

# ***Well* in Shakespeare: discourse, collocation and text**

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## **1. Introduction**

In Shakespeare the word *well* can be used as a noun, an adjective, an adverb and a response marker with a semantic meaning of compliance. The reader of Shakespeare may be supposed to be able to readily judge and choose one of these semantic options. *Well* in Shakespearean texts, however, is sometimes ambiguous, particularly when it can also serve as a discourse marker without any particular semantic meaning but with a textual or discourse function.

- (1) I am glad to see your Worships **well**: thanke you for my Venison Master *Shallow*.  
(F1 Wiv1.1.79)<sup>1</sup>

Quoting this example, Professor Norman Blake (2002: 293) suggests the possibility of interpreting the word *well* as a discourse marker, but he does not provide any linguistic evidence to support his reading or interpretation, as we would normally expect him to do. This is one reason why I embarked on a research project to provide some formal or linguistic evidence to support the wider interpretative possibilities of the word *well* he suggested in an intuitive way.

My provisional proposal is that awareness of discourse, collocation and text can give us some significant linguistic clues in expanding the interpretative possibilities of *well* in Shakespeare.

As the basis for the interpretation of *well* as a discourse marker, the present paper focuses on some linguistic structures of the utterances following and preceding marker *well*, from a collocational point of view. I will present data concerning the collocation of discourse marker *well* in Shakespeare with a view to elucidating the functions of marker *well* in Shakespeare's English. This in turn may provide evidence for the development of the use of this common marker, between earlier forms of English and Present-day English.

## **2. *Well* as a discourse marker in Shakespeare**

When I examine collocational patterns of *well* as a discourse marker, the following examples of the word *well* are excluded because they have or may have a lexical meaning.

- (2) *Th[urio]*. Where meete we? – *Pro[teus]*. At Saint Gregories **well**. (F1 TGV 4.2.84)  
(3) Where is thy Master Dromio? Is he **well**? (F1 ERR 4.2.31)  
(4) That's **well** said. (F1 MM 2.2.109)  
(5) *Gon[eril]*. [...] Remember what I haue said. – *Osw[ald]*. **Well** Madam.  
(F1 LR 1.3.21)  
(6) Three thousand ducates, **well**. (F1 MV 1.3.1)

It is clear that *well* in quotations (2) to (4) has a lexical meaning, respectively, as a noun in (2), as an adjective in (3) and as an adverb in (4). It is reasonable to understand *well* in quotation (5) to be an independent lexical word, because it corresponds to the Present-day English expressions such as *OK* or *All right*, closely related in meaning to the evaluative adverb *well*.

*Well* in quotation (6) is ambiguous. Two different interpretations are possible, and they can be distinguished by means of different punctuation as in (6'a) and (6'b).

- (6') a. Three thousand ducates – **well**.  
b. Three thousand ducates – **well ...**

I have found fourteen instances of *well* of this type in Shakespeare.<sup>2</sup> In spite of the possible interpretation as a discourse marker, these instances are excluded from the present study. It seems hardly likely that they could contribute to the examination of collocational patterns of marker *well* because they have no actual continuation in words which can be used as the collocation.

### **3. The total number of occurrences of discourse marker *well* in Shakespeare**

The total number of occurrences of *well* I have recognised as a discourse marker, according to the guidelines mentioned above, is 466. The aim here is to collect as many instances of discourse marker *well* as possible from Shakespearean texts, which I hope will help to give a clearer picture of the collocational preference or priming to use Michael Hoey's (2005) term.

### **4. Utterances preceding and following discourse markers – previous studies**

When I examine the use of marker *well* from a collocational point of view, the term 'collocation'/'collocate(s)' is used in both narrower and wider senses. In a narrower sense it refers to lexical items such as interjections, address forms and adverbs, which co-occur with marker *well*. In a wider sense it refers to phrases, sentences and utterances on the discourse level either before or after marker *well*.

Discourse markers act beyond the boundary of the sentence, over a certain range of utterances or discourse to bridge certain gaps between the utterances. This implies that their specific uses may be better understood by looking at what types of utterances they are preceded or followed by, or what types of collocates they keep company with.

In Present-day English, discourse marker functions have been observed within hypothetical/notional frameworks of discourse sequence such as 'cohesion' (Halliday and Hasan 1976; cf. Blakemore 2004: 232-3), 'utterances' (Levinson 1983; Redeker 1991; cf. Blakemore 2004: 232), 'conversational units' (Owen 1981), 'units of talk' (Schiffrin 1985; 1987: 31), '(discourse) segments' rather than 'utterances' (Fraser 1998: 323n.2; 2006: 203n.1), 'discourse constituent units (DCUS)' (Polanyi 2001: 265-267), 'intonational units' (cf. Chafe 1987; Blakemore 2004: 232), etc.

