On Linguistic Similarities between the Paston Letters, Caxton's Own Prose and Chancery Documents¹

Yuzuru Okumura

Fifteenth-century English prose has been divided into several varieties in terms of the difference in linguistic features. The language of the Paston Letters, for example, has been regarded as quite distinct from that of Caxton's original writings: the former represents a written version of unaffected speech of ordinary citizens, whereas the latter belongs to literary prose deeply influenced by contemporary French. The language of official writings such as Chancery documents, though so far little discussed apart from its orthography and morphology, is expected not to have much in common with that of Caxton's writings, still less with that of the Paston Letters. Such a classification will be valid after all, yet nevertheless it should be accepted with caution. In fact, these three types of prose writings prove to share a number of common linguistic features of different kinds ranging from vocabulary to sentence structure.

The fondness for bookish words adopted from French can be seen in family letters of the Pastons as well as in Caxton's own writings and Chancery documents. Foreign words, as N. F. Blake says, should not be directly related to an elevated kind of composition⁴, but many words used in the Paston collection are undoubtedly those which would appear more naturally in translated works than in letters of private citizens. The following lists are of French-derived verbs found in autograph letters written by John Paston II and III to other members of the family³:

VERBS:

John II and III:
accord, acquaint*, amend, appair, appear, appoint, ascertain*, assay, assign, avoid, await, beguile, cease, cherish, claim, conceive*, confess, content, continue*, convey, deceive, demean, deserve, devise, discharge, discover, displease, disport, dispose, ensure, entreat, escape, execute*, favour, finish, fortune, furnish, guide, inquire, occupy, pardon, perform, proceed*, profer, quit, recover, refuse, rehearse, remit*, remove, repair, repent, report, require, rescue, reserve, rule, save, search, serve, sport, suffer, tender*.

John II:
abate, accept*, accompany, adventure, apparel, assent, assist*, avail, avaunt*, battle*, brace, compare, condescend, conquer, conspire*, constrain, cover, defend, delay, despair*, disadvantage*, discourage*, disdain*, disparple, dispense*, distress, doubt, encomfort*, endure,
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John III:

Each of these verbs occurs only once or twice in the letters examined. But since they appear in such a wide variety and with an even distribution, it is difficult to regard them as exceptional borrowings from some sources. It is equally difficult to think that particular kinds of topics call for such latinate verbs: most of these verbs only awkwardly fit in with the everyday topics, as in the following quotations:

John II to John III:

. . . , late my moodre take heede to my yonge brytheryn, that they be nat in noon place wher that sykenesse is regnyng, nor that they dysport not wyth noon other yonge peple whyche resortythe wher any sykenesse is. (263/47-50)

John III to John II:

. . . , I crye yow mercy pat I was so lawde to encomber yow wyth eny so sympyll a mater, consyderyng the grette maters and weygthy pat ye haue to doo; but need compellyd me, . . . (332/20-22)

We should, therefore, rather find in them the brothers’ heavy dependence, regardless of the kinds of topics, upon words which are almost associated with a formal and literary type of English.

Similarity in diction between the Paston Letters, Caxton’s writings and Chancery documents becomes still clearer when we examine the use of nouns of French origin. Those nouns of French origin often used in Caxton’s writings and Chancery documents are also abundant in the letters written by John Paston II and III, and it is interesting to note that the use of those nouns is exactly alike in these three kinds of prose: French-derived nouns make phrasal hybrids together with native English verbs and prepositions. We find a considerable number of such phrases, some of which are:

VERBAL PHRASES:

1. (P) . . . , lyek as ye gaue me in comandment . . . (380/3-4)
(Ca) . . . for as moche as I had comandement of my sayd lord to correcte and amende where as I shold fynde fawte, . . .
(Ch) . . . yevyng hym in Comaundement . . . to make proclamacion . . .
(29 (a)/65-66)

2. (P) . . . it is so that wyth-owght ye haue hasty reparacion doon at Castor ye be lyek to haue doubyll cost in hast, . . .
(183/18-19)

(Ch) . . . if pe said dungeon wherof (partie be) downefallen: hooly fal downe/as It is liche to do but if hasty reparacion þerof be made/wol cost yow MI li & more/. . .
(391/1-2)

ADJECTIVAL PHRASES:

1. (P) . . . I am halffe in purpuse to comhom wyth-in a monythe here-afftre, . . .
(248/95-96)

(Ca) . . . ; and in maner halfe desperate to have accompliss[he]d it was in purpose to have lefte it . . .
(47(a)/73-74)

(Ch) . . . ye seid Robert . . . was in full purpuse no mor to haue had to do with ye seid Thomas . . .
(221/16-17)

2. (P) . . . he ore ye . . . may thynke hym iiiij tymes bettere in reputacion of all folk than euyre he was.
(244/17-19)

