

THE ADVERBIAL ACCUSATIVE OF DURATION AND
ITS PREPOSITIONAL EQUIVALENT
PART III LATE MODERN ENGLISH (II)*

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IV. *The Sheldon Corpus*

4.1. In the two works by Sidney Sheldon — *The Other Side of Midnight* (abbreviated as *OSM*)(1974) and *Memories of Midnight* (abbreviated as *MM*)(1990) — we find 387 examples of the expression, of which 157 are of the non-prepositional type and 230 are of the prepositional type. The 157 examples of the non-prepositional type comprise 35 of type A, 1 of type Ab, 34 of type B, 82 of type C, and 5 of type D.

Type A:

i. A remarkable feature is that out of the 35 examples of type A as many as 14 appear in contexts as sentence equivalents in elliptical constructions. This shows how well the non-prepositional type of adverbial is adapted for the terse colloquial style of present-day English as it is used by Sidney Sheldon. Some of the examples are:

(1) “How long have I been here?” “*Four days.*” — *OSM* 2.68.¹

(2) “How long have you lived here?” “*A thousand years.* We moved here before the Peloponnesian War.” — *OSM* 18.357.

(3) ‘And would you tell us how long you were employed by Mr Savalas?’ ‘*Twenty-five years.*’ — *MM* 7.119.

(4) ‘How long have you been in practice, Doctor?’ ‘*Almost thirty years.*’ — *MM* 7.127.

(5) ‘... How long have you worked for Constantin Demiris?’ ‘*Four months.*’ — *MM* 19.289.

Each of the adverbials concerned stands — in (1), for ‘You have been here *four days*’, in (2), for ‘We have lived here *a thousand years*’, in (3), for ‘I was employed *twenty-five years*’, in (4), for ‘I have been *almost thirty years*’ and in (5), for ‘I have worked for him *four months*.’²

ii. The other 19 examples of type A are subdivided in the following way, according to the governing verbs.

(i) With *wait* (10 examples):

A minute, as in the imperative sentence “*Wait a minute*”, is treated here as an instance of type A, though it is semantically equivalent to *a moment*, as it is used in (37)~(41) below,

* Concerning (II), I also express my thanks to Professor P. E. Davenport, Hitotsubashi University, for reading the draft and making a number of valuable suggestions.

¹ The numerical indication is given in the order of chapter and page — in the case of *OSM*, according to the Pan Book edition, and in the case of *MM*, according to the Fontana edition.

² Another example of the A-type adverbial in elliptical use will be shown in (132) in §4.2.

which is treated as a phrase of type C. The Sheldon corpus contains 8 examples of the type <Wait a minute>. One of them is cited below.

(6) Wait a minute. — *MM* 12.204.

The following elliptical usage, where “Just a minute” stands for ‘Wait just a minute’ is to be understood as assignable to the same category.³

(7) Just a minute, Unit Four. — *MM* 16.255.

The other example of *wait* governing an adverbial of type A is:

(8) Okay, but if I have to wait a month, I want more — say an extra couple of hundred grand. — *MM* 12.211.

(ii) With *serve* (3 examples):

(9) By the time Jerry Haley was twenty-one, he had served *three years* in juvenile detention centers for auto theft, breaking and entering, and rape. — *MM* 2.1.301.

(10) [n] In reality they will not have to serve *more than six months*. — *OSM* 23.446 [similarly *MM* 8.141].

In (9) and (10) we see so much closeness in the relation between *had served / to serve* and the adverbial of temporal determination that the latter can be regarded as the quasi-object of the former.

(iii) With *be* (2 examples):

(11) You’re *more than two months* pregnant. — *OSM* 2.72 [similarly *OSM* 2.76].

Here the A-type adverbial precedes the subject complement, showing that it has the function of adjunct of degree qualifying the subsequent adjective *pregnant* along with that of temporal determination for the predicate.

(iv) With *last* (2 examples):

(12) The storm lasted *almost two hours*. — *OSM* 14.819.

(13) Alan Hamilton found himself going without sleep for stretches that sometimes lasted *as long as sixty hours*. — *MM* 19.293.

Here the A-type adverbials are so closely associated with the finite forms of *last* that they might be considered the quasi-objects of the predicate verbs.⁴ In (13) the aberrant form *as long as sixty hours*, where *long* is an adverb, can be understood as equivalent to ‘sixty long hours’ and so a variant of an A-type instance.

(v) With *age* (2 examples):

(14) Almost overnight, she had aged *ten years* and become a fat, blowsy drunk. — *MM* 3.27 [similarly *OSM* 23.419].

