Complementation and Meanings of the Verb *Charge* in
Written Historical and Modern British English

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Tämä korpuslingvistiikkaan pohjautuva pro gradu -tutkielma tarkastelee englannin kielen verbin *charge* komplementaatiota ja merkityksiä viime vuosisatojen sekä nykypäivän kirjoitettuessa brittienglannissa.


Avainsanat: Bolingerin yleisty, charge, komplementaatio, korpus, valensi
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1. Introduction

(1) How much do you charge for charging the battery? I hope I don’t have to charge you with overcharging me…
(2) The captain was charged with the task of charging the enemy by nightfall.

As a student of languages the English verb *charge* has intrigued me for some time now. How is it possible for a verb with such a variety of unrelated meanings to be understood correctly in a given sentence and is there often danger of ambiguity? Indeed, many verbs can have various different meanings, but what makes *charge* different is the semantic range of its possible senses as demonstrated in examples (1) and (2) above. In addition, the overwhelming number of different complementation patterns used with *charge* makes it a fascinating target for analysis. Accordingly, the first aim of this study is to introduce the various patterns and meanings of *charge* with the help of different grammars of English and the *Oxford English Dictionary* (the *OED*).

The second aim is to examine the diachronic change taken place in the use of different complementation patterns and the different meanings of *charge* in British English. Have new complementation patterns emerged during time and have some of the old ones ceased to be used? Also, how have the pattern-meaning relations of the verb *charge* changed? This comparison is executed by examining two separate corpora: the Corpus of Late Modern English Texts (the CLMET) and the British National Corpus (the BNC), the former being a historic corpus and the latter representing modern British English language. The changes are then observed more carefully as possible reasons for them will be presented.

Indeed, the relationship between the different patterns and meanings of *charge* is the main topic of this study, since understanding these relations is the best way to avoid ambiguities and misunderstandings. The pattern-meaning connections of *charge* are first presented by summarising the information found in the *OED* and the grammars, then by analysing the data collected from the two corpora mentioned above. It is also analysed whether the semantic and grammatical aspects of the different complements have an effect on the meaning. Moreover,
the pattern-meaning connection is examined on the basis of Bolinger’s generalization, which states that “a difference in syntactic form always spells a difference in meaning” (Bolinger 1968, 127), and by observing whether two different meanings can be derived from a single complement construction. The focus in relating patterns and meanings is, however, kept on Present Day English (referring to the BNC data) because the main aim is to make this connection more comprehensible and useful especially for a language student.

2. Data and method

Corpus linguistics forms the basis of this study, and thus it is necessary to define the term corpus, as well as the notion of corpus linguistics in more detail. Also, the two corpora used in gathering data are given a deeper introduction. Finally, this section explains how the data was gathered and what methods were used in performing this study.

2.1. Defining a corpus

A corpus is a large database of “utterances or texts which have actually occurred” (Leech 1968, 88) in a given language. This means that a corpus can consist of both spoken and written data, all of which have naturally taken place – as opposed to being invented for a corpus. The purpose of a corpus is to facilitate linguistic research, which is why many corpora are “computerized” and “amenable to automatic or semi-automatic processing or analysis” (Tognini-Bonelli 2001, 55). During the last century, corpora have become much greater in size, which means a greater representativeness, and processing the data has facilitated considerably. This has, justifiably, led to the increase of corpus based linguistic studies.

Nevertheless, no corpus can be perfect in its representativeness, since it would be impossible to document all the possible utterances. Also, even the utterances included in a corpus are not necessarily all grammatical due to “certain nuisance variables, such as the
occurrence of false starts, anacolutha, and hesitations, together with limitations of the human memory” (Leech 1968, 89).

2.2. Corpus linguistics

Indeed, corpus linguistics is language study performed by using corpora. Corpus linguistics differs from many other fields of research, for example sociology, in that it “is called by the name of its major research tool and data resource” (Taylor 2008, 179) as opposed to being named after its object of study. In fact, Taylor (2008, 182-3) notes that in linguistic research the term corpus linguistics is often replaced by terms like “corpus/corpus-based/corpus-driven/corpus assisted + analysis/approach/study etc.”

When discussing corpus linguistics and gathering data by utilising corpora, the opposing method called introspection especially favoured by Chomsky often comes to question (Leech 1968, 88-93; Taylor 2008, 181-2). In Chomsky’s view, the limitations of corpus data (discussed in the previous section) are absent from introspection which is the most reliable source of language data (Leech 1986, 89). Corpus linguists in their turn have criticised Chomsky’s views by emphasising the importance of authentic data, which corpus data is, and dismissing the reliability of artificially created introspective data (Taylor 2008, 182). As major disadvantages of introspection Leech (1968, 91) mentions two reliability factors: the influence of the school of linguistic thought the researcher has studied in, and the influence of the researcher’s own hypotheses in his introspective data. However, Mair (2002, 109) also warns about blindly falling into “data-driven positivism in counting” when using corpora as the base of linguistic study.

According to Mair (2002, 109), especially suited area of research for corpus linguistics seems to be the study of ongoing grammatical changes. To justify this claim Mair (ibid.) notes that “studying grammatical change in progress does not mean a futile hunt of the earliest attestation of a new construction” but rather “documenting its gradual spread” by counting
frequencies, and particularly modern corpora with their advanced search possibilities are excellent tools for this. In addition, Hunston and Francis (2000, 83) point out that the existence of pattern-meaning connections is one of “the most important observations in a corpus-driven description of English”.

2.3. The two corpora used

The Corpus of Late Modern English Texts or the CLMET is a compilation of Late Modern English language data drawn from the Project Gutenberg and the Oxford Text Archive (De Smet 2005, 69-70). This historical corpus contains texts from native British authors only (ibid. 71), and it is subdivided into three parts covering a 70 year period each – 1710-1780, 1780-1850 and 1850-1920 –, which enables the analysis and comparison of different time periods. The main advantage of the CLMET is its fairly large size of about 9.8 million words\(^1\), which De Smet (2005, 78) says to be enough even for the study of relatively infrequent syntactic or grammatical phenomena. Furthermore, only a restricted amount of single author’s text is included in the corpus to avoid idiosyncrasies (ibid. 71). As a disadvantage, the CLMET is biased in terms of sociolinguistics, genre and register, but this may not be a problem as long as it is not used for sociolinguistic research (ibid. 78-9).

The British National Corpus, on the other hand, is an immense corpus of 100 million words and it consists of contemporary British English language data published between 1960 and 1993. Being a more modern corpus than the CLMET, the BNC allows the use of quite complex search strings consisting of parts of speech – it is a tagged corpus. Also, the BNC data is divided under several written and spoken text type categories, which enables a more multifaceted research. As already noted, however, “any corpus, however large, contains only

\(^{1}\) The 1\(^{st}\) part of the CLMET contains 2,096,405 words, the 2\(^{nd}\) part 3,739,657 words, and the 3\(^{rd}\) part 3,982,264 words.
an inconsiderable subset of the set of possible sentences” (Leech 1968, 94), and even the massive BNC cannot include all the possible grammatical combinations.

### 2.4. On the method

This study is, indeed, corpus based and mostly of quantitative nature. All in all, 1355 examples of the verb *charge* generated by the two corpora were analysed: 711 of them were from the CLMET and 644 from the BNC. Actually, in addition to the BNC only the first and the third part of the CLMET were selected for the present study in order to detect the possible diachronic changes more clearly. Also, to ensure the compatibility of the two corpora the text types of the BNC data were narrowed down to match the literary and formal framework of the CLMET data as closely as possible. This was achieved quite effortlessly by accessing the BNC through the Sketch Engine interface, which allows text type selection among other things. The selected domains for written corpus texts were “imaginative” and “informative: belief & thought”. These categories were best thought to correspond with the two CLMET datasets consisting of novels, short stories and plays.

To support the corpus analysis, different grammars and the *OED* are also consulted in this study. Although they hardly make any clear pattern-meaning connections, conclusions are drawn by analysing the examples given in them. These *OED* and grammar findings are first presented before analysing the corpus data and later compared with the corpus results.

### 2.5. Normalized frequency counts

When comparing the findings of two different sized corpora, it is important to use normalized frequency counts. This means that the raw numbers of, for example, different complementation patterns found in a corpus are related with the size of the corpus in question. Comparing mere raw numbers would lead to misinterpretations since the size of a corpus affects the actual frequency of a certain complementation pattern. Converting raw numbers
into normalized frequency counts is done by dividing the raw number by the size of the corpus and then multiplying the result by one million (if one million is used as the standard of measurement). However, if only a sample of a certain pattern is studied, it has to be taken into account when dividing the raw numbers. This study presents the corpus findings both in raw numbers and in normalized frequency counts.

3. On verb complementation

Before turning into the analysis of different meanings and complements of *charge*, it is important to clarify what is meant by a complement and, most importantly, how does it differ from an adjunct.

3.1. Valency theory

According to valency theory, a verb is the central element in a sentence and it determines the number of other elements needed to form a grammatical sentence (Herbst et al. 2004, xxiv). Those elements closely connected to the matrix verb of a sentence are called complements, whereas the rest are termed adjuncts (Somers 1984, 508). Accordingly, the valency of a particular verb is determined by the number of complements it governs (ibid.). Furthermore, the valency of a verb is dependent on the underlying semantics – different senses of one verb can require a different number of complements (Herbst et al. 2004, xxxv). In this study, however, the term complement is restricted to refer only to the non-subject elements governed by the matrix verb in question.

3.2. Complement versus adjunct

The basic difference between a complement and an adjunct is that a complement is dependent on the matrix verb, while an adjunct is basically optional and independent on the governing
verb\(^2\) (Somers 1984, 508). Somers (ibid.) also notes that complements can be said to complete the meaning of a given matrix verb, whereas adjuncts may be said to “complete the meaning of the central predication as a whole”. In other words, the interpretation of a complement depends on the matrix verb, but an adjunct retains its interpretation fairly constant when associated with different verb phrases (Merlo 2006, 344-5):

(1) Kim depended / blamed the arson on Sandy.
(2) Kim camps / jogs / meditates on Sunday.

In example (1) the prepositional phrase on Sandy derives its interpretation in connection with the governing verb, while the PP on Sunday in example (2) can be understood independently and it preserves its meaning when combined with different verbs.

Nevertheless, distinguishing complements from adjuncts is not always such a straightforward procedure, especially since complements can be further divided into obligatory and optional ones. Optional complements are similar with adjuncts in their non-obligatory aspect but they are still “valency-bound” (Somers 1984, 509). In other words, a complement is optional if its elimination does not change the meaning of the matrix verb or lead to ungrammaticality in a sentence (Herbst et al. 2004, xxxi). Herbst et al. (ibid. xxxii) also acknowledge contextually optional complements, which are only optional when clearly identifiable from the context:

(3) Did you know they were there? → Did you know?

To help make the distinction between obligatory complements, optional complements, and adjuncts, Somers gives a set of tests, a couple of which are now introduced.

The elimination test helps to distinguish between obligatory and optional elements in a sentence (Somers 1984, 509-10):

(4) The farmer ploughs his field in the early morning.

\(^2\) The dependency can also be on other matrix element, like nouns or adjectives, but here the focus is on matrix verbs.
In example (4) the last element, *in the early morning*, can be eliminated without changing the meaning of the matrix verb *ploughs* and without causing ungrammaticality. Thus, this element is optional. The second but last element, *his field*, can also be eliminated without making the sentence ungrammatical, but it would cause a change in the meaning of the governing verb. Consequently, this element is an obligatory complement.

The back-formation test distinguishes adjuncts from complements – only an adjunct can be formulated as an embedded sentence (ibid. 511):

(5) The children are playing *behind the house*.
    → The children are playing; the playing takes place behind the house.

However, Somers (ibid. 512) notes that this test cannot be applied to any sentence since some non-locative adjuncts do not allow back-formation at all.

The substitution test is based on the assumption that verbs with similar meanings have comparable valency patterns (ibid.). In order to identify obligatory complements in a given sentence, the matrix verb is substituted with a near-synonym:

(6) He sees a friend *in her*.
(7) He considers *her* a friend.

The phrase *in her* in example (6) is eliminable without ungrammaticality, but when the verb *see* is substituted with *consider* in sentence (7) we notice that the corresponding phrase, *her*, cannot be eliminated. The conclusion is that the verb *see* in the sense *consider* requires two complements (excluding the subject), and thus *in her* is an obligatory complement.

Prepositional phrases can be especially difficult to define as either complements or adjuncts but the substitution test helps make the distinction. This distinction derives from the suggestion made by Engel and Schumacher (1976, 65) (Somers 1984, 514) that prepositions in complement phrases seem to be semantically empty, whereas prepositions in adjunct phrases have a meaning of their own:

(8) Inge is arguing with / *in the company of* her friend.
(9) Anne is travelling to Geneva with / *in the company of* her friend.
In example (8) the preposition is a part of a complement phrase, which can be deduced from its lack of semantic weight – the preposition *with* cannot be replaced by the phrase *in the company of*. In sentence (9) the substitution works because the preposition *with* in this case has a clear meaning of its own and is not governed by the verb, which makes it more easily substitutable. But once again this test is not foolproof: for example, with verbs of motion the preposition may be varied quite freely even though it is a part of a complement and thus valency-bound (ibid.):

(10) Jeanette walked *into* town / *to* the shop / *up* the hill / *across* the field / *over* the carpet…

Finally there is the “do so” test where the phrase *do so* is used as a proform for the verb phrase (ibid. 516):

(11) John took a trip *last Tuesday*, and I’m going to do *so tomorrow*.
(12) *Pete bought a car for £200 and Harry did *so for £300.*

The elements that can be placed after the proform are not governed by the matrix verb, while those elements that cannot occur after *do so* are included in the valency of the verb (ibid. 517). Therefore, in example (11) *last Tuesday* and *tomorrow* are adjuncts since they can be placed grammatically after *do so*, whereas *for £200* and *for £300* in example (12) cannot occur after the phrase *do so*, which reveals that they are complements. The important thing to note with this test is that it is not the inclusion in the *do so*-phrase but the possibility of occurring alongside with it that separates complements from adjuncts – an adjunct can be replaced by the proform too (ibid. 518):

(13) Mike started a new job *yesterday* and Kieran did *so too*.

Clearly *yesterday* is not a complement in sentence (13) but it is still understood as a part of the proform.

3.3. Semantic and lexical features of complements

In addition to the number of complements governed by a verb, it is important to specify the semantic and lexical aspects of those complements in order to fully understand the
complementation of a verb. Herbst et al. (2004, xxix) mention two main areas of this semantic analysis: examining the differences and similarities in meaning of the different complements of a word; examining the range of lexical items that can represent a particular complement. These semantic features can be characterised by terms such as +human, +animate or -animate, for example (ibid.). In other word, a matrix verb can have various meanings even inside one particular complement pattern depending on the semantic and lexical properties of the complements. This semantic analysis is applied to charge in section 5.4.4.

4. Patterns and meanings of charge in the OED and grammars

Now we turn to the presentation of different patterns and meanings of the verb charge as described in the OED and various grammars of the English language. First, the definitions of charge are given as found in the OED, after which the various patterns of the verb are related to those meanings by examining the example sentences of charge in the OED and grammars.

4.1. Meanings of charge in the OED

The meanings of the verb charge given by the OED can be divided into five main categories which are illustrated below. All the examples are taken from the OED.

