

# The Development of Conjunctions Introducing Adverbial Clauses of Time from the First Half of the 16th Century until the First Half of the 17th Century in English Prose Works\*

Yukio Haraguchi (熊本学園大学)

## I

This paper discusses the development of subordinate conjunctions from the first half of the sixteenth century until the first half of the seventeenth century that introduce adverbial clauses of time to narrate two actions or events that happen one after the other within a very short time. In order to make their development clear, I shall examine which conjunctions are used in each half century and what kind of changes take place after a lapse of a half century.

The data is taken from 7 texts from 1513 until 1535, 22 texts from 1551 until 1600, and 12 texts from 1603 until 1649. These 41 texts which I examined are listed at the end of this paper.

Conjunctions are classified into two major groups as follows:

GROUP I : *as soon as, as soon as ever, so soon as, as fast as, anon as*

GROUP II : *no sooner . . . but, no sooner . . . but that, no sooner . . . than, scarce . . . before, scarce . . . but, scarce . . . but that, scarce . . . ere, scarce . . . than, scarce . . . that, and scarce . . . when, scarcely . . . before, scarcely . . . but that, and scarcely . . . when*

During these three half centuries neither the *hardly* group such as *hardly*

. . . *when, hardly . . . before*, nor *the* plus noun [denoting time] group such as *the moment, the instant*, occurs at all.

In this article, I shall refer to the first half of the sixteenth century, the second half of the sixteenth century, and the first half of the seventeenth century respectively as the first period, the second period and the third period for short.

I shall discuss the following matters: 1) the usage of *as soon as, as soon as ever, so soon as, as fast as, and anon as*; 2) the usage of the *no sooner* group, the *scarce* group, and the *scarcely* group; 3) the tenses in the first and second clauses; 4) *as soon as, so soon as*, and *as fast as* that function as adverbial modifiers to indicate the same degree or as intensifiers.

I shall specify the tenses in the first and second clauses when presenting examples in § 1, § 2, and § 3.

There were many prose works written in the second half of the sixteenth century. However, the number of prose works suddenly decreases in the first half of the seventeenth century. Tucker Brooke and Matthias A. Shaaber give one reason for this as follows: “These works [= the stories of Deloney, the old-fashioned romances, and a quantity of frank jest books], however, could not long hold the attention of thinking people, and prose fiction, in a very remarkable degree, faded from the English intellectual horizon in the seventeenth century. Sidney’s *Arcadia* excepted, Elizabethan literature failed to produce any work of fictional prose comparable in largeness and nobility with its productions in other fields.”<sup>1</sup>

For the citation of the examples, the page reference is given when it is from a book. However, the page reference is not given when it is from an electronic text.

## II

### 1. The Usage of Group I: *as soon as*, *as soon as ever*, *so soon as*, *as fast as*, and *anon as*

The usage of *as soon as*, *as soon as ever*, *so soon as*, *as fast as* and *anon as* is almost the same. Moreover, these five conjunctions are all interchangeable. Nevertheless, *as soon as* is mainly used and occurs most often among the conjunctions in Group I as Table 1 indicates: 121 instances in the first period, 109 instances in the second period and 60 instances in the third period. However, the reason why *as soon as* has the largest number of instances in the first and third periods is attributed to the numerous instances from the Bible: 97 instances out of 121 in the first period and 49 instances out of 60 in the third period. The social situation when *Tyndale's Old Testament* and *New Testament* were published was extremely different from that prevailing at the time of the publication of *The King James Bible*. Tucker Brooke and Matthias A. Shaaber depict how Tyndale's Bible was circulated and what happened to Tyndale himself as follows:<sup>2</sup>

“The first to undertake the translation of the Greek Testament into English was William Tyndale (c. 1494-1536), a graduate of Oxford, who was moved by the study of Erasmus to go to Germany in 1524 and there devote himself to a task that the clerical authorities in England would in no way permit. In 1526 two editions of Tyndale's version of the New Testament had been smuggled into England and extensively circulated in defiance of a ban which the Bishop of London promptly laid upon them. Many copies were confiscated and

Table 1. The Distribution of *as soon as*, *as soon as ever*, *so soon as*, *as fast as* and *anon as* in each text [Nr of Os stands for Number of Occurrences]

the first half of the sixteenth century [the first period]		the second half of the sixteenth century [the second period]		the first half of the seventeenth century [the third period]	
author, publication date, and the name of the text	Nr of Os	author, publication date, and the name of the text	Nr of Os	author, publication date, and the name of the text	Nr of Os
<i>as soon as</i>		<i>as soon as</i>		<i>as soon as</i>	
Sir Thomas More (1513) <i>The History of King Richard III</i>	6	Ralph Robinson (1551) <i>Utopia</i>	1	Francis Bacon (1605) <i>The Advancement of Learning</i>	3
Anonymous (1526) <i>A Hundred Merry Tales</i>	6	William Roper (c1557) <i>The Life of Sir Thomas Moore</i>	3	Anonymous (1611) <i>The Holy Bible</i>	49
Anonymous (?1528) <i>Howleglas</i>	1	Sir Thomas Hobby (1561) <i>The Book of the Courtier</i>	19	Francis Bacon (1625) <i>The Essays Or Counsels</i>	2
William Tyndale (1530) <i>Tyndale's 1530 Pentateuch</i>	30	Anonymous (1567) <i>Merry Tales</i>	2	Colonel Norwood (1649) <i>A Voyage to Virginia</i>	6
Sir Thomas Elyot (1531) <i>The Book Named the Governor</i>	8	Stephen Gosson (1579) <i>The School of Abuse</i>	1		
William Tyndale (1534) <i>Tyndale's New Testament</i>	67	John Lyly (1580) <i>Euphues and His England</i>	3		
Anonymous (?1535) <i>Tales and Quick Answers</i>	3	Robert Greene (1588) <i>Pandosto</i>	10		
		Thomas Lodge (1590) <i>Rosalynde</i>	20		

		Sir Philip Sidney (1590) <i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>	37		
		Robert Greene (1592) <i>The Blacke Booke's Messenger</i>	4		
		Thomas Nashe (1592) <i>Pierce Penilesse</i>	1		
		Robert Greene (1596) <i>Greens Groats-worth of Wit</i>	1		
		Christopher Middleton (1597) <i>Chinon of England</i>	4		
		Thomas Deloney (1597) <i>Thomas of Reading</i>	3		
Subtotal	121	Subtotal	109	Subtotal	60
<i>as soon as ever</i>		<i>as soon as ever</i>		<i>as soon as ever</i>	
Anonymous (1526) <i>A Hundred Merry Tales</i>	1	Stephen Gosson (1579) <i>The School of Abuse</i>	1	Thomas Dekker (1609) <i>The Guls Horn-Booke</i>	1
		Thomas Nashe (1592) <i>Pierce Penilesse</i>	1		
		Thomas Deloney (1597) <i>The Gentle Craft, Part I</i>	2		
Subtotal	1	Subtotal	4	Subtotal	1
<i>so soon as</i>		<i>so soon as</i>		<i>so soon as</i>	
		Anonymous (1583) <i>The Mirrour of Mirth</i>	6	Thomas Dekker (1609) <i>The Guls Horn-Booke</i>	1
		Robert Greene (1588) <i>Pandosto</i>	1	Ralph Hamor (1615) <i>The Present Estate of Virginia</i>	2
		Sir Philip Sidney (1590) <i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>	2		

		Thomas Cockaine (1591) <i>A Short Treatise of Hunting</i>	3		
		Christopher Middleton (1597) <i>Chinon of England</i>	1		
		Thomas Deloney (1597) <i>The Gentle Craft, Part I</i>	10		
		Thomas Deloney (1597) <i>Thomas of Reading</i>	8		
Subtotal	0	Subtotal	31	Subtotal	3
<i>as fast as</i>		<i>as fast as</i>		<i>as fast as</i>	
		William Kemp (1600) <i>Nine daies wonder</i>	1		
Subtotal	0	Subtotal	1	Subtotal	0
<i>anon as</i>		<i>anon as</i>		<i>anon as</i>	
Anonymous (1526) <i>A Hundred Merry Tales</i>	1				
William Tyndale (1534) <i>Tyndale's New Testament</i>	2				
Subtotal	3	Subtotal	0	Subtotal	0

burned, and persons responsible for their sale savagely punished. Sir Thomas More entered into an acrimonious pamphlet war with Tyndale, who was driven, a hunted man, through various cities of Germany and the Netherlands. He translated also the five books of Moses and other parts of the Old Testament and issued a number of polemic tracts before he was arrested at Antwerp (May, 1535) and, after a long imprisonment, put to death at Vilvorde near Brussels in October, 1536.”

