OLD ENGLISH VERBS OF INCREASING: THE SEMANTICS AND SYNTAX OF CHANGE IN SIZE¹

Abstract: This article aims at defining a class of Old English verbs of increasing based on both their common semantic components and grammatical behavior. On the theoretical side, the framework of verb classes and alternations is combined with Role and Reference Grammar. The data selected for this study have been extracted from both textual and lexicographical sources. After the analysis of the linking between syntax and semantics in this set of verbs, the conclusion is reached that āðindan, āweaxan, ēacan, (ge)ēacnian and (ge)weaxan are the best candidates for membership of the verbal class of increasing, considering the constructions and alternations that they present.

Key words: Old English, verbs of increasing, constructions, alternations.

1. INTRODUCTION

This research focuses on Old English verbs of increasing, that is to say, those verbs that describe states of affairs in which a Patient undergoes a change of state whereby its size increases, as in *Flowers grow*, or an Agent causes a Patient to increase in size, as in *Alfred grows flowers*.

The aim of this article is to study the verbal class of *increase* in Old English with a view to determining if they constitute a consistent set as to meaning components and grammatical behavior (which is understood as the morpho-syntactic realization of arguments). The steps taken in this research are the following: (i) providing semantic and syntactic principles for class membership; (ii) searching the available textual sources in order to collect the data relevant for the analysis; and (iii) checking on the semantic and syntactic properties of the verbal candidates so as to determine whether or not they can be considered members of the class. The initial list of verbs of increasing relies on the clasification of domains and subdomains provided by Faber and Mairal (1999), so as to then search the *Thesaurus of Old English* and the lexical database *Nerthus* to select the verbs whose primary meaning is *increase*. An initial exhaustive anlaysis (all the canonical inflectional forms of the selected verbs are searched) is followed by qualitative one (all the different linkings of thematic role and morphological case, constructions and alternations are selected). Even though Present-Day English verbs of increasing are examined in passing, the scope of this article is exclusively synchronic.

This paper has been structured as follows. Section 2 presents a review of previous research in the verbal classes of Old English. After that, the theoretical

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frameworks of verbal classes and Role and Reference Grammar (henceforward RRG) are presented in Section 3. Then, Section 4 describes the sources, methodological steps and data of this research. Present-Day English verbs of increasing are briefly examined in Section 5. While Section 6 features a semantic description of the predication and the linking semantics-syntax, Section 7 focuses on morphosyntactic constructions and alternations. To conclude, Section 8 summarizes the findings of this resarch and underlines its main conclusions.

2. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Old English previous works mostly focus on syntax (Visser, 1963-1973; McLaughlin, 1983; Mitchell, 1985; Campbell, 1987; Traugott, 1992; Denison, 1993; Quirk and Wrenn, 1994; Hogg and Fulk, 2011); and semantics, to a lesser extent (Weman, 1933; Kastovsky, 1992). The relationship between the syntax and semantics of Old English in general, and verbs in particular, has drawn less attention. The main references in the area of Old English semantics include the studies of verbs of vision (Penttilä 1956), locomotion (Weman, 1933; Ogura, 2002), knowledge (Ono 1989), thinking (Ogura 1986b), emotion (Ogura 2013), tasting (Ogura 2008), as well as impersonal verbs (Ogura, 1986a; Möhlig-Falke, 2012). More syntactically oriented works, but also relevant to this study, are Ogura (1989) on constructions with *self*; Denison (1993) and Molencki (1991) on verbal complementation; Allen (1995) on oblique case marking; Timofeeva (2010) on non-finite constructions; and Ogura (2018) on periphrastic constructions.

Other scholars have also contributed to bridging the gap between semantics and syntax by applying current theoretical frameworks to Old English and looking in the semantic motivation for the syntactic organization of early English. The present article is intended to follow in this track. Martín Arista (2000a, 2000b) examines the internal aspect of Old English verbs according to the *Aktionsart* classification proposed by Role and Reference Grammar (hereafter RRG), as put forward by Van Valin and LaPolla (1997). From the lexematic functional perspective, an inventory of lexical templates and mapping rules has been proposed that draws on the system of lexical representation of RRG. This model is subsequently applied to some verbal classes in specific works involving the analysis of Old English verbal classes and the corresponding logical structures, constructions and alternations. This includes, for instance, verbs of feeling (C. García Pacheco 2013) and verbs of existence (L. García Pacheco 2013).

Another avenue of research pays heed to the paradigmatic morphology of Old English (Martín Arista 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018) and searches for links with certain syntactic constructions (Martín Arista and Cortés Rodríguez, 2014; Ruíz Narbona, 2018; García García, 2019;). This research line also includes the elaboration of a derivational

morphology model centered on RRG and an analysis of verbal classes that requires the coincidence of semantic features and grammatical behavior (argument projection and realization), which is couched in terms of constructions and morpho-syntactic alternations. To date, verbs of prohibition (Ojanguren López 2019b), *end* verbs (Ojanguren López 2020), inaction verbs (Ojanguren López 2019a, fc.) and *rejoice* verbs (Martín Arista 2020) have been addressed.

The analysis in this work focuses on a set of verbs of increasing that approximately match Present-Day English *grow* and *increase* as this class of verbs has not been addressed in the literature or it has been seen from the angle of morphological case only (Visser, 1963-1973; McLaughlin, 1983; Mitchell, 1985). Be that as it may, the framework of classes, constructions and alternations, which is described in Section 3, has been successfully implemented in several verbal classes of Old English.

3. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

The theoretical foundation of this article has been provided by the framework of verb classes and alternations proposed by Levin (1993) and the functional model of RRG (Foley and Van Valin, 1984; Van Valin and LaPolla, 1997; Van Valin, 2005, 2014).

Levin (1993: 1) puts the syntactic and semantic properties of English verbs in the spotlight by stating that "the behavior of a verb, particularly with respect to the expression and interpretation of its arguments, is to a large extent determined by its meaning. Thus, verb behavior can be used effectively to probe for linguistically relevant pertinent aspects of verb meaning". The concepts of verbal class and alternations are central to this framework since, in her view (Levin 1993: 10), they "are manifested across languages by verbs of the same semantic types". As far as argument realization is concerned, the meaning component of a specific verb constrains the form and number of complements that it can take, while according to her (Levin 1993: 5) "verbs that fall into classes according to shared behavior would be expected to show shared meaning components".

