

Composite Predicates with *Have* and *Take* in Epistolary Literature

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1 Introduction

Composite Predicates (CPs; Cattell 1984) are verbal structures consisting of the “light verb” *give/make/have/take* + a deverbal noun (Akimoto 1989); *give an answer, make a call, have a drink, take a guess* are examples of CPs (Brinton and Akimoto 1999). My project is to investigate the usage of CPs with *have* and *take* in letters by British and American writers from Early Modern English through Late Modern English, including epistolary literature. As part of this project, this paper examines CPs with *have* and *take* in epistolary literature in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The data on CPs with *have* and *take* is from Sir Roger L’Estrange’s *Five Love Letters from a Nun to a Cavalier* (1678), Anonymous’ *Love’s Posie* (1686), Aphra Behn’s *Love Letter between a Nobleman and his Sister* (1688), Charles Gildon’s *The Post-boy rob’d of his Mail* (1692), Mary de la Riviere Manley’s *Letters* (1696), Samuel Richardson’s *Pamela* (1740), Tobias Smolett’s *The Expedition of Humphry Clinker* (1771) and Fanny Burney’s *Evelina* (1778). The first five works are from the seventeenth century and the last three from the eighteenth century. The work by Sir Roger L’Estrange, Anonymous, Charles Gildon and Mary de la Riviere Manley are in the Chadwyck-Healey’s Early English Prose Fiction database.

There are some functional characteristics on CPs with *have* and *take*. The first one is state vs. event distinction. CPs with *have/take* sometimes show a state vs. an event distinction. This contrast can be seen in some examples of *have/take (a) cold, have/take a love, have/take affection, have/take dislike* from Late Middle English through Late Modern English¹.

The second one is that CPs with *have/take* sometimes show passive meanings such as in *I had a fright* ‘I was frightened’ (Quirk et al. 1985: 751) and in *take a beating* ‘be beaten’ (Algeo 1996: 206). The third is a dynamic *have* as in *We have dinner at Maxim’s quite frequently* (Quirk et al. 1985: 178). The first two characteristics are a hindrance when CPs with *have/take* are to be idiomatized. This paper explores these characteristics except the second problem which is omitted here, and the fixedness of articles and passivization. Sometimes deverbal nouns and the frequency of a type of a CP are also taken into account. Also, some CP data other than epistolary literature is sometimes used, including the Chadwyck-Healey Early English Prose Fiction database.

2 CPs with *havetake* in seventeenth century epistolary literature

In this chapter CPs with *havetake* in epistolary literature in the seventeenth century are examined. In Sir Roger L'Estrange's work (1678), CPs with *have* are followed by abstract nouns: *love, passion and regard*.

- (1) Do all that is possible for you to do, (if ever you had any Love for me) to
Make me absolutely forget you.(page 68)

Eventive *take love* is not acknowledged.

CPs with *take* are accompanied with nouns: *notice, pains, pity, revenge, voyage* and *warning*:

- (2) Every Creature takes Notice how strangely I am chang'd in my Humour, my manners, and in
my Person.(69)

In Anonymous' *Love's Posie* (1686), CPs with *have* are followed by *ambition, delight, desire, interest, leisure, mind, opinion* and *passion*.

- (3) But, herein, you have but too much reason, to have an unshaken good opinion of yourself,
(149)

CPs with *take* are followed by *air, care, cognizance, delight, heed, leave, pains* and *pleasure*.

- (4) I begin to take cognizance, that you are more deeply dipt, (90)

As for nominal modifier in *take (one's) leave*, only *take one's leave* occur twice.

In Aphra Behn, CPs with *have* are accompanied with forty three kinds of nouns (see Appendix). The most frequent kind of a CP is *have a care(of/that clause)*(nine times).

- (5) . . . , but oh thou powerful charmer have a care, (29)/. . . ; have a care of me and my life
in the preservation of all I love. (70)

The most frequent type of a CP with *have* as *have a care* is *have recourse to* (nine). In the seventeenth century *have a care* appeared three times in the *OED (Oxford English Dictionary)*, in

the sixteenth century one, and in the eighteenth century one².

(6) . . . ; no, my Lord, she must be poor in Beauty that has recourse to shifts so mean; (201)

Articles in *have (the) opportunity of* and *have an/the + Mod + possession of* are unsettled.

