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’s 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, Anomnymous, 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 English\(^1\).

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 have\_\_take in seventeenth century epistolary literature

In this chapter CPs with have\_\_take 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
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 Smollett’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)

*Have 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 one

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.

Bibliography

Texts


Chadwyck-Healey's Early English Prose Fiction

References


Forthcoming. "An Historical Development of take/have a walk".

Appendix

Sir Roger L’Estrange (1678)

CPs with *have*:

have love for
have regard to

CPs with *take*:

take notice
take pity of
take a voyage

Anonymous: *Love’s Posie* (1686)

CPs with *have*:

have ambition to
have a desire to
have leisure to
have an opinion of

CPs with *take*:

take air
take cognizance
take heed of
take the pains to

Aphra Behn (1684-7)

CPs with *have*:

have abhorance to
have acknowledgment for
have an awe upon
have commands for
have a consideration for
have dependence on
have enjoyments
have fancy
have hand in
have a heart (to)
have inclination for/to

have passion
have the delight to
have interest in
have a mind to
have passion
take care (of)
take delight in/to
take (~’s) leave of
take pleasure in
have admiration for
have ado to
have a care (of)
have concern for
have the courage to
have devotion for/to
have esteem for
have fear
have hate at/for
have hope to/that
have interest in
have leisure to
have a mind to
have an opinion of
have a passion for
have pity for
have the possession of
have prospect of/in
have remorse
have a tenderness for
have use for
have zeal for

CPs with \textit{take}:

take advantage of
take beginning
take coach
take courage (to)
take excuse of
take \textasciitilde{}'s flight
take heed to
take horse
take joys
take \textasciitilde{}'s lodgings
take melancholy at
take opportunity/-ies of/to
take pleasure to
take relapses
take rest
take shipping
take a view of

take (the) air
take care(s) about/for/of/that/to
take council(s) of
take delight in/to
take \textasciitilde{}'s farewell
take freedoms
take hold of
take \textasciitilde{}'s journey
take (\textasciitilde{}s) leave (of)
take measures
take notice (of)
take the pains to
take pledge
take resolution
take (\textasciitilde{}s) revenge
take a turn
take vows

\textbf{Charles Gildon (1692)}

CPs with \textit{have}:

have a care of
have a design to
have concern
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  

*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  

*Richardson's Pamela (1740-41)*

CPs with *have*:

have gotten an account of  
have ado to  
have advantage of  
have affair with  
have an airing  
have an answer  
have appetite  
have apprehensiveness  
have a ball  
have the boldness to  
have catch of  
have claim to  
have comfort  
have command of  
have company  
have compassion for  
have concern upon  
have conference
have confidence in  
have courage/the courage to  
have desire  
have a dislike to  
have emotions  
have a fancy  
have fear(s)  
have grief  
have the honour to  
have the impudence to  
have intention to  
have jest  
have leisure to  
have the love of  
have a mind to  
have a night  
have notion(s) of  
have an opinion of  
have part in  
have pity on  
have (the) pride in/to  
have puzzles  
have recourse to  
have remorse  
have rest  
have a right to  
have sense to  
have sleep  
have spies upon  
have a talk (with)  
have trouble  
have a view  
have writing

have correspondence with  
have design of/upon  
have difficulty  
have doubt(s) about/of/to  
have expectation to  
have fatigue  
have grace to  
have the head-ache  
have hope(s) of/that  
have inclination to  
have interest in  
have joy  
have like to  
have mercy upon  
have misfortune  
have notice of  
have objection (to)  
have an opportunity of/to  
have patience (with)  
have the pleasure in/of/to  
have a prospect of  
have a quarrel  
have regard for  
have request  
have a ride  
have a run for  
have shame  
have sorrow  
have suspicion of  
have a thought  
have a turn  
have a word with
CPs with *take*:

- take advantage of
- take bent to
- take comfort
- take a copy of
- take courage
- take delight in/to
- take displeasure
- take a/~'s fancy (to)
- take horse
- take leap
- take the liberty to
- take method
- take the opportunity to
- take part in
- take place
- take pleasure in
- take a pride in
- take resolution(s)
- take step
- take the trouble of
- take a walk

Smollett’s *Humphry Clinker* (1771)

CPs with *have*:

- have the advantage of
- have command of
- have concern
- have confidence
- have doubts
- have feeling for
- have got the headache
- have hopes of/that
- have inclination to
- have an airing
- take care (of/to)
- take a compliment for
- take ~'s counsel
- take course
- take a dinner
- take a dose
- take hold of
- take a house
- take (~'s) leave (of)
- take measures
- take notice (of)
- take the pains to
- take pity of
- take ~’s place
- take possession of
- take refuge in
- take shame
- take strides
- take a turn
- have affection for
- have communication with
- have a conference with
- have deception of
- have esteem for
- have a glimpse of
- have the honour to
- have idea of
- have interest
have mercy upon
have objection(s) to
have patience
have prospect of
have regard for
have reversion
have tendency to
CPs with take:
take (an) account of
take arms
take care of/that/to
take compassion on
take ~'s departure
take the field
take hold of
take the liberty to
take measures to
take notice (of)
take an/the opportunity of/to
take a/one's passage
take ~'s place
take pleasure in
take possession of
take refusal
take road
take ships
take snuff
take steps
take the trouble to
take umbrage

Fanny Burney's Evelina (1778)
CPs with have:
have acquaintance
have ~'s breakfast
have a cold
have delight in
have idea
have notion (of)
have the pleasure to
have a suspicion of
have use of
have a walk

CPs with take:
take care (of/to)
take charge of
take a dip
take the lead
take the liberty (of/to)
take an opportunity of/to
take part in
take place
take resolution
take steps
take the trouble (of/to)
take a walk

have the courage to
have no doubt
have a liking for
have objection to
have rest
have trouble to
have a view of

take ～’s chance
take comfort
take hold of
take (～’s) leave (of)
take notice of
take pains (to)
take pity on
take place of
take spite against
take ～’s tea
take a turn

Notes
1 (i) (a) ’...: let 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
jouperete 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 Serope 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 Intro. 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 PEPSY Diary 19 July, Agreeing with Hauker to have a care of my business in my
   absence . . . to be our baiyly. (OED, s.v. bailie, def.4)
(b) 1675 COTTON Compl. Gamester xxvi. (1680) lll, When you come to bearing, have a
care of making when you need not. (OED, s.v. bearing, def.1.1a)
(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,
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:

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16