

The Potential of the Historical Thesaurus of English

Christian Kay
University of Glasgow

Historical Thesaurus of English

- Oxford English Dictionary (OED, second edition)
- Dictionaries of Old English
- 650,000 meanings in 26 major semantic fields.

<http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/sesll/englang/thesaur/homepage.htm>

State of Play

- MS Access database
- Apache HTTP
- MySQL
- PHP (Hypertext Preprocessor)
- *Thesaurus of Old English: TOE-online*

- <http://libra.englant.arts.gla.ac.uk/oethesaurus/>
- <http://www.oenewsletter.org/OEN/reports.php>

Basic searches

<http://leo.englang.arts.gla.ac.uk/historicalthesaurus/>

Synonyms in category 03.01.01.03.03. ./ 02. . . . - n - (.grandfather)

Main heading	Word						
Grandparent	ealda fæder	n	OE				
Grandparent	ieldra fæder	n	OE				
Grandparent	eldfather	n	OE -	1460			
	< ealdefæder						
Grandparent	grandsire	n		c 1290	-	1876	ai&dl
Grandparent	aiel	n		1377	-	1502	
Grandparent	belsire	n		1377	- a	1631	
Grandparent	grandfather	n		1424			-

Lexical Searches for the Arts and Humanities

(AHRC-ICT Resource Development Project AR112456)

- to demonstrate how a project developed largely to meet the needs of one field (English Historical Linguistics) can have applications in other disciplines.
- to demonstrate how electronic resources can enhance, and indeed promote, research in the Arts and Humanities.

Historical Thesaurus of English - Menu page - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites Print Mail News RSS Feeds

Address <http://leo.englang.arts.gla.ac.uk/historicalthesaurus/menu1.html> Go Links >>

Google Search Search UK PageRank 20 blocked >>

Historical Thesaurus of English

Sections Available About HTE Online Results Layout Search Menu Links

Please select the type of search you wish to do.

[Browse](#) - This will search the whole database and display the section names(s) where a target word is located. Then proceed to browse headings, words and dates under concept. This is especially useful where a word occurs in more than one section.

[Synonym search](#) - As above and leads on to display synonyms under the chosen heading.

[Label](#) - List words and dates with selected style & status labels.

[Affix](#) - Lists words with specified affixes, the dates and the headings under which they occur.

[Part of speech](#) - Lists words restricted by part of speech, the dates and the headings under which they occur.

[Dates](#) - Choose type of date search then follow on to choose section for date search.

Local intranet

Currently available searches

- Browse Search the whole database and display the section names(s) where a target word is located. Then proceed to browse headings, words and dates under concept.
- Synonym search As above and leads on to display synonyms under the chosen heading.
- Label List words and dates with selected style & status labels.
- Affix Lists words with specified affixes, the dates and the headings under which they occur.
- Part of speech Lists words restricted by part of speech, the dates and the headings under which they occur.
- Dates Choose type of date search then follow on to choose section for date search.

Computational potential

- Detailed and logical taxonomy
 - Clothing \Leftrightarrow A hat with a bobble
 - Clothing: 8751 lexical entries; 2212 headings
- Text mining using contemporary words
- Probability-based methods disambiguating polysemous word forms
 - Was *gout* discussed in this 16th century medical text? Are there other books on the subject?

Synonyms in category 01.02.01.01.04.17.06/ 05. . . . - n - (.gout)

Main heading Word

Disorders of joints	fotadl	n	OE	
Disorders of joints	fotcopu	n	OE	
Disorders of joints	fotwærc	n	OE	
Disorders of joints	lipa	n	OE	
Disorders of joints	drop < dropa	n	OE +	1559 (2)
Disorders of joints	podagre	n	c	1290 - 1578
Disorders of joints	gout	n	c	1290
Disorders of joints	podagra	n		1398
Disorders of joints	arthritic n			1486
Disorders of joints	arthritis n			1544
Disorders of joints	joint-sickness	n		1545 + 1684
Disorders of joints	leaping gout	n		1562
Disorders of joints	goutiness	n		1632 + 1820
Disorders of joints	wind-gout	n		1662

Contact

Prof. Christian Kay
Dept. of English Language
University of Glasgow
12 University Gardens
Glasgow G12 8QQ

<http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/sesll/englang/thesaur/homepage.htm>

Word lovers will be interested in the Daily Telegraph's article about the Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary, which was published yesterday. At nearly 4,500 pages and costing Â£250, the HTE won't be on many people's Christmas lists, but