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

Meiko Matsumoto

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 English.

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 \textit{have} and \textit{take} in the CEEC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPs</th>
<th>\textit{have}</th>
<th>\textit{take}</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>types</td>
<td>tokens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15thc</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16thc</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17thc</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(revised version of Matsumoto 2004b)

(2) Table 2: Distribution of \textit{take (one's) leave} in the CEEC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CP</th>
<th>Occurrences in the CEEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>take one's leave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15thc</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16thc</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17thc</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(revised version of Matsumoto 2004b)

2.1 CPs with \textit{have/take} in the fifteenth century letters

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

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

(3) . . . , and if he be lettyd he may \underline{take an accion} ayenst thaym 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, \underline{take a direction} with him at this tyme, (p69)
(b) . . . , and such as may have your advise and counsel to \underline{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. (pl, 124)

**〈STONOR〉 (15thc) 41,125 word corpus**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPs with have: have consideration (1)</th>
<th>have delyverance (1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>have knowlyche (2)</td>
<td>have love (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPs with take: take an accion (3)</th>
<th>take disposition (1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>take displeasure (1)</td>
<td>take end (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take hede (2)</td>
<td>take note (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take part (1)</td>
<td>take rekenyng (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take surete (1)</td>
<td>take sute (1) [passive]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**〈MARCHALL〉 (15thc) 5,128 word corpus**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPs with have: have knowledge (1)</th>
<th>have marvelle (1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPs with take: take end (1)</td>
<td>take hede (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take seute (1)</td>
<td>take thought (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**〈PLUMPTON〉 (15thc) 38,904 word corpus**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPs with have: have chere (1)</th>
<th>have knowledge (9)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>have marveill (1)</td>
<td>have knowledge (9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPs with take: take continuance (1)</th>
<th>take a delay (1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>take (a) direction (4)</td>
<td>take displeasure (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take end (1)</td>
<td>take hold (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take an obligation (1)</td>
<td>take order (1) [passive]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take part (2)</td>
<td>take regard (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**〈SHILLING〉 (15thc) 14,121 word corpus**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPs with have: have chere (4)</th>
<th>have communication (3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>have doute (1)</td>
<td>have end (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have hope (1)</td>
<td>have knowledge (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have pees (2)</td>
<td>have pity (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have rule (1)</td>
<td>have thanke (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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\[\textit{have truste}(1)\]

CPs with *take*: *take ende*(3) \hspace{1cm} *take kepe*(1)
\[\textit{take s leve}(4)\hspace{1cm} \textit{take a sute}(3)\]

\langle ORIGINA I \rangle (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)
\[\textit{delyverance}(2); \textit{doute}(1); \textit{end}(7); \textit{hope}(1);\]
\[\textit{knowyche/knowledge}(4); \textit{love}(1);\]
\[\textit{marvelle/marveill}(2); \textit{pees}(2); \textit{pity}(2); \textit{rule}(1);\]
\[\textit{thanke}(1); \textit{truste}(1)\]

CPs with *take: accion*(3); *continuance*(1);
\[\textit{delay}(1); \textit{direccion}(5); \textit{displeasure}(2);\]
\[\textit{end}(7); \textit{hede}(3); \textit{hold}(1); \textit{kepe}(1); \sim \textit{s leve}(4); \textit{note}(1);\]
\[\textit{obligation}(1); \textit{order}(1); \textit{part}(3); \textit{regard}(1); \textit{rekenyng}(1);\]
\[\textit{surete}(1); \textit{sute/seute}(5); \textit{thought}(3)\]

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, HOTTIN, 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 take 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=. Attourney, 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 foorth, (p189)
    (c) I could have taken warning of this before, (p102)

