

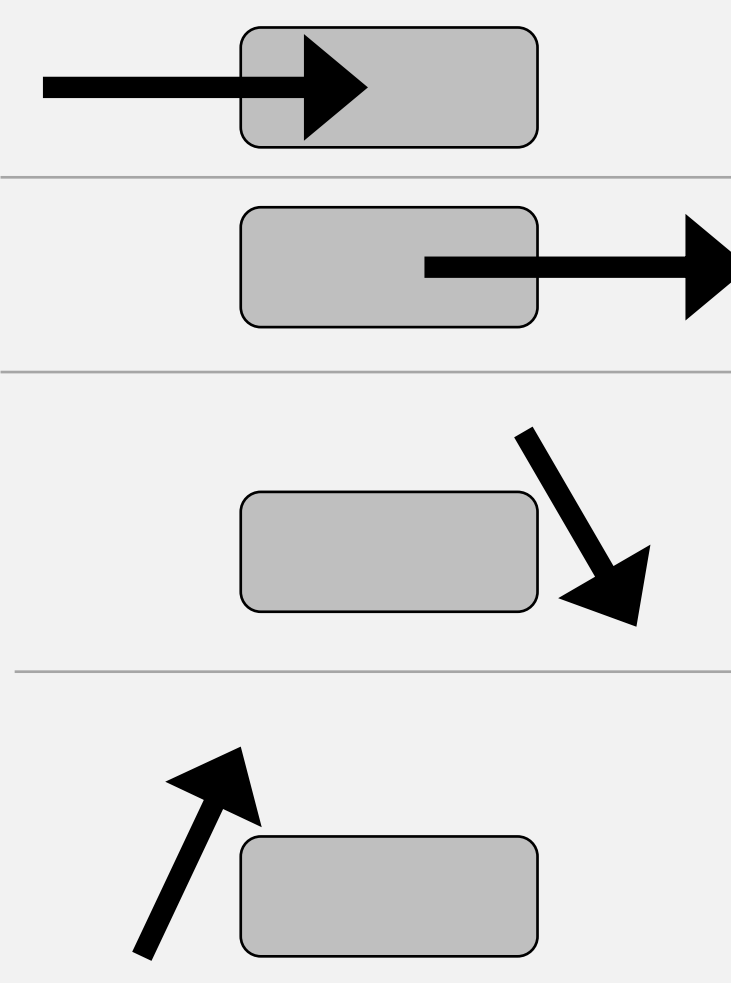
## Departure: Borrowed PATH verbs in English

### Observation:

English is a MANNER-salient, satellite-framing language, yet has borrowed a range of PATH-verbs from French/Latin.

### Question:

How have these 'typological misfits' been integrated?



- enter (c1250) < F *entrer*
- ish/issue (c1330) < F (*e*)*issir* (< L *exire*)
- descend (a1300) < F *descendre*
- avale (c1314/c1374) < F *avaler* (< a *val*)
- ascend (1382) < L *a(d)scendere*
- mount (c1300/c1330) < F *monter*
- amount (c1250) < F *amonter*

## Step 1: Native System Old and Middle English

### A. INVENTORY

**Question:** Which verbs *can* be used to talk about motion in OE and ME?

#### Previous Work:

Fanego 2012  
Focus on human self-movement: Manner verbs and manner meanings collected from dictionaries and thesauri.  
Result: OE and ME as manner-salient languages.

#### Data and Method:

- a) Search for attestations in intransitive motion uses in thesauri and dictionaries (*TOE, BT, DOE, MED*)
- b) Classification of verbs as **manner of motion**, **path of motion**, **neutral motion**, **non-motion**

