

BINOMIALS IN THE HISTORY OF ENGLISH

Binomials, such as *for and against*, *dead or alive*, *to have and to hold*, can be broadly defined as two words belonging to the same grammatical category and linked by a semantic relationship. They are an important phraseological phenomenon present throughout the history of the English language. This volume offers a range of studies on binomials, their types and functions from Old English through to the present day. Searching for motivations and characteristic features of binomials in a particular genre or writer, the chapters engage with many linguistic levels of analysis, such as phonology or semantics, and explore the important role of translation. Drawing on philological and corpus-linguistic approaches, the authors employ qualitative and quantitative methods, setting the discussion firmly in the extra-linguistic context. Binomials and their extended forms – multinomials – emerge from these discussions as an important phraseological tool, with rich applications and complex motivations.

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Fixed and Flexible

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Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>List of Tables</i>	xi
<i>List of Contributors</i>	xiv
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xv
1 Defining and Exploring Binomials <i>Joanna Kopaczyk and Hans Sauer</i>	I
PART I OLD ENGLISH	25
2 Pragmatic and Stylistic Functions of Binomials in Old English <i>Robert D. Fulk</i>	27
3 Fixity and Flexibility in Wulfstan’s Binomials <i>Don Chapman</i>	41
4 Binomials, Word Pairs and Variation as a Feature of Style in Old English Poetry <i>Michiko Ogura</i>	63
5 Binomials or Not? Double Glosses in Farman’s Gloss to the Rushworth Gospels <i>Tadashi Kotake</i>	82
6 Lexical Pairs and their Function in the <i>Eadwine Psalter</i> Manuscript <i>Paulina Zagórska</i>	98
PART II MIDDLE ENGLISH	123
7 Binomials in Middle English Poetry: <i>Havelok, Ywain and Gawain, The Canterbury Tales</i> <i>Ulrike Schenk</i>	125
8 Binomials in Caxton’s <i>Ovid</i> (Book I) <i>Elisabeth Kubaschewski</i>	141

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
9	Binomial Glosses in Translation: The Case of the Wycliffite Bible <i>Marcin Krygier</i>	159
PART III EARLY MODERN ENGLISH		173
10	Binomials in Several Editions of the <i>Kalender of Shepherdes</i> , an Early Modern English Almanac <i>Hanna Rutkowska</i>	175
11	Binomials and Multinomials in Sir Thomas Elyot’s <i>The Boke Named The Governour</i> <i>Melanie Sprau</i>	201
12	“I do make and ordayne this my last wyll and testament in maner and forme Folowing”: Functions of Binomials in Early Modern English Protestant Wills <i>Ulrich Bach</i>	222
13	“Shee gave Selfe both Soule and body to the Devill”: The Use of Binomials in the Salem Witchcraft Trials <i>Kathleen L. Doty and Mark Wicklund</i>	241
14	Binomials and Multinomials in Early Modern English Parliamentary Acts <i>Anu Lehto</i>	261
PART IV TO THE PRESENT		279
15	Developments in the Frequency of English Binomials, 1600–2000 <i>Sandra Mollin</i>	281
16	Binomials in English Novels of the Late Modern Period: Fixedness, Formulaicity and Style <i>Jukka Tyrkkö</i>	296
17	On the Linguistic and Social Development of a Binomial: The Example of <i>to have and to hold</i> <i>Ursula Schaefer</i>	322
	<i>References</i>	344
	<i>Index of Binomials and Multinomials</i>	371
	<i>General Index</i>	373

