

# Dialectal variation and diachronic development of *try*-complementation\*

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English *try* can select a wide range of verbal complementation patterns, especially when dialectal variation is considered. This article presents an overview of these complement types. The goals are threefold: first, to present the variant forms with examples, citing previous literature; second, to establish a timeline for the development of verbal complementation with *try*, with a focus on the pseudocoordination pattern; and third, to consider variants found in modern dialects. Although this work is descriptive in nature rather than theoretical, the data presented here have implications for syntactic theory and future research and also establish a foundation for comparison with other languages.

## 1. Introduction

The English verb *try* has received much theoretical attention due to its syntactic properties as a control verb, selecting a *to*-infinitive complement which shares a subject with *try*. The other complementation patterns of *try* have received less attention in the literature. This article seeks to enumerate these variants. The remainder of this section is an overview of the different complement types. Section 2 establishes a five-hundred year timeline for the origin of verbal complementation with *try*, with a focus on the *to*-infinitive and pseudocoordination types, supplemented by additional data in the appendix. Section 3 discusses several major patterns in the dialectal variation of *try*-complementation. Section 4 is a brief conclusion with suggestions for future research.

### 1.1. Verbal complementation patterns for *try*

Various complementation patterns for *try* have been discussed in the literature, but to date no comprehensive work has been compiled that

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considers and compares all of these structures, describes their dialectal distribution, or explains their origin. The following sections introduce the patterns to be discussed in Section 2 and Section 3 below.

### 1.1.1. The *to*-infinitive

The most common complementation pattern is *try to* as in (1). Often in the syntactic literature this is the only complementation pattern discussed, and it is the form considered prescriptively correct in Standard English.

(1) I will try to finish the assignment.

The syntactic properties of this construction have been discussed numerous times in the literature, and it is often used as a typical example of a control verb (e.g. Chomsky 1981; Davies & Dubinsky 2004; Riemsdijk & Williams 1986: 164). It is found throughout the dialects of English (Section 3), and is one of the two earliest verbal complementation patterns for *try*, with examples dating back nearly five-hundred years (Section 2.2). A variant form, the less common *try for (NP) to*, is discussed below in Section 3.1.<sup>1</sup>

### 1.1.2. *Try + -ing*

Another variant of verbal complementation provides a subtly contrastive meaning. A verb in the *-ing* form, as in (2a), has the semantics of a nominal complement, as in (2b):

(2) a. I will try swimming in the lake.  
b. I will try a swim in the lake.

In contrast to the *to*-infinitive construction, the *try + -ing* construction entails the action of the second verb; the two complementation patterns are not functionally equivalent, despite significant overlap. Rather than a conative meaning of *attempt* as in (1), in (2a) we find an *activity* meaning of *experience* or *partake*. This contrast has often been discussed in the literature (cf. Visser 1963-1973; Haegeman 1980; Duffley & Tremblay 1994; Fanego 1997; Duffley 2000). Haegeman (1980) considers the *to*-

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<sup>1</sup> Colomb (2012) and Colomb & Dubinsky (2013) have identified another variant of the *to*-infinitive pattern, parallel to *going to > gonna*, with *tryna* used colloquially for *trying to* as in (i) below. Such usage is found from the early 1900s and with increasing frequency over the past century; this development is relatively recent and originates in *try to* (rather than *try and* despite phonological similarity). As this is a reduced form of the *to*-infinitive pattern, it will not be discussed here further.

(i) I'm tryna finish the assignment.



is important to remember that this pseudocoordination pattern, like *to*-infinitive complementation, does not have the semantics of normal coordination, as shown in (5):

- (5) a. I will try and finish the assignment, but I might not finish it.  
 b. I will try to finish the assignment, but I might not finish it.  
 c. \*I will sing and dance, but I might not dance.

With the two *try* constructions established as generally functionally equivalent, we might now ask what makes them different. One answer involves the morphosyntactic properties of *try and* pseudocoordination. As this is not the place for a detailed syntactic analysis, I only briefly summarize arguments presented elsewhere (see Ross 2013, in press). As described by Carden & Pesetsky (1977), a *bare form condition* applies to both verbs in the pseudocoordination construction. *Try and* is available only when, for whatever morphosyntactic reasons, both verbs happen to be uninflected (6a-d), unlike *try to* (6e):

- (6) a. I will try and finish the assignment.  
 b. I try and finish the assignments (every day).  
 c. \*I tried and finish(ed) the assignment.  
 d. \*He tries and finish(es) the assignment.  
 e. He {will try / tries / tried} to finish the assignment.

In addition to the semantic properties in (5), there is morphosyntactic evidence that the second verb is a bare infinitive:

- (7) I try and be happy.

There is a general tendency in pseudocoordination for a requirement of parallel morphology on the two verbs, as in (8) and as discussed by Wiklund (2007), among others.

- (8) a. I went and got a book. [PAST & PAST]  
 b. \*I went and have a book. [PAST & PRESENT]

Therefore, the bare form condition can be derived by requiring the first verb to have parallel morphology with the second verb, which is itself necessarily bare because it is a bare infinitive. The diachronic developments that lead to this situation are discussed in Section 2.

#### 1.1.4. *Try with bare infinitive*

A third possibility exists that is functionally equivalent to the *try to* and *try and* constructions above: *try* has been found to sometimes take a bare infinitive as a complement:

(9) I will try finish the homework.

Shopen (1971) finds that a minority of American English speakers accept this construction. Although extremely uncommon in Standard English, Kjellmer (2000) cites infrequent instances as evidence for an emerging “marginal auxiliary,” and Maia (2012) replicates these results with a larger corpus.

Infrequent though it may be, we may have reason to ask whether phrases like *try finish* are more than just the occasional speech error in Standard English and to investigate their syntax. However, even if this were not the case, the bare infinitive complementation pattern can be reliably found in South African English and other dialects, as discussed in Section 3.3.

#### 1.1.5. Other complementation patterns

Although the major verbal complementation patterns for *try* have been introduced, we might wonder whether there are still others to be found. One might suspect that the form *try that* could be used, and although unnatural for English, constructions of this type can be found in other languages, such as Modern Greek,<sup>2</sup> which may no longer involve a true control structure (Joseph 2002; Philippaki-Warbuton 1987: 292). Rare examples of the form *try that* may be found from the 1800s:<sup>3</sup>

- (10) a. It is not safe to trust to any promise whether of face or voice,  
and yet I thank you, sweetheart, for your faith, and I will try that it  
be not betrayed. (Google Ngrams: Leslie, 1874: 37)
- b. Now in the name and authority of the Son of God, try that it be  
good sufficient work; see that it be stamped and sealed with  
Christ's arms. (Google Ngrams: Rutherford, 1878: 181)

<sup>2</sup> Modern Greek in particular has no infinitival complementation pattern; all complements of this sort are expressed with finite embedded clauses.

<sup>3</sup> This form likely never caught on in English because during the period of development for verbal complementation with *try, that*-complements were in decline (Rohdenburg 1995). Archaic and formal language or the influence of translation could be responsible for the few instances found; the Google Ngrams corpus contains less than ten instances.

It is interesting to note that these instances have been found during the 1800s, a time of increasing use for *try* in general (see Section 2.4), which could explain the innovation of this construction, though it did not survive.

Another likely candidate is complementation with *whether* or *if*. Although rare, this construction is not completely unnatural in present-day English, and examples can be found in corpora and on the internet, as in (11). See Section 2.3 for the historical development of this form.

- (11) a. Try if you can get up now. (BNC: Brayfield, 1990: 50)  
 b. Try whether you can connect to the repository database using db tools like sqlcmd (for MSSQL) or sqlplus (oracle).  
 [<http://scn.sap.com/thread/2125023>, January 2012]

At this time not enough instances have been found to draw any conclusions about the exact syntactic or semantic properties of these additional strategies, but this topic would be good for future research, especially on the current usage of *try whether/if*. That exhausts the list of obvious candidates for further complementation patterns.

## 2. Diachronic development of *try*-complementation

This section provides the historical context and developments that lead to verbal complementation with *try*, with an emphasis on the forms *try to* and *try and*. Section 2.1 outlines the relevant background situation in Old English through the borrowing of *try* from French. Section 2.2 traces the origins of both *try to* and *try and* to the mid-1500s. Section 2.3 considers other early developments in complementation patterns for *try*. Section 2.4 focuses on changes in the 1800s that lead to the development of the modern *bare form condition* for *try and*. Finally, 2.5 looks beyond *try* for similar uses of *and* with other verbs and in other constructions.

### 2.1. Old English complementation patterns and the borrowing of *try*

Because *try* was not borrowed from French until the Middle English period and had no established verbal complementation patterns until the 1500s, we can consider the patterns of verbal complementation in Old English that would have been available for potential extension to *try*.

Several verbs in Old English had conative meanings that overlap with modern *try*, such as *fundian* ('seek'). The most common complementation strategies for these verbs were the precursor of the *to*-infinitive as in (12a) and a subjunctive *that* clause as in (12b), while this type of verb does not

appear to have often taken bare infinitive complements,<sup>4</sup> although the OED does provide such a construction (12c), with a potentially different meaning. For an overview of the situation in Old English, see Los (2005) and Tottie (2012: 203–204).

- (12) a. & blodig regn & fyren fundiaþ þas eorþan to forswylgenne  
and bloody rain and fire strive the earth to devour  
& to forbærnenne.  
and to consume  
'and bloody rain and fire strive to devour and consume the earth.'
- b. ... gastum ..., þa fundiaþ þæt hie willon genimon mycclæ  
... spirits ..., those strive that they want take great  
herhyþ manna saula ...  
booty of-men's souls  
'... spirits ..., who strive to take great booty of human souls, ...'  
(Los 2005: 48)
- c. We fundiaþ Higelac secan. (OED †*found*, v.<sup>1</sup>: Beowulf)  
we set.out/strive Hygelac seek.INF  
'We set out to find Hygelac.' / ?'We strive to find Hygelac.'

At the same time, a pseudocoordination construction already existed, used with motion verbs as in (13). Shearin (1903: 12–13) describes this as an English-specific strategy due to the translation of Latin purposive infinitives with pseudocoordination. This pattern was not used with the conative verbs in Old English.

- (13) Farað and āxiað geornlice be þām cilde.  
'Go/travel and ask diligently about the child.'  
(West Saxon Gospels, Matt. 2:8)

The word *try* was borrowed from French some time after the Norman Conquest in 1066, with a meaning of 'separate out, refine, examine, test' as in (14a). The meaning of 'attempt' developed later, first with nominal complements as in (14b).