**Results:** 188 Old English and 433 Middle English verbs attested in motion uses

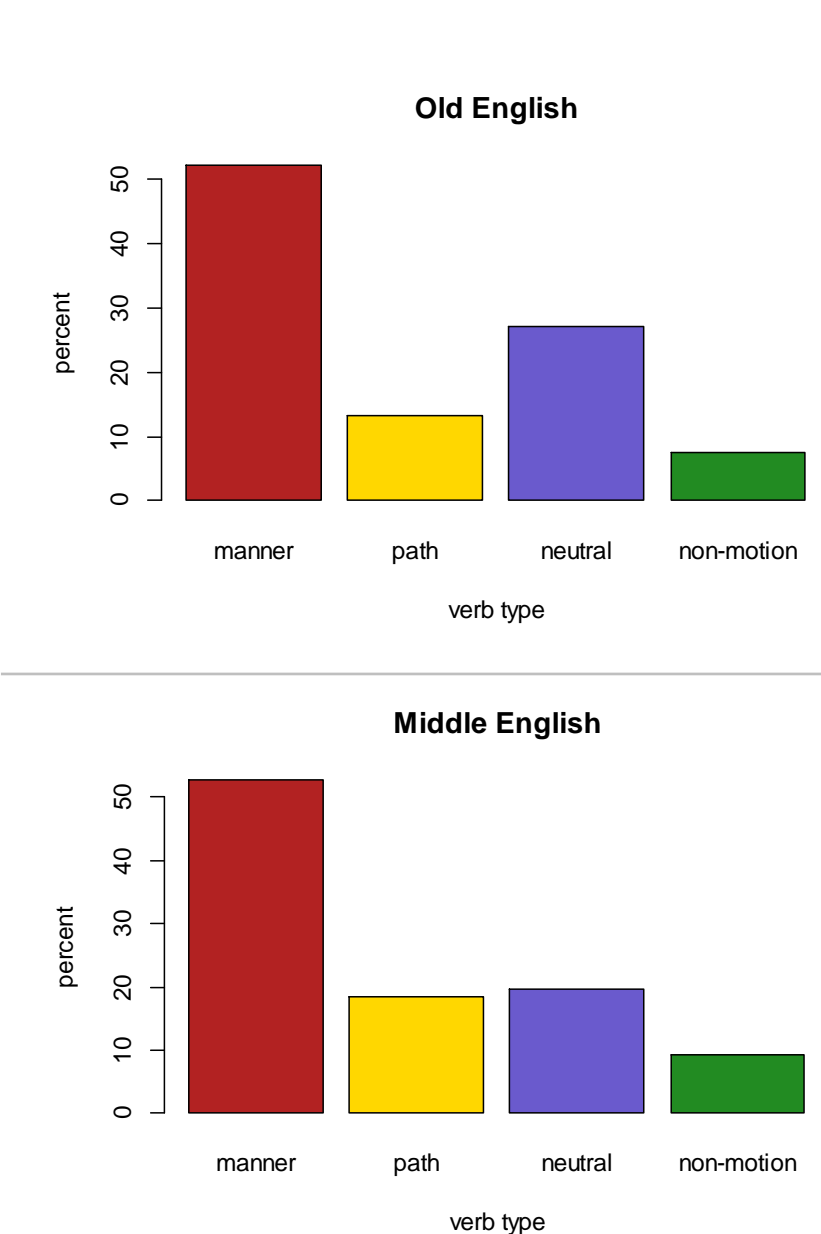


Fig. 1: Types of verbs attested in motion uses

- a. Mostly **MANNER** verbs
- b. also **non-motion** verbs in motion uses:

- (1) OE: some þurh ealle þa truman ut afuhten, gif hie mehten (OE 5.7.121.27, DOE)  
'Some should **fight** [their way] **out through all the troops**, if they could.'
- (2) ME: A colfox [...] The same nyght thurgh out the hegges **brast in to the yerd.** ((c1390) Chaucer CT.NP., MED)  
'The same night, a coal-fox **burst through the hedges into the yard.**'
- (3) ME: Plato þat **laboured þorw egypt** [...] not aschamed he [...] schuld be a pilgrime. (c1450 Cagge, Rome, MED)  
'Plato, who **laboured through Egypt**, not ashamed that he should be a pilgrim.'

- c. Hardly any native **pure PATH** verbs (but, e.g. *flēon* 'flee', *alihtan* 'alight')  
pure PATH verbs = 'French phenomenon':