(1) To ask (a person) a price; to enter a debit to or against a person’s account:

Charging his customers too...high prices. (1850 KINGSLEY Alt. Locke x (1876) 109) [The price] she charged for her eggs. (1883 LLOYD Ebb & Fl. II. 115)

(2) To bring an accusation against, accuse; to charge (a fault, etc.) on, upon, against (a person), blame; to make the charge (that):

The blame should rather be charged on Philip’s ministers than on Philip. (1855 PRESCOTT Philip II, I. (1857) 13) The inconsistency which is charged upon us. (1875 JOWETT Plato (ed. 2) III. 333)

(3) To impose a duty, task, or responsibility upon; to command, order, enjoin; to exhort authoritatively; to give charge:

He was...charged with the supervision of all the military schools. (1877 BROCKETT Cross & Cr. 482)
I have strictly charged them…not to speak of this. (1867 MRS. H. WOOD *Orville Coll. iii. 47)

(4) To load; to fill (any substance) with other matter:

Charging the cylinders with dry split wood. (1823 J. BRADDOCK *Dom. Amusem. 20)
The slave who charged thy pipe. (1884 BROWNING *Ferishtah* (ed. 3) 134)

(5) To make a rush at or a sudden attack upon:

A mob of hard-riding strangers charging across their fields and breaking through their fences. (1881 *Times* 14 Feb. *Hunting*)

This variety of unrelated meanings gives extra interest to the examination of whether the different meanings can be connected with certain complement patterns, and whether the meaning of *charge* in a given context is always, or even in most cases, clear-cut.

4.2. Pattern-meaning relation of *charge* in the OED and grammars

This sub-section connects the complement patterns and meanings of *charge* as they are presented in the *OED* and several grammars of English. Herbst et al. (2004, xxv-xxvi) introduce seven formal categories for complements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrases:</th>
<th>Clauses:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>noun phrases</td>
<td><em>ing</em>-clauses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adjective phrases</td>
<td><em>to</em>-infinitive clauses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prepositional phrases</td>
<td><em>that</em>-clauses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>wh</em>-clauses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of these categories can then be governed by *charge*, and which complement patterns are attached to each of the five different meanings of the verb? Especially the example sentences in the *OED* contain valuable information since they are from genuine text sources and, thus, represent a kind of corpus data. To clarify the connections, the pattern-meaning relationship is recorded first from meaning to pattern and then from pattern to meaning. All the *OED* examples are selected to fit into the time scale (1710→) of the CLMET and BNC data used in this study.
4.2.1. From meaning to pattern

Next all the five meanings of *charge* are given a separate sub-section where the complement patterns connected with them are introduced.

4.2.1.1. To ask a price

According to Hunston and Francis (2000, 89), *charge* can be complemented by two noun phrases (NP), in which case the verb falls under the meaning to *ask a price*. The *OED* examples verify this claim:

(1) Charging his customers too… high prices. (*OED*, 1850 KINGSLEY Alt. Locke x (1876) 109)

Huddleston and Pullum (2002, 313) add that *charge* is, in fact, one of the few ditransitive verbs which allow the omission of the direct object. Thus, *charge* with the meaning to *ask a price* can take a NP complement representing either a direct object (Od) or an indirect object (Oi) – together or separately:

(2) a. They charged us $100. (Oi + Od)
b. They charged $100. (Od)
c. They charged us. (Oi)

Carter and McCarthy (2006, 517), however, do not quite agree with Huddleston and Pullum when they state that in the case of *charge* an “indirect object always has a direct object accompanying it”.

A construction with two noun phrases followed by a prepositional phrase, NP + NP + for + NP, is related to this meaning by Poutsma (1904, 160) as well as the *OED*:

(3) He charged me a chilling for the operation. (*OED*, 1875 Mod.)

Possible are also patterns with one NP or no NP at all before the prepositional for phrase, and/or an -ing-clause following the preposition for (Herbst et al. 2004, 125-6):

(4) Banks charge you for each check.
(5) They charge for bed and breakfast.
(6) We charge them a nominal fee for using our special business rooms…
(7) Mortgage brokers will charge a fee for arranging a repayment mortgage…
(8) We do not charge for making gas leaks safe.
The *OED*, however, does not mention this gerundial pattern with the verb *charge*.

The meaning *to ask a price* is also connected with the *to*-infinitive complement – with or without accompanying NPs (Herbst et al. ibid.):

(9) He intends to seek *to charge* the undertakers twenty pounds to release the body of those who die in hospital.
(10) The rule which allows only the Post Office *to charge* less than one pound to deliver a letter is to be changed.
(11) Now they *charge* to take the stuff away.

Moreover, Herbst et al. (ibid.) state that with the meaning *to ask a price*, *charge* is used in constructions (+ NP) + *to* + NP and NP + *on* + NP, although the former complement without the first noun phrase is rare and used only if the context is clear:

(12) a. *charge* it to your Mastercard or VISA account.
    b. Please *charge* to my HMSO Account. (only if clear from the context)
(13) They will not be able *to charge* an exit fee on the transfer.

The *OED* gives examples of these two patterns used with the meaning in question, too:

(14) They…must *be charged* equally…to all the burdens of it. (*OED, 1712* PRIDEAUX Direct Ch.-Wardens (ed. 4) 50)
(15) *Charge* everything…on your American Express Credit Card. (*OED, 1966* New Yorker 22 Oct. 20 (Advt.))

In addition, the *OED* example sentences contain two complement patterns referring to the meaning *to ask a price* which are not mentioned in the grammars: NP + *with* + NP and NP + *upon* + NP:

(16) If the Count pay the debts, and the lady’s fortune *be only charged* with your own. (*OED, 1853* LYTTON My Novel II. xxv)
(17) The debts were not…charged *upon* the real estate. (*OED, 1818* CRUISE Digest VI. 340)

These patterns may not be current anymore, at least with the meaning *to ask a price*, which might be the reason for their exclusion from the grammars used in this study.

Finally, *charge* can also be used intransitively with this sense, which means that it does not even require a complement in some contexts (Herbst et al. 2004, 125):

(18) The bank will *charge* if they can.
All in all, the meaning *to ask a price* was connected with as many as 16 different complement patterns in the *OED* and the grammars:

1. NP  
2. NP + NP  
3. NP + NP + *for* + NP  
4. NP + *for* + NP  
5. *for* + NP  
6. NP + NP + *for* + -ing  
7. NP + *for* + -ing  
8. *for* + -ing  
9. NP + NP + *to*-infinitive  
10. NP + *to*-infinitive  
11. *to*-infinitive  
12. (+ NP) + *to* + NP  
13. NP + *on* + NP  
14. NP + *with* + NP  
15. NP + *upon* + NP  
16. Ø

### 4.2.1.2. To accuse

The *OED* as well as Herbst et al. (2004, 125-6) connect the single NP complement as well as the NP + *for* + NP complement with the meaning *to accuse*:

(19) The husband shall be charged… (*OED, 1818 CRUISE Digest I. 267*)
(20) For trespass of Battery… the master shall not be charged… (*OED, 1721 St. German’s Doctor & Stud. 284*)

Herbst et al. (ibid.) also mention a quote/sentence complement of *charge* with this meaning:

(21) “This is propaganda again,” he charged.

However, in this study the quote/sentence complement is treated as a special case of the NP complement because it could be substituted with the NP *this*: “This is propaganda again,” he charged. → This is what he charged.

In addition, Herbst et al. (ibid,) make a connection between the meaning *to accuse* and the NP + *for* + -ing pattern:

(22) New South Wales police have threatened to charge him for supplying chemicals…

Referring to the meaning in question, Quirk et al. (1985, 1211) mention that *charge* can govern a *with*-prepositional phrase (PP) preceded by a noun phrase: NP + *with* + NP. In addition, Poutsma (1904, 679) gives this prepositional construction with an -ing-clause: NP + *with* + gerund. Herbst et al. (2004, 126) as well as the *OED* also mention these two patterns:

(23) They weren’t going to charge me with anything. (Herbst et al. ibid.)
(24) Thwackum, who was immediately charged by Mr. Blifil with the story. (*OED, 1749 FIELDING Tom Jones IV. xi*)
It is certain that he was never charged with having borne a share in the worst abuses… (Poutsma ibid.)

Two labourers…were charged with creating a disturbance. (OED, 1833 HT. MARTINEAU Three Ages iii. 96)

Moreover, the OED example sentences contain patterns NP + upon + NP, NP + on + NP and NP + against + NP referring to this sense, although the last one is said to be obsolete:

1. The inconsistency which is charged upon us. (OED, 1875 JOWETT Plato (ed. 2) III. 333)
2. Will they not charge my Fall on Thee. (OED, 1738 WESLEY Psalms (1765) No. 13. vii)
3. I am perfectly innocent of the robbery charged against me. (OED, 1786 Trials J. Shepherd 46)

Only the second one of these three patterns is acknowledged by Herbst et al. (2004, 126):

He was charged on four counts of murder.

Lastly, that-clauses are connected with the meaning to accuse (Biber at al. 1999, 664; Herbst et al. 2004, 125; Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 1435; the OED):

1. It was charged that they had used the funds for private purposes. (Huddleston and Pullum ibid.)
2. The second Count charged that Dr. Williams was Vicar of Broad Chalke. (OED, 1862 J. F. Stephen Defence Williams x)

Altogether nine complement patterns were, thus, connected with to accuse, the second meaning of charge:

1. NP 6. NP + upon + NP
2. NP + for + NP 7. NP + on + NP
3. NP + for + -ing 8. NP + against + NP
4. NP + with + NP 9. that-clause
5. NP + with + -ing

4.2.1.3. To assign

According to the OED, this meaning of charge can be represented by, for example, the single NP complement or the NP + with + NP complement:

1. The Lord Chief Justice proceeded to charge the jury. (OED, 1881 Newspr.)
2. He was…charged with the supervision of all the military schools. (OED, 1877 BROCKETT Cross & Cr. 482)

Moreover, the meaning to assign can govern a to-infinitive clause in the form of the NP + to-infinitive pattern (Poutsma 1904, 160; the OED):
(34) a. He charged them to protect Rajah Goordas. (Poutsma ibid.)
    b. Papa charged you to keep close to me. (OED, 1775 SHERIDAN St. Patr. Day II. ii)

Quirk et al. (1985, 1213) also note that charge can take simultaneously an indirect object and a *that*-clause as its complements, although “the indirect object is optional” when referring to the meaning *to assign*. The *OED* also acknowledges *that*-clauses as complements of this meaning:

(35) He had charged, that his array should southward march by break of day. (OED, 1808 SCOTT Marm. v. vii)

Although the *OED* contains examples where *charge* is complemented by both a noun phrase and a *that*-clause, they all date no later than the 16th century:

(36) I charge ye that thou saye no other thinge… (OED, 1535 COVERDALE I Kings xxii. 16)

Based on the *OED* and grammar findings, the meaning *to assign* can be conveyed by four different complement patterns:

1. NP
2. NP + *with* + NP
3. NP + *to*-infinitive
4. (NP) + *that*-clause

### 4.2.1.4. To fill

For the meaning *to fill* the *OED* and Herbst et al. (2004, 125-6) give two possible complements: NP and NP + *with* + NP.

(37) The solar modules generate electricity to charge a bank of batteries. (Herbst et al. ibid.)
(38) The water with which the rock is charged. (OED, 1878 HUXLEY Physiogr. 24)

Concerning this particular sense of *charge* the *OED* notes that when used in the complement pattern NP + *with* + NP, the verb is usually in the passive voice (as shown in example (38) above).

Thus, only two complement patterns were connected with the meaning *to fill*:

1. NP
2. NP + *with* + NP
4.2.1.5. To attack

The *OED* as well as Herbst et al. (2004, 125) connect the Ø complement and the single NP complement with the meaning *to attack*:

(39) The rune itself shows the horns of a bull readying *to charge*. (Herbst et al. ibid.)
(40) Then sallying forth, With such fierce onset *charged them* in the rear. (*OED*, 1795 SOUTHEY *Joan of Arc* VIII. 583)

Referring to this meaning, Herbst et al. (ibid.) also give an example of *charge* being used in a PP with the preposition *at*. The *OED* contains examples of this PP complement with prepositions *at, up* and *across*.

(41) a. Smith *had charged at* Clark and attempted to stab him in the back. (Herbst et al. ibid.)
   b. A mob of hard-riding strangers *charging across their fields* and breaking through their fences. (*OED*, 1881 *Times* 14 Feb. *Hunting*)

In total, three complements were connected with the meaning *to attack*:

1. Ø
2. NP
3. PP

4.2.2. From pattern to meaning

As mentioned earlier, the only purpose of this section is to clarify the pattern-meaning connections of *charge* by examining them from the other direction – from pattern to meaning.

It does not contain new information but strives to shed light on the overall picture. The examples sentences in Table 1 below are primarily from the *OED* – only those pattern-meaning connections that were not found in the *OED* are given grammar examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
<th>EXAMPLE SENTENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Ø</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price</td>
<td>(1) The bank will <em>charge</em> if they can. (Herbst et al. 2004, 125)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(5) to attack</td>
<td>(5) Orders were then given <em>to charge</em>, and, spurring forward their horses, the whole column came thundering on against the enemy. (<em>OED</em>, 1855 PRESCOTT <em>Philip II</em>. I. vii (1857) 129)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price</td>
<td>(1) Do you think we ought to charge two-pence this time? (OED, 1872 BLACK Adv. Phaeton xxviii. 376)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) to accuse</td>
<td>(2) The husband shall be charged… (OED, 1818 CRUISE Digest I. 267)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) to assign</td>
<td>(3) ‘Well’, said the lawyer, ‘did the judge charge you?’ (OED, 1856 Nat. Intelligencer 3 Nov. (Bartlett))</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) to fill</td>
<td>(4) The trembling tears that charge thy melting eyes. (OED, 1763 SHENSTONE Wks. (1764) I. 286)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) to attack</td>
<td>(5) On foot to charge the foe. (OED, 1870 BRYANT Iliad I. VII. 223)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NP + NP</th>
<th>(1) to ask a price</th>
<th>Charging his customers too… high prices. (OED, 1850 KINGSLEY Alt. Locke x (1876) 109)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H. Lawson… charged… all his personal estate, with the payment of his debts. (OED, 1818 CRUISE Digest II. 185)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) to accuse</td>
<td>(2) Thwackum, who was immediately charged by Mr. Blifil with the story. (OED, 1749 FIELDING Tom Jones IV. xi)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) to assign</td>
<td>(3) A few poets… who are charged with some old truth to revive. (OED, 1881 J. C. SHAIRP in Academy 12 Feb. III)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) to fill</td>
<td>(4) Creeping vermin… charged perhaps with venom. (OED, 1785 COWPER Task VI. 570))</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NP + with + NP</th>
<th>(1) to ask a price</th>
<th>Two labourers… were charged with creating a disturbance. (OED, 1833 HT. MARTINEAU Three Ages iii. 96)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) H. Lawson… charged… all his personal estate, with the payment of his debts. (OED, 1818 CRUISE Digest II. 185)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) to accuse</td>
<td>(2) Thwackum, who was immediately charged by Mr. Blifil with the story. (OED, 1749 FIELDING Tom Jones IV. xi)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NP + with + -ing</th>
<th>(2) to accuse</th>
<th>To whom are the cigars to be charged? Charge these to my account. (OED, 1889 Mod.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) to ask a price</td>
<td>(1) He intends to seek to charge the undertakers twenty pounds to release the body of those who die in hospital. (Herbst et al. 2004, 126)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NP + NP + to-infinitive</th>
<th>(1) to ask a price</th>
<th>(1) The Government’s efforts to charge drivers to use the motorway network… (Herbst et al. 2004, 126)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) to ask a price</td>
<td>(1) I myself saw 3s. charged in his bill for wine. (OED, 1787 ‘G. Gambado’ Acad. Horsem. (1809) 46)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) to assign</td>
<td>(3) I have strictly charged them not to speak of this. (OED, 1867 MRS. H. WOOD Orville Coll. iii. 47)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>to-infinitive</th>
<th>(1) to ask a price</th>
<th>Now they charge to take the stuff away. (Herbst et al. 2004, 125)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NP + NP + for + NP</th>
<th>(1) to ask a price</th>
<th>They were charged five shillings a head for dinner. (OED, Mod.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) to ask a price</td>
<td>(1) I myself saw 3s. charged in his bill for wine. (OED, 1787 ‘G. Gambado’ Acad. Horsem. (1809) 46)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) to accuse</td>
<td>(2) For trespass of Battery… the master shall not be charged… (OED, 1721 St. German’s Doctor &amp; Stud. 284)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>for + NP</th>
<th>(1) to ask a price</th>
<th>You know we never charge for telephone calls. (Herbst et al. 2004, 125)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NP + NP + for + -ing</th>
<th>(1) to ask a price</th>
<th>We charge them a nominal fee for using our special business rooms… (Herbst et al. 2004, 126)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Table 1. Pattern-meaning connections of the verb *charge* according to the *OED* and grammars

Out of Herbst et al.’s seven formal categories introduced in the beginning of section 4.2., *charge* can thus govern five: noun phrases, prepositional phrases, *-ing*-clauses, *-to*-infinitive clauses and *-that*-clauses. It seems that in most cases the complement pattern of *charge* consists of a combination of two or more complements, the first of which tends to be a NP.