- (14) a. Þey turned ageyn, and tryde þe Bretons from ilk Romeyn.  
'They turned again, and separated the Britons from the Romans.'  
(OED *try*, c.1330)
- b. Nou ich habbe of þe ferste yteld, þat oþer wyl ich trye.  
'Now that I have told the first, I will try the other.'  
(Lewis, Kurath, & Kuhn 1952-2007 T.9: 1092, c.1333)

<sup>4</sup> See Los (2005: 76) for discussion and analysis of a possible example, which she argues instead to be similar to the *whether*-complement type discussed in Section 1.5 above.

## 2.2. Development of *try to* and *try and* (1500s)

Several early instances of apparent infinitival complementation with *try* can be found in Middle English, but these are most likely other constructions (cf. Tottie 2012: 206):

- (15) a. *Be riche men ... tempird treson for to tri / To tak iesum wit wogh.*  
 ‘The rich men plotted to try treason in order to take Jesus unrightfully.’  
 b. *Thorough pees it owid tried (to) be.*  
 ‘[When sisters are arguing,] it ought to be tried through peace.’  
 (CME corpus: *Cursor Mundi*, c.1325)

Likewise, early instances of *try and* are likely ordinary coordination:

- (16) *Ferst forto gete it out of Myne / And after forto trie and fyne.*  
 ‘First to get it out of the mine, and then to separate and melt it.’  
 (CME corpus: Gower, c.1390)

The first clear instances of verbal complementation with *try* are found in the late 1500s (see Tottie 2012). Despite claims, especially prescriptive, to the contrary (cf. Hommerberg & Tottie 2007), *try and* is not a recent innovation or extension from *try to*. In fact, both constructions are nearly 500 years old. These constructions came about due to the grammatical reanalysis of instances like those found in (15) and (16) above along with shifting lexical semantics resulting in the modern meaning of ‘attempt’. To that extent, my findings are consistent with those of Tottie (2012); however, crucially, I argue there is sufficient evidence to dismiss claims by Hommerberg & Tottie (2007), Tottie & Hoffmann (2011) and Tottie (2012) that *try and* predates *try to*. There is no substantial gap between the first instances of *try and* and *try to*, especially with the relatively sparse data available to us from the late 1500s. *Try and* and *try to* developed simultaneously and independently as shown below, although they were likely mutually supported by the shifting semantics of *try*.

The processes of reanalysis that lead to the development of the *try and* and *try to* constructions began with ambiguous instances such as those in (17):

- (17) a. ...howe and by what certaine and generall rule I mighte trye and throughly discern the veritie of the catholike faithe, from the falsehood of wicked heresy... (EEBO TCP: Caly, 1554)

- b. ...we must not alwayes cleave to the iudgements and examples of notable men, but rather trie and examine all things after the rule of the Scripture... (EEBO TCP: Gwalther, 1572)
- c. This is not to be tried by the Fathers: but it is to trie and examine the Fathers them selues. (EEBO TCP: Stapleton, 1566)
- d. Here learne, and trie / to turne it, and drie.  
(Tottie 2012: 208: Tusser, 1573)

Many examples are attested in which *try* as a first verb strengthens the effort of a coordinated verb phrase as in (17a,b), as well as perhaps in legal contexts as in (17c). A pragmatic implicature of intention was then associated with the *try and* collocation, which lead to the conative pseudocoordination construction. Similarly, adverbial purposive ‘in order to’ instances of *to*-infinitives, as in (17d), were reanalyzed as goal arguments, likely in conjunction with analogy to existing *to*-infinitives and the use of nominal arguments with *try* (see also Fanego 1997: 62).

It is difficult to determine exactly when the first instances of these two constructions were used. No credible instances are found before 1550, yet for both clear instances are found by 1600. Whereas ambiguous examples of *try and* pseudocoordination can be found throughout that fifty-year period, the clearer instances of *try to* are fewer and clustered toward the later years. Strong candidates for both constructions are presented in (18).

- (18) a. You maie (saide I) trie and bring him in, and shewe him to her.  
(EEBO TCP: Underdown, c.1569)
- b. Thrise did they trie and giue assay vpon mount Pelius...  
(Tottie 2012: 208: Fleming, 1589)
- c. ...bycause the Romanes durst not trye to stoppe theyr passage...  
(EEBO TCP: Watson, 1568)
- d. Therefore first of all thou shalt trie to open the bodie by suppositories...  
(Google Ngrams: Germane, 1598)

An appendix to this article provides data from a thorough search of the EEBO TCP corpus for instances of *try and* and *try to* during the 1500s. As can be seen from the data, there are far more instances of *try and* compared to *try to*, but the instances of *try to* are more certain due to the ambiguity of the sequence *try+and*, and as the status of most examples of *try and* is uncertain, we cannot rely on this frequency measure to be certain about which construction was more frequent at the time (not to mention the presence of irrelevant *try+and* or *try+to* sequences already excluded from the appendix data). We might also speculate about the exact origin of the *try and* construction based on the data; for example, it is remarkable how often the phrase *try and examine* appears and that, in its

religious context, there is effort involved: *try and examine*, even if literal coordination, entails *try to examine*, and whether or not this specific phrase is the source of *try and*, the path of grammaticalization is clarified. With the conflicting accounts of the relative chronology of *try and* and *try to* in the literature (Tottie 2012; Rohdenburg 2003; Vosberg 2006; among others), the appendix provides strong evidence to verify the claims made in this article, that both forms evolved simultaneously in the 1500s.

By the 1600s, both constructions were used more often (see also examples in Tottie 2012). As shown in Figure 1, data from Google Ngrams suggests that the form *try and* might have been slightly more common initially,<sup>5</sup> but in the 1700s *try to* was more than five times more common, followed by a dramatic increase during the 1800s.



Figure 1. Frequency of *try and* and *try to*. (Google Ngrams)<sup>6</sup>

Given their simultaneous but independent developments, Tottie (2012) is right to dismiss the hypothesis proposed by Rohdenburg (2003) and Vosberg (2006) that the development of *try and* significantly followed *try to* and was due to the principle of *horror aequi*, or the avoidance of like forms, as would be found in *to try to* or *and try and*. While there is some empirical support for an effect of *horror aequi* on written usage of *try to* and *try and* (Hommerberg & Tottie 2007; Lind 1983; Maia 2012), this cannot account for the origin of the forms, nor is there any grammatical effect. In fact, the apparent historical evidence for an effect of *horror aequi* may instead be due to the prevalence of non-factive environments, especially within *to*-infinitives, as shown in Figure 2. Not until the 1800s did *try and* become common in factive contexts (see Section 2.4).

<sup>5</sup> This trend is also discussed by Tottie (2012: 210), but the figures given for *try and* appear to be inflated by instances of normal coordination, confirmed by the reported relatively stable frequency for *try and* from 1500-1700, despite no confirmed instances having been found before 1550, as discussed above. Also see the data in the appendix.

<sup>6</sup> These Google Ngrams graphs are approximations from automated searching of the extensive data in the corpus, but still give a reasonable impression of the data. The vertical axis represents relative frequency; each graph is not to the same scale.



Figure 2. The non-factive origin of *try and*. (Google Ngrams)

Overall, the development of *try to* and *try and* followed the ordinary developments of grammaticalization. Parallel to widely studied cases such as the reanalysis of *be going to* from directional to purposive to future (Bybee 2003, 2006; Danchev & Kytö 1994; Hopper & Traugott 1993), both *try to* and *try and* developed from a frequent collocation, involve semantic bleaching of the verb *try*, and show phonetic reduction (*and* > 'n, *to* > tə, *trying to* > *tryna*).

### 2.3. Early development of other complementation patterns

Although the infinitival form *for to* was found historically, especially in Middle English, *try to* originated with only *to*, not *for to*, as shown above. Rare *for to* usages can be found in the 1600s, likely based on analogy to other infinitives; the only two instances of this form in the EEBO TCP corpus are shown in (19). In short, *for to* was not the origin of *try to* nor a major pattern in English in general; for dialectal usage, see Section 3.1.

- (19) a. Disswade me not, but try for me to win The Friendship of thy  
Sister Cleorin. (EEBO TCP: Orrery, 1669)  
b. I resolv'd I wou'd try for to love thee no more, / But the fit strait  
came on me as strong as before. (EEBO TCP: Mr. C., 1674)

The complementation pattern with *whether*, or *if*, discussed in Section 1.5 above appears to have developed around the same time as *try and* and *try to*, with precursors clearly meaning 'test' found in Shakespeare (20a,b) and apparent conative usage with the meaning of 'attempt' as early as the 1600s (20c,d), though this usage did not ever become frequent:

- (20) a. You shall have none ill, sir; for I'll try if they can lick their  
fingers. (Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, act IV, scene II, c.1597)  
b. ...or ise try whether your costard or my ballow be the harder...  
(Shakespeare's *King Lear*, act IV, scene VI, c.1623)

- c. Myself with about 20 more have agreed to try, whether we can master and kill them... (Google Ngrams: Stafford, 1668)
- d. He thought it much wiser to try whether the workhouses could not be ameliorated. (Rohdenburg 2003: *The Times*, 1843)

The more common *try* + *-ing* form is not found in texts from the same time period and came about later in what Iyeiri (2010) calls the *second complement shift* in English (the rise of gerunds as complements), which was substantially after the rise of *to*-infinitives in what Iyeiri calls the *first complement shift*, thus dividing Rohdenburg's (2006) *Great Complement Shift*. It was not until the 1600s that modern *-ing* complements first appeared, originally with verbs of avoiding or forbearing, and then later with verbs of intention like *try* (Fanego 1997: 63), so this complementation pattern would not have been available until after the development of the *try to* and *try and*. Visser (1963-1973 Vol. 3b: 1880) dates the construction to the early 1800s, and the Google Ngrams corpus confirms this general distribution, with only rare examples, as in (21), to be found before 1850 and from then a steady increase until the present.

- (21) As my Salt grew very low, tho' I had been as sparing of it as possible, I now resolved to try making some; and the next Summer I effected it. (Google Ngrams: Paltock, 1751)

Although early examples as in (21) can be found, it is clear that the usage did not become idiomatic until the last 150 years; in fact, this change appears to coincide with a general increase in frequency for *try* during the 1800s as discussed in the following section.