Just as in the cases of “had served *three years*” in (9) and of “lasted *almost two hours*” in (12), *ten years* in “had aged *ten years*” in (14), where *aged* means ‘grown old, become aged’, may be regarded as the quasi-object of *had aged*.

(vi) With *be gone / patrol* (each 1 example):

(15) Noelle was gone *about thirty minutes*, ... — *OSM* 14.320.

(16) [iter.] both the airfield and the private harbor were patrolled *twenty-four hours* a day by armed guards with trained German shepherds. — *OSM* Prol. 18.

In (16) “*twenty-four hours* a day” is directly related to *were patrolled* so as to intensify the

³ Cf. (42) below, where the corresponding use of *a moment* is exemplified.

⁴ Cf., however, (40) in §4.2, where *lasted* is determined by a *for*-phrase of type A’.

⁵ Cf. OED, s.v. AGE v. 1.

aspect of iteration along with that of duration.

Type Ab:

In the Sheldon corpus we find a single example of type Ab:

(17) his lips were gentle and tender and careful, and hers were demanding and wild with all the pent-up longing that had been stored in her body *these long, lonely months*. — OSM 19.377.

Type B:

Of type B we find 34 examples, which are subdivided in the following way. Here is a selection from them.

(i) *all night* (9 examples); *all night long* (2 examples):

(18) She lay in Larry's arms *all night*, ... — OSM 2.61.

(19) Where have you been *all night*? — OSM 4.110.

(20) "It's [i.e. The door is] probably open *all night* for the dock workers," Noelle said. — OSM 8.221.

(21) Catherine had been awake *all night* thinking about the unknown future that lay ahead of her. — MM 3.29.

(22) Catherine forced herself to ask a question that had been tormenting her *all night long*. — MM 4.62–3.

(ii) *all day* (7 examples); *all day long* (2 examples):

(23) It had been raining on and off *all day*, ... — OSM 6.154.

(24) He will be in conference *all day*. — OSM 8.208.

(25) Do you know what I have been thinking about *all day*? — OSM 8.212–3.

(26) Catherine stayed home *all day* for Larry. — OSM 11.256.

(27) Well. I tell them that you're an ogre and that you scream at me *all day long*. — OSM 5.152.

In (27) the present tense *scream* has been so much exaggerated with the emphatic B-type adverbial *all day long* as to imply a continual activity.

(iii) *all evening* (4 examples):

(28) I've been trying to call you *all evening*. — OSM 7.201.

(29) *all evening* she kept mentally comparing him to William Fraser, ... — OSM 5.122.

(iv) *all that day* (2 examples):

(30) Noelle changed clothes and stayed in the room *all that day*, ... — OSM 2.65.

(31) *All that day*, the incident kept rankling her. — OSM 7.184.

(v) The Sheldon corpus also contains 8 other forms of type B, each occurring once: *all afternoon*, *all week*, *all weekend*, *the whole afternoon*, *this evening*, *that night*, *the rest of the night*, and *nights*. Of these the latter five may deserve to be illustrated here.

(32) Noelle remained locked up with the photograph *the whole afternoon*. — OSM 8.204.

(33) I happened to be free *this evening*. — OSM 5.136.

(34) Noelle lay awake *that night* marveling at how her father loved her... — OSM 2.45.

(35) He lay awake *the rest of the night* thinking what it would do to him if he lost her. — OSM 19.370.

(36) [iter.] He would lie awake *nights* devising elaborate surprises to make her happy... — OSM 10.238.

The use of *nights* in (36) requires special comment. *Nights*, as it is used here, is historically derived from OE *nihtes* (cf. *G nachts*), which is an irregular genitive form on the analogy of

dæges. Descriptively, however, it may be construed as accusative plural and so considered an instance of type A, implying the notion of habitual iteration throughout the period designated, while the usage has become colloquially popular, especially in modern American English.⁶

Type C:

The Sheldon corpus contains 82 examples of type C. The favourite of these non-prepositional phrases is *a moment*, which occurs as many as 58 times.

(i) The use of the terse phrase *a moment*, as it appears in the following selected examples, forms a factor of Sidney Sheldon's lively, dynamic style.

(38) Noelle stared at him *a moment* before she realized what he meant. — *OSM* 6.154.

(39) Madame Delys hesitated *a moment*, then left the room. — *OSM* 2.61.

(40) He stood there *a moment*, looking down at Catherine. — *OSM* 15.237.

(41) Prizzi thought *a moment*, then nodded. — *MM* 12.211.