(Ca) . . . in these days every man that is in ony reputacion in his countr wyll utter his commynycacyon and maters in suche maners and termes that fewe men shall understonde theym.
(36(a)/60-63)

ADVERBIAL PHRASES:

1. (P) . . . thys my modyr and I ded at þe instans and gret request of my lord . . .
(324/51)

(Ca) . . . , at th'ynstaunce and requiste of my sayd lady, . . ., I have reduced this sayd boke out of Frenshe into our Englyshe.
(6/26-28)

(Ch) . . . when I was remitted to the prison of flete at the instance of some of the Iuges . . .
(163/41-42)

2. (P) God send grasre þat he may do yow good seruyse, that be extymacion js not lykelye.
(231/39-40)

(Ch) . . . the value of wiche Castelle3 maner3 Townes3 lordschippe3 honoure3 londes3 rentes tenementes3 reversations jurisdictions libertes3 fraunchise3 avousons and possessions . . . amounteth to the somme of Cxiiij MI li and more be estimacion . . .
(210/9-13)

Stylistic levels of medieval phrases are difficult to judge, but the fact that these phrases appear in Caxton's writings and Chancery documents ensures that they are of the kind which would sound too pompous if used in speech of everyday conversations. The following phrases, which occur in letters of the Paston brothers alone, too have the flavour of a learned and literary type of English, with nouns which belong to the same level of language as those used by Caxton and Chancery writers:
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VERBAL PHRASE:

...; at whyche tyme I trust I shall brynyge yow more serteynté of all the fordell that I haue in my besyney then I can as yett wryght. I am put in serteynté by my most specyall good mastyr, ...

(384/30-33)

ADJECTIVAL PHRASE:

... whethere he be off the same dysposicion in my grantdamez londe as he was at hys last beyng here, ...

(248/85-86)

ADVERBIAL PHRASE:

As for Bekham, Townsend man and I wer ther yersterday and took possessyon bothe, for lesse suspessyon.

(337/25-26)

The facts given above indicate that the brothers’ range of vocabulary is much wider than can be characterised by a term such as ‘extreme simplicity’*. The brothers are not free from the contemporary predilection in literary English for the latinate diction and share a large part of their vocabulary with Caxton and Chancery clerks. The use of elaborate words of French origin is noticeable also in family letters written by other members of the Pastons* and by the Celys†. This strongly suggests that the fairly upper classes in the late fifteenth century used in their daily correspondence such bookish words and phrases as favoured in Caxton’s writings and Chancery documents.

The trailing sentence encouraged by French influence is another linguistic feature commonly observed in the three kinds of prose now under discussion. Quotations from the Paston Letters and Chancery documents will suffice to document this:

John I to James Gresham:

...; at whiche tyme the Lord Moleyns title was shewed and clerly answerid, in so meche pat his own counsel seide they cowde no further in the matier, desirynge me to ride to Salesbury to pe Lord Moleyns, promytyng of their part that thei wolde moeve the Lord Moleyns so pat pei trusted I shuld haue myn entent or I come thens; of whiche title and answer I sende yow a copie that hath be put in-to pe parolement, the Lord Moleyns beyng there present, wherto he cowde not sey nay.

(39/28-34)

Summons to Arms:

... ffor asmoche as he pat calleth him Duc of Bourgoigne oure rebell ... is come ouer pe water of Grauelyng and hath pighte his tentes with Inne oure Pale of pe marches peere willyng and dispoisyng him to gete oure Toune of Caleys and alle oure strengthes in pe marches peere pe which ... shulde be vn to vs you oure Reamme and subgitt3 to grete an hurte and a perpetuelle shame ...

(132/1-5)

As in Caxton’s writings, so in the Paston Letters and Chancery documents the use of the relative ‘(the) which’ is particularly frequent as a connecting device. The repeti-
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In both of these quotations, a notion expressed by a verb is later referred to by a noun deriving from the verb, with the relative adjective ‘(the) which’ indicating the relation of the noun to the foregoing verb: in the former quotation, the notion of a verb ‘sewyd’ in 1.16 is seized upon by ‘vp-on whyche swte’ in 1.17 and ‘owtlawyd’ in 1.18 likewise by ‘of whyche owtlawry’; in the latter one also, the notion of a verbal phrase ‘yeyng . . . yn comaundement’ in 11.4-5 is taken up by ‘By autorite of the wheche comaundement’ in 1.5 and ‘ruledyn’ in 1.5 by ‘by forse of the whych rule’ in 1.6.

