A Project for a Comprehensive Collation of the Two Manuscripts (Hengwrt and Ellesmere) and the Two Editions (Blake [1980] and Benson [1987]) of *The Canterbury Tales*

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1. Introduction: The aim of this paper

The purpose of this project is threefold. First we will make a comprehensive collation among the Hengwrt (HG) and Ellesmere (EL) Manuscripts of *The Canterbury Tales* and their two edited texts, Blake (1980) (BL) which is faithfully reconstructed from HG, and Benson (1987) (BN) which is based on EL. Second, we will explore systematic differences in the two manuscripts by means of statistical methods. Third and finally, we will shed some new lights on the relationship between the two manuscripts and the two editions, especially concerning the extent to which they are corresponding to one another.

Our project is still under way. We have so far made a collation among the four texts regarding *General Prologue, The Knight's Tale, The Miller's Tale, The Reeve's Tale, The Cook's Tale, The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale, The Friar's Tale,* and *The Summoner's Tale,* including links. Although our collation is limited to these data, it has turned to be useful: we have found some distinguishing features between the manuscripts. A complete collation of this kind will hopefully offer data of the first class importance in Chaucerian and medieval English scholarship.[1]

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[1] This paper was originally read at Session 19 "New Work in Textual Scholarship" of the 16th Congress of New Chaucer Society held at Swansea University in Wales on 19 July, 2008. Among the readers of this Session was Peter Robinson, who proposed the stemma of *The Nun's Priest's Tale.* This session was continued by Session 40 "Chaucer's Manuscripts," which was organized by Estelle Stubbs (Estelle Stubbs, Linne Mooney, Dan Mosser, etc. read a paper.

2. Previous scholarship

Here we will limit ourselves to our first objective, that is, to the preparations of collation concordance. For this, please refer to Jimura, Nakao and Matsuo (1995) and Nakao, Jimura and Matsuo (2008).[2] For our second and third objectives, the textual studies of the Hengwrt and Ellesmere manuscripts and those of the editions, we will take time to review in future.

3. Methodology

We have described and explained our basic method in various publications. See Jimura, Nakao, and Matsuo (1995), Jimura, Nakao, and Matsuo (1999), Jimura, Nakao, and Matsuo (2002b), Nakao, Jimura, and Matsuo (2004).

But it may be of help to the reader to show as part of our method some conventions adopted for the transcription of the manuscripts. Besides thorns and yoghs, the following table (Some Examples of Ornamental Letters Employed) shows selected examples of ornamental letters we employed for the transcription of the HG and EL manuscripts. Here we wish to express our gratitude to Dr. Estella Stubbs who kindly permitted us to use her original fonts of ornamental letters.

4. A full text collation of the Hengwrt and Ellesmere manuscripts and the editions

The following (Collation Examples) is an output sample of our collation where we can see easily the similarities and dissimilarities among the Hengwrt and Ellesmere manuscripts and the two editions. In addition to the full text collation, we also produced "word correspondence index" (for example, see Jimura, Nakao and Matsuo 1995), and alphabetical lists of all the word forms with the frequency of occurrence broken down by the manuscripts and the editions compared. And on the basis of these data, we can proceed to compare the manuscripts and the editions in various respects.

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[2] Details of how to make a collation concordance to the Chaucer's manuscripts and editions are given in Nakao, Jimura and Matsuo (2008) regarding modes of correspondence and their representations (Identity, Difference, Absence, Contracted and Compound Forms, Chiasmic Correspondence, Some Caution), notations (References, Symbols (Braces: Emphasis, Square Brackets: Addition, Other Symbols, Asterisk)) and extra fonts.

Some Examples of Ornamental Letters Employed

name	fonts	sample	manuscript
d-tail	ꝺ	gerlanꝺ	
h-bar	ħ	flessħ	
p-bar	p	pilous	
p-loop	ꝑ	ꝑables	
superscript a	a	gᵃce	
superscript i	i	pⁱuetee	
superscript r	r	honoʳed	
superscript t	t	wᵗ	
punctus elevatus	⸵	⸵	
high flourish	ꝛ	hirꝛ	
low flourish	ꝯ	Palamouꝰ	
high hook	ꞔ	euꞔe	
macron	⁻	Londou⁻	
mid tail	ꝼ	herberwyngꝼ	