Fraser (1998: 304-305) refers to the sequence of sentence types involving contrastive

discourse markers, and examines some preferences for specific sentence types which co-occur with these markers, as in Table 1.

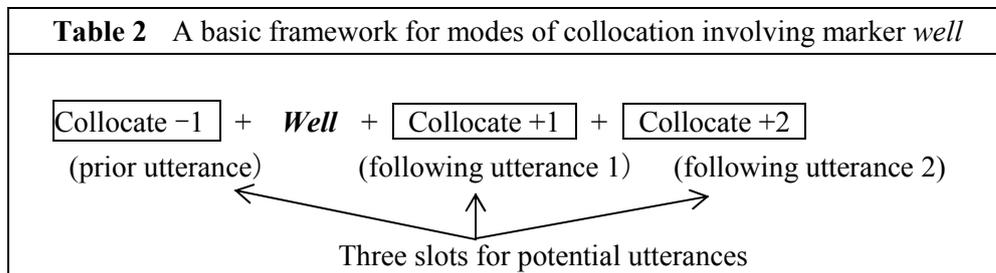
<b>Table 1</b> Co-occurrence of contrastive discourse marker with Syntactic Types										
	BU	HO	OT	CN	CM	CV	NV	IN	RA	CY
<b>D-D</b>	OK									
<b>D-I/Q</b>	OK	OK	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>I-D</b>	OK	OK	*	*	*	*	*	OK	OK	*
<b>I-I</b>	OK	OK	OK	OK	*	*	*	OK	OK	OK
<b>I-Q</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Q-D/I/Q</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

(BU=*but*; HO=*however*; OT=*on the other hand*; CN=*in contrast*; CM=*in comparison*; CV=*conversely*; NV=*nevertheless*; IN=*instead*; RA=*rather*; CY=*on the contrary*; **D=declarative**; **I=imperative**; **Q=question**)

In Shakespeare, however, serious formal research into this area remains to be done.

### 5. Modes of collocation

Table 2 is a basic framework for modes of collocation.



Collocate minus-one is a ‘prior utterance’ which comes before marker *well*. Both collocate plus-one and collocate plus-two are utterances following marker *well* – the plus-one utterance comes immediately after marker *well*, and is followed by the plus-two.

This framework provides three slots for potential utterances to come before and after marker *well*, and it should help to provide a more precise linguistic and collocational description of utterance types around marker *well*.

To illustrate how it works, I quote:

- (7) *Dion[yz]*. [...] Care not for me, / I can go home alone. [Collocate -1]  
*Mar[ina]*. **Well**, I will go, [Collocate +1]  
 But yet I have no desire to it. [Collocate +2]  
 (PER 4.1.42. *it* = to walk with Leonine, as suggested by Dionyza.)

The sequence of utterances involving marker *well* here can be recognised as indicated in square brackets: Dionyza's underlined utterance preceding Marina's *well* as collocate minus-one; Marina's utterance 'I will go' immediately after the marker *well* as collocate plus-one; and Marina's second utterance beginning with the conjunction *but* as collocate plus-two.

This proposed framework will pin down the use of marker *well* in the collocational sequence of utterances on the discourse level. The sequence can also be presented as a specific linguistic structure, something like <imperative + *well* + *I will ...* + *but yet ...*>, which should make functions of marker *well* much more explicit, formally. I have illustrated how the sequence of utterances can be understood in the framework of three slots.

Example 8 includes an expression which can be better analysed as being outside these three slots.

- (8) *Lear*. [...] Why, Gloucester, Gloucester,  
       I'd speak with the Duke of Cornwall and his wife. [Collocate -1]  
*Glou*. **Well**, my good lord, I have inform'd them so. (LR 2.4.98)  
                   [Address form]        [Collocate +1]

Here again, collocate minus-one and collocate plus-one exist, but collocate plus-two is missing or vacant.

The point here is that the address form *my good lord* is recognised as separate from the three slots mentioned above. Similarly recognised are: adverbials (*now* and *then*), connectives (*and* and *but*), and interjectional words and phrases (*go to* and *i'faith*).

I am not claiming that the whole collocational sequence of utterances involving marker *well* can be recognised within this framework, but that it is an attempt to give a more precise linguistic or collocational description of utterance types which are more likely to come either before or after marker *well*.