P. J. C. Field has exemplified ‘the similarities of expression and sentiment which exist between Malory and the writers of the Paston Letters’9, both drawing their key phrases from popular speech of those days. The evidence given above, however, has shown that this statement of his neglects some features of the language of the Pastons, and, as a result, does not sufficiently describe Malory’s language. Some of the conclusions of Shunichi Noguchi, who has made a detailed comparison between Malory’s language and Caxton’s, are relevant here. Noguchi presents many examples of words which are used by Caxton in his Book V of the Morte Darthur and elsewhere but never used in the whole of the Winchester text10. Of the sixteen words of French origin listed by him, five appear in autograph letters of John Paston II and III: ‘conquest’, ‘quantity’, ‘incontinent’, ‘universal’ and ‘necessary’. The adverb ‘incontinent’ seems least ordinary of these, but it is used by both of the brothers, and it is recorded in MED as used also in the Stonor Letters. We can therefore fairly safely assume that this word was in those days used by not a few common writers in their daily correspondence. A Malory Concordance11 tells us that there are many other words of a similar kind: in the above lists of French-derived verbs used by the Paston brothers, asterisks indicate the words which never appear in the whole of the Winchester text. The fact that so many words of learned character are, while never
found throughout the Winchester text, in evidence in autograph letters of the Paston brothers suggests that the range of the brothers' vocabulary largely differs from that of Malory's: the brothers tend much more than Malory to words which seem to be not yet fully accepted as part of the vocabulary of everyday speech.

Not only the Pastons' vocabulary but also their sentence structure is not always the same as Malory's. As we have seen above, many of the Pastons' sentences, especially those of male writers', are built up in a manner quite unlike Malorian paratactical constructions, with a long series of clauses linked by such words as '(the) which' and 'in so much that'. Of these connecting devices, the use of the relative adjective needs special mention. S. Noguchi observes that the relative adjective '(the) which' preceded by a preposition never appears in the whole of the Winchester MS., whereas it is used by Caxton once in his Book V of the *Morte Darthur* and often in his prose works. The Paston Letters offer many examples of this locution:

for whiche hurt (39/66); with wech jentilmen (44/7); of weche tydnyggis (45/13-14); in the wyche lettyr (155/3); by whych tyme (241/3); at whych daye (272/7); Vpon whyche corage (279/14-15); off whyche graunte (282/21); In whyche mater (315/29-30); of whyche materys (323/4); vpon whyche jnformacion and dysworchep (324/20-21); to whyche persons (354/78); of whyche lettres (357/17), etc.

Such findings indicate that the Paston Letters has a number of linguistic features which can be more properly called Caxtonian than Malorian. Many of the words and expressions favoured by Caxton are often found in the family letters of the contemporary citizens, but never used by Malory. This will give part of the evidences to support N. F. Blake's words in defence of Caxton:

Today, we admire Malory's style so much that we criticize Caxton's handling of [Malory's] text; but we should remember that by fifteenth-century standards it is Malory who is unusual.

We shall next try to find further facts to show linguistic similarities between the three kinds of prose writings, with reference to the circumstances in which they were written, that is, to the intention and purpose of the writer's or to the social relation between the writer and the reader. H. A. Chaffee tries to defend Caxton for his notorious resort to doublets by saying that Caxton used doublets to 'support the dominant theme and other motifs of the work.' But Caxton uses doublets so indiscriminately that he has spoiled much of the emphatic force that this lexical device would otherwise have given to his sentences. This mode of expression is used also in Chancery documents and, as P. J. C. Field points out, in the Paston Letters, but much more sparingly and so the more effectively realising the writer's intention to give emotional emphasis to the sentence. Examples are:
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John II to John III:

. . . , thankyng yow of youre labore and dyligence that ye haue in kepyng of my place at Castre so sewerly, both wyth youre hert and mynde, to youwr gret bisynesse and troble; . . .

(236/2-4)

John, Duke of Bedford, to the Mayor and Aldermen of London:

. . . our saide prayer and requeste procedeth not of ambicion ner of desir that we myght haue of worldly worship, other of any singular commodite or prouffit that we myght rescuyue thereby, but of entier desir and entente that we haue that the forsaide lawes, vsage, and custome ne shulde be blenysshed or hurt by oure lachesse, negligence, or deffaulte, ner any preiudice be engendred to any persoune, souffisant and able, . . .

(Richardson, B, 7/17-23)

As is the case with the opening and closing of a letter, many lines within the body of a document are written after the recognised models. This is evident from the comparison of different documents written to the same effect. Compare, for instance, the following examples:

Margaret to John II:

. . ., I require you and more-ouer charge you vp-on my blisseyng, and as ye wull haue my good will, . . .

(214/30-31)

Henry V to the Chancellor:

And We Wol, and Pray Yow, And also Charge Yow, that, as We Trust unto Yow, And as ye Loke to have our good Lordship, . . .