It is often said that *as soon as ever* is the emphatic form of *as soon as*, though it is not always the case. *The Oxford English Dictionary* comments that “*ever*” [as an adverb is] “added for emphasis to the conjunctions *as soon as*, *before*, *ere*, or (= *ere*).”<sup>3</sup> In example 1) the friar’s servant tries to persuade his master not to preach a sermon on the same matter. That’s why he must have used the emphatic form. In example 2) the friar had resolved to be ready immediately upon being called. That’s why he was able to reply with confidence and the fact that he replied using the emphatic form is evidence of his confidence.

1) And because this friar had preached this sermon so often, one that had heard it before told the friar’s servant that his master was called Friar John Ten Commandments. Wherefore this servant showed the friar his master thereof, and advised him to preach some sermon of some other matter—for it grieved him to hear his master so derided [= mocked] and to be called Friar John Ten Commandments. “For every man knoweth what ye will say *as soon as ever* ye begin, because ye have preached it so oft.”

[*A Hundred Merry Tales*, p. 117][the simple present + the simple present]

2) I warrant you (replied the Frier:) and because I will not ouersleepe my selfe, I will for this night lie in my cloathes, so that *as soone as euer* you call, I will straight be ready. [*The Gentle Craft, Part I*, p. 125]

[the simple present + the simple present]

In this example, the auxiliary verb *will* is used in the second clause.

3) And so they [= goodwife [= the mistress of the household] *Gray* and the maiden named *Margaret*] went home together. Now, *so soone as* the goodman [= the head of a household] sawe her, he asked his wife

where she had that maiden. She said, at the faire.

[*Thomas of Reading*, p. 282] [the simple past + the simple past]

In this example, Gray likes Margaret soon after she and her neighbor view some maidens, then decides to employ Margaret because she needs a maid servant and thus takes her home. Unexpectedly, her husband soon after he sees Margaret utters this question. That's why we can feel the causality between these two actions [= seeing Margaret and asking his wife].

4) When they [= all the spirits that were dispersed in this world] were all come, Solomon commanded them by the virtue aforesaid that they should all go into that said pan that was buried in the ground. The spirits could not gainsay, but were fain [= willing] to go in – but ye may well think that it was with great grief. *So soon as* they were all in, Solomon caused the cover to be set on and glued fast with the glue of Sapience [= wisdom]; and therein leaving the devils, caused it also to be covered with earth until the hole was filled up with whom his mind and purpose was that the world should be no more infected, and that men might afterward live in peace and tranquility, and that all virtue and godliness might reign upon the earth.

[*The Mirrour of Mirth*, p. 371] [the simple past + the simple past]

In this example all the spirits went inside the pan as Solomon planned, so he had to cover the pan in a hurry in order to carry out his plan. Thus, there is some causality between success in making all the spirits go into the pan and setting a cover on the pan so that the spirits can't get out.

The example of *as fast as* that functions as a conjunction first occurs in *Nine Daies Wonder* (1600) by William Kemp. Subsequent examples do not occur in the first half of the seventeenth century. This is the only instance during these three periods.



- 5) My setting forward was somewhat before seauen in the morning, my Taberer [= drummer] stroke up [= began playing] merrily, and *as fast as kinde peoples thronging together would giue me leauē, throw* [= throughout] London I leapt: By the way many good olde people, and diuers others of yonger yeeres, of meere kindnes, gaue me bowd sixepences and grotes [= groats, coins], blessing me with their hartly prayers and God-speedes. [*Nine Daies Wonder*]  
[the simple past + the simple past]

The conjunction *anon as* has become obsolete and the first half of the sixteenth century has only three instances: one instance in *A Hundred Merry Tales* and two in *Tyndale's New Testament. The Works of Sir Thomas Malory* in 1476 has some instances.<sup>4</sup> *OED* paraphrases *anon as* as follows: "*once that, immediately as, as soon as ever.*"<sup>5</sup>

- 6) *Anon as* this gentleman saw him [= the scholar], he bad him go with him into the City and he should be sped [= taken care of] anon.

[*A Hundred Merry Tales*, p. 100] [the simple past + the simple past]

- 7) as soon as they have heard it, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. And likewise they that are sown on the stony ground, are they: which when they have heard the word, at once receive it with gladness, yet have no roots in themselves, and so endure but a time: and *anon as* trouble and persecution ariseth for the word's sake, they fall immediately.

[*Tyndale's New Testament: Mark*, Ch. 4]

[the simple present + the simple present]

- 8) Jesus said unto him, go thy way, thy son liveth. And the man believed the words that Jesus had spoken unto him, and went his way. And *anon as* he went on his way, his servants met him, and told him

saying: thy child liveth. [*Tyndale's New Testament: John*, Ch. 4]

[the simple past + the simple past]

- 9) But *anone as* Sir Launcelot harde [= heard] of the shyldre [= shield] of Cornwayle, he wyste [= knew] well hit was sir Trystram that had fought with hys enemyes, and than sir Launcelot praysed sir Trystram and called hym the man of moste worshyp in the worlde.

[*The Works of Sir Thomas Malory*, p. 509]

[the simple past + the simple past]

- 10) And than dame Brusen brought sir Launcelot a kuppe [= cup] of wyne, and *anone as* he had drunken that wyne he was so asoted [= stupefied] and madde that he myght make no delay but wythoute ony let [= hindrance] he wente to bedde. [*The Works of Sir Thomas Malory*, p. 795]

[the past perfect + the simple past]

2. The Usage of GROUP II: *no sooner . . . but, no sooner . . . but that, no sooner . . . than, scarce . . . before, scarce . . . but, scarce . . . but that, scarce . . . ere, scarce . . . than, scarce . . . that, scarce . . . when, scarcely . . . before, scarcely . . . but that, and scarcely . . . when*

On the existence of *no sooner . . . than* in the age before the Early Modern English period, Olga Fischer states that “its negative counterpart in written Present-Day English, *no sooner . . . than*, is not yet found in Middle English.”<sup>6</sup> Moreover, Matti Rissanen says of *no sooner . . . than* as follows: “The earliest instances found in the Helsinki Corpus date from around 1600.”<sup>7</sup> Three instances in Table 2 from *The Mirrour of Mirth* (1583), *The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia* (1590) and *Pierce Penilesse* (1592) are slightly earlier than 1600, but they support Rissanen's statement.

The usage of *no sooner . . . but*, *no sooner . . . but that*, *no sooner . . . than*, *scarce . . . before*, *scarce . . . but*, *scarce . . . but that*, *scarce . . . ere*, *scarce . . . than*, *scarce . . . that*, *scarce . . . when*, *scarcely . . . before*, *scarcely . . . but that*, and *scarcely . . . when* is almost the same. *No sooner . . . but (that)* is the earliest conjunction, though it did not exist in the Middle English period. These 13 conjunctions are all interchangeable. Nonetheless, *no sooner . . . but* is mainly used through these three periods, although *no sooner . . . but that* is preferred in *The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia* by Sir Philip Sidney (1590) [17 instances of *no sooner . . . but that* versus 4 instances of *no sooner . . . but*].

