Jan Kochanowski University Press

The representation of the concept of flirtation and coquetry in English: An analysis based on the *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary*

Julia Landmann

University of Heidelberg

ABSTRACT

Love is as old as humanity itself. Therefore, it is not surprising that over the centuries, a great variety of words and expressions related to this subject have been coined. The *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary* (henceforth referred to as the *HTOED*) is a rich resource for those who intend to study this field from a linguistic point of view. The present analysis sets out to examine an essential domain which is related to the field of love. It will examine a comprehensive sample of 79 nouns referring to flirtation and coquetry. This has so far been neglected in current research. Besides the *HTOED*, media such as the *OED Online* and corpora of present-day English including the *BNC*, the *COCA*, the *Movie Corpus*, the *TV Corpus* and the *Soap Corpus* will be employed, in order to get a rounded picture of the etymological origin, semantics and contextual uses, including informal usage, of the sample of words under scrutiny from a historical perspective. It thus goes far beyond the scope of previous research on this area.

Keywords: lexicology, online dictionaries and corpora in lexicological research, the *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary*, vocabulary related to flirtation and coquetry.

1. Studies based on the *Historical Thesaurus of English*

By way of introduction, mention should be made of some book-length studies which rely, to a greater or lesser extent, on data collected from the *Historical Thesaurus*: Coleman (1999), Tissari (2003) and Crystal (2014). On the basis of the linguistic data belonging to the archives of the Glasgow *Historical Theasurus*

and additional linguistic documentary evidence collected from various sources such as dictionaries, newspapers, books and films, Coleman (1999) has compiled a huge collection of lexical items which have been divided into the semantic fields of love, sex and marriage, from their earliest attested uses in English until recent decades. The findings presented in Coleman's study yield a thesaurus on its own in which the words from the afore-mentioned areas are listed in chronological order. Her study is illuminating in many ways. Yet, Coleman does not further examine the use of the various lexical items under review. For example, an analysis of the contextual use of the terms in English by means of supporting linguistic documentary evidence in dictionaries such as the *OED* or corpora would have been desirable.

Tissari's study from 2003 entitled *LOVEscapes: Changes in Prototypical Senses and Cognitive Metaphors since 1500* includes one chapter which presents findings resulting from the analysis of the *Historical Thesaurus*, which was still in the production phase at the time of her research. Tissari used some data from the thesaurus in chapter fourteen about "Love in Words", in order to interpret her general findings with respect to the semantics of the word *love* against the historical background and development of the domain of *love.*

In his book *Words in Time and Place* (2014), Crystal selects fifteen semantic domains including words related to pop music, privies, oaths, and other areas. A brief section of his study is dedicated to vocabulary related to love, i.e. to terms of endearment (Crystal 2014: 103-116). He investigates the development and change of the English language over the centuries in these domains, evaluating the linguistic information which is provided by the *HTOED*. Crystal offers possible reasons why new words have occurred in English in the relevant semantic areas. In addition, he explores the etymological origin of the lexical items in the various domains and addresses the question of how they reflect the socio-cultural background of the period in which they are first recorded.

A number of articles are based on research into specific semantic domains carried out by means of the *HTOED*. Examples are Roberts (2002), O'Hare (2004), Sylvester (2006), Wild (2010), Díaz Vera (2012), Newman (2013), Allan (2015), Roberts and Sylvester (2017). The focus of Roberts's 2002 paper is on the representation of early Middle English in the *Historical Thesaurus of English*. Roberts offers illustrative linguistic examples from this period, including vocabulary from the field of war and peace. O'Hare's article from 2004 is concerned with folk classifications which can be found in the taxonomic system of lexical items referring to plants in the *Historical Thesaurus of English*, and Sylvester (2006) examines the question of whether

and to what extent social and moral attitudes are reflected by the conceptual categorization of the *Historical Thesaurus*. The focus of her study is on lexical items referring to consent, coercion and resistance in association with what she refers to as "conceptualizations of sexual contracts across time" (Sylvester 2006: 186). Wild (2010) concentrates on vocabulary from the semantic domain of childhood, while Díaz Vera (2012) investigates the metaphorical conceptualizations of jealousy in Shakespeare's plays, resulting from a close perusal of all the terms for jealousy which are recorded from 1500 to 1700 in the *HTOED*. Newman (2013) explores words denoting 'sailor' from Old English times down to the present. Allan (2015) looks at the vocabulary of education in the *HTOED*, which was subjected to essential changes over the centuries. She addresses the important issue of whether and to what extent these changes reflect different understandings of the concept itself in the history of English, and how it is associated with other related conceptual domains, such as teaching and learning. Roberts and Sylvester (2017) focus on the vocabulary of error and analyse its usage down the ages by considering the development of English orthography, its pronunciation and grammar. By means of the linguistic data provided by the *Historical Thesaurus*, the authors illustrate how notions of errors and mistakes have changed throughout the history of the English language.