Although verbal classes are coherent from a semantic and syntactic perspective, alternations comprise a varied range of diathesis alternations (Levin 1993: 22). The latter are classified in groups depending on the syntactic structures involved. Thus, alternations are divided according to transitivity, arguments within the verb phrase, "oblique" subjects, reflexive diathesis, passive constructions, postverbal "subjects" and other types of constructions. To illustrate, *give* verbs (Levin 1993: 138) comprise *feed*, *give*, *lease*, *lend*, *loan*, *pass*, *pay*, *peddle*, *refund*, *render*, *rent*, *repay*, *sell*, *serve* and *trade*, which are involved in the dative alternation (1):

Dative Alternation:

They lent a bicycle to me.

They lent me a bicycle.

Levin (1993: 138) states that *give* verbs "display the dative alternation, though there may be some differences of opinion concerning whether some of these verbs actually are found in the double object construction". Thus, alternations also contribute to making generalizations across several verb classes.

When applying this model to a previous stage of the language, some issues may arise, due to the changes resulting from the evolution from Old English to Present-Day English. Among others, it is worth mentioning that Old English resorts to case marking to indicate syntactic functions and shows widespread explicit inflections for nouns, adjectives pronouns and verbs. Moreover, transitivization, prepositional government and the lexical borrowing from French, which are not present -or, in the case of prepositional government, regularized- in Old English, are fundamental because many of the alternations and argument realizations presented by Levin's (1993) framework make reference to them. As Ojanguren López (2019a: 8) proposes, the differences between Old English and Present-Day English advise to complement the framework of verb classes and alternations (Levin 1993) with an up-to-date and extensive theory of language that deals with the association between the semantics and syntax of verbs. This is offered by RRG (Van Valin and LaPolla, 1997; Van Valin, 2005, 2014) and its *Aktionsart* classes.

The semantic representations of RRG are based on the *Aktionsart* types of verbs. They differentiate four classes proposed by Vendler (1967): States, Achievements, Accomplishments and Activities. Later, Van Valin and LaPolla (1997) incorporated Active Accomplishments and the causative version of all *Aktionsart* classes and, lastly, Van Valin (2005) integrated Semelfactives, non-causative and causative, as the final class. Figure 1 presents instances of the non-causative and causative versions of *Aktionsart* classes.

a. State: The boy is afraid.

a'. Causative state: The dog frightens/scares the boy.

b. Achievement: The balloon popped.

b'. Causative achievement: The cat popped the balloon.c. Semelfactive: The pencil tapped on the table.

c' Causative semelfactive: The teacher tapped the pencil on the table.

d. Accomplishment: The ice melted.

d'. Causative accomplishment: The hot water melted the ice.

e. Activity: The soldiers marched in the park.

e'. Causative activity: The sergeant marched the soldiers in the park.

f. Active accomplishment: The soldiers marched to the park.

f'. Causative active accomplishment: The sergeant marched the soldiers to the park.

Figure 1. Examples of Aktionsart types in RRG (Van Valin 2005: 34).

Clausal semantics and clausal syntax are connected through logical structures that determine both the semantics-syntax and the syntax-semantics linking. Logical structures distinguish between stative (**predicate**') and non-stative (**do**') parts within them, while the different verbal arguments are represented by the variables x, y and z. INGR(essive), SEM(e)L(factive), BECOME and CAUSE are metalinguistic predicates which indicate ingressives, semelfactives, accomplishments and causatives respectively. Figure 2 sums up *Aktionsart* types and their associated logical structures.

Aktionsart class Logical Structure

STATE **predicate** '(x) or (x, y)

ACTIVITY **do** (x, [predicate (x) or (x, y)])
ACHIEVEMENT INGR predicate (x) or (x, y),

or INGR do'(x, [predicate'(x) or (x, y)])

SEMELFACTIVE SEML **predicate** (x) or (x, y),

or SEML do'(x, [predicate'(x) or (x, y)])

ACCOMPLISHMENT BECOME **predicate** (x) or (x, y),

or BECOME do'(x, [predicate'(x) or (x, y)])

ACTIVE **do** (x, [predicate1 (x, (y))])

ACCOMPLISHEMNT & BECOME predicate2 (z, x) or (y)

CAUSATIVE α CAUSE β , where α , β are logical structures of any type

Figure 2. Lexical representations for Aktionsart classes (Van Valin 2005: 45).

In RRG, the semantic analysis that motivates clausal realization hinges on two generalized semantic roles or macroroles, Actor and Undergoer, which make grammatical generalizations across argumental structures (Van Valin and LaPolla 1997: 141). The first argument of the verb is the Actor, while the second argument corresponds to the Undergoer in a transitive predication. However, in an intransitive predication there can be one argument only, Actor or Undergoer, according to the semantic characteristics of the predicate. The Actor-Undergoer Hierarchy, which relates argument position to

macrorole, stipulates that the leftmost argument in the hierarchy will be the Actor and the rightmost argument in the hierarchy will receive the macrorole Undergoer.

Macrorole transitivity (Van Valin and LaPolla 1997: 150-151) establishes the specific number of macroroles that may be taken by a predicate. It is defined semantically, in contradistinction to syntactic transitivity, which specifies the number of syntactic arguments of the verb. There are three types of macrorole transitivity: transitive (2 macroroles), intransitive (1 macrorole), and atransitive (0 macroroles).

With respect to grammatical relations, the concepts of subject and object are not considered universal. RRG rather postulates the concept of Privileged Syntactic Argument (PSA) as a construction-specific relation that results from a restricted neutralization of semantic roles and pragmatic functions for syntactic purposes (Van Valin and LaPolla 1997: 176). In an active construction, the first argument experiences the PSA status whilst the second argument is PSA in a passive construction. Agreement with the finite verb is controlled by the PSA. The remaining arguments in the clause are either direct or oblique core arguments.

