

On the Use of make to vs. make ø in early English Medical Writing

Javier Calle-Martín - Jesús Romero-Barranco
University of Málaga



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Introduction (*i*)

- **Object infinitive constructions:** the most frequent type of non-finite complement clauses, in which the object infinitive occurs as the complement of the verb.

1a) Peter helped **to do** the washing up

1b) Peter helped us **to do** the washing up

2a) Peter helped **do** the washing up

2b) Peter helped us **do** the washing up

Introduction (*ii*)

- Historical overview:
 - Old English: both constructions were felt to be perfectly synonymous, even though the *bare* infinitive is observed to be the preferred form (Van der Gaaf 1904; Mitchell 1985; Visser 1963).
 - Middle English: in late Middle English, bare infinitive is found to decrease drastically. According to Fischer, this can be explained from a twofold perspective (1997):
 1. The on-going diffusion of *to* as an infinitive marker after the disappearance of the nominal case.
 2. The substitution of *that*-clauses by infinitival complements.
 - Early Modern English: progressive diffusion of *bare* infinitive, thus coexisting with *to*-infinitive with the same verb typology. In this period, *bare* infinitive is also found to occur with a higher number of matrix verbs.
 - Present-day English: *bare* infinitive is more widely used in both British and American English, spoken English in particular.

Introduction (*iii*)

- Zero/To variation - Still a gap from a scholarly perspective because the phenomenon has been mostly discussed in:
 1. Old English and Middle English.
 2. Particularly in registers such as fiction, poetry and correspondence.
- The present paper investigates the construction *makes to vs. makes ø* in late Middle English and early modern English scientific prose with the following objectives:
 - To analyze the distribution of marked and unmarked infinitives in scientific prose in the period 1350-1700.
 - To classify the phenomenon across the different text-types.
 - To evaluate the contribution of the following factors in the choice of one particular construction:
 - The presence of intervening elements between the matrix verb and the object infinitive.
 - The size of the object phrase.
 - The inflection of the matrix verb.

Methodology (*i*)

- Source: *The Corpus of Early English Medical Writing*:
 - MEMT: *Middle English Medical Texts* (1350-1700).
 - EMEMT: *Early Modern English Medical texts* (1500-1700).
- The study is based on the 3 main parts of the corpus, i.e. theoretical treatises, surgical and anatomical treatises and recipes.

Methodology (ii)

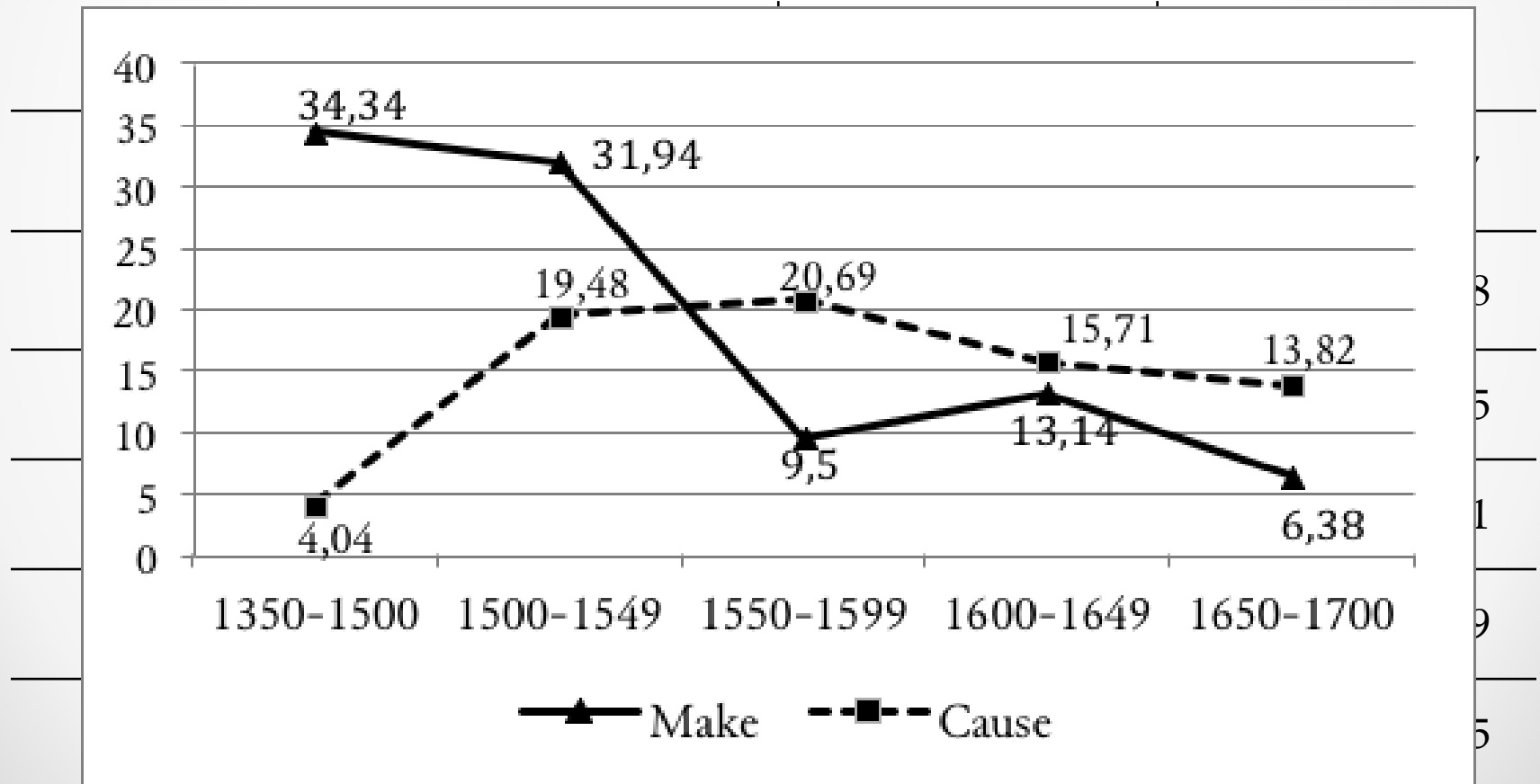
- 565 instances of the object-controlling verb *MAKE*.
 - MEMT: 217.
 - EMENT: 348.
- Manual disambiguation was needed in order to discard those instances in which *make* was not controlling an object infinitive:
 - (1) first of all and before he *make* any far procedyng, to defyne the thing, of the which he pourposeth to entreat (1547, Langton, *Uery Brefe Treatise*, f. 5r)