(7) (a) Oh none, but under that intimate title of Brother, cou'd have had opportunity to have receiv'd me, (22)

(b) . . . ; while she was calling to her page for a Porcellane Dish to put 'em out, Dorillus had opportunity to hint to me what lay at the heart of the bottome; (32)

(8) (a) . . . , she had an absolute possession of all his Fortune, (358)

(b) . . . , and that it was better he should think he yet had the absolute possession of her, (423)

Of CPs with *take* in Aphra Behn's, the most frequent types of a CP are *take care* (twenty two times), *take leave* (fourteen) and *take notice (of)* (eleven). *Take notice of* was passivized as follows:

(9) . . . ;for I must be more moments with you, than will convenient to be taken notice of, (28)/This was taken notice of by all, (430)

According to the Chadwyck-Healey's Early English Prose Fiction database, the frequency of *take notice of* (active voice) vs. *be taken notice of* (passive) is 157 vs. ten. In the epistolary literature of this database *take notice of* vs. *be taken notice of* is six vs. eight, and the passive *notice be taken of* is fourteen. CP passives are divided into two types: (a) '(no) notice was taken of this suggestion'; (b) 'this suggestion was taken (no) notice of' in Visser (1973: 2163). In ME, type (a) is common, and type (b) is rare (Matsumoto 1999: 89). As in the epistolary literature *be taken notice of* is likely to appear, so the degree of fixedness of *take + notice + of* is high. As for nominal modifier in *take (one's) leave (of)*, *take leave (of)* occur twelve times and *take one's leave* two. *Take the air* means 'go out', and *take air* means not 'go out' but 'take breath', or used figuratively.

(10) (a) . . . , if she took the Air in her coach, (172)

(b)---let me take air---let me recover breath: (72)

- (c) . . . ; he could not promise Numbers, least by leading so many here,
their design should take Air, (403)

In Charles Gildon's, the most frequent type of a CP with *have* is *have a care of* (five times). (11a) is imperative, and the other four instances are followed by a gerund as in (11b).

- (11) (a) Have a care of the Angling-Rod too long in your Hand, (352)
(b) But I must have a care of touching upon the Age . . . (5)

The most frequent type of a CP with *take* is *take care* (six times), and a passivised CP is *take notice of* (one).

- (12) . . . , and e'ry Fool will take more care of his Body than Soul, (268)
(13) I feare me these Prejudices arise from your not observing the precepts of the Art, which ought to be so much the more accurately taken notice of, (348)

The modern pattern of a CP is *take a walk*.

- (14) The other day we took a walk into Red-Lion-Field, and . . . (297)

Five examples of *take a walk* appear in the Chadwyck-Healey Early English Prose Fiction database including the example in (14)³.

In Mary de la Riviere Manley, CPs with *have* appear twice, and those with *take* ten times. This work is very small (See Appendix).

3 CPs with *have* and *take* in eighteenth century epistolary literature

In this chapter CPs with *have* and *take* in eighteenth century epistolary literature are examined.

3.1 Richardson's *Pamela* (1740-1)

State vs. event contrast was not found because a stative CP *have a dislike* was used (297/ 338) and an eventive CP *take a dislike* was not.

I selected typical types of a CP with *have* in Richardson's *Pamela* which expressed the activity, not mental activity. Dynamic *have* is used in *have a ball* (355), *have conference* (361), *have a night*

(217/237).

The most frequent type of a CP is *have a talk*((59/70/73/ 80/114/156/223/259/366/408/471). Stative activity is expressed in *have rest* (143/334), and *have sleep* (134/370). Other activities are found in *have airing* (376), *have a run for* (422), *have a ride* (359), and *have a quarrel* (200).

- (15) (a) . . . ; and we had a delightful airing round the neighbouring villages;
 (b) When he returned, he said, he had had a pleasant ride, . . .
 (c) He and she, I found by her, had a quarrel.

Fixed types of a CP with *take* is found in *take advantage of* (245/ 252/ 256/ 266/ 288/ 499), *take hold of* (49/ 99/ 115/ 186/ 216/ 232/ 363), *take place* (229/ 287/ 292/ 333/ 401/ 416/ 464), and *take possession of* (336/ 376/ 384/ 388). The most frequent types of a CP are acknowledged in *take care* (forty one times), *take notice* (twenty four), and *take leave* (fifteen). As for nominal modifier in *take (one's) leave (of)*, *take leave (of)* occur twelve times and *take (one's) leave (of)* three. Passivized CPs are found in *take care* (384) and *take notice* (57/ 172).

- (16) (a) '. . . Mr Williams is already taken care of; . . . '
 (b) 'I have been crying so, that it will be taken notice of by my fellow- servants as they come in and out; . . . '
 (c) . . . ; and I had only to beg no notice should be taken of the matter, as proceeding from me.