(Richardson, A, 22/3-4)

The former quotation is from a letter of a mother to her son, and the latter from an official missive of the king to his subject. The expressions are almost identical in both of these sentences, where a superior threateningly gives a command to his or her inferior. Another evidence of the same kind can be found in a passage in John Paston III’s autograph letter to a lady:

. . ., mastress, for syche pore seruyse as I now in my mynde owe yow, purposyng, ye not dyspleasyd, duryng my lyff to contenu the same, I beseche yow to pardyn my boldness and not to dysdeyn but to accepthe thys sympyll bylle to recomand me to yow in syche wyse as I best can or may jmagyn to your most plasure; . . .

(373/3-7)

The writer here, trying to win the heart of the reader, is psychologically, though not socially, inferior to the reader, and his passage has a number of features peculiar to correspondence from inferior to superior: the vocative ‘mastress’; such epithets of humility as ‘pore’ and ‘sympyll’ in reference to what belongs to the writer himself; and the adverbial ‘ye not dyspleasyd’ asserting that the writer should not even intend to do
anything unless the reader wishes. All these are only part of mannerisms of the contemporary writings, especially those of courtly character, and they echo some of the phrasing found in Caxton's writings and Chancery documents:

Ca:

Wherfor, my right dere redoubted Lord, I requyre and supplye your good grace not to
desdaygne to resseyve this lityll sayd book in gree and thanke as well of me your humble and
unknown servaunt as of a better and gretter man than I am, . . .

(45/a)/32-36

Ch: Petition of Johan Kymburley of Derby:

Consideryng if it like youre highnes. howe youre poer beedman Johan Kymburley of
'derby . . . bargayned in derby in lenten was twelf (mon)eth (with oon) Johan Goldsmith the
elder of Melton in leycetshire Marchant. . . .

(172/1-4)

Apart from these conventional expressions, there can be found some examples
which show that the sentences written in certain circumstances employ certain expres-
sions. We shall here compare a piece of Caxton's with that of John Paston II's and
try to find linguistic similarities between them. As N. F. Blake says, Caxton's own
prose is not always written in the same style19. Let us begin by considering the former
part of the Epilogue to the first edition of Dicts or Sayings:

And so afterward I cam unto my sayd lord and told him how I had red and seen his book, and
that he had don a meritory deede in the labour of the translacion therofo into our English shunge,
wherin he had deservid a singuler lawde and thank, etc. Thenne my sayd lord desired me to
oversee it and where as I sholde fynde faute to correcte it. Wherein I answerd unto his
lordship that I coude not amende it, but if I sholde so presume I might apaire it, for it was right
wel and connyn gly made and translated into right good and fayr English. Notwithstanding
he willed me to oversee it and shewid me dyverse thinges whiche as him semed myght be left
out, as dyverse lettres missives sent from Alisander to Darius and Aristotle, and ech to other
—whiche lettres were lytll appertinent unto t[h]o dictes and sayenges afsayd for as moche
as they specifye of other maters—and also desired me, that don, to put the sayd booke in enprinte.

(29/a)/16-31

This passage is merely to report the dialogue between Caxton and the translator
Rivers, without any comment or personal view on the writer's part. The sentences are
made up in a rather simple way: 'And so afterward I cam unto my sayd lord and told
him. . . . Thenne my sayd lord desired me. . . . Wherein I answerd unto his lord-
ship. . . . Notwithstanding he willed me . . . and shewid me . . . and also desired
me, . . . ' Caxton compares Rivers' translation with the original to discover that the
words of Socrates' in the original are missing in the translation. Trying to justify
the translator's omission and at the same time not to offend female readers by restoring
the missing words of Socrates' criticising women, Caxton uses a rhetorical device of
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enumerating adjectives:

... I wote well of whatsoever condition women ben in Grece, the women of this contre ben right good, wyse, playsant, humble, discrete, sobre, chaste, obedient to their husbandis, trewe, secrete, stedfast, ever besy and never ydle, attemperat in speking, and vertuous in alle their werkis—or atte lesthe sholde be soo. For whiche causes so evydent my sayd lord, as I suppose, thoughte it was not of necessite to sette in his book the saiengis of his auctor Socrates touchyng women.

He then goes on to say that he has decided to include Socrates' words, again in quite a deliberate manner:

But for as moche as I had comandement of my sayd lord to correcte and amende where as I sholde fynde fauhte, and other fynde I none sauf that he hath left out these dictes and saynges of the women of Grece; therfore in accomplisshing his comandement for as moche as I am not in certayn wheder it was in my lordis copye or not, or ellis peraventure that the wynde had blowe over the leaf at the tyme of translacion of his booke, I purpose to wryte the same saynges of that Greke Socrates, whiche wrote of tho women of Grece and nothyng of them of this royame, whom I suppose he never knewe.

One can soon notice that the sentence structure here is totally different from that of the former part seen above. In the 'for as moche as'-clause and in the part immediately following the 'therfore', Caxton repeatedly says that his emendation is according to the translator's request; in a second 'for as moche as'-clause, he suggests that Rivers left out Socrates' words only by accident; and it is after these long adverbials running for a total of more than eighty words that he presents his final decision.

