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LANGUAGE CHANGE DATABASE

A NEW ONLINE RESOURCE

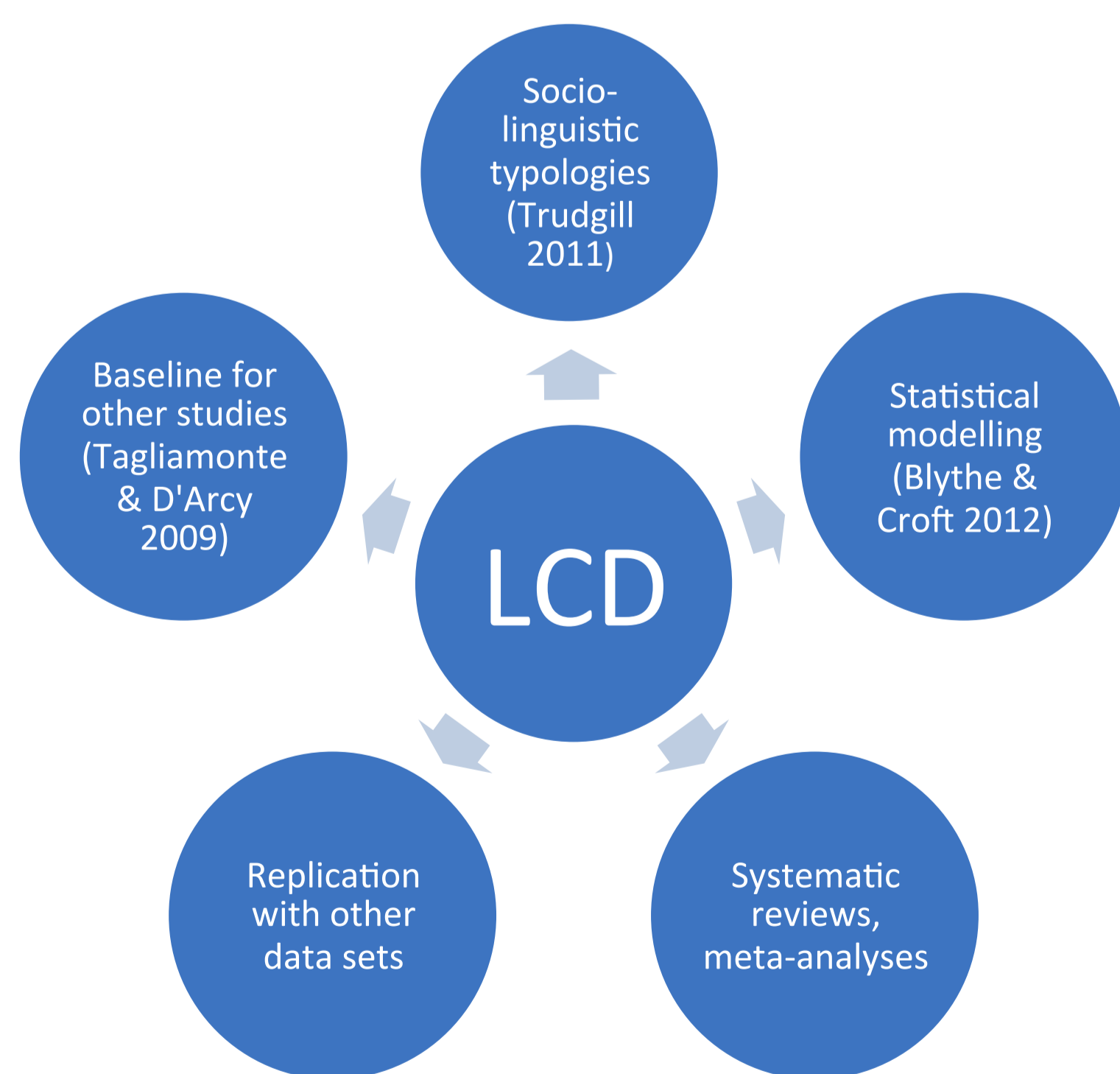
WHAT?

The **Language Change Database (LCD)** is an upcoming open-access resource that draws together earlier **corpus-based research on English historical linguistics**. The LCD will provide a fully searchable online environment, where all studies are annotated according to a number of categories (e.g. grammar, corpora, diachronic & regional coverage). Each LCD entry will also include:

- A summary of the results of the study
- Full publication details
- Numerical data of the study's main results in tabular format (Excel files)

WHY?

The LCD will make **earlier research more accessible** to scholars and students of English. We also envision that the LCD will have many **uses in future research**. The picture below illustrates just some topics that can benefit from the data included in the LCD.