#### 2.4. Reanalysis of *try and* and extension to the present tense (1800s)

Data from Google Ngrams shows little fluctuation in the frequency of *try and* or *try to* until the 1800s, which marked a time of change for *try* complementation. First, in general the frequency of *try* increased significantly, in both the *try and* and *try to* constructions. Second, the *try and* construction began to be used in the unmarked present tense.

In its origins, and until the early 1800s, the *try and* construction had been strictly limited to non-finite, non-factive contexts (infinitives, and presumably imperatives) as shown in (18) above. In fact, this is precisely how the construction grammaticalized in the first place: consider the modern sentence in (22) below; the potential ambiguity between the conative pseudocoordination and normal coordination readings is all but irrelevant. Clearly there is a desire to read a book, regardless of whether the second verb is structurally entailed.

(22) He wants to try and read a book.

The non-factive nature of *try* (cf. Miller 2002: 45) would require such a matrix-clause context for the grammaticalization of coordination into conative pseudocoordination, and instances of *try and* for its first two-hundred years conform to this expectation. For example, rare instances of *try and* can only be found from the mid-1700s with factive-future *shall*, as in (23).

(23) I shall try and get a good Husband.

(Google Ngrams: Chaigneau, 1753: 58)

There was a steady increase of use of *try and* with both *shall* and *will* during the 1800s, suggesting a reanalysis of the pseudocoordination form that is no longer dependent on a non-factive matrix-clause context, as shown in Figure 3 below for the verb *get* (see also Figure 2 above).



Figure 3. The introduction of *try and* in the present tense. (Google Ngrams)

With *and* reanalyzed as a non-factive marker by itself, the construction was open to another change: use in the bare present tense, which led to the modern *bare form condition*. By analogy, because other uninflected forms of *try and* were grammatical, instances such as (24) began to appear in the mid-1800s:

(24) Do sit down by the fire, whilst I try and get you some breakfast.

(Google Ngrams: Gascoigne, 1841: 111)

In addition to data to support this change, further evidence comes in the form of prescriptivism from that time. Routledge (1864: 579) criticizes another grammarian's use of *try and* because it was apparently absurd to imagine such a construction in the present tense (which would have been factive, not conative) and thus also absurd to use it in the context below:

(25) So, please, dear reader, to try and not think me so.

Toward the end of the century, Waddy (1889: 147–148), in contrast, accepts the construction but only in infinitives and imperatives. In fact, it was not until much later that the bare present tense usage was described by linguists (Gleitman 1965: 293; Carden & Pesetsky 1977). Contemporary analysis of this sort is evidence of an ongoing change.

Finally, it is only in the 1900s that we can find instances of *be* licensed in the present tense, as shown in (26).<sup>7</sup> Such usage did not become common until toward the end of the 1900s, as shown in Figure 4.

- (26) If I try and be terribly good they think I am wicked.  
(Google Ngrams: Hastings, 1926: 71)



Figure 4. Licensing of *be* in the present tense. (Google Ngrams)

And thus was generated the present-day *bare form condition*, where both verbs in the *try and* construction must remain uninflected. For the implications for syntactic theory and a similar path of grammaticalization in Faroese with ‘try’, see Ross (in press).

## 2.5. Extension of variant *and* to other verbs and other constructions

In present-day English, the pseudocoordination construction is also available for other verbs, which originally took a *to*-infinitive complement. Therefore, the construction is not an idiom with *try* but a general syntactic property of the language, likely extended by analogy from *try and*. The specific set of verbs varies diachronically and by dialect, but several examples are included in (27) below.

<sup>7</sup> A single anomalously early example from the Google Ngrams corpus is shown in (i) below. It is taken from a letter written by a child in 1884 to an Australian foster care supervisor, and this early usage from a child may hint at ongoing grammaticalization. Of course the written record only reflects relatively formal English, so all of the recorded usages discussed here may go back farther in speech, presumably in the same sequence.

- (i) I try and be good and dutiful to my foster-mother, which I hope may improve.  
(Google Ngrams: Legislative Assembly, New South Wales, 1884 VI: 796)

- (27) a. Mind and get all right for next Saturday. (Poutsma 1905: 361)  
 b. You know I go to all these different schools and I start and get mixed up after a while. (Hopper 2002: 162)  
 c. Be sure and visit Harry tomorrow. (Carden & Pesetsky 1977: 84)  
 d. Remember and wash your hair. (BNC: KE4 636, 1992)

In contrast to other instances of pseudocoordination in English (see Section 2.1), these verbs follow the *bare form condition* and are non-factive, unlike (28):

- (28) \*I will go and buy some food, even if the store is closed.

Moreover, this substitution of *and* for infinitival *to* appears to be generalizing beyond this construction:

- (29) a. A) Told you not to drink!  
 B) I'm not interesting enough and not drink.  
 (*The Following*, TV Series, Season 1 Ep. 1, January 21, 2013)  
 b. I'm going home and take a nap. (cf. Staum 2004)

### 3. Dialectal variation of *try*-complementation

With the many historical and potential complementation patterns for *try*, some dialectal variation is expected, and the range of such variation is useful in testing the explanatory accuracy of syntactic theory. It has already been established that *try and* is more frequent in British English compared to American English (Hommerberg & Tottie 2007), although otherwise they share these two constructions.

The rest of this section considers several different constructions in dialectal variation. Section 3.1 considers object control with the *try for (NP) to* variant of the *to*-infinitive, which can be found dialectally and marginally in Standard English. Section 3.2 focuses on dialectal variation in the *bare form condition* of the pseudocoordination construction. Section 3.3 discusses the development of a bare infinitive complement, especially in South African English. Finally, Section 3.4 looks beyond English to Tok Pisin, which is parallel to English in having several complementation types for the verb *traim* ('try').

#### 3.1. Objects control and *try for (NP) to*

There is some dialectal variation in the formation of infinitives. Chomsky & Lasnik (1977) recognized the relevance of this variation in the study of

control structures. The properties associated with *try* in Standard English are not universal, and an adequate theory must be able to explain this variation. While in Standard English *for* is only used with overt subjects in infinitive constructions, in some dialects, such as Belfast English (Henry 1992), Ozark English (Chomsky & Lasnik 1977) and Ottawa Valley English (Carroll 1983), infinitives are regularly marked with *for to*:

(30) I tried for to get them. (Henry 1992: 283)

Beyond this variant of subject-control, however, some of these dialects also allow object-control. Constructions of the type in (31) are grammatical in Ozark English but not in Belfast English.

(31) I tried for him to go home. (Henry 1992: 283)

We now turn to Standard English, for which it is commonly assumed that sentences like (31) are ungrammatical (Brame 1976: 94; Davies & Dubinsky 2004: 335; Jackendoff & Culicover 2003: 526; Perlmutter 1968: 58). However, that is an overgeneralization; whereas sentences like (30) are clearly ungrammatical in Standard English, there are instances where *try for NP to* is used and not entirely unnatural:

(32) a. I try for it not to overtake or design what I do. (GloWbE corpus)  
 b. I try for there to be a bit of everything, since everyone has different tastes. [<http://unamadridista.wordpress.com/2013/02/22/sergio-ramos-at-el-hormiguero-3-0/>, February 2013]

Instances like (32a) with *it* are easily found for semantic reasons, while usage as in (32b) with expletive *there* hints at a raising structure (cf. Rosenbaum 1965: 113–114; Lasnik & Saito 1991). Following the arguments made by Jackendoff & Culicover (2003), it appears that the distribution of *try* is determined primarily by semantic factors rather than syntactic rules. The unacceptability of (31) in Standard English is due to lack of real-world control over the embedded subject, while a similar structure with more plausible context in (33a) is not unimaginable. There appears to be a correlation between the naturalness of a causative, as in (33a'), and acceptability of the *try for NP to* construction. Finally, syntactically well-formed but semantically anomalous sentences as in (33b) are unacceptable.

(33) a. I'm sorry that Jimmy was late this morning, Mrs. Smith. I will try for him to get there on time tomorrow.  
 a'. ...I willlll try to have him get there on time tomorrow.  
 b. \*Bill tried to grow taller. (Jackendoff & Culicover 2003: 526)

### 3.2. Dialectal variation of the *bare form condition*

One might wonder whether the inflectional restriction imposed by the *bare form condition* is found consistently across dialects with verbal paradigms that differ from Standard English. To some degree, it appears to be. For example, Faarlund & Trudgill (1999) show that in Norfolk English, a dialect where third-person singular *-s* agreement is optional, as in (34a), there is no further restriction against third-person singular subjects with *try and*, as in (34b).

- (34) a. She go out every day. (Faarlund & Trudgill 1999: 211)  
 b. He try and see us every day. (Faarlund & Trudgill 1999: 212)

Likewise, it appears that some speakers of African American English accept present-tense habitual *be* in the *be sure and* construction,<sup>8</sup> as in (35):

- (35) He be sure and brush his teeth every morning.

On the other hand, some dialects have moved away from the Standard English *bare form condition*. Two varieties will be discussed here. As discussed in detail in Ross (in press), the *bare form condition* is generated by the combination of two syntactic properties: i) the parallel inflection requirement for both verbs, and ii) the realization of the second verb as a bare infinitive. Therefore either could be lost or preserved independently. In the case of Northeastern Canadian English, both verbs may be inflected, as long as they share the same inflection, and in the case of South African English, usage is found where the second verb remains an uninflected bare infinitive but inflection on the first verb is unrestricted.

In the dialects of Northeastern Canada, third-person singular *-s* has been extended throughout the present-tense paradigm (Clarke 1997), as in (36a). The distribution of *try and* has apparently extended to the inflected present-tense with this shift, as in (36b):<sup>9</sup>

- (36) a. I likes anything salty... (Clarke 1997: 242)  
 b. They tries and does that. ('They try to do that.')

For these speakers, although there is no *bare form condition*, there is still a requirement that the two verbs share the same inflection. An appropriate

<sup>8</sup> I thank Dominique Clayton (p.c.) for discussion on this topic.

<sup>9</sup> Additionally, two speakers of apparently General American English have commented on this research to note that they also accept parallel inflected forms.

<sup>10</sup> This data was contributed by Brandon Fry. Our ongoing research aims to describe the distribution of *-s* with *try and* in these dialects in more detail.

analysis for this construction might involve a tense-copying infinitive, as Wiklund (2007) proposes for in the Scandinavian languages.