From Swan's explanation on the usage of *no sooner . . . than*, *scarcely . . . when/before*, *hardly . . . when/before*, we can assume that the usage of these conjunctions is the same. He states in *Practical English Usage New Edition* (1995) that "these three expressions can be used (often with a past perfect tense) to suggest that one thing happened very soon after another."<sup>8</sup> In this case the past perfect tense is used in the first clause which includes *no sooner*, an adverb with a negative sense, while the simple past tense is used in the second clause beginning with *than*. Similarly, when the past perfect tense is used with either *scarcely* or *hardly* in the first clause, the simple past tense is used in the second clause beginning with either *when* or *before*. Furthermore, *Sanseido's Dictionary of Present-day English Usage* comments that "*hardly/scarcely . . . when/before* has almost the same syntactic function as *no sooner . . . than* does."<sup>9</sup> Moreover, *Collins COBUILD English Usage* gives exactly the same explanation on the usage of *hardly . . . when* and *scarcely . . . when*. "*Hardly* is sometimes used in longer structures to say that one thing happened immediately after another. *Scarcely* is sometimes used in longer structures to say

Table 2. The Distribution of the *no sooner* group, the *scarce* group, and the *scarcely* group in each text [Nr of Os stands for The Number of Occurrences]

the first half of the sixteenth century [the first period]		the second half of the sixteenth century [the second period]		the first half of the seventeenth century [the third period]	
author, publication date, and the name of the text	Nr of Os	author, publication date, and the name of the text	Nr of Os	author, publication date, and the name of the text	Nr of Os
<i>no sooner . . . but</i>		<i>no sooner . . . but</i>		<i>no sooner . . . but</i>	
Anonymous (?1528) <i>Howleglas</i>	1	Ralph Robinson (1551) <i>Utopia</i>	1	Thomas Dekker (1603) <i>The Wonderfull Yeare</i>	5
		Stephen Gosson (1579) <i>The School of Abuse</i>	1	Francis Bacon (1605) <i>The Advancement of Learning</i>	3
		John Lyly (1580) <i>Euphues and His England</i>	3	Thomas Dekker (1609) <i>The Guls Horn-Booke</i>	2
		Robert Greene (1588) <i>Pandosto</i>	14	Anonymous (1611) <i>The Holy Bible</i>	1
		Robert Greene (1589) <i>The Spanish Masquerado</i>	5	John Smith (1612) <i>A Map of Virginia</i>	1
		Thomas Lodge (1590) <i>Rosalynde</i>	11	Ralph Hamor (1615) <i>The Present Estate of Virginia</i>	5
		Sir Philip Sidney (1590) <i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>	4	Ester Sowernam (1617) <i>Ester hath hang'd Haman</i>	3
		Sir Walter Raleigh (1591) <i>Last Fight of the Revenge at Sea</i>	1	George Peele (1620) <i>Merrie conceited Jests</i>	3
		Robert Greene (1592) <i>The Blacke Booke's Messenger</i>	1	Edward Bennett (c1620) <i>the Importation of Tobacco</i>	2
		Henrie Chettle (1592) <i>Kind-Harts Dreame</i>	2	Colonel Norwood (1649) <i>A Voyage to Virginia</i>	8

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		Thomas Nashe (1592) <i>Pierce Penilesse</i>	1			
		Thomas Nashe (1594) <i>The Vnfortunate Traueller</i>	2			
		Robert Greene (1596) <i>Greenes Groats-worth of Wit</i>	3			
		Christopher Middleton (1597) <i>Chinon of England</i>	2			
		Thomas Deloney (1597) <i>The Gentle Craft, Part I</i>	2			
		Thomas Deloney (1597) <i>Thomas of Reading</i>	1			
		William Kemp (1600) <i>Nine daies wonder</i>	1			
	Subtotal	1	Subtotal	55	Subtotal	33
	<i>no sooner . . . but that</i>	<i>no sooner . . . but that</i>		<i>no sooner . . . but that</i>		
		Sir Philip Sidney (1590) <i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>	17			
		Thomas Deloney (1597) <i>The Gentle Craft, Part I</i>	2			
	Subtotal	0	Subtotal	19	Subtotal	0
	<i>no sooner . . . than</i>	<i>no sooner . . . than</i>		<i>no sooner . . . than</i>		
		Anonymous (1583) <i>The Mirroure of Mirth</i>	1	Joseph Hall (1608) <i>Characters of Virtues and Vices</i>	2	
		Sir Philip Sidney (1590) <i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>	1			
		Thomas Nashe (1592) <i>Pierce Penilesse</i>	1			

Subtotal	0	Subtotal	3	Subtotal	2
<i>scarce . . . before</i>		<i>scarce . . . before</i>		<i>scarce . . . before</i>	
		Thomas Lodge (1590) <i>Rosalynde</i>	1		
		Sir Philip Sidney (1590) <i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>	1		
Subtotal	0	Subtotal	2	Subtotal	0
<i>scarce . . . but</i>		<i>scarce . . . but</i>		<i>scarce . . . but</i>	
		John Lyly (1580) <i>Euphues and His England</i>	1		
		Sir Walter Raleigh (1591) <i>Last Fight of the Revenge at Sea</i>	1		
		Thomas Nashe (1594) <i>The Vnfortunate Traueller</i>	2		
		Robert Greene (1596) <i>Greens Groats-worth of Wit</i>	2		
Subtotal	0	Subtotal	6	Subtotal	0
<i>scarce . . . but that</i>		<i>scarce . . . but that</i>		<i>scarce . . . but that</i>	
		Robert Greene (1588) <i>Pandosto</i>	1		
Subtotal	0	Subtotal	1	Subtotal	0
<i>scarce . . . ere</i>		<i>scarce . . . ere</i>		<i>scarce . . . ere</i>	
		Robert Greene (1588) <i>Pandosto</i>	1		
		Thomas Lodge (1590) <i>Rosalynde</i>	1		
Subtotal	0	Subtotal	2	Subtotal	0
<i>scarce . . . than</i>		<i>scarce . . . than</i>		<i>scarce . . . than</i>	
William Tyndale (1530) <i>Tyndale's 1530 Pentateuch</i>	1				

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Subtotal	1	Subtotal	0	Subtotal	0
<i>scarce . . . that</i>		<i>scarce . . . that</i>		<i>scarce . . . that</i>	
				Anonymous (1611) <i>The Holy Bible</i>	2
Subtotal	0	Subtotal	0	Subtotal	2
<i>scarce . . . when</i>		<i>scarce . . . when</i>		<i>scarce . . . when</i>	
		John Lyly (1580) <i>Euphues and His England</i>	1		
		Sir Philip Sidney (1590) <i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>	1		
		Thomas Nashe (1592) <i>Pierce Penilesse</i>	1		
Subtotal	0	Subtotal	3	Subtotal	0
<i>scarcely . . . before</i>		<i>scarcely . . . before</i>		<i>scarcely . . . before</i>	
		Robert Greene (1589) <i>The Spanish Masquerado</i>	1		
		Sir Philip Sidney (1590) <i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>	1		
Subtotal	0	Subtotal	2	Subtotal	
<i>scarcely . . . but that</i>		<i>scarcely . . . but that</i>		<i>scarcely . . . but that</i>	
		Sir Philip Sidney (1590) <i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>	2		
Subtotal	0	Subtotal	2	Subtotal	0
<i>scarcely . . . when</i>		<i>scarcely . . . when</i>		<i>scarcely . . . when</i>	
		Sir Philip Sidney (1590) <i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>	4		
Subtotal	0	Subtotal	4	Subtotal	0

that one thing happened immediately after another.”<sup>10</sup> The explanation on the usage of *no sooner . . . than* is similar to both of the above. “*No sooner* is also used, especially in writing, to say that one event happens immediately after another. *No sooner* usually goes in front of the main verb in the first clause. The second clause begins with *than*.”<sup>11</sup> Judging from these explanations, *Collins COBUILD English Usage* seems to suggest that *no sooner . . . than*, *scarcely . . . when*, and *hardly . . . when* can be used in exactly the same way. Therefore, the choice of these conjunctions depends on the author’s preference. For this reason, it is not surprising that some authors exclusively use *no sooner . . . than*. Thus, this explanation can be applied to the fact that *no sooner . . . but* is preferred in the Early Modern English period.

It is often said that *no sooner . . . but* is in competition with *no sooner . . . than*. However, the number of instances in which *no sooner . . . than* is used is so small throughout the three periods as shown in Table 2 that there is almost no competition between *no sooner . . . but* and *no sooner . . . than*.

The conjunctions both *scarce . . . but* and *scarcely . . . but* seem to have been produced as a result of the blending of *no sooner . . . but* and the *scarce* group, and that of *no sooner . . . but* and the *scarcely* group respectively. Similarly, the conjunction *scarce . . . than* seems to have been produced as a result of the blending of *no sooner . . . than* and the *scarce* group.

Concerning the conjunctions which belong to either the *scarce* group such as *scarce . . . before*, *scarce . . . but*, *scarce . . . but that*, *scarce . . . ere*, *scarce . . . than*, *scarce . . . that*, *scarce . . . when*, or the *scarcely* group such as *scarcely . . . before*, *scarcely . . . but that*, *scarcely . . . when*, each of them occurs infrequently. So the number of instances is quite small respectively.

