvodní kapitola se zabývá vymezením tématu této práce, kterým je neshoda mezi významovým podmětem a přísudkem v existenciálních konstrukcích uvozených *there*. Přesněji se zaměřuje na tento fenomén v rané moderní angličtině ve srovnání s angličtinou dnešní. Zkoumá různé kontexty, ve kterých byl tento typ neshody v rané moderní angličtině možný.

Druhá kapitola Teoretické pozadí si dává za úkol charakterizovat existenciální konstrukce a také poskytnout pozadí historické. Část 2.1 tyto konstrukce popisuje po stránce syntaktické a funkční. Sekce 2.1.1 popisuje gramatický podmět těchto konstrukcí, kterým je *there*. Jedná se o předběžný podmět, který přejímá vlastní významový podmět, který je pak postaven postverbálně. Není však jen formálním prostředkem, jehož jedinou funkcí je zaplnit pozici podmětu; je konstitutivní složkou větného typu existenciálního a existenciálně-lokativního. Tato část dále vymezuje toto existenciální *there* oproti lokativnímu *there*, které se od něj liší v tom, že to je plně lexikální jednotka, která funguje jako adverbial. Odkazuje k nějaké lokaci a je přízvuchné. Sekce 2.1.2 se věnuje funkci existenciálních konstrukcí. Používají se pro představení nových informací. Existenciální *there* umožňuje postponování významového podmětu v souladu s principem, kdy věta nejprve zmiňuje informace již známé, které pak následují informace nové. Další část (2.1.3) popisuje tyto konstrukce z hlediska sémantického. Zmiňuje tématické, lokativní a posesivní aspekty významu existenciálního *there*. Následující sekce (2.2) poskytuje historický přehled těchto konstrukcí. Část 2.2.1 je zaměřena na vývoj existenciálních vět od dob staré angličtiny. Následuje sekce 2.2.2., která zkoumá vývoj existenciálního *there* a proces jeho gramatikalizace. Další sekce (2.3) je věnována problematice shody. V sekci 2.3.1 jsou shrnuty poznatky výzkumu neshody v existenciálních konstrukcích, který provedli Insua a Martínez (2003) na současné angličtině, konkrétněji s použitím dat z Britského národního korpusu. Jejich cílem bylo zjistit, jestli existuje kauzativní vztah mezi neshodou a faktory jako je mód komunikace, polarita, délka a struktura posverbální sekvence a přítomnost interferujících elementů mezi slovesem a významovým podmětem. Poslední část druhé kapitoly je věnována gramatikalizaci nejen existenciálního *there*, ale celé fráze *there + to be*. Tato fráze se zdá se vyvinula v prezentativní formuli, a je důvodem častého výskytu neshody.

Kapitola 3 je zaměřena na metodologii této práce. Je zde popsáno, jakým způsobem se z tří různých korpusů rané moderní angličtiny vybralo 100 příkladů existenciálních vět, kterým

je poté věnována analytická část práce (Sekce 4.) Nejprve jsou zde popsány použité korpusy (Sekce 3.1). Jde o CED, Corpus of English Dialogues, EEBO, Early English Books Online a PCEEC, Parsed Corpus of Early English Correspondence. Poté následuje popis výběru příkladů (Sekce 3.2) včetně, vět, které byly ze vzorku eliminovány (Sekce 3.2.1). Dále je v sekci 3.3 popsána metoda analýzy. Tuto kapitolu ukončuje sekce 3.4, ve které je vymezena hypotéza této práce.