Collation Examples

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HG:2r GP 0001  {6W}han that Aueryłł wᵗ    his   shoures soote
EL:1r GP 0001  {6W}Han      Aprилł  with hise
BL:GP 0001     Whan         Aueryll with
BN:GP 0001     Whan         Aprill  with

HG:2r GP 0002  The droghte of Marcħ / hath pced    to the roote #
EL:1r GP 0002                               perced
BL:GP 0002                   March #        perced
BN:GP 0002                   March #        perced                ,

HG:2r GP 0003  And bathed euery veyne # in swich lycour
EL:1r GP 0003                         /          licour
BL:GP 0003
BN:GP 0003                every                  licour

HG:2r GP 0004  Of which vᣳtu  # engendred is the flour #
EL:1r GP 0004                /
BL:GP 0004         vertu                            ,
BN:GP 0004         vertu                            ;

HG:2r GP 0005  Whan zephirus eek⁷ # wᵗ   his sweete breeth
EL:1r GP 0005       Zephirus eek /                   breetħ
BL:GP 0005          Zephirus eek    with
BN:GP 0005          Zephirus eek    with

HG:2r GP 0006  Inspired hath # in euery holt⁷ and heeth
EL:1r GP 0006              /                   heetħ
BL:GP 0006                          holt
BN:GP 0006                    every holt

HG:2r GP 0007  The tendre croppes / and the yonge sonne
EL:1r GP 0007
BL:GP 0007                            ,
BN:GP 0007                            ,

HG:2r GP 0008  Hath in the Ram / his half cours yronne #
EL:1r GP 0008
BL:GP 0008               ram #      half-cours        ,
BN:GP 0008                    #                        ,

HG:2r GP 0009  And sm?a?le foweles / maken melodye #
EL:1r GP 0009      smale
BL:GP 0009         smale          #
BN:GP 0009         smale          #                ,
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HG:2r GP 0010   # That sl?epen? al the nyght⁷ # with open Iye #
EL:1r GP 0010         slepen         nygh̄t /           eye
BL:GP 0010      (     slepen         nyght            iye )
BN:GP 0010            slepen         nyght            ye

HG:2r GP 0011   # So priketh hem nature / in hir corages # #
EL:1r GP 0011                                #
BL:GP 0011                                   #              ,
BN:GP 0011      (                            #            ) ,

HG:2r GP 0012   Than?ne? ?longen? folk⁷ # to goon on pilgrymages #
EL:1r GP 0012   Thanne   longen  folk /          pilgⁱmages
BL:GP 0012      Thanne   longen  folk
BN:GP 0012      Thanne   longen  folk          pilgrimages ,

                  ————————skipped————————————

HG:058v WBP 0059   ¶ # Where  kan   ye seye / in any maner  age #
EL:063v WBP 0059   #   Whanne saugh    euere      #   manere Age
BL:WBP 0059        # ’                        #
BN:WBP 0059        #   Wher   can            ,        manere    ,

HG:058v WBP 0060   That heighe god / defended mariage
EL:063v WBP 0060         hye
BL:WBP 0060                         #
BN:WBP 0060         hye     God #

HG:058v WBP 0061   By expres  word / I pray yow # telleth me #
EL:063v WBP 0061
BL:WBP 0061                          ?                       .
BN:WBP 0061        express           ?              ,        .

HG:058v WBP 0062   Or where # comanded he virgynytee #
EL:063v WBP 0062          /              virginitee
BL:WBP 0062                                          ?
BN:WBP 0062                            virginitee ?

HG:058v WBP 0063   I woot as wel as ye / it is no drede #
EL:063v WBP 0063
BL:WBP 0063                             ,                ,
BN:WBP 0063                             ,                ,

HG:058v WBP 0064   #    Thapostle  / whan he speketh of maydenhede #
EL:063v WBP 0064   Whan thapostel     #     #
BL:WBP 0064             Th’apostle #
BN:WBP 0064             Th’apostel ,                               ,
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5

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HG:058v WBP 0065    He seyde / that pᵒcept  ther of / hadde he noon #
EL:063v WBP 0065                    pᵒcept7           #
BL:WBP 0065                   #     precept therof  #              .
BN:WBP 0065                   #     precept therof  #              .