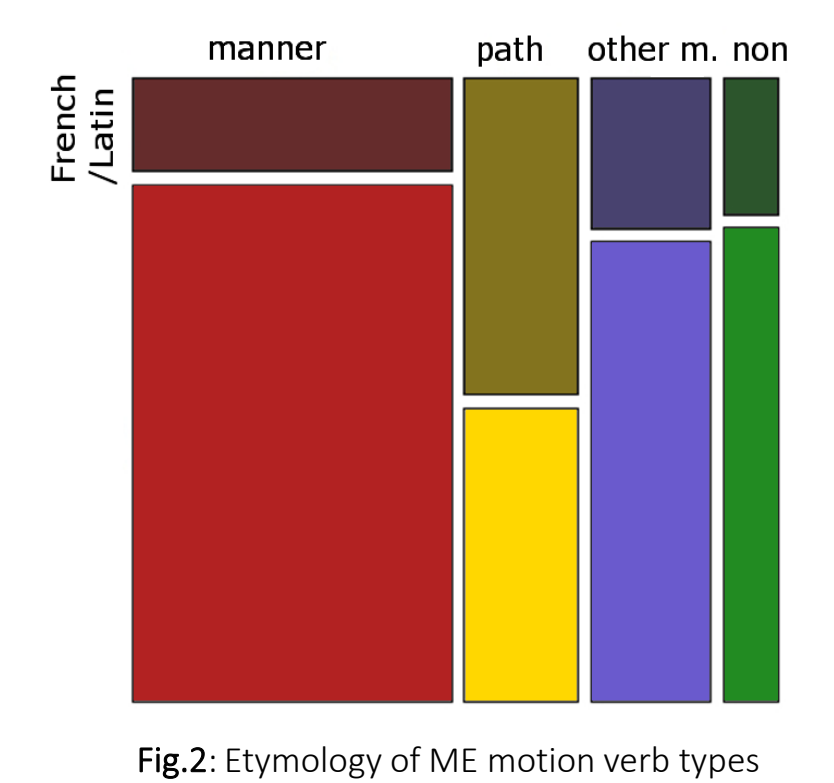


Fig. 2: Etymology of ME motion verb types

### B. USAGE

**Question:** Which verbs and structures are *typically* used to talk about motion in OE and ME?

#### Data and Method:

Narrative fiction and Chronicles  
OE: *ChroA, ChroE, Ohthere and Wulfstan, Ælfric's Lives of Saints* (all from Helsinki Corpus (HC)): 557 literal intransitive motion descriptions  
ME: *ChroGreg* (from HC), *Knight's Tale, Miller's Tale, Reeve's Tale*: 478 literal intransitive motion descriptions

### Results:

1. Verb-type frequency is genre-dependent;  
OE *faran/feran* 'go', *cuman* 'come'; ME *gon* 'go', *comen* 'come' are the most frequent verbs (cf., for PDE, Cappelle [2012: 185]: in BNC biographical and fictional c. 40% *come/go*; 20–35% MANNER)