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

CPs with *have* in the 16thc: *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)
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**LEYCESTE** (16thc) 70,784 word corpus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPs with <em>have</em></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>have care (5)</td>
<td>have charge (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have comfort (1)</td>
<td>have conflict (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have desire (1)</td>
<td>have eye (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have hand over (1)</td>
<td>have hope (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have interest (1)</td>
<td>have knowledge (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have mistrust (1)</td>
<td>have nede (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have opinion of (1)</td>
<td>have a peace (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have use of (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPs with <em>take</em></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>take advantage of (1)</td>
<td>take care (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take charge (3)</td>
<td>take effect (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take hede of (2)</td>
<td>take joye (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take knowledge (3)</td>
<td>take ~ 's leave 333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take offence (1)</td>
<td>take order (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take part of (1)</td>
<td>take place (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take (a) resolution (s) (4)</td>
<td>take ship (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take success (1)</td>
<td>take voyage (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take warning (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ORIGINA 2** (16thc) 17,871 word corpus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPs with <em>have</em></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>have a fall (1)</td>
<td>have need (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have opinion of (2)</td>
<td>have regard (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have respecte to (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPs with <em>take</em></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>take comfort (1)</td>
<td>take ~ 's leave (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take order (1)</td>
<td>take the payne to inf. (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take paynes in (1)</td>
<td>take reste (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RERUM** (16thc) 6,362 word corpus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPs with <em>have</em></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>have charge (1)</td>
<td>have custodye (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ROYAL 1** (16thc) 14,898 word corpus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPs with <em>have</em></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>have care of (1)</td>
<td>have discourse with (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have opinion of (1)</td>
<td>have a thought to (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

253 (6)
CPs with take: take care of (2)  
    take ~'s place (1)  
    take pity of (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 care for (2)  
    take the paynes to inf. (2)  
    take leave (1)  
    take delight (1)  
    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 a thought (1)  
    have use (1)  
    have influence (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 thinke 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=r= 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 a thought* (1)  
*have influence* (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 love of* (1)  
*have a care* (3)
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 care* (1)  
*have excuse* (1)  
*have neede* (1)  
*have opinion of* (2)  
*have a thought of* (2)  
*have advantage* (1)  
*have desire* (1)  
*have hope* (s) (3)  
*have obligation* (1)  
*have satisfaction* (1)  
*have use of* (1)
CPs with *take*: *take advantage of* (1)  
*take counsel* (1)  
*take effect* (2)  
*take hart* (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 have:  
have affection for (1)  
have care (2)  
have notice (of) (2)  
have speech with (1)  
have use of (1)  

have choice (1)  
have kindness for (1)  
have opinion of (1)  
have talk of (1)  
have view of (1)

CPs with take:  
take advantage of (1)  
take delight to inf. (1)  
take ~ 's journey (1)  
take ~ 's leave (3)  
take an oath (1)  
take order (4)  
take resolution (1)[passive]  
take the tale (1)  

take care of (9)[passive]  
take effect (1)  
take leave (3)  
take notice (of) (4)  
take offence (1)  
take relief (1)  
take revenge (1)  
take view of (1)

〈Hamilton〉 (17thc) 1,290 word corpus

CPs with have:  
have care (1)

〈HARLEY〉 (17thc) 26,867 word corpus

CPs with have:  
have hope (1)  
have opinion (1)  

CPs with take:  
take care (of) (2)  
take comfort (1)  
take notice (1)  
take pains (1)  

have need of (1)  
have understanding (1)  
take cold (5)  
take content (1)  
take heed (1)  
take the possession of (1)

〈HENSLowe〉 (17thc) 651 word corpus

CPs with have:  
have care for (1)

〈JONES〉 (17thc) 35,026 word corpus

CPs with have:  
have a care (1)  
have confidence (2)  
have esteem (1)  

have communion (1)  
have a desire (1)  
have a sight (1)
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*have thoughts* (1)

CPs with *take*: *take comfort* (1)

*take notice (of)* (3)

*take resolution (1) [passive]*

*take leave* (2)

*take possession* (1)

*take roote* (2)

⟨TIXALL⟩ (17thc) 12,491 word corpus

CPs with *have*: *have care(s)* (2)

*have impatience* (1)

*have patience* (1)

*have hopes* (2)

*have need of* (2)

*have a thought* (1)

CPs with *take*: *take care* (2)

*take change* (2)

⟨WESA⟩ (17thc) 4,549 word corpus

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

*take order* (1)

*take oath* (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 [0] and [1] but *take love and have cold* were not found (Matsumoto 2004b).

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

[1] 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.

References


---------------------------------- 2004a. "Composite Predicates with *Have* and *Take* in Epistolary Literature", *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* Okayama University No. 17, 1–16.

---------------------------------- 2004b. "Composite Predicates with *Have* and *Take* in Letters", the paper presented at 13th ICEHL in August, Vienna University.


Meillet, Antoine. 1924. "Le développement du verbe *avoir*". Antidrôn F. Wackernagel. 9–13.

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).