Comparative Studies in Early Germanic Languages
With a focus on verbal categories

Edited by Gabriele Diewald, Leena Kahlas-Tarkka and Ilse Wischer
Leibniz University Hannover / University of Helsinki / University of Potsdam

This volume offers a coherent and detailed picture of the diachronic development of verbal categories of Old English, Old High German, and other Germanic languages. Starting from the observation that German and English show diverging paths in the development of verbal categories, even though they descended from a common ancestor language, the contributions present in-depth, empirically founded studies on the stages and directions of these changes combining historical comparative methods with grammaticalisation theory. This collection of papers provides the reader with an indispensable source of information on the early traces of distinct developments, thus laying the foundation for a broad-scale scenario of the grammaticalisation of verbal categories. The volume will be of particular interest to scholars of language change, grammaticalisation, and diachronic sociolinguistics; it offers important new insights for typologists and for everybody interested in the make-up of verbal categories.

Table of contents
Introduction
Gabriele Diewald, Leena Kahlas-Tarkka and Ilse Wischer

*haitan in Gothic and Old English
Robert Cloutier

Incipient Grammaticalisation: Sources of passive constructions in Old High German and Old English
Robert Mailhammer and Elena Smirnova

Passive auxiliaries in English and German: Decline versus grammaticalisation of bounded language use
Peter Petré

Causative habban in Old English: Tracing the Development of a Budding Construction
Mattti Kilpiö

Remembering (ge)munan: The rise and decline of a potential modal
Matthias Eitelmann

The emergence of modal meanings from haben with zu-infinitives in Old High German
Anne Jäger

Hearsay and lexical evidentials in Old Germanic languages, with focus on Old English
Olga Timofeeva

Markers of Futurity in Old High German and Old English: A Comparative Corpus-Based Study
Gabriele Diewald and Ilse Wischer

The Verb to be in the West Saxon Gospels and the Lindisfarne Gospels
Christine Bolze

Aspectual properties of the verbal prefix a- in Old English with reference to Gothic
Vlatko Broz

Þær was vs. þær was: Old English and Old High German existential constructions with adverbs of place
Simone E. Pfenninger

On gain and loss of verbal categories in language contact: Old English vs. Old High German
Theo Vennemann

Index