## Contents

## List of Illustrations Preface

1 The Wallis Rules: Rhyme, Reason, and Historical Precedent?	1
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 The Rationalist Grammarians and the Wallis Rules for Shall and Will	2
1.2 Illocutionary Acts with Shall and Will	3
1.3 Medieval versus Modern English Shall and Will in Speech Acts:	
The Crux of the Problem	9
1.4 Seminal Research and Necessary Directions	13
1.5 Methodology	17
1.6 The Documents Comprising the Corpus 1.7 Summary	22
1.7 Summary	25
2 Questions and Requests: Criteria for Interpretation	31
2.0 Introduction	31
2.1 Interrogative Sentences	32
2.2 Questions versus Requests: A Theoretical Analysis	33
2.3 Questions and Requests as Speech Acts: Constitutive Rules	34
2.4 Question Types	37
2.4.1 Rhetorical Questions	38
2.4.2 Self-Addressed Questions	39
2.4.3 Information-Seeking Questions: Factual versus Deliberative	39
2.5 Evaluating Interrogatives: Illocutionary Force and Perlocutionary Effect	41
2.6 Summary	44
3 The Interrogative Corpus	45
3.0 Introduction	45
3.1 A Numerical Analysis of the Interrogative Corpus	46
3.2 Interrogative Type: The Numerical Distribution of Yes-No and	_
X-Questions within the Corpus	52

3.3 Auxiliary-Subject Combinations and Illocutionary Function	53
3.3.1 Illocutionary Acts Performed with Sholde Combinations	56
3.3.2 Illocutionary Acts Performed with Wolde Combinations	58
3.3.3 Illocutionary Acts Performed with Shall Combinations	60
3.3.4 Illocutionary Acts Performed with Will Combinations	61
3.4 An Alternative Viewpoint: The Role of Individual Auxiliary-Subject	
Combinations in Performing General Types of Speech Acts	64
3.4.1 Information-Seeking Questions	64
3.4.2 Rhetorical Questions	67
3.4.3 Factual and Deliberative Questions	68
3.4.4 Requests	70
3.4.5 A Comparison between the Wallis Rules and the	
Fifteenth-Century Corpus of Interrogatives	70
3.5 Extended Analyses of Examples	75
3.5.1 Deliberative, Information-Seeking First Person Shall Questions	76
3.5.2 Factual, Information-Seeking Second Person Shall Questions	77
3.5.3 Factual, Information-Seeking Third Person Shall Questions	78
3.5.4 Factually-Based, Rhetorical Third Person Shall Questions	79
3.5.5 Factual, Information-Seeking Second Person Will Questions	80
3.5.6 Factually-Based, Rhetorical Third Person Will Questions	82
3.5.7 Factual, Information-Seeking Third Person Sholde Questions	83
3.5.8 Deliberatively-Based, Rhetorical First Person Sholde Questions	84
3.5.9 Factually-Based, Rhetorical Second Person Sholde Questions	85
3.5.10 Factually-Based, Rhetorical Third Person Sholde Questions	86
3.5.11 Requests with Second Person Will	87
3.5.12 Requests with Second Person Wolde	89
3.6 Summary	89
A Bromisso Bradiations and O man 1	
4 Promises, Predictions, and Commands:	
Criteria for Interpretation	91
4.0 Introduction	91
4.1 Modality and Future Constructions	92
4.1.1 Temporal Futurity and Epistemic Modality	93
4.1.2 Volition and Deontic Modality	94
4.2 Modality and Illocutionary Acts	95
4.2.1 Illocutionary Acts Based in Deontic Futurity	96
4.2.2 Illocutionary Acts Based in Epistemic Futurity	98
4.3 Auxiliary-Subject Combinations in Determining Illocutionary Force	100
4.3.1 Speaker Role and Modal Constructions	100
4.4 Summary	102

5 The Corpus of Independent Declarative Sentences	105
5.0 Introduction	105
5.1 A Numerical Analysis of the Independent Declarative Corpus	106
5.2 Auxiliary-Subject Combinations and Illocutionary Function	114
5.3 An Alternative Viewpoint: The Role of Individual Auxiliary-Subject	
Combinations in Performing General Types of Speech Acts	125
5.3.1 Promissory Acts	125
5.3.2 Predictions	128
5.3.3 Conditional Predictions	129
5.3.4 Conditional Promises	130
5.3.5 Commands and Demands	131
5.4 Extended Analyses of Examples	132
5.4.1 First Person Will Promises	133
5.4.2 Second Person Will Utterances	136
5.4.3 Third Person Will Predictions	139
5.4.4 First Person Shall Promises	142
5.4.5 First Person Shall Predictions	143
5.4.6 Second Person Shall Commands	144
5.4.7 Second Person Shall Promises	146
5.4.8 Third Person Shall Promises	151
5.4.9 Third Person Shall Commands	152
5.4.10 Third Person Shall Predictions	155
5.4.11 First Person Wolde Conditional Promises	156
5.4.12 Second Person Wolde Conditional Predictions	156
5.4.13 Third Person Wolde Conditional Predictions	158
5.4.14 First Person Sholde Conditional Promises	160
5.4.15 Second Person Sholde Conditional Predictions	161
5.4.16 Third Person Sholde Conditional Predictions	161
5.5 Summary	162
6 Conclusions: The Modality of Medieval English Futurity	165
Appendix	171
Notes	185
Bibliography	199