Various studies concentrate on the analysis of borrowed lexical items on the basis of the linguistic documentary evidence recorded in the *HTOED*. For example, Coleman (1995) makes a comparison between borrowings from Latin and French in several different semantic fields (i.e. love, sex, hate, marriage) from Old English times to the close of the twentieth century. Her survey relies on a careful perusal of the linguistic data found in the Glasgow *Historical Thesaurus*. The number of borrowings that were investigated by Coleman amounts to 11,000 lexical items. Of these, 1719 were grouped into the area of hate, 3157 in love, 3067 in sex and 1370 in marriage (see Coleman 1995: 102). In addition, Coleman looks at the semantic and morphological evolution of the borrowed lexical items, reflecting on the extent to which they have been assimilated into English. Durkin's (2016) article should also be mentioned here. It addresses both potential advantages and issues that may arise in connection with the use of resources such as the *OED* and the *HTOED*. Durkin's paper sets out to discover how these sources can be used in combination with others to give enlightening results associated with borrowing processes and their effects on the core vocabulary of the English language from a historical perspective. The work utilizing the *HTOED* in combination with dictionaries such as the *OED* is illustrated by a number of

examples of borrowed lexical items, encompassing words of French origin (e.g. *carry*, *cry* and *soil*) (see also Durkin 2016: 393). Sylvester (2018) examines a proportion of technical vocabulary borrowed from French during the Middle English period. More specifically, she looks at French-derived terms and their native equivalents referring to instruments within the semantic domain of building used in mediaeval times. The information retrieved from the *Middle English Dictionary* is complemented by lexical items included in other sources, such as the *Historical Thesaurus*.

2. Aims of the present study

As pointed out before, the focus of this study is on a lexical-semantic domain which is related to the superordinate field of love. That is, the sample of nouns that represent essential concepts and motifs related to flirtation and coquetry.

More than a mere count of the flirtation and coquetry terms, the present investigation will offer a detailed analysis of their etymology, meaning and contextual usage in English (encompassing informal language), which has as yet figured little if at all in previous surveys. An important aim of this study is to identify those lexical items which have become comparatively widespread in English. Terms which have made it into common usage will be contrasted with words which have become rare or obsolete in present-day English.

A historical perspective will be assumed to determine the context in which a word has been embedded since its earliest recorded usage. A contextual evaluation can provide essential clues with respect to the reasons why certain lexical items have become widespread in English, while others are confined to specific contexts or have become disused. This also raises the question of which terms occur in colloquial usage or slang. Words which are restricted to particular regional or national varieties of English will also be identified in the present investigation.

Furthermore, an overview of the chronological distribution of the various lexical items throughout the centuries will be given. The question of whether the numbers and proportions of the words under scrutiny is constant or changing over time will be addressed. The present study sets out to assess and provide reasons for variability between speakers and their selection of the different words under scrutiny down the ages. The senses and usages of words have to be studied by assuming a historical point of view, considering trends and developments in the language and culture

of the corresponding language community which may explain variation in linguistic usage. Such a comprehensive analysis of the terms relating to flirtation and coquetry is missing in existing research.

3. Methodology

The following section offers an overview of the methodology which was developed for the present investigation. As stated above, the *HTOED* provided the data for the present analysis. Under the direction of a team of scholars, including Christian Kay, Jane Roberts and Irené Wotherspoon, the *HTOED* had been completed at the University of Glasgow over a time span of 45 years before it was released by Oxford University Press in 2009 (see also Kay et al. 2001: 173). The *HTOED* divides meanings and lexical items given in the *OED* on the basis of their subject field, and arranges them by their earliest recorded usage in English. It serves as a taxonomically arranged network of words and senses reflecting the development and history of the English language. The *HTOED* enables its users to examine the variety of lexical items used for a specific sense or concept over the centuries, which makes it a unique source that goes far beyond a typical thesaurus, such as Roget's (2004 [1852]) *Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases*, which constitutes one of the earliest thesauri of English, or studies focusing on a collection of lexical items from a selection of semantic domains (e.g. Coleman's study of words from the fields of love, sex and marriage from 1999), or thesauri concentrating on language use of individual authors (e.g. Spevack's *A Shakespeare Thesaurus* from 1993) which were written in more recent decades.

The *HTOED* was initially based in part on information found in Roget's thesaurus with the corresponding approach to classification, and was then extended with the linguistic documentary evidence retrieved from the new electronic form of the *OED*. In addition, electronic text corpora were also used to determine the semantics of a lexical item and to check if it was still current.

The *HTOED* comprises two volumes. Volume one represents the thesaurus, while volume two comprises an index of the majority of lexical entries found in the thesaurus. It seems noteworthy that volume two excludes items which are only documented in Old English and phrases which encompass more than four words. The printed version and its electronic form that is searchable via the *OED Online* make it possible to look for lexical items and semantic domains, despite the fact that lexical

items from Old English are not included in the online edition. The electronic version is directly linked to the information provided by the *OED* and allows, for instance, for an evaluation of the entire semantic scope of a given lexical entry.