Kapitola 4 obsahuje již samotnou analýzu získaných 100 příkladů. První sekce (4.1) je zaměřena na sloveso. Část 4.1.1 zkoumá formu slovesa – tedy jestli má redukovanou formu 's či ne. Následující část (4.1.2) si všímá slovesného času, konkrétně tedy zkoumá příklady, ve kterých se sloveso objevilo v minulém čase. Následuje sekce 4.2, která se věnuje formě významového podmětu. Nejprve se analýza zabývá premodifikací (4.2.1), dále postmodifikací (4.2.2). Analýza ukázala, že 68% příkladů obsahovaly nějaký typ modifikace. Dále je věnována pozornost přítomnosti kvantifikátorů včetně číslovek (4.2.3). Toto se týkalo překvapivě velkého množství příkladů – ze 100 vět 69 obsahovaly nějaký druh kvantifikátoru.. Dále jsou analyzovány příklady, ve kterých je významový podmět koordinován. Těchto případů bylo celkem 24%. Další část (4.3) sleduje různé typy negace, které se ve vzorku vyskytly. Ze 100 příkladů bylo 18 negativních. Sekce 4.4 zkoumá příklady, ve kterých se mezi přísudkem a významovým podmětem objevuje interference ve formě adverbialu. Mezi tyto příklady patřilo 11 vět z celkového 100. Předposlední část (4.5) je věnována konstrukcím, ve kterých se nevyskytuje žádná forma interference mezi těmito dvěma elementy. Takových vět bylo ve vzorku 14. Poslední sekce (4.6) se zabývá minimálními *there*-konstrukcemi, tedy takovými, kde za významovým podmětem nenásledovala žádná extenze. Těch se našlo v materiálu 11.

V Závěru jsou shrnuty výsledky analytické části. Tato kapitola zvažuje poznatky oproti počáteční hypotéze, která byla analýzou z velké části vyvrácena. Předpokládala, že na příkladech z rané angličtiny se bude neshoda vyskytovat v menším počtu kontextů, než je tomu v současné angličtině, protože proces gramatikalizace fráze *there + to be*, kterou se výskyt neshody z velké části vysvětluje, v té době byla v ranějším stádiu.

Bibliografie (Kapitola 6.) uvádí výčet všech využitých sekundárních zdrojů, které byly v této práci využity. Appendix (Kapitola 8) poté obsahuje všech 100 příkladů, na kterých je postavena analytická část. Příklady jsou rozděleny podle toho, z jakého korpusů byly vybrány.

8. Appendix

CED - A Corpus of English Dialogues 1560-1760			
1	1 FICTION D1FSHARP	There is about the same church as many chappels as <i>there is</i> moneths in the yere.	
2	1 FICTION D1FTALES	<i>There is</i> no Mares bred to get in all the towne, [...]	
3	1 HANDB ENG D1HEBELL	<i>There is</i> about twenty myles.	
4	1 WITNESS D D1WWALSH	hee speaketh with them vpon hyls, where as <i>there is</i> great heapes of earth, as namely in Dorsetshire.	9)
5	2 COMEDY D2CSHAKE	Yes per - lady: if he ha's a quarter of your coat, <i>there is</i> but three Skirts for your selfe, in my simple coniectures; [...]	29)
6	2 COMEDY D2CBARRE	<i>There is</i> but two paire of hose and shooes, In all his Parish.	30)
7	2 COMEDY D2CSHAKE	I pray you: now let vs vnderstand: <i>there is</i> three Vmpires in this matter, as I vnderstand; [...]	35)
8	2 HANDB FRE D2HFWODR	Sir, <i>there is</i> but two of them cleane.	31)
9	3 HANDB OTH D3HOTJ	let vs returne to old England againe, where <i>there is</i> many honest men will welcome you home, one Mr. Cipres.	15)
10	3 HANDB OTH D3HOSTAR	Yes truly some of them are ; but <i>there is</i> othersome who have laid out more money then was their owne for the purchasing of places in our Offices.	14)
11	3 HANDB FRE D3HFFEST	Gentlemen, <i>there is</i> eight Shillings for Wine, pay what you please for the rest.	33)
12	1 COMEDY D1CWARNE	Cylindrus, take the Hand - basket, and heere, <i>there's</i> ten shillings is there not?	1)
13	4 HANDB OTH D4HOSAM	I'll tell thee, if I have a Crown in my Pocket, and thou hast a mind to have it from me, <i>there is</i> but three ways to get it, either by Slight of Hand, to pick it from me, or by words, to persuade me out of it, or take it from me by Strong Hand.	
14	4 WITNESS D D4WYORK	<i>There is</i> many such idle people as you both are in this country, and if I knewe where there were authority.	18)

