

B3) The Database of Middle English Romance

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Database: Database of Middle English Romance:

Programs: Online interface: <http://www.middleenglishromance.org.uk/>



Explain the contents, structure and composition of the database:

All of the surviving Middle English verse romances are listed alphabetically by modern editorial title and each romance is provided with a detailed, full-page entry that includes, where available, the following information:

- (N)IMEV (Index of Middle English Verse) number;
- form;
- date of composition;
- place of composition;
- author(s);
- source(s);
- a list of surviving manuscripts and early prints.

Each entry is also provided with a full plot summary and a list of modern editions, with links to editions that are available online.

Corpus linguistics with a concordancer:

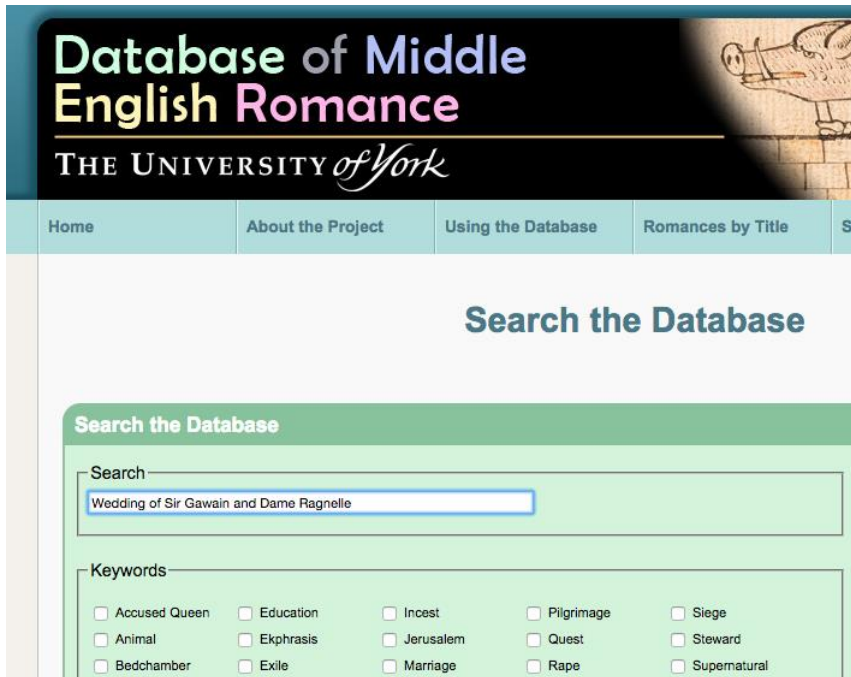
A *concordancer* is a computer software that produces concordance lists out of a particular text. It is very useful in corpus linguistics and for developing translation memories.

There are several concordancers currently available online, both as freeware and commercial software. Some of the most popular ones include AntConc, ApSIC Xbench, MonoConc, PowerConc, WordSmith and Sketch Engine. For the purposes of this exercise, we will use AntConc, since it is freeware and it is available for Windows, Linux and Mac operating systems. We will be using the Mac version.

You can download the latest version from its developer site: <http://www.laurenceanthony.net/software/antconc/>. The developer has also published a [video tutorial](#) on installing and getting started with AntConc.

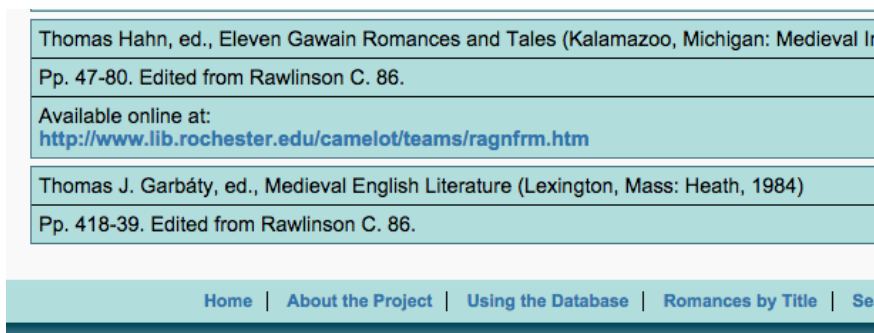
How to create a Word list in AntConc:

We have been tasked with investigating the distribution of pronouns of address in one of the later Middle English romances. AntConc can perform the initial stage of this task automatically. First, we need the text we are going to analyse. We have selected *Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnelle*.



