

# On Actuality Denoted by the *Was/Were To*-infinitive Construction in English

Takanobu Akiyama

## Abstract

This paper investigates the linguistic contexts in which the *was/were to*-infinitive construction in English is used and casts light upon the semantic/pragmatic mechanism by which the target construction denotes a sense of actualization (e.g. By an unfortunate twist of fate, Sunderland *were to experience* the full might of the cousins playing in the same team. (B1L 325)). Certain linguists have pointed out that the construction in question can express actualization of the situation in its future-in-the-past use, but none of them, as far as I can determine, has provided a fine-grained analysis of the semantic/pragmatic triggers for its actualization use. Therefore, this paper aims to inspect the contexts in which the actualized FIP (i.e. the situation referred to by the main verb of the sentence is interpreted as having actualized in the past) is interpreted. Furthermore, this is to be contrasted with contexts where the target construction can also denote non-actualized FIP situations (e.g. The British position was simpler; Russia *was to be kept away* from the Straits and Austria-Hungary *was to ensure this*, if possible. (CM6 1619)). My corpus-based research will clarify that there are eight main triggers for the target construction to be construed as being actualized and three main triggers for non-actualized FIP interpretations.

## 1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to give a detailed and comprehensive description of the linguistic contexts in which the *was/were to*-infinitive construction in English is used and to scrutinize the semantic/pragmatic mechanism by which the target construction denotes a sense of actualization (e.g. Although in his later years, Einstein *was to involve* himself more and more in social and political matters - especially pacifism and Zionism - he was fundamentally a theoretical physicist through and through. (B78 1132)).<sup>1)</sup> Linguists have pointed out that the construction in question can express

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<sup>1)</sup> Examples quoted from corpus data are from the British National Corpus (BNC) and are identified by textfile reference (e.g. JXU) and line number (e.g. 1534). Here and elsewhere in this study, italics in corpus sentences quoted from the BNC are my additions, used to highlight relevant parts of the example.

actualization of the situation in its future-in-the-past (henceforth FIP) use, but none of them, as far as I can determine, has provided a fine-grained analysis of the semantic/pragmatic triggers for its actualization use (cf. Collins (2009: 85); Declerck (2010); Goldberg and van der Auwera (2012); Hewings (2013: Unit 12); Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 206); Leech (2004: 70); Quirk et al. (1986: 218); Swan (2016: § 43)). In other words, this paper aims to cast light upon the contexts in which the actualized FIP (i.e. the situation referred to by the main verb of the sentence is interpreted as having actualized in the past) is interpreted. This is to be contrasted with contexts where the target construction can also denote non-actualized FIP situations (e.g. He *was to visit* units of all the three divisions in the Corps area, each of which was to be concerned with the repatriations. (FE5 908)).

The organization of this paper is as follows. Section 2 gives a brief survey of previous analyses of the *was/were to*-infinitive construction and indicates that FIP falls into two types in terms of actuality of the situation denoted by the target construction. Here we will see that there are five types of construction which express FIP but only two types out of them can refer to either actualized or non-actualized FIP. Section 3 conducts a detailed inspection of the linguistic contexts on the basis of the empirical data retrieved from the British National Corpus (BNC) and explicates semantic/pragmatic “triggers” for the *was/were to*-infinitive construction to be construed as being actualized FIP. Here I will put forward eight types of triggers for the actualized FIP interpretation. Section 4 carries out a scrutinization of non-restrictive infinitival relative clauses, which are a syntactic variant of the *was/were to*-infinitive construction. I will point out that this construction denotes similar senses to *was/were to*-infinitives and I will illustrate this using corpus data. Section 5 is devoted to a close examination of the linguistic contexts by which non-actualized FIP interpretation is brought about. Here, three types of triggers for non-actualized FIP interpretation are put forward. Section 6 gives a corpus survey of ambiguous examples and points out that many sentences do not contain these kinds of triggers we have observed in themselves and thus construing the actuality of the target construction is sometimes vague. Section 7 provides a brief description of *was/were to have* + past participle construction. Section 8 then concludes with a brief summary and a discussion of the implications of the research contained in this article.

## 2. Predicate Constructions Denoting Future-in-the-Past

Linguists have indicated that the English language has a wide range of constructions expressing future-in-the-past, i.e. states-of-affairs that are in the future seen at a particular point in the past (cf. Collins (2009: 83-86); Declerck (1991: 379-383); Declerck (2010); Goldberg and van der Auwera (2012); Hewings (2013: Unit 12); Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 197); Leech (2004:

52-53); Quirk et al. (1986: 218); Salkie (2010: 200); Squartini (2016: 54-57); Swan (2016: § 43)). A promising classification of the constructions expressing future-in-the-past is put forward by Quirk et al (1986: 218), which is summarized as follows:

- (1) a. [modal verb construction with *would* (rare; literary narrative style)]  
Vietnam was one of the historical tragedies which *would* eventually follow from this insecurity. (A8F 781)
- b. [*was/were going to* + infinitive (often with the sense of 'unfulfilled intention')]  
I thought this year *was going to be* a slow year but it hasn't been, it just keeps going. (APL 382)
- c. [past progressive (arrangement predetermined in the past)]  
Her new secretary *was arriving* and was going to share her flat for a while. (H7E 2151)
- d. [*was/were to* + infinitive (formal); (i) = 'was destined to'; (ii) = 'arrangement']  
(i) The family *was later to be* among Gloucester's closest associates. (EEE 410)  
(ii) Le Monde of Aug. 21 reported that the Prime Minister *was to visit* the island shortly. (HLN 1892)
- e. [*was/were about to* + infinitive ('on the point of; often with the sense of 'unfulfilled intention')]  
The Queen *was about to go* abroad for several weeks. (A68 2565)

These constructions have a common denominator in that they are used in the past tenses of the verb forms while referring to the future seen from a viewpoint in the past. They are, however, further classified according to whether or not the sentence "guarantees that the event foreseen in the past actually did take place" (Leech 2004: 52). As previous analyses correctly point out, the constructions of *would* and *was/were to* can guarantee the situation is actualized (see example (1a) and (1d (i)) above), although the other constructions listed in (1) cannot. (cf. Declerck (2010: 271-2); Huddleston and Pullum (2003: 206); Quirk et al. (1986: 218)).