HG:058v WBP 0066    Men may conseille # a womman / to be    oon #
EL:063v WBP 0066                      /            #     been
BL:WBP 0066                                        #              ,
BN:WBP 0066                                        #     been     ,

HG:058v WBP 0067    But conseillyng7 nys no  comandement7 #
EL:063v WBP 0067                     is  nat
BL:WBP 0067         conseillyng            comandement  .
BN:WBP 0067         conseillyng is         comandement  .
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5. Distinguishing features of the Hengwrt and Ellesmere manuscripts

We will here take a look at several features of the HG and EL manuscripts, and show some similarities and dissimilarities between the two manuscripts. We will first take up the use of ornamental letters, and then go on to take up several spelling alternations.

5.1. Ornamental letters

The Ellesmere manuscript is clearly "ornament heavy" as the number of occurrences of external and ornamental letters in following table shows.

Distribution of Major Ornamental Letters

	HG	EL
d-tail (ð)	27	125
h-bar (ħ)	77	705
high flourish (ᵒ)	81	238
high hook (ᶜ)	190	240
macron (‾)	204	369
superscript t (ᵗ) wᵗ	45	137
others	177	205
mid tail (7)	1444	1420
superscript t (ᵗ) þᵗ	464	324
low flourish (͜)	136	93
total	2845	3856

6

The following citations show some cases where HG uses "with" (full spelling) while EL employs "w^t." (w plus superscript 't').

```
HG:2r GP 0031   So hadde I spoken # with hem euerichoon
EL:1r GP 0031                   / w^t        euerichoñ

HG:021r KT 0652   May / with alle thy floures / and thy grene
EL:016v KT 0652         w^t                         #

HG:067r WBP 0753   Than with an angry wyf / down in the hous
EL:071r WBP 0753         w^t                    doun
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It should be added, however, that there are a few exceptions to the rule. First, the Hengwrt manuscript employs "þ^t" [thorn plus superscript 't'] (but not "w^t") and low flourish " ꜱ " much more frequently than the Ellesmere manuscript. Second, both manuscripts use the mid tail "ꝛ," the most frequent ornament, with almost the same frequency. What follow are cases illustrating the tendency in which HG prefers the low flourish (ꜱ) while EL is without it.

```
HG:10v GP 0704   Than þ^t the psoꭩ gat7 # in Monthes tweye
EL:8r GP 0704            pson  gat  /

HG:12r GP 0820   We dronken / and to reste wente echoꭩ
EL:9v GP 0820                                echon

HG:013r KT 0035   {2T}his duc7 of whom I make mencioꭩ
EL:010r KT 0035   {4T}his                   mencioun
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5.2. Spelling alternations

Now we will move on to an examination of spelling alternations. We will deal with the following three alternations: (1) his / hise and this / thise before plural nouns, (2) eigh / y, (3) i / y alternations.

5.2.1. his/hise and this/thise alternations before plural nouns
(1) his/hise

What follows shows the distribution of "his" and "hise" before plural nouns in HG and EL.

HG	EL		
hise	hise	21	both conventional
his	hise	36	HG unconventional, EL conventional
hise	his	4	HG conventional, EL unconventional
his	his	41	both unconventional
total		102	

If there is an argument (made, for instance, by Skeat 1894) (1) that EL systematically uses conventional[3] or grammatical form "hise" or (2) that EL corrects the unconventional or ungrammatical use of "his" in HG, either is invalid and refuted by the following data.

First, obviously the argument (1) cannot be sustained because EL employs unconventional form "his" in nearly half of the cases. Second, the argument (2) is easily refuted because EL corrects the unconventional or ungrammatical use of "his" in HG only in half of the cases. As is seen in the above table, HG employs the unconventional form "his" 77 times, but EL corrects less than half of them (36 out of 77) and leaves more than half (41 cases) as unconventional.

(2) this/thise

Let us turn to look at the following table. Unlike the case of "his / hise," both HG and EL are basically faithful to convention. Though the number of cases is small, EL corrects HG's "error" when HG's use is unconventional.

HG	EL		
thise	thise	27	both conventional
this	thise	4	HG unconventional, EL conventional
thise	this	0	HG conventional, EL unconventional
this	this	0	both unconventional

5.2.2. eigh / y as in "neigh" / "ny"

We have examined some typical cases of "eigh /y" alternations. In the cases of "neigh / ny," EL always uses "ny" while HG generally employs the older form "neigh" with a few exceptions. A similar tendency is found in the case of "sleigh" / "sly" alternation. But, the number of cases is too few to be decisive.