*No sooner*, *scarce*, and *scarcely* are all negative adverbs, that is, adverbs



with a negative meaning. Hence, each of them is usually placed between the auxiliary verb and the main verb. As a general rule, when each of them is placed at the beginning of a sentence or clause, it results in inverted word order between the subject and the verb phrase.

11)for *no sooner* came Saladyne and he to the gates, *but* Rosader, unlooked for, leaped out and assailed them, wounded many of them, and caused the rest to give back, so that Adam and he broke through the prease [= crowd (prease is archaic spelling of press)] in despite of them all, and took their way towards the forest of Arden.

[*Rosalynde*, p. 56] [the simple past + the simple past, Inversion]

12)for *no sooner* shall that divine hand touch thee, *but that* thy baseness shall be turned to most high preferment.

[*The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, p. 155]

[the simple present + the simple present, Inversion]

In this example, the auxiliary verb *shall* is used both in the first and second clauses.

13)*No sooner* was this perswaded, *than* performed: for enuie that is neuer idle, could not sleepe in his wrath, or ouer-slip the least opportunitie, till hee had seene the confusion of his enimie.

[*Pierce Penilesse*] [the simple past + the simple past, Inversion]

14) *Scarce* had Rosalynde ended her madrigal, *before* Torismond came in with his daughter Alinda and many of the peers of France, who were enamoured [= fascinated] of her beauty; [*Rosalynde*, p. 28]

[the past perfect + the simple past, Inversion]

15) *Scarce* had I propounded [= offered] these articles vnto him, *but* he was beginning his blasphemous abiurations [= forswearing].

[*The Vnfortunate Traueller*, p. 326]

[the past perfect + the past continuous, Inversion]

In TYPE IV, the simple past tense is usually used in the second clause, but in this example the past continuous tense is used.

16) And with these sayings *scarce* restrained they the people, *that* they had not done sacrifice unto them.

[*The Holy Bible, The Acts*, Ch. 14]

[the simple past + the past perfect, Inversion]

In this example the past perfect tense is used in the second clause, despite the fact that the simple past tense is used in the first clause. Thus, this example cannot belong to any of the four types mentioned in § 4.

17) Two hungry turnes had I *scarce* fetcht in this wast gallery, *when* I was encountred by a neat pedantical fellow, in forme of a Cittizen: who thrusting himselfe abruptly into my companie like an Intelligencer, began very earnestly to question with me about the cause of my discontent, or what made me so sad, that seemed too yong to be acquainted with sorrow.

[*Pierce Penilisse*] [the past perfect + the simple past]

In this example, “Two hungry turnes” as the object of the past participle “fetcht” is placed at the beginning of the sentence, so the inverted word order takes place.

18) for *scarcely* were they out of the confines of Pontus *but that*, as they rid alone armed (for alone they went, one serving the other), they met an adventure, which though not so notable for any great effect they performed, yet worthy to be remembered for the unused examples therein, as well of true goodness, as of wretched ungratefulness.

[*The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, p. 179]

Table 3. The number of inversion in the three periods

the first half of the sixteenth century [the first period]	the second half of the sixteenth century [the second period]	the first half of the seventeenth century [the third period]
<i>no sooner . . . but</i>	<i>no sooner . . . but</i>	<i>no sooner . . . but</i>
0 out of 1	7 out of 55	12 out of 33
<i>no sooner . . . but that</i>	<i>no sooner . . . but that</i>	<i>no sooner . . . but that</i>
	1 out of 19	
<i>no sooner . . . than</i>	<i>no sooner . . . than</i>	<i>no sooner . . . than</i>
	1 out of 3	0 out of 2
<i>scarce . . . before</i>	<i>scarce . . . before</i>	<i>scarce . . . before</i>
	1 out of 2	
<i>scarce . . . but</i>	<i>scarce . . . but</i>	<i>scarce . . . but</i>
	1 out of 6	
<i>scarce . . . but that</i>	<i>scarce . . . but that</i>	<i>scarce . . . but that</i>
	0 out of 1	
<i>scarce . . . ere</i>	<i>scarce . . . ere</i>	<i>scarce . . . ere</i>
	0 out of 2	
<i>scarce . . . than</i>	<i>scarce . . . than</i>	<i>scarce . . . than</i>
0 out of 1		
<i>scarce . . . that</i>	<i>scarce . . . that</i>	<i>scarce . . . that</i>
		1 out of 2
<i>scarce . . . when</i>	<i>scarce . . . when</i>	<i>scarce . . . when</i>
	1 out of 3	
<i>scarcely . . . before</i>	<i>scarcely . . . before</i>	<i>scarcely . . . before</i>
	0 out of 2	
<i>scarcely . . . but that</i>	<i>scarcely . . . but that</i>	<i>scarcely . . . but that</i>
	1 out of 2	
<i>scarcely . . . when</i>	<i>scarcely . . . when</i>	<i>scarcely . . . when</i>
	2 out of 4	

[the simple past + the simple past, Inversion, Inversion]

19) *scarcely*, think I, had I spoken these words *when* the ladies came forth;  
at which sight, I think the very words returned back again to strike my  
soul—[*The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, p. 107]

[the past perfect + the simple past, Inversion]

Table 3 indicates how often the inverted word order occurs when either *no sooner*, *scarce*, or *scarcely* is placed at the beginning of a sentence or clause. When a space is blank, it means that it has no instances.

### 3. The Tenses in the First and Second Clauses

For the conjunctions belonging to GROUP I, the first clause when it begins with one of those conjunctions is the subordinate clause and the second clause is the main clause. On the other hand, as for the conjunctions belonging to GROUP II, the first clause when it begins with *no sooner*, *scarce*, or *scarcely* is the main clause. Firstly, because *no sooner*, *scarce*, and *scarcely* are all adverbs with a negative sense, the inverted word order usually occurs when it comes at the beginning of a clause or sentence. On the other hand, *no sooner*, *scarce*, or *scarcely* is placed between the auxiliary verb and the main verb when it does not come at the beginning of a clause or sentence. Secondly, because *before*, *but*, *but that*, *ere*, *than*, *that*, or *when* usually comes at the beginning of another clause, thus, they such as *before*, *but* are considered to be more of a real conjunction in comparison with *no sooner*, *scarce*, and *scarcely*. Therefore, the second clause becomes the subordinate clause. *Sanseido's Dictionary of Present-day English Usage* comments that “in depicting a past action or event using *hardly/scarcely* . . . *when/before*, the past perfect tense is used in the main clause, while the simple past tense is used in the subordinate clause.” [e.g. *Scarcely* had he arrived at Government House in Hong Kong, *when* Patten, 48, delivered the equivalent of a slap to the shell-shocked patient.]<sup>12</sup>

Table 4 shows the above explanation more clearly.

Table 4. The phrases or words in the subordinate and main clauses

GROUP I		GROUP II	
the clause beginning with <i>as soon as,</i> <i>as soon as ever,</i> <i>so soon as,</i> <i>as fast as,</i> or <i>anon as</i>	corresponding another clause	the clause beginning with <i>no sooner,</i> <i>scarcely,</i> or <i>scarcely</i>	the clause beginning with <i>before, but,</i> <i>but that, ere,</i> <i>than, that,</i> or <i>when</i>
subordinate clause	main clause	main clause	subordinate clause

The tenses in the main clause and the subordinate clause are classified into four types as follows:

- TYPE I: the simple present + the simple present (common) or  
the simple present + will/shall + the main verb (very rare)
- TYPE II: the simple past + the simple past (common) or  
the simple past + the simple present as a historical present  
(very rare)
- TYPE III: the present perfect + the simple present (common) or  
the present perfect + the present perfect (very rare)
- TYPE IV: the past perfect + the simple past (common) or  
the past perfect + the past perfect (very rare) or  
the past perfect + the present perfect (very rare)

According to Present-day English reference books or dictionaries on usage, *as soon as* is the most commonly used conjunction and it co-occurs with the tenses in any of these four types. On the other hand, *no sooner . . . than*, and *scarcely . . . when/before* are interchangeable, and they co-occur quite often with the tenses in TYPE IV.

