

Choice and Psychology of Negation in Chaucer's
Language: Syntactic, Lexical, Semantic Negative
Choice with Evidence from the Hengwrt
and Ellesmere MSs and the Two Editions
of *the Canterbury Tales*

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Choice and Psychology of Negation in Chaucer's Language: Syntactic, Lexical, Semantic Negative Choice with Evidence from the Hengwrt and Ellesmere MSs and the Two Editions of *the Canterbury Tales**

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1. Introduction

1.1. Variations among the four Texts: the Hengwrt MS, Ellesmere MS, Blake (1980) and Benson (1987)

There are found diverse varieties of variations among the Hengwrt MS [HG], Ellesmere MS [EL], Blake (1980) [BL] and Benson (1987) [BN]. Example (1) is the very beginning of the *Canterbury Tales*. This is from our database, Jimura, et al 2002b and Nakao, et al 2008. Comments (abbreviated C) are made upon the correspondence between the four texts.

Notes:

Abbreviations: HG=the Hengwrt MS, EL=the Ellesmere MS,

BL=Blake (1980) [faithfully based on HG]

BN=Benson (1987) [mainly based on EL]

The hashtag # stands for the “zero” correspondence between the texts.

Blanks indicate the exact correspondence between the texts.

(1)

HG:2r GP 0000 {H}ere bygynneth the Book7 of the tales of Caunt^rbury

EL:GP 0000 <missing>

BL:GP 0000 Here bygynneth the book of the tales of Caunterbury .

BN:GP 0000 Here bygynneth the Book of the Tales of Caunterbury .

*This paper is based on the presentation we made on the 18th Congress of the New Chaucer Society in Portland, Oregon (Session 3G Working Group: Reading, Editing, and Researching the Text of Chaucer in the Digital Age) on 23 July, 2012 (Portland State University).

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HG:2r GP 0001 {6W}han that **Aueryff** w^t **his** shoures soote
 EL:1r GP 0001 {6W}Han **Apriff** with **hise**
 BL:GP 0001 Whan Aueryll with
 BN:GP 0001 Whan Aprill with (Bolds are ours.)
 C:EL transforms the French form *Aueryff* to the Latin form *Apriff*. EL adds a plural indicating final *-e* to the HG *his*. Benson chooses HG although usually based on EL.

HG:2r GP 0002 The droghte of March / hath **pced** to the roote #
 EL:1r GP 0002 March **perced**
 BL:GP 0002 March # perced
 BN:GP 0002 March # perced ,
 C:EL expands the HG's abbreviated *pced* to the full *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
 C:EL adds a virgule before a phrase *in swich lycour*.

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

HG:2r GP 0005 Whan **zephirus** eek⁷ # w^t his sweete breeth
 EL:1r GP 0005 **Zephirus** eek / breeth
 BL:GP 0005 Zephirus eek with
 BN:GP 0005 Zephirus eek with

C:HG uses the lower case “z” in *zephirus*, but EL does the upper case. HG and EL both use abbreviations about *vertu* and *with*. EL inserts a virgule before w^t, but HG not.

HG:2r GP 0006 Inspired hath # in euery holt7 and heeth
 EL:1r GP 0006 / heeth
 BL:GP 0006 holt
 BN:GP 0006 every holt
 C:EL inserts a virgule before *in*, but HG not.

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 # ,

These variations are too many to quote. In this paper we will concentrate on the negative form alterations as shown in (2) to (5).

(2)

HG:2v GP 0070 **Ne** neuere yet7 # no vileynye **he** sayde
 EL:1v GP 0070 **He** yet / **ne**
 BL:GP 0070 yet
 BN:GP 0070 He neuere yet ne
 C: EL exchanges the negative *Ne* and the third person pronoun *he*, deviating from HG.

(3)

HG:3r GP 0074 Hise hors weere goode / but he **ne** was nat gay #
 EL:1v GP 0074 His weren #
 BL:GP 0074 , .
 BN:GP 0074 His were , # .
 C: EL deletes *ne* changing a double negation to a single, and it seems that deletion would affect the meter.

(4)

HG:4r GP 0178 That seith / þ^t hunterys been **none** holy men #
EL:2v GP 0178 that hunters beth **nat** hooly
BL:GP 0178 # that
BN:GP 0178 # that hunters ben nat hooly ,

C: HG uses a word negation "been none hooly men", but EL uses a clausal negation "beth nat hooly men." We wonder why EL changes the scope of negation. Benson adopts EL.

(5)

HG:032v KT 1591 Men may the olde at renne / and **nat** atrede #
EL:026v KT 1591 **noght** at rede
BL:KnT 2451 atrenne # .
BN:Kt 2449 atrenne # noght .

C: EL changes the HG "nat" to "noght," the older form, which is unusual with EL.

1.2. The purpose of this paper

There has been plenty of scholarship on Chaucer's textual studies including Hg and El, such as Ruggiers (1979), Burnley (1983), Hanna III (1989), Smith (1988), Parkes (1993), Robinson (1996), Stubbs (2000), Mooney (2006) and Horobin (2003, 2007).

Regarding the negative variations in HG and EL and their based texts, however, there have been few studies. Burnley (1983) and Horobin (2003) are seminal works. Burnley classified the negative expressions into three types: syntactic, lexical, and semantic. In terms of the HG-EL textual variations he touched upon the single and double negation alterations together with the negative scope alterations. However, a systematic discussion of negations regarding HG and EL and their based editions was not produced. Horobin examined the linguistic differences among all the manuscripts of the Prologue of the Wife of Bath from a sociolinguistic perspective and attributed their features mainly to Samuel's Type III. He found that the negative features are in the same vein. However, his concern with negation is primarily morphological, with little attention to its syntax and meaning.

Despite the discoveries by Burnley and Horobin, choice and psychology as regards which negative form to take and which not are worth revisiting.

We shall examine the editors' as well as the scribes' choice and the psychology of negative forms taking evidence from the two manuscripts, HG and EL, of the *Canterbury Tales* and their editions, Blake (1980) and Benson (1987).

1.3. Method

We have used the following digitalized data of HG and EL:

Stubbs (2000)

A Collation Concordance to the Verse Texts of the Hg and El MSs of the Canterbury Tales [Abbreviated as Verse Texts of the MSs]

→ Nakao et al (2009c).