The linking, or association, of syntax and semantics, works both ways in RRG: from semantics to syntax (production) and from syntax to semantics (comprehension). The Completeness Constraint requires that:

All of the arguments explicitly specified in the semantic representation of a sentence must be realized syntactically in the sentence, and all of the referring expressions in the syntactic representation of a sentence must be linked to an argument position in a logical structure in the semantic representation of the sentence. (Van Valin and LaPolla 1997: 325)

Linking crucially depends on verb agreement, case assignment and prepositional government. For example, in English and other accusative languages the controller of finite verb agreement is the highest-ranking core macrorole which takes nominative case, conversely, the other core macrorole takes accusative, and dative case is assigned to non-macrorole direct core arguments (Van Valin and LaPolla 1997: 325).

The Layered Structure of the Clause (Van Valin and LaPolla 1997: 26-29), which articulates the underlying aspects of semantics and syntax, is a hierarchical structure that includes a number of semantic layers determined by operators (grammatical features such as tense, aspect, modality, etc.). It is formed by the Core, a verbal nucleus with its arguments and argument-adjuncts (as in *Mary brushed her hair* and *The soldier ran to the house*, respectively); and the Periphery, which is attached to the Core, as in *They watched a film in the library*. The Sentence consists of one or more units of Clause level, as in *John worked hard to buy a new car*.

With the most relevant theoretical aspects reviewed, the analysis carried out in the following sections relies on the framework of verb classes and alternations as far as the concept of verbal class is concerned, including the need for shared meaning and grammatical behavior; and on the lexical representation, linking rules and clausal structure of RRG.

4. SOURCES, DATA AND STEPS OF ANALYSIS

A combination of textual and lexicographical sources has been used for this research. The textual ones comprise the *Dictionary of Old English Corpus* (3 million words; hereafter DOEC), the *York-Toronto-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Old English Poetry* (71,490 words) and the *York-Toronto-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Old English Prose* (1.5 million words; hence YCOE refers to both York corpora). Both textual fragments and numbers have been drawn from the DOEC and, in addition, both the morphological and syntactic considerations have been provided by the parsing available in the YCOE, when these are given. For their part, the lexicographical sources include paper and electronic dictionaries, thesauri and lexical databases. Along with the Old English dictionaries cited in the reference section, the *Dictionary of Old English* (henceforth DOE) has been consulted for the verbs that begin with the letters A-I. Then, the *Thesaurus of Old English* and the *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary* have provided the meanings and senses of the verbs under the scope of analysis. Finally, *Nerthus*, a lexical database of Old English with around 32,000 entries, has provided lexical and morphological information so that fine-grain distinctions in meaning could be made.

Two basic steps can be distinguished in this research: the compilation of the subcorpus of Old English verbs of increase and the analysis of the linking semantics-syntax, constructions and alternations with these verbs. The collection of evidence for each verb involves the search for the inflectional forms attested in the texts.

The starting line for collecting the sub-corpus is Faber and Mairal's (1999) classification of lexical domains which considers internal aspect and includes concepts like causativity. In this study, the lexical domain of verbs of increasing is 'Change (to begin to be different)', whereas the lexical subdomains are 'To change by increasing (becoming more)' and 'To cause something to change by increasing it'. These subdomains have been used to guide the collection of candidates for the verbal class of increasing, for which the *Thesaurus of Old English* and the lexical database *Nerthus* have been searched. A total of thirty-three polysemic verbs whose primary meaning is not *increase* have been rejected, which has left us with twenty verbs that primarily convey the meaning 'to (make something) become larger in amount or size' and belong to the

subdomains 'to change by increasing (becoming more)' and 'to cause something to change by increasing it'.

The relevant citations in the entries to the DOE for the verbs beginning with the letters A-I have been sought in the DOEC. As for those verbs beginning with the letters L-Y, their canonical inflections, based on the paradigms described in Campbell (1987) and Hogg and Fulk (2011), have been searched in the DOEC. This has shown that five verbs do not turn out any attestations in the DOEC that are inflected for a canonical form, specifically *gemārian*, *(ge)miclian*, *grēatian*, *tōætēacnian* and *tōblædan*. Finally, the lemmatised lists by Metola Rodríguez (2015), García Fernández (2018) and Tío Sáenz (2019) have been consulted and manual revision has been necessary.

The sub-corpus for this research is comprised of fifteen verbs that throw a total of 867 textual attestations (tokens), including ætflōwan, ætȳcan, āðindan, āweaxan, ēacan, ēacian, forðindan, forweaxan, (ge)ēacnian, (ge)grōwan, (ge)īecan, (ge)weaxan, inweaxan, tōætȳcan and tōgeīecan. Appendix 1 displays the list of inflectional forms grouped by verb and showing the figure of textual occurrences.

The analysis in Sections 6 and 7 draws on the data from the DOEC, so both the text identifications and the excerpts analyzed have been extracted from this textual source, as is illustrated in Figure 3²; and the morphological tagging and syntactic parsing of the YCOE, as can be seen in Figure 4. The Present-Day English version of the fragments quoted below relies on the cited editions.

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[Æ LS (Denis) 004200 (179)]
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andGodesgelaðungweoxand:CONJGod:GEN;SGchurch:NOM;SGwax:3SG;PSTongeleafanswyðe.on:PREPfaith:DAT;SGvery much:ADV

'and God's church waxed exceedingly in the faith' (Skeat 1966: 181).

Figure 3. The arrangement of examples presented in the analysis.

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( (IP-MAT (CONJ and)

(NP-NOM (NP-GEN (NR^G Godes))

(N^N gelaðung))

(VBDI weox)

(PP (P on)
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² The interlinear glosses follow the Leipzig Glossing Rules, available at http://www.eva.mpg.de/lingua/resources/glossing-rules.php.

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(NP (N geleafan)))
(ADVP (ADV swyðe))
(...) (ID coaelive,æLS [Denis]:179.5885))
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Figure 4. The syntactic description of an example provided by the YCOE³.

5. VERBS OF INCREASING IN PRESENT-DAY ENGLISH

This section considers Present-Day English verbs of increasing from the perspective of RRG and the framework of verbal classes and alternations.

Van Valin and LaPolla (1997: 105) classify verbs of increasing as Accomplishments since they code states of affairs "necessarily temporally durative" as opposed to Achievements, which are essentially punctual. So, verbs of increasing mostly comprise Accomplishments, as in (2a), but they can also present a causative version, as is the case with (2b).