Turning now to change in another dimension, rare usage of *try and* appears to collapse with *try to*, where the first verb can be inflected and the second remains a bare infinitive. Examples of this sort are found relatively more often in South African English,<sup>11</sup> as in (37), although I have yet to find a speaker who finds this usage to be acceptable.

- (37) a. Noeleen tries and find answers and solutions.  
 [[http://www.tvsa.co.za/default.asp?blogname=coming\\_up\\_on\\_3Talk&ArticleID=2903](http://www.tvsa.co.za/default.asp?blogname=coming_up_on_3Talk&ArticleID=2903), August 2006]  
 b. We're trying and get across that nature is harsh but not necessarily full of malice and cruelty. (Dereck Joubert on “Wild about Africa,” *Carte Blanche*: March 18, 2007)

Instances of this usage are not completely absent from other dialects, either, as in (38):

- (38) [They offered an immunity deal] and they tried and go after John Gotti Jr. (Bo Dietl on *Imus in the Morning*: May 23, 2011)

Whether these are merely speech errors or an emerging grammatical construction, the possibility of a complete merger with *try to* should be intriguing for researchers. I predict, however, that *try and* will, at least for a long time, preserve some of its unique properties and restrictions, such as those in (39):

- (39) a. I try not to do that very often.  
 a'. \*I try not and do that very often.  
 b. I will try to write a book or to sing a song next year.  
 b'. \*I will try and write a book or and sing a song next year.

### 3.3. Serial/auxiliary *try* with bare infinitive

In South African English, *try* can take a bare infinitive complement. This fact, in the context of English dialects, has gone unnoticed by researchers; while researchers of other dialects have not noticed this construction in South African English, South African researchers have not noticed its absence elsewhere, and even within South African research it has received

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<sup>11</sup> More rarely examples of the parallel inflection type in (34b) can also be found in South African English. Along with the data presented in Section 3.3, this variation suggests that this dialect in particular may be changing more rapidly than the others.

little attention, potentially due to its low frequency. However, despite the fact that it is less common than either *try to* or *try and*, native speakers of South African English do judge this form to be grammatical.<sup>12</sup>

- (40) a. I'm going to try find one for her right now.  
 (IOL corpus: user comment on September 29, 2011)  
 b. Please, try be understanding! (Hazel Mitchley, p.c.)

Using the website for the *Independent Online* newspaper (IOL) as a corpus, we can compare the frequencies of the complementation patterns. While genre may be of some concern, both articles and user comments were used in the statistics in order to consider both formal and casual written language and the results should at least be a reasonable first approximation about the usage of these forms. An acceptability judgment survey confirms that speakers are aware of and accept these forms.

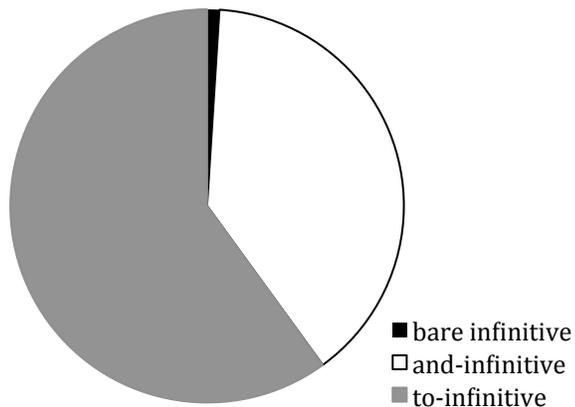


Figure 5. South African English construction frequencies (IOL corpus).

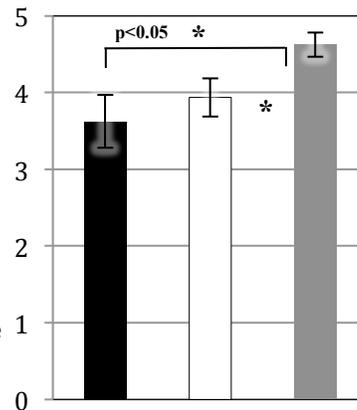


Figure 6. Acceptability judgment survey (N=8, native speakers).<sup>13</sup>

Although the bare complementation pattern can be found reliably and is considered grammatical by speakers, as shown in Figures 5 and 6 it is by far the least frequent and the least acceptable option of the three types.

As for the origin of this construction, it may be a borrowing from a parallel construction in Afrikaans (cf. de Vos 2005: 177) or just the reduction of either *try to* or *try and*.

Finally, to explore the distribution of these complementation patterns across other dialects, a large corpus is required, and a good candidate is

<sup>12</sup> The overview presented here comes from ongoing research with Hazel Mitchley who has kindly provided insight into this form as a native speaker of South African English.

<sup>13</sup> These results are preliminary, from ongoing survey research approved by the SLCL Human Subjects Review Committee at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

GloWbE (Davies 2013), released earlier this year, which contains 1.9 billion words across 20 dialects taken from relatively informal writing on websites. Figure 7 shows that in this corpus the bare infinitive complement is found in South African English about 4.3% of the time, Jamaican English about 4%, and Irish English 3.1%, while several of the other dialects also appear to use this form productively.<sup>14</sup>

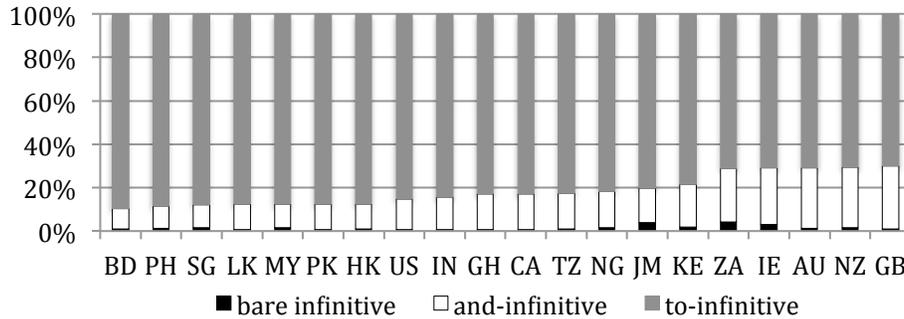


Figure 7. GloWbE frequency distributions of try complementation types.<sup>15</sup>

In contrast to the findings by Kjellmer (2000: 122) who finds relatively many instances of third-person singular *tries*, the *try* plus bare infinitive construction appears to share the *bare form condition* with the pseudocoordination construction (see also de Vos 2005: 202–203) and with the quasi-serial *go get* construction (Carden & Pesetsky 1977; Jaeggli & Hyams 1993; Shopen 1971). In contrast to the thousands of instances in GloWbE with two uninflected verbs, in the entire corpus only seven instances are found with inflected *tries* (of which the second verb is uninflected in five instances and found with *-s* in the other two). This finding could be due to selection of texts, but the results with this much larger corpus of 1.9 billion words are strikingly different from those found by Kjellmer (2000) in the 50 million word Cobuild corpus. Furthermore, the preliminary survey data from South African English shows that inflected forms are judged to be significantly less acceptable by speakers (about 2.25, compared to 3.5 without inflection as shown in Figure 6).

The GloWbE results in Figure 7 also support the findings by Hommerberg & Tottie (2007) that *try and* is more common in British English and

<sup>14</sup> This result is only an approximation, however, given that the statistics are based on raw data. Still, a manual search reveals that most search results appear to be genuine instances. Data is based on instances of uninflected *try* followed by *to*, *and*, or a non-*-ing* verb. Non-pseudocoordinative *try and* was not excluded, but should not affect relative frequencies.

<sup>15</sup> The dialects are identified in the GloWbE corpus as follows: AU = Australia; BD = Bangladesh; CA = Canada; GB = Great Britain; GH = Ghana; HK = Hong Kong; IE = Ireland; IN = India; JM = Jamaica; KE = Kenya; LK = Sri Lanka; MY = Malaysia; NG = Nigeria; NZ = New Zealand; PH = Phillipines; PK = Pakistan; SG = Singapore; TZ = Tanzania; US = United States; ZA = South Africa. Within each dialect, the percentage values are based on 5,000–76,000 tokens of *try*.

related dialects compared to American English. Clearly, dialectal variation with *try* is a promising area for further research.

### 3.4. Beyond English: ‘try’ in Tok Pisin

Even beyond English itself, variation is found. For example, Tok Pisin, an English-based creole spoken in Papua New Guinea, has adapted the English verb *try* as *traim*, now a frozen form with the transitive *-im* suffix.

Of the three types of complementation available with *traim* (Verhaar 1995), one is formed with *na* (‘and’), apparently borrowed from English pseudocoordination but without any syntactic restrictions on occurrence such as the English *bare form condition*,<sup>16</sup> although this might be explained by the lack of verbal inflection in Tok Pisin (but note transitivity *-im*). *Traim* can take complements with *na* pseudocoordination, as in (41a); complements with *long*, which behaves in many respects like English *to* as a directional preposition and clause-linker, as in (41b); or bare infinitives, as in (41c). Although all three forms are used in Tok Pisin, *long* is most frequent and preferred in formal language. At the same time, *na* is used widely in Tok Pisin as a multi-functional linking element (Verhaar 1991).

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (41) a. Mi traim na singsing. | Em traim na help-im mi.      |
| b. Mi traim long singsing.    | Em traim long help-im mi.    |
| c. Mi traim singsing.         | Em traim help-im mi.         |
| ‘I try and sing.’             | ‘He tries/tried to help me.’ |

## 4. Conclusion

This article has considered the many verbal complementation patterns for *try* from the perspective of diachronic change and dialectal variation. It has been shown that the two major complementation patterns, *try to* and *try and*, arose simultaneously and independently in the late 1500s and how the present-day *bare form condition* came to be a property of the *try and* construction. Several infrequent but attested complementation patterns were described in contrast to the trend in previous research (*try* with bare infinitive and the forms *try whether/if* and *try for NP to*). With the theoretical interest in *try* as a control verb, it is crucial that all of its properties are described so that we can develop a sound theory. This thorough description of English *try* also provides a starting point for cross-linguistic comparative work.

<sup>16</sup> I thank to Philip Tama (p.c.) for providing the relevant data to make this generalization.

Looking ahead to future research, there are open empirical questions about the distribution and properties of these complementation patterns in different dialects. Another topic of interest is the variation in complementation patterns despite functional equivalence. And as far as syntactic theory is concerned, description of all of these variant forms is invaluable, because a successful theory must be able to account for each of them. All of these areas should be investigated further.