The screenshot shows the 'Database of Middle English Romance' website. The header includes the title and 'THE UNIVERSITY of York' logo. A navigation menu has links for 'Home', 'About the Project', 'Using the Database', 'Romances by Title', and 'Se'. The main content area is titled 'Search the Database' and contains a search form. The search input field contains the text 'Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnelle'. Below the search field is a 'Keywords' section with a grid of checkboxes for various themes: Accused Queen, Education, Incest, Pilgrimage, Siege, Animal, Ekphrasis, Jerusalem, Quest, Steward, Bedchamber, Exile, Marriage, Rape, and Supernatural.

This database includes relevant general information about the text, a plot summary and details of modern versions. In the later section, we can find a link to the full text:



The screenshot shows a search result entry for 'Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnelle'. The entry is displayed in a table-like format with the following information:

Thomas Hahn, ed., <i>Eleven Gawain Romances and Tales</i> (Kalamazoo, Michigan: Medieval Ir
Pp. 47-80. Edited from Rawlinson C. 86.
Available online at: http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/ragnfrm.htm
Thomas J. Garbáty, ed., <i>Medieval English Literature</i> (Lexington, Mass: Heath, 1984)
Pp. 418-39. Edited from Rawlinson C. 86.

At the bottom of the page, there is a navigation menu with links for 'Home', 'About the Project', 'Using the Database', 'Romances by Title', and 'Se'.

We selected the whole text of this romance and pasted on a Word document:

d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/text/hahn-sir-gawain-wedding-of-sir-gawain-and-dame-ragnelle

UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

TEAMS MIDDLE ENGLISH TEXTS SERIES

Robbins Library Digital Projects > TEAMS Middle English Texts > Sir Gawain: Eleven Romances and Tales > The Wedding of Sir Gawain & Dame Ragnelle

The Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnelle

by: Thomas Hahn (Editor)
from: Sir Gawain: Eleven Romances and Tales 1995

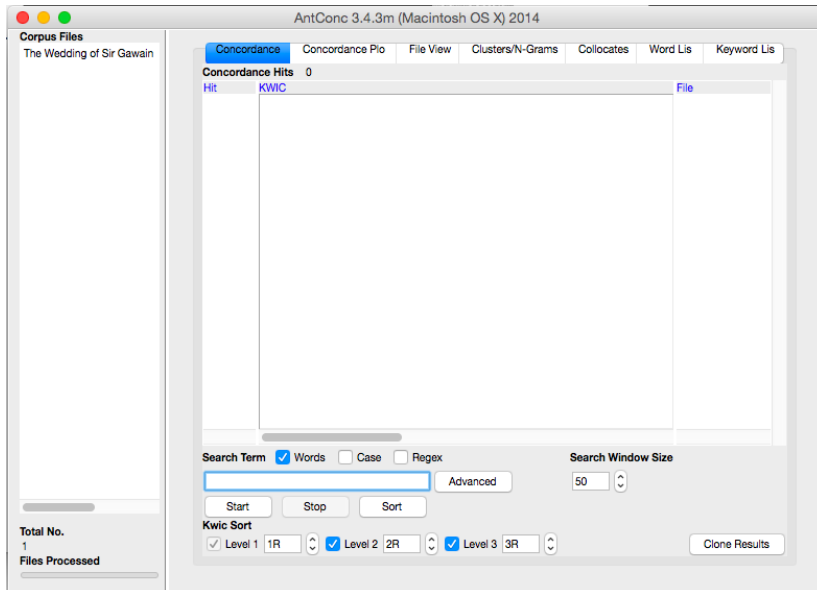
Lythe and listenythe the lif of a lord riche, The while that he lyvid was none hym liche, Nether in bowre ne in halle, In the tyme of Arthoure thys adventure betyd, And of the greatt adventure that he hymself dyd, That Kyng curteys and royalle, Of alle kynges Arture berythe the flowyr, And of alle knyghtod he bare away the honour.	<i>Harken; listen to; noble; (see note)</i> <i>like</i> <i>private room nor</i> <i>occurred</i> <i>And [you will hear] of</i> <i>bears the prize</i> <i>knighthood</i>
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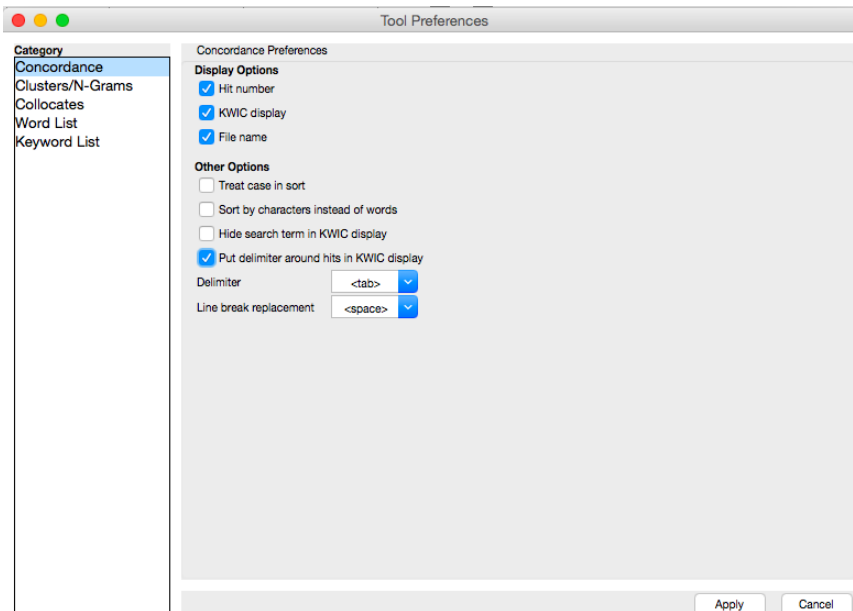
Lythe and listenythe the lif of a lord riche,
The while that he lyvid was none hym liche,
Nether in bowre ne in halle.
In the tyme of Arthoure thys adventure betyd,
And of the greatt adventure that he hymself dyd,
That Kyng curteys and royalle.
Of alle kynges Arture berythe the flowyr,
And of alle knyghtod he bare away the honour,
Wheresoevere he wentt.
In his contrey was nothyng butt chyvalry
And knyghtes were beloved by that doughty,
For cowardes were everemore shent.

Nowe wvle ve lvsst a whvle to mv talkvng.