N. F. Blake says:

In the first part (of his second edition of the Canterbury Tales) [Caxton] made an effort to adorn his prose-style by borrowing from the works of other authors. He was able to do this because he was writing on a traditional theme: it was easy to adapt the words of others to one's own needs. The result is a fairly competent, elevated style, though the matter is somewhat lifeless. In the description of his relations with his gentleman-client Caxton had no previous tradition to fall back on. So he composed in a simple repetitive style, based on the pattern of 'he said . . . I said'.

But our examination invites us to think that Caxton's style depends equally upon what he has to convey. When describing bare facts as they actually were, he employed a fairly simple and matter-of-fact language, whereas he was by himself able to call to his aid rhetorical expressions and highly complicated constructions when trying to persuade the reader logically and emotionally. We may therefore say that the following remark of Blake's is nearer to the truth:

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... sometimes in a prologue or epilogue [Caxton] will aim at a high style, as often in the openings, whereas elsewhere he is satisfied with a more colloquial and informal style, particularly in the passages of reported dialogue.18

The same thing can also be said of John Paston II’s letters. In reporting objectively what has actually happened, he heavily depends on the simple pattern ‘X did Y’, as in:

I recomande me to yow, letyng yow wete þat, blessyd be God, vppon Saterdaye last past my lorde and wee toke the see and come to Caleyse þe same daye. And as þys daye my lorde come to Guynesse, and theere was receevyd honourablye wyth-owt any obstaklys; . . .

(297/1-4)

He wrote in this way not because he was unable to write otherwise but because he found it appropriate enough to his purpose. This can partly be confirmed by the fact that, in official letters which were certainly composed by professional clerks, factual accounts are presented in an equally simple way:

. . . , we com afore our Toun of Louiers & wan it by assiege, to þe which place com to vs þe cardinal of Vraint fro our holy fader þe pope, for to trete for þe good of pees Betwix bope Reumes, and is goon ayen in paris for to diligence þere in his same mater, but what ende it shal drawe to we wote noght as yet. (Richardson, A, 12/5-10)

John Paston II composed more elaborate sentences when called for. In one of his autograph letters to his mother, he writes:

. . . I have receevyd yowre letter wherin is remembryd (2) the gret hurtre þat by liklihood myght falle to my brother John iff so (3) be þat thys mater betwyn hym and Svr Thomas Brewses doghtre take nott (4) effecte, werorff I wolde be as sory as hym-selfe reasonably; and also þe (5) welthy and convenient mariage þat scholde be iff it take effecte, werorff (6) I wolde be as gladde as any man, and ayme better content nowe þat he (7) scholde have hyre than any other þat euyre he was hertoffoore abowte to (8) have hadde— concynderyd hyre persone, hyre yowthe, and the stok þat she (9) is comyn offe, þe love on bothe sydes, þe tendre fauore þat she is in wyth (10) hyre fadre and moodre, the kyndenesse off hyre fadre and moodre to hyre (11) in departyng wyth hyre, the favore also and goode conceyte þat they have (12) in my brethren, the worshipfull and vertuous dysposicion off hire fadre (13) and moodre, whychy prenostikyth þat of liklihood the mayde scholde be (14) vertuous and goode. All whychy concynderyd, and the necessary relyffe þat (15) my brother most have, I mervayle the lesse þat ye have departyd and (16) geuyn hym the maner of Sperham in suche forme as I haue knowleche (17) off by W. Gornay, Lommore, and Skypwyth; and I am ryght gladde to se (18) in yow suche kyndenesse on- to my brother as ye haue doon to hym, and (19) wolde by my trowthe levere than c li. þat it weere fey sempyle londe, as it (20) is entaylyd, whychy by
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likelyhood scholde prosper e wy th hym and hy is (21) blode the better in tyme to come and sholde also neuer ca ve debate in (22) owre blode in tyme to come, whyche Godde dyffende for that weere (23) onnaturell.

John II is here trying to persuade his mother to change the conditions on which a part of the Pastons' landed property is to be transferred to his younger brother. In urging his mother to what might prevent his brother's marriage, he tries his best not to hurt his mother's feelings. The enumeration of noun phrases in 11. 8-13, the same rhetorical device as found at work in Caxton's writings, emphasises that the writer does not intend to hinder his brother's marriage, but rather wishes from the bottom of his heart for the 'welthy and convenyent mariage'. The sentence tends to be lengthy and relatively complex in construction: 'be welthy and convenyent mariage', a second subject to govern 'is remembryd' in 1. 1, is followed by a long 'wheroff'-clause, to which are added two further statements with the relative 'whyche' as a link word. The extremely rare verb 'prenostikyth', such doublets as 'vertuous and goode', and the Latinism 'All whyche concyderyd', all combine to make this passage formal and reserved in tone. No part of this passage, it is true, identifiably resembles Caxton's passage quoted above, except the enumeration of lexical items. Careful comparison of the two only proves Caxton's far greater competence in composition. Yet even a son writing to his mother found, as Caxton did, simpler kinds of language not good enough for his purpose when forced to make his points without offending the reader; and it should be admitted that the language of John Paston II's choice on such an occasion is to a certain extent similar to that of Caxton's.