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#### APPENDIX: **try-complementation in the EEBO TCP Corpus, 1500-1600**

The tables below represent a thorough search of the EEBO TCP corpus as of October 2013. The results were manually filtered and only relevant tokens are presented below. To supplement the discussion in Section 2.2, all potential instances of *try and* or *try to* complementation are included, from the years between 1500 and 1600. No relevant examples were found before that century, and instances can readily be found later.

The first column in the tables represents the certainty based on the author’s judgment: a *V* marks what appears to be a valid, reliable example; a *?* marks an uncertain or ambiguous example; and an *X* marks an example that is unlikely to be an instance of complementation but is included because it might easily appear to be. The following columns present the year and author based on the format of the EEBO TCP record, and a text excerpt shows the example with (minimal) relevant context. Duplicates have been removed, either from a later manuscript of the same text or obvious citation of an earlier text; re-translated English editions of texts are included, however. The orthography of the original text is preserved, except for several now obscure abbreviation traditions and typos or unidentified characters in the EEBO TCP database, which have been checked against the original image scans.

The first reliable instances of both forms appear at almost exactly the same time (circa 1570), so clearly this data does not give strong evidence that either form predates the other. Only a handful of examples of *try and* can be reliably identified as complementation, and those are marked in bold in the table below, while it is likely that a number of the uncertain examples are also genuine instances of complementation as well.

**Instances of *try and* in the EEBO TCP corpus, 1500-1600:**

	Year	Author	Text
	? 1518	Mancinus	but one may trye and fynde / What man hath hie courage
	? 1528	Higden	he let trye & ordeyne a generall Iustes that is called a turneyment
	? 1531	Frith	for they trye and purefy the faith of goddes electe
X	1533	Isocrates	... but to trye and esteme them by theyr good and profytable actes.
	? 1533	More	they myght trye and controll the false doctrine of the noughty scribes
X	1534	Erasmus	eyther to amende vs / or els to trye & proue vs
X	1535	Erasmus	... rules / by whiche we muste trie & examyne all the maner and facyon of our luyngge
X	1536	Melanchthon	let a man trye and examyne himselfe
X	1540	Taverner	ye maye easely trye and discerne the chaffe from the corne
X	1541	Coverdale	the church and congregacion of Christ must discerne / iudge / trie and exa+men all maner of doctryne
X	1542	Elyot	I not onely dyd seriously and dilygently trye and examyne euery worde...
	? 1542	Erasmus	there had been none at all, that could trye and shewe theimselfes to bee such ioily valiaunte feloes.
X	1544	Alesius	we shuld trye and examine them by this prophetical word
X	1544	Joye	god ordined ... first to trye and proue them by the crosse
	? 1545	Ascham	afore he truste muche vpon it [his bow], let hym trye and trym it after thys sorte.
X	1545	Bale	And lyke as yt hath created all thynges / so lete yt now trye and iudge all thinges.
X	1545	Joye	the perels of this oure tyme and dispisicions of the lerned do most clerely trye and polysshe the doctryne of the verite.
X	1547	Baldwin	Trye, and than trust after good assuraunce
	? 1547	Cranmer	Let vs therefore, (good christian people) trie & examyne our faith what it is
X	1547	Cranmer	...to trie and declare the faythe of hys pacient chyldren...
	? 1548	Becon	vpon whome he wyll exerceyse hys excedynge Mercye, hym wyll he fyrst trye, and make asthough he woulde dampne hym.
X	1548	Erasmus	shall labour to destruie the veritie whiche they euidentlye see, & trie, and knowe, and that shal they doe for none other respect
X	1548	Erasmus	the Lorde added therto a parable, by the whiche euerye manne myghte trye and examyne hys owne affeccion.
	? 1548	Ochino	I wyl search, trye and proue, Ierusalem, wyth lanternes.
	? 1548	Zwingli	euen thy selfe myghtest also with thy Englysshe Byble frelye trye and iuge it

? 1549	Church of England	he exhortheth all persones diligently to trie and examine themselues
? 1549	Erasmus	men shoulde not lyghtly nor rashely beleue all maner of doctrine, but first trye and proue whether it be of god or no
? 1549	Erasmus	It standeth the in hande to trye and searche that man muche and long, whome thou muste committe thauthoritie of a bysshop vnto
? 1549	Erasmus	let euery man first trye and examen his conscience before.
X 1550	Becon	Therfor we most humbly besech the, ... diligently to proue, try & examin our selves
X 1550	Lever	Kynges and great men may learne to trye, and proue the honestie, wit, and fidelitie of theyr Counsellors
X 1550	Werdmüller	By the meanes where of Abraham dyd exercyse, trye and practyse hys fayth.
? 1553	Cato	aduersitie dooeth trie and searche out, whether thei are feigned, or true harted frendes.
X 1554	Gwynneth	Before we come to that, let vs firste (as I thynke it beste) serche, trie, and proue, what the state of an heretike is.
X 1554	Ponet	and (afore we eate of this bread and drinke of thys cuppe) to proue, try, and examine our selues, our myndes and consciences, our wordes and dedes
X 1554	Ponet	and so to tri and examin our fayth, that it beyng founde more precious then gold or siluer
? 1554	Vincent	howe and by what certaine and generall rule I mighte trye and thoroughly discern the veritie of the catholike faithe
? 1554	Watson	beleue not euery spirite, but trye and proue the spirites, yf they be of God or no
? 1555	Ridley	O how necessary than it is, if we loue life, & wolde eschue deathe, to trye and examine our selues, before we eate of this bread
? 1555	Vermigli	Agayn that eich man shuld well trie and consider his own poure and strength.
X 1556?	Philpot	we maye wel trye and knowe all the rowte of Antichristes generacion
X 1556	Pownoll	And this pacience, brynge the experience (sayeth. S. Paul) that vs to saye, pacience do the trye and prove oure fayghte
X 1557	Edgeworth	his encouragyng of greate clerkes to inuestigate, trye, and searche oute the mere and sure truthes of the scriptures
? 1557	Edgeworth	So that charitye is the verye true myrrour or glasse, by which thou maist trie and discusse & haue a great euidence
? 1560	Knox	And in what estate did I leaue you? Trie and examin your selues in what estate ye do yet stand
? 1560	Knox	And therefor to you it shalbe most profitable to trye and examine this mater with greater indifferencie, then hitherto you haue done
? 1560	Knox	for no fals prophete dothe arrise, whom God for one of two purposes doth not stirre vp, to witt, ether to trie and examin the constancie & fidelitie of his seruantes
X 1560	Knox	this word tempting or to tempt is diuersly taken in the scriptures: somtimes to trye and examyn, somtimes to bring to light and knowledge things that be secret in mans heart,...

?	1560	Sleidanus	and that they first trye and and assay al wayes, by fayre speach, exhortations and praiers
?	1561	Whittingham	His purpose is to proue, that [albeit?] God trye and afflict the [--] son - after he sendeth prosperitie
X	1561	Whittingham	And he shall sit downe to trye and fine the siluer he shal euen fine the sonnes of Leui
?	1562	Sternhold	And if it please thee to try and exercise vs by greater pouertie, and nede then our flesh would desire...
X	1565	Bèze	...and also chasticeth vs in trying and prouing our fayth
?	1565	England and Wales, Elizabeth I	And shal further vse al good meanes, to trye and search out the offenders agaynst the meanyng hereof
X	1565	Lanfranco	whych perfecte temperature, is as it wer a tryall, or touch stone: to trye and proue all other complexions by.
?	1565	Staphylus	...nor to beleue euery spirit, but trie and discern whether they be of God or no.
?	1565	Staphylus	euery man for this purpose ought to reade holy scripture, and thereby to trie and discern truthe from falshood.
?	1565	Staphylus	Not that he minded to tary and abide with them, but to trie and knowe their religion.
?	1566	Apuleius	many condemned persons were brought from the iudgement place to trie and fight with those beastes
X	1566	Heskyns	To examine our selues ys to trie and prooue, to search to call our selues to accompte, first whether we stand sownde in faith...
X	1566	Horne	whereby they muste measure, trie, and discusse these, and all other suche disputations, and controuersies, in matters of Religion
?	1566	Painter	and that was the future fortune, which thei did trie and proue.
?	1566	Stapleton	This is not to be tried by the Fathers: but it is to trie and examine the Fathers them selues.
?	1567	Jewel	for that it hath pleased him, to prepare their hartes vnto temptation, to trie and purifie them as Gold in Fornace
?	1567?	Parker	Than search me God: and boult my hart: to thee this cause I yelde / Well try and know: in thoughte and driftes: what hauntes in life I held
X	1567	Stapleton	the matters in hande, prescribeth vnto them a rule, vvhereby they must measure, trie, and discusse these
X	1567	Stapleton	You say, th'Emperour prescribed them a rule whereby they shoulde measure, trye, and discusse, these and all other such disputations, &c.
X	1567	Stapleton	that Constantine prescribed to the Bisshops, a rule wherby they should measure, trye and discusse the controuersie in hande.
X	1567	Stapleton	but left to the Bishops the triall of the controuersie free, the other auouching that he prescribed a rule to trie and discusse the matter by
X	1567	Turberville	First trie and then tell / Where I haue sayd well / For without a triall / There vailes no deniall.
X	1569	Elviden	To try and then to trust thou mayst in trusting thinke thee sure
V	1569	Heliodorus	<b>You maie (saide I) trie and bring him in, and shewe him to her.</b>