Take a leap (211) and *take a copy* (174/ 206/ 232/ 236) are new types of a CP.

- (17) (a) . . . , before thou takest the dreadful leap;
 (b) I had but just finished taking a copy of this, (236)

Although the dynamic *have* used in *have supper* is not found in this novel, *take a dinner* is found (377/ 491). Swift used *have dinner* in his Journal (1710-13).

- (18) . . . , and two other gentlemen, were on the road to take a dinner with him, in their way to Nottingham. (377)

(19) . . . ; but we only had a scurvy dinner at an ale house, (Swift 94)

In Modern English, *have a dose* is used, but *take a dose* is found here.

(20) '. . . I knew she had taken a fine dose'. (238)

In the eighteenth century, the activity of going for a walk or going out/outside began to be common, which was expressed with CPs *take an airing* (180/ 292/ 293/ 299/ 369/ 373/ 456), *take a turn* (56/ 145/ 160/ 163/ 168/ 171/ 175/ 195/ 249/ 250/ 295/ 323/ 378/ 437/ 444), *take a walk* (56/ 158/ 164/ 195/ 318/ 338/ 505/ 509) in *Pamela* (see Matsumoto forthcoming).

(21) (a) . . . : for my good girl and I were going to take an airing till dinner-time. (373)

(b) I took an evening turn, as I called it, in Mrs Jewkes's company; (171)

(c) . . . ; where we alighted, and took a walk in the garden till dinner-time. (505)

3.2 Tobias Smolett's *The Expedition of Humphry Clinker* (1771)

State vs. event distinction was not found in Smolett's. *Have an affection* for which is state is found (28/ 64), but an eventive CP *take an affair* is not used. Dynamic *have* is found in *have a conference* in (20).

(22) . . . , by the way of Geneva, that he may have a conference with his friend Voltaire, (186)

Hake/take a look had not appeared yet but *have a glimpse* appeared.

(23) . . . ; and I pray constantly for grease, that I may have a glimpse of the new light, (346)

Articles of CPs are not settled as in (23a-d).

(24) (a) . . . , he was very shy of taking charge of my letter and the little parcel,(12)

(b) . . . , that he always takes upon himself the charge of catering;(62)

(c) He was visited by the vicar, who read prayers, and began to take an account of the state of his soul, (311)

(d) . . . ; I set a person at work to take account of every thing . . . (349)

Passivized CPs are found in *take care*, *take resolution*, and *take steps*.

- (25) (a) . . . : albeit, I am much surprised that more care is not taken to
exclude from the commission . . . (3)
(b) Their resolution was immediately taken. (215)
(c) These steps being taken, (348)

Take care is the most frequent type of a CP (seventeen times), and the second frequent one is *take notice* (eight). *Take notice of* is not passivized here (see examples [13] and [16b-c]).

As for nominal modifier in *take (one's) leave (of)*, only *take one's leave (of)* occur four.

3.3 Fanny Burney's *Evelina* (1778)

The state vs. event contrast between CPs with *have* and those with *take* was not found here. A stative CP *have a liking* was found (184) but an eventive CP *take a liking* was not. A stative CP *have a cold* was found (71/ 82) but an eventive CP *take a cold* was not. Dynamic *have* was found in *have breakfast* (163) and *take tea* was found in (121) as well. But Swift used *have tea* in his Journal 322 in 1710-13. The most frequent type of a CP is *take (~'s) leave* (twelve times), and *take notice of* (twelve); the next most frequent is *take care* (nine). As for nominal modifier in *take (one's) leave (of)*, *take leave (of)* occur eleven and *take one's leave* one⁴. The modern type of a CP is *take a walk* (322).

4. Conclusion

State vs. event contrast was not found in epistolary literature. When this contrast disappears completely, idiomatization advances. Language in letters is more colloquial than that in novels. Epistolary novel takes a form of letters and is a novel, but didn't show this contrast. This contrast is likely to appear in fiction more than in letters.