The *HTOED* represents the first comprehensive thesaurus to categorize lexical items on the basis of their meaning and according to their earliest attested usage. The linguistic data of the *Historical Thesaurus* initially included about 650,000 slips of paper retrieved from the documentary evidence used for the *OED*, its supplementary volumes and dictionaries of Anglo-Saxon. These paper slips were originally arranged in line with the semantic classification found in Roget's *Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases*. Yet, the team of the *Historical Thesaurus* Project decided to re-classify the linguistic material, in order to deal with such a large lexicological sample (see also Kay 1994: 67).

The categorization now reflects a variety of overriding semantic domains, including the external world, the mind, and society as three major categories which themselves comprise a multitude of subfields. The lexical items within these areas are divided into semantic hierarchies and arranged chronologically according to their earliest attested use in English. The categorization of the lexical items in the *HTOED* represents a frame of reference for the classification carried out in the present study. The various flirtation and coquetry terms were collected from the *HTOED* in the spring of 2020 (for details on the procedure to identify these words, see section 4 below).

The *HTOED* reflects the semantic development of the English lexicon in all its variety, since it documents usages from the Old English period until today. In total, it comprises nearly 800,000 words and senses, providing a comprehensive collection of meaning categorized according to semantic fields. It mainly relies on the second edition of the *OED* published in 1989 as well as the *Thesaurus of Old English* (see also <https://ht.ac.uk/>). By means of the *HTOED*, synonyms for particular lexical entries recorded in the *OED Online* can be identified. In addition, their sense development from their earliest attested usage up to the present day can be assessed due to the rich linguistic documentary evidence in the *OED Online*.

As to the *OED*, it is currently being revised. The entire text of the *OED* can be searched online at <http://www.oed.com>, where the linguistic data is being updated every quarter with the preliminary findings of the *OED* rewrite. The *OED Online* includes the complete text of the Second Edition of the dictionary (henceforth, *OED2*), the two supplementary volumes of

the *OED Additions Series* from 1993 and 1997, and a considerable number of updated and new lexical entries which belong to the planned *OED3*.

To research the etymology, the semantics and usage of the sample of words collected from the *HTOED*, the linguistic information included in the *OED Online* was equally taken into account. The documentary evidence in the *OED* allows for an analysis of the typical use(s) in which a word is documented in English.

The reader should observe that *OED* entries which have not yet been updated do not comprehensively reflect the entire semantic scope of a word with its different contextual usages from its earliest attestation down to the present day. Hence, additional linguistic material was collected by means of corpora representative of present-day English (e.g. the *BNC*, the *COCA*), in order to find more of the supporting documentary evidence on the basis of which the usage and semantics of a lexical item can be analysed. Only those entries from the *HTOED* list for which there were no recent usage examples available in the unrevised edition of the *OED* were checked. All the corpora in question were consulted to find typical uses of these words in today's English (including informal language).

The search facilities in the *BNC* and the *COCA* make it possible to examine the contextual use of a word in various genres and registers. The *BNC*, initially compiled by Oxford University Press in the 1980s and the 1990s, comprises 100 million words of text reflecting British English towards the close of the twentieth century. It includes a broad range of genres, such as newspapers, fiction, academic literature and spoken data. The *COCA* comprehensively documents American English usage. At present, it includes 560 million words retrieved from divers sources, such as newspapers, fiction, academic texts and spoken material. It records language use from 1990 to 2017.

As will be seen, a number of the words under review are colloquial or slang terms that occur pre-dominantly in informal usage. In addition to the *BNC* and the *COCA*, which provide a rounded picture of the use of a lexical item in present-day English including several different registers, corpora revealing informal language (i.e. the *Movie Corpus*, the *TV Corpus* and the *Soap Corpus*) were consulted. The *Movie Corpus* encompasses 200 million words from more than 25,000 films produced from the 1930s until today, while the *TV Corpus* includes 325 million words of text from 75,000 television episodes between 1950s and the present day. By means of these two resources, the typical informal usage a word shows in English (and in different national varieties of English) can be identified. The *Soap Corpus* enables its users to search for informal usages in American English.

It consists of 100 million words found in 22,000 transcripts of American soap operas of the early twenty-first century.

In order to identify those items which occur comparatively frequently in present-day English, EFL (*English Foreign Language*) dictionaries such as the recent editions of the *OALD* (available online at <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>) and the *LDOCE* (accessible online at <https://www.ldoceonline.com/>) were used since these dictionaries record those lexical items which are assumed to be known to the "average" native speaker of English. The relatively common flirtation and coquetry terms from the *HTOED* list which could also be found in the EFL dictionaries consulted were contrasted with those which were recorded merely once in English (e.g. *whiting's eye*).

With regard to the questions of which words belong to colloquial use, which terms are used in slang, and which lexical items are rare or extinct, the labelling in the *OED* was drawn on.

