

A diachronic perspective on the development of French negation

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The conference will discuss some aspects of the changes that have affected negation in French : Deletion of *ne*, negative concord, and *pas* / *point* alternation. We will first examine the socio historical evolution of these changes in Continental and Canadian French, from a corpus of literary and non literary French documents. This presentation will help us understand the relation between Canadian and Continental French, the latter being the source of the former.

The second part of the presentation will focus on the grammar of negation. We will first examine deletion of *ne*, and the role of affixation of the clitic subject in the development of this phenomenon. Then, we will examine the decrease of *point* from 17th to 19th c. We will ask if this decrease can be linked to morphosyntactic changes which affected negative adverbs during this period.