Our study has shown some of the linguistic similarities between the Paston Letters, Caxton's own prose and Chancery documents. The inclination to French-influenced diction and sentence structure, which has been taken as one of the characteristics of 'literary' types of prose, is evidently seen in the Paston Letters as well. With such evidence, one may question the 'colloquialism' of the Paston Letters as against the 'literary' character of the other two. In judging the stylistic levels of words and phrases, in particular, we should not easily use the Letters as touchstone: many words and phrases found in the Letters are also favoured in Caxton's writings and Chancery documents, and so the fact that a particular word or phrase appears in the Letters does not necessarily indicate that the word or phrase was regarded as colloquial at that time. We have also found some examples to suggest that the writers of all these three types of prose employed identifiably similar modes of expression to achieve certain effects. Though quite limited in number and kind, those examples, together with the similarity in diction and syntax of our corpora, invite us to suspect that some of the linguistic differences between fifteenth-century prose writings are caused by the differences in their purpose and intended effect, not by the difference in the writers' ability or stylistic taste. In order to make clear linguistic differences between fifteenth-century prose works, therefore, we should make fair comparison between them paying due attention to the circumstances in which they
were written.

NOTES:
1. This is a revised version of the paper I read at the 2nd meeting of the East Branch of the Japan Society for Medieval English Studies, held at Aoyama Gakuin University on 5 July 1986. The texts used in this paper are as follows:
   Chancery Documents (abbr. Ch):
   APPENDIX A: English Correspondence of Henry V, and APPENDIX B: English Letters and Documents of the Royal Family (referred to as Richardson).

References to these texts are given by letter (or document) and line number.
3. Adjectives and adverbs of French origin used by the Paston brothers are listed in APPENDIX I.
4. More extensive, though not exhaustive, lists of phrases with French-derived nouns are given in APPENDIX II.
6. Some examples are:
   John Paston I:
      . . . , but I vnderstand in hym no dispocicion of polecy ne of gouernans as man of the welrd owt to do, but only leuith, and euer hath, as man disolut, with- owt any prouicion, . . .
                             (73/6-9: Autograph)
   Margaret Paston:
      I construe in my owyn mend, and consevye j-now, and to myche; and whan I haue brokyn my consevte to sume þat in happe he demythet too, they haue put me in cownforth more þan I kowde haue be any jmajynasyon in my owyn conseythe.
                             (212/15-19)
8. These dots are used by the editors to indicate the loss of text due to physical damage to the manuscript.
15. Field, pp. 130 f.

APPENDIX I:
Asterisks indicate the words which are never used in the whole of the Winchester Malory.

ADJECTIVES:
John II and III:
able, agreeable*, courteous, devout, hasty, indifferent*, large, necessary*, perfect, plain, present, privy, reasonable, royal, safe, secret, simple, special.

John II:

John III:

ADVERBS:
John II and III:
courteously, diligently*, hastily, honourably, incontinent*, largely, marvelously, passingly, peaceably, perfectly, plainly, reasonably, specially, verily.

John II:
certain, comfortably*, continually*, excellent*, freshly, generally*, immediately*, jointly*, oliver
courant*, secondly, secondarily*, secretly, severally, surely, unreasonably, uncourteously.

John III:
certainly, credibly*, effectually*, honestly.

