

Composite Predicates with *Have* and *Take* in the Corpus of Early English Correspondence

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1. Introduction

I have researched the development of Composite Predicates (CPs; Cattell [1984]) in Middle English (ME), Early Modern English (EModE), and Late Modern English (LModE). The corpus examined is not only in prose and drama but also in letters. I presented the paper of CPs with *have* and *take* in letters at the 13th International Conference on English Historical Linguistics (13ICEHL) at Vienna University (August 2004). The Database of letters used in my paper at 13ICEHL included epistolary literature, the Corpus of Early English Correspondence (CEEC) and letters written by British and American writers. I wrote a paper on CPs with *have* and *take* in epistolary literature (Matsumoto2004a). I need to write CPs with *have/take* in the CEEC in details for a further study. This paper will explore the state vs. event distinction (see Matsumoto 1999, 2000, 2003, 2004a/b and 2005 [forthcoming]), and idiomatization in the CPs with *have* and *take*. The CEEC includes letters written in the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The CEEC has been compiled by the Sociolinguistics and Language History project at the University of Helsinki, Department of English¹.

2 CPs in the CEEC

Collections of letters with CPs with *have/take* were researched. Table 1 shows the increase of CPs with *have/take* from the fifteenth century through the seventeenth century regarding the types and the tokens, and the number and frequency of CPs with *have* and *take* seem to have leveled off in the sixteenth and the seventeenth centuries (Table 1) (see Matsumoto 2004b). As for nominal modifiers, *take one's leave* outstripped *take leave* in number of occurrences (Table 2). Whether or not a CP is accompanied by an article, and passivization are concerned about idiomatization.

(1) Table 1: Distribution of CPs with *have* and *take* in the CEEC

CPs	have			take		
	types	tokens	type/token ratio	types	tokens	type/token ratio
15thc	15	46	0.33	19	45	0.42
16thc	25	52	0.48	29	101	0.29
17thc	30	66	0.45	32	94	0.34

(revised version of Matsumoto 2004b)

(2) Table 2: Distribution of *take (one's) leave* in the CEEC

CP	Occurrences in the CEEC	
	take one' s leave	take leave
15thc	4	0
16thc	35	1
17thc	8	5

(revised version of Matsumoto 2004b)

2.1 CPs with *have/take* in the fifteenth century letters

In the fifteenth century letters in the CEEC, there were 15 types of a CP with *have* and 19 types of a CP with *take* found. CPs with *have* were used 46 times, and those with *take* 45 times (Table 1).

CPs with *have* and *take* are found in the following database: STONOR, MARCHALL, PLUMPTON, SHILLING, ORIGINA 1. *Take + an+ accion* was found as in STONOR (3), and passivized *take sute* is both in STONOR and PLUMOTON as in (4a-b). In PLUMPTON *take a direction* and *take derection* are found in (5a-b). In STONOR *take a good end* and *take gode ende* are also found in (6a-b).

(3) . . . , and if he be lettyd he may take an accion ayenst thaim that let hit, (p11, 152)

(4) (a) S[{yr . . . } } haf knowlyche wheter + te sute be takyn ayenst Will. (p1,70)

(b) . . . , according unto such order as was taken of late tofore your departure from me;
(PLUMPTON p73)

(5) (a) Wherwith, it please your mastership, that after my poore advice, take a direction with him at this tyme, (p69)

(b) . . . , and such as may have your advise and counsel to take derection, (p156)

(6) (a) . . . , the mater shall and must take a good end. (pII, 143)

(b) And I fele by them both that and ye woll, with mercy of our lorde the mater shall take gode ende. (pI, 124)