A Comprehensive Collation of the Hg and El MSs and the Editions Blake (1980) and Benson (1987) from GP to Sum T [GP to SumT]

→ Jimura (2002b) and Nakao et al (2008).

Nakao, et al (2009d): *A Comprehensive Textual Collation of Troilus and Criseyde: Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, MS 61 and Windeatt (1990)*

Regarding the digitalized data of the editions, we have used:

Blake (1980), Benson (1987), Windeatt (1990)

The application softwear for linguistic analysis is as follows:

Stubbs (2000)

TERESA [developed by Masatsugu Matsuo, Hiroshima University, Japan]
AntConc 3.2.1. (2011). Retrieved October 5, 2011, from <http://www.antlab.sci.waseda.ac.jp/software.html> [developed by Anthony Laurence, Waseda University, Japan]

2. Choice and psychology of negative forms

2.1. The Frequencies of the negative forms *noght* and *nat*

The data of negative forms are from [Verse Texts of the MSs]. The two forms are classified according to Samuels (1963): *noght*: Type II of the London dialect; *nat*: Type III of the London dialect. About *noght*, HG is more frequent than

EL, while about *nat*, EL is more frequent than HG, as shown in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Table 1 The Frequencies of *nat* and *noght* of HG and EL

	Hg	El
nat	569	636
noght	209	147

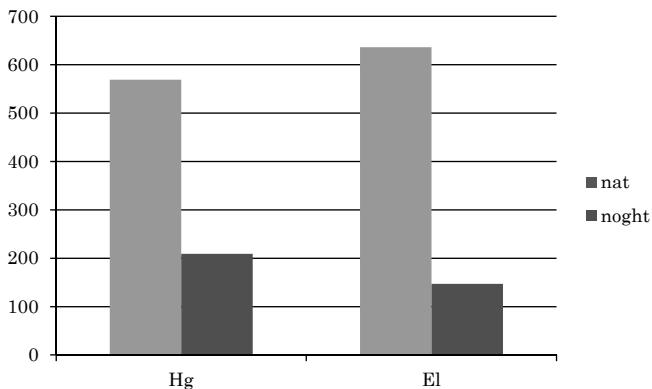


Figure 1 The Frequencies of *nat* and *noght* of HG and EL

As Table 2 shows, the frequencies of *nat* and *noght* vary according to the order of the Fragments of the *Canterbury Tales* (adjusted to the Fragments order of HG). (The division of the *Tales* by “Fragments” is based on Benson(1987).)

Table 2 The frequencies of *nat* and *noght*

	Hg=El	Hg=nat	El=nat	Hg=noght	El=noght	Hg=ne	El=ne
Frag I	GP	14	26	20	11	21	23
Frag I	Kn	50	61	30	27	93	83
Frag I	L1	2	8	6	0	5	5
Frag I	Mi	15	30	18	7	14	14
Frag I	L2	0	6	6	0	2	2
Frag I	Re	5	15	14	5	5	5
Frag I	L3	4	3	0	0	0	0
Frag I	Co	0	1	1	0	0	0
Frag III	WBP	38	42	19	16	15	16

	Hg=El	Hg=nat	El=nat	Hg=noght	El=noght	Hg=ne	El=ne
Frag III	WP2	20	20	1	0	14	14
Frag III	L10	2	2	0	0	0	0
Frag III	Fr	27	28	2	1	15	14
Frag III	L11	1	1	0	0	0	0
Frag III	Su	35	34	5	5	14	14
Frag VII	L29	10	10	0	0	1	1
Frag VII	Mo	20	24	12	8	35	33
Frag VII	L30	2	2	0	0	1	2
Frag VII	Np	25	25	1	1	20	20
Frag IX	L36	9	9	0	0	1	1
Frag IX	Ma	9	8	4	3	10	11
Frag II	L7	5	4	1	2	3	2
Frag II	Ml	16	21	17	12	18	16
Frag VII	Sq	25	23	2	3	25	25
Frag IV	L20	3	3	0	0	0	0
Frag IV	Me	52	52	9	7	35	31
Frag V	L17	3	3	0	0	0	0
Frag V	Fk	30	29	6	6	37	35
Frag VII	Nu	20	20	6	6	17	17
Frag IV	Cl	46	47	20	18	53	53
Fragm IV	L13	3	3	0	0	2	2
Fragm IV	L14	1	1	0	0	0	0
Frag VI	Ph	8	8	1	1	6	6
Frag VI	L21	2	2	0	0	0	0
Frag VI	Pd	30	27	2	2	13	12
Frag VII	Sh	20	21	4	3	13	12
Frag VII	L24	1	1	0	0	0	0
Frag VII	Pr	6	6	1	2	2	2
Frag VII	L25	1	1	0	0	1	1
Frag VII	TT	0	0	0	0	1	1
Frag VII	L28	3	3	1	1	1	1
Frag VII	L37	6	6	0	0	1	1
Total		569	636	209	147	494	475

Abbreviations: GP=General Prologue, Kn=Knight's Tale, L1=Link 1, Mi=Miller's Tale, Re=Reeve's Tale, Co=Cook's Tale, WBP=The Wife of Bath's Tale Prologue, WP2=The Tale of the Wife of Bath, Fr=Friar's Tale, Su=Summoner's Tale, Mo=Monk's Tale, NP=Nun's Priest's Tale, Ma=Manciple's Tale, MI=Man of Law's Tale, Sq=Squire's Tale, Me=Merchant's Tale, Fr=Franklin's Tale, NU=Second Nun's Tale, Cl=Clerk's Tale, Ph=Physician's Tale, Pd=Pardoner's Tale, TT=Tale of Sir Thopas

In the earlier Fragments of HG, particularly Fragment I, both forms are competingly used: GP 14-20; KnT 50-30; Mi 15-18; Re 5-14, with *noght* more numerous than *nat* with Re, but in its later Fragments *nat* is definitely preferred: Fragment III WBP 38-19; WP2 20-1; Fr 27-2; Sum 35-5. (The first number shows “nat”, and the second “noght”.) Fragment II, which is located in

the middle of the *CT* in the HG's tales order, is seen to be fluctuating between the two forms: ML 16–17. EL is stable in the use of *nat* throughout the fragments. The *ne* negative form (including conjunction “nor”) shows very little difference in frequency between HG and EL. Incidentally, the negative forms of Hoccleve's (Chaucer's faithful disciple) *Dialogue*, his holograph parts ll. 253–826 (Durham MS) are entirely limited to *nat* (50 occurrences).