### 4.3. On prepositional phrases as complement of *charge*

As noted in sections 4.2.1. and 4.2.2. above, a PP complement can follow *charge* immediately or after a NP: *charge + PP; charge + NP + with / to / for / upon / on / against + NP*. These two types of PP-complements differ, nevertheless, from each other in their semantic aspects: the prepositions found in the first type have retained their semantic meaning, whereas the prepositions in the second PP complement type could be described as semantically empty. In
section 3.2., it was noted that a preposition containing its original semantic meaning can be said to be a part of a PP adjunct, and the PP in the first pattern certainly could be interpreted individually:

(1) The elephant *charged at the tree* with terrific violence. (*OED, 1881 Mod.*)

Here the preposition *at* has retained its meaning of direction towards a goal and is not semantically dependent on the verb *charge*. However, the “do so” test proves the PP to be a complement (see section 3.2.):

(2) The elephant *charged at the tree* with terrific violence *and a rhino did so at the bush.*

Clearly then the PP in the construction *charge + PP* is governed by the verb.

In the second type the prepositions are treated separately because they cannot be varied as freely. In this case the prepositions contribute to the interpretation of *charge*, while the prepositions in the pattern *charge + PP* are only found with the meaning *to attack* according to the *OED* and grammars, which makes the meaning of the matrix verb stable no matter which preposition is used. Even so, the possible prepositions in the first type of PP complement are also governed by the verb (as determined by the “do so” test) and thus they cannot be expected to allow entirely free variation.

5. Corpus analysis

Now the focus is shifted to the corpus analysis which is, indeed, the most important aspect of this study. As mentioned earlier, the first and the third part of the CLMET and the two selected domains for written corpus texts chosen from the BNC are under analysis: the first part of the CLMET amounted to 263 examples of *charge*; the third part of the CLMET gave a total of 448 examples; the BNC data included 644 examples. Among the examined data of altogether 1355 examples, there were, however, a considerable number of cases not fitting to this study because the word *charge* was not used as a verb. This was well expected from the CLMET since it is not a tagged corpus and gives all the examples of the word *charge* and its
inflected forms, *charges, charged* and *charging*, but even the more sophisticated BNC search string gave a few irrelevant cases. Next, the process of eliminating the irrelevant cases is briefly explained, after which the two parts of the CLMET and the BNC data are analysed thoroughly one by one. The findings in the three datasets are also compared with each other in order to detect diachronic change. In addition, the corpus findings will be compared with the *OED* and grammar results presented in section 4.2.

5.1. Relevance of the examples

In most examples the relevance of *charge* for this study was easily determined. Clearly irrelevant cases were those where *charge* was not used as a verb but as a noun or an adjective, and since this is a study of the *verb charge*, those cases had to be omitted from the analysis. In the CLMET data, majority of the forms *charge* and *charges* were nouns and many of the forms *charging* were adjectives, as could be expected when not dealing with a tagged corpus. Most of the irrelevant cases in the BNC were of form *charged* and functioned as adjectives.

Next are some examples of the omitted cases:

(1) Miss Harris immediately answered to the *charge*. (CLMET 1st part, Fielding 444)
(2) She returned silent and weak denials to his *charges*… (CLMET 3rd part, Hardy 4105)
(3) The *charging* Dervishes sank down in tangled heaps. (CLMET 3rd part, Churchill 9038)
(4) Since electrically charged objects attract or repel one another… (BNC, AE7)

In the first two examples *charge* is used as a noun, whereas the last two examples contain the adjective *charge*.

However, some examples were not so clear-cut because it was not immediately clear to which part of speech *charge* belonged. Consider, for example, the following two sentences taken from the BNC data:

(5) This is a levy or tax *charged* on many of the goods we buy. (B2U)
(6) In 1905 the number of women *charged* with public indecency rose dramatically. (G0D)

In these cases *charge* could quickly be interpreted as an adjective since it is in the past tense without a preceding form of the verb *to be* indicating passive and it does not take any explicit
subject or doer of an act. But when examined in more detail we notice that charge in examples (5) and (6) has the qualities of the verb charge that are relevant for this study: the meaning and the complementation (unlike in examples (1) – (4) above). Also, when reading these sentences we can detect that there has been an omission of two understood words preceding charge: a relative pronoun and a form of the verb to be indicating passive – “This is a levy or tax (that is) charged on many of the goods we buy”. In other words, these are just cases of the verb charge in the passive used in a relative clause and, thus, they certainly are relevant for the analysis.

All in all, the number of omitted cases amounted to 494: 138 cases in the 1st part of the CLMET, 304 cases in the 3rd part of the CLMET and 52 cases in the BNC data. All in all, over half of the CLMET data turned out to be irrelevant for the purposes of this study, but luckily the omissions still left a considerable number of relevant examples from which to draw conclusions on the meanings and patterns of the verb charge.

5.2. The 1st part of the CLMET

This section is dedicated to the presentation of charge as found in the 1st part of the CLMET. After eliminating the irrelevant cases, there were 125 examples left, which makes the normalized frequency of charge 59.6 per million words in this dataset. First, the focus is on the complementation of the verb, after which the concentration is shifted to the meanings. Then, some attention is given to the pattern-meaning relations found in this dataset, and finally the findings are contrasted with the OED and grammar results. All the examples are naturally from the 1st part of the CLMET.

5.2.1. Patterns of charge in the 1st part of the CLMET

There were as many as eleven complement patterns governed by charge in the 1st part of the CLMET if we make a distinction between the five different prepositions found in the
construction NP + prep. + NP (see Table 2 below). When examining the complement patterns presented in Table 2, it is worth noting that in nine patterns out of the total eleven, *charge* was immediately followed by a noun phrase before any further complementation. This tendency was also detected in the *OED* and grammar section:

(1) “I have treated your honour with all the respect in the world; no man, I am sure, can *charge* me with using a gentleman rudely.” (Fielding 9601)

(2) Coming to himself, he gave orders that every avenue to the castle should be strictly guarded, and *charged* his domestics on pain of their lives to suffer nobody to pass out. (Walpole 1099)

Moreover, the two remaining patterns with no immediate NP complement, Ø and PP, were fairly rare with only two cases each:

(3) …they will then *charge* with less alacrity, and be opposed with less dejection; they will consider themselves as fighting without that certainty of success… (Johnson 4881)

(4) …he *charged* through the midst of the crowd, overturning every thing that opposed him… (Smollet 4152)

In the case of the PP complement, prepositions *among* and *through* were the only ones used in the 1st part of the CLMET.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>RAW NUMBER</th>
<th>NORMALIZED FREQUENCY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Ø</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) NP</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) NP + NP</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) NP + <em>with</em> + NP</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>29.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) NP + <em>with</em> + -<em>ing</em></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) NP + <em>to</em> + NP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) NP + <em>to</em>-infinitive</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8) NP + <em>for</em> + NP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9) NP + <em>upon</em> + NP</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10) NP + <em>on</em> + NP</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11) PP</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>125</strong></td>
<td><strong>59.6</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Distribution of complement patterns of the verb *charge* in the 1st part of the CLMET

Clearly the most generally used pattern was NP + *with* + NP which was found in almost half of the cases:

---

3 The purpose of making this distinction was explained in section 4.3.
This provided that if any person in Massachusetts were charged with murder, or any other capital offence, he should be tried either in some other colony or… (Burke 2357)

He who paid the aurei, the usual tribute, was charged with no more than the third part of an aureus… (Gibbon 3412)

Four complement patterns, NP, NP + with + -ing, NP + to-infinitive and NP + upon + NP, were represented in fairly equal numbers in the data. The NP complement was the rarest of these four with nine examples:

Why charge we heaven in those, in these acquit? (Pope, 440)

16 examples had the NP + with + -ing complement which was the only gerundial complement pattern in this dataset. On the other hand, NP + to-infinitive was present in 11 examples:

As Macrianus was an enemy to the Christians, they charged him with being a magician. (Gibbon 9246)

In short, they charged him, who is in the Treasury and Exchequer not to vote for any supplies. (Walpole 10885)

This evokes the question whether some aspect of meaning can be directly related to gerund and to-infinitive complements of charge (discussed later in section 5.4.6.). The NP + upon + NP complement was present in 14 cases:

Here then I turn to my adversary, and desire him to free his own system from these odious consequences before he charge them upon others. (Hume 7664)

The preposition upon has a quite old fashion sound to it, and one could make a prediction that its use as a complement of charge has decreased notably during the recent centuries.

Only four examples of the NP + NP as well as the NP + on + NP complement were found in the 1st part of the CLMET:

Oh! Matilda, this stroke is too heavy for thee! weep not, my child; and not a murmur, I charge thee. (Walpole, 3277)

…two or three instances of which are very unjustly charged on all human nature. (Fielding 4361)

Example (11) above is a case of the quote/sentence complement referred to in section 4.2.1.2. As already stated, however, it will be treated as a special case of the NP complement in the present study.
Finally, two complement patterns, NP + to + NP and NP + for + NP, had the minimal representation of only one example each in the data:

(13) He…believes he may charge it to me. (Walpole 14129)
(14) 2dly, To charge the same for the very worst provisions, as if they were the best. (Fielding 2356)

Analysing the 3rd part of the CLMET and the BNC will reveal whether these two patterns are only marginal cases or whether their use has gained ground during centuries.

5.2.2. Meanings of charge in the 1st part of the CLMET

All the five meanings of charge described in the OED were well represented in the 1st part of the CLMET (see Table 3 below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEANING</th>
<th>RAW NUMBER</th>
<th>NORMALIZED FREQUENCY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) to ask a price</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) to accuse</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>35.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) to assign</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) to fill/to load</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) to attack/to rush</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>59.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Distribution of meanings of the verb charge in the 1st part of the CLMET

The most common meaning by far was to accuse, which was found in over half of the examples:

(15) My lords, it is easy to charge the most blameless and gentle procedure with injustice and severity… (Johnson 8388)
(16) He said he did not mean to charge the Admiralty particularly… (Walpole 6518)

The second most frequent meaning was to assign, but still it was not even half as frequent as the previous one:

(17) “I charge you not to stir,” said Matilda. (Walpole 1256)
(18) After the deacons came the elders or priests, charged with the maintenance of order and decorum in the community, and to act every where in its name. (Gibbon 20532)

The sense to ask a price was found in ten examples, making it slightly more common than to fill or to attack, both of which had the representation of seven cases:
(19) And whatsoever the sages charge on pride… (Fielding 2969)
(20) I never fired off a gun above ten times in my life; and then it was not charged with bullets. (Fielding 9651)
(21) …he charged through the midst of the crowd… (Smollett 4152)

5.2.3. Pattern-meaning relation of *charge* in the 1\textsuperscript{st} part of the CLMET

Which patterns are then connected with which of the five different meanings of *charge* in the 1\textsuperscript{st} part of the CLMET? Can we draw some clear pattern-meaning connections based on the data? In fact, the eleven complement patterns can be divided into three sub-groups based on the number of their possible meanings: patterns with one meaning, patterns with two meanings and patterns with multiple meanings. These three groups are next presented one by one.

5.2.3.1. Patterns with one meaning

Sub-group 1 – patterns with one meaning – includes seven patterns, which makes it clearly the largest group (see Table 4 below). This validates the assumption that there is, indeed, a close connection between patterns and meanings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Ø</td>
<td>(5) to attack: 2 (1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) NP + *with + *-ing</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 16 (7.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) NP + *to + NP</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 1 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) NP + *to-infinite</td>
<td>(3) to assign: 11 (5.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8) NP + *for + NP</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 1 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10) NP + *on + NP</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 4 (1.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11) PP</td>
<td>(5) to attack: 2 (1.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Patterns with one meaning in the 1\textsuperscript{st} part of the CLMET

Here are examples of the seven cases respectively:

(22) They will take no denial from man or woman; difficulties do not discourage them; repulsed twice or thrice, they rally, they charge again, and nine times in ten prevail at last. (Chesterfield 12019)
(23) “No, on my soul,” said Hippolita; “does Isabella charge me with being privy to it”? (Walpole 1514)
(24) “He tells me he has been baited by you and your uncle on my account, which was very disagreeable, and believes he may charge it to me.” (Walpole 14129)
(25) He accordingly went away, charging my maid to give him entrance at his return… (Smollett 6231)
(26) 2dly, To charge the same for the very worst provisions, as if they were the best. (Fielding 2356)
(27) And whatsoever the sages charge on pride. The angels’ fall, and twenty other good faults beside… (Fielding 2969)
(28) …at the head of his rallied troops, charged sword in hand among the thickest of the enemy… (Gibbon 2163)

5.2.3.2. Patterns with two meanings

The second sub-group – patterns with two meanings – includes two complement patterns, NP + NP and NP + upon + NP (see Table 5 below). The NP + NP pattern could refer either to the meaning to ask a price or to assign, although the latter sense was more commonly found:

(29) “For to be sure,” says he, “one might have charged every article double, and she would have made no cavil at the reckoning.” (Fielding 8981)
(30) I charge you, don’t let him relapse into balls… (Walpole 1238)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| (3) NP + NP (4)    | (1) to ask a price: 1 (0.5)  
                      | (3) to assign: 3 (1.4) |
| (9) NP + upon + NP (14) | (1) to ask a price: 1 (0.5)  
                         | (2) to accuse: 13 (6.2) |

Table 5. Patterns with two meanings in the 1st part of the CLMET

The NP + upon + NP pattern, on the other hand, could have either the meaning to ask a price or to accuse, the latter one being undeniably dominant with 13 cases out of the total 14:

(31) …he must in this case have charged upon every piece of his own goods, which he sold in his shop, a profit of twenty per cent. (Smith 13264)
(32) Would he not ask, why the general practice of mankind is charged as a crime upon him only? (Johnson 12891)

5.2.3.3. Patterns with multiple meanings

The third and the final sub-group – patterns with multiple meanings – consists of two complement patterns as well: NP and NP + with + NP (see Table 6 below). The former was found with three meanings – to accuse, to fill and to attack –, whereas the latter could refer to any meaning except to attack in the data. Even so, some examples with the meaning to attack contained the surface pattern NP + with + NP:
(33) *Charge them with Heaven’s artillery*, bold divine! (Pope 5556)

The phrase *with Heaven’s artillery* in this case is not, however, a complement but an adjunct and replaceable with the phrase *using Heaven’s artillery*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(2) NP (9)</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 4 (1.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(4) to fill: 2 (1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(5) to attack: 3 (1.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) NP + <em>with</em> + NP</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 5 (2.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 39 (18.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3) to assign: 12 (5.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(4) to fill: 5 (2.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6. Patterns with multiple meanings in the 1st part of the CLMET

In the case of the NP complement, the meanings of *charge* were spread in almost equivalent numbers between the three senses, although *to accuse* was the most common one.