Figures

1.1	Linguistic disciplines and directions of inquiry into binomials	<i>page</i> 4
1.2	Core and peripheral binomials in relation to types of repetition	17
3.1	Sound repetition in Old English binomials	46
5.1	Number of multiple glosses per five folios in Farman's gloss to the Rushworth Gospels	84
6.1	A fragment of Psalm 9 (ll. 10–11, 16 r) with its Old English gloss	100
6.2	A fragment of Psalm 53 (l. 9, 93 v)	114
8.1	Etymology of elements in noun binomials in Caxton's <i>Ovid</i>	148
8.2	Etymological sources for Caxton's binomials in relation to the <i>Ovide moralisé en prose II</i>	150
8.3	Caxton's synonymy-based binomials according to etymology and source	152
8.4	Caxton's antonymy-based binomials according to etymology and source	154
8.5	Caxton's compatibility-based binomials according to etymology and source	155
10.1	Binomials in the <i>Kalender</i> according to word class	179
10.2	Semantic relationships in the <i>Kalender</i> editions	185
10.3	Semantic relationships in noun binomials in the <i>Kalender</i> editions	186
10.4	Semantic relationships in verb binomials in the <i>Kalender</i> editions	187
10.5	Semantic relationships in adjective binomials in the <i>Kalender</i> editions	187
10.6	Semantic relationships in adverb binomials in the <i>Kalender</i> editions	188
14.1	Diachronic development of binomials and multinomials in the Corpus of Early Modern English Statutes	273
14.2	Diachronic development of NP and VP binomials and multinomials in the Corpus of Early Modern English Statutes	274
15.1	Frequencies of X <i>and</i> X tokens (e.g. noun <i>and</i> noun) per 10,000 words per decade in COHA	284

x	<i>List of Figures</i>	
15.2	Relative frequencies of X <i>and</i> X tokens (e.g. adverb <i>and</i> adverb) in percent of the year's corpus for selected years in the Google Books n-gram data	286
15.3	Frequency of binomials per 10,000 words in selected BNC registers	287
15.4	Frequency of binomials per 10,000 words in British English diaries (ARCHER 3.2)	288
15.5	Frequency of binomials per 10,000 words in British English sermons (ARCHER 3.2)	289
15.6	Frequency of binomials per 10,000 words in individual British English sermons (ARCHER 3.2)	290
16.1	Frequency correlation between N + <i>and</i> + N and N + <i>or</i> + N patterns in the Corpus of English Novels	310
16.2	Frequency correlation plot of <i>and</i> -pattern binomials in the Corpus of English Novels	311
16.3	Frequency correlation plot of <i>or</i> -pattern binomials in the Corpus of English Novels	311
16.4	Quantile–quantile plot of binomials in the Corpus of English Novels against normal distribution	313
16.5	Boxplot of <i>and</i> -pattern binomials by author in the Corpus of English Novels	316
16.6	Boxplot of <i>or</i> -pattern binomials by author in the Corpus of English Novels	316
16.7	Scatterplot of <i>and</i> - and <i>or</i> -pattern binomials by author in the Corpus of English Novels	317

Tables

2.1	Incidence of binomials per 100 lines in several Old English poems	page 34
3.1	Binomial types and tokens in the <i>Dictionary of Old English</i> corpus	43
3.2	Sound repetition devices in the <i>Dictionary of Old English</i> corpus	47
3.3	Top twenty binomials in the <i>Dictionary of Old English</i> corpus by token frequency	48
3.4	Binomials in the <i>Dictionary of Old English</i> corpus by part of speech	50
3.5	Morphological composition of binomials in the <i>Dictionary of Old English</i> corpus	51
3.6a	Number of binomial types attested with more than one conjunction, with percentages of all types occurring for each writer or genre	51
3.6b	Conjunctions used in binomials in the <i>Dictionary of Old English</i> corpus	52
3.7	Semantic relationships between components of binomials in the <i>Dictionary of Old English</i> corpus	54
3.8	Reversible binomials in the <i>Dictionary of Old English</i> corpus by type	55
3.9	Binomials used in families in the <i>Dictionary of Old English</i> corpus	56
3.10	Positions of binomial components relative to the conjunction	58
4.1	Word pairs in half lines and long lines	64
4.2	A + B (+ x) in a half-line in Old English poems	65
4.3	Verb- <i>and</i> -verb in Old English poems	65
5.1	Double glosses frequently used in Farman's gloss to the Rushworth Gospel of St Matthew	89
5.2	The translation of Latin <i>tempus</i> and <i>hora</i> in Farman's gloss to the Rushworth Gospel of St Matthew	90
6.1	The most frequent lexical pairs in the Old English gloss of the <i>Eadwine Psalter</i>	102
6.2	Pair I, EÆRFOPIAN † SWENCAN 'to distress' in the <i>Eadwine Psalter</i> and other psalters	103
6.3	Pair II, WENAN † HYHTAN 'to hope' in <i>Eadwine</i> and other psalters	106