For *as soon as*, it co-occurs with the tenses in any of these four types. Nevertheless, in the first period co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE II

and TYPE IV ranks first [48 instances each], while in the second and third periods co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE II [56 instances and 24 instances each] ranks first, while co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE IV [30 instances and 21 instances each] ranks second. As for *as soon as ever*, it is difficult to decide its ranking since the number of instances is too small in each of the three periods. Concerning *so soon as* in the second period, co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE IV [13 instances] ranks first, whereas co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE II [12 instances] ranks second. However, it is difficult to decide the ranking in the third period because the number of instances is too small. Similarly, as regards both *as fast as* in the second period and *anon as* in the first period, it is also difficult to decide the ranking as the number of instances is too small.

As for *no sooner . . . but* in the second and third periods, co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE II [27 instances and 20 instances each] ranks first, while co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE IV [20 instances and 7 instances each] ranks second. For *no sooner . . . but* in the first period, however it is impossible to decide the ranking since the number of instances is only one. Concerning *no sooner . . . but that* in the second period, co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE IV [9 instances] ranks first, while co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE II [7 instances] ranks second. Regarding *no sooner . . . than* in the second and third periods, it is difficult to decide the ranking because the number of instances is too small.

Regarding group conjunctions beginning with either *scarce* or *scarcely*, the number of their instances is quite small. As for the *scarce* group in the second period, co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE IV [8 instances] ranks first, while co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE II [3 instances] ranks second. However, in the first and third periods, it is difficult to

Table 5. The number of occurrences of each conjunction in each TYPE from the first period until the third period

the first half of the sixteenth century [the first period]				the second half of the sixteenth century [the second period]				the first half of the seventeenth century [the third period]			
TYPE I	TYPE II	TYPE III	TYPE IV	TYPE I	TYPE II	TYPE III	TYPE IV	TYPE I	TYPE II	TYPE III	TYPE IV
<i>as soon as</i>				<i>as soon as</i>				<i>as soon as</i>			
19	48	6	48	21	56	2	30	12	24	3	21
<i>as soon as ever</i>				<i>as soon as ever</i>				<i>as soon as ever</i>			
1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
<i>so soon as</i>				<i>so soon as</i>				<i>so soon as</i>			
0	0	0	0	6	12	0	13	1	2	0	0
<i>as fast as</i>				<i>as fast as</i>				<i>as fast as</i>			
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>anon as</i>				<i>anon as</i>				<i>anon as</i>			
1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>no sooner . . . but</i>				<i>no sooner . . . but</i>				<i>no sooner . . . but</i>			
1	0	0	0	6	27	2	20	5	20	1	7
<i>no sooner . . . but that</i>				<i>no sooner . . . but that</i>				<i>no sooner . . . but that</i>			
0	0	0	0	3	7	0	9	0	0	0	0
<i>no sooner . . . than</i>				<i>no sooner . . . than</i>				<i>no sooner . . . than</i>			
0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0
<i>scarce . . . than</i>				<i>scarce . . . before/but/but that/ere/when</i>				<i>scarce . . . that</i>			
0	0	0	1	2	3	0	8	0	1	0	1
<i>scarcely . . . before/but that/when</i>				<i>scarcely . . . before/but that/when</i>				<i>scarcely . . . before/but that/when</i>			
0	0	0	0	0	5	1	2	0	0	0	0

decide the ranking because the number of the instances in each period is too small. On the other hand, as regards the *scarcely* group in the second period, co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE II [5 instances] ranks first, while co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE IV [2 instances]



ranks second. As regards the relationship between the tenses and each conjunction of the *scarce* group and *scarcely* group, refer to the Appendix at the end of this article.

20) The judge of blood shall slay the murderer, *as soon as* he findeth him:

[*Tyndale's 1530 Pentateuch: Numbers*, Ch. 25]

[the simple present + the simple present]

In this example, the auxiliary verb *shall* is used in the second clause.

21) *As soon as* he came home, his wife asked for her child.

[*Tales and Quick Answers*, p. 309]

[the simple past + the simple past]

22) For *as soon as* he hath looked on himself, he goeth his way, and forgetteth immediately what his fashion was.

[*Tyndale's New Testament: James*, Ch. 1]

[the present perfect + the simple present]

23) For the whiche occasion, Aristotel, moost sharpest witted and excellent lerned Philosopher, *as sone as* he had receiued Alexander from kynge Philip his father, he before any other thyng taught hym the moost noble warkes of Homere: [*The Boke Named The Gouvernour*, p. 59]

[the past perfect + the simple past]

24) For, *as soone as euer* he came within her sight with shooes, a sudden blush like vnto a flame of lightning would strike in her face, and at his departure an earthly pale colour, like to the beames of the bright Sunne obscured by cole blacke clouds. [*The Gentle Craft, Part I*, p. 121]

[the simple past + the simple past]

25) You must also haue one in your companie with a sheet, that *so soone as* the feete of the Roe [= small European deer] bee cut of, as aforesaide,

hee may take the bodie home, which will make delicate meate, if your Cooke season it, lard it, and bake it well. [*A Short Treatise of Hunting*] [the simple present + the simple present]

26) In the morning, *so soone as* the clothiers [= a seller of men's clothes] came to the field, they found that they were robd, whereupon [= immediately] one ranne to another to tell these tidings. [*Thomas of Reading*, p. 308] [the simple past + the simple past]

27) *So soone as* he had spoken this, they heard one knocking hastily at doore: whereupon [= immediately] hee sent *Florence* to see who it was, the Maiden comming againe, told her Master it was one of my Lord Maiors Officers that would speake with him. [*The Gentle Craft, Part I*, p. 155] [the past perfect + the simple past]

28) You must not think of us as of those in your own countrey, that *no sooner* are out of the cradle, *but* they are sent to the court, and wooed sometimes before they are weaned; which bringeth both the nation and their names not their names not in question only of dishonesty, but into obloquy.

[*Euphues and His England*, p. 346 ]

[the simple present + the simple present]

29) *Bellaria no sooner* heard the rigorous [= strict] resolution of her mercilesse husband, *but* she fell downe in a swoond, so that all thought she had bin dead: [*Pandosto: The Triumph of Time*, p. 252]

[the simple past + the simple past]

30) You are *no sooner* entred, *but* libertie looseth the reynes [= reins], and geues [= gives] you head, placing you with Poetrie in the lowest forme: [*The School of Abuse*] [the present perfect (BE-Perfect) + the simple present]

- 31) She had *no sooner* spake this word, *but* Montanus threw away his garland of willow, his bottle, where was painted despair, and cast his sonnets in the fire, showing himself as frolic as Paris when he handselled his love with Helena. [*Rosalynde*, p. 159]  
[the past perfect + the simple past]
- 32) The sound to this strange air *no sooner* goes / *But that* it doth with echo's force rebound / And make me hear the plaints I would refrain:  
[*The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, p. 229]  
[the simple present + the simple present]
- 33) But he was *no sooner* out of the door *but that* I looked to the door kindly.  
[*The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, p. 156]  
[the simple past + the simple past]
- 34) but they had *no sooner* shaken off their dropping wet garments on the shore, *but that* they were assaulted by a sort of monstrous men that had but one eie a piece, [*The Gentle Craft, Part I*, p. 102]  
[past perfect + simple past]
- 35) The excelling Pyrocles was *no sooner* delivered by the king's servants to a place of liberty *than* he bent his wit and courage — and what would not they bring to pass?—how either to deliver Musidorus, or to perish with him. [*The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, p. 172]  
[the simple past + the simple past]
- 36) but he was *scarce* down *before* he was up on his feet again, with brave gesture showing rising of courage in the falling of fortune.  
[*The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, p. 407]  
[the simple past + the simple past]
- 37) But stormes continually powring, hee went for succour [= aid] to the

Ant his olde acquaintance, to whome he had *scarce* discouered his estate, *but* the little worme made this replie. [*Greens Groats-worth of Wit*, p. 147] [the past perfect + the simple past]

38) *Pandosto* would *scarce* suffer him to tell out his tale, *but that* he enquired the time of the yeere, the manner of the boate, and other circumstanunces,

[*Pandosto: The Triumph of Time*, p. 315]

[the simple past + the simple past]

39) The words of Saladyne were but spurs to a free horse, for he had *scarce* uttered them, *ere* Rosader took him in his arms, taking his proffer [= offer] so kindly, that he promised in what he might to requite [= repay] his courtesy.