<STONOR> (15thc) 41,125 word corpus

CPs with <i>have</i> :	<i>have consideration</i> (1)	<i>have delyveraunce</i> (1)
	<i>have knowlyche</i> (2)	<i>have love</i> (1)
CPs with <i>take</i> :	<i>take an accion</i> (3)	<i>take direccion</i> (1)
	<i>take displeasure</i> (1)	<i>take end</i> (3)
	<i>take hede</i> (2)	<i>take note</i> (1)
	<i>take part</i> (1)	<i>take rekenyng</i> (1)
	<i>take surete</i> (1)	<i>take sute</i> (1) [passive]

<MARCHALL> (15thc) 5,128 word corpus

CPs with <i>have</i> :	<i>have knowledge</i> (1)	<i>have marvelle</i> (1)
CPs with <i>take</i> :	<i>take end</i> (1)	<i>take hede</i> (1)
	<i>take seute</i> (1)	<i>take thought</i> (3)

<PLUMPTON> (15thc) 38,904 word corpus

CPs with <i>have</i> :	<i>have chere</i> (1)	<i>have knowledge</i> (9)
	<i>have marveill</i> (1)	
CPs with <i>take</i> :	<i>take continuance</i> (1)	<i>take a delay</i> (1)
	<i>take (a) direction</i> (4)	<i>take displeasure</i> (2)
	<i>take end</i> (1)	<i>take hold</i> (1)
	<i>take an obligation</i> (1)	<i>take order</i> (1)[passive]
	<i>take part</i> (2)	<i>take regard</i> (1)

<SHILLING> (15thc) 14,121 word corpus

CPs with <i>have</i> :	<i>have chere</i> (4)	<i>have communication</i> (3)
	<i>have doute</i> (1)	<i>have end</i> (7)
	<i>have hope</i> (1)	<i>have knoweliche</i> (2)
	<i>have pees</i> (2)	<i>have pity</i> (2)
	<i>have rule</i> (1)	<i>have thanke</i> (1)

have truste (1)

CPs with *take*: *take ende* (3)

take kepe (1)

take ~ 's leve (4)

take a sute (3)

<ORIGINA I> (15thc) 24,535 word corpus in the 15th and 16th centuries

ORIGINA I consists of the 15th century part and the 16th century one (see 2.3).

15thc:

CPs with *have*: *chere* (5); *communication* (3); *consideration* (3)

delyveraunce (2); *doute* (1); *end* (7); *hope* (1);

knowlyche/knowledge (14); *love* (1);

marvelle/marveill (2); *pees* (2); *pity* (2); *rule* (1);

thanke (1); *truste* (1)

CPs with *take*: *accion* (3); *continuance* (1);

delay (1); *direccion* (5); *displeasure* (2);

end (7); *hede* (3); *hold* (1); *kepe* (1); *~ 's leve* (4); *note* (1);

obligation (1); *order* (1); *part* (3); *regard* (1); *rekenyng* (1);

surete (1); *sute/sewte* (5); *thought* (3)

2.2 CPs with *have* and *take* in the sixteenth century letters

In the sixteenth century letters in the CEEC twenty-five types of a CP with *have*, and twenty-nine types of a CP with *take* were found. CPs with *have* were used fifty-two and those with *take* one hundred one (Table 1).

The sixteenth century database consists of ORIGINA 1, LEYCESTE, ORIGINA 2, RERUM, ROYAL 1, HOTTON, and ORIGINA 3. These are database which can be found CPs with *have* and *take*.

Have/take care of was found in ROYAL 1 as in (7a-b).

(7) (a) . . . , as wel for the care we have of your person as of the discharge of our owne honor and conscience, (p23)

(b) . . . , whom I mind to take ever as great a care of as if only the interest of my life and person consisted theron. (p109)

Take place appeared in the sixteenth century as in (7a), and more than five examples *with take place* were found in LEYCESTE as in (7b).

(8) (a) I would to God your Grace's advise and desier in the first might take place, (HUTTON p155)

(b) I am in hope of an enterprise to tak place shortly which ye wylbe glad to hear of. (p65)

But *take place* had a literal meaning as *have place* as in (9).