Methodology (*iii*)

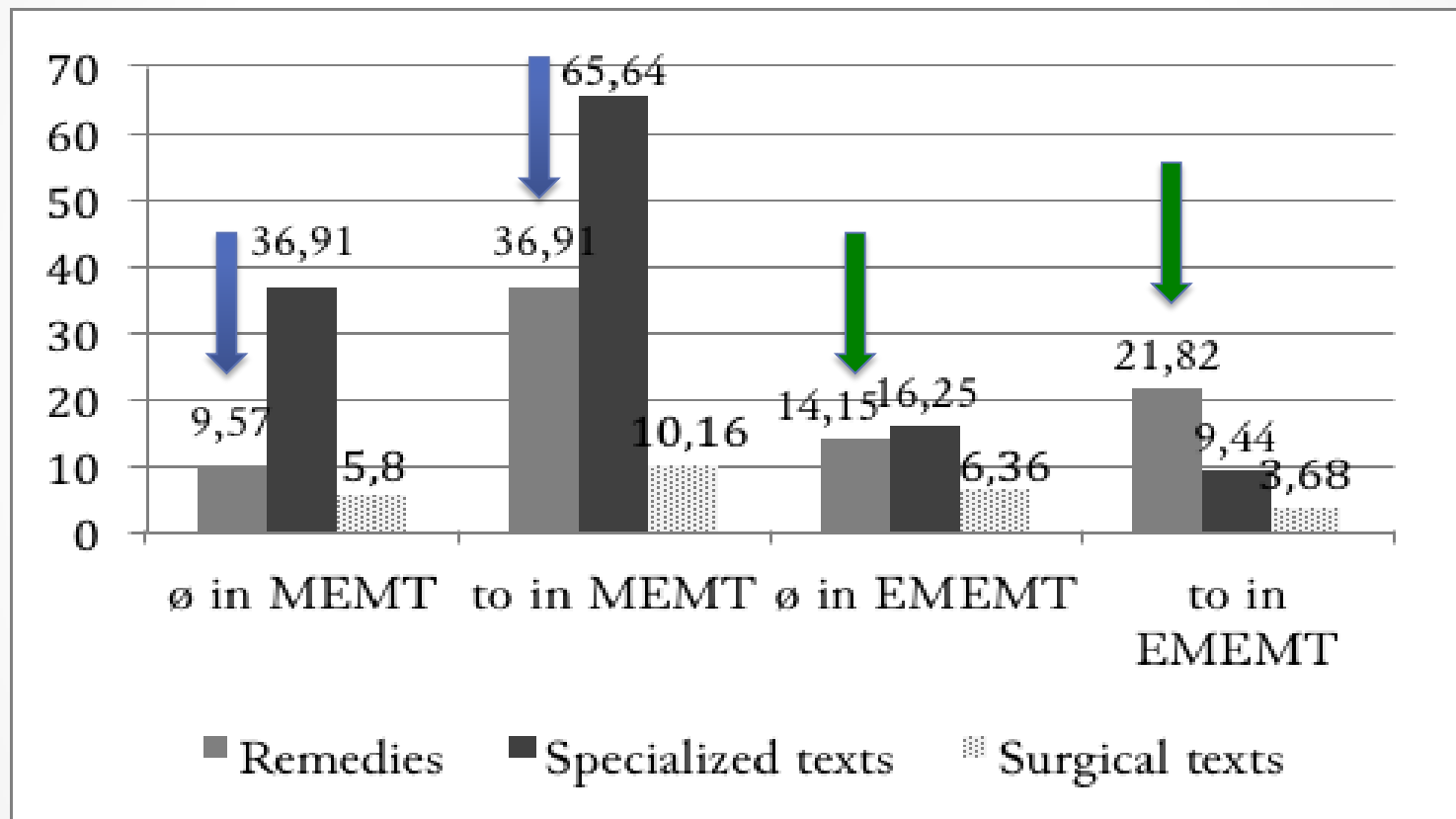
	Specialized Texts	Surgical Texts	Remedies	Total
MEMT	88,349	137,794	219,395	445,538
EEMEMT	762,667	298,352	339,068	1,400,087
EEMEMT1 1500-1549	59,602	21,910	46,814	128,326
EEMEMT2 1550-1599	162,313	102,919	92,405	357,637
EEMEMT3 1600-1649	228,135	50,771	71,047	349,953
EEMEMT4 1650-1700	312,617	122,752	128,802	564,171