Figure 2 is the AntConc-Plot “noght” in Blake (1980). It visually shows that *noght* is most frequent in the early Fragments. In the Figure, the more frequent, the blacker.



Figure 2 AntConc-Plot of *noght* in Blake (1980)

Figure 3 is the AntConc-Plot “nat” in Blake (1980). It shows that *nat* is more frequent in later Fragments.



Figure 3 Antcon-plot of *nat* in Blake (1980)

In Blake (1980), interestingly enough, we find that *nat*, more weakened form, tends to occur more frequently with modals than *noght* does.

Table 3 AntConc *nat*-collocates

Rank	Freq	Freq(L)	Freq(R)		L [1L]=Left to <i>nat</i> , R[1R]=Right to <i>nat</i>
1	783	0	0	nat	
2	81	80	1	may	
3	57	57	0	wol	
4	43	19	24	be	
5	42	42	0	is	
6	39	39	0	shal	
7	36	0	0	Nat	
8	32	0	32	to	
9	29	29	0	kan	
10	28	22	6	I	
11	23	22	1	and	
12	20	0	20	of	
13	19	19	0	myghte	

Table 4 AntConc *noght*-collocates:

Rank	Freq	Freq(L)	Freq(R)	
1	221	0	0	noght
2	18	10	8	for
3	14	0	0	Noght
4	13	0	13	to
5	12	8	4	I
6	9	7	2	wol
7	9	0	9	a
8	8	7	1	was
9	8	0	8	so
10	8	0	8	of
11	8	7	1	may
12	8	7	1	and
13	7	7	0	it

Let us see the AntConc-KWIC of *may nat*, top frequency collocation, in Blake (1980).

The screenshot displays the AntConc interface with the following details:

- Search Term:** may nat
- Concordance Hits:** 80
- Search Window Size:** 50
- Search Options:** Word, Case, Regexp (unchecked)
- Kwic Sort:** Level 1L, Level 1R, Level 0 (checked)
- Buttons:** Start, Stop, Sort, Save Window, Exit

The KWIC results are as follows:

Hit	KWIC	File
1	e <GP> 230 He may nat weepe thogh that he soon	Blake-punctv
2	. <KnT> 1172 He may nat fleeen it thogh he sholde	Blake-punctv
3	1275 Syn that I may nat seen yow, Emelie, <KnT>	Blake-punctv
4	Ye woot yourself she may nat wedden two <KnT> 1838	Blake-punctv
5	This is to seyn she may nat now haue bothe, <KnT> :	Blake-punctv
6	e, <KnT> 2042 I may nat rekne hem alle thogh I t	Blake-punctv
7	rteyn boundes that they may nat flee. <KnT> 2990	Blake-punctv
8	Ouer the which day they may nat pace <KnT> 2995	Blake-punctv
9	And take it wel that we may nat eschue, <KnT> 3040	Blake-punctv
10	Of euery thng. I may nat rekene hem alle. <MilT>	Blake-punctv
11	T> 3549 But Robyn may nat wite of this, thy knaue,	Blake-punctv
12	e eek thy mayde Gille I may nat saue. <MilT> 3551	Blake-punctv
13	g. <MilT> 3701 I may nat ete namoore than a mayde	Blake-punctv
14	Thow seyst men may nat kepe a castel wal, <WB>	Blake-punctv
15	bareyne lond ther water may nat dwellle. <VEP> 373	Blake-punctv
16	Wayte what thng we may nat lightly haue <WBP> 518	Blake-punctv

Figure 4 AntConc-Kwic of *may nat* in Blake (1980)

2.2. Four types of correspondences between *noght* and *nat* of HG and EL

We have focused on the four major correspondence patterns between *nat* and *noght*. Those patterns appear as shown in Table 5:

Table 5 Four Types of Negative Correspondence (I-II-III-IV)

HG-EL	Type I=nat-nat	Type II=noght-nat	Type III=nat-noght	Type IV=noght-noght
	518	97	20	106

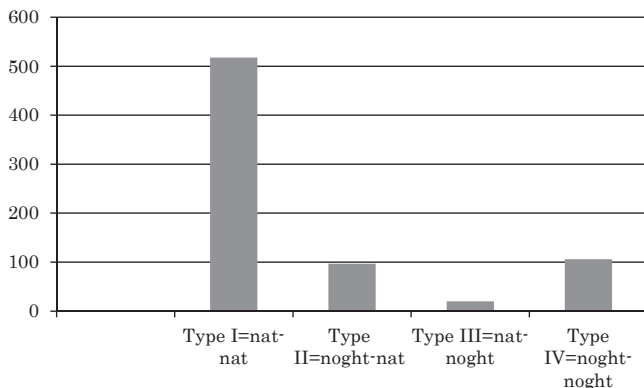


Figure 5 Four Types of Negative Correspondence (I-II-III-IV)

Type I is most frequent, and Type III is least frequent. Types II and IV are of more or less the same frequency. In Type III, why does the EL scribe choose *noght* the older form from the exemplar, and change the Hg *nat* into *noght*? All of them are in non-rhyme positions. Look at example (6), Type III: *nat* → *noght*.

(6)

HG:032v KT 1591	Men may the olde at renne / and nat atrede #
EL:026v KT 1591	noght at rede
BL:KnT 2451	atrenne # .
BN:Kt 2449	atrenne # noght .

The EL scribe perhaps takes the contrastive context into full account and feels the need to choose the older perhaps more emphatic form. Look at similar examples.

(7)

HG:060r WBP 0158 I haue the power / duryng al my lyf
 EL:064v WBP 0158 durynge lyf7
 BL:WBP 0158 #
 BN:WBP 0158 have # durynge

HG:060r WBP 0159 Vp on his þpre body / and **nat** he #
 EL:064v WBP 0159 **noght**
 BL:WBP 0159 Vpon propre # .
 BN:WBP 0159 Upon propre , noght .