[*Rosalynde*, p. 15] [the past perfect + the simple past]

40) As soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was *scarce* gone out from the presence of Isaac his father: *then* [= than] came Esau his brother from his hunting: [*Tyndale's Old Testament: Genesis*, Ch. 27] [the past perfect (BE-Perfect) + the simple past]

41) He had *scarce* spoken those words *when* she ran to him; and embracing him, 'Why the, Argalus', said she, 'take thy Parthenia!'

[*The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, p. 44]

[the past perfect + the simple past]

42) that some Popes haue *scarcely* liued 2 daies, nay some one day: *before* they haue bene made away [= kill] by the Cardinals, who through enuye seeke to establish the Papall seat with blood, as did pope *Alexander* and diuers others: [*The Spanish Masqvrado*, p. 261]

[the present perfect + the present perfect]

43) Basilius, whose senses by desire were held open, and conceit was by

love quickened, heard *scarcely* half her answer out *but that*, as if speedy flight might save his life, he turned away and ran with all the speed his body would suffer him towards his daughter Philoclea,

[*The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, p. 227]

[the simple past + the simple past]

44) But the next morning, we, having striven with the sun's earliness, were *scarcely* beyond the prospect of the high turrets of that building *when* there overtook us a young gentleman—for so he seemed to us.

[*The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, p. 260]

[the simple past + the simple past]

#### 4. *As soon as, so soon as, and as fast as* that function as adverbial modifiers to indicate the same degree or as intensifiers

Besides being used as conjunctions as mentioned above, *as soon as, so soon as, and as fast as* function as adverbial modifiers to indicate the same degree. Examples of *as soon as* can be seen in *Eupheus and His England* (one instance), *Rosalynde* (one instance), *The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia* (one instance), *The Gentle Craft, Part I* (one instance), *Thomas of Reading* (one instance), and *A True Discourse of the Present Estate of Virginia* (one instance). Examples of *so soon as* can be seen in *The Vnfortunate Traueller* (one instance). Examples of *as fast as* can be seen in *Eupheus and His England* (one instance), *Pandosto* (2 instances), *Pierce Penillesse* (one instance), *The Vnfortunate Traueller* (one instance), and *The Advancement of Learning* (one instance). These examples first occur in 1580 according to my research and appear sporadically ever since.

In addition, *as soon as, so soon as, and as fast as* are used as intensifiers in the form of *as soon as one can, so soon as one can, or as fast as one could*.

Examples of *as soon as one can* can be found in *Kind-Harts Dreame* (one instance), examples of *so soon as one can* in *The Gentle Craft, Part I* (one instance), and examples of *as fast as one could* in *Pandosto* (one instance).

45) But when, Philautus, thou shalt see that change of friendships shall make thee a fat calf and a lean coffer [= a large strongbox for valuables], that there is no more hold in a new friend than a new fashion, that hats alter *as fast as* the turner can turn his block, and hearts *as soon as* one can turn his back, when seeing everyone return to his old wearing and find it the best, then compelled rather for want of others than good will of me thou wilt retire to Euphues, whom thou laidest by the walls, and seek him again as a new friend;

[*Euphues and His England*, p. 306]

In this example, both *as fast as* and *as soon as* are used to indicate the same degree.

46) He would cracke neckes *as fast as* a cooke cracks egges: a fiddler cannot turne his pin *so soone as* he would turn a man of the ladder.

[*The Vnfortunate Traueller*, p. 327]

In this example, both *as fast as* and *so soone as* are used to indicate the same degree.

47) With Robin Greene it passes Kindharts capacity to deale; for as I knowe not the reason of his vnrest: so will I not intermeddle [= intervene] in the cause: but *as soone as I can* conuey [= carry or transport] his letter, where it should be deliuered. [*Kind-Harts Dreame*]

In this example, the part beginning with but *as soone as I can* seems to mean that I will deliver his letter as soon as I can to the place where it should be delivered.

48) He met by chance in his way *Capnio*, who, trudging *as fast as he could* with a little coffer [= a large strongbox for valuables] vnder his arme to the ship, and spying *Porrus* whome he knewe to be *Fawnias* Father, going towardes the Pallace, being a wylie fellow, began to doubt the worst, and therefore crost [= crossed] him the way, and askt him whither he was going so earely this morning. [*Pandosto*, p. 296]

In this example, the adverbial phrase *as fast as he could* is used to modify *trudging* as an intensifier.

### III

Thus far I have discussed the conjunctions introducing an adverbial clause of time that are used to talk about two actions or events that take place one after the other on the basis of 7 prose texts in the first half of the sixteenth century, 22 prose texts in the second half of the sixteenth century and 12 prose texts in the first half of the seventeenth century. The points I have clarified could be summarized as below.

For GROUP I, *as soon as* is dominant over *so soon as* throughout the three periods: 121 instances vs. 0 instances in the first period; 109 instances vs. 31 instances in the second period; 60 instances vs. 3 instances in the third period. Nonetheless, the second period saw a comparatively large number of instances compared with the other two periods. The instances of *as soon as ever* can be seen in each of the three periods, but their occurrences are quite rare: one instance in the first period, 4 instances in the second period and one instance in the third period. A single instance of *as fast as* can be seen in 1600. The instances of *anon as* are very rare [3 instances] and it does not occur after 1534.

As regards Group II, *no sooner . . . but* is dominant over *no sooner . . .*

*than* both in the second and third periods: 55 instances vs. 3 instances; 33 instances vs. 2 instances. In the first period the instance of *no sooner . . . but* occurs only once but the instance of *no sooner . . . than* does not occur until 1583. The instances of *no sooner . . . but that* occur first in the 1590s [19 instances].

For the *scarce* group, a single instance of *scarce . . . than* can be seen in 1530 and this is the only instance throughout the three periods. In the second period *scarce . . . before*, *scarce . . . but*, *scarce . . . but that*, *scarce . . . ere* and *scarce . . . when* can be seen between the 1580s and 1590s: 2 instances, 6 instances, one instance, 2 instances and 3 instances each. In the third period the occurrence of the *scarce* group decreases drastically and only 2 instances of *scarce . . . that* occur in 1611. On the other hand, the instances of the *scarcely* group occur in the second period alone and all three kinds, *scarcely . . . before*, *scarcely . . . but that* and *scarcely . . . when* can be seen: 2 instances, 2 instances, and 4 instances respectively.

The relationship between the tenses and the conjunctions in the first and second clauses is sometimes difficult to decide because the number of instances is too small. Such cases are not mentioned here.

As for *as soon as* in the first period, co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE II [the simple past + the simple past, 48 instances] and TYPE IV [the past perfect + the simple past, 48 instances] ranks first each. In the second and third periods, co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE II [56 instances and 24 instances each] ranks first, while co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE IV [30 instances and 21 instances each] ranks second. As for *so soon as* in the second period, co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE IV [13 instances] ranks first, while co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE II [12 instances] ranks second.



As regards *no sooner . . . but* in the second and third periods, co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE II [27 instances and 20 instances each] ranks first, while co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE IV [20 instances and 7 instances each] ranks second.

For *no sooner . . . but that* in the second period, co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE IV [9 instances] ranks first, while co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE II [7 instances] ranks second. Concerning the *scarce* group in the second period, co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE IV [8 instances] ranks first, while co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE II [3 instances] ranks second. Regarding the *scarcely* group in the second period, co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE II [5 instances] ranks first, while co-occurrence with the tenses in TYPE IV [2 instances] ranks second.

*As soon as, so soon as, and as fast as* function not only as conjunctions but also as adverbial modifiers to indicate the same degree, while *as soon as* and *as fast as* are also used as intensifiers in the form of *as soon as one can, so soon as one can, or as fast as one could*.

## Notes

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1. See *A Literary History of England* (1948: 432).
2. See *A Literary History of England* (1948: 367).
3. See *The Oxford English Dictionary*, Second Edition. on CD-ROM. (s.v. *ever* adv. 8.c.).
4. The examples 9 and 10 are taken from *The Works of Sir Thomas Malory*, The Third Edition.
5. See *The Oxford English Dictionary*, Second Edition. on CD-ROM. (s.v. *anon* adv. 4.b.).