(2)

a. Accomplishment

Flowers grow.

BECOME increased' (flowers)

b. Causative Accomplishment

Alfred grows flowers.

[do'(Alfred)] CAUSE [BECOME increased'(flowers)]

Additionally, Levin (1993: 245) considers that these verbs, listed within the verbal class 'other alternating verbs of change of state', which includes *enlarge*, *expand*, *grow* or *increase* among many others, participate in the following alternations: Causative/Inchoative, Middle and Instrument Subject. On the other hand, Levin (1993: 174) also classifies *grow* verbs separately within the class of 'verbs of creation and transformation', which can be found in the Material/Product Alternation and the Causative/Inchoative Alternation.

The points made by these theoretical approaches guide the definition of logical structures in the following sections.

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³ The following abbreviations for categories and features are used in this article. Syntactic categories: ADVP (adverbial phrase), CONJ (conjunction), NP (noun phrase), PP (prepositional phrase); lexical categories: ADV (adverb), N (noun), NR (proper noun), P (preposition), VBDI (verb, preterit indicative); morphological case at word level: ^G (genitive), ^N (nominative); morphological case at phrase level: -GEN (genitive), -NOM (nominative).

6. THE LINKING SEMANTICS-SYNTAX IN OLD ENGLISH VERBS OF INCREASING

The *Aktionsart* types and logical structures of Old English verbs of increasing are discussed in this section as well as the specific aspects of the linking semantics-syntax of this type of verbs, including thematic roles, the semantic properties of the participants, semantic macrorole assignment and PSA.

Old English verbs of increasing present two different types of *Aktionsart*: Accomplishments and Causative Accomplishments. In Accomplishments, the state of affairs shows a Patient, not necessarily human, that undergoes a change of size to become larger. The corresponding logical structure is given in Figure 5.

BECOME increased (x)

Figure 5: The logical structure of Accomplishments with verbs of increasing.

The logical structure of Accomplishments presented in Figure 5 can be applied to most of the Old English verbs of increasing analyzed, of which (3) is a representative example.

(3) [Bede 1 003200 (1.30.8)]

& wingeardas weaxaþ

and:CONJ vineyard:NOM;PL grow:3PL;PRS

on sumum stowum.

on:PREP some:DAT;PL place:DAT;PL

'And vineyards grow in some places' (Miller 1959: 31).

BECOME increased' (wingeardas)

Conversely, in Causative Accomplishments the action of an initiator brings about the Patient's change of size or subsequent increase. In other words, the causative version comprises a Patient that increases due to an initiator's action. The logical structure of Causative Accomplishments is given in Figure 6.

[do'(x)] CAUSE [BECOME increased'(y)]

Figure 6: The logical structure of Causative Accomplishments with verbs of increasing.

The logical structure in Figure 6 gives rise to predications such as (4).

(4) [Æ Hex 003100 (107)]

ac	he	gesceop	þæs
but:CONJ	he:NOM;SG	create:3SG;PST	the:GEN;SG
dæges	leoht	and	hit
day:GEN;SG	light:ACC;SG	and:CONJ	it:ACC;SG
syððan	geeacnode	mid	þam
afterwards:ADV	increase:3SG;PST	with:PREP	the:DAT;PL
scinendum	tunglum.		
shining:DAT;PL	star:DAT;PL		

'For He created the light of day, and afterwards increased it with the shining stars' (Norman 1849: 7).

[do'(he)] CAUSE [BECOME increased'(hit)]

The two types of *Aktionsart* include an argument, x in the case of Accomplishments and y in Causative Accomplishments, whose thematic role is Patient. Patients increase without external help in the case of Accomplishments such as *wingeardas* 'vineyards' in (3); or, thanks to the action of an initiator in Causative Accomplishments like *hit* 'it', that is the light of day, in (4). On the other hand, initiators fulfill the thematic role of Effector (x) in Causative Accomplishments as is the case with he 'he' in (4).

Patients are predominantly concrete and countable, such as *bearn* 'child', *blōstm* 'flower', *brēmel* 'bramble', etc. Nevertheless, they can also be fulfilled by abstract nouns like *ādl* 'disease, illness', *cnihthād* 'boyhood', and *dēað* 'death', among others; or uncountable nouns like *andleofen* 'food', *bīleofa* 'sustenance, food', *corn* 'corn', etc.

As for Effectors, they tend to be human and volitional entities, mostly expressed through personal pronouns or personal names, including *dryhten* 'God, Christ, The Lord', *gāst* 'angel, Holy Ghost' or *God* 'God'.

(5)

a. [Bede 2 016800 (7.118.4)]

&	þæt	fyr	&
and:CONJ	that:NOM;SG	fire:NOM;SG	and:CONJ
þæt	leg	swiðe	weox
that:NOM;SG	flame:NOM;SG	very much:ADV	grow:3SG;PST
&	miclade.		

and:CONJ increase:3SG;PST

'And the fire and flame grew and increased much' (Miller 1959: 119).

BECOME increased' (bæt fyr & bæt leg)

b. [GenA,B 033400 (995)]

siððan	Adam	wearð	of
after:ADV	Adam:NOM;SG	be:3SG;PST	by:PREP
godes	muðe	gaste	eacen.
God:GEN;SG	mouth:DAT;SG	spirit:DAT;SG	increase:PST;PTCP
'After Adam was	increased in spirit by	v the mouth of God'	(Hostetter 2015b).

'After Adam was increased in spirit by the mouth of God' (Hostetter 2015b).

[do' (godes muðe)] CAUSE [BECOME increased' (Adam)]

Figure 7 summarizes the main features of Old English verbs of increasing with respect to thematic role and macrorole assignment resulting from the specific *Aktionsart* and corresponding logical structure.