### 3. Contexts Triggering Actualization Interpretation in the *Was/Were To*-infinitive Construction

Now that I have made necessary distinctions among FIP uses into two types from the point of view of actualization, let us proceed to cast light upon the contexts in which FIP constructions are used and consider the semantic or pragmatic triggers for the actualization interpretation of this

construction. In this section, in particular, I will confine myself to scrutinizing the linguistic contexts in which actualization of the situation of the future in the past occurs.

### 3.1. Proper Noun Subjects

My corpus investigation clarifies that proper noun subjects + *was/were to*-infinitive construction predicates are likely to denote the actualized FIP. The BNC contains 1232 examples of the syntactic sequence “proper noun + *was/were to*-infinitive”. The more actual the referent of the proper noun is, the more likely it is that the hearer of the sentence will interpret the situation concerning the referent as factual and sometimes actualized, as in:

- (2) a. Archimedes became ‘that divine man’ and Galileo saw in Euclid the wonder of geometry, especially in the work on ratios, which Galileo *was to expand and use to its limit later*. (B7K 1134)
- b. Winston Churchill *was to sum up* his appraisal in a contemptuous phrase : ‘He came, he saw, he capitulated.’ (BNC: CLX 676)

In examples (2a-b), the referents of the proper noun subjects of the *was to* construction are historical figures (*Galileo* and *Winston Churchill*, respectively), which are likely to lead the hearer to interpret the situation denoted by the sentences as being factual. Historical figures are likely to be described with the factual point of view, because descriptions of historical figures are seen from a viewpoint in the past objectively. Historical or actual figures, however, do not always guarantee the actuality of the situation the sentence expresses, because factuality can indicate a situation that was merely planned but not actualized in the past as well. In examples (3a) and (3b) below, the proper nouns of the sentences refer to historical and actual figures respectively but they themselves hardly contribute the FIP interpretation to the sentences. At this point, proper noun subjects can be described as being a “weak trigger” for inducing the FIP interpretation.

- (3) a. Rumours were spreading that Mozart *was to marry* Constanze. (CEW 515)
- b. Prince Charles *was to see for himself*. As the Press and television cameras waited a short distance away at a community centre, the coach slipped quietly into Niddrie Mains Drive and on to Wauchope Terrace. (K5A 5943-4)

### 3.2. The Causal Relationship

The causal relationship between two situations will be an appropriate trigger for the

actualized FIP interpretation to be chosen in the *was/were to*-infinitive construction. In particular, the stronger the causal relationship between a reason and the resultant situation denoted by the *was/were to*-infinitive construction, the more likely it is that the predicate denotes the actualized FIP, as in:

- (4) a. By an unfortunate twist of fate, Sunderland *were to experience* the full might of the cousins playing in the same team. (B1L 325)  
b. In this endeavour, Chapman *was to meet* some brotherly rivalry. (B0L 263)  
c. Thanks to American investment, Woodfall *was to flourish*, but at considerable cost to its original brave intentions. (AL7 1196)

Under the linguistic context in the past tense, the adverbial phrase *by an unfortunate twist of fate* in (4a) suggests that the following situation will inevitably occur. This linguistic context necessarily induces the hearer to construe that the situation of the sentence is actualized. An analogous comment holds for (4b) and (4c). The adverbial phrases (i.e. *in this endeavour* and *thanks to American investment*) refer to an accomplishment of a particular process which leads to bringing about another situation. The situations denoted by *was to* construction in (4b) and (4c) seem to be guaranteed as being actualized through this interpretation process of these adverbial phrases.

The causal relationship between two situations does not always consist of an adverbial phrase and a finite clause, however. The main clause in (5a) and the first clause in (5b) below fulfill a pragmatic function as a reason which leads to the situation communicated by the following clause which is highlighted by being italicized. In (5a), the main clause conveys as a fact that a phobia was given rise to by the incident that had a bad effect on Joyce's suffering later on. (5b) describes the personal history of Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards, an actual cricketer. The first clause gives the fact that Viv Richards became a member of Somerset in 1974, and the second clause, on the basis of the content of the previous clause, communicates a factual implication that Richards actually made a great contribution to winning with his fellow player Garner.

- (5) a. That simple incident was enough to form the basis of the very real phobia *from which Joyce was to suffer throughout the years which followed*. (C9W 760)  
b. In 1974, at the age of 22, he joined Somerset, *and with Joel Garner was to play a very important part in their one-day successes between 1979 and 1983*. (ABR 599)

### 3.3. Specified Time of Occasion

Where the actualized FIP refers to an occasion which took place at a particular time in the past, the *was/were to*-infinitive construction accompanied with a phrase expressing the specified time of occasion is likely to be construed as being actualized. Consider:

- (6) a. In 1928 Pare Lorentz *was to put the question* ‘Who goes to the movies in America?’ and his answer was ‘Everybody.’ (CLS 118)
- b. In 1547, after the English victory over the Scots at Pinkie, Huntly *was to say* ‘I hold well with the marriage, but I like not this wooing’. (AE4 704)

At the beginning of the sentence, specifying the time of occasion in the past induces the hearer to interpret the described situation as being factual. In other words, the specific past time reference places the situation actualized in the past. Furthermore, as (5b) clearly shows, the more the distance between the speech time and the time of the occasion described in the sentence, the less likely it is that the occasion is interpreted as being potential, or a plan or possibility in the past. And so in these cases, the sentence is highly likely to be interpreted as being actualized.

