

## PHILOLOGY

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### **Tag-phrase constructions from nineteenth-century plays: the nature of diversity**

Constructions of colloquial dialogic speech containing a tag phrase (a short structure consisting of a service verb and a personal pronoun) are considered. The lexical material is selected from the texts of two plays by Thomas William Robertson: the drama "The Nightingale" (1870) and the comedy "Progress" (1869). Among the constructions with the tag phrase, five structural models are distinguished: monological, such as (1) He is at home, he is., (2) He is at home, is he?, and dialogical, such as (3) "He is at home." "Is he?", (4) "He is at home." "He is." and (5) "He is at home." "So is she." Based on the analysis of the lexico-grammatical and functional features of the models, assumptions are made about the possible ways of the origin of constructions. It is shown that the construction of models is based on the processes of repetition, structural adjustment and assimilation.

**Key words:** tag-phrases, tag-questions, pragmatic markers, historical syntax, spoken interaction, authorial styles, language change.

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