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[3] We prefer 'conventional/unconventional' to 'grammatical/ungrammatical' because those features dealt with here are not necessarily clear-cut with a grammatically right-wrong transparency.

	HG	EL
neigh	12	0
ny	3	14

	HG	EL
sleigh	4	1
sly	2	5

	HG	EL
heigh	23	23
hy	27	27

Contrary to our expectation, however, the "heigh" / "hy" alternation shows no difference at all.

From the above results, though the number of the words examined is too small for any generalization, we can provisionally speculate that the choice between the spelling alternatives depends largely upon the word in question. We often tend to think of the issue of spelling alternations in terms of a more generalized level such as "i" and "y," but from the scribe's point of view the choice may have been dependent upon the word in question.

5.2.3. i / y alternation
(1) ight/yght
As a preliminary study of a comprehensive examination of i / y alternation between the two manuscripts, an examination of a small subset of the i / y alternation regarding ight/yght alternation is attempted. Whether the preliminary findings about this subset are also true of the overall tendency is to be seen in '(2) i / y alternation in general' below. The following table gives the number of occurrences of "ight" and "yght" forms in the two manuscripts.

	HG	EL
ight forms	271	262
yght forms	250	236

The figures of occurrences in the two manuscripts in the table are actually quite misleading. Judging from the figures, we may conclude that we cannot find any significant difference in the distributions of "ight" and "yght" forms between the two manuscripts.[4]

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[4] Here, "ight" and "yght" forms include all such spelling variants as "ght," "ght⁊," "ght'" and so on.

But, when we look into the distribution of individual words, a quite different picture emerges. First, there are words which are spelt exclusively with "i" in both manuscripts. The following table shows major examples. Let us provisionally call this type "i-dominant" category.

	HG	EL		HG	EL
bright	27	27	bryght	0	0
fight	11	12	fyght	0	0
hight	25	24	hyght	0	0
light	18	19	lyght	4	3
right	115	119	ryght	1	0
sight	16	13	syght	0	0
wight	37	22	wyght	0	1
subtotal	249	236	subtotal	5	4

On the contrary, there are opposite extremes, which can be referred to as "y-dominant" category, in which only "y"-forms are used in both manuscripts. Only three cases are found of this category, that is, "knyght," "myght," and "nyght."

	HG	EL		HG	EL
knight	0	0	knyght	70	69
might	0	0	myght	101	91
night	0	0	nyght	66	67
subtotal	0	0	subtotal	237	227

If we combine and compare the figures of the three tables above in the next table, the result is rather obvious.

	HG	EL		HG	EL
ight forms total	271	262	yght forms total	250	236
exclusive ight forms	249	236		5	4
			exclusive yght forms	237	227
others	22	26	others	8	5

When we put aside "i-dominant" and "y-dominant" cases, the number of occurrences of the ight / yght alternation ("others" categories in the table above) constitutes a small portion of the total occurrences, and, therefore, negligible. In other words, the majority of the ight / yght forms belong either

10

to the "i-dominant" category or to "y-dominant" category.

From this, we can tentatively conclude that whether "ight" or "yght" is used is not the matter of the manuscript, but it is determined by the words themselves, depending upon which category the word in question belongs to.

On the basis of this finding, we may speculate that the constraints of conventions or norms were so powerful upon the scribe that he had little freedom to choose between "i" and "y." Whether this proposition is valid or not will be seen below, when we attempt at an exhaustive examination of i / y alternation between the two manuscripts.

(2) i / y alternation in general

We will try to make an exhaustive examination of the i /y alternation. It is, however, very difficult to define and demarcate the range of the i / y alternation. The personal pronoun, "I," should of course not be included. But there seem to be many unclear cases. Therefore, we limit our examination in the following way, drawing on the preliminary examination and tentative findings in the previous section.

First of all, we will limit our attention to the word-medial (or word-internal) i/y alternation, leaving word-initial and word-final i/y alternation entirely out of consideration. Secondly, in our investigation we will deal only with those words for which both of the "i-form" and "y-form" occur in one or both of the manuscripts. We assume that the appearance of both forms indicates that in such a case, the scribe had a certain degree of freedom of choice between "i" and "y." Then, we can see which form the scribe tended to choose for the manuscripts in question.

In addition, we should here introduce the notions of "i-dominance" and "y-dominance" in the choice of i- or y- form. As our preliminary examination in the previous section made clear, there are a number of words which are spelt predominantly or exclusively either with "i" or "y." One interpretation of the existence of these words is that, as we suggested above, the convention or tradition for their spelling was so strong that the scribe had virtually no choice between "i" and "y."