(9) But, immediately upon receipt of your Lordships' letter, I writt a private letter to Sir Edward and M=r=. Attorney, that my opinion was that Barons Vice-Presidents should take place, &c. . . .
 ---And I answer, that my opinion was then, and yet is, that they should have place, . . . But I my self toke the place, &c. . . . ; and yet it had not bene convenient that he should have taken place of the Judges, . . . ; but since, he being desired by my Lord of Limerick and M=r=. Ferne to certifie what place he toke, (HUTTON p165-166)

Take place meaning 'occur, happen' is in French *avoir lieu*. *Take* ('prendre') and *have* ('avoir') might have circulated in the history of English although Antoine Meillet (1924) pointed out that in the development of Indo-European languages the verbs meaning 'prendre' ('hold, take, catch') become verbs meaning 'avoir' ('have') (Matsumoto2004b).

CPs with passive meanings are found as in (10a-c). In these cases, subjects of CPs with *take* are recipient, as in *take a beating*, meaning 'to be beaten' (Algeo 1996: 206) (see Matsumoto 2005 forthcoming).

(10) (a) . . . , and that she taketh offence that he was not restrained of his libertie by your lordships order. (p36)

(b) . . . , where I am taking order for the present service now to be sett fourth, (p189)

(c) I could have taken warning of this before, (p102)

<ORIGINA I> (16thc) 24,535 word corpus in the 15th and 16th centuries

CPs with *have* in the16thc: *have respect*(1) *have compassion* (1)

have governaunce (1)

CPs with *take* in the 16thc: *take seknes* (1) *take pleasure* (1) *take consolation* (1)

take ~ 's voyage(1)

take leve (1)

〈LEYCESTE〉 (16thc) 70,784 word corpus

CPs with <i>have</i> :	<i>have care</i> (5)	<i>have charge</i> (2)
	<i>havecomfort</i> (1)	<i>have conflict</i> (1)
	<i>have desire</i> (1)	<i>have eye</i> (2)
	<i>have hand over</i> (1)	<i>have hope</i> (2)
	<i>have interest</i> (1)	<i>have knowledge</i> (3)
	<i>have mistrust</i> (1)	<i>have nede</i> (4)
	<i>have opinion of</i> (1)	<i>have a peace</i> (4)
	<i>have use of</i> (2)	
CPs with <i>take</i> :	<i>take advantage of</i> (1)	<i>take care</i> (4)
	<i>take charge</i> (3)	<i>take effect</i> (1)
	<i>take hede of</i> (2)	<i>take joye</i> (1)
	<i>take knowledge</i> (3)	<i>take ~ 's leave</i> (33)
	<i>take offence</i> (1)	<i>take order</i> (7)
	<i>take part of</i> (1)	<i>take place</i> (5)
	<i>take (a) resolution (s)</i> (4)	<i>take ship</i> (1)
	<i>take success</i> (1)	<i>take voyage</i> (1)
	<i>take warning</i> (1)	

〈ORIGINA 2〉 (16thc) 17,871 word corpus

CPs with <i>have</i> :	<i>have a fall</i> (1)	<i>have need</i> (1)
	<i>have opinion of</i> (2)	<i>have regard</i> (1)
	<i>have respecte to</i> (2)	
CPs with <i>take</i> :	<i>take comfort</i> (1)	<i>take ~ 's leave</i> (1)
	<i>take order</i> (1)	<i>take the payne to inf.</i> (2)
	<i>take paynes in</i> (1)	<i>take reste</i> (1)

〈RERUM〉 (16thc) 6,362 word corpus

CPs with <i>have</i> :	<i>have charge</i> (1)	<i>have custodye</i> (1)
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〈ROYAL 1〉 (16thc) 14,898 word corpus

CPs with <i>have</i> :	<i>have care of</i> (1)	<i>have discourse with</i> (1)
	<i>have opinion of</i> (1)	<i>have a thought to</i> (1)