15	4 HANDB FRE D4HFBOYE	[...] Gentlemen, and you will find , that <i>there is</i> seven Crowns.	59)
16	1 COMEDY D1CLYLY	It is so Aristotle , but yet <i>there is</i> among you, yea & of your bringing vp, that sought to destroy Alexander, Calistenes, Aristotle, whose treasons againste his prince shall not bee borne out with the reasons of his Phylosophy.	
17	4 HANDB OTH D4HOTREA	Why every where, <i>there is</i> few or no Markets but what yields little or much, [...]	26)
18	4 COMEDY D4CSHADW	I tell you <i>there is</i> braave dignities, and promotions too; [...]	11)
19	4 COMEDY D4CMANLE	Keep your Sword, it may be a Fortune better worth than all your Fathers Lands; <i>there's</i> Wars abroad, you may employ it in, [...]	
20	1 HANDB ENG D1HEBELL	<i>There is</i> neither pennes, nor ink.	42)
21	2 WITNESS D D2WDIOCE	[...] and her said master Raph Blaikston then lieing very sicke, and examinate knowing <i>there was</i> some differences betwixt Sharpe and him, [...]	24)
22	4 TRIAL D4TMOHUN	[...] and <i>there was</i> some Souldiers that would have had me go in, and Smoak and Drink with them: [...]	5)
23	3 TRIAL D3TLOVE	Certainly, either in that letter, or some other, <i>there was</i> some such expressions.	23)
24	3 TRIAL D3TGBH	My Lord, Mrs. Broadstreet said at first there was but one Key; but before the Duke of Monmouth she said <i>there was</i> six or seven Keys.	6)
25	3 MISC D3MWOMEN	[...] for surely, <i>there was</i> then excessive Sports, Pastimes, & Revels, that it would make a bodies haire stand an end to heare and see it.	8)
EEBO - Early English Books Online 1475-1700			
26	A09829	[...] tenne dayes iourney, in the whiche waye <i>there is</i> many Cities and Townes.	19)
27	A06811	And <i>there is</i> many Camylions that is a lytell best and he etethe / and drynkethe neuer and he chaungeth oft hys coloure.	
28	A44478	<i>There's</i> no such Crawlers in the Ocean.	2)
29	A13665	Also in this Countrey <i>there is</i> many faire riuers, and a multitude of good filhe.	20)

30	A35692	[...] where <i>there is</i> stately Oaks, whose broad - branched - tops serve for no other use, but to keep off the Suns heat from the wilde Beasts of the Wilderneys, [...]	
31	A43577	But as there is no Grief there, or occasions of Sorrow, so <i>there is</i> multitudes of objects and occasions of Joy and Triumph, the felicitating object, the place, the company, the duration; all afford matter of Comfort: [...]	56)
32	A23641	So when <i>there is</i> no such Apostles nor Evangelists, nor no need of baptisme, (as is usually the cause of Christians arising out of popery) [...]	40)
33	A10578	[...] <i>there is</i> workes and miracles and thynges farre passing the possibility of naturall working.	
34	A06863	For <i>there is</i> no earthlie things which haue in them any force or vertue to help men, except they be made effectually by the power of him is y • Omnipotent.	11)
35	A22560	[...] surely I doo thinke that <i>there is</i> two kindes of bewtie which is amongst mortall men, the one heauenly, the other common; [...]	37)
36	A17050	Nowe seee in this Sacrament, <i>there is</i> two fortes of thing is subject to the outward senses, and to the eye especially; [...]	
37	A13820	But the truth is, that Lynceus of whom <i>there is</i> so many fables of his eyesight, [...]	21)
38	A03128	Of the sufferings of Christ <i>there is</i> here two words.	51)
39	A15685	Hee will therefore doe more, for in Winter, when <i>there is</i> no greene leaves to be got, he will burne an old one to ashes, [...]	13)
40	A12197	Now in guilt <i>there is</i> two things.	34)
41	A95310	<i>There is</i> no bonds to keep in the infected hunger - starved poore, whose breaking out jeopardeth all the Neighbour - hood.	46)
42	A30575	Yet when <i>there is</i> no examples at all, but men take up evil of themselves, and are rather examples to others: this is a great aggravation of their sin.	44)
43	A70988	I assure you Madam, replied Cydnon, <i>there is</i> no Quarks in what I say; [...]	45)
44	A77976	<i>There is</i> two waies to humble the heart for sin, There is looking upward unto God, and seeing whom it is thou hast sinned against: And looking downward to thine own miserie [...]	32)