4. Terms related to flirtation or coquetry in the *HTOED*

The taxonomic categorization of the terms referring to flirtation or coquetry in the *HTOED* is: "the mind > emotion > love > flirtation or coquetry." The number of terms related to flirtation and coquetry which are part of the *HTOED* amounts to 169 lexical items. Of these, 79 are nouns. These nouns have been examined in detail in the present paper. The following diagram reflects their chronological distribution down the ages:
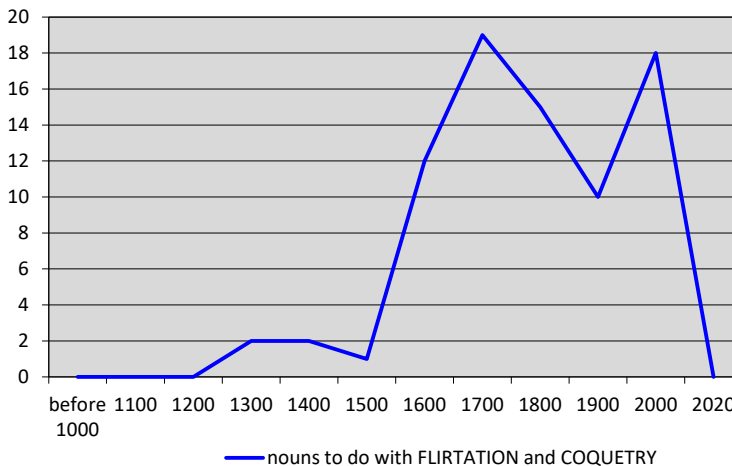

Table 1. The chronological distribution of the nouns related to flirtation and coquetry

According to *HTOED*, there was hardly any use of nouns referring to flirtation and coquetry in English before 1500. From 1501, the number increased to its peak in the seventeenth century. After that, it decreased again until 1901. In the 20th century there was a further increase. The field of flirtation and coquetry does not include any lexical items that date from the twenty-first century.

The list below reflects the numbers and proportions of the nouns related to flirtation and coquetry over the centuries. For each century, the corresponding vocabulary collected from the *HTOED* has been provided. It should be noted that the following symbols have been placed after a word's first recorded use:

∞   confined to colloquial usage or slang
•   rare
†   obsolete

Of the 79 nouns related to flirtation and coquetry, 10 words (12.7%) are confined to colloquial usage or slang, 6 lexical items (i.e. 7.6%) have become rare, and 19 terms (i.e. 24.1%) have become obsolete. Some 12 words (i.e. 15.2%) are recorded in EFL dictionaries such as the *OALD* and the *LDOCE* and can therefore be classified as relatively frequent terms in present-day English. These types of words are printed in bold in the list below.

a) 1201-1300

love-late (might have been first documented in English in circa 1225)†; *tugging* (might have been first recorded in English in circa 1225)†.

b) 1301-1400

love-lake (circa 1330)†; ***dalliance*** (circa 1385).

c) 1401-1500

gallant (about 1450).

d) 1501-1600

simper-de-cocket (about 1529)†; *toy* (1565)†; *toying* (1565-1573); *love-trick* (1567); *dallier* (1568); *amorets* (1590)†; *belgard* (1590)†; *oeillade* (1592); *amorist* (about 1595); *woman's man* (1597); *love-sport* (1598)†; *lady-monger* (circa 1600)†.

e) 1601-1700

sheep's eye (1604); *encounterer* (1609)†; *belamour* (1610)†; **coquette** (1611); *lapling* (1628)†; *spider-caul* (1631)†; *dammaret* (1635)†; *rover* (1638); *amoretto* (1647)†; *pickeering* (1650); **coquetry** (1656); *gallanting* (1664); *ogle* (about 1668); *whiting's eye* (1673)†; *languishment* (1676); *philander* (1676)•; *ogling* (1682); *coquetting* (1690); *coquet* (1693).

f) 1701-1800

topgallant (1701)†; *flirting* (1710); *languisher* (1713); *toyer* (about 1713); **flirtation** (1718); *dangler* (1728); **flirt** (about 1732); *agapet* (1736)†; **philandering** (1737); *minauderie* (1763)†; **ladies' man** (1764); *male coquette* (1770); *Jack among the maids* (1785)•; *agacerie* (1787)•; *ladykilling* (1795).

g) 1801-1900

Lochinvar (1811); *flirter* (1814); *dead set* (1823); **philanderer** (1841); *flirtee* (1862); *coquettishness* (1872); *garrison-hack* (1876)∞; *allumeuse* (circa 1891); *philander* (1898)•; *poodle-faker* (1900)∞.

h) 1901-2000

poodle-faking (1902)∞; *Romeo* (1902); *vampire* (1903); *play* (1905)∞; *carryings-on* (1909); *monkey parade* (1910)•∞; **the glad eye** (1911)∞; **vamp** (about 1911); **lounge lizard** (1918)∞; *vamping* (1918); *tea-hound* (1921)•∞; *skirt duty* (1922)∞; *vampishness* (1922); *glad* (1927); *vampiness* (1928); *monkey parading* (1934)∞; *lizard* (1935); *kikay* (1993).

