

The aim of this paper is to provide a comprehensive typological description of Old and Middle English verbs attested to have been capable of participating in impersonal constructions and to outline their historical development up to the point of their disappearance in the course of Early Modern English. It categorizes the verbs both on the basis of their grammatical and semantic features and attempts to establish a link between the impersonal and personal usage of each individual case. In this process it utilizes the information gained through an extensive study of bibliographical materials in combination with examples from original literary sources made available through Old and Middle English dictionary entries. Following the results obtained through a comparative analysis of the verbs of both historical periods it attempts to map the gradual cession of the impersonal constructions, which it sees as concomitant of morpho-syntactic changes that took place during the Middle English period and which resulted in the language transforming from its original, highly inflectional form into an analytical grammatical system of the Present Day English.