45	A28337	Fourthly, <i>There is</i> certain wayes of grafting of them to have two Flowers spring from one root, and that is done thus; [...]	10)
46	A41838	I think <i>there is</i> seven steps of judgement which is like to overtake us, if we hearken not o his voice: [...]	12)
47	A11011	Brethren, <i>there is</i> but two great powers only (as for the power of a King, out, out, it is nothing but draffe and dirt: [...]	
48	A41975	[...] but whereas <i>there is</i> 64 houfes in the Chesse-board, [...]	
49	A69887	If wicked Men only were persecuted here, we should easily believe, that out of this World <i>there is</i> neither Punishments nor Rewards; [...]	48)
50	A26096	And tho in all quarrels betwixt a man and his wife, if it come to a hot dispute, <i>there is</i> faults in both Parties, [...]	58)
51	A41801	Ye are yet carnal: for whereas <i>there is</i> among you envyings, and strifes, and divifions (or, factious), are ye not carnal, and walk as men?	52)
52	A63173	[...] and that <i>there was</i> Ten Thousand Pounds to be paid for it, and afterwards <i>there was</i> Five Thousand Pound more to be added; [...]	17)
53	A22641	[...] yet are these other parcells formally extant in the whole, as in their bones <i>there is</i> parcells of flesh, and fire, and sinewes, & c.	
54	A70988	[...] but <i>there was</i> never any such civill wars as did disturb the Halcyon Serenity of their Loves.	28) 50)
55	A01108	[...] I found great store of fish playing at the cruft of the water, and of great fish which is a maine argument, for <i>there was</i> Whales, Seamors, and Seales, of which there are infinite, [...]	
56	A35787	[...] withall protesting, that in all Constantinople <i>there was</i> but four Copies only of the said Book that had that passage alledged by the Latins but that there was in the said City above a thousand other copies wherein those words were not to be found at all.	
57	A07770	[...] he was not ignoraunt (for how could that be?) that <i>there was</i> fourtie sixe Elders or Priestes, seauen Deacons, seauen Subdeacons, fourtie two Acolythes, Exorcistes and Readers together with Sextenes, fiftie two; Widowes and others needie and sicke persons, a thousand and fiue hundred: [...]	
58	A26776	For as in the time of the Law, <i>there was</i> severall Ceremonies which poynted at the appearing of Chrif in the Fleh; [...]	25)
59	A34097	In 1646 they made peace with Poland, and during the Kings	39)

		minority <i>there was</i> some troubles and diftempers in the State, and an horrible Sedition 1648.	
60	A43206	[...] which Debt was heightened by the supplies of his Majesties Stores, so exhausted at that time, that <i>there was</i> not Arms for 5000 men, not Provisions for the setting out ten new ships.	7) 49)
61	A71319	The fame tyme <i>there was</i> the dukes of Bretaygne and of Berrey in great araye.	
62	A06811	and <i>there is</i> in the coutre many barons and other seruauntes that ar crysten and conuerted to the good feyth thorowe prechyng of goode crysten men that dwell there.	53)
63	A06812	& in somer <i>there is</i> many tempestes & thondres that sleeth many men and beestes & ryght sodaynly	
64	A14559	And <i>there is</i> seuen yere and seuen lentys of pardon.	
65	A20416	And saide it is conuement for a kyng or aprince to lerne and knowe but not all for <i>there is</i> many thinges that a kyng or a prince ought not to knowe nor vnderstonde.	22)
66	A06811	& <i>there is</i> hylles all aboute theym.	
67	A20894	that folke ought not to suffre nor doo the same <i>there is</i> many good raisons that dyuine ryght assigneth therto the whiche right diuine is y e ryght of holy chirche	
68	A06811	And <i>there is</i> other trees that bere venym ageyne which is no medecyne.	
69	A07572	There he feyde is day & neuer nyght the is euer youthe & neuer age there is euer helthe & neuer fikenesse <i>there is</i> rofes lylles & flowree with otewel owyng ther b popyngaeyes & nyghtyngales & diuerse briddes euer fyingng loue reite and pefe with euer lafting charite	43)
70	A69207	And said / <i>there is</i> thre thinges that doth me harme to se	
71	A30575	<i>there's</i> many waies of multiplying and encreafing lyes.	3)
72	A06811	it is a gode londe a playne / but <i>there is</i> fewe ryuers and <i>there is</i> but two hylles in that londe.	27)
73	A17571	<i>There was</i> then no memoriall dayes appoynted in the new testament, but a morall day for the worship of God.	55)
74	A71305	<i>There is</i> in it three Spanish Townes with a Gouvernment, and a Bishoppricke: [...]	