The vocabulary related to flirtation and coquetry is characterized by variety. Besides *coquetry*, which was adapted from the French *coquetterie*, and *flirtation*, the *HTOED* includes the derivations *coquettishness*, *coquetting* and *flirting*. Additional terms referring to flirtatious action and behaviour are *gallanting*, which can be paraphrased as 'flirting', 'giving polite attention to a woman', the common term *ladykilling* and the plural form *carryings-on*, which has been recorded since 1919 in the meaning of "questionable or *outré* proceedings, flirtations, frolics" (*OED2*). As to *agacerie*, a French-derived term for "allurement, coquetry" (*OED3*), the word has become rare in English. The latest *OED3* example dates from 1919:

(1)   "1919 *Printers' Ink* 30 Jan. 126/2   Practice all the agacerie known to the advertising art."

Minauderie, a French-derived expression relating to flirtatious behaviour and coquetry, is no longer documented in current usage. There is also the phrase *skirt duty*, a metaphorical term for behaviour aimed at getting to know men. It can also refer to a feeling of obligation to bear women company.

It is important to note that especially the earlier terms which belong to this area reflect the pre-dominant concept of a flirtation and coquetry as a game or trick, as sport and fun. Examples of terms which date from the thirteenth century are *tugging*, literally 'dragging (sportively)', which specifies the action of struggling in an amorous manner, and *love-lake* (now disused), which has the same meaning as *love-sport*. *Dalliance* also falls into this category of lexical item. It was already attested in English in 1385, and has since become quite a widespread term for "[s]port, play (with a companion or companions); esp[ecially] amorous toying or caressing, flirtation; often, in bad sense, wanton toying" (*OED2*). Examples from the sixteenth century comprise *toy*, *toying*, *dallier*, *love-trick* and *love-sport* (now obsolete). *Pickeering*, "[w]ordy, playful, or amorous skirmishing; wrangling, bickering, petty quarrelling; an instance of this" (*OED3*), is an example from the seventeenth century. The term has become archaic in current usage. It is now confined to regional, i.e. Irish English, as in:

(2)   "1998 *Irish Times* (Nexis) 24 Oct. 28   Pickeering, if I may refresh your memory, is the act of making romantic overtures to a woman. It was, he says, much used in his own boyhood in Co Westmeath." (*OED3*)

Play has been documented since 1905 in a specialized meaning, one referring to "an attempt to sexually attract another person" (*OED3*). In this use, it frequently occurs in the verbal phrase *to make a play* (*for*), e.g.:

(3)   "You don't think! I make a play for every lady who comes by here, do you? You got chemistry." (*Microwave Massacre*, 1983, *Movie Corpus*)

(4)   "In this one other people besides his daughter try to fix him up with women, but it never works out, mainly because neither is interested in most of the things the other is. In this one he doesn't make a play for women much younger than he." (*Harper's Magazine*, 2016, *COCA*)

The collection of words referring to flirtation and coquetry also comprises several terms which specify different expressions of the eyes, as *pars pro toto* for the person who flirts. Some terms specify flirtatious glances, ranging

from the metaphorical terms *the glad eye*, *sheep's eye* and *whiting's eye*, to *ogle*, *ogling*, *oeillade*, *love-late*, *amorets*, *belamour*, *amoretto* and *belgard*. Of these, *oeillade*, a borrowing from French, specifies a flirtatious glance as a sign of affection or desire, "an ogle" (*OED3*). *Love-late*, referring to an amorous glance or flirtatious behaviour, has become obsolete in English. The latest *OED3* quotation is from about 1400:

(5)   "*a*1400 *Ancrene Riwle* (Pepys) (1976) 38   Ȝiue me þi louelates, ȝe, to me and to non oþer."

Just like *love-late*, the French borrowings *amorets* and *belamour*, *belgard*, an Italian-derived term, and *amoretto*, which might be an alteration of *amoret*, are no longer documented in current usage. All these terms specify looks of love. Similarly, *whiting's eye*, an affectionate or sensual glance, is now obsolete in English. As to *the glad eye* (also abbreviated as *glad*), it is also recorded in the idiomatic expression *to give someone the glad eye*, now an archaic phrase common in British English in the meaning of 'to ogle.' *Languisher* refers to an individual assuming a specific glance, i.e. to someone who adopts a listless expression or a person who has a loving or longing gaze. The corresponding abstract term *languishment* can also be found among the *HTOED* entries to do with expressions of affection or aspiration. The reader might observe that most of the terms specifying looks of love date from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The only example from the twentieth century is *the glad eye* (also abbreviated as *glad*). One may thus conclude that this perspective or understanding of flirtation and coquetry attaching specific value to the expression of the eyes seems to have lost importance among speakers of present-day English.

