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 Akimoto1999). 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, Anomynous, 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.

¹ See Inoue (2004) for a study of CPs with have/take in late Middle English.
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 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.

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
take pains to
take ~'s revenge upon
take warning
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 *take*:
take advantage of
take beginning
take coach
take courage (to)
take excuse of
take ~’s flight
take heed to
take horse
take joys
take ~’s lodgings
take melancholy at
take opportunity/-ies of/to
take pleasure to
take relapses
take rest
take shipping
take a view of

Charles Gildon (1692)

CPs with *have*:

have a care of
have a design to

have memory
have need of
have (the) opportunity to
have patience
have pleasure
have (the) power to
have recourse to
have respect for/to
have thoughts of
have value for
have (the) air
take care(s) about/for/of/that/to
take council(s) of
take delight in/to
take ~’s farewell
take freedoms
take hold of
take ~’s journey
take (~’s) leave (of)
take measures
take notice (of)
take the pains to
take pledge
take resolution
take (~’s) revenge
take a turn
take vows

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

Mary de la Riviere Manley, Richardson Pack (1696)

CPs with have:
have antipathy

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

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

take care
take delight in
take pains to
take pleasure in

have a mind to

have a do 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 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

take 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

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 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 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
| 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                     |                             |

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**Notes**

1. (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,..."

2. (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. ..."

3. (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 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 PEPSY 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) Ill, 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 Bowler 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:

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A literature review compiles and evaluates the research available on a certain topic or issue that you are researching and writing about. Because lit review formats vary greatly, be sure to read your professorâ€™s instructions first and defer to them. A typical writing process for a literature review follows these steps: Define Topic. What are you looking to explore? Read and take note of the main points, conclusions, strengths, and weaknesses of the research. Analyze and Evaluate. A literature review gives an overview of the area of study: what has already been said on the topic; who the key writers are; what the prevailing theories and hypotheses are; what questions are being asked; and what methodologies are appropriate and useful. In a literature review, you demonstrate that you have read and understood previous and current research in the area. 1. Format for a literature review 2. Steps for writing a literature review. 1. Format for a literature review. A literature review follows an essay format (Introduction, Body, Conclusion), but if the literature itself is the