

TwifULL (November 3, 2010)
Osaka University (Toyonaka C)

**The Historical Development of *No Soone*
r ... Than and its Semantic Change**

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本研究について

- 背景
 - 他の“no + 比較級 + than”との違い
 - “no sooner”のまとめり(チャンク)
 - “than”との相関
- 主張点
 - “but”から“than”への移行は18世紀前半
 - この時期は文法化にとって重要
 - 否定→比較
 - 副詞→接続詞
 - OEDの有用性

1. Introduction

- This study deals with the correlatives of the construction *no sooner ... than* in the history of English, paying particular attention to *but* and *than*.

- Present-day English
 - subject-auxiliary inversion
 - a combination of the past perfect and past tense

(1) No sooner had we got home **than** the police arrived. (Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 1133)

- the BNC (British National Corpus) data
- Table 1. Variation of the correlatives of *no sooner* (BNC data, based on Suzuki 2010: 4)

<i>no sooner</i> (238)	<i>than</i> (211), <i>when</i> (10), <i>then</i> (2), <i>but</i> (2), <u>no correlative</u> (13)
<i>hardly</i> (134)	<i>when</i> (93), <i>before</i> (32), <i>than</i> (9)
<i>scarcely</i> (38)	<i>when</i> (24), <i>before</i> (13), <i>than</i> (1)

- (2)a. No sooner had Syd apparently recovered from the knee injury he sustained in New Zealand, **then** he suffered another major set back. (BNC:K25)

b. No sooner justice had ... **But** the Norwegian Lord, surveying vantage ... Began a fresh assault. (BNC:HPG)

c. ... no sooner you got your dinner and had a drink, you had to be back again ... (BNC:HDH)

- The purpose of this study
 - to discuss the stages of how this development took place and how it has changed in meaning over time
 - demonstrated that in the process of grammaticalization, the frequency of *no sooner* occurring in the clause-initial position increases over time

2. Previous Studies

- Araki and Ukaji (1984)
 - *than* and *but* in *no less/longer/more/other/sooner/etc. (...) than/but/or* are structural alternatives.
 - just like *but*, *than* gives a negative property to what follows
 - *But* was used from the first half of 15th century to 18th century.

- Fischer (1992)

- *No sooner ... than* is not found in Middle English, and other expressions are used instead, such as *not so soone ... that/but*.

- (5) And nat so sone [he] departed nas/ Tho fro him, that he ne mette ...
(*The House of Fame*, III 2068-70)

- Rissanen (1999)

- The earliest instances of *no sooner (...) than* found in the Helsinki Corpus date from around 1600

- Poutsma (1929)
 - In Early Modern English we frequently find *but* instead of *than* after *no sooner*.
- Terasawa (1997)
 - *no sooner ... but* was first recorded in 1560 and was obsolete by the early 19th century, while *no sooner ... than* is found from 1594.

- Despite the replacement of *but* by *than*, the process of this shift is not described in detail in the literature.
- This paper, therefore, provides some new insights into the development of *no sooner ... than*.

3. Data

- a main corpus
 - the *OED* quotations database
 - Iyeiri (2010), Mair (2004, 2001), and Hoffmann (2004)
 - not a balanced or representative corpus
 - more than a thousand years of English usage
 - a large amount of material for analysis
 - 314 instances of data concerning *no sooner ... than*

- an additional means of investigation

1. the texts from *Project Gutenberg*

- to focus on the target expression during a particular century in detail
- 22 works that 13 authors published within a restricted time-span
- 461 examples of data concerning *no sooner ... than*

- an additional means of investigation

2. *The London Gazette*

- the Official Newspaper of Record for the United Kingdom
- State, Parliament, Ecclesiastical, Public Finance, Transport, Planning, Health, Environment, Water, Agriculture & Fisheries, Energy, Post & Telecom, Competition, Corporate Insolvency, Personal Insolvency, Companies & Financial Regulations, Partnerships, Societies Regulation, Personal Legal.

3. A Corpus of English Dialogues 1560-1760 (CED)

- the language of the Early Modern period
- interactive face-to-face communication
- includes various modes of speech presentation

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. The correlative with *no sooner*

Figure 1. The proportions of the correlatives with *no sooner* (*OED*)

- an overview of the correlatives with *no sooner* for the period between 1384 and 1992
- The first *but* was the dominant form.
- The use of *than* was generalized in the course of the 19th century.
- There was competition between *but* and *than* in the first half of the 18th century.