APPENDIX II:
VERBAL PHRASES:
P: Ca: Ch
1. (P) give . . . in commandment
   (Ca) have commandment of
   (Ch) keep the commandments of
   bear one's commandment
do one's commandment
give . . . in commandment
   have commandment
   make commandment
   send commandment
2. (P) make a conclusion
   take a conclusion
   (Ca) come to the conclusion of
   (Ch) put . . . to a conclusion
   send . . . a conclusion
3. (P) lay the default on
   put default in
   think no default in
   (Ca) find default
   make default
   (Ch) find default
   make default
   put in any defaults
4. (P) bring about one's desire
   send one's desire
   (Ca) have desire to do
   (Ch) have (one's) desire
5. (P) do one's devoir
   (Ca) do one's devoir
   put . . . in devoir
   (Ch) do one's devoir
6. (P) have diligence
   (Ca) do diligence
   (Ch) do (one's) diligence
7. (P) take ( . . . to) no (or any) displeasure
   (Ca) take no displeasure on (or at)
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(Ch) (P) take . . . to displeasance
8. (P) do . . . ease
   take one's ease
   take ease
   (Ch) do ease
   set . . . in ease (of heart)
   show ease
9. (P) take example at (or by)
   (Ca) take example to
give example unto
   (Ch) take to example
10. (P) have honour of doing
    (Ca) come to honour
do honour
get honour
give honour
yield honour
    (Ch) keep honour
11. (P) cast jeopardy
    (Ca) put . . . in jeopardy
    (Ch) stand in jeopardy
12. (P) have labour
    make labour
    put . . . to the labour
take (a, the) labour
    (Ca) put . . . to labour
take the labour of
    (Ch) do labour
    have labour
    make labour
take labour
13. (P) need no mention
    (Ca) make mention
    (Ch) make mention
14. (P) make one's peace with
    (Ca) make peace
    (Ch) have . . . in peace
    make peace
15. (P) do . . . (a) pleasure
    give a pleasure
    have pleasure
    (Ch) (?) do . . . pleasance
16. (P) have the possession
    keep possession
take possession
    (Ca) get possessions

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have possessions
hold possessions
keep possessions
put . . . in possessions
set . . . into possessions
stand . . . in possessions
take possessions

17. (P) take profit
(Ca) do profit
(Ch) bear profit
have the profit(s)
take the profit (of)
-- turn to profit

18. (P) have no remembrance
(Ca) have . . . in remembrance
take . . . in one's remembrance
(Ch) have . . . in one's remembrance

P: Ca
1. (P) ask leisure
have (a, no, any) leisure
take leisure to do
(Ca) have a leisure

2. (P) hold an opinion (that . . .)
(Ca) hold opinion (that . . .)

P: Ch
1. (P) give one's advice
have one's advice
take (one's) advice
(Ch) ask advice
give advice
have advice
take advice of

2. (P) make no assaults
(Ch) make assault

3. (P) find no comfort
have comfort
keep . . . in comfort
pick no comfort
put . . . in comfort
send . . . comfort
take comfort
(Ch) have comfort
put . . . in comfort

4. (P) have counsel
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make a counsel
(Ch) ask counsel

5. (P) give credence to
(Ch) give credence
ground one's credence

6. (P) feel one's disposition
(Ch) long to one's disposition

7. (P) cast no doubt
have no doubt in
(Ch) have (a) doubt
stand in doubt

8. (P) feel effect
take (no) effect
(Ch) come to effect
take effect

9. (P) owe (one's) favour
show . . . (one's) favour
(Ch) do favour
show favour

10. (P) have one's intent
(Ch) further one's intent

11. (P) have liberty
lose liberty
set . . . at liberty
(Ch) have (one's) liberty (or liberties)

12. (P) have (a, no, any) mean to do
find the (or any, no) mean(s) (to do)
make (no) means to
(Ch) have the means

13. (P) have no passage
(Ch) have passage
take the passage

14. (P) do reparation
keep the reparation
(Ch) bear the reparation
make reparation

P:
1. make amends
2. get assistance
3. bring . . . certainty
   hear the certainty
   put . . . in certainty
   send the certainty
   set . . . in certainty
   understand no certainty

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4. make a change
5. have good conceit
6. take courage to do
7. take covert
8. put ... in danger
9. make delay
     put ... to delay
10. take a (or no) direction
     have a good direction
11. make division
12. see the improvement
13. have ... in jealousy
14. take one's journey
15. send ... one's joy
16. have large (etc.) language
     speak language
17. have the measure
18. make no obstacles

ADJECTIVAL PHRASES:

P: Ca: Ch
1. (P)    all manner of
     (Ca)  (all) manner of
     (Ch)  ... manner (of)
2. (P) in purpose (to do)
     of purpose (to do)
     (Ca) in purpose to do
     (Ch) in purpose to do
     of purpose to do

P: Ca
1. (P) in one's company
     (Ca) in one's company
2. (P) in reputation
     (Ca) in reputation

P: Ch
1. (P) in comfort
     (Ch) to one's comfort
2. (P) at large
     (Ch) at large
3. (P) of (no) power to do
     (Ch) in one's power
     of power to do
4. (P) of pleasure
     (Ch) to one's pleasure

P:
1. of (one's) acquaintance
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2. in an agony
3. in good case
4. at no certainty
5. out of one’s clamour
6. at one’s commandment
7. at a communication
8. in conscience
9. in counsel
10. a couple of
11. in one’s danger
   out of danger
12. at debate
13. of the same disposition
14. in (a) doubt
15. at (one’s) ease
   in ease
16. out of fashion
17. in (one’s) favour (with)
18. out of jeopardy
19. at one’s labour
20. at one’s liberty
21. in obloquy
22. in peril

ADVERBIAL PHRASES:

P: Ca: Ch

1. (P) in like (etc.) case(s)
   (Ca) in like case
   (Ch) in case (that . . . )

2. (P) for comfort of
   in comfort
   (Ca) for one’s comfort
   (Ch) by (the) comfort of
      for the comfort of
      in comfort of
      to comfort of

3. (P) by one’s commandment
   (Ca) at the commandment of
   by one’s commandment
   in commandment
   upon commandments of
   (Ch) at one’s commandment(s)
   by one’s commandment
   in commandment
4. (P) for (a) conclusion
   in conclusion
   to a conclusion
   (Ca) at the conclusion of
     in conclusion
   (Ch) to that conclusion that...
     with... conclusion
5. (P) in counsel
   under counsel
   (Ca) by the counsel of
   (Ch) by the counsel
     in (one's) counsel
     with(out) counsel (of)
6. (P) for default of
   (Ca) by one's default
   (Ch) by one's default
     for default of
     in default that...
     in one's default
     through default of
     upon the default of
7. (P) at one's desire(s)
   by one's desire
   to one's desire
   (Ca) after the desire of
     at the desire of
     by the desire of
   (Ch) after (the) desire of
     at desire of
     to the desire of
     upon one's desires
8. (P) in especial
   (Ca) in especial
   (Ch) in especial
9. (P) for any favour
   (Ca) under the favour of
   (Ch) by favour of
     for one's favour
     under one's favour
     with all the favour
     without one's (etc.) favour (of)
10. (P) in like (etc.) form
    under this form
    (Ca) after the form of
      in form
    (Ch) after the form of
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against the form of
  in (the) form (that . . .)
  under this form
11. (P) to one's honour
    (Ca) for the honour of
      in (the) honour of
    (Ch) for honour of
      in honour of
12. (P) at the instance of
    (Ca) at the instance of
    (Ch) at the instance of
      with (great) instance
13. (P) after one's intent
    to one's intent
      to the intent (for) to do
    (Ca) to the intent
    (Ch) after one's intent
      to the intent that . . .
      with one's intent
14. (P) after the manner
    in manner of
    (Ca) after the manner
      by manner of
        in manner of
        in this manner
    (Ch) in (the) manner (of)
15. (P) in one's own person
    (Ca) in one's person
    (Ch) in one's (own) person
      in (proper) person
16. (P) at one's pleasure
    for one's (etc.) pleasure
      to one's pleasure
    (Ca) at one's pleasure
      by the pleasure of
        for one's pleasure
        (un)to one's pleasure
    (Ch) at one's pleasure
17. (P) to one's power
    (Ca) to one's power
      with (all) one's power
    (Ch) after one's power
      to one's power
      with (one's) power
      without power
18. (P) in the presence of by one's presence
   (Ca) by the presence of
   (Ch) in one's presence

19. (P) for profit of to one's profit
   (Ca) for one's profit
   (Ch) for the profit of

20. (P) at the request of by the request of
   (Ca) at (the) request of
   (Ch) at the request of

P: Ca
1. (P) under one's correction
   (Ca) under (the) correction (of)

2. (P) in gree
   (Ca) in gree (of)

3. (P) at (a, etc.) leisure
   (Ca) at one's leisure

4. (P) for one's remembrance
   (Ca) for a remembrance

P: Ch
1. (P) for one's absence
   (Ch) in one's absence

2. (P) to one's advantage
   (Ch) for one's advantage

3. (P) by one's advice for all one's advice
   (Ch) after one's advice
   for one's advice

4. (P) by the assent of without one's assent
   (Ch) by the assent of
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>(P) Expression</th>
<th>(Ch) Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>with one assent with one's assent without (the) assent of</td>
<td>with the assistance of by one's assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>to one's avail for the avail of to the avail of</td>
<td>for casualty of by casualty of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>in chief in chief</td>
<td>in chief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>in (one's) company in the company of</td>
<td>in one's conceit to one's conceit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>for diverse considerations for considerations in consideration of through consideration of upon this consideration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>to the contrary in(to) the contrary to the contrary</td>
<td>after one's discretion by one's discretion in one's discretion to one's discretion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>at one's ease for one's ease with one's ease for ease to for the ease of in ease of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>by estimation after the estimation of by estimation</td>
<td>by force by force (of) with force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>for malice of of malice of malice</td>
<td>of one's own motion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(Ch) by one's own motion
of one's own motion

19. (P) to a purpose
(Ch) to the purpose that . . .

20. (P) after the quantity of
(Ch) after the quantity of

P:
1. after this acquaintance
2. by the award (of)
in one's award
3. at every communication
4. at the delivery of
5. with one's honesty
6. in no jeopardy
7. of misfortune
8. without any obstacles
9. by possibility
10. in one's progress from . . . to . . .
11. of substance
12. for less suspicion