The following examples follow the ordering in Table 6:

(34) When I expressed my surprize that the accuser should persist in *charging* Clinker, without taking the least notice of the real robber who stood before him… (Smollett 2994)

(35) Here are pistols over the chimney: who knows whether they be *charged* or no, or what he may do with them? (Fielding 2883)

(36) Distinguished by the splendour of his arms, be *charged* in person the cavalry of his rival; and his irresistible attack determined the fortune of the day. (Gibbon 16883)

The distribution of the four senses found with the NP + *with* + NP complement was not nearly as even: *to accuse* governed almost two thirds of the cases; *to assign* was found in every fifth example; *to ask a price* and *to fill* were present in five cases each out of the total 61:

(37) …because they feel none of the publick calamities, represent all complaints as criminal murmurs, and *charge* those with sedition who petition only for relief. (Johnson 3459)

(38) Lady Griskin has been so good as to *charge* herself, not only with the delivery of this note, but also with the task of undeceiving Mrs Bramble… (Smollett 2748)

(39) The Civil List revenues were the mortgaged for the sum to be raised, and stood *charged* with the ransom of their own deliverance. (Burke 2136)

(40) …it may be in your power to serve me if you will *charge* your pockets with some of these. (Fielding 8506)
5.2.4. Comparing the findings of the 1st part of the CLMET with the *OED* and grammar results

As many as nine complement patterns of *charge* introduced in the *OED* and the grammars were not present in the 1st part of the CLMET: NP + NP + *to*-infinitive, *to*-infinitive, NP + NP + *for* + NP, *for* + NP, NP + NP + *for* + -*ing*, NP + *for* + -*ing*, NP + *against* + NP and (NP) + *that*-clause. One reason for this absence could be their emergence only after the year 1780, since no examples of them were found in the *OED* fitting the time frame of the 1st part of the CLMET. Another reason could be their marginal use, and the size of the CLMET might have been too limited to include these patterns.

All the five meanings given in the *OED* were present, as already mentioned, and all of them were connected to at least two complement patterns in this CLMET dataset as well as in the *OED* and the grammars. First, the meaning *to ask a price* was found with five different complement patterns in the 1st part of the CLMET – NP + NP, NP + *with* + NP, NP + *to* + NP, NP + *for* + NP and NP + *upon* + NP –, whereas the *OED* and the grammars connected it with as many as 16 patterns. Naturally, the two *to*-infinitive complements and the five *for* prepositional phrase complements including the three gerundial complements that were altogether absent from the data were not included in the connections. The other two patterns not connected with the meaning *to ask a price* were Ø and NP + *on* + NP, although they were present in the CLMET. However, these patterns had only a couple of cases each in the data, which could be the reason why the CLMET dataset did not make these pattern-meaning connections.

The second meaning of *charge*, *to accuse*, was also found with five complement patterns in the 1st part of the CLMET – NP, NP + *with* + NP, NP + *with* + -*ing*, NP + *on* + NP and NP + *upon* + NP –, which means that four pattern-meaning connections made by the *OED* and the grammars were missing. Three of the excluded complements – NP + *for* + -*ing*, NP + *against* + NP and *that*-clause – were absent from the CLMET dataset altogether, whereas the fourth –
NP + *for* + NP – had only one example in the data and, thus, understandably referred to only one meaning, *to ask a price*.

Next, the 1\textsuperscript{st} part of the CLMET connected three patterns with the meaning *to assign* – NP + NP, NP + *with* + NP and NP + *to-infinitive* –, whereas the number of connections was four in the *OED* and the grammars. Naturally, the (NP) + *that*-clause complement that was absent from the whole dataset was excluded from these connections.

On the other hand, the final two meanings, *to fill* and *to attack*, were connected with the same complement patterns in the 1\textsuperscript{st} part of the CLMET and the *OED* and the grammars. The former was conveyed by the NP and the NP + *with* + NP complement, while the latter by the Ø, the NP and the PP complement.

### 5.3. The 3\textsuperscript{rd} part of the CLMET

This section presents the findings in the 3\textsuperscript{rd} part of the CLMET following the outline of the previous section. In addition, these findings are contrasted with those of the 1\textsuperscript{st} part of the CLMET along the way. All the examples in this section are from the 3\textsuperscript{rd} part of the CLMET.

#### 5.3.1. Patterns of *charge* in the 3\textsuperscript{rd} part of the CLMET

Overall, the verb *charge* was less frequently found in this part of the CLMET with normalized frequency of 36.2 – compared to the normalized frequency of 59.6 in the 1\textsuperscript{st} part of the CLMET. Another notable change was the appearance of five new complement patterns: NP + NP + *for* + NP, *for* + NP, NP + *at* + NP, NP + *against* + NP and NP + PP (see Table 7 below):

(1) The washerwoman at Streatley said she felt she owed it to herself *to charge us just three times the usual prices for that wash.* (Jerome 6254)
(2) All given gratis, though ‘tis true I might have fairly *charged for it!* (Carroll 3018)
(3) Beds for single men and single women could be *charged at the low rate of sixpence a night*… (Booth 9462)
(4) All that could be definitely *charged against him was the smoking of a cigar.* (Bennett 9530)
(5) The landlord was hissed at the School-gates as he rode past, and when he *charged his horse at the mob of boys*… (Hughes 5965)
The first two patterns had the representation of four and three cases respectively. The NP + at + NP and the NP + against + NP pattern were, however, represented in minimal number of only one example each, while the last one of these new arrivals was found in two examples. Also, it could be added that both the examples with the NP + PP complement were from *Tom Brown’s School Days* by Hughes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>1ST PART OF THE CLMET raw number (NF)</th>
<th>3RD PART OF THE CLMET raw number (NF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Ø</td>
<td>2 (1.0)</td>
<td>13 (3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) NP</td>
<td>9 (4.3)</td>
<td>14 (3.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) NP + NP</td>
<td>4 (1.9)</td>
<td>3 (0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) NP + with + NP</td>
<td>61 (29.1)</td>
<td>57 (14.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) NP + with + ing</td>
<td>16 (7.6)</td>
<td>11 (2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) NP + to + NP</td>
<td>1 (0.5)</td>
<td>4 (1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) NP + to-infinitive</td>
<td>11 (5.2)</td>
<td>8 (2.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8) NP + NP + for + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4 (1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9) NP + for + NP</td>
<td>1 (0.5)</td>
<td>6 (1.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10) for + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3 (0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11) NP + upon + NP</td>
<td>14 (6.7)</td>
<td>2 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(12) NP + on + NP</td>
<td>4 (1.9)</td>
<td>5 (1.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(13) NP + at + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(14) NP + against + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15) PP</td>
<td>2 (1.0)</td>
<td>10 (2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(16) NP + PP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>125 (59.6)</td>
<td>144 (36.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7. Distribution of complement patterns of the verb *charge* in the 1st and 3rd part of the CLMET (the bold face indicates in which dataset a particular pattern was more common)

The complement pattern NP + with + NP had remained the most commonly used with *charge*, although its frequency had dropped into half from 29.1 to 14.3:

(6) …and upon looking back I could not *charge myself with any misconduct* towards the little maiden. (Blackmore 11107)

The single NP complement had taken the place of the second most common complement despite its fall in frequency:

(7) “You’re not going *to charge her*?” “Aren’t I?” returned the policeman. (Galsworthy 5252)
Five additional patterns – NP + NP, NP + with + -ing, NP + to-infinitive, NP + upon + NP and NP + on + NP – had also become less frequent during the 70 year gap between the two CLMET datasets:

(8) I WILL NOT CAHRGE YOU INTEREST! (Carroll 2921)
(9) You charge me with being suspicious, and I fear I cannot deny the charge. (Gosse 7525)
(10) Carry this note to madame…and charge her, for the sake of all our lives, not to fail in what it orders. (Hope 5238)
(11) You charge it upon having trained among a nation of shopkeepers? (Meredith 1052)
(12) …he threw himself on his bed, expecting to charge the tossing of a miserable night on Dr. Bennet… (Yonge 7237)

The most dramatic drop in frequency had happened in the case of the NP + upon + NP complement which had become almost nonexistent with only two examples present in the 3rd part of the CLMET, whereas in the 1st part of the CLMET this pattern was the third most common. This fall was, however, predicted in section 5.2.1. based on of the old-fashioned connotation of the preposition upon.

On the other hand, four patterns (excluding the five new patterns) had gained ground: Ø, NP + to + NP, NP + for + NP and PP:

(13) Others charged with spear and sword. (Churchill 7759)
(14) Only to M. Niepce did she charge more than to the others, because he was a shopkeeper. (Bennett 12065)
(15) …who farm out the unfortunates and charge so heavy a commission for their share that the poor wretches who do the work receive hardly enough to keep body and soul together. (Booth 4454)
(16) The charge of the Crusades was a charge; it was charging towards God, the wild consolation of the braver. (Chesterton 638)

These patterns were the rarest ones in the 1st part of the CLMET, but in the 3rd part none of them was among the six most infrequent complement patterns. The Ø and the PP pattern had even climbed to be the third and the fifth most commonly used complements of charge.

5.3.2. Meanings of charge in the 3rd part of the CLMET

In this part of the CLMET, too, all five meanings were present although their frequencies had changed notably and become much more even (see Table 8 below). The two most common
senses in the 1st part of the CLMET – to accuse and to assign – had both dropped about two thirds in frequency:

(17) By this and many other ways we shall help those **charged** with criminal offences… (Booth 8878)
(18) The king himself **had charged** her to be silent. (Hope 5980)

*To accuse* continued to be the most commonly used meaning of *charge*, but its frequency had dropped drastically from 35.8 to 9.8. *To assign*, on the other hand, had become the least common meaning in the 3rd part of the CLMET. Instead of *to assign*, the sense *to attack* had occupied the place of the second most common meaning of *charge* with the raise of 5.0 points in frequency:

(19) The great Leicestershire sheep **charge** away across the field as the pack comes racing down the slope. (Hughes 4349)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEANING</th>
<th>1ST PART OF THE CLMET</th>
<th>3RD PART OF THE CLMET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) to ask a price</td>
<td>10 (4.8)</td>
<td>29 (7.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) to accuse</td>
<td>75 (35.8)</td>
<td>39 (9.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) to assign</td>
<td>26 (12.4)</td>
<td>18 (4.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) to fill/to load</td>
<td>7 (3.3)</td>
<td>25 (6.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) to attack/to rush</td>
<td>7 (3.3)</td>
<td>33 (8.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>125 (59.6)</strong></td>
<td><strong>144 (36.2)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8. Distribution of meanings of the verb *charge* in the 1st and 3rd part of the CLMET

The meanings *to ask a price* and *to fill* had increased in frequency about three points each, but they had both maintained their status as the third and fourth most common meanings of *charge*:

(20) Mind you **charge** a good price for it! (Carroll 6846)
(21) Cheeks, lips, and eyes were **heavily charged** with rouge, powder, and black. (Bennett 10253)

### 5.3.3. Pattern-meaning relation of *charge* in the 3rd part of the CLMET

Again, the 16 complement patterns are divided into the three sub-groups according to the number of meanings they take in the data.
5.3.3.1. Patterns with one meaning

The first group, containing patterns with one meaning only, had increased in size from seven to eleven complement patterns, although it had lost two of its former patterns to sub-group2 (see Table 9 below). In other words, two complement patterns – NP + with + -ing and NP + on + NP – were found with an added meaning in the 3rd part of the CLMET as opposed to the 1st part. On the other hand, the NP + NP pattern had lost one of its former meanings and become part of sub-group1. The five new complement patterns (NP + NP + for + NP, for + NP, NP + at + NP, NP + against + NP and NP + PP) all fell into the first sub-group making it notably larger than before.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>MEANING IN THE 1st PART OF THE CLMET</th>
<th>MEANING IN THE 3rd PART OF THE CLMET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Ø</td>
<td>(5) to attack: 2 (1.0)</td>
<td>(5) to attack: 13 (3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) NP + NP</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 1 (0.5)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 3 (0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3) to assign: 3 (1.4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) NP + to + NP</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 1 (0.5)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 4 (1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) NP + to-infinitive</td>
<td>(3) to assign: 11 (5.2)</td>
<td>(3) to assign: 8 (2.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8) NP + NP + for + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 4 (1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9) NP + for + NP</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 1 (0.5)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 6 (1.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10) for + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 3 (0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(13) NP + at + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 1 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(14) NP + against + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 1 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15) PP</td>
<td>(5) to attack: 2 (1.0)</td>
<td>(5) to attack: 10 (2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(16) NP + PP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(5) to attack: 2 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 9. Patterns with one meaning in the 3rd part of the CLMET

The following examples are in the order of Table 9:

(22) …their harassing fire inflicted heavy losses on the struggling column until it was finally brought to a standstill, and the moment for the spearmen to charge arrived. (Churchill 2697)
(23) You must come and stay at our house; we shall charge you half what you will have to pay at the Royal, and the view is every bit as good. (Grossmith 3400)
(24) …they offered to tow him and charge it to his wife… (Kipling 4206)
(25) She has not charged you to complain? (Meredith 9726)
(26) They charged us thirty-five shillings for the loan of the remnant for six days… (Jerome 6938)
(27) You charged her cheap for the things, I’m sure? (Collins 5915)
(28) Selina, being my wife, couldn’t charge for her board, and would have to give me her services for nothing. (Collins 448)
(29) Beds for single men and single women could be charged at the low rate of sixpence a night… (Booth 9462)
(30) All that could be definitely charged against him was the smoking of a cigar. (Bennett 9530)
(31) Fanatics charged at Shekan; patriots at Abu Klea; warriors at Omdurman. (Churchill 1310)
(32) Meet them like Englishmen, you Schoolhouse boys, and charge them home.⁴ (Hughes 3188)

5.3.3.2. Patterns with two meanings

As mentioned, the second sub-group had lost one complement pattern to the first sub-group but also received two patterns from it increasing its size from two to three members (see Table 10 below). Thus, the NP + upon + NP pattern was the only one to maintain its position in this sub-group, but the dominance of its sense to accuse no longer existed as both possible meanings had only one example each in the 3rd part of the CLMET (the examples are in the order of Table 10):

(33) …these small nondescript matters should be charged upon the general fund… (Yonge 1006)
(34) You charge it upon your having been trained among a nation of shopkeepers? (Meredith 1052)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>MEANING IN THE 1ST PART OF THE CLMET</th>
<th>MEANING IN THE 3RD PART OF THE CLMET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(5) NP + with + -ing (11)</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 16 (7.6)</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 9 (2.3) (3) to assign: 2 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11) NP + upon + NP (2)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 1 (0.5) (2) to accuse: 13 (6.2)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 1 (0.3) (2) to accuse: 1 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(12) NP + on + NP (5)</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 4 (1.9)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 2 (0.5) (2) to accuse: 3 (0.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 10. Patterns with two meanings in the 3rd part of the CLMET

In addition to the meaning to accuse, the NP + with + -ing complement had received an added meaning – to assign. Nevertheless, the former meaning had preserved its dominance with nine cases out of the total eleven:

(35) I met Reardon not long after they had parted, and he charged me with being in great part the cause of his troubles. (Gissing 15154)
(36) Meanwhile, I’ll charge myself with looking into the matter. (Hope 4828)

⁴ The complement home is treated as a prepositional phrase because it could be replaced with any phrase having the meaning of somewhere (e.g. into the woods).
Similarly, the earlier meaning of the NP + on + NP complement, to accuse, had remained more common than its added meaning, to ask a price. In this case the dominance was, however, almost insignificant since to ask a price had only one example less than to accuse in the data:

(37) Did ye see his face when Penn asked who he’d been charged on all these years? (Kipling 3901)
(38) …he charged it all on himself for having left his Queen for an instant to Isabeau. (Yonge 7788)

5.3.3.3. Patterns with multiple meanings

The third sub-group had suffered the least changes as the two complement patterns included in it had remained the same, and the only major difference was the appearance of the meaning to ask a price in connection with the NP complement (see Table 11 below). With this complement pattern, the sense to attack had become the most frequently used instead of to accuse which had dropped 1.4 points in normalized frequency. To fill with only one example continued to be the least utilized meaning with the NP complement. The following examples are in the order of Table 11:

(39) Refreshments would be provided at rates very similar to those charged at our London Food Depots. (Booth 9456)
(40) The policeman gave his evidence, and the Inspector swore to what Daniel Povey had said when charged. (Bennett 4526)
(41) “I can’t charge my memory, Sergeant,” he said, “a mere trifle—a mere trifle.” (Collins 4545)
(42) In neither case is there any controversy; for the whole object of modern party combatants is to charge out of earshot. (Chesterton 554)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>MEANING IN THE 1ST PART OF THE CLMET</th>
<th>MEANING IN THE 3RD PART OF THE CLMET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(2) NP (14)</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 4 (1.9) (4) to fill: 2 (1.0) (5) to attack: 3 (1.4)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 2 (0.5) (2) to accuse: 2 (0.5) (4) to fill: 1 (0.3) (5) to attack: 9 (2.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) NP + with + NP (57)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 5 (2.4) (2) to accuse: 39 (18.6) (3) to assign: 12 (5.7) (4) to fill: 5 (2.4)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 2 (0.5) (2) to accuse: 23 (5.8) (3) to assign: 8 (2.0) (4) to fill: 24 (6.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 11. Patterns with multiple meanings in the 3rd part of the CLMET
The pattern-meaning relations of the NP + *with* + NP complement had remained quite stable as no new meanings had merged or old ones disappeared in the data. However, the meaning *to fill* had become slightly more common than the previously dominant *to accuse*. In fact *to accuse* had suffered a notable drop in frequency from 18.6. to 5.8, while *to fill* had gained ground. The meanings *to ask a price* and *to assign* had also become less frequent. The examples below follow the sequence of Table 11:

(43) He had complacently consulted the welfare of the Curtis family, by **charging them with** the rent of the fields of ordinary grass land… (Yonge 5423)
(44) The disgrace of lending herself to a vile deception in the only disgrace **with** which I can conscientiously **charge** Mrs. Rubelle. (Collins 9193)
(45) But a permanent under-secretary, **charged** with a real control over much important **business**, must be able, or his superior will be blamed… (Bagehott 7166)
(46) …Constance **charged** herself with **parcels** which she bestowed in the corners of the vehicle according to her aunt’s prescription… (Bennett 123)

### 5.3.4. Comparing the findings in the 3rd part of the CLMET with the OED and grammar results

Six complement patterns of *charge* mentioned in the *OED* and the grammars were absent from the 3rd part of the CLMET – NP + NP + *to*-infinitive, *to*-infinitive, NP + NP + *for* + *-ing*, NP + *for* + *-ing*, *for* + *-ing* and (NP) + *that*-clause – although the last one had examples in the *OED* fitting the time frame (1780-1850) of this CLMET dataset (see example (35) in section 4.2.1.3.). The other five patterns could be of more modern origins, which would explain their absence. On the other hand, this part of the CLMET contained two complement patterns that were not included in the *OED* or the various grammars used in this study: NP + *at* + NP and NP + PP. The use of these patterns was, however, very marginal and could be the reason for their exclusion.

In the 3rd part of the CLMET the meaning *to ask a price* was connected with ten patterns, one of which was the NP + *at* + NP complement not found in the *OED* or the grammars. The other nine patterns were NP, NP + NP, NP + *with* + NP, NP + *to* + NP, NP + NP + *for* + NP, NP + *for* + NP, *for* + NP, NP + *upon* + NP and NP + *on* + NP. This concludes that the
patterns missing from the total 16 connections made in the OED and the grammars were the three to-infinitive patterns, the three altogether absent gerundial patterns and the Ø complement. The use of these seven complement patterns to convey the meaning *to ask a price* might, thus, be a more modern practice.

The meaning *to accuse* was conveyed by six complements patterns in the 3rd part of the CLMET: NP, NP + *with* + NP, NP + *with* + -ing, NP + *upon* + NP, NP + *on* + NP and NP + *against* + NP. The three further complement connections noted by the OED and the grammars were between this meaning and the NP + *for* + NP, the NP + *for* + -ing and the *that*-clause complement, the last two of which were absent from the CLMET dataset altogether. The NP + *for* + NP complement, however, had 13 examples in the data, none of which referred to the meaning *to accuse*. The only OED example of this usage dated to 1721 (see example (20) in section 4.2.1.2.), but the 1st part of the CLMET did not acknowledge this connection either. It is, thus, probable that this complement is used very marginally to convey the meaning *to accuse*.

The third meaning of *charge*, *to assign*, was connected with three patterns in this CLMET dataset: NP + *with* + NP, NP + *with* + -ing and NP + to-infinitive. However, the connection between this meaning and the NP + *with* + -ing complement was not made in the OED or the grammars. The two OED and grammar connections not found in the 3rd part of the CLMET were between the meaning in question and the NP as well as the (NP) + *that*-clause complement. Again, the exclusion of the latter complement is clear, but the omission of the former pattern may only be explained with the limitations of the data.

Next, the meaning *to fill* was conveyed by the same two complement patterns in the 3rd part of the CLMET as in the OED and the grammars: NP and NP + *with* + NP.

The final meaning, *to attack*, on the other hand, had four patterns connected with it in the CLMET dataset instead of the three mentioned in the OED and the grammars. Three of them
were the same – Ø, NP and PP –, and the fourth pattern was the extra NP + PP complement not even found in the *OED* or the grammars used in this study.

### 5.4. The BNC

Lastly, the results of the BNC data are presented. This section again follows the same structure of arrangement as the previous two, and compares the findings between all the three sets of corpus data. In addition, more attention is paid on the pattern-meaning relationship and the factors affecting the choice of complementation as found in the BNC data. All the examples in this section are taken from the BNC.

#### 5.4.1. Patterns of *charge* in the BNC

The normalized frequency of *charge* had continued its decrease from the 3rd part of the CLMET being only 25.7 in the BNC dataset (see Table 12 below). The BNC contained altogether 21 different complement patterns – five new patterns had emerged, while four (NP + *upon/on/at* + NP and NP + PP) had disappeared from use. Out of the new patterns, NP + *for* + -ing was the most common one with six examples in the data:

(1) What do you *charge for* renting her out, Ember? (FP0)

The other fresh gerundial pattern, NP + NP + *for* + -ing, had two cases in the data:

(2) …I pay less than half what people are *charged for* staying in a night shelter. (A0F)

The third new complement, *up* + NP, is separated from the PP complement pattern because the preposition *up* can be placed grammatically either before or after the NP. However, the NP cannot follow the preposition in pronoun cases:

(3) Grace Hinkle loves to see me making like an executive and remembering to *charge up* all expenses. (FAP) → *charge all expenses* up

(4) It just *charges you* up. (H0M) → *charges* up you

Also, the preposition *up* in this complement does not have the sense of direction like the prepositions in the PP complement. This topic is further discussed in section 5.4.3.
The final two new complements – to-infinitive (without the NP) and NP + that-clause – were present in only one example each:

(5) You could charge to come round here, ‘Antonio commented. (FRS)
(6) Old Mrs Macdonald…took the sheets in which he had lain, folded them carefully, and charged her daughter that they should be kept unwashed… (G1Y)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>1ST PART OF THE CLMET raw number (NF)</th>
<th>3RD PART OF THE CLMET raw number (NF)</th>
<th>BNC raw number (NF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Ø</td>
<td>2 (1.0)</td>
<td>13 (3.3)</td>
<td>33 (1.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) NP</td>
<td>9 (4.3)</td>
<td>14 (3.5)</td>
<td>142 (6.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) NP + NP</td>
<td>4 (1.9)</td>
<td>3 (0.8)</td>
<td>22 (1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) NP + with + NP</td>
<td>61 (29.1)</td>
<td>57 (14.3)</td>
<td>119 (5.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) NP + with + -ing</td>
<td>16 (7.6)</td>
<td>11 (2.8)</td>
<td>26 (1.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) NP + to + NP</td>
<td>1 (0.5)</td>
<td>4 (1.0)</td>
<td>10 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) NP + to-infinitive</td>
<td>11 (5.2)</td>
<td>8 (2.0)</td>
<td>9 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8) to-infinitive</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 (0.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9) NP + NP + for + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4 (1.0)</td>
<td>13 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10) NP + for + NP</td>
<td>1 (0.5)</td>
<td>6 (1.5)</td>
<td>33 (1.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11) for + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3 (0.8)</td>
<td>7 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(12) NP + NP + for + -ing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(13) NP + for + -ing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(14) NP + upon + NP</td>
<td>14 (6.7)</td>
<td>2 (0.5)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15) NP + on + NP</td>
<td>4 (1.9)</td>
<td>5 (1.3)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(16) NP + at + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 (0.3)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(17) NP + against + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 (0.3)</td>
<td>1 (0.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(18) PP</td>
<td>2 (1.0)</td>
<td>10 (2.5)</td>
<td>163 (7.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(19) NP + PP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2 (0.5)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(20) up + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(21) NP + that-clause</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 (0.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>125 (59.6)</td>
<td>144 (36.2)</td>
<td>592 (25.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 12. Distribution of complement patterns of the verb charge in the 1st and 3rd part of the CLMET and the BNC (the bold face indicates in which dataset a particular pattern was the most common)

Two complement patterns had experienced a raise in frequency compared to the two CLMET datasets (excluding the five new patterns): NP and PP:

(7) Some lending organisations charge a Mortgage arrangement fee, which can vary from a few pounds to around £50. (BNL)
(8) But the sound of many pairs of feet charging down the stairs carried on down the corridor without pausing. (HJD)

The PP complement had become the most frequently used, while the single NP pattern had maintained its 3rd part of the CLMET position as the second most common complement of charge. In fact, the NP complement had suffered a slight decrease in the 3rd part of the...
CLMET but risen again in the BNC, while the PP complement had continued to increase in frequency during all the three datasets.

Similar to the single NP complement, the frequency of the NP + NP pattern had first decreased but then revived again in the BNC:

(9) She may have my room, and you can arrange it between you and what you’re going to charge her. (HWE)

Six complement patterns (excluding the NP + at + NP and the NP + PP complement that were absent from the BNC) had first increased in frequency in the 3rd part of the CLMET and then decreased in the BNC data: Ø, NP + to + NP, NP + NP + for + NP, NP + for + NP, for + NP and NP + against + NP:

(10) I went dry between my legs for several seconds, then I charged again. (A0U)
(11) “I’ll charge it to the National Health,” he said. (FEE)
(12) Somewhere where strange people would charge you extortionate sums of money for things you didn’t even want to have done to you. (CJA)
(13) Solicitors and private doctors charge a set rate for their time so use it economically. (BNA)
(14) He never charged for the rooms and the journalists repaid him by keeping their custom at the bar. (EF1)
(15) But for God’s love, he thought, halfintrigued and half-exasperated, if she has anything to charge against him why does she not speak? (HGG)

The NP + NP + for + NP, the for + NP and the NP + against + NP pattern were not, in fact, even present in the 1st part of the CLMET. The last one of these three was found in only one example in both the later datasets, which means that only the larger size of the BNC affected its drop in frequency, not the decreased number of examples.

Meanwhile, three complement patterns (excluding the completely absent NP + upon + NP and NP + on + NP complement) – NP + with + NP, NP + with + -ing and NP + to-infinitive – had continually decreased in frequency during the datasets, although this decrease had slowed down towards the BNC data. In fact, the NP + with + NP pattern was the most common one in both the 1st and the 3rd part of the CLMET, but had become the third most common one in the BNC. Still, it was found in as many as 119 examples out if the total 592:

(16) You’ll need this when you charge Kevin Fox with the indecent assault and rape of Miranda Lewis.
The NP + *with* + -ing complement had first dropped from the second most frequent pattern in the 1\textsuperscript{st} part of the CLMET to the fourth place in the 3\textsuperscript{rd} part of the CLMET, and finally to the sixth place in frequency in the BNC:

(17) Among other things, I’m going to have you *charged with* trespassing and interfering with private property. (H8F)

The decrease of frequency in the case of the NP + *to*-infinitive complement had been the steadiest one out of these three patterns. Its position, however, had dropped the most compared to the 3\textsuperscript{rd} part of the CLMET – from the sixth to the tenth place in frequency. In addition to the decreased normalized frequency, this drop in position was affected by the increased number of different complement patterns found in the BNC data:

(18) …Jesus in his lifetime conveyed only to his closest disciples, and *charged them* not to reveal to others until the proper time came… (CL6)

5.4.2. Meanings of *charge* in the BNC

As before, all the five meanings of *charge* were well represented in the BNC data, but the previously dominant meaning, *to accuse*, was no longer the most frequent one (see Table 13 below). Instead, the meaning *to attack* had risen to be the most common meaning of *charge* with 216 examples in the data. From the 3\textsuperscript{rd} part of the CLMET, its frequency had, however, increased only 1.1 points in normalized frequency:

(19) But you can’t go *charging* into High Brooks making wild accusations. (EVC)

Compared to the two CLMET datasets, the meaning *to ask a price* had climbed from the third to the second place in frequency, although there had been a decline of 0.8 points since the 3\textsuperscript{rd} part of the CLMET:

(20) I only *charged* them fifty pence so we won’t get rich on that, but it’s probably done our reputation a lot of good. (JYE)

The previously dominant *to accuse* had dropped to the third place in frequency as its normalized frequency continued declining:
(21) I already know there’s no time limit between committing a murder and being charged with it. (FP6)

Out of all the meanings, to accuse had, in fact, suffered the biggest change in frequency compared to the 1st part of the CLMET – a drop of 30.4 points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEANING</th>
<th>1ST PART OF THE CLMET raw number (NF)</th>
<th>3RD PART OF THE CLMET raw number (NF)</th>
<th>BNC raw number (NF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) to ask a price</td>
<td>10 (4.8)</td>
<td>29 (7.3)</td>
<td>150 (6.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) to accuse</td>
<td>75 (35.8)</td>
<td>39 (9.8)</td>
<td>124 (5.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) to assign</td>
<td>26 (12.4)</td>
<td>18 (4.5)</td>
<td>39 (1.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) to fill/to load</td>
<td>7 (3.3)</td>
<td>25 (6.3)</td>
<td>63 (2.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) to attack/to rush</td>
<td>7 (3.3)</td>
<td>33 (8.3)</td>
<td>216 (9.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>125 (59.6)</td>
<td>144 (36.2)</td>
<td>592 (25.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 13. Distribution of meanings of the verb charge in the 1st and 3rd part of the CLMET and the BNC

To fill was the only sense of charge to maintain its order in frequency throughout all the three sets of data remaining the fourth most common meaning:

(22) Thunderclouds are already highly charged with electricity. (G0E)

Compared to the 1st part of the CLMET, its frequency had indeed changed the least: only 0.6 points. However, the fall had not been constant since its normalized frequency had first risen over three points in the 3rd part of the CLMET before dropping 3.8 points in the BNC.