HG:111r MA 0212 But as I seyde / I nam **nat** textuel
 EL:205v MA 0212 am **noght** textueel

EL reduces the HG's *nam* to *am*, and changes the HG's *nat* to a more emphatic *noght*.

The type IV *noght-noght* pattern is not necessarily demanded by rhyme, with only 15 examples out of the total 106 (14%) in rhymed position. Let us give one each.

(8)

HG:5v GP 0306 **Noght** oo word # spak7 he / moore than was neede #
 EL:4r GP 0306 **Noght** o / spak #
 BL:GP 0306 spak #
 BN:GP 0304 o spak # ,

HG:8v GP 0516 He was a Sheepherde / <> and noght a Mercenarye #
 EL:6r GP 0516 Shepherde # Mercenarie
 BL:GP 0516 sheepherde # # mercenarye .
 BN:GP 0514 shepherde # # mercenarie .

HG:083r SU 0313 That oon of hem cam hom / that oother noght7 #
 EL:084v SU 0313 hoom **noght7**
 BL:SumT 1995 , noght .
 BN:SU 2021 hoom , noght .

Type II (*noght* → *nat*) clusters together in Fragment I (GP 14, Kn 19, Mi 15, Re 9) while Type III (*nat* → *noght*) occurs only four times there. This shows that HG has competition between *nat* and *noght* in the beginning of the *Tales*, but not in the later Fragments (WBP 7, WP2 1). Table 6 shows the four types of negative correspondence between HG and EL according to the Fragments.

Table 6 Four Types of Negative Correspondence between HG and EL

	HG-EL	I: nat-nat	II: noght-nat	III: nat-noght	IV: noght-noght
Frag I	GP	12	14		9
Frag I	Kn	43	19	4	18
Frag I	L1	2	6		
Frag I	Mi	16	15		2
Frag I	L2		6		
Frag I	Re	6	9		5
Frag I	L3	3			
Frag I	Co		1		
Frag III	WBP	30	7	2	7
Frag III	WP2	19	1		3
Frag III	L10	2			
Frag III	Fr	26	1		1
Frag III	L11	1			
Frag III	Su	33			4
Frag VII	L29	8			
Frag VII	Mo	21	4		8
Frag VII	L30	1			
Frag VII	Np	26			3
Frag IX	L36	9			
Frag IX	Ma	6	1	1	
Frag II	L7	4		1	1
Frag II	Ml	16	5	1	11
Frag VII	Sq	23		2	1
Frag IV	L20	3			
Frag IV	Me	49	2	1	7
Frag V	L17	2			
Frag V	Fk	27		1	5
Frag VII	Nu	18			
Frag IV	Cl	41	4	1	15
Frag IV	L13	2			
Frag IV	L14	1			
Frag VI	Ph	7			2
Frag VI	L21	1			
Frag VI	Pd	26		3	
Frag VII	Sh	19	2	1	2
Frag VII	L24	1			

	HG-EL	I: nat-nat	II: noght-nat	III: nat-noght	IV: noght-noght
Frag VII	Pr	9		2	1
Frag VII	L25	1			
Frag VII	TT				1
Frag VII	L28	4			
Total		518	97	20	106

2.3. Minor examples of *naught* [Verse Texts of the MSs]

Let us see minor examples of *naught* (retaining northern forms).

(9)

HG:011v GP 0756 And of manhode / hym lakked right **naught**⁷

EL:008v GP 0756 manhod right **naught**⁷

HG:028r KT 1210 And freten hym / for þ^t they knewe hym **naught**⁷

EL:022v KT 1210 freteten **naught**⁷

HG:035r KT 1791 His hardy herte / myghte hym helpe **naught**⁷

EL:028v KT 1791

HG:099r L30 0016 **Naught** helpeth it⁷ to tellen his sentence

EL:178v L30 0016 **Noght**

HG:111v MA 0234 In muchel speche / synne wanteth **naught**⁷

EL:205v MA 0234

HG:117v ML 0302 ¶ **Naught** trowe I / the triumpe of Iulius

EL:053v ML 0302 **Noght**

HG:117v ML 0303 Of which # þ^t Lucan / maketh swich a boost⁷

EL:053v ML 0303 / that #

HG:117v ML 0304 Was roiallour / ne moore curyus

EL:053v ML 0304 roialler or curius

HG:169r NU 0268 Which thow shalt seen / if that thow wolt reneye
 EL:188v NU 0268 thou thou

HG:169r NU 0269 The ydoles / and be clene / and ellis **naught**⁷
 EL:188v NU 0269 # elles **naught**⁷

HG:210v PR 0059 To worshipe ay / and he forgat it **naught**⁷
 EL:149r PR 0059 **naught**⁷

The HG northern dialect *naught* is replaced by the EL central dialect *noght*. The northern *naught* in a rhyming position remains unaltered.

2.4. Negative forms of *Troilus and Criseyde*, Corpus Christi College MS 61

For comparison we will show the frequency of negative forms in *Troilus and Criseyde*, CCC (Corpus Chiristic College) MS 61

Table 7 The frequency of negative forms in *Troilus and Criseyde*, CCC MS 61 according to the Books

Tr	I	II	III	IV	V
nat	33	29	8	54	70
not	0	0	1	2	0
noght	0	0	0	0	0
naught	19	28	14	16	22
nought	3	42	79	14	14

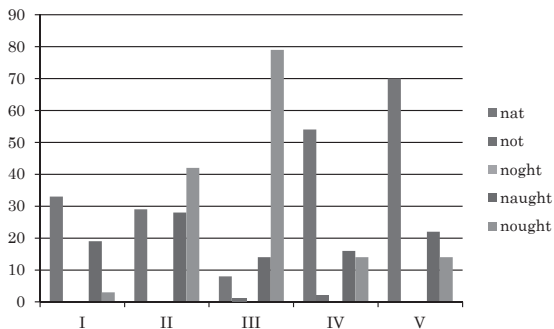


Figure 6 The Frequency of Negative Forms in *Troilus and Criseyde*, CCC MS 61 according to the Books (→ Nakao et al (2009d)).