X	1569	Heliodorus	But now because he standeth so stifly against his Louer, lette him trie and knowe you for his Mistresse, and with whippes and tormentes be gladd to yéelde to your pleasure
X	1570	God	who sayde that he would try and proue / How he might get him helth
?	1570	Marlorat	In that therefore God suffereth ye greatest part of men to despise his Gospell, & seketh not to tame them, he doth it to trye and exercise his ministers.
?	1570	Naogeorg	For many vvayes they attempt, and trie, and carefully vvrest their mind hither and thither, to obtaine the forgiuenesse of their sinnes, and euerlasting life.
X	1571	Fenton	but let them remember the aduise of the Apostle, to trie and proue the sprites, with diligente regarde to the ende
X	1571	Mexía	by the saied vertue, or force of the fire (whose qualitie, is to trie, and disioigne contrary natures)
?	1571	Northbrooke	let vs séeke for the Church: therby let vs trie and examine our matters.
?	1571	Plutarch	Let all true parents which desire to bring vp their children vertuously trie and proue how muche it auaieth to folow these precepts
?	1572	Gwaither	that we must not alwayes cleave to the iudgements and examples of notable men, but rather trie and examine all things after the rule of the Scripture, afore we imitate them
X	1572	Huloet	to trye and proue what one is: <i>Aliquem inspicere experimentis.</i>
?	1572	Parinchef	Canutus reuoluing this matter in hys minde (whether for pride of his heart exalted, or whether to trie and refell their flattering wordes) commaunded his chaire to be broughte to the sea side
?	1572	Vegetius Renuis	Hee him selfe shall often trie and proue what cunning they haue
?	1572	Vegetius Renuis	Hee him selfe shall often trie and proue what cunning they haue
?	1572	Vegetius Renuis	he ought diligently to trie and searche the strengthe, courage and experience of euery bande of the legion
?	1572	Vegetius Renuis	the greater daunger dothe followe them that bee slouthfull and vnexperte: in whiche the vse of skilfulnes, the knowledge and pollicie of fighting, incontinent doth trie and rule all the matter.
?	1572	Vegetius Renuis	in whiche the vse of skilfulnes, the knowledge and pollicie of fighting, incontinent doth trie and rule all the matter.
?	1572	Vegetius Renuis	as sone as the horsemen come to the ennemyes, they trye and assay lightly what they can do and so depart
X	1572	Vegetius Renuis	A souldiour must neuer be broughte forth into the battell, before you trye and proue what he can doe.
?	1572	Vegetius Renuis	he ought diligently to trie and searche the strengthe, courage and experience of euery bande of the legion
X	1573	Cooper	that God tempteth not as the Deuill and his Ministers doe, to induce a man to sinne, but to Trie and Prooue hys faith
?	1573	Luther	For as thou shalt trye and proue many thinges: so shalt thou heare many thinges that thou wouldest not
?	1573	Tyndale	for they try and purifie the fayth of Gods elect
X	1574	Augustine	O sauour of lyfe, make my taste sound, that it may sauour, trye, and discerne how great the aboundance of thy swéetnesse is

?	1574	Calvin	they may haue such wisdom and right vnderstanding to trye and discern things
?	1574	Calvin	For the mouth (sayeth he) doth serue to tast meates, and the eare to trie and iudge woordes.
X	1575	Curione	and partly because he woulde by this meanes trie and seeke out whether there were any fruitefull Soyle and fertile Island
X	1575	Curione	by dint of mortall battaile to trie and finally determine the cause of controuersie betwene them.
?	1575	Curione	and partly because he woulde by this meanes trie and seeke out whether there were any fruitefull Soyle and fertile Island
X	1575	Lever	or else refuseth and neglecteth the same, as not necessarie and sufficient to teache, trie, and wytnesse any godlie truthe and veritie
X	1575	Marlorat	Therefore saith Moyses that the Lord vseth the rysing of false prophets as a meane to trye and prooue his people whether they loue hym or no.
?	1575	Marlorat	Wherupon the Apostle saith Trye and proue youre selues whether ye be in the Faith or no.
?	1575	Marlorat	Now let all those which at this daye glory and boast of the title and name of Pastours try, and examine their manners disposition, wordes and déedes, and let them Iudge hereby whether they bee Shéepheardes or théeues and Murtherers.
?	1575	Marlorat	to the ende they might try and examine them selues and beware of hipocrisie
X	1576	Edwards	Trie and then trust. [poem title]
?	1576	Gesner	and the same being thus dyssolued in eyther of these, powre into after, a droppe or two of some oyle, whose vse you seeke to trye, and frame or make square
?	1576	Gesner	although we trie and finde out sundry properties of it or that this hath
?	1576	Lemnius	let euerye man trye and consider in himselfe whereto hee is by nature most apt and inclinable.
X	1576	Lemnius	Which thing euerye man maye trye, and in himselfe fynde most true, when soeuer hee calleth to mynde
X	1576	Lemnius	whereby euery one may perfectly try, and throughly know, aswell the exacte state, habite, disposition, and constitution, of his owne Body outwardly
X	1577	Becon	Sometime it is taken for the lifting vp of the handes, the desire, trying and sighing of the poore, and such as stand in neede.
?	1577	Calvin	that we must trye and examin what things please God
?	1577	Dering	Heere we learne wisely to trie and examine our selues, whether we be in the faour of God, or no
?	1577	Eusebius,	let him compell such men as then vvere present to trye, and conferre vvith that talkatyue spirite.
?	1577	Eusebius,	for when the captaine (who so euer he was) firste went about to persecute his hoast, and to trye and syfte as many as were brought vnto him throughout euery ward
?	1577	Eusebius,	But what is the reason thereof, ..., whether it be to try and sift the true doctrine of his church

? 1577	Fulke	...the office of the scripture or worde of God, to trie and examine, whether it be the spirite of God that perswadeth vs to beleue any thing
? 1577	Grange	Trie and trust me, vse and weare me, I am thine owne and wilbe while life dothe laste.
? 1577	Hill	Therefore an apt earth for a Garden, shall you readily trie and finde out, if the same through wet and dissolved with water, you shall see to haue a muche clamminesse and fastnesse.
? 1577	Hill	THE Gardener minding to trie and know a fatte earth, for the vse of a garden, shall worke after this maner
? 1577	Hill	the owner shal wel try and see that these to haue bended so croked or winding as an Hooke
? 1577	Holinshead	...power of the counties of Suffolk & Norffolke, to apprehend, trie and punish, such lewde disordered persons, & rebellious malefactors
? 1577	Holinshead	But Neyl Mackeuer his Secretarie, who had incited him to this rebellion, perswaded him fyrst to trie and treat the friendship of certaine wylde Scottes
? 1577	Hyperius	These declare vnto vs, howe and after what sorte wee maye more néerely trye and axamine the nature of euery thinge
? 1577	Hyperius	they seeme to be at a full point rather to trye and hazard any masleins
? 1577	Shutte	I must try and examin my selfe whether I haue a true fayth in the promises of Christ.
V 1578	Cooper	<b><i>Quem locum probandae virtutis tuae expectas (Caesar): To trie and proue your manhoode.</i></b>
X 1578	Cooper	<i>Versare testes (Quint.):</i> To trie and examine witnesses by asking many questions.
? 1578	Cooper	But after hée was departed, mistrusting that he would bewray him, Mercurie to trie and prooue him, chaunged his shape, and returning to Battus, inquired for such cattell
? 1578	Luther	I doe not commaund that ye shoulde thinke or speake of it, but that ye labour that it may be knowne in deede, while all men doe trie and feele it, that no man may say any other thing of you
? 1578	T. P.	And how to trye, and finde the trustye: prudence also, by meanes discerneth.
X 1579	Fulwell	Let them that lyst that hazard try, and trust in thee repose
? 1579	Loarte	thereby to trye and exercise thy patience, thy loialtie, and perseuerance
X 1579	Marnix v. St. Aldegonde	That the trying and shewing openly of the workes of such as build vpon the foundation of Iesus Christ
? 1580	Cooper	wherewith God is moued, ... to trie and proue suche as bee good and godlye
X 1580	Cope	for god by his iust iudgement, ... prouoketh them to euil, either to punish their former sinnes by other sinnes, ...: or to trie and exercise his chosen ones to patience
X 1580	Isocrates	see that thou be eager and earnest in the trying and serching out of the truth in euery thing that shall happen to be done
? 1580	Isocrates	wherefore see that thou doe trie and throughly consider the natures, and conuersations of those with whom thou shalt vse this familiaritie & friendship

? 1580	Knight	of whose seuerall euilles you may trye and discerne at large as followeth.
? 1580	Salvian	They which gouerne the state are to trie, and decerne each cause
X 1580	Stow	who had incited him to this rebellion, perswaded hym firste to trye and treat the friendship of certaine wilde Scots
X 1581	Baker	first, repentance of our former sinfull life, to bee sorie for it which is done, by trying and examining our selues, whether wee bee heartily sorowfull or no for our offences
X 1581	Bisse	wherby we may examine, try, and proue our selues, whether we be the sonns of God, or reprobates
X 1581	Charke	willing vs not to beleeeue euery spirit, but to trie and examin the spirits whether they be of God.
? 1581	Homer	first he sallies out / The forte with chare: On Troyan bands to trie and shewe his force
? 1581	Homer	Who zealous for my quiet rest themselues wil try and tewe, / And do what I shall wishe them doe
? 1581	Luther	God lingereth not long, neither maketh any delaie, but presently withall, laieth his Crosse vpon vs, to trie and confirme vs in our profession, and to make our Faithe the more strong and effectual.
? 1581	Merbecke	How we ought to trie and proue mens doctrines. [section heading]
? 1581	Wiburn	it is their partes,... to trye and examine the same by the touch of Gods holy word,...
X 1582	Bentley	Let vs search and trie, and looke well vpon our owne waies, and remember our selues, and turne againe to the Lord.
? 1582	Bentley	Howe the parentes are to trie and prooue the honestie and chastitie of their daughter that is married, and accused of adulterie
V 1582	Jewel	<b>Christians, which desire to know the trueth, wherevpon they may builde their faith, haue no other refuge, but to trie and learn this by the Scriptures.</b>
? 1582	Loque	that is to say, wee must trie and examine them by the worde of God
? 1582	Loque	but it is of necessitie required, that he to whom wee must administer the saide sacrament, haue knowledge to trie and examine himselfe, according to Saint Paules doctrine
? 1582	Loque	we ought not to beleeeue euery spirite, but to trie and proue the spirites, whether they are of God or no
? 1582	Luis	And this wonderfull effecte of deuotion the seruantes of God do dailie trye and perceiue by experience in them selues, at what time they haue some great and singuler deuotion.
? 1582	Martin	The Heretikes vse this place to proue that the heaters must trie and iudge by the Scriptures, vvwhether their teachers and preachers doctrine be true
? 1582	Martin	And they did not therfore read the Scriptures of the old Testament ... to dispute vvith the Apoistle, or to trie and iudge of his doctrine, or vvwhether they should beleeeue him or no
? 1582	Martin	the Goldsmith or touch-stone that trie and discerne vvwhich is true gold
? 1582	Yates	Is forced though against his will, / to try and tast of strife.

