Composite Predicates with *Have* and *Take* in Chaucer and Malory

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1 Introduction

Composite Predicates (abbreviated as CP) (Cattell 1984) consist of a basic verb + a deverbal noun, e.g., *make reservation, give a jump, have/take a look*, and so on. This paper uses the term “agentive object” (Kawakami 1984), to include not only verb-stem nouns such as *a sigh, a look* (in *give a sigh, have a look*), and deverbal nouns as *agreement, examination* (in *make an agreement, take an examination*) as well as gerund—*ing*, but also forms such as *an effort, a headache* (in *make an effort, have a headache*), which cannot be expressed or replaced by a simple verb (Matsumoto 1999 : 60). As for CPs in Middle English (ME), I studied CPs with *have, take, make, give*, and *get* in Chaucer (Matsumoto 1990), next, CPs with *have, take, make, give*, and *do* in ME using Chaucer and The *Middle English Dictionary (MED)* as a corpus (Matsumoto 1994), and in addition, CPs with *have, take, make, give*, and *do* in ME using Chaucer, Malory, and *MED* (Matsumoto 1999). Although I have paid special attention on CPs with *have* and *take* from LateME through Late Modern English (LateModE) (Matsumoto 2000a and b, and 2001), I have not focused on CPs with *have/take* in Chaucer and Malory. In this paper I will study CPs with *have/take* in Chaucer and Malory, and compare CPs with *have/take* in Chaucer with those in Malory. As for texts, I will use Benson et al. for Chaucer and Vinaver’s Malory.

2 CPs with *have/take* in Chaucer and Malory

I found 173 different types of CPs with *have* in Chaucer, and 78 in Malory (see Appendix I [A] & [B]). From a point of overview, CPs with *have* in Chaucer are much richer in variety than those in Malory. This difference comes from the characteristics of each story in Chaucer and Malory. I found 79 different types of CPs with *take* in Chaucer, and 52 in Malory (see Appendix II [A] & [B]).

2-1 Mental activities of CPs with *have/take* in Chaucer and Malory

Many mental activities are expressed by CPs with *have* in Chaucer: 55 different types of CPs

(1) 324
with *have* are found in (1). A few examples are shown in (2), (3) and (4).


(2) Of Accidie comth first, that a man is annoyed and encomberd for to doon any goodnesse, and maketh that God hath abhomynacion of swich Accidie, as seith seint John. (Chaucer, I. Pars 685-90)

(*MED*, s. v. *abhominacioun*, def. 1(b) *haven abhomicacioun of*, ‘to loathe, abhor’)

‘Accidie hurries up first, that a man is displeased and troubled to do any goodness, and makes that God abhors such Accidie, as Saint John says’

(3) Ne I have non affeccioun To have double absolucioun. (Chaucer, *RR* 6410)

‘I have no desire to have double absolution’

(4) Noon such I love, ne have no cure of sich as Loves servautes ben, And wole not by my counsel flen. (Chaucer, *RR* 4770)

‘I do not love those, I have no liking for those who are Love’s servants, And I will not flee by my decision’

CPs with *have* showing mental activities in Malory are listed in (5).


(6) Fayre lady Elayne, for youre sake I have had muche care and angwyshe, but nedyth nat to reherse hit, ye know how. (Malory, *Wks.* 825/22)

‘Fair lady Elayne, for your sake I have much worry and anxiety, but it does not need to tell it, you know how’
Generally, mental activities are likely to be expressed with CPs with *have*, CPs with *take* is not likely to have mental activity objects, but sometimes they are followed by mental activity objects. CPs with *take* in Chaucer expressing mental activities are listed in (7).

(7) Take avis/avisement/discomfort/displeausance/impressioun/ire.

(8) For whos departing he tok gretter ire Then for al his brennyng in the fire. (Chaucer, Mars 132) (*MED*, s. v. *taken*, def.16 (b) *taken ire for*, ‘be angered by [sth.]’)

‘For whom departing he was greatly angered Then for all his burning in the fire’

CPs with *take* in Malory showing mental activities are listed up in (9).

(9) Take angir/avisement/consideracioun/discomforte/displeusance/regarde/rejoysynge/repenaunce/sorow/thought.

(10) ‘Say ye nothyngye,’ seyde sir Trystram,’ for I am sure he hath takyn angir and sorrow for the rebuke that I gaff hym and La Beall Isode.’ (Malory, *Wks*. 758/34)

‘“Say you nothing,” said sir Trystram,” for I am sure he has had anger and sorrow for the defeat that I gave him and La Bell Isode”’

In Malory, CPs with *take* are more often found in the mental activities’ use than those in Chaucer : 6 different types of CPs with *take* (79 in all) in Chaucer, and 11 different types of CPs with *take* (52 in all) in Malory (7.5% in Chaucer vs. 21% in Malory).