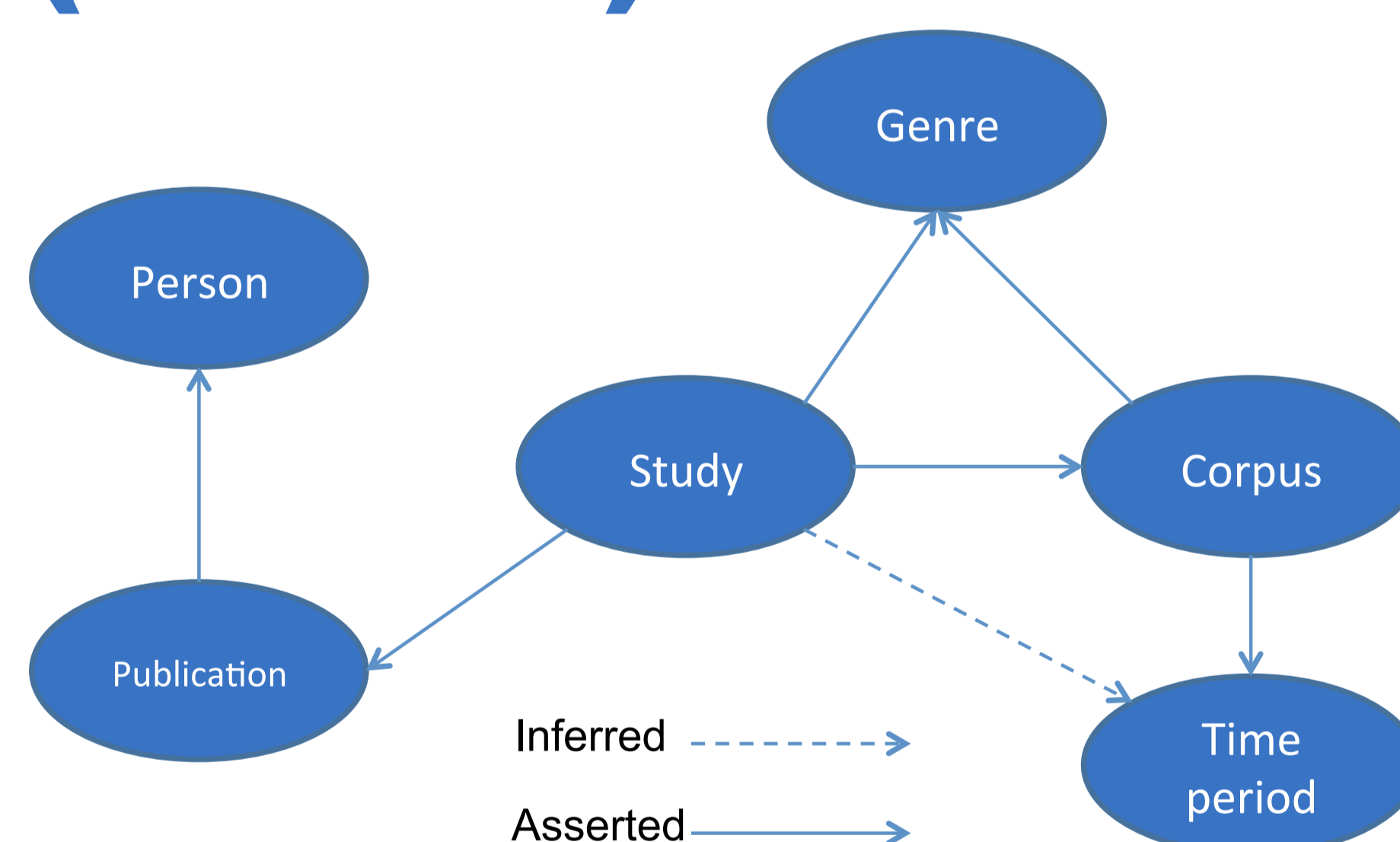
WHO?

The Language Change Database is developed at the University of Helsinki by the members of the project **“Reassessing Language Change: the Challenge of Real Time”**. The project is funded by the Academy of Finland and led by Professor Terttu Nevalainen.

THE DATABASE

- Wiki-style, **user-updated** database that is **easy to edit** and allows **flexible linking** across related categories
- Currently **over 100 entries**
- **Easy to query** by combining linguistic and extralinguistic categories. For example, you can search for:
 - Studies on adjective comparison in the Early Modern period
 - Articles discussing how women of higher social ranks used pronouns in their correspondence in the 17th century

STRUCTURE (DETAIL)



SAMPLE PUBLICATION

Title
 From medieval to modern: on the development of the adverbial connective CONSIDERING (THAT)

Year
 2014

Author
 Rissanen, Matti

Source
 Developments in English: Expanding Electronic Evidence

Editor
 Clahridge, Claudia
 Kytö, Merja
 Smith, Jeremy
 Taavitsainen, Irma

DOI
 10.1017/CBO9781139833882.009

Abstract
 The purpose of the present chapter is to illustrate the emergence and establishment of borrowed adverbial connectives in English. Attention is called to the roles of the speaker/writer and addressee/reader in this process, with due reference to grammaticalization and genre and register distribution. The development of the connective considering (that), from the Middle English borrowed verb consider to the grammaticalized subordinator and preposition, will be discussed in detail. This connective appears in the Middle English period; probably borrowed in the grammaticalized form from French. The analysis includes the Invited Inference Theory of Semantic Change (IITSC).

Series
 Studies in English Language

ISSN

Series number

Place of publication
 Cambridge

Publisher
 Cambridge University Press

Starting page
 98

End page
 115

OPEN QUESTIONS

- Which **keyword categories** to include?
 - Grammar, sociolinguistics, pragmatics, dialectology, discourse analysis...
 - Rough scaffolding provided in advance, users can add new keywords later
- **Grammatical keywords:** What to include at this point? Hierarchy?

Grammar	Syntax	Syntactic functions	Subject Verb Object Complement Adverbial
		Relations	Concord Negation Transitivity Possession
		Coordination Subordination Modification Word order Phrase structure Clause structure	Active Passive
		Periphrasis Ellipsis	
	Word classes	Nouns	Number Case

Please fill in our **questionnaire** at:
helsinki.fi/lcd

FUTURE

Interactive exploration

- Timelines
- Maps