Analysis: Chronology (*i*)

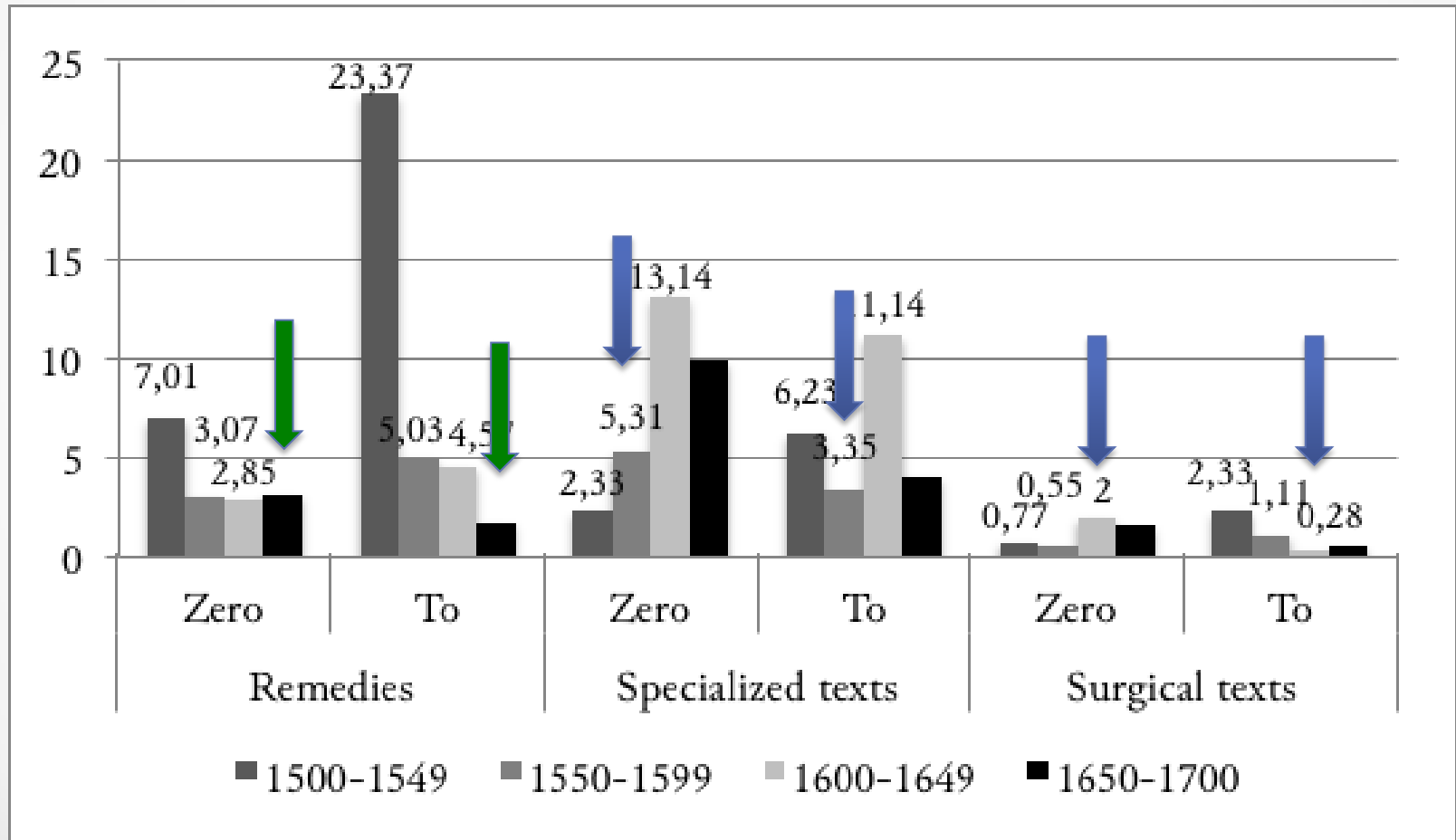
- Chronology



Analysis: Genre variation (i)



Analysis: Genre variation (ii)



Factors (*i*)

- There are three main factors that have been found to contribute to the choice of bare or *to*-infinitive:
 - The presence of intervening elements between the matrix verb and the object infinitive.
 - The size of the object phrase.
 - The morphology of the matrix verb:
 - Finite forms (*make, makes, made*).
 - Non-finite forms (*to make, making*).

Factors (*ii*)

- The presence of intervening elements between the matrix verb and the object infinitive.
- Lind's analysis of *help to/help* \emptyset (1983):
 - Whenever a noun phrase is inserted between the matrix verb and the object infinitive, *ZERO* was preferred over *TO* infinitive (63,3% and 36,9%, respectively).
 - However, it is not known how many of those NPs were actually pronominals. It results impossible to detect the influence that a proper noun or a pronominal may have on the phenomenon.

Factors (*iii*)

- *Make to/Make* ∅: typology of intervening elements:

MEMT	Zero		To		Total
Noun phrase	25	24,75	76	74,24	101
Pronominal	31	37,8	51	62,19	82
Adverbial	0	0	13	100	13
No interv. element	8	38,09	13	61,9	21

Factors (*iv*)

- *Make to/Make* \emptyset : typology of intervening elements:

EMEMT	Zero		To		Total
Noun phrase	78	42,62	105	57,37	183
Pronominal	102	83,6	20	16,39	122
Adverbial	7	36,84	12	63,15	19
No interv. element	4	16,66	20	83,33	24

Factors (*v*)

- The size of the object phrase:
 - The choice of the marked and unmarked infinitive with the verb *make* has often been interpreted in terms of metrical needs, the unmarked form being often used in verse and poetic prose (Visser 1973: 2261).
 - In addition, Rohdenburg (1996) stated that object phrases followed by marked infinitives contained twice as many words as those associated with unmarked infinitives.

Factors (*vi*)