Finally, the meaning to assign continued its drop in frequency in the BNC – although not as drastically as in the 3rd part of the CLMET – maintaining its 3rd part of the CLMET position as the least commonly used sense of the verb charge:

(23) Incidentally, the old man wrote Cathy a letter which I was charged to pass over unopened. (HWP)

5.4.3. Pattern-meaning relation of charge in the BNC

The 17 complement patterns found in the BNC data are once more divided into three meaning groups based on the number of meanings related to them.
5.4.3.1. Patterns with one meaning

Although meaning group1 had remained the largest of the three sub-groups in the BNC, its size had diminished from eleven to nine complement patterns (see Table 14 below). First of all, the no longer existing NP + at + NP and NP + PP complement, which previously belonged to this group, were naturally omitted from sub-group1. Also, four of its previous members – Ø, NP + NP, NP + to-infinitive and NP + for + NP – had received extra meanings in the BNC and shifted to the other two meaning groups. On the other hand, four of the five fresh BNC patterns (to-infinitive, NP + NP + for + -ing, up + NP and NP + that-clause) came as new members to sub-group1 balancing the losses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>MEANING IN THE 1ST PART OF THE CLMET</th>
<th>MEANING IN THE 3RD PART OF THE CLMET</th>
<th>MEANING IN THE BNC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(6) NP + to + NP</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 1 (0.5)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 4 (1.0)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 10 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8) to-infinitive</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 1 (0.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9) NP + NP + for + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 4 (1.0)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 13 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11) for + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 3 (0.8)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 7 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(12) NP + NP + for + -ing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 2 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(17) NP + against + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 1 (0.3)</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 1 (0.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(18) PP</td>
<td>(5) to attack: 2 (1.0)</td>
<td>(5) to attack: 10 (2.5)</td>
<td>(5) to attack: 163 (7.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(20) up + NP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(4) to fill: 4 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(21) NP + that-clause</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(3) to assign: 1 (0.04)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 14. Patterns with one meaning in the BNC

The new to-infinitive complement had only one example in the BNC, as already noted, so it was automatically categorized under meaning group1. The one example with this pattern had the meaning to ask a price:

(24) You could charge to come round here, ‘Antonio commented. (FRS)

The two cases of the fresh NP + NP + for + -ing pattern also referred to the meaning to ask a price:

(25) Yes, to let Blackbeard know we only charged him fifty per cent for returning it. (CKE)

All the four examples of the up + NP complement fell under the meaning to fill. This is not a surprise if we consider the meaning of the preposition up itself – it contains the sense of...
completion to the maximum amount. The preposition could thus be replaced with the phrase *to the fullest*:

(26) She faced it from time to time, *charged up* her hate battery, reminded herself. (HGK)  
→ *charged her hate battery to the fullest*  

In fact the phrase *charge up* could be replaced by mere *charge*, and thus example (26) above could be considered a case of the NP complement. For the purposes of clarity, the complement *up + NP* is, however, treated as a separate case in this study.

The NP + *that*-clause complement had only one example, too, and thus fell into sub-group 1. Its meaning was *to assign*:  

(27) Old Mrs Macdonald… took the sheets in which he had lain, folded them carefully, and *charged her daughter* that they should be kept unwashed… (G1Y)  

The NP + *against* + NP complement, which continued to be found in only one example, also belonged to the first sub-group. The meaning assigned to it was *to accuse*, similar to the 3rd part of the CLMET:

(28) But for God’s love, he thought, halfintrigued and half-exasperated, if she has *anything to charge against* him why does she not speak? (HGG)  

In addition to NP + *against* + NP, two patterns had maintained their place in this sub-group since the 3rd part of the CLMET: NP + NP + *for* + NP and *for* + NP:  

(29) And then *charge some townie a couple of quid for* it. (F99)  
(30) Well, you could have put that scene he made on at a theatre in the West End and *charged for tickets*, I reckon. (H8S)  

The meaning *to ask a price* assigned to them had also stayed the same.

Two complement patterns had continued their stay in meaning group 1 throughout the three sets of data: NP + *to* + NP and PP. They too had preserved their meaning, *to ask a price* and *to attack* respectively, along the way:

(31) Go for it – and *charge all expenses to me*. (HA5)  
(32) “And what’s in this one?” he called, *charging into a room*. (AMB)
5.4.3.2. Patterns with two meanings

Meaning group 2 had lost two of its 3rd part of the CLMET members, NP + upon + NP and NP + on + NP, since they had no representation in the BNC data (see Table 15 below). However, three previous sub-group 1 patterns had become part of this sub-group together with one of the newly found BNC patterns increasing the number of patterns in sub-group 2 from three to five.

The last of the four fresh BNC patterns, NP + for + -ing, fell indeed into sub-group 2. Out of its two possible meanings, to ask a price and to accuse, the latter was more commonly used:

(33) These hideous creatures have charged such extraordinarily high fees for running PEPs that, for the majority of investors, the tax benefits have been far outweighed by the charges. (BNT)
(34) Marion Harvie, a tippler, was charged in 1646 for turning a guest’s horse on the Down. (B0G)

The three complement patterns that had shifted from meaning group 1 to group 2 were Ø, NP + to-infinitive and NP + for + NP. In the case of all these patterns, the original meaning (the meaning found in the CLMET) had sustained its dominance. The original meaning of the Ø complement, to attack, had become less frequent since the 3rd part of the CLMET, but it still had 29 examples in the data, as opposed to the four examples of the meaning to ask a price:

(35) Free of Nina, Anne got her head down and charged. (ALJ)
(36) I charge accordingly! (GUE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>MEANING IN THE 1ST PART OF THE CLMET raw number (NF)</th>
<th>MEANING IN THE 3RD PART OF THE CLMET raw number (NF)</th>
<th>MEANING IN THE BNC raw number (NF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Ø (33)</td>
<td>(5) to attack: 2 (1.0)</td>
<td>(5) to attack: 13 (3.3)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 4 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(5) to attack: 29 (1.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) NP + with + -ing (26)</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 16 (7.6)</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 9 (2.3)</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 13 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(3) to assign: 2 (0.5)</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 13 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) NP + to-infinitive (9)</td>
<td>(3) to assign: 11 (5.2)</td>
<td>(3) to assign: 8 (2.0)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 1 (0.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(3) to assign: 8 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10) NP + for + NP (33)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 1 (0.5)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 6 (1.5)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 30 (1.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 3 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(13) NP + for + -ing (6)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 2 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 4 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 15. Patterns with two meanings in the BNC
The dominant meaning of the NP + to-infinitive complement continued to be to assign with eight examples, although its frequency had dropped 1.7 points from the 3rd part of the CLMET. The new meaning, to ask a price, had only one example in the BNC:

(37) A University committee charged to investigate the case of the young lecturer determined that there had been no administrative malpractice. (ANY)
(38) How much will you charge to kill somebody? (FAP)

Similarly, the dominant meaning, to ask a price, of the NP + for + NP complement had become less frequent compared to the 3rd part of the CLMET, and gained a new meaning, to accuse, which had three examples in the data:

(39) Charged us for the plates, too. (G1X)
(40) They can’t charge him for possession of a packet of Victory V. (J13)

There seems to be strong semantic similarity between the NP + for + NP and the NP + for + -ing pattern because they were both connected with the same two meanings in the BNC data. The explanation to their likeness can be found in the grammatical closeness of the NP and the gerundial complement.

The complement pattern NP + with + -ing was the only one that had stayed in sub-group2 since the 3rd part of the CLMET – although compared to the 1st part of the CLMET none of the patterns in this sub-group had remained the same. As a distinction to the 3rd part of the CLMET, however, the difference in frequency of the two possible meanings of this pattern had disappeared. Both the meanings, to accuse and to assign, had 13 examples in the BNC:

(41) You could be charged with obstructing the police in the execution of their duty. (G0N)
(42) Lieutenant Simon Doggett, who had been charged with keeping Nosey from killing the chickens that pecked in the inn yard, followed Sharpe out to the road. (CMP)

5.4.3.3. Patterns with multiple meanings

The meaning group3 had also increased in size: two patterns, NP and NP + with + NP, had remained in this sub-group throughout the three sets of data, while the NP + NP pattern had travelled through all the three meaning groups and finally ended up in the third one (see Table 16 below). The single NP complement had again gained a new meaning, to assign, and was
now used in connection with all the five meanings of *charge*. The meanings *to ask a price* and *to accuse* had gained frequency in the BNC being now the most and the second most frequent meanings of the NP complement respectively. *To fill* had also gained some ground since the 3rd part of the CLMET, but remained the fourth most common meaning of this pattern. *To attack* had decreased 1.3 points in frequency from the 3rd part of the CLMET and dropped from the most common to the third most common meaning of the NP complement in the BNC.

The following examples are in the sequence of Table 16:

(43) But I did think it was a lot, and I tell you why: I can’t really see what a group of professionals *charging* fees like that needs cash for. (AB9)
(44) I was *charged* in that name, I was sentenced in that name. (CJT)
(45) ‘And if none of this had been done what sort of *death duties* would *have been charged*?’ (GUF)
(46) The Proximity of the factory and its computers seemed to *charge* the Worm. (BPD)
(47) Would he really let rhinoceroses out of cages so they *charged* people in the suburbs and trampled them down and ate them alive? (BMS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>MEANING IN THE 1ST PART OF THE CLMET</th>
<th>MEANING IN THE 3RD PART OF THE CLMET</th>
<th>MEANING IN THE BNC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(2) NP (142)</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 4 (1.9)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 2 (0.5)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 64 (2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(4) to fill: 2 (1.0)</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 2 (0.5)</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 42 (1.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(5) to attack: 3 (1.4)</td>
<td>(4) to fill: 1 (0.3)</td>
<td>(3) to assign: 1 (0.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(5) to attack: 9 (2.3)</td>
<td>(4) to fill: 11 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(5) to attack: 24 (1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) NP + NP (22)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 1 (0.5)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 3 (0.8)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 16 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3) to assign: 3 (1.4)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 1 (0.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(3) to assign: 5 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) NP + with + NP (119)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 5 (2.4)</td>
<td>(1) to ask a price: 2 (0.5)</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 60 (2.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 39 (18.6)</td>
<td>(2) to accuse: 23 (5.8)</td>
<td>(3) to assign: 11 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3) to assign: 12 (5.7)</td>
<td>(3) to assign: 8 (2.0)</td>
<td>(4) to fill: 48 (2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(4) to fill: 5 (2.4)</td>
<td>(4) to fill: 24 (6.0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 16. Patterns with multiple meanings in the BNC

Out of the 22 cases of the NP + NP pattern, 16 had the meaning *to ask a price*, one fell under the meaning *to accuse*, and five were of the meaning *to assign*.

(48) Quite apart from any other reason, if I *charge* you *rent*, it would give you security of tenure. (H8S)
(49) “This is *harassment, plain and simple*.” she *charged* him grittily, only to see that insolent grin appear on his face. (JY8)
(50) Again and again as the nation prepared to cross the River Jordan and enter the Promise Land, Moses solemnly *charged* them: “*Remember*!” (C8V)
In all the four examples of the meaning *to assign*, the second NP was a quote. The presence of this NP complement was proven by substituting it with the NP *this* (see example (50) above):

Moses solemnly charged them: “**Remember!**”
→ Moses solemnly charged them this.
→ **This** is what Moses solemnly charged them.

Similarly, the NP status of the quote complement in the case of the meaning *to accuse* was shown by using the substitution test (see example (49) above):

“**This is harassment, plain and simple.**” she charged him grittily.
→ She charged him **this** grittily.
→ **This** is what she charged him grittily.

The NP + *with* + NP complement had lost one of its previously included meanings: *to ask a price*. This is not, however, surprising since the frequency of this meaning had already dropped quite much during the CLMET datasets. In addition, the other three meanings, *to accuse*, *to assign* and *to fill*, had all decreased in frequency compared to the CLMET:

(51) He had been charged with the rape. (AE0)
(52) The cyclops were charged with the business of forging iron for Vulcan and working the underground quarries, where their singular eye cast light. (CAC)
(53) Can you recall a graffito more charged with knowledge? (HGS)

The meaning *to accuse* had gained back its 1st part of the CLMET dominance with 60 examples in the BNC. *To fill* had dropped from the first place in the 3rd part of the CLMET into the second place in frequency with 48 examples. Compared to the 3rd part of the CLMET, the meaning *to assign* had maintained its place as the third most common meaning of the pattern NP + *with* + NP.

### 5.4.4. Semantic and grammatical environment of the five meanings of *charge* in the BNC

As clarified in the introduction, the main purpose of this thesis is to give valuable information of the Present Day English uses of the verb *charge* to language students. Therefore, in this section the focus is on BNC findings, while the historical CLMET data is left out. Each of the five meanings of *charge* is given a separate sub-section where their semantic and grammatical
environment is examined in detail. Hunston and Francis (2000, 83) note that “particular patterns will tend to be associated with lexical items that have particular meaning”. Thus, the concentration is on the complement patterns representing a particular meaning, on the use of the active and passive voice, as well as on the semantic properties of the subjects and objects used in each complement pattern.

5.4.4.1. To ask a price

As shown in Table 17 below, the meaning to ask a price could be represented by as many as eleven different complement patterns according to the BNC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>RAW NUMBER</th>
<th>GENERAL FORM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ø</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>“someone charges”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>“someone charges a price”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + NP</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>“someone charges someone a price”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + to + NP</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>“someone charges a purchase to someone’s account”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + to-infinitive</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>“someone charges a price to do something”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to-infinitive</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>“someone charges to do something”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + NP + for + NP</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>“someone charges someone a price for a commodity”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + for + NP</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>“someone charges a price for a commodity”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for + NP</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>“someone charges for a commodity”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + NP + for + -ing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>“someone charges someone a price for doing something”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + for + -ing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>“someone charges a price for doing something”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 17. Patterns representing the meaning to ask a price in the BNC

The most commonly found complement with this meaning was the single NP with 64 examples:

(1) Mind, you wouldn’t believe some of the prices they charge up West, talk a bout daylight robbery. (CKE)

Only three cases of this pattern were found in the passive voice:

(2) ‘You haven’t been charged yet,’ said the woman. (CJA)
In active sentences with the NP complement, the subject of *charge* was always +human, although sometimes it was disguised under a seemingly -animate NP like *hotel* or *college*:

(3) **You** charge no tithes. (K95)
(4) **The College**, however, reserves the right to charge a fee and select students. (HU9)

In majority of the NP complement cases, the NP referred to a price; in about 20% of the cases the NP was +human; in one case the NP was -animate:

(5) That’s why he charged top whack and it’s a nice little earner for him. (HWL)
(6) Male was furious, especially when I admitted that I hadn’t the heart to charge the old dear, so we were two quid out of pocket. (CA9)
(7) A vaudevillian menace charged out journey to Rome… (FYV)

Therefore, the most common form of this single NP pattern was “someone charges a price”, but the form “someone charges someone” was not rare either.

The second most frequently used complement pattern with the meaning to ask a price was NP + *for* + NP with 30 examples in the BNC data.

(8) ‘You should know, signore,’ he said softly, ‘this young man will charge you for your pleasures.’ (FNT)

Altogether four passive sentences of this pattern were present in the data

(9) Clients are charged for the amount of time they take up, including the length of the interview and any telephone calls. (BNA)

Similar to the previous NP complement, the subject of *charge* was always +human although sometimes expressed by a -animate noun (like *airlines* in example (11) below):

(10) I’ll not charge you for that. (FBG)
(11) The transport of such cargo is an expensive undertaking, and some airlines charge twice their usual rate for the service. (CES)

Similarly, the first NP following the verb was again likely to refer to a price. However, with the NP + *for* + NP pattern the use of a +human NP between the verb and the preposition was more common than with the previous pattern. The NP following the preposition *for* referred to a purchase or a commodity in every case:

(12) How much does Ernest charge for a group photo? (FPM)
(13) I hadn’t, I’d borrowed it from Duncan but I’d heard the Hell’s Angels crack so many times before I suddenly decided to charge him for it. (HWL)
To generalize, the most common forms of this pattern were “someone charges a price for a commodity” and “someone charges someone for a commodity”.

The third most common complement pattern expressing to ask a price was NP + NP with 16 examples:

(14) Listen, if you are, I won’t charge you anything. (GUF)

Only once was this pattern found in the passive:

(15) The farming bills don’t amount to much as the ones who do call me in always think they’re doing me a favour and consequently shouldn’t be charged much. (JYE)

In all the 16 cases the subject and the first NP were +human and the second NP referred to a price:

(16) Well, I hope you’ll charge him a proper fee next time. (GVP)

All the sentences with the NP + NP pattern were thus of form “someone charges someone a price” (excluding the one passive).