## 6. Discourse marker *well* in Shakespeare and collocation: Analysis 1

First, I would like to look at forms of address and other words and phrases which will be discussed separately from the utterances to be examined in the framework of three slots.

### 6.1 Forms of address

#### 6.1.1 Forms and frequency

Table 3 shows how often forms of address co-occur with marker *well*.

<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>19.5 %</b> (i.e. 91/466 instances of marker <i>well</i> )
Once each	46	--

More than once	45	32	<i>sir</i>	(including one instance of <i>sirs</i> )
		5	<i>my (good) lord</i>	(including two instances of <i>my good lord</i> )
		4	<i>lords</i>	(including one instance of <i>my lords</i> )
		2	<i>masters</i>	
		2	<i>niece</i>	

Ninety-one instances (19.5%) of marker *well* co-occur with a certain form of address. Forty-six instances out of these address forms appear just once each. Forty-five instances co-occur with marker *well* more than once.

No forms of address collocate with marker *well* very frequently except for *sir*. The form *sir* occurs thirty-two times, which is one-third of the total number of occurrences of address forms.

### 6.1.2 Forms of address: Textual and/or stylistic differences?

The rate of co-occurrences of marker *well* with forms of address is 19.5 per cent of the total occurrences of the marker. We cannot say, however, if this rate is high or low, or if it has any great significance, before we know something about other varieties or texts.

Fortunately, we are able to examine so-called ‘bad’ Quarto play texts, their First Folio equivalents and the Shakespeare canon of play texts, and make a comparison of co-occurrences of marker *well* with address forms as in Table 4.

<b>Table 4</b> Comparison of co-occurrences of marker <i>well</i> with address forms among ‘bad’ Q*, F1 and the Shakespeare canon			
	Q1	F1	Sh. canon
Occurrences of address form / marker <i>well</i> (Percentage)	37 / 123 (30.1%)	19 / 99 (19.2%)	91 / 466 (19.5%)
(* includes eight plays: 2H6, 3H6, HAM, H5, LR, R3, ROM and WIV)			

In ‘bad’ Quartos, 37 out of 123 instances (i.e. 30.1%) co-occur with address forms. In the First Folio, on the other hand, 19 out of 99 instances (i.e. 19.2%) co-occur. The rate in the First Folio is more or less the same as in the Shakespeare canon.

Note also the actual number of occurrences of marker *well*, which is much higher in Quartos than in Folios (123 in Quartos as against 99 in equivalent Folios). Furthermore this disproportion is even greater when we consider the length of the texts, because the ‘bad’ Quarto texts are much shorter than the Folios. It is safe to say that the frequency of marker *well* in the ‘bad’ Quarto texts is much greater than the figures in the table superficially suggest.

The point to note here is the far greater frequency of the combination of marker *well* with address forms in the ‘bad’ Quarto texts. If it is right to presume that the ‘bad’ Quarto texts reflect some features of the spoken or colloquial language in the period, it may reasonable to think that marker *well* and forms of address, when combined with each other, may have acted as

a sort of ‘style marker’ (Enkvist 1964, 1973; Culpeper 2001: 199).

## 6.2 Words and phrases

Table 5 shows occurrences of words and phrases which follow marker *well*.

Word & phrase	Occurrence	Note
<i>then</i>	38	(including eleven instances of <i>well ... then</i> )
<i>go to</i>	7	(including one instance of <i>go to, go to</i> )
<i>now</i>	6	(including four instances of <i>well ... now</i> )
<i>and</i>	4	--
<i>but</i>	2	--
<i>come (on)</i>	2	--
<i>i'faith</i>	1	--

Only seven items appear after marker *well*. The item *then* appears thirty-eight times, but the number of occurrences of the other six items is much smaller.

This result in Shakespearean texts is significantly different from that in Present-day English, where a much greater variety of words and phrases are reported to collocate with marker *well*.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>you know, you see, I mean, look, really, then, so, no, yes</i> (Svartvik 1980: 170; Owen 1981: 112)</li> <li>• <i>actually, as a matter of fact, really, well well</i> (Carter and McCarthy 2006: 153)</li> </ul>
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It is important to note that the range of collocates in Present-day English is much wider than in Shakespeare: almost all of the collocates reported to be ‘most common’ and ‘most frequent’ in Present-day English are not found in Shakespeare. This means that almost all of these Present-day collocates (except for *then*) have developed after Shakespeare’s time. This fact will be significant when we examine the historical development of discourse marker *well*.