### 3.4. Adverbs

#### 3.4.1. Adverbs of Factuality

Another type of strong triggers for the target construction to be construed as denoting an actualized situation will be adverbs of factuality, elapsed time, frequency, and feeling/impression. Of interest here is that there is a common denominator among these types of adverbs in that they put down the situation at a particular time through a pragmatic construing process. In other words, along with the meaning of the *was/were to*-infinitive construction, these adverbs direct the hearer’s attention to a particular time in the past with the grammatical tense of the *was/were to*-infinitive construction. First of all, my corpus investigation will be made into adverbs of factuality, such as *in reality*, *predictably* and *in actuality*.

- (7) a. Legend has it that it was here that Yusuf met his death beneath the hooves of his enemies’ steeds; here also that El Cid received a fatal wound. In reality, Yusuf was not even present and El Cid *was to live* for several more years. (ASW 388-9)
- b. Predictably, the designer charm of ‘60s Italy *was to be rudely interrupted* by Law and Baker. (BIL 376)
- c. In actuality, it was the poorer peasants who grumbled louder and suffered more from taxation,

as Yakovlev *was to discover* for himself a year later in Tambov Gubernia. (A64 713)

The common semantic function among these adverbial phrases is to direct the hearer's attention to factuality rather than potentiality or possibility of the situation. *In reality* in (7a), for example, is described as being a contrast to *legend* which is placed at the beginning of the previous sentence. The first sentence in (7a) states that EL Cid was fatally wounded but the second sentence denies it and implies his better physical condition. This pragmatic contrast made between *legend* and *in reality* reflects a shift in viewpoint from nonfactual (or uncertain) to factual situations. This viewpoint shift will induce the actualized FIP interpretation in the second sentence. In (7b), the adverb *predictably* seems to mean "as we have predicted before the following situation actually occurs". Thus, the situation with *was/were to*-infinitive construction preceded by this adverb is virtually certain to refer to an actualized situation. This sentence is likely to mean that the designer charm of '60s Italy *was actually and rudely interrupted by Law and Baker*. In (7c) the main clause is preceded by *in actuality* and this adverbial phrase clearly strengthens the effect that the clause is a factual and actualized situation in the past, and then the second clause (i.e. *as Yakovlev was to discover ...*) also attracts the same interpretation concerning actuality.

### 3.4.2. Adverbs of a Point after Some Time Elapses

My corpus investigation suggests that the actualized FIP interpretation in the *was/were to*-infinitive construction is highly likely to be given with adverbial phrases denoting a point after some time elapses, such as *later*, *eventually*, *subsequently*, *in due course* and *finally*. These adverbials might be classed as one of the strongest triggers for the actualized FIP interpretation. They could commonly indicate a shift in viewpoint from time<sub>1</sub> (e.g. past<sub>1</sub> as a preliminary state) to time<sub>2</sub> (e.g. past<sub>2</sub> as a resultant state) and have a semantic feature of highlighting the result of some event or action. The result of an event or action is less likely to refer to a plan, arrangement, necessity or possibility but rather to indicate a factual or actualized situation. Therefore, a *was/were to*-infinitive construction co-occurring with this type of adverbial is more likely to denote an actualized FIP, as in:

- (8) a. Later, much later, Kelly *was to reflect on* how lucky she had been that day. (BP7 1643)  
b. The Oxford lectures which he gave at this time *were eventually to be published* as *The Discarded Image*, perhaps the most completely satisfying and impressive book he ever published. (A7C 1038)  
c. Last year for instance Barton Shield skipper Colm McCarroll brought Wilson, Winston and Kehoe junior, the men who *were subsequently to win* the National youth title, into his line-up

and Derry battled their way through to the quarter-finals before losing to Belvoir Park. (K2D 2344)

- d. In due course Dundee's shipyards *were to build* Shackleton's Terra Nova and another exploration vessel which, after years moored in the Thames, is now back home on display — Scott's Discovery. (EF2 243)
- e. Yet, as it happened, he was registering well above par that evening, for three of the four ideas he had formulated *were finally to prove wholly correct*. (HWM 2660)