We found roughly 300 words in our data which satisfy our two conditions stated above. The following table shows the summary of the distribution of i-forms and y-forms in the two manuscripts. From the figure in the table, we

can easily observe the general tendency that, *while HG prefers y-forms, El prefers i-forms,* though the figures include the number of occurrences of i-dominant and y-dominant words.

	HG	EL
i-forms	966	1192
y-forms	1250	943

But, if we exclude "i-dominant" and "y-dominant" words from our calculation, the contrast between the two manuscripts will be seen in a much sharper relief. The next table shows the result. The different preference in the two manuscripts is much more obvious.

	HG	EL
i-forms	368	602
y-forms	620	344

From our brief examination, we can provisionally (since we have not yet compared the entire manuscripts) conclude that

(1) there are words for the spelling convention or norm which was so strong that the scribe had little or no choice between "i" and "y."

(2) in the cases of other words, that is, where the scribe had a certain degree of freedom of choice between "i" and "y," i-forms were clearly preferred in EL, while y-forms were as much preferred in HG.

In addition to the above similarities and dissimilarities, we also found in the process of our examination the following three others. The "own" form like "town" appears only in HG, and it is never employed in EL, as the following table shows.

	oun	own	total
HG	69	71	140
EL	139	0	139
total	208	71	

HG prefers "yng" or "yng⁷" to "ynge" while EL is more inclined to employ "ynge," as the next table shows.

	HG	EL
yng	59	26
yng7	110	90
ynge	129	184
total	298	300

5.3. y-prefix in ppl

The following list shows word forms with "y-" prefix in HG, EL, BL, and BN.
In some cases, the prefix "y-" and the stem are separated as in "y wet."

ybarred, ybake, ybete, yblent, yblent7, ybleynt, ybleynt7,
yblessed, yboght, ybore, yborn, ybounde, ybounden, ybrent, ybrent7,
ybroght,etc., yburyed, ycalled, yclad, yclawed, yclenched, ycleped,
yclepid, yclepyd, yclothed, ycome, ycomen, ycorue, ycorve, ycouered,
ycovered, ycrowe, ydeled, ydight, ydight7, ydo, ydon, ydoon, ydrawe,
ydrawen, ydropped, ydryuen, ydryven, yfalle, yfettred, yflatered,
yforged, yfostred, yfounde, ygeten, ygo, ygon, ygraue, ygrave,
ygrounde, ygrowen, yhad, yherd, yholde, yhurt, yhurt7, ykembd, yknowe,
ylad, ylaft, ylaft7, yleyd, ylost, ylost7, ylymed, ymaad, ymaked,
ymet, ymet7, ymeynd, ymeynd, ynorissed, ypayd, ypayed, yplesed,
ypreved, ypulled, ypunysshed, ypurfiled, yput, yqueynt, yqueynt7,
yraft, yraft7, yreke, yrekened, yronne, yronnen, ysayd, yscalded,
yschent, yschent7, yseene, ysene, ysent, ysent7, yserued, yserved,
yset, yset7, yseyn, yshadwed, yshapen, yshaue, yshent, yshent7,
yshorn, yshryue, yshryve, yslawe, yslayn, ysonge, ysowe, ysped,
yspoken, yspred, yspreynd, yspreynd, ystiked, ystorue, ystorve,
ystynt, ystynt7, ysworn, ytake, ytaught, ytaught7, ytaught7, yteyd,
ythanked, ythonked, ytoold, ytukked, yturned, ywedded, ywet, ywet7,
ywonne, ywroght, ywroght7, ywroght7, ywrye, ywympled

Generally speaking, "y" prefix to the past participle is much more
frequent in EL, as in the following examples.

```
HG:3r GP 0077   For he was laate / comen from his viage
EL:1v GP 0077              late   ycome

HG:051v RE 0022   A wif he hadde / comen  of noble kyn
EL:042v RE 0022       wyf                 ycomen
```

The table in the next page shows the distribution of the "y-"prefix in the
past participle.   In the total numbers of the forms, EL prefers the use of "y"
before past participles.   But there are exceptions to this rule.   There seem to

be cases of words for which forms with "y" are more frequent in HG and for which both HG and EL employ forms with "y."