(42) Just *a moment*, please. — *MM* 17.272.

With the elliptical usage of "Just *a moment* (= Wait just a moment)" in (42), we should compare the synonymous usage of "just *a minute*", shown as an instance of type A in (7) above.

(ii) Next should be considered *a long moment*, the emphatic and emotional variant of *a moment*. Out of the 7 examples, 3 will be shown.

(43) Sister Therea looked at her *a long moment*. — *MM* 3.25.

(44) Lanchon stared at her *a long moment* and then nodded. — *OSM* 2.50

(45) Catherine stood there *a long moment*, then turned and walked back into the living room... — *OSM* 18.365.

(iii) *all the time* (8 examples):

Of these we shall select the following four, including one, i.e., (49), where the phrase itself introduces an asyndetic clause.

(46) I think of it *all the time*. — *OSM* 2.70.

(47) He realizes that it's stupid for you to be fighting *all the time*. — *MM* 24.328.

(48) And so she died with him and laughed with him, but *all the time* the deep secret personal part of her lay back in reserve, carefully aloof, untouched and untouchable. — *OSM* 19.376.

(49) *all the time* the trial was going on. Demiris had her hidden away. — *MM* 20.298.

(iv) *most of the time* (3 examples):

(50) I'll be here *most of the time*. — *MM* 13.215 [similarly *MM* 5.83].

(51) *Most of the time* Larry flew with Paul Metaxas, Demiris' happy-go-lucky little Greek copilot. — *OSM* 14.310.

(v) *a long time / a lifetime* (each 2 examples):

(52) I've lived *a long time*, and I've learned that no man or woman can hide an evil nature. — *MM* 7.118.

(53) Colonel Mueller looked at Noelle *a long time*, then stiffly rose to his feet. — *OSM* 8.212.

(54) I've seen enough to last me *a lifetime*. — *OSM* 21.389 [similarly *OSM* 19.374].

In (54) *a lifetime* in *last me a lifetime* is an obligatory adjunct of duration which may be

⁶ Cf. OED, s.v. NIGHTS *adv.*

assigned to type C.⁷

(vi) *a short time / full time* (each 1 example):

(55) ...who in the end had succumbed to her love for a penniless young pilot she had only known *a short time*. — *OSM* 1.28.

(56) the day was coming, Catherine knew, when she would have to quit school and go to work *full time*. — *OSM* 21.389.

In (56) “work *full time*” may be interpreted as syntactically equivalent to ‘work *all her time*’.⁸

In concluding the present item we would like to add that *some time*, which occurs in overwhelming abundance in the Goldsmith and Austen corpora, does not occur at all in the Sheldon corpus,⁹ though it offers an instance of the corresponding C'-type form *for some time*, as it is illustrated in (131) in § 4.2.

Type D:

The Sheldon corpus contains 5 instances of type D, that is, 3 in the form ⟨*all one's life*⟩, 1 in the form ⟨*most of one's life*⟩, and 1 in the form ⟨*the rest of one's life*⟩, as in:

(57) Instead of devising ways to get into something they like, they remain trapped *all their lives*, like brainless insects. — *OSM* 14.299

(58) I've been up to my ass in actresses *all my life*. — *OSM* 4.102–3.

(59) [iter.] *all my life* I have heard stories about the Turks coming into our village and killing and torturing our people. — *MM* 21.310

(60) Gautier had worked in the theater *most of his life*, but he had never met anyone like Noelle. — *OSM* 6.144.

(61) I think someone like you is entitled to get everything out of life that he can. Unless of course... you want to go on working for someone else *the rest of your life*. — *OSM* 12.270.

4.2. Of the prepositional type of the expression in question the Sheldon corpus contains 230 examples, that is, 70 of type A', 45 of type Ab', 1 of type Ac', 17 of type B', 84 of type C', and 13 of type D'.

Type A':

The 70 instances of type A' comprise 68 *for*-phrases and 2 *in*-phrases.

i. In view of the governing verbs the 68 *for*-phrases of type A' may be subdivided in the following way.

(i) With *be* (13 examples):

Here is a selection from these examples. It may be worth noting here that the *for*-phrases concerned are invariably placed at the ends of the clauses. When we compare the corresponding cases of the Goldsmith corpus, that is, (7)~(10) in § 2.2, and of the Austen corpus, that is, (1)~(9) in § 3.2, we can see here a marked feature of modernization in the historical transition of syntactic style.

(1) His mother had been dead *for ten years*. — *MM* 11.175.