The adverbial phrase *later, much later* in (8a) implies that a situation actually happens after another situation. As Duffley (1992) and Duffley and Enns (1996) correctly point out, senses of the *to*-infinitive will be broadly separated into two major subcategories, viz., 'prospect' and 'actualization', which are related to one another by means of image-schema transformations denoted by the infinitive marker *to*. The infinitive marker *to* is derived from the preposition *to* and "the meaning of the preposition *to*, which evokes the infinitive's event as the end-point of a movement" (Duffley and Enns 1996: 224). In other words, the situation denoted by the *to*-infinitive is basically understood to be realized in the future as the end-point of a movement in time. Basically *to*-infinitives refer to the speaker's prospect of a situation denoted by this grammatical construction. The speaker's prospect, however, is sometimes backgrounded and the sense of realization is foregrounded under some syntactic constructions (e.g. I managed *to arrive at the meeting in time*). In (8a), the *was to*-infinitive construction preceded by *later, much later* directs attention from prospect to actualization. This sentence implies that Kelly actually thought deeply about her good luck after a long time. The adverb *eventually* in (8b) emphasizes the result of his lectures at Oxford actually led to publishing a book entitled *The Discarded Image*. The actuality of publishing this book is more likely to be highlighted by the part of "the most completely satisfying and impressive book he ever published". (8c) refers to golf players. The adverb *subsequently* in this sentence makes reference to the resultant situation in the past, and triggers the interpretation of the situation that Wilson, Winston and Kehoe junior actually won the National youth title after Colm McCarroll added those three men to his team. Furthermore, the adverbial phrase *in due course* in (8d), used with the *were to*-infinitive construction, introduces the factual interpretation that Dundee's shipyards actually built Shackleton's Terra Nova and another exploration vessel, because this adverbial phrase can direct attention to some time in the future after another situation occurred. Finally, the adverb *finally* is somewhat semantically different from the other adverbials we have observed in that this adverb focuses on the resultant state itself forcefully and is less likely to imply the preliminary state before the result. In (8e), the adverb *finally* puts an emphasis on the actuality of the situation denoted by



the latter clause of the sentence, “three of the four ideas he had formulated were finally to prove wholly correct”.

### 3.4.3. Adverbs of Positive Frequency

Adverbs denoting positive frequency can also be a semantic trigger for the actualization interpretation in the *was/were to*-infinitive construction. However, even though the situation is interpreted as being actualized, that is less likely to be construed as the future in the past, as in:

- (9) a. Porter and Paisley *were frequently to be found* leading such marches and various Ministers for Home Affairs found themselves being denounced by loyalists at Orange rallies. (AD2 44)
- b. Before she had time to protest he had locked the doors and, removing his glasses as he went, walked briskly over the road. He narrowly missed what he thought was a lamp post but turned out to be a tree, and reached for where the handle *was usually to be found on a front door*. To his surprise it was there. (ASS 639-641)
- c. Contented as she was with the house, Virginia *was always to cast a glance* over her shoulder at her sister, living just five miles away at Charleston. (ANP 661)
- d. Every night — in that twilight time which comes between being awake and falling asleep — Sylvia *was to lie in bed and spend some minutes* concentrating on relaxing her mind and her body and establishing a regular breathing pattern.

The positive frequency adverbs such as *frequently*, *always* and *usually* indicate that the situation actually has occurred many times at short intervals before and guarantee the actuality of the situation used with the *was/were to*-infinitive construction. However, a *was/were to*-infinitive construction co-occurring with this type of adverb is not to be construed as being FIP, because those positive frequency adverbs direct attention to intermittent occurrences of the situation rather than the future situation seen from the past. Example (9a) guarantees that Porter and Paisley were actually and frequently found many times in short intervals, but is not likely to express the future situation in the past. An analogous comment holds for (9b) and (9c). Example (9d) is a little different from (9a-c) in its syntactic sequence. The adverbial phrase *every night* is placed away from the *was to*-infinitive construction, but this adverbial semantically affects the interpretation of the target construction, *Sylvia was to lie in bed and spend some minutes*. This clause, modified by the preceding adverbial phrases, expresses Sylvia’s habit in the past rather than her plan, arrangement, necessity or possibility in the past. The target construction has an interpretation of actualization through this construal process.

### 3.4.4. Adverbs of Feeling/Impression

Adverbs expressing feeling or impression can be a trigger for FIP interpretation as well. This will be because a particular feeling never occurs without a causal actual occurrence. In other words, adverbs expressing feeling or impression at the beginning of a sentence are necessarily followed by the causal situation in particular when the situation is in the past.

- (10) a. Sadly, Z2033 *was to suffer* a minor accident even before the aircraft had left Staverton. (CLU 1295)
- b. When the Mirror's expose was published, Marshall was arrested and we gave police the clearest visual proof of her crime. Amazingly, she *was to get away with it*. Far from acting on our evidence, the police seemed more concerned to discredit it. (CHI 8049-51)
- c. This was the part he had dreamt of night after night in that living room and now — astoundingly — it *was to come true* in the birthplace of Shakespeare with a great company all around his son. (CL2 1828)

In (10a), the adverb *sadly* at the beginning of the sentence entails that something that brings about this negative feeling has occurred. In other words, this negative feeling adverb and the following sentence are connected with an-effect-and-cause relationship. This causal relationship, which is pragmatically communicated, gives rise to the interpretation of an actualized future in the past. In (10b), “she was to get away with it” will be construed as an actualized FIP. The first sentence in (10b) describes the past situation where Marshall was arrested and the speakers gave police definitive evidence to keep her in jail. The adverb *amazingly* at the beginning of the second sentence suggests that something that is contrary to prediction actually happened. That is why this adverb might be enriched in meaning as being “amazingly, however”. And therefore, the situation expressed by “she was to get away with it” will be construed as being actualized. (10c) will be a clearer example to verify the close relationship between adverbs of feeling and the actualized FIP interpretation. The first clause before the adverb *astoundingly* suggests the content of the clause is what was imagined. The second clause, placed after this adverb, is more likely to be expected as being interpreted as an actualized FIP. Indeed, the clause is started with the phrase “it was to come true”.