Another typical feature of this group of words is the considerable number of names for persons engaged in flirtation and coquetry that it takes in, among them a number of pejorative terms chiefly occurring in informal usage or slang. The number of colloquial terms has increased since the nineteenth century. The following terms relate to men engaged in flirtation and coquetry: *rover*, *flirt*, *poodle-faker*, *lounge lizard*, *tea-hound*, *coquet*, *male coquette*, *gallant*, *topgallant*, *dallier*, *dangler*, *amorist*, *woman's man*, *ladies' man*, *lady-monger*, *dammaret* and *spider-caul*. Of these, *rover*, generally referring to 'a roamer', 'a vagrant', shows a meaning relating to flirtation which has become historical in present-day English, i.e. it is confined to contexts somehow related to the past. Since 1638, it has been used to specify 'a man who flirts a lot or is not faithful', 'a man who is fickle in his feelings', as in the

following example which deals with the theatre play *The Rover*, written by Aphra Behn in the seventeenth century:

(6)   "1998 M. Zook in *Women Writers & Early Mod. Brit. Polit. Trad.* iv. 78   The transformation of Behn's cavalier from merry rover to cunning rake to sacrificial martyr-hero." (*OED3*)

As to *flirt*, it has been used with reference to a man engaged in flirting since about 1732 and with respect to a female flirt since 1747 (see *OED2*). The word came to denote the individual one flirts with, i.e. a *flirtee*, in 1779:

(7)   "1779 *Gentleman's Mag.* **49** 357   The General [Howe] has found another Desdemona at Philadelphia … who is now his Excellency's flirt." (*OED2*)

Poodle-faker functions as a slang term for "[a] man who cultivates female society, esp[ecially] for the purpose of professional advancement; a ladies' man; an unmanly man" (*OED3*). *Poodle-faking*, the corresponding noun describing the behaviour of such a man can also be identified in the *HTOED*. Typical usage examples from the corpora consulted are:

(8)   "Well, don't try to involve me into your sordid poodle-faking! It's not poodle-faking. I love her." (*You Rang*, M'Lord?, 1990, *TV Corpus*)

(9)   "Are you sure? No. Chasing a collection of feckless poodle-fakers across three countries! I am an examining magistrate." (*The Abduction Club*, 2002, *Movie Corpus*)

Lounge lizard (also abbreviated as *lizard*) and *tea-hound* represent metaphorical expressions confined to American English slang. The former refers to a man who mingles with the rich instead of working and is looking for a wealthy female partner who can support him financially, as is illustrated by the following examples:

(10)   "How can you leave her with that money-sniffing lounge lizard? I mean, where's your sense of friendship?" (*All My Children*, 2004, *Soap Corpus*)

(11)   "Over a weekend celebrating the rapper's induction into the Bronx Walk of Fame, Slick Rick swapped his signature eyepatch for bejeweled

Chanel sunglasses and his onerous gold chains for a sequined bow
tie, but the outlandish lounge lizard suits could only have been his."
(*Vanity Fair*, 2018, *COCA*)

Tea-hound has become a rare term for "a man given to frequenting tea-parties;
also in extended use, a lady's man" (*OED2*).

In its function as an intensifying form of *gallant*, the word *topgallant*
is disused in current English. *Lady-monger* and *dammaret* (with its spelling
variant *damouret*) which serve as synonyms of 'a ladies' man', *lapling*,
'a male person fond of lying on a woman's lap', *agapet*, "[a] lover of women,
a philanderer" (*OED3*), and *spider-caul*, literally 'spider's web', a designation
of a flirting man, have also become obsolete. The latest *OED* examples
illiustrating the use of these terms are:

(12)   "1707 E. Ward *London Terraefilius* No. 1. 26   That Libidinous Coxcomb
       of a Creature, is one of those Insatiate Lady-mongers, call'd an
       Universal Lover." (*OED2*)

(13)   "*a*1649 W. Drummond *Hist. Scotl.* (1655) sig. L2ᵛ   Place me with
       a *Damouret* … if I praise him in the presence of his Mistress, he will be
       ready to perform like duties to me." (*OED2*)

(14)   "1658 J. Hewitt *Repentance & Conversion* 7   You must not stream out
       your Youth in Wine and live a Lapling to the Silk and Dainties."
       (*OED2*)

(15)   "1775 J. Ash *New Dict. Eng. Lang. Agapet*, A lover of the fair sex, a man
       of pleasure. [Also in later dictionaries.]" (*OED3*)

(16)   "1631 R. Brathwait *Engl. Gentlewoman* 93   Let not then these Spider-
       cauls delude you, discretion will laugh at them, modesty loath them."
       (*OED2*)

Of these, *dammaret*/*damouret* and *agapet* constitute borrowings. The former
reflects the French *dameret* 'a man dedicated to the entertainment and
courting of ladies', and the latter was derived from the Byzantine Greek
ἀγαπητός in the meaning of 'man having a secret female sweetheart' (see
OED3).