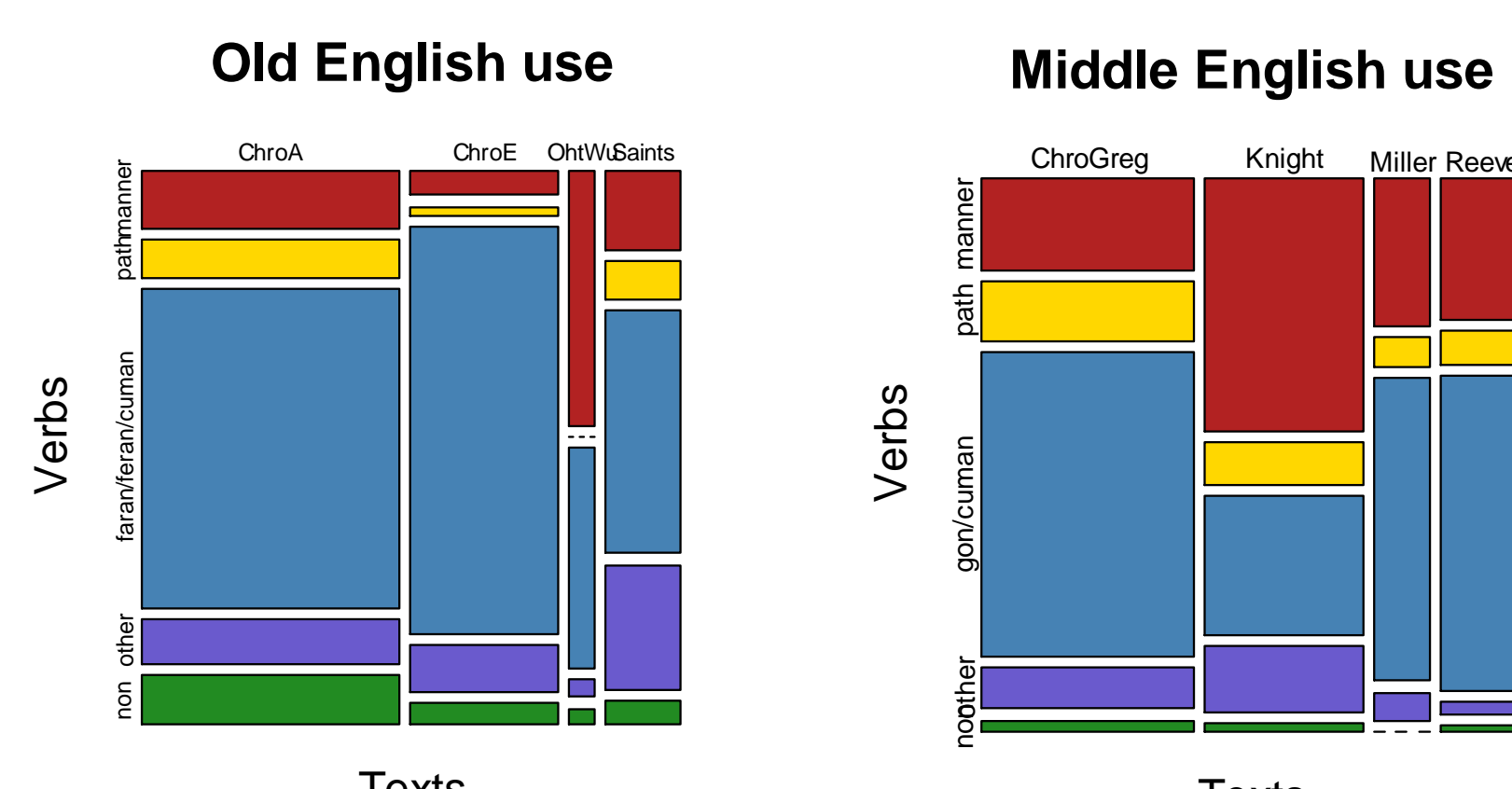


Fig. 3: Verb-types in OE/ME motion descriptions in different texts

2. PATH is typically expressed in adverbs and prepositions – in  
c. 90% of the Old English motion descriptions  
c. 76% of the Middle English ones

75% of the Old English and 74% of the Middle English MANNER verbs (token count) are combined with a PATH-expression, such as in:

- (4) OE: buton þa þe þær ut ætswummon to þam scipum (ChroA 918)  
'Except those who there **out away-swam to the scips.**'
- (5) ME: And by the millere **in he creep anon** ((c1390) Chaucer CT.Rv.)  
'And to the miller **in he crept immediately.**'

## Step 2: Integration of borrowed PATH-verbs from French. Basis: Corpus of Middle English Prose and Verse

**General Results:** → PATH verbs apparently not borrowed as motion verbs as such, but in specific meanings, e.g. as technical terms.  
→ PATH verb use in translated texts is not as restricted as in autonomous texts (triggered by the exemplar, cf. Cappelle 2012) and may have paved the way for their subsequent integration.

→ some PATH verbs apparently have acquired (or were borrowed in) additional MANNER meanings (e.g. *ishen* 'sally forth')  
(cf. Cadierno & Lund 2004: 149; Cifuentes-Férez & Gentner 2006)



III.1. Sortie from Nantes (British Library MS Royal 14 E IV)

**enter** In autonomous ME texts mostly in **nonliteral** uses. In literal uses typically in contexts of **hostility and taking possession**:

- (6) And quo-so **enter into yis gylde** (1389 *Ny Gild Ret.*)  
'And whoever enters into this guild.'
- (7) the [...] Duc with great force assegid and **entred** þe said manoir of Castrer (1475 Paston)  
'The Duke, with great force, besieged and entered the said manor of Caister.'

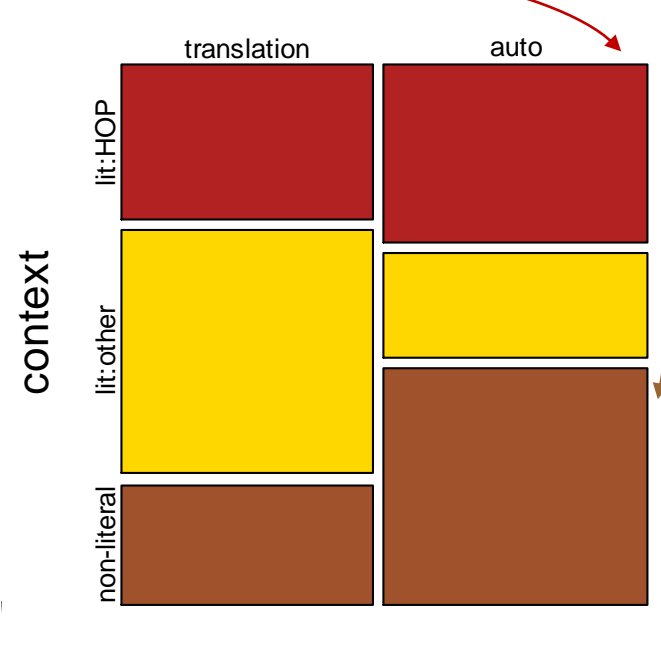


Fig. 4: Usage contexts of ME *entren* (1027 attestations)