2–2 The dynamic use of *have*

When the verb *have* became dynamic (Quirk et al. 1985 : 178) as in *have supper, breakfast, dinner*, and so on, was a mystery (Matsumoto 2000 b). According to my research in Late Modern English (Matsumoto 2001), I identified the early 17th century (1605 *Eastward Ho!* by Ben Jonson, George Chapman, and John Marston) and the early 18th century data (1710–1713 *Journal To Stella* by Jonathan Swift) except for one evidence in Chaucer (11). After that research, I found one more example in Chaucer (12). This is also a dynamic use as in *have a good/pleasant/comfortable time.*
(11) And which of yow that bereth hym best of all…
That is to sayn, that telleth in this caas
Tales of best sentence and moost solaas…
Shall have a soper atoure aller cost
Heere in this place, sittynge by this post,
Whan that we come again fro Cauterbury.
(Chaucer, *CT. Prol.* A. 796-801)
'And whichever of you behaves best of all, that is to say, that tells, in this case, tales of
best significance and most amusement, shall have a supper at the cost of all us here in
this place, sitting by this post, when we come back from Canterbury.) (Ichikawa &
Matsunami 1987 : 94)

(12) Have now good nyght, and lat us bothe slepe.
(Chaucer, *TC* 3.421)
'Have now a good night, and let us both sleep'

This dynamic use of have was found in Chaucer but not in Malory. We find 'prendre le
déjeuner' (='take lunch') in Modern French but 'avoir le dejeuner' (='have lunch') is not
found. Malory originates in French sources. The reason dynamic use of have did not appear
in Malory seems to be that it might have evolved itself in English.

2-3 State vs. event distinction
In Chaucer and Malory have cold is found in (13a-b), and in Malory take cold is found. (13a-b)
is a state, and (13c) is an event. In Malory the state vs. event distinction is acknowledged, but
in Chaucer this distinction is not found except for a state use in (13a). Take sleep is found in
Chaucer and Malory (14a-b), but have sleep is not found either in Chaucer or Malory.
According to MED, take sleep can have both a stative and an eventive aspect (*MED*, s. v. slep,
def. 2, taken slep 'to be asleep'; *MED*, s. v. taken, def. 46, taken slep,' to sleep, fall asleep'), but
it is difficult to discern between a state and an event as in (14a-b). According to (Binton and
Akimoto 1999 : 48), habban lufu 'have love' is a state, and niman lufu 'take love' is an event
(the terms used in [Binton and Akimoto ibid.,] ) are stative and inchoative, but show the
same meanings as those mentioned in this paper. The distinction between a state and an event
is found in Old English (OE).
The evidence is limited. In OE, there are a lot of examples of verb-nominal combinations as in (Brinton and Akimoto 1999). In ME, French influence made English become richer with phrases including CPs as well as vocabularies (Prins 1952). The origin of the distinction between a state and an event is a mystery. The distinction between a state and an event has been present generally in the language. In OE it already existed although there was only one pair of habban/niman lufe. In ME, French might have influenced it to develop and increase its usage more.

(13(a)) These olde folk have alwey cold; Her kynde is sich, whan they ben old. (Chaucer, RR 411-12) (MED, s.v. cold, def. 2. haven cold, ‘suffer from cold, feel cold’)
‘These old people always feel cold; Their genealogy is so, when they become old’
(b) ‘...: 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. ...’
(c) ‘... But now go again lightely; for thy longe tarrynge puttith me in grete joupertee 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. ...’

(14(a)) Arrayed was this god, as he took keep, As he was whan that Argus took his sleep;
(Chaucer, A. Kn. 1389-90) (MED, s. v taken, def. 46 [a], taken slep, ‘sleep, fall asleep’; MED, s. v. slep, def. 2 [b], taken slep, ‘to be asleep’)
‘Arrayed was this god, as he took notice, As he was when Argus slept’
(b) And so sir Launcelot departed, and by adventure he com into the same foreste there he was takynge his slepe before; (Malory, Wks. 264/6-7)
‘And so sir Launcelot departed, and by chance he came into the same forest where he was asleep before;’

2-4 Fixed CPs with take
Some CPs with take are fixed as in take the see, take shippe, take vengeaunce in (15a-b-c). (15a-b) are from Malory, and (15c) from both Chaucer and Malory. Ways of transportation are expressed by CPs with take as in (15a-b). This trend is found from Early Modern English through Late Modern English (Matsumoto 2000 a, b, and 2001).
(5a) So sir Trystrames toke the see, and La Beale Isode.