BECOME increased (x) where:

x (Patient) = Undergoer

[do'(x)] CAUSE [BECOME increased'(y)] where:

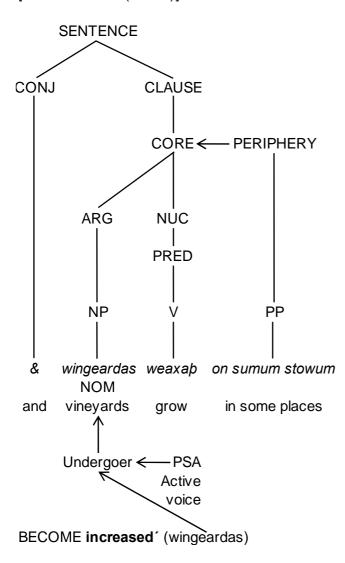
x (Effector) = Actor; y (Patient) = Undergoer

Figure 7: Logical structures, thematic roles and macrorole assignment.

PSA status depends on *Aktionsart* type, passivization and argument realization. As is shown in (6), Old English verbs of increasing assign PSA to the Undergoer with Accomplishments.

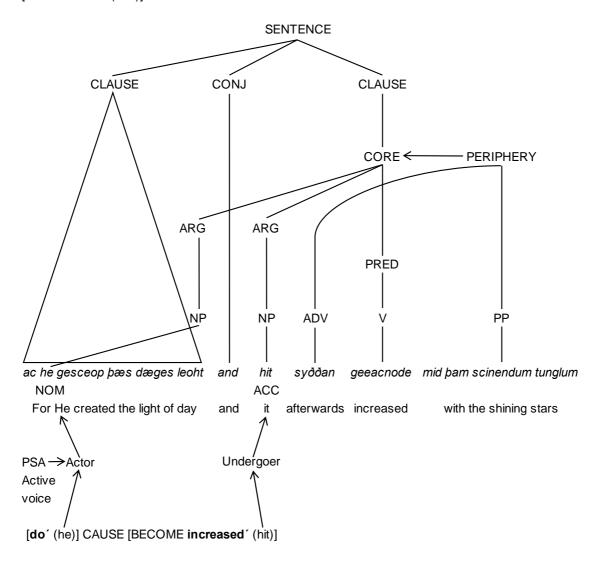
(6)

[Bede 1 003200 (1.30.8)]



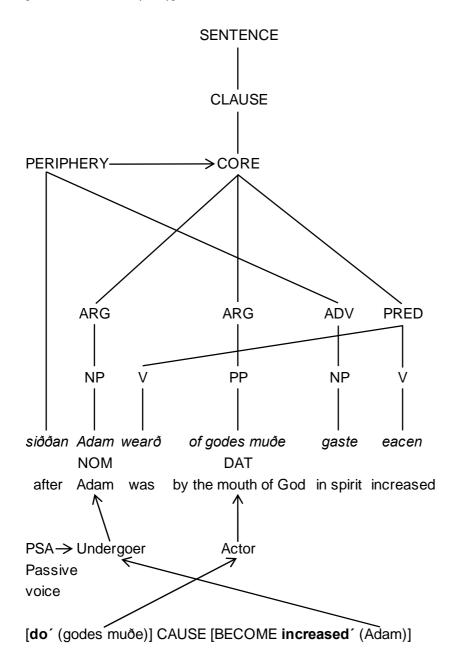
When there is no passivization Causative Accomplishments mostly assign PSA to the Actor, as is illustrated in (7), but Undergoers can enjoy PSA status when the Effector is omitted from the clausal realization of the logical structure.

(7)



When passivization constructions occur in Causative Accomplishments, Undergoers become the PSA since either the Effector argument is not realized or it is governed by a preposition, as the tree diagram representation in (8) displays.

(8)



To close this section, the matter of argument realization has to be addressed. One of the arguments may be left out from the clausal realization of the logical structure (represented by \emptyset), but this fact does not alter macrorole assignment. According to Van Valin and LaPolla (1997: 325) the Completeness Constraint entails that semantic participants are also realized in the syntax, but pragmatic motivations can explain the existence of exceptions regarding this requirement. Argument omission produces uneven cases of completeness such as (9), in which the Patient has not been realized since it offers given information.

(9) [Beo 000400 (6)]

he þæs frofre gebad,

he:NOM;SG this:GEN;SG comfort:ACC;SG live:3SG;PST

weox under wolcnum.
grow:3SG;PST under:PREP sky:DAT;PL

'He anticipated his remedy, growing hale under the heavens' (Hostetter 2015a).

[do'(he)] CAUSE [BECOME increased'(Ø)]

7. MORPHOLOGICAL CASE, CONSTRUCTIONS AND ALTERNATIONS

In this section the morphological cases taken by the participants found with Old English verbs of increasing are presented as well as the various types of linking. Then, the morpho-syntactic alternations presented by these verbs, namely the Causative Alternation and the Effector Prepositional Government Alternation, are discussed.

The Patient in Accomplishments performs the macrorole Undergoer and mostly takes nominative case, as (10) shows. The Patient can also be inflected for the accusative, genitive or dative. The verbs ætflōwan, āðindan, āweaxan, ēacan, ēacian, forðindan, forweaxan, (ge)ēacnian, (ge)grōwan, (ge)weaxan and inweaxan license nominative case for the Patient; āðindan, ēacian, (ge)ēacnian, (ge)grōwan and (ge)weaxan select accusative case; (ge)ēacnian and (ge)grōwan receive a genitive Patient; and āðindan, āweaxan, (ge)ēacnian, (ge)grōwan, and (ge)weaxan opt for the dative.

(10) [Max I 007200 (158)]

Licgende beam læsest groweð.

lay:PRS;PTCP tree:NOM;SG less:ADV grow:3SG;PRS

'A tree lying flat grows the least' (Hostetter 2015d).

In turn, the Effector in Causative Accomplishments performs the macrorole Actor and predominantly takes nominative case. Additionally, the Effector receives either the accusative or dative case, but it can also be governed by the prepositions be, from, of and burh (in passive constructions). The verbs ætȳcan, āweaxan, ēacan, forweaxan, (ge)ēacnian, (ge)grōwan, (ge)īecan, (ge)weaxan, tōætȳcan and tōgeīecan select the nominative case as in (11c); āðindan, āweaxan, ēacan, (ge)ēacnian, (ge)grōwan and (ge)weaxan take accusative case, as is shown in (11a); finally, āweaxan, ēacan, (ge)ēacnian, (ge)grōwan, (ge)īecan and (ge)weaxan license dative case, as can be seen in (11b).