## 7. Discourse marker *well* and collocation: Analysis 2 – Utterances following

### 7.1 Modes of utterance in Collocate +1

When we examine the use of marker *well*, collocates immediately after *well* may come to the fore because they directly trigger use or non-use of *well* immediately before they are uttered. The numbers of occurrences of marker *well* are classified according to the collocate type in Table 7.

<b>Table 7</b> Occurrences of marker <i>well</i> by collocate type in Collocate +1		
<b>Collocate type</b>	<b>Occurrence</b>	<b>Percentage (%) / 466 instances of marker <i>well</i></b>
<b>Declarative with <i>I / we</i>-subject</b>	<b>148</b> (120 / 28)	31.8 (25.8 / 6.0)
Declarative with 2nd pers. subject + modal auxiliary verb	7	--
Declarative with 3rd pers. subject + <i>shall</i>	5	--
<b>Imperative</b>	<b>110</b>	23.6
<b>Interrogative</b>	<b>30</b>	6.4
<b>Subordinate clause</b>	<b>21</b>	4.5
Optative	13	--
Parting formulae	13	--
Other declaratives	119	25.5

This table is not a definitive but a provisional one. The classification of collocate types is tentative, but it is intriguing to see that the declarative (with the first person pronoun as a subject in particular) is the most frequent type of utterance. The imperative comes second, and the interrogative and the subordinate clause follow. What is classified as ‘other declaratives’ at the bottom of the table includes various types of statement with no significant specific types recognised yet or no forms of utterance identified yet.

The declarative, the imperative and the subordinate clause type need further comment.

### 7.1.1 *I/we*-subject + modal auxiliary verb

Out of 148 instances of the declarative with the first person pronoun as a subject, 97 instances appear in the combination of <*I/we*-subject + modal auxiliary verb>.

<b>Table 8</b> <i>I/we</i> -subject + modal auxiliary verb (97): Forms and frequency (numbers of occurrences in parentheses)
<b>I'll / I will (57), we'll / we will (10)</b> , I must (7), we shall (6), I shall (3), <b>I would (4*)</b> , we must (3), I can(not)/could (4), I should (1), we cannot (1), we may (1)
* includes one instance of <i>would I were</i> (TIM 1.2.201)

The majority of these instances (71 out of the total 97) consist particularly of the combination of <first person pronoun + the modal auxiliary verb *will/would*>, which shows that the combination of <marker *well* + first person pronoun + *will/would*> was a well-established collocation in Shakespeare's time.

The functions of marker *well* are strongly characterised by the utterance following, which shows the speaker's firm decision and resolution when it has the first person pronoun as its subject with the modal auxiliary verb *will/would* following. The speaker's strong attitude can

also be expressed by the combination <second or third person pronoun + the modal auxiliary *shall*>, and by the imperative also.

### 7.1.2 Imperatives

Although the imperative (110 instances) is the second frequent type of utterance, no individual verb forms can be recognised as very frequent, as shown in Table 9.

Table 9 Patterns of the imperative in Collocate +1	
Verb	let (17), go (9), say (4), be (3), call (3), do (3), get (3), give (3), etc.
Prepositional phrase	on ... (4), to ... (4), etc.
Noun phrase	no more (4), etc.

It is interesting to know, however, that marker *well* shows the highest collocability with the verb *let* when followed by the imperative. If we pay attention to the object the verb *let* takes, we get Table 10.

Table 10 Objects the imperative verb <i>let</i> takes in Collocate +1
let us go/see/to ... (4), let's away (1); let it + V (4); let + them/him + V (twice each); let + her/that/his father/my deeds (once each)

The first person pronoun which occurs with the *let*-imperative after marker *well* is only the plural objective form *us*. This is different from what we know about Present-day English. In Present-day English, according to the British National Corpus, the combination <*well* + *let* + *me*> with the first person pronoun singular 'me' as an object (62 instances) occurs more than twelve times as often as the combination <*well* + *let* + *us*> (only 5 instances).

### 7.1.3 Subordinate clause type

Thirdly, it is interesting to take a closer look at the subordinate clause type.

Table 11 Conjunctions introducing subordinate clauses in Collocate +1	
Conjunction	Occurrence
if / and [= 'if']	16
while(s)	2
since	1
ere	1

This type includes utterances prefaced by four specific types of conjunction: *if*, *while(s)*, *since* and *ere*.

It is important to pay attention to the main clause utterance type following the subordinate

clause, in the slot of collocate plus-two, as in Table 12.