Table 2 The raw frequencies of *but* and *than* with *no sooner* (Project Gutenberg)

	but	than
1704 Jonathan Swift <i>The Battle of the Books</i> (1)	0	1
1704 Jonathan Swift <i>A Tale of a Tub</i> (1)	0	1
1719 Daniel Defoe <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> (16)	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
1720 Daniel Defoe <i>The Life, Adventures and Piracies of the Famous Captain Singleton</i> (4)	3	1
1720 Daniel Defoe <i>Memoirs of a Cavalier</i> (4)	4	0
1722 Daniel Defoe <i>The Fortunes and Misfortunes of the Famous Moll Flanders &c.</i> (7)	7	0
1722 Daniel Defoe <i>A Journal of the Plague Year</i> (1)	1	0
1724 Daniel Defoe <i>The Fortunate Mistress</i> (4)	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
1736-50 Horace Walpole <i>Letters of Horace Walpole — Volume I</i> (1)	1	0
1739-40 David Hume <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i> (4)	0	4
1740-41 Samuel Johnson <i>Parliamentary Debates I.</i> (8)	1	7
1740 Samuel Richardson <i>Pamela</i> (3)	1	2
1742 Henry Fielding <i>Joseph Andrews</i> (66)	1	65
1744 Eliza Fowler Haywood <i>The Fortunate Foundlings</i> (37)	1	36
1747-49 Samuel Richardson <i>Clarissa</i> (12)	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>
1748 Tobias Smollett <i>The Adventures of Roderick Random</i> (121)	0	121
1749 Henry Fielding <i>The History of Tom Jones, a foundling</i> (165)	3	162
1750 John Cleland <i>Memoirs Of Fanny Hill</i> (6)	5	1

Table 2. The raw frequencies of *but* and *than* with *no sooner* (Project Gutenberg)

- John Cleland
 - the clear predominance of *but*
- Henry Fielding and Smollett
 - *than* is the dominant form
- *Robinson Crusoe* and *Clarissa*
 - competition between *but* and *than*

Table 3. The raw frequencies of *but* and *than* with *no sooner* (*The London G*

	but	than
1701-1730	4	3
1731-1740	1	4
1741-1750	4	11
	9	18

Table 4. The raw frequencies of *but* and *than* with *no sooner*

	but	than
1680-1720	11	0
1720-1760	2	6
	13	6

(6) a. and **no sooner** one arises **than** the rest immediately follow. (1739-40 David Hume *A Treatise of Human Nature* (4))

b. : **but** the dear gentleman had **no sooner** laid his head on the pillow, **but** he fell asleep, or feigned to do so, and that was as prohibitory to my talking as if he had. (1740 Samuel Richardson *Pamela*)

c. The horse was **no sooner** put into Adams's head **but** he was immediately driven out by this reflection on the character of Fanny. (1742 Henry Fielding *Joseph Andrews*)

- three factors to be considered regarding this construction in detail
 - subject-auxiliary inversion in the first clause
 - tense in the first clause
 - the co-occurrence with the synonymic expressions such as *immediately*, *instantly*, *at once*, *presently*, and so on

Figure 2. The proportions of **i**
nversion in *no sooner* clause
(*OED*)

- The version with subject-auxiliary inversion is less frequent in the first half of the 18th century.
- This inversion spread to the next period, 1751-1800.

Figure 3. The proportions of **t**
ense in the *no sooner* clause
(*OED*)

- A steady decline of past tense from 19th century is marked.
- A significant increase of past perfect can be observed in the 20th century.

- the possibility of the co-occurrence with the synonymic expressions

(7) A gracious Soul no sooner hears where Christ is, but instantly makes out after him. (*OED* 1703 Expos. Notes New Test. Lu...)

Table 5. Frequencies and proportions of the co-occurrence with the synonymic expressions

	-1600	1601-1650	1651-1700	1701-1750	1751-1800	1801-1850	1851-1900	1901-
Freq.	3	7	3	6	0	2	0	1
%	6.4	11.7	6.8	<u>18.8</u>	0	5.6	0	3.1

- Table 5 shows that the construction is used most frequently with synonymic expressions in the first half of the 18th century
- the co-occurrence with synonym can improve the meaning of the construction “immediately.”

4.2. Semantic change

- I suggest that *no sooner* can be analyzed in the process of grammaticalization.

Figure 4. The proportions of *no sooner* occurring in the clause-initial position (*OED*)

- *No sooner* when positioned initially has continued to spread at a steady rate.
- This position makes *no sooner* serve as a marker of topic expressing time such as *when* and *before*.

- Akimoto (1999: 229)
 - Although this co-existent period seems transient, the period is important, and can be considered as a pre-stage to idiomatization.

- In fact, *no sooner* can behave just like a conjunction in Present-day English.

(8) a. ... no sooner you got your dinner and had a drink, you had to be back again ... (BNC:HDH) (= (2a))

b. as soon as they come we had to open a trench and heel them ... (BNC:HER)

- *No sooner* as in Example (8a) can be replaced with *as soon as* as in Example (8b), and the two variants can be structural alternatives.
- *no sooner* tends to fulfill the same function as a conjunction expressing time.

5. Conclusion

- The first half of the 18th century was the crucial stage of the change from *but* to *than*.
- This process of grammaticalization is also valid in analyzing the development of *no sooner ... than* in this study.
- It has been very helpful to treat the *OED* quotations database as a tool for linguistic research.

**Thank you
for your kind attention !**