

Contents

Introduction	1
I Method of Compilation	8
1. Establishing the Two Corpora 2. Checking System 3. Limitation of Material 4. Dating of First Citations	
II Lemmatization Policy and the Problem of Consistency in the <i>O.E.D.</i>	12
1. Omission of Words 2. Treatment of Malapropisms 3. Parallel First Citations 4. Textual Problems 5. Inconsistent Treatment of Word Categories 6. Treatment of Proper Nouns 7. The <i>O.E.D. Supplements</i> 8. Conclusion	
III Statistical Analysis	35
1. Coverage of Individual Authors 2. Coverage of Periods 3. Minor Statistical Factors	
IV The Concept of Innovation Rate: New Versus Old Sources	60
1. Authorial Innovation Rate 2. Period Innovation Rate 3. The Value of Old Sources	
V Potential <i>O.E.D.</i> Antedatings	65
1. Forecast of Antedatings 2. Chronological Significance of Antedatings 3. Alphabetical Distribution of Antedatings 4. Chronological Distribution of Antedatings 5. Future Research	
APPENDICES	
A <i>O.E.D.</i> and <i>S.O.E.D.</i> : A Comparative Examination	75
B Shakespeare, Nashe, Malory and Wyatt in the <i>O.E.D.</i> and <i>S.O.E.D.</i>	82
Ready Reference: Complete Data	
Shakespeare	83
Nashe	84
Malory	85
Wyatt	86

x Contents

Complete Lists of First Citations, Parallel Citations, Antedatings in <i>O.E.D.</i> , 1933 <i>Supplement</i> and <i>S.O.E.D.</i>	
Shakespeare	88
Nashe	137
Malory	165
Wyatt	170

C Number of <i>O.E.D.</i> Sources per Decade	172
--	-----

D Number of English Imprints for Every Tenth Year 1480-1640	173
---	-----

E Alphabetical Distribution of Nashe and Shakespeare Antedatings	174
--	-----

F Projected Percentage of Participial Adjectives in <i>O.E.D.</i>	175
---	-----

List of Figures

1 Chronological Distribution of Shakespeare and Nashe Antedatings	46
2 Chronological Distribution of Malory, Wyatt and Nashe Antedatings	49
3 Chronological Distribution of <i>O.E.D.</i> Sources	52
4 Diachronic Increase and Decrease of the <i>S.O.E.D.</i> Vocabulary	54
5 Alphabetical Distribution of Nashe Antedatings	55

Abbreviations used in this study can be found in Appendix B on the following pages:

Shakespeare	88
Nashe	137
Malory	165
Wyatt	170