

Autour de quelques valeurs de *be to* en anglais contemporain

About some values of *be to* in contemporary English

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Abstract: In most grammars, *be to* is treated as a modal periphrasis or construction, whose various interpretations derive from a primary semantic value, differing from one grammarian to another, which suggests the limits of such an approach. It appears in fact more fruitful to adopt a compositional approach and analyse *be to* as resulting from the combination of two distinct operations, the central one marked by *be*, and the background one marked by *to*, each of which, depending on the context, will contribute to the semantic value of the whole. The proposed approach will fall within the framework of the Theory of Enunciative Operations and will focus on three of the main values of the combination: arrangement/project, constraint/obligation and intention.

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