6. See Fischer (1992: 355). “4.6.3.4. Temporal clauses.” *The Cambridge History of the English Language, Volume II, 1066-1476*.
7. See Rissanen (1999: 314). “4.6.2.3.5 Temporal clauses.” *The Cambridge History of the English Language, Volume II, 1476-1776*.
8. See Swan (1995: 237).
9. See Konishi (2006: 107).
10. See *Collins COBUILD English Usage* (1992: 286 & 613).
11. See *Collins COBUILD English Usage* (1992: 645).
12. See Konishi (2006: 106-107).

### Texts Examined

The first half of the sixteenth century

- 1) Sir Thomas More (1513) *The History of King Richard the Third*.  
<http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/r3.html>
- 2) Anonymous (1526) “A Hundred Merry Tales.” *A Hundred Merry Tales and Other English Jestbooks of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries*. Ed. by P. M. Zall. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1963. pp. 64 - 150.
- 3) Anonymous (?1528) “Howleglas.” *A Hundred Merry Tales and Other English Jestbooks of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries*. Ed. by P. M. Zall. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1963. pp. 156 - 237.
- 4) William Tyndale (1530) “Tyndale’s 1530 Pentateuch.” *Tyndale’s Old Testament*. ed. by David Daniel. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1992. 15-305. [The First Book of Moses, called Genesis; The Second Book of Moses, called Exodus; The Third Book of Moses, called Leviticus; The Fourth Book of Moses, called Numbers; The Fifth Book of Moses, called Deuteronomy]
- 5) Sir Thomas Elyot (1531) *The Boke Named The Governour* 2 volumes. Ed. by Henry Herbert Stephen Croft. New York: Burt Franklin, 1967. pp. 1 - 306 (Vol. I), pp. 1 - 448 (Vol. II).
- 6) William Tyndale (1534) *Tyndale’s New Testament*. ed. by David Daniell. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1989. 21-390. [from The Gospel of St Matthew to The Revelation of St John the Divine]
- 7) Anonymous (?1535) “Tales and Quick Answers” *A Hundred Merry Tales and Other English Jestbooks of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries*. Ed. by P. M. Zall. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1963. pp. 246 - 322.

The second half of the sixteenth century

- 1) Ralph Robinson Trans. (1551) *Utopia* by Sir Thomas More. New York: Alfred A. Knoph, 1992. Rep. of 1910. pp. 13 - 137.
- 2) William Roper (c1557) *The Life of Sir Thomas Moore, knighte*. EETS.OS. 197. Ed. by Elsie Hitchcock. London: Oxford University Press, 1958. Rep. of 1935. pp. 5 - 104.
- 3) Sir Thomas Hobby Trans. (1561) *The Book of the Courtier* by Themistocles. 4 Books.  
<http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/courtier/courtier.html>
- 4) Anonymous (1567) "Merry Tales . . . Made by Master Skelton." *A Hundred Merry Tales and Other English Jestbooks of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries*. Ed. by P. M. Zall. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1963. pp. 327 - 348.
- 5) Stephen Gosson (1579) *The School of Abuse*.  
<http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/gosson.1.html>
- 6) John Lyly (1580) "Eupheus and His England." *Euphues: The Anatomy of Wit Euphues & His England*. Ed. by Morris W. Croll and Harry Clemons. New York: Russell & Russell, 1964. Rep. of 1916. pp. 205 - 462.
- 7) Bonaventure Des Périers (1583) "Selections from the Mirroure of Mirth." *A Hundred Merry Tales and Other English Jestbooks of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries*. Ed. by P. M. Zall. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1963. pp. 353 - 390.
- 8) Robert Greene (1588) "Pandosto: The Triumph of Time." *The Life and Complete Works in Prose and Verse of Robert Greene, M.A.* Vol. IV. Ed. by Alexander B. Crosart. New York: Russell & Russell, 1964. pp. 233 - 317.
- 9) Robert Greene (1589) "The Spanish Masquerado." *The Life and Complete Works in Prose and Verse of Robert Greene, M.A.* Vol. V. Ed. by Alexander B. Crosart. New York: Russell & Russell, 1964. pp. 247 - 288.
- 10) Thomas Lodge (1590) *Rosalynde, or Euphues Golden Legacie*. Ed. by W. W. Greg. London: Chatto and Windus, Publishers, 1907. 1 - 165.
- 11) Sir Philip Sidney (1590) *The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia (The New Arcadia)*. Ed. by Vivtor Skretkowicz. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987. pp. 3 - 465. & 472 - 505.
- 12) Sir Thomas Cockaine (1591) *A Short Treatise of Hunting*.  
<http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/hunting/cockaine.html>
- 13) Sir Walter Raleigh (1591) *Last Fight of the Revenge at Sea*.  
<http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/raleigh.1.html>
- 14) Robert Greene (1592) "The Blacke Booke's Messenger." *The Life and Complete Works in Prose and Verse of Robert Greene, M.A.* Vol. XI. Ed. by Alexander B. Crosart. New

York: Russell & Russell, 1964. pp. 9 - 37.

- 15) Henrie Chettle (1592) *Kind-Harts Dreame*.  
<http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/kind.html>
- 16) Thomas Nashe (1592) *Pierce Penilesse, His Supplication to the Devil*.  
<http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/nashe.1.html>
- 17) Thomas Nashe (1594) "The Vnfortunate Traueller." *The Works of Thomas Nashe*. Vol. II. Ed. by Ronald McKerrow. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1958. pp. 209 - 328.
- 18) Robert Greene (1596) "Greenes Groats-worth of Wit." *The Life and Complete Works in Prose and Verse of Robert Greene, M.A.* Vol. XI. Ed. by Alexander B. Crosart. New York: Russell & Russell, 1964. pp. 103 - 150.
- 19) Christopher Middleton (1597) "The Famous Historie of Chinon of England." *The Famous Historie of Chinon of England together with The Assertion of King Arthure*. EETS.OS. 165. Ed. by William Edward Mead. New York: Kraus Reprint CO., 1971. Rep. of 1925. pp. 5 - 68.
- 20) Thomas Deloney (1597) "The Gentle Craft, Part I." *The Novels of Thomas Deloney*. Ed. by Merritt E. Lawlis. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1961. pp. 93 - 169.
- 21) Thomas Deloney (1597) "Thomas of Reading." *The Novels of Thomas Deloney*. Ed. by Merritt E. Lawlis. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1961. pp. 269 - 343.
- 22) William Kemp (1600) *Kemps Nine Daies Wonder*.  
<http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/kemp.html>

The first half of the seventeenth century

- 1) Thomas Dekker (1603) *The Wonderfulfull Yeare*.  
<http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/yeare.html>
- 2) Francis Bacon (1605) *The Advancement of Learning*.  
<http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/adv.1.htm>
- 3) Joseph Hall (1608) *Characters of Virtues and Vices*.  
<http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/hallch.htm>
- 4) Thomas Dekker (1609) *The Guls Horn-Booke*.  
<http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/dekker2.html>
- 5) Anonymous (1611) *The Holy Bible*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 1 - 943 (The Old Testament) & pp.3-291 (The New Testament).
- 6) John Smith (1612) *A Map of Virginia*.  
<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/etcbin/toccer-new?id=J1008.xml&images=images/moden>
- 7) Ralph Hamor (1615) *A True Discourse of the Present Estate of Virginia*.

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toccer-new?id=J1004.xml&images=images/moden>

- 8) Ester Sovernam (1617) *Ester hath hang'd Haman*.  
<http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/este.htm>
- 9) George Peele (1620) *Merrie Conceited Jests*.  
[http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/peele\\_1.html](http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/peele_1.html)
- 10) Edward Benett (c1620) *A Treatise Divided into Three Parts, Touching the Inconveniences, That the Importation of Tobacco out of Spain, Hath Brought into This Land*.  
<http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/tobacco.html>
- 11) Francis Bacon (1625) *The Essays Or Counsels, Civil and Moral*. Ed. by John Pitcher. London: Penguin Books, 1985. pp. 61 - 233.
- 12) Colonel Norwood (1649) *A Voyage to Virginia*.  
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## APPENDIX

Table 6 is a full version of Table 5. The number of occurrences of each conjunction in each TYPE from the first period until the third period, and shows how often each conjunction occurs in each TYPE on the basis of individual text.