Table 12 Utterance types in Collocate +2 by conjunction in Collocate +1		
Conjunction in Collocate +1	Occurrence	Utterance type in Collocate +2
if / and [=if]	16	I'll (4), I shall (2), I would (1), we should (1), shall (with 3rd-person subject) (2), you must, thou wilt, shalt thou (once each), etc.
while(s)	2	I'll / I will
since	1	I will
ere	1	I'll

Almost all subordinate clauses are followed by the declarative prefaced by the first person pronoun *I* with the modal auxiliary verb, particularly *will*, which clearly shows the speaker's firm resolution or decision. Other combinations such as <second/third person pronoun + the auxiliary *shall/must*> also express the speaker's strong attitude.

It is then necessary to go further down to the context where each type of conjunction occurs.

- (9) a. [...] **Well, and** [=if] I be serv'd such another trick, I'll have my braines ta'en out and buttered, [...] (W1V 3.5.6)
- b. [...] **Well, while** I live I'll fear no other thing / So sore, as keeping safe Nerissa's ring. *Exeunt.* (MV 5.1.306)
- c. **Well**, my lord, **since** you have given me leave to speak, / Freely will I speak. (PER 1.2.101)
- d. [...] / **Well**, Catesby, **ere** a fortnight make me elder, / I'll send some packing [= send away] that yet think not on't. (Ff R3 3.02.60)

All of the subordinate clauses here act as some sort of emphatic clause. Although they are prefaced by the conjunctions *and* (for 'if'), *while*, *since* and *ere* with their own semantic meanings, they are pragmatically or situationally used to give more emphasis to the speaker's attitude or resolution which is clearly declared in the main clause by means of the combination <the first person pronoun *I* + the auxiliary *will*>.

These observations may tell something about the ongoing diachronic evolution of functions of the *if*-, *while*-, *since*-, and *ere*-clauses during Shakespeare's time. These clauses may gradually have been weakening or bleaching their propositional meanings such as 'condition', 'time' and 'reason', and acting to help support functions of marker *well* which are 'expressive' and 'personal'.

In Shakespeare's time, the use of subordinate clauses to help support the expressiveness or subjectivity of the discourse may have been one of the distinctive and new ways of description. The most frequent combination <*well* + *if*-clause + *I will*>, however, may have been either a

distinctive and new collocation, or a trite and so-called ‘hackneyed’ one. A closer look at this combination as a collocational sequence will be necessary.

#### 7.1.4 <well + if-clause + I will> as a collocation

One of the most intriguing phenomena concerning the combination of <well + if-clause + I will>, is that it occurs very frequently in the speech of Falstaff rather than any other Shakespearean character.

- (10) a. [...] **Well, if Percy be alive, I'll** pierce him. If he do come in my way, so; if he do not, if I come in his willingly, let him make a carbonado of me. [...] [*Exit.*] (1H4 5.03.56)
- b. [...] **Well, and I be serv'd such another trick, I'll** have my braines ta'en out and buttered, give them to a dog for a New Year's gift. [...] (WIV 3.05.6)
- c. [...] **Well, if my wind were but long enough** [to say my prayers], **I would** repent.  
(WIV 4.5.102)
- d. **Well, and the fire of grace be not quite out of thee, now shalt thou** be moved. [...] (as Henry IV; 1H4 2.4.383)

Examples (10a) to (10c) appear in his monologue, and it may be safe to say that this combination is one of the very important collocational patterns which support or create Falstaff's pattern of thought, reasoning and recognition.

Example (10d) appears in the conversation scene where he plays at being King Henry IV, and it should be understood taking into account the fact that it consists of the collocational pattern unique to Falstaff himself. This understanding will offer a wider possibility of linguistic meaning implied here in the speech of Falstaff, who, playing the role of King Henry IV, linguistically reveals himself through one of the Falstaffian patterns of collocation.

To better understand the Falstaffian use of the collocational pattern involving marker *well*, it is worthwhile looking at his linguistic preference for both conditional clauses and marker *well*.

Falstaff uses conditional clauses frequently.

Table 13 Conditional clauses by character in 1H4	
Falstaff	66%
Prince Henry	22%
Hotspur	12%
(Burton 1973: 21 ff.; Blake 2002: 302)	

It is clear that choice of sentence structure, particularly the conditional clause here, is characteristic of Falstaff, and it is reasonable to think that conditional clauses are deeply involved in the characterisation of Falstaff.

Similarly, use or non-use of discourse markers may be characteristic of certain characters.