"y-" preferred in EL	HG	EL
ybarred	0	1
yborn	2	3
ycome, ycomen	0	2
ydight, ydight7	0	1
yfalle	2	3
ygo, ygon	1	2
ymaad	0	1
ypurfiled	0	1
yshapen	0	1
yshent, yshent7	0	1
ystynt, ystynt7	0	1
ythanked ythonked	0	2
ywedded	1	2
ywroght ywroght7 ywroght7	1	2
subtotal	7	23

"y-" preferred in HG	HG	EL
yclothed	2	1
ypayd, ypayed	2	1
yschent, yschent7	1	0
yshaue	1	0
subtotal	6	2

"y-" used with the same frequency	HG	EL
ybete	4	4
ydeled	1	1
ytake	2	2
yblessed	1	1
ybroght, ybroght7, ybroght, etc.	5	5
ydrawe, ydrawen	2	2
yknowe	1	1
subtotal	16	16

total	29	41

In connection with this, we can also point out that editions may vary in faithfully following or changing the manuscript(s), perhaps according to the editor's judgement.

The next table shows how the Benson's edition changes the Ellesmere manuscript.

		HG	EL	BL	BN
BN omitted "y-"	ybarred	0	1	0	0
	ydeled	1	1	1	0
	ytake	2	2	2	1
	ythanked ythonked	0	2	0	0
	subtotal		6		1

		HG	EL	BL	BN
BN added "y-"	yblessed	1	1	1	2
	ybroght, ybroght7, ybroght, etc.	5	5	5	6
	ydrawe, ydrawen	2	2	2	3
	yknowe	1	1	1	2
	ypreved	0	0	0	1
	yshadwed	0	0	0	1
	yslawe	0	0	0	1
	subtotal		9		16

The following is just one example of this:

```
HG:7r GP 0398   Ful many a draghte  of wyn / hadde he drawe
EL:5r GP 0398               draughte         had              :
BL:GP 0398                                 #
BN:GP 0396               draughte         # had       ydrawe
```

5.4. The monosyllabic adjectives ending in consonants:

Let us look briefly at the scribes' use of monosyllabic adjectives ending in consonants. Our findings are that the Hg and El scribes are faithful to the convention. If we follow Burnley and Peters, we can distinguish two categories of monosyllabic adjectives ending with consonants: weak and strong or class I and class II (Burnley 1982: 170 and Peters 1980: 80-81). Following their criteria we postulate the following categories for this kind of adjectives.

	followed by	ending	
weak or Class I	singular noun	with "e"	conventional
		without "e"	unconventional
	plural noun	with "e"	conventional
		without "e"	unconventional
strong or Class II	singular noun	with "e"	unconventional
		without "e"	conventional
	plural noun	with "e"	conventional
		without "e"	unconventional

We have examined the following adjectives:

Class I (weak forms): *longe, shorte, rounde, wyde, deepe, harde, hoote, derke, blynde, bolde, broode, nexte, neighe, sade, syke, heighe, glade, brighte, smale, soore, swifte, sharpe, reede, white, greye, blake, colde, olde, stronge, yonge, wyse, faire, greete, goode, proude, blewe, false, fresshe, fyne, clere, wayke, sleighe.*

Class II (strong forms): *long, short, round, wyd, deep, hard, hoot, derk, blynd, bold, brood, next, neigh, sad, syk, heigh, glad, bright, smal, soor, swift, sharp, reed, whit, grey, blak, cold, old, strong, yong, wys, fair, greet, good, proud, blew, fals, fressh, fyn, cler, wayk, sleigh.*

On the examination of HG and EL, we have obtained the following data.

		%
Both HG & EL conventional	720	96.5
Either or both HG & EL unconventional	26	3.5
total	746	

It is evident from the table that both HG and El very faithfully follow the convention defined above. The faithfulness becomes much clearer when we compare this with the case of Cp (*Troilus and Criseyde*: Corpus Christi College, Cambridge MS 61). In Cp, we examined *grete, good, olde, 3onge, longe,* and *bright*. In Cp only 70% follows the convention.[5]

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[5] Detailed information of this can be retrieved from *A Comprehensive Textual Collation of Troilus and Criseyde: Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, MS 61 and Windeatt (1990)* compiled by Nakao, Matsuo and Jimura (forthcoming).