The *HTOED* also comprises words and phrases derived from proper
nouns which are used to specify male flirts and coquets, such as *Romeo*,

Lochinvar and *Jack among the maids*. *Romeo* reflects the name of the protagonist in Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*. It has become a widespread term in English for a "[a] seducer or habitual pursuer of women; a philanderer, a womanizer" (*OED3*), as in:

(17) "In a strange way it can actually contribute to the success of many marriages, for not every woman wants to spend her life with an eternal Romeo." (*Caring for Elderly Parents*, 1979, *BNC*)

(18) "Bill: No, wait, just cool your jets, Romeo. I'm just trying to look at the situation objectively." (*Bold and Beautiful*, 2012, *Soap Corpus*)

Lochinvar corresponds to the name of the chief character of a ballad in *Marmion* written by the Scottish poet Sir Walter Scott. He runs away with a woman on the day of her wedding, in order to marry her secretly. In present-day English, *Lochinvar* specifies "[a] male eloper; a heroic or daring male lover" (*OED3*). The expression *Jack among the maids* is now a rare term for 'a man who likes to surround himself with women', 'a woman's favorite.' It may also function as a synonymous idiom for 'the cock of the walk.'

Several terms in the *HTOED* entries relate to female flirts and coquettes. Examples are *allumeuse*, *garrison-hack* and *simper-de-cocket*. As regards *allumeuse*, the word has its origins in French, and refers to "[a] woman who is alluring but sexually elusive; a flirt, coquette (usually with some degree of sophistication implied)" (*OED3*), e.g.:

(19) "2008 H. Kaiser *French War Brides in Amer.* ii. 12 I remember that one of the war brides was called Paulette Sparks. She was very pretty and lively. She was also a real flirt, an *allumeuse*, and she was married twice." (*OED3*)

The metaphorical expression *garrison-hack* relates to a woman flirting extensively with soldiers of a garrison. The etymological origin of *simper-de-cocket*, "[a]n affected coquettish manner; a woman having such a manner; a flirt" (*OED3*), is not perfectly clear. According to the *OED3*, it might have been formed on the basis of the verb *simper*, "[t]o smile in a silly, self-conscious, or affectedly coy or bashful manner, or in a way that is expressive of or is intended to convey guileless pleasure, childlike innocence, or the like" (*OED3*), and the French *coquette*, but this theory has not yet been proved. The word belongs to the group of lexical items which are no longer documented in present-day usage.

The concept of a seducing, attractive woman considered a vamp occurred in the twentieth century: *vampire* has been recorded in the relevant sense since 1903, and the corresponding abbreviation *vamp* has been documented in English since 1911. The Tagalog borrowing *kikay*, "[a] flirtatious girl or woman", "a girl or woman interested in beauty products and fashion" (*OED3*) represents the latest term in this semantic domain. It was borrowed into English in 1993. According to the *OED3*, it is confined to Philippine English.

5. Summary and conclusion

An important characteristic of the vocabulary related to flirtation and coquetry is its diversity. As was seen in the present study, the *HTOED* encompasses a variety of lexical entries from this domain, ranging from terms specifying flirtatious action and behaviour, to lexical items referring to flirtatious glances and names for persons engaged in flirtation and coquetry.

The *HTOED* includes twelve fairly widespread lexical items which belong to the vocabulary included in EFL dictionaries such as the *OALD* and the *LDOCE*. As mentioned earlier, these dictionaries represent reliable sources for identifying comparatively frequent and well-used words in present-day English. They make up 15.2% of the hyponyms of the vocabulary related to coquetry and flirtation. These are *dalliance* (circa 1385), *gallant* (about 1450), *coquette* (1611), *coquetry* (1656), *flirtation* (1718), *flirt* (about 1732), *philandering* (1737), *ladies' man* (1764), *philanderer* (1841), *the glad eye* (1911), *vamp* (about 1911) and *lounge lizard* (1918). Several items in the category of fairly common words and phrases are more general terms referring to flirtation and coquetry. Examples are the two terms themselves (i.e. *flirtation*, *coquetry*) as well as *dalliance* and *flirt*. It also includes a number of comparatively frequent names for persons involved in flirtation and coquetry, ranging from *gallant* and *coquette*, to more recent expressions such as *vamp* and the slang term *lounge lizard*.

Socio-cultural trends may explain particular tendencies in the development of the vocabulary of a language. In this paper, some overarching trends have been discovered, such as the post-eighteenth-century general increase in colloquial items, terms which are fairly common, especially in corpora reflecting informal language. Of the 79 nouns referring to flirtation and coquetry, ten lexical items (i.e. 12.7%) are identified as words restricted (or chiefly restricted) to colloquial English or slang. These types of lexical items can be found only in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries – with

20 and 80% respectively, i.e. showing a significant increase in the twentieth century. Examples are terms for (typically male) individuals and their behaviour, such as *tea-hound*, *lounge lizard*, *skirt duty* and *poodle-faking*. Yet, the fact that colloquial terms are present only in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries does not necessarily mean that such items did not exist before – it may simply be that the earlier sources rarely exhibit colloquial items and/or terms that are not classified as colloquial in the dictionaries consulted.

The six flirtation and coquetry terms that have become rare in present-day English were first documented in the *OED* in the period from 1601 to 2000. Most of the flirtation and coquetry terms first recorded between 1501 and 1700 have become disused in English.

The present study also identified essential concepts and motifs prevalent in the semantic domain under examination, such as the understanding of flirtation and coquetry attributing particular importance to the expression of the eyes in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and the motif of the *vamp* which occurred in the early twentieth century. Reaching beyond the scope of this investigation, future studies might, desirably, compare additional semantic fields related to love.