6.4	Pair III, FREOLSIAN † ALYSAN ‘to liberate’ in <i>Eadwine</i> and other psalters	108
6.5	Pair IV, WIS † SNOTOR ‘wise’ in <i>Eadwine</i> and other psalters	110
6.6	Correlation ratios for psalters A–K	113
6.7	Double glosses explained with graphotactics (tokens and locations)	115
6.8	Distribution of HYHTAN and WENAN in the <i>Dictionary of Old English</i> corpus	117
6.9	Distribution of FREOLSIAN and ALYSAN in the <i>Dictionary of Old English</i> corpus	117
6.10	Distribution of WIS and SNOTOR in the <i>Dictionary of Old English</i> corpus	118
10.1	The <i>Compost</i> and <i>Kalender</i> editions consulted for the purposes of the study	177
10.2	Binomials in the <i>Kalender</i> according to conjunction	178
10.3	Binomials in the <i>Kalender</i> according to word class	179
10.4	The most frequent reversible binomials in the <i>Kalender</i>	190
10.5	Binomials in the <i>Kalender</i> according to subject area	192
11.1	Distribution of binomials in <i>The Gouverneur</i> by word class	207
11.2	Substantival binomials and multinomials expanded by adjectives in <i>The Gouverneur</i>	209
11.3	Types of sense-relations in binomials in <i>The Gouverneur</i>	212
11.4	Types of sense-relations in multinomials in <i>The Gouverneur</i>	214
11.5	Native words and loanwords among the core-elements of substantival binomials in <i>The Gouverneur</i>	216
11.6	Native words and loanwords among the core-elements of trinomials in <i>The Gouverneur</i>	216
11.7	Comparison of percentages of sense-relation categories of bi- and multinomials in <i>The Gouverneur</i>	219
12.1	Conventional and radically Protestant wills compared	226
13.1	Frequencies and percentages of binomials in <i>The Salem Witchcraft Papers</i> by all categories	246
13.2	Frequencies and percentages of formulaic binomials in <i>The Salem Witchcraft Papers</i> by lexical and semantic categories	249
13.3	Frequencies and percentages of reversible formulaic binomials in <i>The Salem Witchcraft Papers</i>	250
13.4	Frequencies and percentages of speech-representative binomials in <i>The Salem Witchcraft Papers</i> by lexical and semantic categories	251
13.5	Percentages of adjectives, nouns, and verbs in binomials used in Google Books and in speech-representative binomials in <i>The Salem Witchcraft Papers</i>	252

<i>List of Tables</i>	xiii
13.6 Frequency of speech-representative binomials in <i>The Salem Witchcraft Papers</i> with active semantic ordering constraints and reliability of constraints in predicting word orders	254
13.7 Frequencies and percentages of reversible speech-representative binomials in <i>The Salem Witchcraft Papers</i>	256
14.1 Distribution of parliamentary acts with their word counts over 25-year time periods in the Corpus of Early Modern English Statutes	265
14.2 Frequencies of binomials and multinomials in the Corpus of Early Modern English Statutes	267
14.3 Distribution of binomials and multinomials in the Corpus of Early Modern English Statutes	269
14.4 Distribution of grammatical categories of binomials and multinomials in the Corpus of Early Modern English Statutes	271
15.1 The most frequent binomials in British English sermons	292
16.1 Authors in the Corpus of English Novels	302
16.2 Initial and pruned search results	303
16.3 Top twenty noun + <i>and</i> + noun binomials in the Corpus of English Novels	304
16.4 Top twenty noun + <i>or</i> + noun binomials in the Corpus of English Novels	305
16.5 First and second nouns in binomials with the highest frequencies in the Corpus of English Novels	306
16.6 First and second nouns with the highest type counts in the Corpus of English Novels	308
16.7 Outliers in binomials in the Corpus of English Novels	314
16.8 Binomial frequencies by author in the Corpus of English Novels	315
17.1 Comparison of Latin, French and English formulaic syntax in charters	338

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