Besides the most frequent *nat* in the manuscript, it is noticeable that *naught* appears more frequently than in HG and EL, that *nought* appears in stead of *noght*, and that the negative form *not*, Type IV according to Samuels, appears three times. The *not* form does not appear in HG and EL. These examples in the CCC MS 61 are shown in (10).

(10)

CP:78v III 897 Woot þe **not** wel that noble and heigh corage
 WN:

CP:101v IV 593 Ris vp for by myn hed fhe fhal **not** goon
 WN:IV 593 she shal

CP:113v IV 1310 So as I fhal **not** fo ben hid in muwe
 WN:IV 1310 shal so

Abbreviations* CP=Corpus Christi College Manuscript 61, WN=Windeatt' edition of *Troilus and Criseyde* (1990)

3. Choice and psychology of three negative patterns: syntactic, lexical and semantic [Verse Texts of the MSs, GP to SumT]

Negations in Chaucer's language are, according to Burnley (1983: 71-72), divided into three patterns: syntactic, lexical and semantic. Syntactic negation includes single, double or multiple negations, contractions, word or clausal negations, lexical negation includes *un*-prefixed words, *-less* suffixed words, etc., and semantic negation includes a synonymy of for instance 'not ... trewe', 'untrewe', and 'false'. The three negative patterns are exemplified in (11).

(11)

a. <Syntactic negation>

HG:004r GP 0178 That seith / þ^t hunterys been **none** holy men
 EL:002v GP 0178 that hunters both **nat** hooly

b. <Lexical negation>

HG:127r ML 0975 That Alla / **giltlees** # was of hir wo
EL:062r ML 0975 # /

HG:142v ME 0365 That **impossible** / it weere to replie
EL:106v ME 0365 **inpossible** were repplye

c. <Semantic negation>

HG:213r PR 0235 Preye eek # for vs / we **synful** folk vnstable
EL:151r PR 0235 /

HG:197r PD 0101 But though my self⁷ # be **gilty** in that synne
EL:137v PD 0101 self /

HG:016v KT 0296 And thow art **fals** / I telle thee outrely
EL:013r KT 0296 thou

When comparing the four texts, we addressed the following features: syntactic negations—contracted/uncontracted negations, single/double negations, and clausal/word scope negations; lexical negations—those words with differing negative affixes; semantic negations—category-crossover variations from syntactic to lexical to semantic negations such as *nat hooly* to *unholy* to *synful*.

To negate something, and then which negative pattern to choose is likely to be psychologically driven, perhaps more so than simply 'say yes' (cf. Watt 1960). Negation is thus considered to be a powerful linguistic device to reveal one's inner self. This psychological characteristic ascribable to negation encourages editors as well as scribes of Chaucerian manuscripts to be positively involved in editing the negative expressions. Those variations seem to reveal subtle differences in meaning and implication between HG and EL. Benson is occasionally found fluctuating between HG and EL.

3.1. Syntactic negation: bidirectional variations

Scribal variations are almost exclusively seen in syntactic negations. The syntactic variations between HG and EL are mostly bidirectional. Since we

have no extant exemplar/s of HG and EL, for the sake of convenience we have taken HG as a reference point to see EL's variation. (Cf. Horobin 2003: 45-6.) Our discussion will be limited to the following three things. The EL scribe amplifies the HG negative, while he reduces it; the EL scribe contracts the HG negative, while he un-contracts it; the EL scribe changes the HG word scope of negation to the clausal, while he changes the HG clausal scope of negation to the word. As is clarified by Mooney (2006), both manuscripts are written by one scribe, Adam Pinkhurst. Therefore we are more inclined to ask why these alterations happen? We will show some examples of each type. Are these alternations due to the changing London dialect? or affected by the (not extant) exemplar? or based on the scribe's attitude or psychology?

a. EL's amplification of the HG negative

(12)

2 → 3 [double negation → triple negation]:

HG:5r	GP 0251	Ther	was no	man /	nowheer	/ so	v ² tuous	#
EL:3v	GP 0251		nas		nowher		#	
BL:GP	0251				#		#	vertuous .
BN:GP	0251		nas		# nowher		#	vertuous .

1 → 2: [single negation → double negation]:

HG:021r	KT 0661	No thyng	#	knew he /	b ^t	it was	Arcite	#
EL:017r	KT 0661	No thyng^z	ne			that		
BL:KnT	1521	Nothyng			#	that		;
BN:Kt	1519		ne		#	that		;

0 → 1: [zero negation → single negation except "but"]

HG:125r	ML 0840	WeI may men seen /	it	was	but	goddes	g ³ ce
EL:060r	ML 0840			nas		grace	

EL chooses here more emphatic negative patterns than HG by doubling/multiplying negations.

(13) is from the portraits of the pilgrims in GP. EL changes a single negative to a double by using a contracted negative.

(13): The portraits of the pilgrims in GP.

HG:4v GP 0205 He **was nat** paale / as is a forpyned goost⁷ #
 EL:3r GP 0205 **nas** pale # goost /
 BL:GP 0205 # goost ,
 BN:GP 0205 pale # # goost .

HG:5r GP 0251 Ther **was no** man / nowheer / so v⁷tuous #
 EL:3v GP 0251 **nas** nowher #
 BL:GP 0251 # # vertuous .
 BN:GP 0251 nas # nowher # vertuous .

HG:5r GP 0252 He was # the beste beggere / of his hous #
 EL:3v GP 0252 / begger⁷ # in
 BL:GP 0252 # ,
 BN:GP 0252 # in ;

HG:5v GP 0290 And he **was nocht** right fat⁷ # I vndertake #
 EL:3v GP 0290 **nas nat** right fat
 BL:GP 0290 fat
 BN:GP 0288 nas nat fat , undertake ,

Quantitatively the contracted-uncontracted correspondence is as follows: **was (HG)→nas (EL): 6 times; nas→was: 3; nas→nas: 39; nas→ne was: 1; nys→nas:l.**

b. EL's reduction of the HG negative

(14)

3 → 2:

HG:044r MI 0164 That of no wyf / **ne** took he noon offrynge #
 EL:036r MI 0164 #
 BL:MI 3344 # .
 BN:MI 3350 # # ;

2 → 1:

HG:3r GP 0074 Hisse hors weere goode / but he **ne** was nat gay #
 EL:1v GP 0074 His weren #
 BL:GP 0074 , .
 BN:GP 0074 His were , # .