### 3.5. Paradoxical Discourse Patterns

The paradoxical discourse pattern expressed by “a factual situation in the past + *but* + the sentence subject + *was/were to*-infinitive construction” will be a strong trigger for the FIP

interpretation. Basically, the first clause/sentence is described as factual in the past and the second clause/sentence accompanied with *was/were to*-infinitive is depicted as being contrary to the content of or expected from the first clause but being factual and actualized.<sup>2)</sup> Consider:

- (11) a. On average workers' pay in Belorussia had dropped by 1922 to 73.5 per cent of the 1913 level, but in 1923 it *was to rise to 112.5 per cent*. (A64 104)
- b. His plan came to nothing, but successive railway engineers *were to divert and canalize many miles of river as a by-product of their endeavours*. (AS4 986)
- c. Sancho meanwhile had himself crowned king of Leon, and thus came to rule over the most extensive kingdom in the whole of Christian Spain. However, his success *was to be short-lived*. (ASW 181-2)

Through (11a-c), the two clauses or sentences are logically connected with a paradoxical conjunction or adverb, i.e. *but* or *however*. In other words, the two situations expressed by these clauses or sentences are logically comparative to each other, and thus each of them must be in the same situation to be a target of comparison. Example (11a) describes the fluctuation of average workers' pay in Belorussia in the early 1900's. The first clause refers to the situation in 1922, or a factuality in the past, and thus the second clause, as a comparison of the first one, must depict the factual and actualized situation concerning the average worker's pay in 1923. This is the construal process for the actualized FIP of *was/were to*-infinitive in (11a). In (11b), the first clause describes the fact in the past that a plan returned to nothing, and the second one narrates the resultative future trends after the plan is lost. The first clause and the second clause are connected paradoxically in their logic and swiftly in time. And therefore the second clause must be interpreted as being actualized future in the past. The adverb *however* in (11c) connects the first and second sentences paradoxically. The first sentence refers to Sancho's thriving in the past, and the second sentence, introduced by the adverb meaning paradox, describes his short-term success as a result. This logical sequence requires the *was/were to*-infinitive to be construed as being actualized FIP.

### 3.6. Direct Speech

Pragmatic/encyclopedic knowledge can be another trigger for FIP interpretation. First of all, my corpus investigation suggests that direct speech, "usually signaled by being enclosed in quotation marks" (Quirk *et al.* 1022), co-occurring with the *was/were to*-infinitive construction will be a

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<sup>2)</sup> Declerck (2006 : 670) mentions that a factual interpretation of *was to*-infinitive is subject to the preceding clause.

trigger for FIP, as in:

- (12) a. 'Battles are won primarily in the hearts of men,' Monty *was to write* of Alamein twenty-five years on. (AMC 544)  
 b. Harry Tomalin *was to write* (erroneously) 'The Club does not buy bonds and the market is limited' and he offered to find a buyer at 'about half face value'. (AMY 882)  
 c. 'The last stages of the Third Battle of Ypres,' John Buchan *was to write*, 'were probably the muddiest combats ever known in the history of war.' (CLX 1558)

The parts of direct speech (e.g. 'Battles are won primarily in the hearts of men') in (12a) and (12b) pragmatically indicate that these parts are actually written. In (12a), "twenty-five years on" emphasizes that the fact that Monty actually wrote this sentence. Furthermore, "erroneously" in (12b) logically suggests that the content of this direct narration was actually written and found to be incorrect later. The part of direct speech will be generally grasped so concretely and factually that the action of the utterance (e.g. *write*) itself is more likely to be construed as being actualized. While (12a) and (12b) have another trigger in the sentence (i.e. *twenty-five years on* in (12a) and *erroneously* in (12b)), (12c) does not have other triggers for actualized FIP than the direct speech, but it is clear that this sentence expresses actualized FIP.

My corpus-based research does not indicate that *was/were to say* seems to express actualized FIP without another trigger even though the verb phrase has a direct speech object. The comparison between (13a) and (13b) shows that the actualized FIP interpretation is less likely to be given to (13b) in which the adverb *later* is omitted.

- (13) a. Leonard *was to say* later, 'Lorca ruined my life!' (AP0 601)  
 b. Leonard *was to say*, 'Lorca ruined my life!'

### 3.7. Semantic Properties of Infinitival Clauses

Let us now turn to look at grammatical aspects and semantic properties of infinitives in the target construction. My corpus investigation suggests that the infinitival clause in the target construction has various types of syntactic variants, as in:

- (14) a. By an unfortunate twist of fate, Sunderland *were to experience the full might of the cousins playing in the same team.* (= (4a))  
 b. Porter and Paisley were frequently *to be found leading such marches and various Ministers*

- for Home Affairs found themselves being denounced by loyalists at Orange rallies.* (= (9a))  
c. Japan's flight from her Eden *was to be astonishingly swift*. And it was reflected in the growing size of her railway stations. (AR0 1561-2)

Examples (14a-c) consists of three syntactic variants, i.e. an active voice infinitive in (14a), a passive voice infinitive in (14b), *be* + predicative use of adjective in (14c). As we can easily find out in these three variants, the syntactic variants of the *to*-infinitive do not seem to have an effect on the use of the target construction.