(11)

a. [HomU 18 (BlHom 1) 000800 (15)]

& from bisse halettunge

and:CONJ through:PREP this:ACC;SG greeting:ACC;SG

heo wæs geeacnod.

she:NOM;SG be:3SG;PST

'And through this greeting (salutation) she conceived' (Morris 1967: 2).

b. [Æ Temp 003900 (1.36)]

Seo is weaxende burh

she:NOM;SG be:3SG;PRS wax:PRS;PTCP through:PREP

acennedum cildum, & wanigende

produce:DAT;PL child:DAT;PL and:CONJ lessen:PRS;PTCP

burh forðfarendum.through:PREP go forth:DAT;PL

'It is waxing because of children being born, and waning because of those dying' (Blake 2009: 79).

c. [ÆCHom II, 7 004900 (63.93)]

IcwillrymanminneI:NOM;SGwill:1SG;PRSclear:INFI:GEN;SGbertun.andminebernu

barton:ACC;SG and:CONJ I:GEN;SG barn:ACC;SG

geeacnian.

increase:INF

Patients involved in Causative Accomplishments play the macrorole Undergoer and select nominative exclusively when passivization occurs, as in (11b) and (12a); they can also take accusative, as happens in (11c) and (12b); and, less frequently, dative is selected, as is the case with (12c). The verbs ætycan, āðindan, āweaxan, ēacan, forweaxan, (ge)ēacnian, (ge)grōwan, (ge)īecan, (ge)weaxan and tōgeīecan take a nominative Patient; ætycan, āweaxan, ēacan, forweaxan, (ge)ēacnian, (ge)grōwan, (ge)īecan, (ge)weaxan and tōgeīecan opt for the accusative; finally, ætycan, (ge)ēacnian, (ge)weaxan and tōgeīecan license the dative case.

(12)

a. [ÆColl 013900 (215)]

^{&#}x27;I will clear my barton, and enlarge my barns' (Thorpe 1846: 105).

& bas bingc ealle

and:CONJ this:NOM;PL thing:NOM;PL all:NOM;PL

beob togehyhte eow.

be:PL;PRS add:PST;PTCP you:DAT;PL

'And all these things shall be added unto you' (Swanton 1975: 113).

b. [Hom Fr II 000400 (11)]

<siþþan> geong aweox mægeð

afterwards:ADV young:NOM;SG grow;3SG;PST maiden:ACC;SG

modhwatu mid moncynne.

brave:ACC;SG among:PREP mankind:DAT;SG

'Afterwards the youth grow up a maiden strong-souled among mankind' (Hostetter 2015c).

c. [Ch 333 (Rob 11) 000600 (22)]

he bas ure gyfe

he:NOM;SG this:DAT;SG we:GEN;SG gift:DAT;SG

geieacnan wille oððe gemonifældan

increase:INF will:3SG;PRS or:CONJ multiply:INF

wille.

will:3SG;PRS

'He will augment or multiply this our gift' (Thorpe 1865: 125).

Table 1 displays the linkings of thematic role and morphological case and their distribution with Old English verbs of increasing.

Linkina	Effector		NOM	Ø			ACC	DAT		NOM		NOM	Tatal	Takana
Linking	Patient	NOM	ACC	NOM	ACC	DAT	NOM	NOM	Ø	Ø	GEN	DAT	Total	Tokens
	ætflōwan	3											3	3
	ætȳcan		4	1								1	6	6
	āðindan	11		19	4	2	1						37	37
	āweaxan	19	2	1		1	2	1	1				27	27
	ēacan	4	2	1			1	2					11	11
	ēacian	1			1								2	2
	forðindan	3											3	3
Verb	forweaxan	3	1	7									11	11
	(ge)ēacnian	33	64	35	2	4	9	5	6	2	2	1	163	169
	(ge)grōwan	68	1		7	6	1	1			2		86	91
	(ge)īecan		2	1				1					4	4
	(ge)weaxan	398	11	8	27	8	2	6	6	1		1	468	492
	inweaxan	2											2	2
	tōætÿcan									1			1	1
	tōgeīecan		3	2						1			6	8
	Total	545	90	75	41	21	16	16	13	5	4	3	829	867

Table 1: Linking with Old English verbs of increasing.

By semantic macrorole, the verbs that assign PSA to the Undergoer in Accomplishments comprise ætflōwan, āðindan, āweaxan, ēacan, ēacian, forðindan, forweaxan, (ge)ēacnian, (ge)grōwan, (ge)weaxan and inweaxan. The Undergoer PSA æðelinges rice 'the prince's empire' in (13) is a case in point.

(13) [EI 000400 (12)]

Æðelinges weox under roderum.

prince:GENS;SG increase:3SG;PST under:PREP sky:DAT;PL

'The prince's empire increased beneath the skies' (Bradley 1982: 165).

Likewise, Undergoers can receive the PSA in Causative Accomplishments when the Effector is not realized in the state of affairs or it is prepositionally governed. ætȳcan, āðindan, āweaxan, ēacan, forweaxan, (ge)ēacnian, (ge)īecan and (ge)weaxan show this omission and subsequent assignment of PSA to the Undergoer, which is represented by min mærð 'my greatness' in (14).

(14) [ÆCHom II, 33 006100 (253.128)]

Mine	witan	me	sohton.
my:NOM;PL	counsellor:NOM;PL	I:ACC;SG	seek:PL;PST
and	min	mærð	wearð
and:CONJ	my:NOM;SG	greatness:NOM;SG	be:3SG;PST
geeacnod.			

increase:PST;PTCP

'My counsellors sought me, and my greatness was increased' (Thorpe 1846: 435).

Besides, the verbs ætȳcan, āweaxan, ēacan, forweaxan, (ge)ēacnian, (ge)grōwan, (ge)īecan, (ge)weaxan, tōætȳcan and tōgeīecan show instances where the macrorole Actor is the PSA in Causative Accomplishments, as is the case with we 'we' in (15).

(15) [ÆCHom I, 14.1 008700 (295.152)]

for ðan þe	we	geeacniað.	heora
because:CONJ	we·NOM·PI	increase:PL:PRS	thev:GFN:PI

werod.	þe	se	feallenda
host:ACC;PL	that:REL	the;NOM;SG	fall:NOM;SG
	_		

deoful gewanode.

devil:NOM;SG lessen:3SG;PST

'Because we increase their host which the fallen devil had diminished' (Thorpe 1844: 215).