**ish/issue** In autonomous ME texts mostly in **military contexts** as 'make a sortie, sally forth':

- (8) And soo Kyng Marke [...] **yssued oute of the Castel of Tyntagyl vpon his enemyes** (1485 Malory Wks. (Caxton: Sommer))  
'And so king Mark issued out of the castle of Tintagle, upon his enemies.'
- (9) **þey vschen in** with banere V hunderyd knyztus in fere. (a1300 Degrev.)  
'They issue in with banner, 500 knights in a group.'

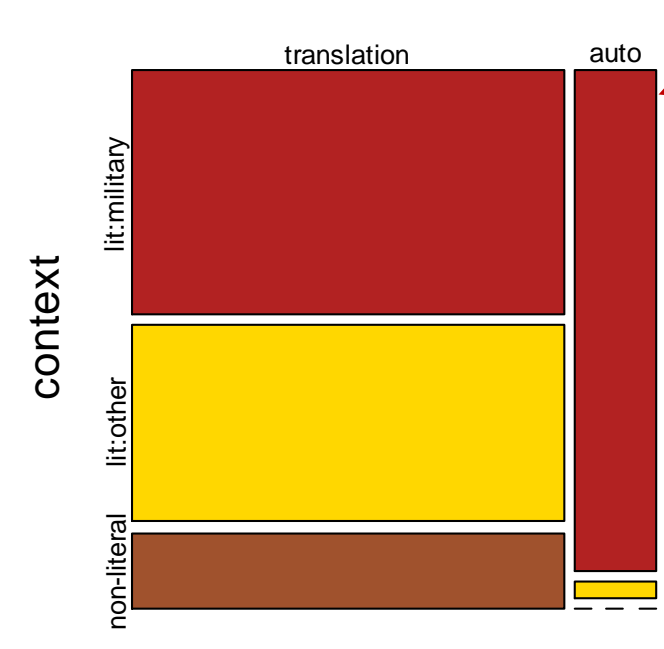
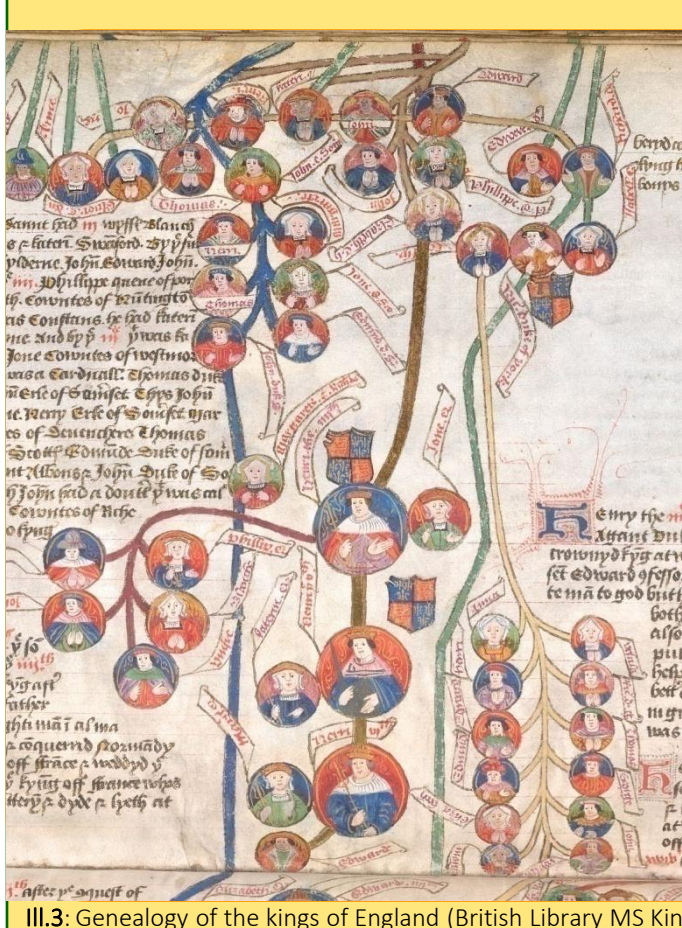