Non-actualized future-in-the-past denoted by the target construction generally refers to a plan or arrangement, necessity, or possibility in the past. The common semantic properties (plan, necessity and possibility) among the *was to*-infinitive construction in (15a-c) denote non-actuality or potentiality of the situation, as in:

- (15) a. A few days before Michael came home, our daughter-in-law Pippa came to stay for a few days, bringing Emily, who *was to go to boarding-school in Yorkshire*. (B1Y 1239) (*was to go* = plan)  
b. At the end of the patrol I *was to submit a comprehensive report of our findings*. (H0C 1025) (*was to submit* = necessity)  
c. It is an additional pleasure to recognise his prophetic power of divining where the best art *was to be found*. (A04 208) (*was to be found* = possibility)

The plan in the past denoted by the *was/were to*-inf. construction is basically concerned with a formal schedule. As with the usage of *is to*-infinitive construction expressed in the present tense, Leech (2003: 70) explains: “[I]t is used in rather formal written style, and is used to refer to something that is going to happen in the future as a result of a plan or decree, normally by some authority other than the subject of the sentence” (Leech 2003: 70). By analogy with this core meaning of *is to*-infinitive construction, the plan sense expressed by the *was/were to*-infinitive construction is thought to be a rather formal schedule (c.f. The prime minister *is to visit Paris next Monday*). And this formal schedule sense implied by the *was/were to*-infinitive construction gives an influence to the interpretation of actualized/non-actualized FIP, as in:

- (16) a. Anna *was to become a very good working dog*, qualifying CDex and winning good show placements including Best of Breed at Crufts in 1939. (AR5 120)  
b. Hebe *was to win the Bitch CC in the 1976, 1977 and 1978 Nationals*. (AR5 691)

- c. Thus he and Barbarossa *were to become close friends* as well as working together, for the next ten years. (ASW 1017)

The *was to*-infinitive constructions in (16a-c) are less likely to be interpreted as expressing non-actualized FIP, in particular ones denoting a plan in the past, because the situations communicated by these infinitival clauses are not formally scheduled in advance. Rather, these infinitival clauses are likely to convey an implication of uncontrollability of the situation. Furthermore, as I argued in section 3.3., adverbs of specified time of occasion such as *in 1939* in (16a), *in the 1976 ... Nationals* in (16b) and *for the next ten years* in (16c) will fortify the actualized FIP interpretation here.

### 3.8. Adverbs of Strong Negation

- (17) a. Chapman *was never to manage* his most illustrious capture. (BOL 730)  
 b. The remaining vacancies *were not to be filled at all*, so that the new House of Commons was to be significantly smaller than the old. (FU3 236)  
 c. *Scarcely* a churchyard *was to be found* but a number of those poor innocent birds were thus barbarously treated. (CB6 1278)

Adverbs of strong negation such as *never* and *not at all* will be strong triggers for the *was/were to*-infinitive construction to be interpreted as being not actualized. This type of triggers should be differentiated from the other triggers for actualized FIP interpretation in that it induces the target construction to refer to the result of a process, but never expresses the process is actualized but denotes non-actualized. Therefore, someone might state that these adverbs should not be categorized as triggers for the “actualized” FIP, but they also entice the situation expressed by the target construction to denote the unfulfilled result of a process. (17a) suggests that Chapman tried to acquire his greatest possession but he could not. Here a non-actualized situation through a process is guaranteed. (17b) indicates that the remaining vacancies were not filled after some various attempts. (17c) refers to the negation of the possibility that a situation occurred. The negative adverb *scarcely* is put at the beginning of the sentence to emphasize the meaning of negation.

## 4. Future-in-the-Past Use in Non-restrictive Infinitival Relative Clauses

The actualized future-in-the-past is generally denoted by the *was/were to*-infinitive construction and a modal auxiliary *would* (see section 2). However, this meaning can be expressed

by another construction, i.e. non-restrictive infinitival relative clauses (henceforth, NIRCs), which are a syntactic variant of *is to*-infinitive construction (cf. Akiyama (2004)). The NIRC denotes similar senses to the *was/were to*-infinitive structure, as in:

- (18) a. Turning to the White Paper, *to be published before the next party conference*, he said it would set out the Conservatives' agenda for the rest of this century. (A50 623) [*to be published* = plan or arrangement]
- b. Can the fundamentally religious ritual be the new foundation of a piece of modern art, *to be evaluated according to purely aesthetic criteria?* (A6B 1071) [*to be evaluated* = necessity/appropriateness]
- c. In front of the Temple was the court of the priests, *to be entered* only by the male priestly caste. (ACL 185) [*to be entered* = possibility]

In addition to those meanings listed above, the NIRCs also denote the future-in-the-past, as in:

- (19) a. He reportedly would sit for hours in a depressive silence, *to be broken by a harangue on his pet hates*, which included sherry drinkers and those by the name of Hambly. (B0G 507)
- b. The Fairies Hill Lock Cut and a colliery basin emerge together on the right midway between the railway viaduct and another around the following bend, *to be followed soon after by a further bridge for a dismantled railway*, such was the proliferation of lines in this area. (BMF 983)

In (19a), the NIRC (i.e. *to be broken by a harangue on his pet hates*) can be paraphrased by a finite relative clause (*which was to be broken ...*). In this sentence, the speaker looks back to the moment of “a depressive silence” in a past situation, and describes “this depressive silence” as being broken in the future in the following past situation. In (19b), the NIRC (*to be followed soon after by a further bridge for a dismantled railway*) can be also paraphrased by a finite relative clause (*which was to be followed ...*). The speaker of (19b) pays attention to the situation in a past when “the Fairies Hill Lock Cut and a colliery basin emerge”, and describes how the Fairies Hill Lock Cut and the colliery basin was later followed by a further bridge for a dismantled railway.

## 5. Triggers for Non-actualization Interpretation

So far we have observed the linguistic contexts by which the *was/were to*-infinitive

construction is interpreted as being an actualized FIP. In this section, I will shed light on triggers for non-actualization interpretation of the target construction.