With respect to voice diathesis, the verbs ætȳcan, āðindan, āweaxan, ēacan, forweaxan, (ge)ēacnian, (ge)īecan, (ge)weaxan and tōgeīecan participate in both voice variants, as is exemplified by (ge)weaxan in (16), whereas ætflōwan, ēacian, forðindan, (ge)grōwan, inweaxan and tōætȳcan show active voice instances exclusively.

(16)

a. [CP (Cotton) 001000 (33.214.22)]

&	æghwelces	lareowes	lar					
and:CONJ	every:GEN;SG	teacher:GEN;SG	teaching:NOM;SG					
wihst	ðurh	his	geðylde.					
grow:3SG;PRS	through:PREP	he:GEN;SG	patience:DAT;SG					
'And the learning of every teacher grows through his patience' (Sweet 1871:								
216).								

b. [ÆCHom I, 19 000100 (325.1)]

Se	hælend	crist	syððan
the:NOM;SG	saviour:NOM;SG	Christ:NOM;SG	after:ADV
he	to	þisum	life
he:NOM;SG	to:PREP	this:DAT;SG	life:DAT;SG
com.	&	man	wearð
come:3SG;PST	and:CONJ	man:NOM;SG	be:3SG;PST
geweaxen.			

increase:PST;PTCP

'Jesus Christ, after he came to this life, and was grown to manhood' (Thorpe 1844: 259).

Table 2 tabulates the findings of the previous discussion.

	Aktio	nsart	Accomplishment		Causative Accomplishment				PSA		Voice					
	Accomplishment	Causative		Pati	ient	nt Effector Patient		FOA		•	VOICE					
	Accomplishment	Accomplishment	NOM	ACC	GEN	DAT	NOM	ACC	DAT	NOM	ACC	DAT	Actor	Undergoer	Active	Passive
ætflōwan	Х		Χ											Х	Х	
ætȳcan		Х					Χ			Х	Х	Х	X	Χ	X	X
āðindan	Х	Х	Χ	Χ		Χ		Χ		Χ				Χ	X	X
āweaxan	Х	Х	Χ			Χ	Χ	Х	Х	Χ	Х		X	Χ	X	X
ēacan	Х	Х	Χ				Χ	Х	Х	Χ	Х		X	Χ	Х	Х
ēacian	X		Χ	Χ										X	Х	
forðindan	Х		Χ											Х	Х	
forweaxan	Х	Х	Χ				Χ			Χ	Х		X	Χ	X	Х
(ge)ēacnian	Х	Х	Χ	Χ	Х	Χ	Χ	Х	Х	Χ	Χ	Х	X	Χ	X	Х
(ge)grōwan	Х	Х	Χ	Χ	Х	Χ	Χ	Х	Х	Χ	Х		X	Χ	X	
(ge)īecan		X					Χ		Х	Χ	Х		X	Χ	Х	Х
(ge)weaxan	Х	Х	Χ	Х		Χ	Χ	Х	Х	Χ	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
inweaxan	Х		Χ											Х	X	
tōætÿcan		X					Χ						X		Х	
tōgeīecan		X					Х			Х	Χ	Χ	Χ	X	Χ	Χ

Table 2: Old English verbs of increasing: linking and constructions.

On the subject of alternations, the verbs that include both *Aktionsart* types and comply with the condition of being found with the Causative Alternation, illustrated by (ge)ēacnian in (17), are āðindan, āweaxan, ēacan, forweaxan, (ge)ēacnian, (ge)grōwan and (ge)weaxan. For their part, ætflōwan, ēacian, forðindan and inweaxan only depict Accomplishments, whereas ætýcan, (ge)īecan, tōætýcan and tōgeīecan present Causative Accomplishments exclusively.

(17)

a. [Lk (WSCp) 001900 (1.24)]

SoðliceæfterdagumElizabethtruly:ADVafter:PREPday:DAT;PLElizabeth:NOM;SGhiswifgeeacnode.

he:GEN;SG wife:NOM;SG increase:3SG;PST

 $\hbox{`And after those days, Elizabeth his wife conceived' (Douay-Rheims 1971: 2127)}.$

BECOME increased' (Elizabeth)

b. [Ch 452 (Birch 735) 000600 (16)]

Se	ðe	ðysne	freols
the:NOM;SG	who:REL	this:ACC;SG	freedom:ACC;SG
geeacnige	God	his	lief
increase:SG;SBJV	God:NOM;SG	he:GEN;SG	life:ACC;SG
her	on	life.	
here:ADV	on:PREP	life:DAT:SG	

'Whoever shall augment this privilege, may God preserve him here in life' (Thorpe 1865: 177).

[do'(se) CAUSE [BECOME increased' (*ðysne freols*)]

Finally, in the Effector Prepositional Government Alternation the Effector alternates nominative with either accusative or dative case governed by the prepositions be, from, of or purh. The verbs found with this alternation include āðindan, āweaxan, ēacan, (ge)ēacnian, (ge)grōwan, (ge)īecan and (ge)weaxan. This alternation is illustrated by means of (ge)ēacnian in (18).

(18)

a. [Æ LS (Vincent) 004200 (163)]

and	hi	þa	teartan				
and:CONJ	they:NOM;PL	the:ACC;PL	severe:ACC;PL				
wita	mid	witum	geeacnodon.				
punishment:ACC;PL	with:PREP	punishment:DAT;PL	increase:PL;PST				
'And they augmented the sharp torments with (new) tortures' (Skeat 1966: 437).							

b. [El 011500 (337)]

swa	þæs	modor	ne
so as:CONJ	the:GEN;SG	mother:NOM;SG	not:NEG
bið	wæstmum	geeacnod	þurh
be:3SG;PRS	growth:DAT;PL	increase:PST;PTCP	through:PREP
weres	frige.		
man:GEN;SG	love:ACC;SG		

^{&#}x27;Whose mother shall not grow pregnant with offspring through a man's lovemaking' (Bradley 1982: 173).

Table 3 displays the alternations discussed in this section by verb.