CPs with *take*: *take care of* (2) *take pitie of* (1)
take ~ 's place (1) *take regard of/to* (2)

<HUTTON> (16thc) 28,170 word corpus in the 16th and 17th centuries

CPs with *have* in the 16thc: *have eye to* (1)

CPs with *take* in the 16thc: *take ~ 's leave* (4) *take leave* (1)
take care for (2) *take delight* (1)
take the paymes to inf. (2) *take place* (1)

<ORIGINA 3> (16thc) 10,981 word corpus in the 16th and 17th centuries

ORIGINA 3 consists of the 16th c data and the 17thc data (see 2.3).

CPs with *have* in the 16thc: *have inclination* (1) *have influence* (1)
have a thought (1) *have use* (1)

CPs with *take* in the 16thc: *take notice* (1) *take pleasure* (1)

2.3 CPs with *have/take* in the seventeenth century letters

In the seventeenth century letters in the CEEC thirty types of a CP with *have* and thirty-two types of a CP with *take* were found in the seventeenth century database. CPs with *have* were used sixty-six times, and those with *take* ninety-four times (Table 1). The seventeenth century database consists of ORIGINA3, HUTTON, BASIRE, CHARLES, CORNWALL, COSIN, HARLEY, HENSLOWE, JONES, TIXALL, WESA, and WHARTON. These are also database which can be found CPs with *have* and *take*. Only CPs with *take* were passivized as in (9), and this tendency was the same as the fifteenth century.

- (9) (a) . . . , therefore I pray lett notice be taken of it that he may enjoy all his rights. (CHALES p9)
 (b) . . . , wherof I thought fytt to acquainte yo=r= La=p= that such further order may be taken as you shall thnke meete. (CORNWALL p229)
 (c) . . . ; but your Lordship' s health must be taken care of, (COSIN p11,101)
 (d) for this resolution (for sooth) was taken and told to others, (COSIN p1,278); . . . , and that some Resolution is already taken for y=e= supplying of his absene in yo=rr= service heer, (JONES p197)

<ORIGINA 3> (17thc) 10,981 words in the 16th and 17th centuries

CPs with *have* in the 17thc: *have inclination to* (1) *have influence* (1)
have a thought (1) *have use of* (1)

⟨HUTTON⟩ (17thc) 28,170 words in the 16th and 17th centuries

CPs with *have* in the 17thc: *have desire to inf.* (1) *have understanding of* (1)

CPs with *take* in the 17thc: *take place* (1) *take noe place* (1) *take place of* (3)

⟨BASIRE⟩ (17thc) 7,427 word corpus

CPs with *have*: *have answer* (2) *have a care of* (3)

have love of (1)

CPs with *take*: *take advis of* (1) *take council of* (1)

take ~ 's leave (1)

⟨CHARLES⟩ (17thc) 3,275 word corpus

CPs with *have*: *have notice* (1) *have opinion of* (1)

have passion to inf. (1)

CPs with *take*: *take notice* (1)[passive]

⟨CORNWALL⟩ (17thc) 66,492 word corpus

CPs with *have*: *have adoe* (2) *have advantage* (1)

have care (1)

have desire (1)

have excuse (1)

have hope (s) (3)

have neede (1)

have obligation (1)

have opinion of (2)

have satisfaction (1)

have a thought of (2)

have use of (1)

CPs with *take*: *take advantage of* (1)

take care for/of (2)

take counsel (1)

take curage (1)

take effect (2)

take harme (1)

take hart (1)

take hold (1)

take jorney (1)

take ~ 's leave (4)

take notice of (1)

take order (3) [passive]

take possession of (2)

take thought (1)

take tobacco (1)