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Appendix

Sir Roger L'Estrange (1678)

CPs with *have*:

have love for

have passion

have regard to

CPs with *take*:

take notice

take pains to

take pity of

take ~'s revenge upon

take a voyage

take warning

Anonymous: *Love's Posie* (1686)

CPs with *have*:

have ambition to

have the delight to

have a desire to

have interest in

have leisure to

have a mind to

have an opinion of

have passion

CPs with *take*:

take air

take care (of)

take cognizance

take delight in/to

take heed of

take (~'s) leave of

take the pains to

take pleasure in

Aphra Behn (1684-7)

CPs with *have*:

have abhorance to

have admiration for

have acknowledgment for

have ado to

have an awe upon

have a care (of)

have commands for

have concern for

have a consideration for

have the courage to

have dependence on

have devotion for/to

have enjoyments

have esteem for

have fancy

have fear

have hand in

have hate at/for

have a heart (to)

have hope to/that

have inclination for/to

have interest in

have leasure to	have memory
have a mind to	have need of
have an opinion of	have (the) opportunity to
have a passion for	have patience
have pity for	have pleasure
have the possession of	have (the) power to
have prospect of/in	have recourse to
have remorse	have respect for/to
have a tenderness for	have thoughts of
have use for	have value for
have zeal for	

CPs with *take*:

take advantage of	take (the) air
take beginning	take care(s) about/for/of/that/to
take coach	take council(s) of
take courage (to)	take delight in/to
take excuse of	take ~'s farewell
take ~'s flight	take freedoms
take heed to	take hold of
take horse	take ~'s journey
take joys	take (~'s) leave (of)
take ~'s lodgings	take measures
take melancholy at	take notice (of)
take opportunity/-ies of/to	take the pains to
take pleasure to	take pledge
take relapses	take resolution
take rest	take (~'s) revenge
take shipping	take a turn
take a view of	take vows

Charles Gildon (1692)

CPs with *have*:

have a care of	have concern
have a design to	have desire to

have esteem of
have a fancy
have interview with
have passion for
have prospect of
have the use of

CPs with *take*:

take the advantage of
take a delight in
take hold of
take notice of
take pleasure (in)
take rest
take a walk

have an eye upon
have hopes of
have meal
have patience
have thoughts

take care of/to
take ~'s flight to
take measures
take the pains to
take ~'s resolution
take a view of

Mary de la Riviere Manley, Richardson Pack (1696)

CPs with *have*:

have antipathy

have a mind to

CPs with *take*:

take advantage of
take coach
take ~'s journey
take notice of

take care
take delight in
take pains to
take pleasure in

Richardson's Pamela (1740-41)

CPs with *have*:

have gotten an account of
have advantage of
have an airing
have appetite
have a ball
have catch of
have comfort
have company
have concern upon

have ado to
have affair with
have an answer
have apprehensiveness
have the boldness to
have claim to
have command of
have compassion for
have conference

have confidence in	have correspondence with
have courage/the courage to	have design of/upon
have desire	have difficulty
have a dislike to	have doubt(s) about/of/to
have emotions	have expectation to
have a fancy	have fatigue
have fear(s)	have grace to
have grief	have the head-ache
have the honour to	have hope(s) of/that
have the impudence to	have inclination to
have intention to	have interest in
have jest	have joy
have leisure to	have like to
have the love of	have mercy upon
have a mind to	have misfortune
have a night	have notice of
have notion(s) of	have objection (to)
have an opinion of	have an opportunity of/to
have part in	have patience (with)
have pity on	have the pleasure in/of/to
have (the) pride in/to	have a prospect of
have puzzles	have a quarrel
have recourse to	have regard for
have remorse	have request
have rest	have a ride
have a right to	have a run for
have sense to	have shame
have sleep	have sorrow
have spies upon	have suspicion of
have a talk (with)	have a thought
have trouble	have a turn
have a view	have a word with
have writing	

CPs with *take*:

take advantage of	take an airing
take bent to	take care (of/to)
take comfort	take a compliment for
take a copy of	take ~'s counsel
take courage	take course
take delight in/to	take a dinner
take displeasure	take a dose
take a/~'s fancy (to)	take hold of
take horse	take a house
take leap	take (~'s) leave (of)
take the liberty to	take measures
take method	take notice (of)
take the opportunity to	take the pains to
take part in	take pity of
take place	take ~'s place
take pleasure in	take possession of
take a pride in	take refuge in
take resolution(s)	take shame
take step	take strides
take the trouble of	take a turn
take a walk	

Smollett's *Humphry Clinker* (1771)

CPs with *have*:

have the advantage of	have affection for
have command of	have communication with
have concern	have a conference with
have confidence	have deception of
have doubts	have esteem for
have feeling for	have a glimpse of
have got the headache	have the honour to
have hopes of/that	have idea of
have inclination to	have interest

have mercy upon	have a mind to
have objection(s) to	have an opportunity of/to
have patience	have pleasure of
have prospect of	have recourse to
have regard for	have respect for
have reversion	have a right to
have tendency to	have no thoughts of