HG:085r SU 0473 And yet⁷ **ne** greueth me / **no** thyng so soore #
 EL:086r SU 0473 yet #
 BL:SumT 2155 yet # nothyng
 BN:SU 2181 yet greveth # nothyng ,

Other examples from the manuscripts:

HG:140v ME 0202 If # he **ne** may nat lyue / chast his lyf #
 EL:104v ME 0202 Siththe / # lyuen # chaast /

HG:112v L7 0051 And if he **ne** haue **nat** seyde hem / leue brother
 EL:049v L7 0051 # **noght** # leue

HG:3r GP 0074 Hisse hors weere goode / but he **ne** was nat gay #
 EL:1v GP 0074 His weren #
 BL:GP 0074 , .
 BN:GP 0074 His were , # .

HG:069v WB2 0942 And sith / she dorste **nat** # telle it to no man
 EL:073r WB2 0942 # # /

HG:083v SU 0344 Awaityng on a lord / <+> he **noot nat** where
 EL:084v SU 0344 and #

HG:116r ML 0209 Thow knytest thee / ther thow **nart nat** receyued
 EL:052v ML 0209 Thou thou **art**

1 → 0 [except "but"]:

HG:060r WBP 0192 For myn entente / **nys** but for to pleye #
 EL:065r WBP 0192 **is**
 BL:WBP 0192 # .
 BN:WBP 0192 # .

c. Contracting of the HG negative

(15)

HG:059r WBP 0098 Of myn estat⁷ **ne** wol I # # make **no** boost⁷ #
 EL:064r WBP 0098 estaat⁷ # # **nyl nat**
 BL:WBP 0098 estat boost .
 BN:WBP 0098 estaat # # nyl nat boost ,

d. Cancelling of the HG negative contraction

(16)

HG:060r WBP 0180 # Who so # þ^t **nyle #** / be war⁷ # by othere men #
 EL:065r WBP 0180 / **wol nat #** war /
 BL:WBP 0180 Whoso that # war ,
 BN:WBP 0180 ~ Whoso that nyl # war ,

BN adopts HG although deleting a final *—e* of *nyle*.

e. Changing of the HG word scope of negation to the clausal scope

(17)

HG:4r GP 0177 He yaf noght of that text⁷ a pulled hen #
 EL:2v GP 0177 nat text
 BL:GP 0177 text
 BN:GP 0177 nat text ,

HG:4r GP 0178 That seith / þ^t hunterys been **none** holy men #
 EL:2v GP 0178 that hunters beth **nat** hooly
 BL:GP 0178 # that
 BN:GP 0178 # that hunters ben nat hooly ,

This change does not affect the meter of the line nor the rhyme. In the history of English both negations are possible. It has nothing to do with the changing status of the London dialect. The change seems to be purely psychological. The word negation “none holy men” reveals that text’s strong negation or even criticism, while the clausal negation “nat hooly men” moderates it in between “holy men” and the opposite “unholy men”.

(18)

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 .

BN adopts the HG word negation, not the EL clausal *nat*, but reduces the HG *nys* to the EL *is*. As a result, BN proposes a third view of negative variation.

f. Changing the HG clausal scope of negation to word negation

(19)

HG:031r KT 1464	And if so be / thow wolt	noght	do me #	grace #
EL:025r KT 1464		thou	#	no
BL:KnT 2324		#		
BN:Knt 2322		# thou	nat	,

EL changes the HG’s clausal scope of negation to a word negation. BN adopts HG, but changes *noght* to *nat*.

HG:035v KT 1799	# I wol be trewe Iuge / and	nat	partye #
EL:029r KT 1799	¶		no partie
BL:KnT 2659		iuge #	.
BN:Kt 2657		juge ,	no partie .

g. Combining the word and the clausal scope negations

(20)

HG:059r WBP 0098 Of myn estat⁷ ne wol I # # make **no** boost⁷ #
 EL:064r WBP 0098 estat⁷ # # **nyl nat**
 BL:WBP 0098 estat boost .
 BN:WBP 0098 estat # # nyl nat boost ,

Nyl in EL is stressed while *ne* in HG is not. *Nat* is added in EL with a rise of a triple negation. EL does observe the meter.

HG:059v WBP 0142 I **nyl** # envie / **no** virgynytee #
 EL:064v WBP 0142 **nat** enuye virginittee
 BL:WBP 0142 # .
 BN:WBP 0142 envye # virginittee .

EL adds *nat* to the HG *nyl* with a rise of triple negation.

In (21) EL combines both the clausal and word scope negation while HG does not.

(21)

HG:059v WBP 0138 Thanne # sholde men # take / of Chastitee no cure #
 EL:064v WBP 0138 # They shul # nat # chastitee
 BL:WBP 0138 # chastitee .
 BN:WBP 0138 # chastitee .

HG:016r KT 0271 ¶ # It **were** to thee # # quod he / # # # # **no** greet honour
 EL:012v KT 0271 # **nere** # # # to thee /
 BL:Knt 1131 # ‘ , ‘ , ‘
 BN:Kt 1129 # “ nere # # , “ , “ to thee

HG:039v KT 2136 Ther nedeth # / **noon** auctoritee to allegge #
 EL:032v KT 2136 **noght⁷** # Auctoritee allegge
 BL:Knt 2996 #
 BN:Kt 3000 noght # t'allegge ,

3.2. Syntactic negation: unidirectional patterns

We have unidirectional variation but very rarely.

(22) HG=*Ne* → EL=*He*; HG=*he* → EL *ne*

HG:2v GP 0068 And thogh þ^t he weere worthy / he was wys #

EL:1v GP 0068 though^h were #

BL:GP 0068 that ,

BN:GP 0068 though that were , ,

HG:2v GP 0069 And of his poort⁷. as meke / as is a mayde #

EL:1v GP 0069 port⁷ meeke #

BL:GP 0069 poort # .

BN:GP 0069 port meeke # .

HG:2v GP 0070 **Ne neuere** yet⁷ # **no** vileynye **he** sayde

EL:1v GP 0070 **He** yet / **ne**

BL:GP 0070 yet

BN:GP 0070 He neuere yet ne

HG:2v GP 0071 In al his lyf⁷ # vn to no manere wight #

EL:1v GP 0071 lyf / maner wight⁷

BL:GP 0071 lyf vnto .