	The Causative Alternation	The Effector Prepositional Government Alternation
ætflōwan		
ætӯcan		
āðindan	Χ	X
āweaxan	X	Χ
ēacan	Χ	X
ēacian		
forðindan		
forweaxan	Χ	
(ge)ēacnian	X	X
(ge)grōwan	Χ	X
(ge)īecan		X
(ge)weaxan	Χ	X
inweaxan		
tōæt⊽can		
tōgeīecan		

Table 3: Alternations presented by Old English verbs of increasing.

This said, the preceding analysis turns out the following answers to the research question as to the class membership of increase verbs.

The verbs āðindan, āweaxan, ēacan, (ge)ēacnian and (ge)weaxan are members of this class as they take part in all the class defining alternations and constructions and almost all of them show a significant number of tokens.

The verbs regarded as potential candidates for class membership are ætȳcan, forweaxan, (ge)grōwan, (ge)īecan and tōgeīecan given that they participate in at least one or two of the alternations and constructions. Moreover, they present a relatively low number of tokens with the exception of (ge)grōwan.

Finally, ætflōwan, ēacian, forðindan, inweaxan and tōætȳcan do not belong to the verbal class of increase since they do not partake in any of the alternations or constructions and, in addition, their number of tokens is rather low.

8. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study has assessed the consistency of the class of Old English verbs of increasing. Two types of conclusions can be drawn from this research. On the theoretical side, the application of RRG to Old English (including *Aktionsart*, semantic macroroles, PSA and linking) has been found particularly adequate to describe syntactic projections on

semantic descriptions and, moreover, to combine with other theories, such as the framework of verb classes and alternations, into a remarkably descriptive and explanatory theoretical model. On the descriptive side, this research is a contribution to the onomasiological organization of the Old English lexicon. The data indicate that āðindan, āweaxan, ēacan, (ge)ēacnian and (ge)weaxan are the best candidates for membership of the class of increasing verbs. These verbs participate in all the alternations and constructions that have been found relevant for defining this class. Others, like ætȳcan, forweaxan, (ge)grōwan, (ge)īecan and tōgeīecan, take part in just some of these alternations and constructions. The remaining verbs do not comply with the grammatical behavior of this class. The main conclusion of the article, then, is that Old English verbs of increasing do not constitute a consistent verbal class if meaning components and grammatical behavior are taken into account.

To conclude, the textual distribution and the textual frequency evinced by verbs of increasing, as well as their diachronic evolution, remain pending tasks for future research. Likewise, while the period has been considered as unified, another prospect line of investigation might search for similarities and differences that can be attributed to dialectal variation, or specific works or authors.

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Appendix 1. Verbal types and tokens

ætflowan (3): ætflowan (1), ætflowon (2).

The inventory of verbs selected for this study is presented below. The number of inflectional forms (tokens) per verb (type) is given between brackets.

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ætycan (6): ætece (1), ætecte (3), ætecton (1), otectun (1).
āðindan (37): aðindað (1), aðinden (1), aðint (2), aðunde (1), aðunden (6), aðundene (3),
aðundnan (1), aðundne (1), aþindað (2), aþunden (8), aþundena (1), aþundenan (1),
abundene (6), abundeno (1), abundenum (2).
āweaxan (27): auexe (1), aweaxað (1), aweaxen (7), aweaxene (1), aweaxeð (2), aweox
(7), aweoxe (1), aweoxð (1), awexe (1), awexene (1), awox (4).
ēacan (11): eacan (3), eacen (5), ecanne (1), geiecð (2).
ēacian (2): eakiað (1), eaciende (1).
forðindan (3): forþunden (3).
forweaxan (11): forweahsan (1), forweaxe (1), forweaxen (5), forweoxen (1), forwexen
(3).
(ge)ēacnian (169): æcniendes (1), eacnade (1), eacnað (3), eacnian (1), eacniend (1),
eacniende (5), eacniendis (1), eacniendra (1), eacniendum (3), eacnigende (3),
eacnigendes (1), eacnigendum (1), eacnude (1), geæcnað (1), geeacna (1), geeacnad
(5), geeacnade (2), geeacnast (3), geeacnað (16), geeacnaþ (3), geeacniæn (1),
geeacnian (15), geeacniað (5), geeacnie (2), geeacniendan (1) geeacnienne (1),
geeacnige (5), geeacnod (37), geeacnodan (1), geeacnode (32), geeacnoð (2),
geeacnodest (1), geeacnodon (4), geeacnodost (1), geecnande (1), geecnað (1),
geecneð (1), geecnod (1), geieacnan (1), geiecnað (1), giecnade (1).
(ge)grōwan (91): gegreow (1), gegrewð (1), gegrowan (2), gegrowen (1), greow (4),
greowan (1), greowon (3), grewð (9), growað (7), growan (12), growaþ (1), growe (4),
groweð (10), growende (27), growendes (2), growendra (3), growendum (3).
(ge)īecan (4): geieced (2), iecan (1), iecað (1).
(ge)weaxan (492): geweaxan (1), geweaxað (1), geweaxaþ (1), geweaxe (7), geweaxen
(14), geweaxene (2), geweaxeð (3), geweaxeþ (2), geweox (13), geweoxe (1), gewexð
(1), wæx (3), wæxende (2), weahsan (1), weax (8), weaxæð (2), weaxæn (1), weaxænde
(1), weaxan (54), weaxat (1), weaxað (33), weaxaþ (6), weaxe (32), weaxeð (20),
weaxen (5), weaxendan (4), weaxende (38), weaxendes (4), weaxendum (6), weaxene
(1), weaxet (1), weaxeb (12), weaxst (2), weaxð (4), weox (107), weoxan (3), weoxe (6),
weoxon (21), weoxsen (1), weoxson (1), wexan (11), wexanne (1), wexe (1), wexende
(17), wexendum (4), wexeð (2), wexeþ (4), wiexð (2), wihst (2), woxon (1), wyxst (4),
wyxt (12), wyxð (3), wyxb (2).
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inweaxan (2): inwæxað (1), inwyxð (1).
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tōætȳcan (1): toætyhte (1).

tōgeīecan (8): togeece (3), togeeced (1), togeeces (1), togehyhte (1), togeihte (2).