CPs with *take*:

take (an) account of	take (the) air
take arms	take boat
take care of/that/to	take (the) charge of
take compassion on	take ~'s course
take ~'s departure	take exercise
take the field	take ~'s ground
take hold of	take ~'s leave for/of
take the liberty to	take lodgings
take measures to	take method (to)
take notice (of)	take offence at
take an/the opportunity of/to	take pains to
take a/one's passage	take pill
take ~'s place	take the place of
take pleasure in	take a plunge
take possession of	take precaution
take refusal	take resolution
take road	take satisfaction
take ships	take shipping
take snuff	take ~'s station
take steps	take strides
take the trouble to	take a turn
take umbrage	take vengeance

Fanny Burney's *Evelina* (1778)

CPs with *have*:

have acquaintance	have ~'s breakfast
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have a cold	have the courage to
have delight in	have no doubt
have idea	have a liking for
have notion (of)	have objection to
have the pleasure to	have rest
have a suspicion of	have trouble to
have use of	have a view of
have a walk	

CPS with *take*:

take care (of/to)	take ~'s chance
take charge of	take comfort
take a dip	take hold of
take the lead	take (~'s) leave (of)
take the liberty (of/to)	take notice of
take an opportunity of/to	take pains (to)
take part in	take pity on
take place	take place of
take resolution	take spite against
take steps	take ~'s tea
take the trouble (of/to)	take a turn
take a walk	

Notes

- ¹ (i) (a) '. . . : lat us kepe oure stronge-walled townys untyll they have hunger and colde, and . . . ' (Malory, *Wks.* 1211/25-26)
' . . . : let us keep our strong-walled towns until they are hungry and feel cold, and, . . . '
- (b) '. . . But now go again lightly; for thy longe tarrynge puttith me in grete jouperte of my lyff, for I have takyn colde. . . ' (Malory, *Wks.* 1239/33)
' . . . But now go again quickly; for your tarrying for a long time put me in danger of losing my life, for I have caught a chill. . . '
- (c) '. . . ; for he might not take cold after his swimming, she lay close by him to keep him warm.' (Nashe 426)

(i)(a) shows a state, and (i)(b-c) an event.

- (ii) (a) . . . , for the grete love that they had unto hym (Caxton 132/18)
 ' . . . , for the great love that they had for him'
- (b) Meede took so greete love to Jason that . . . sche . . . made charmers . . . Jason
 to enchaunte. (c1440 Scrope *Othea* 66/24 from *MED*, s.v. *taken*, def. 16[b]:
taken love of [to] 'fall in love with')
 'Medea fell in love with Jason so deeply that . . . she cast a spell . . . to enchant
 Jason'
- (C) 'And . . . , a grave man . . . , began to tell us that he had taken such a love unto
 us . . . that though he were a servant, . . . ' (Sidney 372)

(ii)(a) is a state, and (ii)b-c) an event.

- ² (i)1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* 172, You must have an especial care of causing you
 parts [of a ditty] give place one to another . . . (*OED*, s.v. *ditty*)
- (ii) (a) 1661 PEPYS *Diary* 19 July, Agreeing with Hauker to have a care of my business in my
 absence . . . to be our bayly. (*OED*, s.v. *bailie*, def.4)
- (b) 1675 COTTON *Compl. Gamester* xxvi.(1680) ll, When you come to bearing, have a
care of making when you need not. (*OED*, s.v. *bearing*, def.I.1a)
- (c) 1678 *Hatton Corr.* (1878) 169, Have a care of coming neare those that have
 the feavour. (*OED*, s.v. *fever*)
- (iii) 1727 BRADLEY *Fam. Dict.* I.s.v., *Care* must be *had* that you do not confound the
 Word Bower with Arbour;

- ³ Anonymous: *The Dutch Rogue* (1683) After dinner they took a walk into the woods,
 Brown, Thomas: *Amusements Serious and Comical* (1700) From the Gaming-House
 we took our walk through the Streets,
 Dunton, John: *A Voyage Round the World* (1691) Vol.3: CHAP.IX: . . . , where
 having housed Refreshment, we took a walk about the Town,
 Head, Richard, Kirkman, Francis: *The English Rogue*, Part 4 (1671) CHAP.XIV.:
 . . . ; I ponder'd with my self, and took many a walk in the Marsh,

- ⁴ In the seventeenth and eighteenth century epistolary literature, *take (one's) leave*
 occur as follows:

	<i>take leave</i>	<i>take one's leave</i>
(17thc)		
Behn's	12	2
<u>Love's Posie</u>	0	2
(18thc)		
Richardson's <i>Pamela</i> :	12	3
Smollette's <i>Clinker</i> :	0	4
Banny's <i>Evelina</i> :	11	1