BN:GP 0071 lyf unto maner .

HG:2v GP 0072 He was a verray # pfit⁷ # gentil knyght⁷ #

EL:1v GP 0072 parfit knyght

BL:GP 0072 , parfit , knyght .

BN:GP 0072 , parfit knyght .

EL exchanges the HG's line-initial negative *Ne* with the line-internal pronoun *he*. EL as a result strengthens the cohesion with the knight. HG seems to be more emphatic than EL as to how to show that the knight has no use of dirty words because *Ne* is line-initially highlighted and directly collocated with *neuere*. The collocation between *ne* and *neuere* in Blake (1980) occurs fifty times while that of *he* and *neuere* occurs only four times.

H#	KWIC	File
1	mayde. <GP> 70 Ne neuere yet no vileynye he sayde	Blake-punctu
2	No berd hadde he ne neuere sholde haue, <GP> 692	Blake-punctu
3	ntree, <KnT> 1348 Ne neuere mo ne shal his lady see.	Blake-punctu
4	y lyf. <KnT> 2308 Ne neuere wol I be no loue ne wyf.	Blake-punctu
5	ccioun <FrT> 1305 Ne neuere shullen terme of hir lyues	Blake-punctu
6	y lyf, <FrT> 1595 Ne neuere I nas but of my body trewe	Blake-punctu
7	iform) <SqT> 544 Ne neuere syn the firste man was bor	Blake-punctu
8	eueere. <SqT> 564 Ne neuere hadde I thyng so lief ne l	Blake-punctu
9	As hym, god woot, ne neuere shal namo. <SqT> 566	Blake-punctu
10	rT> 432 In mariage ne neuere mo shal be <MerT> 433	Blake-punctu
11	ground <FranI> 899 Ne neuere er now ne hadde knowen m	Blake-punctu
12	roght, <SNT> 228 Ne neuere mo ne shal they roten be	Blake-punctu
13	th me, <SNT> 230 Ne neuere wight shal seen hem with h	Blake-punctu
14	Was seyn in hir, ne neuere hir doghter name <ClT> 60	Blake-punctu
15	eremo, <ClT> 971 Ne neuere for no wele ne no wo <ClT>	Blake-punctu
16	I haue <ClT> 1064 Ne neuere hadde as god my soule saue	Blake-punctu
17	for he dide neuere synne ne neuere cam ther a vileynous word	Blake-punctu
18	faste; <MkT> 2309 Ne neuere myghte hir fomen doon hem	Blake-punctu
19	ichon, <ManT> 297 Ne neuere in al thy lyf ne shaltow s	Blake-punctu

Figure 7 AntConc-KWIC of *ne neuere* in Blake (1980)

H#	KWIC	File
1	But seen his lady shal he neuere mo. <KnT> 1355 Now	Blake-punctu
2	For seen his lady shal he neuere mo. <KnT> 1360 And	Blake-punctu
3	Were chaunged; but he neuere hir koude fynde <ClT> 602	Blake-punctu
4	<NPT> 3253 Though he neuere erst hadde seye it with hi	Blake-punctu

Figure 8 AntConc-KWIC of *he neuere* in Blake (1980)

(23) The Reeve's Tale: naan → neen

HG:054v RE 0265 And syn I sal / haue **naan** amendement⁷
 EL:045r RE 0265 # **neen**
 BL:RvT 4177 # amendement
 BN:RE 4185 # have neen amendement

HG:054v RE 0266 Agayn my los / I wil haue esement⁷ #
 EL:045r RE 0266
 BL:RvT 4178 , esement .
 BN:RE 4186 , will have esement .

HG:054v RE 0267 By goddes saule / it sal **naan** other be # #
 EL:045r RE 0267 god sale **neen** bee
 BL:RvT 4179 # . ‘
 BN:RE 4187 Goddes sale , neen bee ! “

HG's *naan* is a northern form, which is changed into *neen* by EL. This *neen* is, according to Horobin (2003), a hypercorrection after a model of *heem*, an Old Norse word meaning 'home.' This *heem* is used in the earlier context by HG, as shown in (24).

(24)

HG:052v RE 0112 To grynde oure corn / and carie it **heem** agayn #
 EL:043v RE 0112 **ham**
 BL:RvT 4024 # .
 BN:RE 4032 # ham ;

We still wonder if the exemplar of EL might have had *noon*, the double *o* of which might have been misinterpreted as *ee* for the paleographical similarity.

In (25) HG's northern negative form *na* is changed to *ne* in EL.

(25) *na* → *ne*

HG:054v RE 0263 Oure corn is stoln / soothly # it is **na** nay #
 EL:045r RE 0263 shortly # **ne**
 BL:RvT 4175 , ,
 BN:RE 4183 , sothly , ,

EL not only adopts the standard form *ne* but changes the word scope negation to the causal.

4. Lexical negation variations [Verse Texts of the MSs]

There are very few occurrences of lexical negation variations. If the scribe understands the line as a whole as usual when copying the exemplar, or phrase by phrase, or word by word where necessary, we expect that he might be

likely to replace a word with a synonymous word. We imagine for instance *untrewe* to be replaced with *unkynde* or *unstable* or *unsad*. But we have found no examples of this lexical variation except for the three (masked examples) in (26) which are only varied by prefixes.

(26)

impossible/impossible

HG:142v ME 0365 That **impossible** / it weere to replye
EL:106v ME 0365 **impossible** were repleye

HG uses the etymological prefix while EL does not.

inportable/importable

HG:095v MO 0516 That hise peynes / weren **inportable**
EL:175r MO 0516 **importable**

vnstable/instable

HG:148r ME 0813 ¶ 0. sodeyn hap^m / o. thow Fortune **vnstable**
EL:111r ME 0813 # {20} o thou fortune **Instable**

In the above two examples, EL uses the etymological prefix while HG does not.