The pattern NP + NP + for + NP had 13 examples that conveyed the meaning to ask a price in the BNC data:

(17) …Madame, who would otherwise charge her four hundred francs (anciens) for the tubful of hot water. (G0S)

Five passive cases of this pattern were found:

(18) For once some contributions to her funds were assured, since delegates would be charged a small fee for their food and lodging. (EV1)

Similar to the NP + NP complement, the sequence of the +human NP and the price NP was found in all the 13 cases of the NP + NP + for + NP pattern, and the subject of the active cases was always +human:

(19) Instead, he might be cursed with one who would rob him blind and charge him three-times the wages for the privilege. (FPK)

The NP following the preposition for referred to a purchase or a commodity in every case except one where it was +human:

(20) I don’t think they should charge you full-board for me. (HWN)
It could, however, be claimed that in this case the preposition *for* preceding the +human NP can be substituted with the phrase *because of*, which would exclude the PP *for me* from the complement pattern. On the other hand, the NP *me* could be interpreted to mean *my staying here*, which would justify its inclusion in the NP + NP + *for* + NP complement pattern. In general, this pattern was of form “someone charges someone a price for a commodity”.

The fifth most common complement pattern expressing the meaning in question was NP + *to* + NP with ten examples. The passive was once again very rare with only one case in the data:

(21) The officer with the harsh voice was advising him that the *money* would be ‘charged to the Lord Advocate’s account’ if he himself could not ‘procure the funds’. (A0N)

The subject was again always +human, and the NP preceding the preposition *to* referred to either a purchase/commodity or a price:

(22) When she got back, *he* was charging their *drinks* to himself and ordering more. (FRH)
(23) If she were rich, that wouldn’t stop her caring for children, but she could *charge* only a nominal fee to the mothers who badly needed to work. (H94)

The second NP, on the other hand, was either +human or denoted someone’s account:

(24) ‘Charge all future bills directly to *me*,’ Cornelius said with a smile. (HWN)
(25) From then on, she just buys what she wants and *charges* it to one or other of the parents’ accounts. (FS1)

The general form of this complement pattern could be put as “someone charges a purchase to someone’s account”.

All the seven cases of the *for* + NP pattern referred to the meaning *to ask a price*:

(26) Sir: I was interested to read Terence Bendixson’s article (5 October) on directly *charging* for road use. (A44)

This pattern was always in the active with a +human subject, whereas the NP following the preposition *for* expressed a commodity or a purchase.

(27) *He* would *charge* for every pew in the church except those that are placed behind pillars. (AT7)

The general form of this pattern would be “someone charges for a commodity”.
Next, all the four cases of to ask a price with the Ø complement were in the active voice and had a +human subject:

(28) …the pictures come out sepia and so they don’t charge. (HWL)

Thus, the generalization of this pattern would be as simple as “someone charges”.

The two gerundial complements, NP + NP + for + -ing and NP + for + -ing, with two examples each in the data were the second most infrequently used patterns to express the meaning to ask a price. The only passive gerundial case was of pattern NP + NP + for + -ing:

(29) You know, I pay less than half what people are charged for staying in a night shelter. (A0F)

All the active cases had a +human subject. In both the NP + for + -ing cases, the NP expressed a price, while the two NP + NP + for + -ing cases had the sequence of a +human NP and a price NP (similar to the NP + NP and the NP + NP + for + NP complements discussed above):

(30) What do you charge for renting her out, Ember? (FP0)
(31) Yes, to let Blackbeard know we only charged him fifty per cent for returning it. (CKE)

With these gerundial complement patterns the general forms would be “someone charges a price for doing something” and “someone charges someone a price for doing something”.

The final two patterns expressing the meaning to ask a price – NP + to-infinitive and to-infinitive – had only one example each in the BNC data. (There is a possible adjunct interpretation for these two patterns with the meaning to ask a price, but this study admits them as complements.) Both cases were in the active voice and had a +human subject. The NP in the NP + to-infinitive complement referred to a price.

(32) How much will you charge to kill somebody? (FAP)
(33) You could charge to come round here, ’Antonio commented. (FRS)

The general forms of these two patterns are, thus, “someone charges a price to do something” and “someone charges to do something”.
To summarise, all the eleven complement patterns found with the meaning *to ask a price* were hardly ever used in the passive voice. This suggests that informing who is behind the charging is usually considered essential information. In addition, the subject of the verb *charge* was always +human, even though it was sometimes expressed with a -animate NP referring to a group of people (e.g. college, airlines). Moreover, in cases where there was only one NP immediately following the verb, the NP was likely to express a price, whereas in cases with two NPs right after the verb, the first NP was always +human and the second NP a price. However, both the +human NP and the price NP were understood even if only one of them was explicitly expressed.

### 5.4.4.2. To accuse

The second meaning of *charge, to accuse*, could be conveyed by seven complement patterns in the BNC dataset (see Table 18 below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>RAW NUMBER</th>
<th>GENERAL FORM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NP</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>“someone is charged”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + NP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>“someone charges someone something”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + <em>with</em> + NP</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>“someone is charged with a crime”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + <em>with</em> + <em>-ing</em></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>“someone is charged with committing a crime”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + <em>for</em> + NP</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>“someone charges someone for a violation”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + <em>for</em> + <em>-ing</em></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>“someone is charged for committing a crime”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + <em>against</em> + NP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>“someone charges a crime against someone”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>124</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 18. Patterns representing the meaning *to accuse* in the BNC

The pattern NP + *with* + NP with 60 examples was the most commonly used to express the meaning *to accuse*. Over two thirds of the cases were in the passive voice, and even when used in the active voice, the subject was likely to be generic (e.g. they, we):

(34) As Thomas was apparently away in Reigate, Marina, his wife, aged 26, who had a history of mental illness, *was charged with* the murder. (CBB)
On the other hand, the NP before the preposition *with* was always +human, whereas the NP following the preposition referred to a crime:

(36) ‘*We charge you with tyranny*, trail him round the house, lads, show his servants who is the master now.’ (A0N)

In general, the examples with the NP + *with* + NP complement were of form “someone is charged with a crime”.

The second most frequently used pattern with the meaning *to accuse* was the single NP. Over half of the examples of this pattern were in the passive, whereas the subjects in the active cases were all +human, although sometimes generic (e.g. *they*):

(37) ‘Of course,’ she continued, avoiding his eye, ‘all this is on the assumption that he’s going to *be charged.*’ (HNJ)
(38) He pleads guilty as *charged*. (FAJ)
(39) *They* didn’t *charge* me, but I’m on police files. (HTR)

The phrase *guilty as charged* (see example (38) above) was commonly used, and the implicit NP complement in this phrase was +human: “He pleads guilty as *he*’s *charged.*” The NP complement could be either +human or refer to an accusation, but the +human NP was found in over 80% of the cases. Also, the NP expressing an accusation was found only in quote/sentence contexts, which was considered a special case of the NP complement:

(40) *Charge us* all, *charge us* all, or don’t *charge* anyone! (HRA)
(41) ‘You deliberately didn’t warn me where we were going,’ she *charged* resentfully. (H9L)

All in all, the general form of this pattern would be “someone is charged”. In other words, the general difference between the NP complement cases with the meanings *to ask a price* (see section 5.4.4.1. above) and *to accuse* was the form: *to ask a price* tended to take the active and *to accuse* the passive voice.

The NP + *with* + -ing complement expressed the meaning *to accuse* in 13 examples, and over 75% of them were in the passive voice. This time too the active cases were likely to have a generic subject.
(42) If you’re caught trying to help him escape you’ll be charged with aiding and abetting a wanted criminal. (EF1)
(43) Are you going to charge me with murdering him? (A73)

In every example except one, the NP preceding the preposition with was +human (see examples (42) and (43) above). In the only exception, the NP was -animate and abstract (our doubt):

(44) Of course, we may call our doubt ‘total doubt’ or charge it with being unbelief, but only if our purpose is to stop doubt short and see that it does not become unbelief. (C8V)

Finally, the gerund always expressed committing a crime (see examples (42)-(44) above). The general form of the NP + with + -ing pattern would, thus, be “someone is charged with committing a crime”.

The four cases of the NP + for + -ing complement were all in the passive. In addition, the NP preceding the preposition for was +human in every case, and the gerund expressed committing a crime:

(45) There was a similar reaction after several bodies went missing from Britain’s biggest cemetery in Surrey in April 1988, even after a man had been arrested and charged for decapitating a disinterred corpse. (B2G)

In general, the sentences with this complement pattern expressing the meaning to accuse were of form “someone is charged with committing a crime”. They were thus easily differentiated from the cases with the same pattern expressing the meaning to ask a price, where the form was always active and the NP preceding the preposition referred to a price.

Next, one of the three cases with the NP + for + NP complement was in the passive voice, whereas one of the two active cases had a generic subject:

(46) In 1642 Jane Walsh and Elizabeth Piper were charged for scolding. (B0G)
(47) They can’t charge him for possession of a packet of Victory V. (J13)

The NP preceding the preposition for was always +human, and the final NP expressed a crime although the crimes expressed by this complement seemed to be less serious than those expressed by the NP + with + NP complement – they were more like violations:

(48) I charge you, therefore, for the present abjure all fighting but that is forced upon you, when no man can blame if you do valiantly in your own defence. (HGG)
Therefore, the general form in this case would be “someone charges someone for a violation”. This generalization is quite similar to that of this pattern expressing the meaning to ask a price, since they are both in the active voice. With the latter meaning, however, the NP preceding the preposition was likely to refer to a price.

The NP + NP complement conveyed the meaning to accuse in one case only. The single example was in the active voice with a +human subject:

\[(49) \text{This is harassment, plain and simple, she charged him grittily, only to see that insolent grin appear on his face. (JY8)}\]

The first NP (him) was + human, while the second one was of the special quote/sentence type and expressed an accusation made against this +human NP. The nature of the second NP separates the meaning to accuse from the previous meaning, to ask a price, of the NP + NP pattern. To generalize, this pattern was of form “someone charges someone something”.

The final complement expressing the meaning to accuse, NP + against + NP, had also only one example in the BNC. It was in the active voice and the subject was +human. Moreover, the NP preceding the preposition against referred to a crime, while the final NP was also +human:

\[(50) \text{But for God’s love, he thought, halfintrigued and half-exasperated, if she has anything to charge against him why does she not speak? (HGG)}\]

The example of this complement pattern had, thus, the general form “someone charges a crime against someone”.

To summarise, all the complement patterns expressing the meaning to accuse, except NP + NP and NP + against + NP, were most often in the passive voice, and even the active cases sometimes had a generic subject. This use of the passive or general form indicates that with the meaning to accuse the subject is not usually an individual but an institution, like the court or the state, which is often expressed implicitly. In addition, the first NP after the verb was likely to be +human, whereas the NP or the gerund following the preposition expressed a
crime or committing one (in the case of the NP + against + NP complement the order was reversed).

### 5.4.4.3. To assign

In the BNC data the meaning to assign could be expressed with six different complement patterns, four of which could also be used to express the previous meaning, to accuse (see Table 19 below). In particular the patterns NP + with + NP and NP + with + -ing, which were frequently found in similar forms with both these meanings, can cause ambiguity if the context does not provide enough clarity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>RAW NUMBER</th>
<th>GENERAL FORM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>“a duty was charged”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + NP</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>“someone charges someone a duty”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + with + NP</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>“someone is charged with a duty”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + with + -ing</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>“someone is charged with performing a duty”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + to-infinitive</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>“someone is charged (by someone) to perform a duty”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + that-clause</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>“someone charges someone that something should be done”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 19. Patterns representing the meaning to assign in the BNC

Indeed, the patterns NP + with + NP and NP + with + -ing were the most frequently used to express the meaning to assign. Similar to the meaning to accuse, these patterns were again very likely to be found in the passive voice – only one active case of the NP + with + NP complement with a +human subject (Jesus) was present in the data. The NP preceding the preposition with was +human in every case.

(51) The fact that husbands are charged with this responsibility is not negotiable. (BND)

(52) She was the daughter of RA, and honorary consort to the Pharaoh, who was charged with ‘Honouring Maat, by living through her laws’. (CAC)

(53) …Jesus fulfils the second part of Old Testament expectation for the Messianic Age by breathing upon his disciples, charging them with his mission… (G3A)
The semantic difference compared to the previous meaning was, however, that when these patterns referred to the meaning *to assign* the NP or the gerund following the preposition expressed a duty or performing a duty. Nevertheless, even an assigned duty can sometimes have a negative or “criminal” sound to it:

(54) M16, as you probably know, is the British intelligence service *charged with* spying and secret operations abroad. (G15)

The general forms of the NP + *with* + NP and the NP + *with* + -ing complement would be “someone is charged with a duty” and “someone is charged with performing a duty”.

The third most common pattern to convey this meaning – NP + *to*-infinitive – was found in eight examples. Most of the cases with this complement were in the passive, but even then the subject was expressed in half of the cases:

(55) Three days after the Secretary of Defence was *charged by the Washington committee* to obtain the package of diamonds… (CAM)

This passive usage separated the meaning *to assign* from the meaning *to ask a price* also possible with this pattern. The NP before the *to*-infinitive clause was once again +human in every case:

(56) A University committee *charged to investigate the case of the young lecturer* determined that there had been no administrative malpractice. (ANY)

In general, the form of this pattern was “someone is charged (by someone) to perform a duty”.

In addition to the meaning *to assign*, the next two patterns – NP and NP + NP – were found with both the previous meanings of *charge*. With this meaning, however, the single NP complement was much rarer than the NP + NP pattern with only one example in the data. Similar to the meaning *to ask a price*, all of the cases with the NP + NP pattern were in the active voice and had a +human subject:

(57) He took this in suddenly one morning as *he was charging a girl the duty* on a camera… (FSP)

However, the one case of the single NP complement was in the passive:

(58) And if none of this had been done what sort of death duties would have been *charged*? (GUF)
Also similar to the meaning *to ask a price* was the +human quality of the first NP in all the NP + NP cases. The second NP, however, referred to a duty, as did the NP in the single NP case (see examples (57) and (58) above). The special quote/sentence NP complement was also found with the meaning *to assign:*

(59) Don’t receive me in this manner, I charge you. (FU4)

In this case the verb *charge* could more suitably be replaced with the verb *order* instead of *assign*. The general forms of the NP and the NP + NP complement pattern would be “a duty was charged” and “someone charges someone a duty”.

The one case with the NP + *that*-clause complement conveying the meaning *to assign* was in the active voice with a +human subject. The NP preceding the *that*-clause was also +human:

(60) Old Mrs Macdonald, after her guest had left the house, took the sheets in which he had lain, folded them carefully, and charged her daughter that they should be kept unwashed, and that, when she died, her body should be wrapped in them as a winding sheet. (G1Y)

Consequently, the general form of this pattern is “someone charges someone that something should be done”.

To summarise, all the complement patterns expressing the meaning *to assign*, except NP + NP and NP + *that*-clause, were likely to be in the passive voice. This passive use suggests that, similar to the meaning *to accuse*, the subject is not usually an individual but an institution, like *a committee* or *the state* which is often implicit in the text. The first NP after the verb was +human in every example except one (the NP complement), whereas the final NP or the gerund always referred to a duty. Identifying the NP + *with* + NP and the NP + *with* + *-ing* contexts to mean either *to accuse* or *to assign* turned out to be particularly problematic, because of the possible ambiguity of the final NP or gerund (see example (54) above). The following example is indeed impossible to interpret by itself:

(61) Who are you to charge me with that? (BNC, HGS)
Only by observing the sentence in a wider context can we verify *to accuse* to be the intended meaning. Also, the *OED* example sentence “Two labourers…were charged with creating a disturbance” *(1833 HT. MARTINEAU Three Ages iii. 96)* is a case of the possible ambiguity – it could either mean that the labourers were ordered to create a disturbance or that they were accused of creating a disturbance, although the latter meaning is more probable. The only way to be certain is to examine the larger context.