Table 6. The number of occurrences of each conjunction in each TYPE on the  
 basis of individual text from the first period until the third period

the first half of the sixteenth century [the first period]				the second half of the sixteenth century [the second period]				the first half of the seventeenth century [the third period]			
TYPE I	TYPE II	TYPE III	TYPE IV	TYPE I	TYPE II	TYPE III	TYPE IV	TYPE I	TYPE II	TYPE III	TYPE IV
<i>as soon as</i>				<i>as soon as</i>				<i>as soon as</i>			
<i>The History of King Richard the Third</i>				<i>Utopia</i>				<i>The Advancement of Learning</i>			
0	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
<i>A Hundred Merry Tales</i>				<i>The Life of Sir Thomas Moore</i>				<i>The Holy Bible</i>			
0	3	1	2	0	1	0	2	11	19	3	16
<i>Howleglas</i>				<i>The Book of the Courtier</i>				<i>The Essays Or Counsels, Civil and Moral</i>			
0	0	0	1	11	6	1	1	0	2	0	0
<i>Tyndale's 1530 Pentateuch</i>				<i>Merry Tales</i>				<i>A Voyage to Virginia</i>			
6	12	0	12	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	4
<i>The Book Named the Governor</i>				<i>The School of Abuse</i>							
6	1	0	1	1	0	0	0				
<i>Tyndale's New Testament</i>				<i>Eupheus and His England</i>							
6	26	5	30	3	0	0	0				
<i>Tales and Quick Answers</i>				<i>Pandosto: The Triumph of Time</i>							
1	1	0	1	0	7	0	3				
				<i>Rosalynde</i>							
				1	9	1	9				
				<i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>							
				3	25	0	9				
				<i>The Blacke Booke's Messenger</i>							
				1	2	0	1				
				<i>Pierce Penillesse</i>							
				0	1	0	0				

				<i>Greens Groats-worth of Wit</i>							
				0	1	0	0				
				<i>The Famous History of Chinon of England</i>							
				0	3	0	1				
				<i>Thomas of Reading</i>							
				0	0	0	3				
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
19	48	6	48	21	56	2	30	12	24	3	21
<i>as soon as ever</i>				<i>as soon as ever</i>				<i>as soon as ever</i>			
<i>A Hundred Merry Tales</i>				<i>The School of Abuse</i>				<i>The Guls Horn-Booke</i>			
1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
				<i>Pierce Penilesse</i>							
				1	0	0	0				
				<i>The Gentle Craft, Part I</i>							
				1	1	0	0				
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
<i>so soon as</i>				<i>so soon as</i>				<i>so soon as</i>			
				<i>The Mirrour of Mirth</i>				<i>The Guls Horn-Booke</i>			
				0	3	0	3	1	0	0	0
				<i>Pandosto: The Triumph of Time</i>				<i>The Present Estate of Virginia</i>			
				0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
				<i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>							
				1	0	0	1				
				<i>A Short Treatise of Hunting</i>							
				3	0	0	0				
				<i>The Famous History of Chinon of England</i>							
				0	0	0	1				
				<i>The Gentle Craft, Part I</i>							
				1	2	0	7				



				<i>Thomas of Reading</i>							
				1	6	0	1				
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
0	0	0	0	6	12	0	13	1	2	0	0
<i>as fast as</i>				<i>as fast as</i>				<i>as fast as</i>			
				<i>Nine daies wonder</i>							
				0	1	0	0				
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>anon as</i>				<i>anon as</i>				<i>anon as</i>			
<i>A Hundred Merry Tales</i>											
0	1	0	0								
<i>Tyndale's New Testament</i>											
1	1	0	0								
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>no sooner . . . but</i>				<i>no sooner . . . but</i>				<i>no sooner . . . but</i>			
<i>Howleglas</i>				<i>Utopia</i>				<i>The Wonderfull Yeare</i>			
1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	1
				<i>The School of Abuse</i>				<i>The Advancement of Learning</i>			
				0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0
				<i>Euphues and His England</i>				<i>The Guls Horn-Booke</i>			
				1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
				<i>Pandosto: The Triumph of Time</i>				<i>The Holy Bible</i>			
				0	8	0	6	0	0	1	0
				<i>The Spanish Masquerado</i>				<i>A Map of Virginia</i>			
				1	4	0	0	0	0	0	1
				<i>Rosalynde</i>				<i>The Present Estate of Virginia</i>			
				1	5	0	5	1	3	0	1
				<i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>				<i>Ester hath hang'd Haman</i>			

				0	3	0	1	0	3	0	0
				<i>Last Fight of the Revenge at Sea</i>				<i>Merrie conceited Jest</i>			
				0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0
				<i>The Blacke Booke's Messenger</i>				<i>the Importation of Tobacco</i>			
				0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
				<i>Kind-Harts Dreame</i>				<i>A Voyage to Virginia</i>			
				1	0	1	0	1	4	0	3
				<i>Pierce Penilesse</i>							
				1	0	0	0				
				<i>The Vnfortunate Traueller</i>							
				0	2	0	0				
				<i>Greenes Groats-worth of Wit</i>							
				0	1	0	2				
				<i>The Famous History of Chinon of England</i>							
				0	1	0	1				
				<i>The Gentle Craft, Part I</i>							
				0	0	0	2				
				<i>Thomas of Reading</i>							
				0	0	0	1				
				<i>Nine daies wonder</i>							
				0	1	0	0				
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
1	0	0	0	6	27	2	20	5	20	1	7
<i>no sooner . . . but that</i>				<i>no sooner . . . but that</i>				<i>no sooner . . . but that</i>			
				<i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>							
				3	6	0	8				
				<i>The Gentle Craft, Part I</i>							
				0	1	0	1				
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
0	0	0	0	3	7	0	9	0	0	0	0
<i>no sooner . . . than</i>				<i>no sooner . . . than</i>				<i>no sooner . . . than</i>			

				<i>The Mirrour of Mirth</i>				<i>Characters of Virtues and Vices</i>			
				0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
				<i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>							
				0	1	0	0				
				<i>Pierce Penilesse</i>							
				0	1	0	0				
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0
<i>scarce . . . before</i>				<i>scarce . . . before</i>				<i>scarce . . . before</i>			
				<i>Rosalynde</i>							
				0	0	0	1				
				<i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>							
				0	1	0	0				
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
<i>scarce . . . but</i>				<i>scarce . . . but</i>				<i>scarce . . . but</i>			
				<i>Euphues and His England</i>							
				1	0	0	0				
				<i>Last Fight of the Revenge at Sea</i>							
				0	1	0	0				
				<i>The Vnfortunate Traueller</i>							
				0	0	0	2				
				<i>Greens Groats-worth of Wit</i>							
				0	0	0	2				
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	0
<i>scarce . . . but that</i>				<i>scarce . . . but that</i>				<i>scarce . . . but that</i>			
				<i>Pandosto: The Triumph of Time</i>							
				0	1	0	0				
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			

0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>scarce . . . ere</i>				<i>scarce . . . ere</i>				<i>scarce . . . ere</i>			
				<i>Pandosto: The Triumph of Time</i>							
				1	0	0	0				
				<i>Rosalynde</i>							
				0	0	0	1				
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
<i>scarce . . . than</i>				<i>scarce . . . than</i>				<i>scarce . . . than</i>			
<i>Tyndale's 1530 Pentateuch</i>											
0	0	0	1								
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>scarce . . . that</i>				<i>scarce . . . that</i>				<i>scarce . . . that</i>			
								<i>The Holy Bible</i>			
								0	0	0	1
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>scarce . . . when</i>				<i>scarce . . . when</i>				<i>scarce . . . when</i>			
				<i>Euphues and His England</i>							
				0	1	0	0				
				<i>Pierce Penilesse</i>							
				0	0	0	1				
				<i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>							
				0	0	0	1				
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
<i>scarcely . . . before</i>				<i>scarcely . . . before</i>				<i>scarcely . . . before</i>			
				<i>The Spanish Masquerado</i>							
				0	0	1	0				
				<i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>							

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 from the First Half of the 16th Century until the First Half of the 17th Century  
 in English Prose Works

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				0	0	0	1				
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
<i>scarcely . . . but that</i>				<i>scarcely . . . but that</i>				<i>scarcely . . . but that</i>			
				<i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>							
				0	2	0	0				
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>scarcely . . . when</i>				<i>scarcely . . . when</i>				<i>scarcely . . . when</i>			
				<i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>							
				0	3	0	1				
Subtotal				Subtotal				Subtotal			
0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0