### 5.1. Implication of Potentiality

- (20) a. This turned out to be a list of policy options from which Mr Bush *was to choose* — with luck in time to unveil a complete plan in his ‘state of the union’ message on January 29th. (ABH 832)
- b. We were planning a visit to Hong Kong for several months, as Michael *was to be* a visiting professor in the University there. (B1Y 1146)
- c. The couple agreed on a further weekend outing together. Charles *was to play tennis with Ann* and she *was to let him know when she was feeling upset*. She also agreed to tell him each evening about the sort of day she had had while he was at work. The therapist hoped this would further improve their ease of communication. (B30 545-548)

The *was/were to*-infinitive construction is likely to have non-actualized FIP interpretation when it occurs in the context implicating potentiality of the situation. The clause *this turned out to be a list of policy options* in (20a), followed by *from which Mr Bush was to choose*, triggers for non-actualized FIP interpretation of the target construction. The clause *this turned out to be a list* directs attention to the moment in the past when a particular fact turned out, and the relative clause *from which Mr Bush was to choose* will refer to the possibility that Mr Bush could choose a policy option from the list. And thus the target construction seems to express the non-actualized FIP. Moreover, the main clause of (20b), i.e. *We were planning a visit to Hong Kong for several months*, refers to a result of the causal situation expressed by the subordinate clause of the sentence. In other words, a plan to visit Hong Kong is based on a schedule that Michael was going to be a visiting professor there. The actualized FIP interpretation of the subordinate clause in (20b) will make it impossible to understand the whole sentence, because the factual interpretation of the *as*-clause will also make the sentence express a result rather than a reason. In (20c), the first sentence will make it clear for both the infinitival clauses *was to play tennis* and *was to let him know* to be construed as non-actualized FIP. The first sentence in (20c) refers to a couples’ further weekend plan and this linguistic context will be a strong trigger for the second sentence to be interpreted as being non-actualized FIP. The fourth sentence guarantees that this plan was not made by the couple themselves but by the therapist. As we have seen in the previous section, Leech (2003: 70) points out that a plan or decree denoted by *is/was to*-infinitive construction is normally made by “some



authority other than the subject of the sentence”.

## 5.2. Adverbial Phrases of Condition

Adverbial phrases of condition will be another type of trigger for non-actualized FIP interpretation. Conditional adverbials placed at the beginning of the sentence strongly induce the hearer to interpret the sentence as non-factual and the *was/were to*-infinitive construction is likely to denote non-actualized FIP, as in:

- (21) a. Under the original deal, which was to expire on July 31, *Japan was to guarantee* a minimum 20 per cent market share for US chip manufacturers, but by mid-1991 the US makers were being restricted to only about 12 per cent of the market. (HL8 1271)
- b. Under the terms of the new bases agreement Clark Field *was to be handed over* to the armed forces of the Philippines by Sept. 16, 1992, the date which the USA claimed marked the expiry of the current agreement. (HL9 2547)
- c. Under the terms of the agreement, to be ratified by the Haitian parliament, René Théodore *was to be installed* as Prime Minister as planned previously and *was to prepare for* Aristide's return. (HLG 482)

Example (21a) starts with the adverbial of condition, *under the original deal*, which is also modified by the non-restrictive relative clause, *which was to expire on July 31*, and the main clause is highly likely to be construed as being a non-factual/non-actualized situation. This is because a condition refers to “a situation that must exist before something else is possible or permitted” (*Oxford Dictionary of English*). Logically speaking, a situation to occur with a condition is less likely to be interpreted as being factual without the context expressing the condition having been fulfilled. With regard to (21b), the main clause with the target construction, *Clark Field was to be handed over to the armed forces of the Philippines by Sept. 16, 1992*, refers to a plan or arrangement in the past, because the realization of the situation expressed by this main clause is controlled by the terms of the new bases agreement. A similar comment holds for (21c). The adverbial phrase *under the terms of the agreement*, modified by the infinitival clause *to be ratified by the Haitian parliament*, refers to a condition which had not yet been made official formally by the government. Thus the main clause preceded by this adverbial phrase necessarily refers to a plan or arrangement in the past.

### 5.3. Negation/Cancellation of Actualization of the Situation

As we observed in section 3.1, the *was/were to*-infinitive construction can never be construed as being factual even though its grammatical subject is a proper noun. Example (22a) starts with the expression “rumours were spreading”, and the sentence subject *rumours* refers to an uncertain or non-factual situation. An appositive clause of the noun *rumours* (i.e. *that Mozart was to marry Constanze*) also necessarily makes reference to a non-factual situation in the past. The sentence subject *rumours* can be analyzed as negating the actuality of the *was to*-infinitive construction in (22a). In (22b), the inserted phrase at the end of the sentence *if possible* functions as a cancellation of the interpretation of the target construction as being actualized. Without this phrase it would not be obvious that the target construction refers to a non-actualized situation.

- (22) a. Rumours were spreading that *Mozart was to marry Constanze*. (= (3a))  
 b. The British position was simpler; Russia *was to be kept away* from the Straits and Austria-Hungary *was to ensure this, if possible*. (CM6 1619)

The following examples illustrate that the non-actuality interpretation of the situation expressed by the target construction is fortified by the paradoxical relationship between the clauses of the sentence. In (23a) the target construction *were to be polite* expresses necessity in the past, and non-actuality of the situation is strengthened by the following clause (i.e. *but he did away with...*), because this clause expresses the paradoxical meaning for the actuality of the situation denoted by the first clause. In other words, the second clause in (23a) cancels the possibility for the first clause to be interpreted as being actualized FIP. Furthermore, the first sentence in (23b) mentions a plan concerning children’s day centers and thus the situation denoted by the target construction (i.e. *the number of subsidised child-minding places was to be increased*) of the second sentence is also highly likely to refer to a plan in the past. The latter clause preceded by the paradoxical conjunction *but* makes a reference to the reason why the number of places in the children’s day center would be halved. In other words, the *but*-clause negates the possibility of the actualized FIP interpretation of the target construction.