Character (Play)	Occurrence	Note
Falstaff (WIV, 1&2H4)	27	i.e. 9 (WIV) + 13 (1H4) + 5 (2H4)
Prince Henry (1&2H4)	9	one in 2H4    cf. 3 (as K. Henry in H5)
Launcelot Gobbo (MV), Pandarus (TRO)	8	
King Richard III (R3)	8	cf. 3 (as Richard of Gloucester in 3H6 & R3)
Berowne (a lord; LLL), Launce (TGV)	7	
Angelo, the deputy (MM), Chief Justice, the Lord (2H4), Coriolanus (COR), Ford (WIV),	6	
Quickly (WIV)	6	cf. 4 (as Hostess in 2H4)
Capulet (ROM), Don Pedro (ADO), Dogberry (ADO), Iago (OTH), Leonato (ADO), Nurse (ROM), Rosalind (AYL)	5	

Again, Falstaff uses marker *well* frequently: three times as often as the second most frequent user, Prince Henry.

## 7.2 Modes of utterance in Collocate +2

It is a difficult task to specify collocate types in collocate plus-two. The present section is an attempt to specify as many significant linguistic forms of utterance as possible, and to verify the notion of the second slot for examining the use of marker *well*.

### 7.2.1 Collocate types in Collocate +2

Out of the total 466 instances of marker *well*, 310 instances are recognised, for the moment, as being followed by identifiable forms of utterance in collocate plus-two, as in Table 15

No	Collocate type	Occurrence
1	<b>Declarative</b>	<b>123</b>
2	<b>Imperative</b>	<b>33</b>
3	<b>Interrogative</b>	<b>33</b>
4	Interjection / marker, etc.	13
5	Parting formulae	11
6	Emphatic phrase/ clause	9
7	Conjunctive / conjunctive adverb introducing utterance	88
	Total	310

The declarative is the most frequent type as in collocate plus-one. The imperative and the interrogative are the second most frequent types.

A closer look at collocate types and specific utterances will show how far through the discourse sequence the expressive and personal functions of marker *well* extend or reach, as in Table 16.

<b>Table 16</b> Collocate types and frequency in Collocate +2, example utterances added				
<b>No</b>	<b>Collocate type</b>		<b>Occurrence</b>	<b>Example utterance (Occurrence)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Declarative</b>		<b>123</b>	
	1.1	1st pers. Sbj. + aux	48	<I (44)>: <i>I'll / I will</i> (33), <i>I shall</i> (3), <i>I must</i> (3), <i>I can(not)</i> (3), <i>I would</i> (1), <i>[I] have to</i> (1); <we (4)>: <i>we'll, we will, we shall, we should</i> (once each)
	1.2	1st pers. Sbj. + V	19	--
	1.3	3rd pers. Sbj. + aux	14	S + <i>shall</i> (9)/ <i>must</i> (3)/ <i>should</i> (1); <i>she'll</i> (1)
	1.4	2nd pers. Sbj. + aux	7	<i>thou shalt</i> (3), <i>you must</i> (2), <i>you shall</i> (1), <i>thou wilt</i> (1)
	1.5	2nd pers. Sbj. + V	2	--
	1.6	Other declaratives	33	--
<b>2</b>	<b>Imperative</b>		<b>33</b>	--
<b>3</b>	<b>Interrogative</b>		<b>33</b>	--
<b>4</b>	<b>Interjection / marker, etc.</b>		<b>13</b>	--
<b>5</b>	<b>Parting formulae</b>		<b>11</b>	--
<b>6</b>	<b>Emphatic phrase/ clause</b>		<b>9</b>	--
<b>7</b>	<b>Conjunctive / conjunctive adverb</b>		<b>88</b>	--
	7.1	Conjunctive / conj. adverb (Adversative)	20	<i>but (yet)</i> (16), <i>yet</i> (4)
	7.2	Conjunctive / conj. adverb (Other)	68	--

Here again, as in the position of collocate plus-one, the declarative appears frequently with the first person pronoun as a subject. Out of 67 utterances with the first person pronoun as a subject, 48 (i.e. 72%) appear in the combination of <first person pronoun + modal auxiliary verb>, and almost all of these instances appear in the combination of <I + will>, which expresses the speaker's firm resolution. Other combinations such as <third/second person pronoun + modal auxiliary verb> also express the speaker's strong attitude. Other collocate types such as

imperative, interjection, parting formulae and emphatic phrase/clause also reflect the speaker's personal attitude.

The expressive and personal functions of marker *well* extend through the first slot to the second, where the speaker's personal attitude or intention introduced by the marker is attested linguistically through collocate types and specific utterances as well.

### 7.2.2 Interpreting the use of marker *well* through Collocate +2

Example (11) shows the importance of including the second slot (i.e. collocate plus-two) within the collocational span or as a mode of collocation when we interpret the use of marker *well*.