75	A10399	[...] or else it is very secret, so that <i>there is</i> no certaine outward Testimonies, whereby it may bee knowne to be the true Church.	
76	A17310	In a commonwealth where there is no publike enemy, <i>there is</i> likely ciuill warres, [...]	
77	A11983	For <i>there is</i> three sorts of cosen garmombles, [...]	
78	A39573	I dare say that in the City of London <i>there is</i> hundreds, if not thousands dipped in cold water, [...]	
79	A46991	I am He, and <i>there is</i> no gods with Me.	
80	A37148	especially where <i>there is</i> great quantities: [...]	
81	A10675	<i>there is</i> manie seruants nowe a dayes, that breake away euerye man from hys master.	
82	A53678	<i>There is</i> in the words themselves these three things.	
83	A03479	For as Galene saith, <i>there is</i> in the bodies of liuing creatures three alterations.	
PCEEC - Parsed Corpus of Early English Correspondence 1400-1800			
84	CONWAY_092	Now <i>there is</i> no bodyes existing but these two balles or spheres.	47)
85	OXINDE_163	[...] and 't is 'tis I said <i>there is</i> two or 3 daughters to portion and sufficient deles uppon the estate besides; [...]	
86	BACON_218	<i>There is</i> two firkins of nayles, one boughte by me and an other by Mr Carter, 2 firkins of sope, 4 case of glasse, and 2 tonne of yron.	
87	HUTTON_081	<i>There is</i> tow-and-fortie shillings more which Sir Gorge should have paid me mor than a year since, but I can not canot get one peny from him.	
88	HATTON_046	But <i>there is</i> fourteen botles of Renish and all the sherie sack that was, but noe other; so now you may the better gess what you must send down.	
89	TIXALL_033	Thy settlement in the world will be no diminishment of my love, but onely augmentation of my car for thee, because <i>there is</i> more obiects to deuide that love, wch in one flame ought to ascend to God.	
90	OSBORNE_075	[...] of all the Company this Place is stored with <i>there is</i> but two Person's whose conversation is at all Easy to mee, [...]	
91	ORIGIN1_029	[...], more conveyent place than that, seing that <i>there is</i> noo	

		houses nor village nere it.	
92	BACON_237	Nott with standing for that <i>there is</i> on hondreth combes at Blakny I shall be shalbe contented to kepe it soo that it maye be better drest & [...]	
93	PLUMPTO_043	Your matter in the Exchequer is grevous; <i>there is</i> iij wryttes agaynst you.	38)
94	CHARLES_002	[...] whereas I am informed by the marchant whome I haue imployd to receaue the mony for me, that <i>there is</i> but 21 poundes Flemish which amounts but to gilders and some odd shillings more then is due to me vpon the exchange for the pistols, [...]	16)
95	CONWAY_084	<i>There is</i> 17 Gallons.	36)
96	CORNWAL_176	I can write noe nuse, but that <i>there is</i> in these parts many trubbles: the Prince of Orringe his armies and the French are joined together, [...]	54)
97	CHARLES_005	<i>There is</i> reports heere that come from Calais as if they should haue past a vote in the house for king, lords, and commons, the truth of which you know by this time.	57)
98	ARUNDEL_074	For now the East Indian comodities are sould there, <i>there is</i> peeces of purcelaine which will be bought there to sende in to France.	
99	SHILLIN_002	That afternone y went ayen to Lambeth to my lord after his commaundement abovesaid and when y come thider to hym yn to his ynner chamber, <i>there was</i> myche peeple, lordes and other, my lord Tresorer, under Tresorer, the pryvy seel, land FOR_and? dyvers abbottes and pryours, and meny strangers aleyns of other londys.	41)
100	PLUMPTO_078	Sir, it ys let us to understand that <i>thers</i> other tenaunts, that are cast forth, hath bene at Cothorpe, and made one ragman to compleane on my sone and you, that ye take ther goods from them.	4)