〈COSIN〉 (17thc) 40,879 word corpus

CPs with <i>have</i> :	<i>have affection for</i> (1)	<i>have choice</i> (1)
	<i>have care</i> (2)	<i>have kindness for</i> (1)
	<i>have notice (of)</i> (2)	<i>have opinion of</i> (1)
	<i>have speech with</i> (1)	<i>have talk of</i> (1)
	<i>have use of</i> (1)	<i>have view of</i> (1)
CPs with <i>take</i> :	<i>take advantage of</i> (1)	<i>take care of</i> (9)[passive 2]
	<i>take delight to inf.</i> (1)	<i>take effect</i> (1)
	<i>take ~ 's journey</i> (1)	<i>take leave</i> (3)
	<i>take ~ 's leave</i> (3)	<i>take notice (of)</i> (4)
	<i>take an oath</i> (1)	<i>take offence</i> (1)
	<i>take order</i> (4)	<i>take relief</i> (1)
	<i>take resolution</i> (1)[passive]	<i>take revenge</i> (1)
	<i>take the tale</i> (1)	<i>take view of</i> (1)

〈Hamilton〉 (17thc) 1,290 word corpus

CPs with *have*: *have care* (1)

〈HARLEY〉 (17thc) 26,867 word corpus

CPs with <i>have</i> :	<i>have hope</i> (1)	<i>have need of</i> (1)
	<i>have opinion</i> (1)	<i>have understanding</i> (1)
CPs with <i>take</i> :	<i>take care (of)</i> (2)	<i>take cold</i> (5)
	<i>take comfort</i> (1)	<i>take content</i> (1)
	<i>take notice</i> (1)	<i>take heede</i> (1)
	<i>take pains</i> (1)	<i>take the posestion of</i> (1)

〈HENSLOWE〉 (17thc) 651 word corpus

CPs with *have*: *have care for* (1)

〈JONES〉 (17thc) 35,026 word corpus

CPs with <i>have</i> :	<i>have a care</i> (1)	<i>have communion</i> (1)
	<i>have confidence</i> (2)	<i>have a desire</i> (1)
	<i>have esteem</i> (1)	<i>have a sight</i> (1)

have thoughts (1)

CPs with <i>take</i> :	<i>take comfort</i> (1)	<i>take leave</i> (2)
	<i>take notice (of)</i> (3)	<i>take possession</i> (1)
	<i>take resolution</i> (1)[passive]	<i>take roote</i> (2)

<TIXALL> (17thc) 12,491 word corpus

CPs with <i>have</i> :	<i>have care(s)</i> (2)	<i>have hopes</i> (2)
	<i>have impatience</i> (1)	<i>have need of</i> (2)
	<i>have patience</i> (1)	<i>have a thought</i> (1)
CPs with <i>take</i> :	<i>take care</i> (2)	<i>take change</i> (2)

<WESA> (17thc) 4,549 word corpus

CPs with <i>take</i> :	<i>take care</i> (1)	<i>take oath</i> (1)
	<i>take order</i> (1)	

<WHARTON> (17thc) 8,315 word corpus

CPs with *have*: *have hope of* (1)

2.4 state vs. event contrast

Stative vs. eventive distinction was not found in the CEEC. *Have love and take cold* were found as in (10) and (11) but *take love and have cold* were not found (Matsumoto 2004b).

(10) . . . : hit shuld cause you to have love of the Gentilmen of the Shere, and Comyns also: (STONOR p11, 109)

(11) I have taken a very greate coold, which has made me very ill these 2 or 3 days, (HARLEY p208)

The stative vs. eventive contrast was not found in CPs with *have* and *take* in epistolary literature (Matsumoto 2004a). They belong to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

3 Conclusion

As idiomatization proceeds, the stative vs. eventive distinction disappears. As far as the CEEC is concerned, this contrast cannot be found. That is why language used in letters are colloquial and

informal. This result is what I expected it to be.

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1 According to Terttu Nevalainen, Professor of Helsinki University, the CEEC will be enlarged in a few years (after my paper session at 13 ICEHL).