- (11) **Well, I will** go, [Collocate +1]  
But yet I have no desire to it. [Collocate +2]  
 (PER 4.1.42)

The collocate plus-two utterance, prefaced by the conjunction *but* and the adverb *yet*, makes explicit the speaker's hesitation and unwillingness which is implied in collocate plus-one. This means that *but yet* in the second utterance can be understood as a linguistic indicator to support interpretation of the speaker's unwillingness implied in the first utterance when introduced by marker *well*.

Once this mode of collocation or sequence of utterances following marker *well* is understood as a significant linguistic unit, it will suggest the possibility of a similar interpretation in example 12, where the second utterance after marker *well* is missing.

- (12) *Pan[thino]*. Come; come away, man – I was sent to call thee.  
*Launce*. Sir – call me what thou dar'st.  
*Pan*. Wilt thou go?  
*Launce*. **Well, I will go.** *Exeunt.* (TGV 2.3.59)  
 [Collocate +1]

The speaker's unwillingness implied in collocate plus-one can be understood more clearly when this example is appreciated in terms of the collocational mode involving the second slot, which is implicit here although explicit in the previous example (11).

The point here is to assume the existence of a second slot within the range of the utterance sequence which follows marker *well*.

## 8. Discourse marker *well* and collocation: Analysis 3 – Utterances preceding

It is much more difficult to identify preceding utterances than following ones, probably for linguistic, textual and/or contextual reasons.

Table 17 shows some distinctive modes of collocation (excluding the declarative) in collocate minus-one, which can be characterised by the position of *well* (circled in the table).

<b>Table 17</b> Mode and frequency of preceding utterance (Collocate -1): Collocate types (excluding the declarative) and occurrences of marker <i>well</i> by position					
Collocate type	Occurrence	Occurrences of <i>well</i> by position in utterance			
		Dialogue scene		Monologue/aside	
		Initial	Non-initial	Initial	Non-initial
Imperative	48	41	6	1	--
Interrogative	39	13	18	--	8
Optative	7	3	2	--	2
Interjection	7	1	6	--	--
Parting formulae	3	3	--	--	--
Conjunction:					
(1) <i>but</i> ( <i>for ... / now ...</i> )	3	--	3	--	--
(2) <i>if</i> *	3	1	2	--	--

\* making a stop-short utterance.

### 8.1 Modes of utterance in Collocate -1 (1): Imperatives and interrogatives

Marker *well*, when preceded by the imperative, occurs 41 times (85.4%) initially at the beginning of a new turn (i.e. after speaker switch) in dialogue scenes, while only six times (12.5%) non-initially embedded in a single speaker's utterance and none non-initially in monologue. The collocational mode <imperative + *well* ...> often appears in dialogue scenes, and it is likely to appear particularly at the beginning of a new turn, rather than in a single speaker's utterance.

When preceded by the interrogative, on the other hand, marker *well* is more likely to occur non-initially rather than initially. It is clear that the collocational mode <interrogative + *well* ...> is more likely to appear non-initially embedded in a single speaker's utterance. It may be safe to say that this mode of collocation helps speakers proceed with their own speech by answering their own questions particularly in monologue or to twist and change topics in dialogue scenes.

It may be reasonable, in this connection, to suggest further examination into marker *well* which comes immediately after the interrogative, in terms of characterisation or 'collocational style', following the example of Falstaff's use of the combination <*well* + *if*-clause + *I will*>.

### 8.3 Modes of utterance in Collocate -1 (2): Interjections and conjunctions

Marker *well*, when preceded by interjections and utterances prefaced by conjunctions such as *but* and *if*, is more likely to appear non-initially in a single speaker's utterance, and these combinations can be readily recognised as a collocation.

Only six instances of marker *well* are preceded by interjections in a single speaker's utterance as in example 13.

- (13) a. Monday! ha, ha! **Well**, We'n'sday is too soon, / A' Thursday let it be -- [...] (Capulet; ROM 3.04.19)
- b. Ha, ah, ha! **Well**, masters, good night. [...] (Dogberry; ADO 3.03.84)
- c. [Bianca] So hangs, and lolls, and weeps upon me; so haies and pulls me.  
Ha, ha, ha! [...] **Well**, I must leave her company. (Cassio; OTH 4.01.144)
- d. [...] Ah, Rome! **Well, well**, I made thee miserable [...] (Titus; TIT 4.03.18)
- e. Ah sir! ah sir! **Well**, death's the end of all. (Nurse; Q1 ROM 3.03.92)
- f. O, go to. **Well, well**, / Of all the faults beneath the heavens, the gods/ Do like this worst. (Cleon; PER 4.03.19)

Marker *well* in Shakespeare is less likely to collocate with interjections than in Present-day English, where marker *well* is reported to frequently collocate with interjections such as *oh* and *ah* (Carter and McCarthy 2006: 153).