		%
conventional	137	67.8
unconventional	65	32.2
total	202	

The difference between the two sets of manuscripts can be graphically shown in the following way:
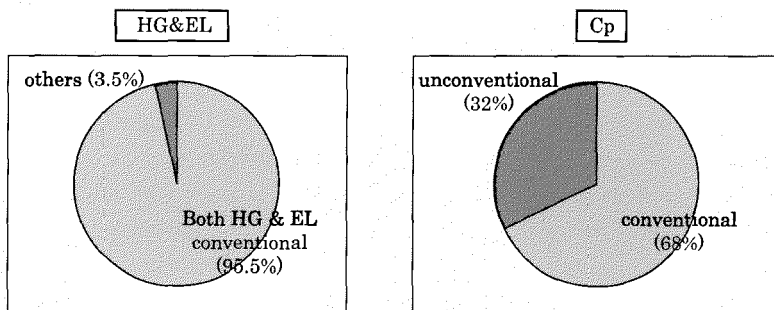
Cp's use of unconventional forms are found in the following citations, and a published edition (Windeatt's [WN] in this case) often changes them into conventional forms.

```
Class I (weak forms)
  CP:II 1572 My good   brother Troilus the fyke
  WN:II 1572    goode                      syke

Class II (strong forms)
  CP:II 1569 Grete hono̅  did hem Deiphebus certeyn
  WN:II 1569 Gret  honour
  (emphasis ours)
```

We can also investigate how other manuscripts of *Troilus and Criseyde* deal with this matter. But it will be our future research theme.

5.5. Punctuations in Hg and El

As Gaylord (1977: 41) and Parkes (1993: 107) point out, virgula have subtle rhetorical and rhythmical functions. The following table shows the positional

correspondences of virgule in the two manuscripts.

virgule in the same place	5171
virgule in HG, none in EL	1222
virgule in El, none in HG	867

As is clear from the table, HG places virgula much more frequently. Examples like the following can be found in many lines.

```
HG:076v FR 0216      Come there / thee nedeth nat  of me to lere  #
EL:079r FR 0216              #              nat7            leere
```

Virgula are thought to be used to highlight the word(s) immediately before them with an end-focus effect and those words after them with a suspension effect. Our data provides us with rich materials to explore the effects of virgula.

Similarly, we obtain the following distributions for illuminations and "punctus elevatus." While illuminations show the same tendency of distribution as virgule, abundance of punctus elevatus is a feature unique to EL.

illuminations

illumination in the same place	333
illumination in HG, none in EL	171
illumination in El, none in HG	111

punctus elevatus

punctus elevatus in the same place	4
punctus elevatus in HG, semicolon in EL	1
punctus elevatus in HG, none in EL	2
punctus elevatus in El, semicolo in HG	1
punctus elevatus in El, none in HG	40
semicolon in El, none in HG	6

6. Conclusion

Our project is probably one of the earliest of computer-assisted comprehensive collation of manuscripts and published editions of Geoffrey Chaucer's works.   In

this project, first we have created a full-text collation concordance for the two manuscripts and the two editions with word correspondence index and alphabetical word list with the frequency of occurrence broken down by the texts compared.   As we have symptomatically shown here in this presentation, a full text collation concordance and other indexes are of great value and help to the Chaucer scholarship.

Moreover, these provide us with rich and promising research materials, though they raise interesting questions and puzzles to explore rather than answers.   For example, although our project is still in progress, we were able to detect similarities and dissimilarities between Hg and El and also those between the manuscripts and the editions.   In this presentation, though tentatively, we have demonstrated that;

(1) the Ellesmere manuscript is clearly "ornament heavy" with a few obvious exceptions like "þt,"

(2) in his/hise alternation, both HG and EL employ unconventional forms in many cases, while in the this/thise alternation both are faithful to convention,

(3) the i/y alternation is mainly determined by the word in question as we have clearly shown, but when the scribe has freedom of choice, EL prefers i-forms while HG prefers y-forms,

(4) y-prefix before the past participle are much more preferred by EL, but an edition may add or delete the prefix,

(5) in the spelling of monosyllabic adjectives ending with a consonant, both HG and EL are very faithful to convention, and it shows a sharp contrast with the case of Cp which follows convention only in two-thirds of the cases,

(6) in the use of virgula and illuminations, there are clear differences between HG and EL.

In near future we would like to complete the collation concordance among HG and EL and the two editions to make a more systematic description of their languages.

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Acknowledgements

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