(Malory, Wks. 412/10) (MED, s.v. se, def. 3 [b] , taken the se, ‘go to sea’)
‘So sit Trystrames went to sea, and La Bela Isode’

(b) ...; for they had no horse in that contrey, for they lef their horsys whan they toke their shippe. (Malory, Wks. 996/29)
(MED, s.v. ship, def. 1 [a] taken ship, ’go aboard a ship’)
‘...; for they had no horse in that country, for they left their horses when they went aboard a ship’

(c) And, savynge youre grace, I kan nat seen that it myghte greatly harme me though I tooke vengeaunce. (Chaucer, B. Mel. 2735-40)
‘And saving your grace, I can not see that it might greatly harm me though I carried out revenge’

3 Conclusion

In Chaucer the dynamic use of have is found, but not in Malory. The state vs. event distinction is found in Malory, but not in Chaucer. The dynamic use of have might have developed in English. The distinction between a state and an event is found in OE, and in ME. French might have made this distinction develop and increase its usage more.

Bibliography

Texts


Texts cited in this paper


References


Appendices : All CPs with *have*/*take* in Chaucer and Malory

Appendix I (A) : CPs with *have* in Chaucer :

(* shows the CPs found both in Chaucer and Malory)

1. haven abhominacioun to/of
2. haven absoluicioun (of)
3. haven ado*
4. haven affecioun
5. haven allia(u)nce (with)
6. haven amend(e)ment
7. haven answere of
8. haven ap(p)etit
9. haven aqueinta(u)nce (of) (with)
10. haven audience
11. haven aye (of)
12. haven avauntage (of)*
13. haven (the) bataille
14. haven blame
15. haven blessed of
16. haven bon
17. haven care*
18. haven cause*
19. haven chaunce
20. haven chere (s)*
21. haven chierte (of)
22. haven chois
23. haven cold
24. haven collacioun
25. haven comfort*
26. haven commaundement
27. haven compassioun
28. haven conninge
29. haven conscience
30. haven corage*
31. haven cours
32. haven cure of
33. haven curs
34. haven daliaunce
35. haven deinte of
36. haven debat
37. haven deliberacioun
38. haven delite
39. haven desir*
40. haven despit
41. haven dethe*
42. haven devocioun
43. haven diligence
44. haven disdein*
45. haven distresse
46. haven dominacioun (ouer) (of)
47. haven doute*
48. haven drede*
49. haven eie (on) (to)
50. haven eleccioun
51. haven entencioun
52. haven envie*
53. haven esement
54. haven excepcioun
55. haven experience
56. haven failinge
57. haven fame
58. haven feith
59. haven felinge
60. haven fer*
61. haven fiaunce
62. haven flight
63. haven foryevennesse
64. haven foryift
65. haven forstring
66. haven fot
67. haven game*
68. haven gladnesse
69. haven governaunce of
70. haven grace*
71. haven hardiment
72. haven harms
73. haven hate*
74. haven hest of
75. haven hevinesse
76. haven hond
77. haven honour (to)
78. haven hope (in) (to)
79. haven imaginacioun*
80. haven insight
81. haven issue
82. haven joy
83. haven jugement
84. haven jurisdictioun of/ouer/upon
85. haven knouinge
86. haven knouleche*
87. haven knoulechinge of
88. haven licence
89. haven lif
90. haven lisse
91. haven list*
92. haven lordshipe
93. haven love*
94. haven love-longinge
95. haven lust to*
96. haven maistrie (of/over)
97. haven malisoun
98. haven mansioun
99. haven memorie
100. haven merci (of/om/upon)*
101. haven merveille (of)*
102. haven might (of)*
103. haven mind (of/on/upon)
104. haven mirthe
105. haven mischaunce
106. haven misericorde upon
107. haven name
108. haven need*
109. haven night
110. haven note
111. haven office
112. haven opinioun
113. haven orisoun
114. haven pacience
115. haven part
116. haven penaunce
117. haven pes
118. haven pitee (of/on)
119. have place
120. haven pleie
121. haven plesaunce
122. haven possesioun (of)
123. haven pouere (over)
124. haven precepte
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125. haven predicacioun
126. haven presence of
127. haven recours (un)to
128. haven redempcioun
129. haven remembraunce (of)*
130. haven remissioun
131. haven reponentance
132. haven replicacioun
133. haven respecte to
134. haven resport
135. haven reste
136. haven reuthen of/on/upon*
137. haven reverence of
138. haven reward (of/to)
139. haven right
140. haven savour in
141. haven scarsete
142. haven scorn (of)*
143. haven seurtee
144. haven shame*
145. haven sighte on*
146. haven skil
147. haven smel
148. haven soper
149. haven sorwe (for)
150. haven soverainte of/over
151. haven space
152. haven speche with*
153. haven strengths
154. haven suffisaunce
155. haven suscioun of/upon
156. haven suspect
157. haven talent
158. haven tente
159. haven thank of
160. haven thought
161. haven travaille*
162. haven treuth
163. haven trust
164. haven vengeaunce
165. haven victorie
166. haven visioun
167. haven were
168. haven wille
169. haven witing
170. haven wo
171. haven wonder(s)*
172. haven the worse
173. haven wrong