- (23) a. Of course, the letters *were to be polite*, but he did away with all the pompous formalities reserved for potentates. (CJR 776)  
 b. It contained a plan to halve the number of places in children’s day centres from 1989. The number of subsidised child-minding places *was to be increased*, but this would not provide the group experience that is such a valuable aspect of day centre provision. (CRS 224-5)

- (24) When he heard that a role in *Papillon* would be especially created for him, he was not only flattered but asked for (and got) a salary of \$1.25 million. (McQueen received \$2 million.) Steve McQueen and Dustin Hoffman *were to be billed* always on the same line.

The target construction *were to be billed* in example (24) is also likely to be interpreted as being non-actualized FIP. (24) is concerned with Dustin Hoffman's salary and the bracketed second sentence states the difference in salaries between Steven McQueen and Dustin Hoffman. And the third sentence implies the counter-factual situation in the past that McQueen and Hoffman's salaries should have been on the same line but actually they were billed differently. The actualized FIP interpretation of the target construction in (24) would make the discourse understood illogically.

## 6. Ambiguous Examples

While we have sought for semantic/pragmatic triggers for actualized/non-actualized FIP interpretation, my corpus investigation clarified that many sentences do not contain these kinds of triggers we have observed in themselves and thus construing the actuality of the target construction is sometimes vague. The judgement of the actualized/non-actualized FIP interpretation, therefore, is contingent on the broader linguistic contexts, as in:

- (25) a. Tyrone *was to search for* evidence of further concealed Coal Measures. (B2J 547)  
b. Enormous areas of eastern Germany *were to be handed over to Poland*. (BN2 689)

These two sentences above seem to be vague in that the *was to*-infinitive construction clearly denotes actualized/non-actualized FIP due to the lack of triggers in the sentences. (25b), for example, would be vague in actuality interpretation without the historical knowledge. This sentence, however, is highly likely to be construed as being non-actualized FIP with the following linguistic context:

- (26) While the Treaty as a whole was deeply humiliating to Germany, it was accepted for the most part with a sullen resignation and silent disgust. There was one section of the Treaty, however, that occasioned deep anger and resentment. Enormous areas of eastern Germany *were to be handed over to Poland*. (BN2 687-9)

The discourse of (26) clarifies that it was a section of the Treaty that enormous areas of eastern

Germany would be handed over to Poland. And this linguistic context urges the hearer to understand the sentence (25b) as being non-actualized.

### 7. *Was/Were To Have + Past Participle Construction*

As linguists point out, the ambiguity of the interpretation in *was/were to*-infinitive construction can be removed by using *was/were to have + past participle* construction (see Hewings 2013 : unit 14B; Huddleston Pullum 2003: 206; Larreya 2003: 31; Swan 2016 : section 43). This construction definitely expresses non-actualized situations. The BNC contains 124 examples of *was/were to have + past participle* construction and shows that all the examples express non-actualized situations.<sup>3)</sup> In addition, the corpus illustrates that out of 124 examples of *was/were to have + past participle* construction, five examples are used in *if*-clauses.

- (27) a. I *was to have broken my leg* attempting to get from bed to the top of the stars. (B2E 1209)  
 b. She realised what a relief it *was to have formulated* that simple statement and how, having done so, the power of it to horrify her was already lessening. (H8B 1652)

### 8. Conclusion

The purpose of this paper was to give a full and valid specification of the linguistic contexts in which the *was/were to*-infinitive construction in English is used on the basis of corpus data and to cast light upon the semantic/pragmatic mechanism by which the target construction denotes a sense of (non-)actualization. The present paper has pointed out that there are eight main triggers for the target construction to be construed as being actualized. First of all, corpus data indicates that proper noun subjects can be a weak trigger for inducing FIP interpretation. Secondly, the causal relationship between two situations was found to be an appropriate trigger for the actualized FIP interpretation to be chosen in the target construction. And we found that the causal relationship between two situations was described by some syntactic patterns. Thirdly, my corpus survey revealed that where the actualized FIP refers to an occasion which took place at a particular time in the past in *was/were to*-infinitive construction accompanied with a phrase expressing the specified time of occasion is likely to be construed as being actualized. With regard to the fourth trigger, adverbs of factuality,

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<sup>3)</sup> I used a tag sequence of “\*\_VBD \*\_TO0 have \*\_VFN” for my enquiry into this syntactic pattern. The grammatical tag \*\_VBD stands for *was* or *were*, the past form of be-verb, \*\_TO0 for infinitival marker *to*, and \*\_VFN for past participle of verbs except for *be*, *do*, and *have*.

elapsed time, frequency, and feeling/impression were found to be strong triggers for the target construction to be construed as denoting an actualized situation. Furthermore, our corpus-based study suggests that paradoxical discourse patterns, direct speech, semantic properties of infinitival clauses and adverbs of strong negation can be triggers for actualized FIP interpretation. In addition to the target construction, we found that non-restrictive infinitival relative clauses also denoted actualized FIP. Concerning triggers for non-actualization interpretation, my corpus survey indicated that implication of potentiality, adverbial phrases of condition and negation/cancellation of actualization of the situation could be contexts by which non-actualization interpretation is caused in the target construction. To enhance the validity of the discoveries and hypotheses in this paper more incontrovertibly, we will have to await further research.

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