

The pervasiveness of number agreement in Germanic and Brittonic: evidence from a diachronic parallel corpus study

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Parallel corpus studies allow to collect highly comparable data and thus to compare languages with respect to grammatical features. In the present paper we apply this methodology to number agreement in more than thirty Germanic and Brittonic varieties/texts. We describe the amount of value matches between agreement targets and controllers across various agreement domains and explore the differences between language varieties and genealogical lineages. As we compare texts of various language stages, a perspective on the development of agreement in two linguistic genetic unities emerges. Particular attention is paid to the types of matches and mismatches between various types of controllers and targets.