?	1583	Calvin	Lyke as golde and siluer are tryed by fire: so must God bee faine to try and examine vs by afflictions.
?	1583	Casas	For behold gods sentence pronounced against the wicked, whom he vseth in chastening the good, whom by those meanes he doth trie, and punisheth the wicked according to their desarts.
?	1583	Foxe	let vs therefore pause a little vpon the same, to try and examine these his miracles.
?	1583	Foxe	we are ready to get safe conduit for you to come to the sayd Court to try, and declare the truth of our innocency and the falsehood of you both
?	1583	Foxe	...and subscribe vnto the iudgement of the Councel, wherby thou shouldest try and find their grace and fauour.
?	1583	Foxe	Wherefore Saint Pauls meaning is, that euery one should trie and examine hymselfe what faith he hath.
?	1583	Foxe	therefore euery bishop in theyr visitations should from time to time try and examine them how they had profited in these theyr studyes.
?	1583	Foxe	to the end that euery man might try and examine his owne conscience before he should come thereunto
?	1583	Foxe	Gods indignation is knowne: he will trie and proue who be his.
?	1583	Foxe	the Apostle saith: Trie and examine our selues, whether our conscience doo testifie vnto vs
?	1583	Foxe	who at what tyme he was ascited before certayne Bishoppes that gaue him leaue to take deliberation and counsell to try and examine his opinion
X	1583	Harrison	for mutuall help in trying and examining, & allowinge those whom they finde meete
?	1583	Smith	And two of the whole number doe trie and allowe or disallowe the rest.
?	1583	Vermigli	We must first trie and diligentlie examine it: for oftentimes vnder the goodlie shew thereof, lieth hidden verie great impietie
?	1583	Vermigli	The Apostle giueth a rule, whereby we may be able to trie and examine our zeale, and that rule is this
?	1583	Vermigli	A magistrate must trie and vse all meanes possible both to kéepe peace
?	1583	Vermigli	that ye might trie and search out the truth: but ye followe your owne waies
?	1584	Calvin	For this same persecution is as it were a touch stone, wherewith God dooth trie and prooue, who he his:
X	1584	Fenner	...the hearing, trying and determyning of all matters, pertayneth to the vvhole multitude...
?	1584	Marlorat	the onely true and eternall touchstone, able to try and examine the drosse and base metall of sinne and falshoode from that pure golde and most currant coyne of righteousnes and truth
?	1584	Rainolds	For the style is wont to be a certaine token of the right autour (chiefly in some mens writings,) whereby we vse often to try and discerne a true booke from a forged
?	1585	Calvin	Therefore Paule exhortheth euerie one to trie and examine him selfe.

? 1585	Sandys	He is a sinner: so thou either art, or hast beene, or maist be: iudge therfore thy selfe, trie and examine thine owne woorkes.
? 1586	Charke	...commaunded all Christian men to prooue, trie, and iudge themselues, especiallie afore the receipt of the blessed sacrament of Christes bodie and blood
? 1586	Charke	if practize of men in all ages be now become the most surest waie to trie and touch trueth by...
? 1586	Holinshead	Wherevpon the empresse being now at libertie, went from place to place to trie and solicit hir fréends
? 1586	La Primaudaye	Neither let him account those men best, and worthiest of credite, that haue gotten most authoritie, but trie and indge them by their profitable works
? 1586	Norden	Wee haue a good president hereof, namely to try and examine our zeale, by the example of the men of Thessalonica & Berea
? 1586	Norden	The men of Thessal. and Berea an example example to try and search for the truth.
X 1587	Bridges	But it had béene better (in my simple iudgement) not at all to haue sette the multitude a-gogge, as hauing an interest of consent and authoritie, to heare, trie, and determine all matters
? 1587	Holinshead	or else to grant him the libertie to trie and séeke fortune in some other forren countrie and nation.
? 1587	Holinshead	being the onelie meanes to trie and examine the liues, maners, and knowledge of euerie person, and to reforme the same if need require
X 1587	Hyperius	so necessary is it, that before hee goe about the same, he diligently trie and examine himselfe.
X 1587	Hyperius	no man can duely vse the Sacramentes, that doth not first carefully trie and examine his owne Conscience.
X 1587	Hyperius	And doubtles, vnlesse we speedily, & while we haue time, trie and examine our selues
X 1587	Hyperius	He that wil profitablie and rightlie trie and examine himselfe, must diligently consider his promise made at Baptisme
X 1587	Hyperius	but it is most expedient for thee (if thy minde and purpose bee thoroughly and fully to trie and examine thy selfe) to rip vp all thy actions and dealinges to the very quicke
X 1587	Lemnius	And he shall sit downe to trie and fine the siluer: hee shall trie and fine the sonnes of Leui, and purifie them as gold and siluer
X 1587	Prime	Yea euery sere Christian is to try other mens spirits, to try all, and therefore also to trie and examine the Popes pretended Definitions.
? 1587	Ursinus	and also to chastice or trie and exercise with temptations the elect.
? 1587	Ursinus	in which namely hee commaundeth, that euerie man trie and examine himselfe, and so eate of that bread, & drinke of that cup.
V 1588	Aske	<b>His dearest friend, and wisest counsellor, / Will haue him try, and see to what euent / His fond deuises will by practise come.</b>
? 1588	Bancroft	and likewise in this place to try and examine the spirits whether they be of God.
X 1588	Bancroft	alwaies to be beating this into their followers heads: Search, examine, trie and seeke: bringing them there by into a great

			uncertainty
?	1588	England and Wales, Elizabeth I	we doe by these our letters patents for vs our heires and successors giue and graunt to the said Raffe Bowes full power licence and authority [...] to trye and searche by all waies and means for all suche playing Cardes
?	1588	England and Wales, Elizabeth I	they doe in all places within their office or charge carefully and diligentlie trye and search by all waies & meanes for all such playing cardes
X	1588	Fraunce	The offering of triall and prooffe, belongeth to this place, as when a man séeing his woords not beléueed, biddeth them trie and then trust
?	1588	Harvey	Or doth not euen the Lord himselfe somtimes cause the signe or woonder which the false prophet foretelleth, to come accordingly to passe, thereby to trie and approoue the zealous, or cold loue and deuotion of his people towards him
?	1588	Munday	...that the Lord and gouernour of the heauens and earth, dooth by these meanes trye and prooue his people
?	1588	Udall	...sheweth how the Lord did in most wonderfull maner, trye, and prouide for them in the wildernesse
?	1588	Wither	Tentations outward are afflictions, wherebie God is woont to trie and prooue men, as gold and siluer is tried in the fire.
?	1589	Bate	Now then Autophilus, try and examine your selfe whether you be in the faith or no, least you dreame of a shadow not hauing the substance.
?	1589	Cooper	It were safe for your consciences first to trie and knowe the trueth, before you rashly, to condemnation, iudge your brother.
?	1589	Hurault	Notwithstanding, it is good for euery one to trie and sound him selfe, and as he feeleth in his heart th'assurance and motion of Gods spirit
?	1590	Fenne	therefore in like case by holding his men from battell, he went about to trie and proue the patience of Hanniball, which indeede hee right wisely found out
?	1590	Perkins	no doubt because through the dulnes of his heart, he cannot trie and examine himself, and therefore truely cannot discern of his estate;
?	1590	Perkins	it is the duetie of euery Christian to try and examine himselfe whether hee be in the faith or not.
?	1590	Perkins	The second thing is, that the professor of the Gospell, diligently try and examine himselfe, whether hee is in the state of damnation, or in the state of grace
?	1590	Taffin	as golde is put into the fining pot and furnace, not to consume it, but to trie and purifie it: so our faith is tried and purified in the fire of tribulations.
X	1591	Bruce	[you] suld bee carefull in trying and examining your awin consciences.
?	1591?	Bruce	it becomes thee to trie and examine thy conscience
?	1591?	Bruce	...3ou, suld [...] trie and examine 3our selfis
V	1591?	Bruce	<b>Trie and see, quhither zee haue faith in Christ or not</b>
?	1591?	Bruce	that hee may bee the mair able to trie and examine his awin conscience.

X	1591	Clayton	he ought to be dilligent in trying and searching of the same
?	1591	Perkins	How will Christ trie and examine euery mans cause?
?	1591	Smith	Trie and proue thou no longer, for Sal[omon] hath prooued for thee
?	1592	Andrewes	so that temptations, whether they be (as the fathers call them) rods to chasten vs for sinne committed, or to trie and sift vs, Mat. 3. 12. and so to take away the chaffe
?	1592	Carmichael	whereat she gaue him no answere, neuerthelesse, her Maister to the intent that he might the better trye and finde out the trueth of the same, did with the helpe of others, torment her with the torture of the Pilliwinckes vpon her fingers
?	1592	Grocers' Co.	that hee or they at any time heereafter shall happen to garbell, trie and clense, out of all and euery manner drugs and other marchandize, to the intent and purpose, that no person shall...
?	1592	L'Espine	which sometime speaketh vs faire, and sometime threateneth vs, to trie and assay if either by feare or hope it may catch vs at aduantage
?	1592	Tymme	Therefore if ye will trie and discern betwene a false and a true prophet, ye shall do it by these two meanes, wherewith Isaac tried his two sonnes Iacob, and Esau.
?	1593	Bancroft	I was bold to try and examine it, according to the measure of such small ability and iudgement, as god hath indued me withall.
X	1593	Cosin	both in trying and executing offendors, and by dealing by vertue of the Queenes Instructions at the Counsell of the Marches of Wales
?	1593	Fale	For after we found some precepts in Witekindus to be false, we were enforced to trie and examine with great care each figure and example in the Sunne.
X	1593	Hutchins	then come hither and trie, trie and then truste.
?	1593	Napier	And so that wicked dragon and olde serpent ... is cast out, ... hauing only permission to tempt, trie, and persecute their earthlie bodies.
?	1593	Udall	Secondly, we arh to [H] trie, and search our waies, to the end that wee may turne vnto the Lord.
?	1593	Willet	First of al therefore according to that order which we haue set downe, we wil trie and examine the modesty, sobriety and temperance of their spirite
?	1594	Daneau	like as Carpenters and builders are wont to trie and examine all things by line and by leuell
?	1594	Daneau	And he shall sit downe to trie and fine the siluer
?	1594	Grassi	In like case, when the enimie (onely to trye and prouoke) doth deliuer an edgeblowe from the wrist of the hande
?	1594	Hume	Try and examine thy self, how thou profits in knowlege, faith, and amendment of life, by the reading & hearing of Gods word.
?	1594	Lipsius	thou oughtest not to beleue all things which such persons giue thee information of, but trie and examine them thorowly.
?	1594	More	I am afraid if we well trie and examine our selues, we shall finde it fresh and newe amongst a very fewe or none of vs, but so olde that it is euen at the last cast with a great number of vs