REFERENCES

Sources

British National Corpus (*BNC*)
            https://www.english-corpora.org/bnc/, accessed July 2020
Corpus of American Soap Operas (*Soap Corpus*)
            https://corpus.byu.edu/soap/, accessed July 2020
Corpus of Contemporary American English (*COCA*)
            https://www.english-corpora.org/coca/, accessed July 2020
Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (*LDOCE*)
            https://www.ldoceonline.com/, accessed July 2020
Movie Corpus
            https://www.english-corpora.org/movies/, accessed July 2020
Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (*OALD*)
            https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/, accessed July 2020
Oxford English Dictionary Online (*OED online*, including the *Historical Thesaurus*)
            http://www.oed.com, accessed July 2020
Thesaurus of Old English
            https://ht.ac.uk/, accessed July 2020

TV Corpus

> https://www.english-corpora.org/tv/, accessed July 2020

Special studies

Allan, K.
> 2015 "Education in the *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary*".
> In: J. Daems et al. (eds.) *Change of Paradigms – New Paradoxes:*
> *Recontextualizing Language and Linguistics*. Berlin; Boston: De Gruyter
> Mouton, 81-95.

Coleman, J.
> 1995 "The chronology of French and Latin loan words in English",
> *Transactions of the Philological Society* 93, 95-124.
> 1999 *Love, Sex, and Marriage. A Historical Thesaurus*. Amsterdam: Rodopi.

Crystal, D.
> 2014 *Words in Time and Place. Exploring Language through the* Historical
> Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary. Oxford: Oxford
> University Press.

Díaz Vera, J.E.
> 2012 "Infected affiances. Metaphors of the word JEALOUSY in
> Shakespeare's plays", *Metaphorik.de* 22, 23-43.

Durkin, P.
> 2016 "The *OED* and *HTOED* as tools in practical research: A test case
> examining the impact of loanwords on areas of the core lexicon".
> In: M. Kytö – P. Pahta (eds.) *The Cambridge Handbook of English*
> *Historical Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 390-406.

Kay, C.
> 1994 "Word lists for a changing world". In: W. Hüllen (ed.) *The World in*
> *a List of Words*. Tübingen: Niemeyer, 67-75.

Kay, C. – L. Sylvester – I. Wotherspoon
> 2001 "One thesaurus leads to another". In: C. Kay – L. Sylvester (eds.) *Lexis*
> *and Text in Early English: Studies Presented to Jane Roberts*. Amsterdam:
> Rodopi, 173-186.

Newman, J.G.
> 2013 "Words denoting 'sailor' in the history of the English lexicon:
> Abundance, variation, and diction". In: G. Dimković-Telebaković
> (ed.) *Foreign Language in Transport and Traffic Engineering Profession and*
> *Science*. Belgrade: University of Belgrade, Faculty of Transport and
> Traffic Engineering, 15-29.

O'Hare, C.
> 2004 "Folk classification in the *HTE* 'Plants' category". In: C. Kay –
> J.J. Smith (eds.) *Categorization in the History of English*. Amsterdam:
> John Benjamins, 179-191.

Roberts, J.
  2002   "Some thoughts on the representation of Early Middle English in the
          Historical Thesaurus of English", *Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary
          Society of North America* 23, 180-207.
Roberts, J. – L. Sylvester
  2017   "Blunder, error, mistake, pitfall: Trawling the *OED* with the help
          of the *Historical Thesaurus*", *Altre Modernità*, Special Issue: *Errors:
          Communication and its Discontents* (guest edited by P. Caponi –
          G. Iamartino – D. Newbold), 18-35.
Roget, P.M.
2004 [1852] *Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases*. Edited by G. Davidson.
          London: Penguin Books.
Spevack, M.
  1993   *A Shakespeare Thesaurus*. Hildesheim; Zürich: Olms.
Sylvester, L.
  2006   "Forces of change: Are social and moral attitudes legible in this
          *Historical Thesaurus c*lassification?". In: G.D. Caie – H. Hough –
          I. Wotherspoon (eds.) *The Power of Words. Essays in Lexicography,
          Lexicology and Semantics. In onour of Christian J. Kay*. Amsterdam; New
          York: Rodopi, 185-208.
  2018   "Contact effects on the technical lexis of Middle English: A semantic
          hierarchic approach", *English Language and Linguistics* 22 (2), 249-264.
Tissari, H.
  2003   *LOVEscapes: Changes in Prototypical Senses and Cognitive Metaphors since
          1500*. Helsinki: Société Néophilologique.
Wild, K.
  2010   "Angelets, trudgeons, and bratlings: The lexicalization of childhood in
          the *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary*". In: M. Adams
          (ed.) "*Cunning passages, contrived corridors": Unexpected Essays in the
          History of Lexicography*. Monza: Polimetrica, 289-308.

Address: Julia Landmann, University of Heidelberg, English Department, Kettengasse
12, 69117 Heidelberg, Germany.
ORCID code: orcid.org/0000-0002-2077-2169