		<i>Instances</i>	<i>Average number of words</i>
<i>MEMT</i>	zero	64	1,39
	to	153	1,78
<i>EMEMT</i>	zero	191	1,42
	to	157	2,18

Factors (*vii*)

- The morphology of the matrix verb.

	<i>MEMT</i>					<i>EMEMT</i>				
	Zero		To		Total	Zero		To		Total
<i>To make</i>	12	69	8	40	20	39	65	21	35	60
<i>Making</i>	0	0	3	100	3	3	60	2	40	5
<i>Make</i>	40	34,48	76	65,51	116	88	59,8 9	59	40,13	147
<i>Makes</i>	9	14,06	55	85,93	64	39	39,8	59	60,2	98
<i>Made</i>	3	21,42	11	78,57	14	21	57,8 9	16	42,1	38

Conclusions (*i*)

- The early modern period marks off a transitional stage in the development of *make* in combination with an object infinitive clause, as the marked form is observed to decline towards the mid-sixteenth century, coinciding with a significant diffusion of zero.
- *Genre variation*:
 - *MEMT*: an outstanding use of *to* across the different text-types.
 - *EMEMT*: Zero is preferred over *to* in *Specialized* and *Surgical Texts*, while *Remedies* show a higher distribution of the marked infinitive.

Conclusions (*ii*)

- When an intervening element occurs:
 - MEMT:
 - To is preferred with all the typology of intervening elements.
 - EMENT:
 - An intervening pronominal favours the choice of the *zero* alternative.
 - An intervening adverbial, in turn, seems to trigger the use of the marked infinitive.
 - When there is no intervening element, the *to* infinitive is overwhelmingly preferred over that of *zero*.

Conclusions (*iii*)

- Concerning the size of the object phrase, the results reveal that the greater the complexity of the phrase, the more likely the *to*-infinitive occurs.
- Morphological differences are not relevant in the choice of the infinitive, with the only exception of *to make*, which favours the use of the bare infinitive in order to avoid euphony. In addition, in EModE, the *to* alternative is preferred when *make* is inflected (*makes*).

Thank you



UNIVERSIDAD
DE MÁLAGA

jcalles@uma.es - jromer@uma.es