

Re: was did

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- *From:* John Swindle <jcswindle@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 17 Sep 2008 20:18:39 -1000
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On Wed, 17 Sep 2008 13:28:52 -0700 (PDT), "Peter T. Daniels" <grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Sep 17, 2:39 pm, John Swindle <jcswin...@xxxxxxx> wrote:

On Wed, 17 Sep 2008 05:32:12 -0700 (PDT), "Peter T. Daniels"

<gramma...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Sep 17, 1:17 am, John Swindle <jcswin...@xxxxxxx> wrote:

...

I grew up in North America and still live in the United States (although not in North America), and I can tell you how to construct those, or how I do it anyway. Write an e-mail message. Use a "was" construction. Go back and change it to a "did" construction, but forget to delete the "was." Et voila. (Ett VOY-la.) I can't imagine that those are anything but typos. -

Did you "grow up in NA" before 1980?

You claim to live in Hawai`i and that the construction is not used there?

Right on both counts! So far as I know.

Re: was did

It's hard to say that a construction is not used, but "was did" is certainly unfamiliar. I suspect that the examples represent careless writing or editing and that the writers would not use it in their own speech.

You have however heard it widely, and if others have heard it too then I'm obviously mistaken.

Have others heard it too?

The linguists who wrote the AmSp article that analys... found certainly have ...

(is is, not was did)

Sure. But "was did" is something else: a typo.

Of course "was did" could work just fine in a context like "Only when he looked back and saw who it was did he abandon the idea of singing 'The Internationale'"