?	1594	More	that it serueth for a notable and most excellent patterne for vs to trye and examine our loue by it, whether it be sincere and sound or no
X	1595	Bunny	Trie and then trust, proue and examine whether we or the Romish Church, come néerer to the auncient Roman faith
?	1595	Bunny	a rule that cannot deceaue, by which whatsoever we trie and examine, it wil soone bee seene whether it bee true or false.
?	1595	Covell	and therefore it is necessarie to trie and examine in the first place, the might, subtiltie and craft of the diuell
X	1595	Johnson	...the power and liberty which Christ hath given to his Church for trying and chusing their own Ministers according to the rules of his Testament
?	1595	Johnson	Where the Apostle teacheth vs to trye and know the spirits of all men by the confession they make concerning Christ
?	1595	Johnson	Thus it pleaseth God to try and exercise his Church from tyme to tyme
?	1595	S. I.	For to let passe the meaner and baser sort, which are not worthie to be spoken of, let vs trie and examine the chiefest worldly delights, let vs walke a while, with King Salomon, into this earthly paradice.
?	1595	Taffin	and by such examination trie and see whether they profite or no
?	1596	Barleti	that your fortune and estate were such, as you might haue occasion to try and proue, rather then to purchase and tie your friends vnto you.
?	1596	Morton	The which it is the parte of euerie Christian to marke and consider, to trie and thinke of it, according to the trueth of the worde of GOD
?	1596	Playfere	Only I beseech you that we may trie and examine our selues: that wee may enter into our owne consciences
?	1596	Topsell	wherein Naomi ceaseth not throughly to trie and examine the minde of Ruth
X	1596	Topsell	counsell your acquaintance to be carefull for theyr children as well as themselues, first to try and then trust
X	1596	Topsell	for without this they can ne uer in charity and compassion try and examine their brethren
X	1597	I. T.	where euerie one is purposed to trie and suffer al things
?	1597	Lok	That for his seruant so he would me vow, / And try and vse me as he best knowes how.
?	1597	Morton	The which if he will not try and vse, who can eyther deny or doubt...
?	1597	Top	let the consciences of all men try and iudge, and be warned with Peter...
X	1598	Greenham	Thus may wee in some good and competent measure try and prooue, whether wee haue the spirite of GOD or noe
X	1598	Luis	...trying and experimenting all kindes of the delicacies and pleasures of thys world
?	1599	Fenton	...but still labour to trie and examine all opinions by her first rules.
V	1599	Hakluyt	<b>To trie and make the better sale of Brimstone by shewing the vse.</b>

?	1599	King	In respect of Ionas it was the meaning of God to trie and arme his prophet before hand, with commemoration of the greatest difficulties
?	1599	King	Or defect in his hearing, whose eares are open to the praiers of the poore destitute, and his eie liddes soundelie trie and examine the children of men?
?	1600	Darrel	...specially vsing so many meanes as they did to try and boult out the truth
X	1600	Hastings	so likewise it may signifie to trie, and examine by the touchstone of Gods word the doctrine there taught
?	1600	Johnson	By it therefore let every man trie and examine his wayes (...) first for the worship he performeth vnto God
?	1600	Livy	Go we on still and suffer the king by winning the citie of Athens (...) to trie and see our slackness and cowardise
X	1600	Mornay	A doctrine plausibly imbraced of the most part of those, which had learned the meaning of the trying and proouing of themselues
?	1600	Mornay	By them hee would haue his parishioners, his people that were, still to be instructed and catechised, and his disciples to trie and examine his doctrine
?	1600	Mornay	I suspect it, it is my coniecture, but trie and see if it may be so, &c.
?	1600	Mornay	there will not bee found any prooffe or maner of helpe to trie and know Christendome by, but the holy Scriptures

**Instances of *try to* in the EEBO TCP corpus, 1500-1600:**

	Year	Author	Text
?	1534	Whitinton	but we haue tryed eyes to discerne suche thynges
?	1547	Coverdale	to put downe the houses of Idols trye, to se that the lawe and worde of god be taught among ye people
?	1566	Blundeville	they woulde not abide the spur, but fal a leaping and flinging, and tryinge of masteries to cast their riders
V	1568	Watson	bycause the Romanes durst not trye to stoppe theyr passage.
V	1570	Tusser	Il huswiferie lieth till nine of the clocke, good huswiferie tryeth to rise with the Cocke.
X	1574	Calvin	[it] is tryed to knowe whither it haue any drosse in it
X	1576	Gesner	the next remedie then is, as hath bene many tymes tried, to let the pacient bléede of a veyne.
?	1576	Gesner	this I tryed, to be a marueylous oyle in wounds
V	1578	Appianus	This was the vndoing of the Romanes, for continuing in their order, they were stroken, and trying to go vpon their ennimy, or to kéepe close againe, they suffered alike
V	1578	Calvin	This waye wyll I trye to please God with: This meane wyll I vse to get his faour
V	1579	Guicciardini	But the inhabitautes of Faenza disauowing al mutinies, the armie passed further, not trying to get any other of the townes of Romagna

V	1580	Cope	if diuers doe assayle him, howe valiant soeuer hee is, hee can not with stande, neither wil he trie to reuenge himselfe.
?	1580	Saker	and if in talking a man shall so offende, whome shall hee trye to trust?
V	1581	Fulke	let him trie to teach his pupils
V	1581	Rich	Skorne not then Zoilus his good happe, / that can his will subdue and tame, / But trie to tread his pathe whereby, / thou maiest thy life with vertue frame.
V	1582	Record	Firste I will by two other positions trie to finde the portion of him which had moste.
V	1584	Calvin	First sathan tried to drawe Christ to desperation, because he wanted meat and ordinarie meanes
X	1584	Calvin	but the redeemer and minister of saluation whom you do now despise, you shall find & try to be a iudge.
X	1586	Charke	For Abraham was iustified before God, by faith, before he offered his sonne, whome God did not trie, to enforme himselfe, but to declare vnto men, by the frutes of obedience, that Abraham was a iust man
V	1588	Hurault	if not, with the same helpes thou wilt trie to reskue the Catholikes out from the persecution of those that are about him
V	1588	Munday	Trust me my Lord, since I began my profession in loue, I neuer committed any preiudice to my Lady, therefore will I trie to end this enchauntient.
V	1589	Dowriche	The godlie greeued thus, as reason did them binde, / By other letters trie to change the Kings affected minde.
X	1589	Fourquevaux	for it is better to try if fortune would fauour him any thing, then not trying it, to abide the arriuing of his ruyne.
V	1589	Fourquevaux	if he had tried to vanquish Fabius by assaulting him in his fort with the losse of a fewe men.
V	1591	Colynet	the Leaguers and the Parisiens leagued with them, perceauing that the missing of the King might turne to their shame and vndooing, tryed to iustify their actions by letters
V	1591	Colynet	Euen to haue tryed to make bread with flower of Oates
X	1592	Babington	For though it be a fault for anie to doubt, yet it is a double fault for one that hath tried, to doe it.
V	1594	[anonymous]	I know it well thou knowest it is the sun, / But I did trie to see if thou wouldst speake, / And crosse me now as thou hast donne before
V	1594	Dorrell	With smothering smoke, in narrow vault, / Each hole doth trie, to get a vent,
V	1594	Lipsius	(secretlie) send some to the enemies campe, to bu[le] them, and to trie to winne them vnto thee, and to forsake their faith
V	1596	Drayton	And then againe shee doth coniure the winde; / Now doth she try to stop the night by prayer
V	1597	Morley	but now I will trie to make foure parts al of mine owne inuention.
V	1597	Morley	You say true, and therefore I will trie to bring in the same point another way.
V	1597	Payne	Try to retaine, or send back agayne.

V 1598	Barret	euery honorable souldier ... ought, with all his endeouour, to trie to attaine to all those good partes, according to his capacitie and wit
V 1598	Chapman	Now will I trie to make my selfe the Count.
V 1598	Fernández	...fledde downe towards the Castle Gate, where the Porter trying to open it, to call for helpe, but all his labour was in vaine
V 1598	Rous	And if at any time the like befalls, / Which may requite his gentle curtesie, / Ile try to quite his great humanitie.
V 1598	Stoughton	The priest perceiuing this, did cunningly trie to draw from her that which laie hidde
V 1598	Tacitus	And Rha damistus in vaine, yea with his losse hauing tried to approche the forte beginneth the siege
V 1599	King	Let them not trie to beare an Oxe vpon their shoulders, vwhen they are vnable to beare a goate.
V 1599-1600	Hakluyt	I had a paire of stirrops, which I bought at Venice to serue me in my iourney, and trying to make them fit for me...
V 1600	Abbot	that they attempt to stirre vp thunders; that they trie to raise vp winds, to crosse things at sea, or to effect things at land
V 1600	H., C.	'Tis God that hath a hand o're all / To raise thee up, or let thee fall / Perhaps the Lord would try to finde / If thou hadst Jobs contented mind.
? 1600	Kittowe	Can yoong byrdes flie till they proue and trie to plie their winges?
V 1600-1601	Cornwallis	I doe not thinke but Fortune wished shee had rather tryed to melt him with smiles, and dandlings, then to haue hardened him with her frownes.

**Instances of *try and to* in EEBO TCP corpus, 1500-1600:**

	Year	Author	Text
?	1535	Coverdale	He shall syt him downe to trye and to clense the syluer
?	1564	Coverdale	And perchaunce your deare father to trye and to make knowen vnto you and to the worlde that ye are destinate to an other dwellyng then here on earthe
?	1581	Mulcaster	The science it selfe hath naturally a verie forcible strength to trie and to tuche the inclination of the minde
?	1590	Lloyd	In Seruius Tullius reigne happened the renowmed and famous battell betwixt the Argiues and the Lacedemonians, three hundred against three hundred on either side, to trie and to make a full conquest by them of all their warres
?	1591	Barrow	CHRIST hath left a power to his Church to chuse, to trye, and to ordaine Pastors and Teachers

Note: the examples of this last type are likely unrelated to the development of either *try and* or *try to* but are included here for the sake of completeness and because it is conceivable that they had some effect on the lexical semantics of *try* or complementation patterns by analogy.