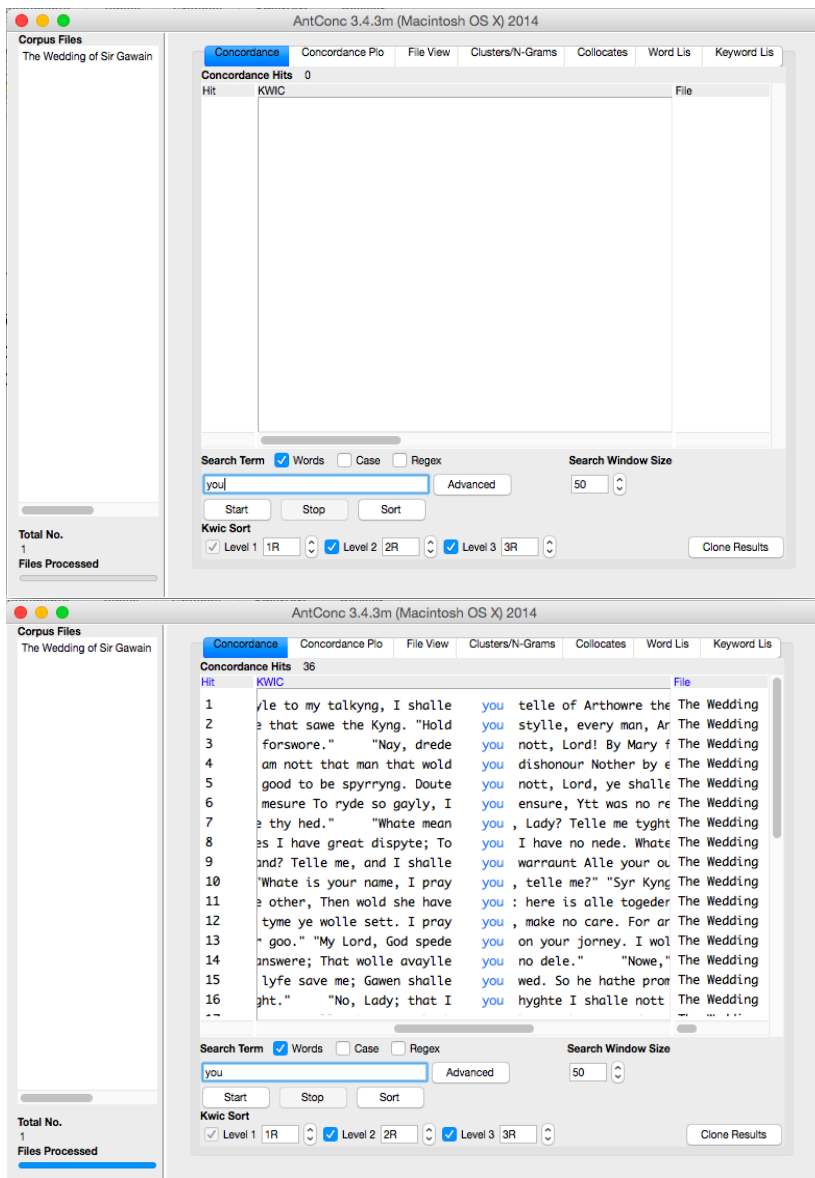
We saved the text as a “.txt” document and opened in AntConc:



Before we created a list, we needed to modify the default concordance settings to delimit the KWIC (key word in context). We simply clicked on Settings – Tool Preferences. Then, we ticked the option “Put a delimiter around hits in KWIC display” and click on “Apply”:



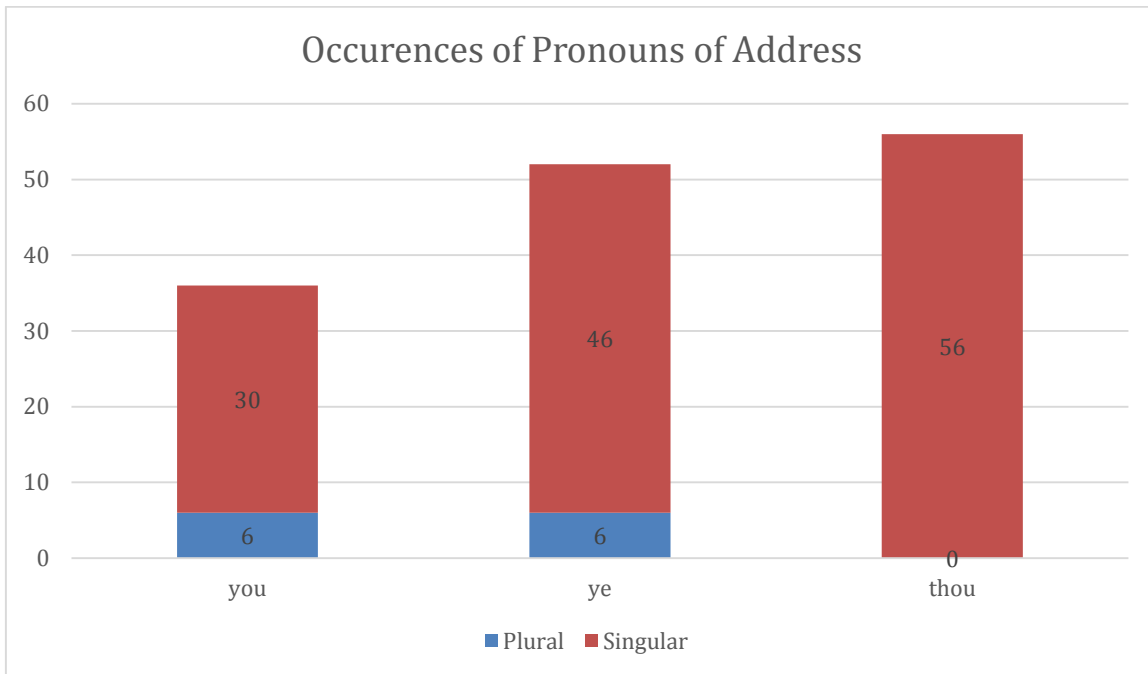
With the delimiter on, AntConc produces a list chart with three columns. In the middle column, we will find the KWIC. This makes it easier for us to analyse each hit in context. For this exercise, we searched for the word “you”:



Then, we saved the resulting list. AntConc creates .txt files. We wanted to produce graphs with this data, to analyse percentages and frequency of usage, so we opened the file with a spread sheet software, in this case, Excel:

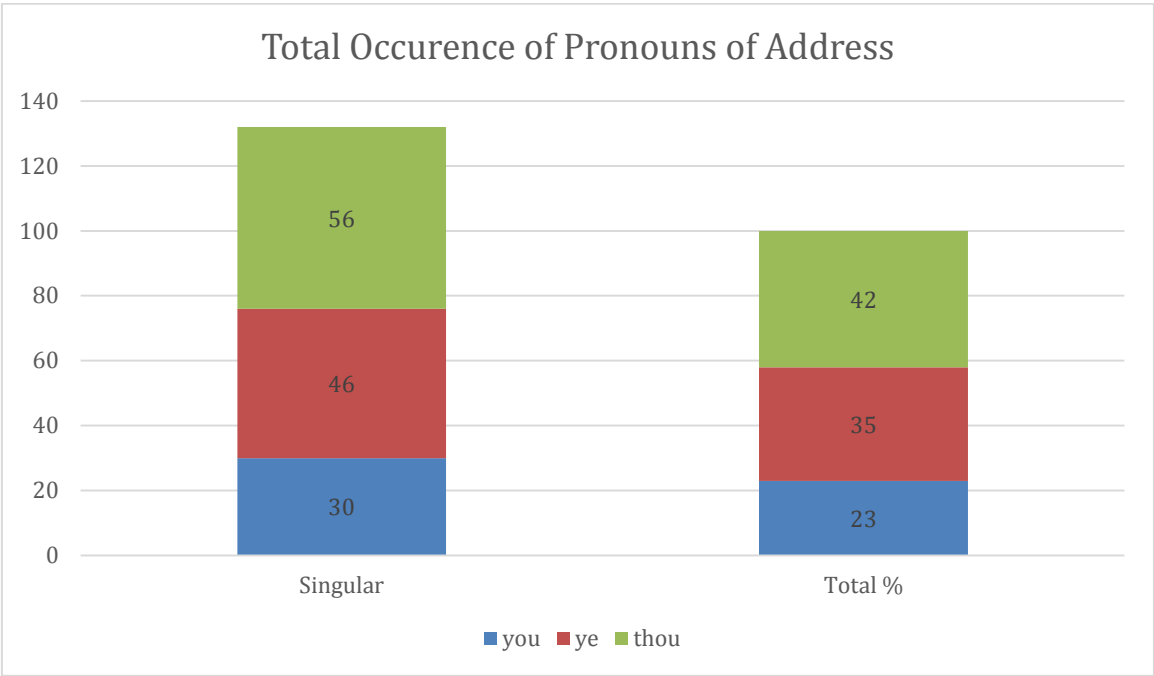
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	lyst a whyle to my talkyng, I shalle		you	telle of Arthowre the Kyng, Howe ones hym	Wedding...t	0	1
2	fulle derne: Alle that sawe the Kyng. "Hold		you	style, every man, And I wolle goo myself,	Wedding...t	0	2
3	therefore, Or els I am forswore." "Nay, drede		you	nott, Lord! By Mary flower, I am nott	Wedding...t	0	3
4	flower, I am nott that man that wold		you	dishonour Nother by evyn ne by moron." "Forsot	Wedding...t	0	4
5	payd; Hytt is good to be spyrryng. Doute		you	nott, Lord, ye shalle welle spede; Some of	Wedding...t	0	5
6	creature withoute mesure To ryde so gayly, I		you	ensure, Ytt was no reason ne ryghte. She	Wedding...t	0	6
7	elles thou shalt lose thy hed." "Whate mean		you	, Lady? Telle me tyghte, For of thy wordes	Wedding...t	0	7
8	of thy wordes I have great dyspyte; To		you	I have no nede. Whate is your desyre,	Wedding...t	0	8
9	in your hand? Telle me, and I shalle		you	warraunt Alle your oun askyng." "Forsothe,	Wedding...t	0	9
10	I am." "Whate is your name, I pray		you	, telle me?" "Syr Kyng, I highte Dame Ragnelle,	Wedding...t	0	10
11	me, and none other, Then wold she have		you	: here is alle togeder That made she warraunt."	Wedding...t	0	11
12	att whate tyme ye wolle sett. I pray		you	, make no care. For and she were the	Wedding...t	0	12
13	shalt no furder goo." "My Lord, God spede		you	on your jorney. I wold I shold nowe	Wedding...t	0	13
14	ryde to bere your answer; That wolle awaylle		you	no dele." "Nowe," sayd the Kyng, "sithe it	Wedding...t	0	14
15	nowe, and my lyfe save me; Gawen shalle		you	wed. So he hathe promysed me my lyf	Wedding...t	0	15
16	a fulle gentille knyght." "No, Lady; that I		you	hyghte I shalle nott faylle. So ye wol	Wedding...t	0	16
17	Arthoure. Of no man I wolle shame; Bethynk		you	howe I have savyd your lyf. Therfor with	Wedding...t	0	17
18	knyght: "Syr, I am redy of that I		you	hyghte, Alle forwardes to fulfillen." "God have	Wedding...t	0	18
19	the Kyng suche covenaunt made I. I putt		you	oute of dowte, I wolle nott to churche	Wedding...t	0	19
20	worshypp moste." "Ye, as for that, Lady, God		you	save. This daye my worshypp wolle I have,	Wedding...t	0	20
21	dawe my worshypp wolle I have. I telle		you	withoute haste." "She made her redy to chur	Wedding...t	0	21

If you wish to know more details about how to use AntConc, you can visit the developer's [channel on YouTube](#), where you will find many useful video tutorials.



After reading out the number of occurrences of each form address, we determined if they were used as a singular or plural by analysing each occurrence on its own. Sometimes we had to look at the text itself, and not the excerpt, to analyse the usage in each instance.

Using the acquired data, we changed to the "insert" tab to create a graph. We used a bar graph because it is easier to recognize the information. We advise against the usage of 3D graphs in general because they look horrible when printed, and since you will be required to hand in a printed form of your term paper, this is something to keep in mind.



For more information about how to create graphs in excel, please visit <https://support.office.com/en-US/article/How-to-create-a-basic-chart-in-Excel-2010-d2267ad9-4abb-4ea5-b1e2-fb094596f118> .