(27) is a list of the words with negative affixes.

a. *vn*-words

vn dooth, vn thank, vncouple, vnwrappeth, vnbokele, vnshette, vnheele, vnknowe, vnset, vnborn, vntressed, vnhorsed, vnholden, vnwist, vnbokeled, vntold, vnharmed, vnauysed, vnwemmed, vnarmed, vnburyed, vnfeyned, vntressed, vnconstreyned, vnbrent, vntrewe, vnkouth, vnnethe, vnneth, vnweelde, vnwely, vnhardy, vnsely, vndiscreet, vncleue, vnwar, vnlik, vnkynde, vnhappy, vnwar, vnmesurable, vnsofte, vnlikly, vncurtesily, vnresonable, vnwityng, vnworthy, vnfestlich, vnworthy, vnsofte, **vnstable/instable**, vnsely, vndigne, vndiscreet, vnsad, vnkyndely, vnwityngly, vnright, vnreste, vntrouthe, vnkyndenesse, vntrust

b. *dis*-words

disfigure, disfigured, disguised, disherited, disparaged, disclaundred, disposed, disfigured, discomfort, dishonor, dissimulacioun, disconforten, disjoint, disparage, displease, distemper, disporten, disdeyne, disobeye, dispoylen, discomfort, disffame, disclaundre, disese, disputisoun, dissimuler, distresse, discord, dispensacioun, dissencioun, displesances, discontinyuinge, dissimilour, discomfiture, dishoneste

c. *in*-words

iniquitee, infortue, inconstance, indigence, infinite, impossible/impossible, insufficient, incurable, inportable/importable, infortunat, imprudent, immortal, instable/vnstable (see a.)

d. *lees*-words

recchelees, waterlees, dettelees, giltlees, doutelees, hertelees, titlelees, armlees, sterelees, routhelees, endeleees, wifleees, dredelees, causelees, wemmelees, nedeleees, smokleees, pridelees, resteleees, goldleees

We wonder why there are no substantial lexical disagreements between HG and EL. Most probably the scribe assumes that lexical changes involving the stems would seriously affect the meaning of the text.

5. Semantic negation variations

There are very few occurrences of semantic negation variations. If the scribe understands the whole line when copying the exemplar, and understands the plot of the discourse, we might expect for instance such variations among *nat* ... *kynde*, *vnkynde/vntrewe* and *false*. But there are no examples of such. (28) is the only near equivalent. EL changes HG's *dreed nat to dredelees*.

(28)

HG:138v ME 0067 ¶ A wyf7 # is goddes yifte verrailly

EL:103v ME 0067 wyf /

HG:138v ME 0068 Alle othere manere yiftes hardily

EL:103v ME 0068 otherere

HG:138v ME 0069	As londes / rentes / pasture / or comune
EL:103v ME 0069	cōmune
HG:138v ME 0070	Or moebles / alle been yiftes of fortune
EL:103v ME 0070	Fortune
HG:138v ME 0071	That passen / as a shadwe vp on the wal
EL:103v ME 0071	a
HG:138v ME 0072	But dreed nat # if pleynly speke I shal #
EL:103v ME 0072	dredelees # /
BL: Mer 0072	/ :
BN: Mer 1316	drede , :
HG:138v ME 0073	A wyf wol laste / and in thyn hous endure
EL:103v ME 0073	
HG:138v ME 0074	Wel lenger than thee lyst ⁷ pauenture
EL:103v ME 0074	list ⁷ p auenture
HG:138v ME 0075	¶ Mariage / is # a ful greet sacrament ⁷
EL:103v ME 0075	# / sacrament ⁷

In HG the narrator addresses the audience with an imperative: dread not that a wife will last and endure in your house more than you desire. EL, however, understands the expression perhaps with more stress on its epistemic implication: no dread/doubt. HG has a more performative force than EL while EL has a more modal force than HG. Benson chooses HG although usually based on EL. But he puts the final *-e* after the HG's *dreed* to keep the iambic rhythm.

7. Conclusion

This paper is part of our project on computer-assisted textual and linguistic studies of the manuscripts and the editions of Chaucer's works. As we have

symptomatically shown here, a full text collation concordance and other indexes are of great value and help to investigate linguistic differences between HG and EL and the two editions.

Moreover, these provide us with rich and promising research materials, though they raise interesting questions and puzzles to explore rather than answers. In this paper, though tentatively, we have demonstrated that:

- (1) HG has competition between *nat* and *noght* in Fragment I, and in later Fragments gradually tends towards *nat*. EL is stable in the use of *nat* throughout the Fragments.
- (2) There are four types of negative correspondences between *nat* and *noght*. Type III in which EL changes the HG *nat* to *noght* an older form is least in frequency. Here EL seems to take into full account a positive-negative polarity contrast.
- (3) The negative expressions are classified into three patterns: syntactic, lexical and semantic. The manuscript variations are almost exclusively seen in syntactic domains. There are very few variations in lexical and semantic domains.
- (4) Most of the syntactic variations are bidirectional. On the one hand, EL amplifies the HG negative, while he reduces it. In amplifying the HG negative, he increases double or multiple negations and/or contracted negations. Here EL is more emphatic than HG. On the other, when EL reduces the HG negative, the opposite may be true where EL moderates it. Benson occasionally fluctuates between HG and EL, which leads to a third view of variants, or a composite variant.
- (5) EL changes the HG's word scope of negation to the clausal. And vice versa. In the former, HG shows a strong negative evaluation while EL shows a neutral. However, in the latter, the opposite may be also true.
- (6) There are unidirectional variations although very rare. EL puts the HG line initial *Ne* and the line medial *he* the other way round. HG seems to be more emphatic than EL as to how to show that the knight has no use of dirty words. EL changes the HG's *naan* to *neen*, which is a hypercorrection according to Horobin (2003). There seems to be some possibility that the exemplar of EL has *noon*, not a northern form.

Horobin (2003) states that the differences between HG and EL are due to several possibilities: that is, the historical change of the London dialect, the growth/attitude of the scribe, the editorial difference/the function of the manuscript, and the difference of a copy text (exemplar) he is based on. With regard to the negative expression, which is the most relevant? We may safely conclude that the variations are partly due to the changing status of the London dialect (negative forms), but mostly due to the scribe's attitude and psychology towards the manuscript (scope of negation). Chaucer seems to lie in between the variants, which seems to be reflective of the range and tolerance of his language.

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

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