Appendix I (B) : CPs with have in Malory :
(* shows the CPs found both in Chaucer and Malory)
1. have ado (with) (to)*
2. have advantage*
3. have affyaunce
4. have angwyshe
5. have answere
6. have avision
7. have the better (of)
8. have blame*
9. have a buffette
10. have care*
11. have cause*
12. have chere*

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13. have cognysshauence of
14. have conforte*
15. have courage, currage*
16. have a demnyng
17. have desir, desire*
18. have dethe*
19. have dispyte, despite
20. have a dyryge
21. have disdeine, dysdayne*
22. have disease
23. have disporte at
24. have doute (of)*
25. have drede of*
26. have entente
27. have envy*
28. have a falle
29. have a fantasy
30. have favonre
31. have feare (of)*
32. have game at*
33. have grace of*
34. have the bettir/higher hand
35. have hardinesse, hardiness
36. have hate unto*
37. have helpe
38. have hunger, hungrir
39. have indignacion*
40. have ioye (of) (in) (for)
41. have justis
42. have knowleche, knowleche*
43. have laboure
44. have lyberte
45. have lyste*
46. have lyvynge
47. have love*
48. have luste (to)*
49. have mercy on/upon*
50. have mervayle (of)*
51. have might (to)*
52. have mister of
53. have need (of)*
54. have the nourysshynge of
55. have pite upon/of/on
56. have power to
57. have pryde
58. have a quarell
59. have remembraunce (of)*
60. have the requeste
61. have rest
62. have rule
63. have the ruthe (of)*
64. have scathe
65. have scorne*
66. have servyse of
67. have shame (of)*
68. have a symght of*
69. have sorow
70. have speche (of)*
71. have a spy upon
72. have stroke
73. have suspencion
74. have travayle*
75. have vengeaunce
76. have victory
77. have vyllany
78. have vision
79. have a warnynge
80. have warre ayenst
81. have wayte upon
82. have wetynge of

Appendix II (A) : CPs with take in Chaucer

(* shows the CPs found both in Chaucer and Malory)

1. take accioun
2. take adversitee
3. take arivage
4. take armes
5. take aventure
6. take avis
7. take avisement*
8. take biginninge
9. take birthe
10. take charge (upon)
11. take compaignye
12. take conclusioun
13. take counsell*
14. take cristendom
15. take cure (of)
16. take deeth
17. take defame on
18. take deintee
19. take deliberacioun
20. take discomfort
21. take displesaunce of
22. take disport
23. take dom
24. take eclipse
25. take effect
26. take emprise
27. take ende*
28. take ensaumple, exaumple (of)*
29. take ese
30. take good
31. take the governaille on
32. take the governaunce of
33. take heede of/to
34. take helpe of
35. take herbergage
36. take heritage
37. take herte
38. take heven
39. take homage*
40. take impressioun
41. take ire
42. take joye
43. take keepe of/to*
44. take knowlechynge of
45. take leve of*
46. take logginge*
47. take maistrie upon
48. take mesure of
49. take the moralite
50. take motyf
51. take nap
52. take obeysaunce
53. take pacience
54. take pardoun

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55. take part*  
56. take peyne*  
57. take pite of  
58. take place  
59. take preyere  
60. take purpos  
61. take red  
62. take resoun  
63. take reste*  
64. take reward of/to  
65. take sentences  
66. take sleep  
67. take sojour

Appendix II (B): CPs with take in Malory

1. take abstynance  
2. take adventure  
3. take angir  
4. take avysement*  
5. take the batayle  
6. take charge  
7. take cold  
8. take a consideracioun of  
9. take couenceyle*  
10. take damage  
11. take discomforte  
12. take displeasure  
13. take ende*  
14. take ensample*  
15. take entirpryse  
16. take excusse  
17. take excussion  
18. take feaute  
19. take flight  
20. take no force (of)  
21. take hede (of) (to)  
22. take jugement  
23. take kepe (of) (to) (unto)*  
24. take leve of*  
25. take lyff  
26. take lykyng  
27. take lodgyng*  
28. take omage  
29. take order  
30. take othe upon  
31. take payne upon*  
32. take part with*  
33. take party ayenste/with  
34. take penaunce upon  
35. take plesaunce  
36. take prisoner  
37. take regarde of  
38. take rejoysynge
39. take repentaunc
40. take reste*
41. take the rule
42. take the see
43. take shippe
44. take slepe
45. take sorrow*

46. take stroke
47. take thought
48. take tretyse
49. take turnemente
50. take vengeaunce upon*
51. take the way*
52. take word