Fig. 5: Usage contexts of ME *ishen/issuen* (192 attestations)



III.2. Sortie from Nantes (British Library MS Royal 14 E IV)



III.3. Genealogy of the kings of England (British Library MS King's 395)

**descend** In autonomous ME texts mostly as a **technical term** and in **nonliteral/metaphorical** uses:

- (10) from hym þe [...] maner **dessendid to** *Alise* his dowtyr (1465 Paston)  
'From him, the manor descended to Alice, his daughter.'
- (11) My fader is lyneally **descended of Alysander** (1485 Malory Wks. (Caxton: Sommer))  
'My father is by lineage descended of Alexander.'

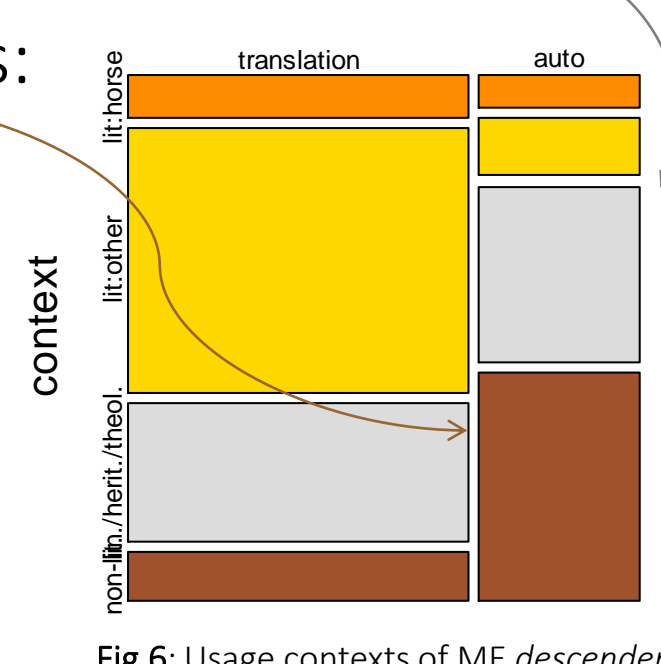


Fig. 6: Usage contexts of ME *descenden* (499 attestations)

**ascend** In autonomous ME texts mostly as a **technical term**:

- (12) And so *tille heuen* I schall **assende** (a1450 *Yk.Pt.*)  
'And so I [i.e., Jesus] shall ascend to heaven.'
- (13) The assendent [...] is thilke degree þat **assendith** [...] v[po]n the est Orizonte (a1450(1391) Chaucer *Astr.*)  
'The ascendent [...] is the same degree that ascends [...] upon the east horizon.'
- (14) þe quinta essencia **ascende vp to þe botum** (a1475 *Bk.Quint.*)  
'The quintessence shall ascend up to the bottom.'

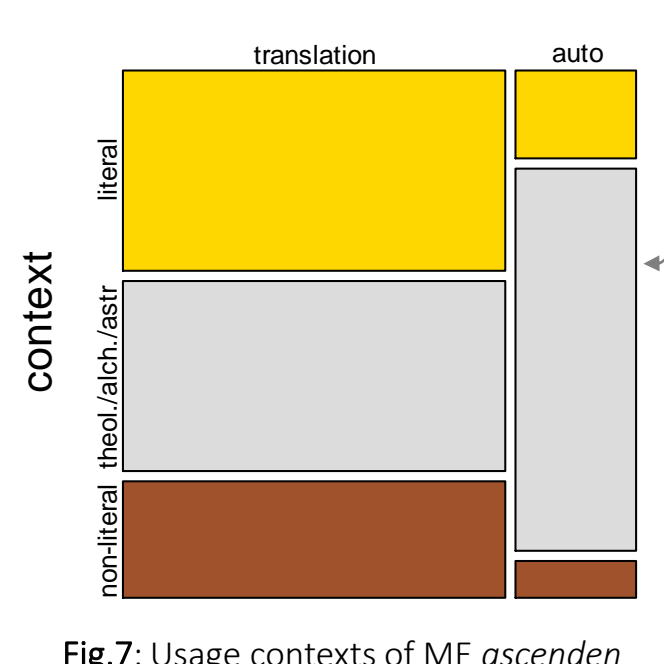


Fig. 7: Usage contexts of ME *ascenden* (170 attestations)



III.4. Ascension of Christ (British Library MS Royal 19 A XXI)