5.4.4.4. **To fill**

The fourth meaning of *charge*, *to fill*, was conveyed by only three complement patterns in the BNC data (see Table 20 below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>RAW NUMBER</th>
<th>GENERAL FORM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NP</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>“something is charged”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP + with + NP</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>“something is charged with an emotion”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>up + NP</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>“someone charges up something”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 20. Patterns representing the meaning *to fill* in the BNC

The most commonly used was the NP + *with* + NP complement, which was also found with the meanings *to accuse* and *to assign* discussed above. Similar to the cases with those two previous meanings, this pattern was again likely to have the passive voice – only four examples were in the active. One of the active cases had a -animate subject, the +human subject being the favoured one:

(62) The atmosphere in the room became rapidly *charged* with an unmistakable effluvium and it was clear that Cedric’s unfortunate malady had reasserted itself. (G3S)
(63) Whether it was the sudden mention of her mother or the whole emotional *portentousness* with which he had *charged* the scene Maggie burst out sobbing. (A6N):  
(64) It flooded his head, *charged* it with recklessness and brought – he could feel it happening – a warm flush to his face. (CDB)

In over 75% of the cases with the NP + *with* + NP complement, the first NP was -animate and often abstract like *the atmosphere* (see example (62) above). In eleven cases the first NP was +human:
(65) Frederica drank a lot of wine and said nothing, but watched everyone in turn, charged with unsatisfied curiosity as they lay and lazily tossed ideas between them.

The second NP, on the other hand, was always -animate and abstract. It usually referred to a kind of emotion and in more concrete contexts (like loading a battery) to electric power:

(66) The older woman stood straight-backed and fixed Christina with a hard gaze, her face suddenly charged with barely suppressed anger. (FRS)
(67) Thunderclouds are already highly charged with electricity. (G0E)

Based on the findings, the general form of this pattern referring to the meaning to fill is “something is charged with an emotion”. It is thus easily separated from the meanings to accuse and to assign with the same pattern, since in those cases the first NP was always +human and the second NP a concrete crime or duty.

The second most commonly found pattern expressing the meaning to fill was the single NP complement. Two thirds of these NP complements were in the passive, and two of the active cases had a -animate subject and two had a +human subject:

(68) The accumulator was very heavy and had to be charged about once a month. (B3J)
(69) It was as if the dominance of his spirit had conquered the physical results of lack of sleep…charging her own weakened batteries… (HA5)
(70) I only ran it to get us clear of the bay and to charge the batteries. (H7W)

The NP complement was -animate in every case except one with a +human NP:

(71) Something had happened to them – they were charged for just a while into being better than they were. (J19)

In many cases the NP referred to a battery – either a metaphoric or a concrete one (see examples (69) and (70) above). The general form of this simple NP pattern would be “something is charged”.

Lastly, the pattern up + NP was only found in connection with the meaning to fill, or to fill to the fullest. All the examples were in the active voice: three cases had a +human subject and a -animate NP complement; one case had a -animate subject and a +human NP complement.

(72) So I was in the port, running around trying to charge up a card from the outlets… (CJA)
(73) It just charges you up. (H0M)

In general, the form of this pattern was “someone charges up something”.
To summarise, the meaning to fill was usually expressed in the passive voice. Thus, identifying the subject of the verb in this case was not considered important, and sometimes it seemed even impossible – emotion can fill something or someone without someone else doing the filling. Both the possible NP complements were likely to be -animate.

5.4.4.5. To attack

The fifth and final meaning of charge, to attack, was also conveyed by three complement patterns in the BNC data (see Table 21 below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLEMENT PATTERN</th>
<th>RAW NUMBER</th>
<th>GENERAL FORM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ø</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>“someone charges”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>“someone charges someone”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PP</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>“someone charges into a place”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>216</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 21. Patterns representing the meaning to attack in the BNC

Definitely the most frequently used was the PP complement with 163 examples. All cases except one were in the active voice: about 75% had a +human subject; 30 cases had a -human but a +animate subject (an animal); eight examples had a -animate subject. The single passive case also had its subject present, and it fell into the -human but +animate category (see example (77) below).

(74) …she heaved herself up in bed as the door flew open and Penry charged into the room at a run, his hair on end and his chest bare.
(75) That famous one from Woolworth’s with the horses charging out of the sea. (HJH)
(76) Static crackled between his fingers, and Cameron felt the bolts charging into his heart. (ALJ)
(77) It’s not every day that someone wanders on to my property and, when charged at by a Dobermann…goes blithely forward and greets it… (JYF)

On the other hand, about 75% of the NPs inside the PPs were -animate and usually referred to a place. The remaining 25% were +human. The BNC data contained over 30 different prepositions that were used in the PP complements, but seven of them had the representation of over ten examples: into (27), up (to) (17), down (to) (15), through (12), towards (12), at
(11) and in (11). Out of these, only the prepositions through, towards and at were found in connection with a +human NP inside the PP complement.

(78) Like a war-horse about to charge into a battle, she thought. (GVP)
(79) If the police went charging up a blind alley as a result of her information, it wouldn’t be her fault. (C8D)
(80) The boys didn’t stop or even call out that hey were sorry, but went charging down the lane as soon as they recovered their balance after the collision. (B0B)
(81) …when the cavalry had charged through the crowd like a scythe through a cornfield and silence such a silence had fallen… (H7P)
(82) Three of them charged towards Gallagher. (B1X)
(83) Otley called as he charged at the Romans. (ACK)
(84) I charged in like a bull. (A0U)

As seen in example (84) above, the NP following the preposition could sometimes be left out, but even then it was understood: I charged in some place like a bull. All in all, the most general form of this pattern was “someone charges into a place”.

The second most commonly used pattern with the meaning to attack was the Ø complement. This complement was also found referring to the meaning to ask a price examined in section 5.4.4.1. These two meanings are, however, semantically so different that they can hardly be mistaken for each other even with the same complement pattern. With the meaning to attack, too, all the cases were in active voice and the subject was mostly +human. In only four cases the subject was -human but +animate.

(85) Panicking, he shot up out of his sleeping bag and charged. (AT4)
(86) William Ash had lowered his head, and reminded Kate rather too forcefully of a bull about to charge. (HGM)

The general form of this pattern was simply “someone charges”.

The final pattern expressing this meaning was the NP complement. This pattern was mostly found in the active voice but three examples were in the passive. Majority of the subjects were +human but there were six cases with a -human but +animate subject. Also, two of the three passive cases contained this animal subject:

(87) Private George Trumper had been killed on 2 November 1917 at Passchendaele, the letter had informed him: bravely, while charging the enemy lines at Polygon Wood. (K8T)
(88) If my understanding is correct, the boy was looking for a missing goat on the edge of the thicket when he was charged by a cow elephant and killed. (FAJ)
Similarly, the NP complement was likely to be +human, although the data also contained five -human but +animate and three -animate NP complement cases:

(89) …mounted knights on either side of a low barrier would charge each other with blunted lances… (BM6)
(90) Sure enough they charge the dragon and have no trouble decapitating it, time after time. (CA9)
(91) As the liner started its engines, a group of women charged the accommodation ladder; they were repelled by Cuban police with pistols. (G1X)

The general form of this simple NP complement referring to the meaning to attack was “someone charges someone”. Thus, it differed semantically from the NP complement referring to the meaning to fill with its active voice and its +human complement (see section 5.4.4.4. above).

To summarise, almost all the cases of the meaning to attack were in the active voice and the majority had a +human subject. The identity of “the attacker” was, thus, usually considered important. With this meaning, the quality of the NP complement was quite diverse, -animate being preferred in PP complement contexts and +human in NP complement contexts. Additionally, one interesting observation was the common use of animal parallels (usually a bull) in connection with +human subjects (see examples (78), (84) and (86) above).

5.4.5. Comparing the BNC results with the OED and grammar findings

Compared to the OED and the grammars used in this study, the BNC data contained one extra pattern: up + NP. This complement was not in the CLMET datasets either, which suggests its only recent appearance in connection with charge. On the other hand, the complement status of the preposition up was questioned in section 5.4.3.1. and the up + NP pattern could indeed be interpreted as a single NP complement. This would also explain its absence in the OED and the grammars. In addition, the pattern NP + against + NP that was termed obsolete in the OED was present in the BNC data with one example.

Then again, four patterns included in the OED and the grammars were missing from the BNC: NP + NP + to-infinitive, for + -ing, NP + on + NP and NP + upon + NP. Especially the
preposition *upon* has a very old-fashioned sound to it, and the last two complements might have become archaic since the CLMET data. The first two patterns, however, were totally excluded from the three sets of corpus data, which could be due to their very marginal usage or the limitations of the corpora.

As for the pattern-meaning connections, the BNC connected eleven complement patterns with the meaning *to ask a price* instead of the 16 connections made in the *OED* and the grammars. Naturally, the connections with the four completely missing patterns mentioned above were omitted, but the NP + *with* + NP pattern was not found with this meaning either in the BNC. Thus, it seems that while the NP + *on* + NP and the NP + *upon* + NP pattern have become archaic altogether, the NP + *with* + NP pattern is only archaic with the meaning *to ask a price*.

With the meaning *to accuse*, the BNC connected seven complement patterns, one of which was not covered in the *OED* or the grammars: NP + NP. This absence could be explained with the unusual quotative character of the second NP in connection with the meaning *to accuse*. The *OED* and the grammars, however, made nine connections. In addition to the excluded NP + *on* + NP and the NP + *upon* + NP complements, they associated *that*-clause complement with the meaning *to accuse*. Based on the BNC results, this connection has either become archaic or is very marginally used.

All the four complement patterns connected with the meaning *to assign* in the *OED* and the grammars were also present in the BNC data. However, the BNC did not contain any examples of the *that*-clause complement without the ‘optional’ indirect NP object noted by Quirk et al. (1985, 1213). In addition to the *OED* and grammar connections, the BNC attached the meaning *to assign* to the NP + NP and the NP + *with* + -*ing* complement, the latter of which was, in fact, the most frequently used complement with this meaning of *charge*. One explanation to the absence of the gerundial pattern might be that the *OED* and the
grammars have categorised the noun-like gerund in the same group with the NP complement and, thus, have not separated the patterns NP + with + NP and NP + with + -ing from each other. The exclusion of the NP + NP complement could again be related to the frequent quotative nature of the second NP or just to its marginal use with the meaning *to assign*.

Similar to the CLMET data, the BNC connected the same two patterns with the meaning *to fill* as the *OED* and the grammars. Moreover, the extra pattern found in the BNC data, *up* + NP, was associated with this meaning. Its exclusion was already pondered on in the beginning of this section.

Finally, the meaning *to attack* was associated with the same three complement patterns in the BNC and the *OED* and the grammars, as well as in the CLMET. Therefore, this meaning seems to be exceptionally resistant to new complement patterns.

### 5.4.6. Examining the BNC results on the basis of Bolinger’s generalization

The introduction of this thesis stated that Bolinger’s generalization, as well as the question whether two different meanings can be derived from a single construction (examined in section 5.4.4.), forms the basis for examining the Present Day English pattern-meaning connections of *charge* in this study. In his article Bolinger (1968, 123) especially concentrates on the semantic differences between *to*-infinitive and gerund constructions aiming to prove that these complements contrast in meaning and are chosen in a given context because of their semantic value. The *to*-infinitive is described as referring to a hypothetical or an imaginative activity (Bolinger ibid; Duffley 2000, 224), while the gerund is termed as factual (Bolinger ibid. 124). Duffley (ibid. 229, 233) also states that while the gerund is possible in contexts referring to prior, contemporaneous or subsequent events denoted by the matrix verb, the *to*-infinitive contains a future reference evoked by the semantic notion of ‘movement to a goal’ contained by the preposition *to*. Smith and Escobedo (2001, 552) agree with Duffley by
saying that while many linguists consider the infinitival to a semantically empty element, “its grammatical function necessarily precludes that it is also meaningful” and “could evoke senses involving futurity, purpose, intention (or a mixture of these) in different domains”.

In the case of charge, there were five complement patterns governed by the verb in the BNC data that contained either a to-infinitive or a gerundial element: NP + to-infinitive, to-infinitive, NP + with + -ing, NP + NP + for + -ing and NP + for + -ing. Only the meanings to ask a price, to accuse and to assign could be conveyed by these patterns. First of all, the meaning to accuse could only be expressed by the two gerundial patterns containing one NP, which suggests that the semantic notion of the to-infinitive is not suited in this context: when someone is charged with/for committing a crime, the suggested crime has already been committed and, thus, the chosen -ing complement needs to have a past reference. On the other hand the meaning to assign was found with the infinitival pattern NP + to-infinitive, as well as with the gerundial pattern NP + with + -ing. In this case the complement must have a future reference, since the assigning takes place before performing the assignment. Therefore, the to-infinitive seems to convey its proposed future reference, while the gerund shows its versatility in referring either to the past or to the future depending on the context. Finally, the meaning to ask a price was connected with both to-infinitive patterns as well as the gerundial NP + NP + for + -ing and NP + for + -ing pattern. Again, the infinitival patterns had a clearly futuristic and even hypothetical reference (see examples (32) and (33) in section 5.4.4.1.), whereas the gerundial patterns referred to either prior or subsequent events and had a factual sense to them (see examples (29) – (31) in section 5.4.4.1.). All in all, it seems justifiable to claim that to-infinitives and gerunds, indeed, carry a semantic meaning of their own.

Bolinger (1968, 121) also discusses “stylistic” differences (for example active and passive) that, according to some linguists, do not affect the meaning of a sentence, but are a rather freely selectable by the speaker/writer. In the case of charge, the quite unsystematic use of
both the NP + with + NP and the NP + with + -ing complement to express the meanings to accuse and to assign could be an example of this “stylistic” variation. Bolinger (ibid. 122), however, does not agree with this analysis and suggests that “the escape hatch of “style” be sealed off” because of the lack of arguments supporting it. Of course, the grammatical similarity of a NP and a gerund could also cause the random variation.

6. Conclusion

The aim of this thesis was to examine the diachronic change in the use of different complement patterns and the different meanings of charge in British English, and also to make pattern-meaning connections focusing mainly on Present Day British English usages. This corpus based study has shown that many changes have taken place and that certain meanings can be tightly connected with certain complement patterns. In addition, it was shown that the semantic and grammatical aspects of a complement pattern vary depending on the meaning assigned to the matrix verb.

Two complement patterns in particular had gained ground towards the Present Day English: NP and PP. Meanwhile, the patterns NP + with + NP, NP + with + -ing and NP + to-infinitive had continually declined in frequency. Four CLMET patterns, NP + upon + NP, NP + on + NP, NP + at + NP and NP + PP, had even become obsolete or so marginally used that the BNC sample was not wide enough to include them. On the other hand, the modern BNC contained five new complement patterns that were absent from the historic CLMET, to-infinitive, NP + NP + for + -ing, NP + for + -ing, up + NP and NP + that-clause, although their use was still very rare. The most frequent of these patterns was NP + for + -ing. Thus, one explanation for the decline of NP + with + -ing could be its substitution with the NP + for + -ing pattern in instances of the meaning to accuse.

Based on the BNC findings, charge might be, at least in some contexts, a slightly archaic verb since its frequency had dropped notably from the 1st part of the CLMET. Especially the
senses to accuse and to assign had become drastically less used since the 18th century. One possible explanation to this decrease could be the increased utilisation of the actual verbs accuse and assign (or their other synonyms) instead of the verb charge in Present Day English. On the other hand, the use of the sense to attack had become more and more frequent towards the modern BNC data.

Out of the total 17 complement patterns found in the BNC data, as many as eight were connected with more than one meaning. As a result, the means to identify the intended sense of the matrix verb was to examine the semantic and grammatical properties of the complements. Bolinger’s generalization was also validated by showing the difference in meaning between the to-infinitive and the gerundial complements governed by charge.

Hopefully this study has been helpful in shedding light on the complex world of complementation of the verb charge in British English. However, a fruitful object for further analysis would be the synchronic variations of charge. What complement patterns prevail, for example, in the generally more progressive American variation as opposed to the conservative British English? Also, the possible differences between the spoken and written variation of English would be an interesting topic for further study on the verb charge.

References

Corpora


The Corpus of Late Modern English Texts (CLMET) (1st part: 1710-1780; 3rd part: 1850-1920)

Works cited