Although many fewer instances of marker *well* collocating with utterances prefaced by conjunctions can be found in Shakespeare, these can readily be recognised as a collocation as in example 14.

- (14) a. [...] but for you – **well** – go to. (Quickly; WIV 1.04.154)
- b. [...] but now – **Well**, on. (Cleopatra; ANT 4.04.38)

The discourse sequence <from abruptness through marker *well* into final personal resolution> can be appreciated clearly by recognising the combination <*but* + *for you/now* + *well* ...> as a collocation.

A similar discourse sequence can be traced when the *if*-clause precedes marker *well* as in example 15.

- (15) a. I cannot speak. If my heart be not ready to burst -- **well**, sweet Jack, have a care of thyself. (Doll; 2H4 2.4.380)
- b. And [=if] her hair were not somewhat darker than Helen's -- **well**, go to! -- there were no more comparison between the women! But for my part, she is my kinswoman; I would not, as they term it, praise her, [...] (Pandarus; TRO 1.1.42)

## 9. Conclusion

To conclude, I summarise twelve typical modes or patterns of collocation involving discourse marker *well*. They are:

① <*well* + *sir*>

The form *sir* may have acted something like a marker combined with *well*.

② <*well* + forms of address>

This is much more frequent in the ‘bad’ Quartos than in the Folios, which suggests the possibility that *well* combined with address forms may have acted as a **style marker**.

③ <*well* + **adverbials**>

This is scarce except for *then* (38 instances) and *now* (6 instances). Almost all adverbials that are reported ‘most common’ and ‘most frequent’ in Present-day English are not found in Shakespeare, which may reflect the historical/diachronic development of marker *well* in terms of collocation.

④ <*well* + **first person pronoun as a subject + modal auxiliary verb**> /

<*well* + **third/second person pronoun as a subject + shall**>

These patterns are very frequent, reflecting how expressive and/or personal the word *well* had developed in Shakespeare’s time.

⑤ <*well* + **imperative**>

The imperative is the second frequent collocate type that follows marker *well*, and it is also one of the utterance types which best express the speaker’s firm resolution and decision.

⑥ <*well* + **emphatic clause + I will**>

This may have been one of the distinctive and new ways of expression which help support the expressiveness and subjectivity of the discourse.

⑦ <*well* + **if-clause + I will**>

This pattern can be characteristic of a particular character, occurring very frequently in the speech of Falstaff.

⑧ The notion of a **second slot** in the discourse unit after marker *well* can make the speaker’s discourse intention clearer.⑨ <**imperative** + *well*>

This appears only in dialogue scenes, particularly at the beginning of a new turn.

⑩ <**interrogative** + *well*>

This pattern is more likely to appear non-initially embedded in a single speaker’s utterance, possibly involved in characterisation.

⑪ <**interjection** + *well*>

This pattern is extremely rare compared with its use in Present-day English.

⑫ <**conjunction** + *well*>

This pattern is rare, but as a collocation is a tactic speakers use to introduce the subjective decision or resolution.

## Notes

- References to quotations from Shakespeare are keyed to the lineation in Riverside (1997), normally indicating the line which includes the word in question. Abbreviated titles of Shakespeare plays follow those in Onions (1986). Boldface and underlines in quotations are mine. Italics in the facsimile edition are ignored, and long *s* is replaced by short *s*.
- AWW 3.5.88; COR 1.1.142; CYM 2.3.156; HAM 5.2.135, 5.2.146; 2H4 3.2.245; MV 1.3.1, 3, 6; OTH 3.4.183, 4.1.126; TN 3.1.87; WIV 2.1.143, 147

## Texts

- [F1] *The First Folio of Shakespeare: The Norton Facsimile*. Prepared by Charlton Hinman. London & New York: Paul Hamlyn, 1968.
- [Q] *A Facsimile Series of Shakespeare Quartos: Containing all the pre-Folio editions in which are included the Griggs-Praetorius facsimiles*. Issued under the supervision of T. Ôtsuka. Tokyo: Nan'undo, 1975.
- [Riverside 1997] *The Riverside Shakespeare*. Second edition. Eds. G. Blakemore Evans *et al.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997.

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