Negation and (lack of) *DO*-support
in a case of pseudo-archaic English

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This paper is an attempt to describe and account for a case of **register variation** in English. The **data** comes from a book of fantasy literature, *The Silmarillion* (by J.R.R. Tolkien), whose language I will be describing as an **idiolect**. In the text, we can find examples like 'he knew not' or 'they found him not', but also occurrences of 'did not know' and 'did not find him'. This lack of *DO*-support indicates that the **raising** of the lexical verb is still possible in this **sub-variety** of English. But how can this be, since we know that movement is never optional?

Inspired by other studies on the topic of 'core' *vs.* 'peripheral' grammars, I will try to illustrate this **parametric variation** that exists language-internally. By providing a quantitative and qualitative description of negation with and without DO-support in Tolkien's English, I would like to sketch a representation of this particular **peripheral grammar** and explain the extent of its deviation from the standard.

The presentation will begin by a broad **empirical description** of what I would like to call 'pseudo-archaic English', reviewing the most poignant characteristics of the register, from vocabulary to morphology and of course syntax. Then, I will show the detailed results of my **statistical research** of the empirical facts, drawing, I hope, a comprehensive picture of **negation** in the selected corpus. After that, I will proceed to the actual comparison of the two structures, the *DO*-support and the Raising one, providing the **syntactic representation** of each of them (in the theoretical framework of **generative grammar**) and paying particular attention to the environments in which each of them occurs (in order to see if there is any pattern). Finally, I will also adopt a hypothesis on **language change** that might explain the simultaneous availability of two competing constructions.

Keywords: peripheral grammar, language change, negation, DO-support, language-internal parametric variation.

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