(2) Veritos had been with Spyros Lambrou *for fifteen years*. — *MM* 6.99.

⁷ Cf. (110) in § 3.1 and the comment made there.

⁸ Cf. OED, s.v. FULL TIME.

⁹ Cf. the following instance of *some time* meaning ‘at some unspecified time’: We all have to go (=die) *some time*, right? — *MM* 10.164.

(3) Auguste Lanchon had been seasick and terrified *for three days*. — *OSM* Prol. 15.¹⁰

(4) I've been the curator at that museum *for twenty years*. — *MM* 12.206.

(5) The jury was out *for four hours*. — *MM* Epil. 388.

(6) he had to be away from her and her mother *for months* at a time... — *OSM* 1.23.

(7) She had to find an excuse to go back into the lobby, to be alone with the concierge *for a few seconds*. — *OSM* 8.217.

In (6), *at a time* in “*for months* at a time” directly modifies the preceding *for months*. As for the form *for months* as an instance of type A', we should note the adaptability of the simple plural noun *months* (=many months) for the head of the prepositional phrase, as against the corresponding non-prepositional adverbial (=type A). The same kind of forms as instances of type A' are found below in (10), (22), (27), (34) and (37).¹¹

(ii) With *sit* (6 examples):

(8) Wim sat there in silence *for thirty minutes* studying the tablecloth, ... — *MM* 9.162 [similarly *MM* 27.346, *MM* Epil. 386].

(9) In fact Larry had sat in a small anteroom *for three hours* waiting to see Constantin Demiris. — *OSM* 14.297.

(10) When she was not working, she would sit *for hours* at small outdoor cafés on the Champs-Élysées, ... — *OSM* 4.96.

(11) I didn't like the idea of sitting around *for fifteen years* waiting to become a co-pilot. — *OSM* 14.299.

(iii) With *wait* (4 examples):

These include one of an elliptical usage where “*just for a minute*” stands for ‘wait just for a minute’, illustrated in (15).

(12) He waited in the driving rain *for two hours*, his arms full of packages, ... — *OSM* 14.321.

(13) Constantin Demiris kept Syros waiting *for thirty minutes*, ... — *MM* 18.278.

(14) She had been kept waiting in a Customs office *for five hours*... — *OSM* 10.251.

(15) All right, *just for a minute*. — *MM* 17.272.

Comparing “*just for a minute* (type A')” in (15) with “*Just a minute* (type A)” in (7) in § 4.1, we can see that the former has been spoken with a more polite and less authoritative tone than the latter. Comparing, again, “He waited in the driving rain *for two hours*” in (12) with “if I have to wait *a month*” in (8) in § 4.1, we can clearly perceive the free, self-contained function of the *for*-phrase (type A'), as contrasted with the close dependence of the non-prepositional phrase (type A) upon the governing verb *wait*.

(iv) With *live* (3 examples):

(16) Noelle lived with Philippe Sorel *for six months*. — *OSM* 4.101 [similarly *OSM* 5.131].

(17) He's been living with a thousand men *for four years*... — *OSM* 11.259.

(v) With *see* (3 examples):

(18) (n) we haven't seen each other *for almost a month*. — *OSM* 16.337.

(19) (n) no one in Paris had seen roses *for more than three months*. — *OSM* 6.149.

¹⁰ Another instance of (<*had been*...+*for*-phrase of type A') will be shown in (52) below, under the item of type Ab', where the A'-type phrase concerned appears parallel to another one of type Ab' in the same sentence.

¹¹ Instances of the same A'-type form were also cited in the two examples mentioned in footnote 11 in § 2.2, and in (3), (25) and (35) in § 3.2.

(20) His black eyes were locked on hers and *for one split instant* she saw in them a deep, malevolent satisfaction. — *OSM* 23.452.

With the intensive adverbial of momentary duration *for one split instant* in (20), which is here treated as a phrase of type A', we should compare *for (only) an instant, for a miraculous instant, and for one terrible [frozen] instant*, which will be illustrated in (113)~(121) under type C'.

(vi) With *work* (3 examples):

(21) A team of six doctors worked *for five hours* trying to save Noelle's life. — *OSM* 2.77.

(22) *For years* he had worked out of a shabby office in the poor Monastiraki section of Athens, ... — *MM* 8.140.

(23) [n] You don't work for a man *for twenty-five years* unless you have pretty deep feelings for him. — *MM* 7.134.

(vii) With *fly* (2 examples):

(24) Whitestone and Metaxas had flown together *for three years* against the Luftwaffe... — *OSM* 12.265.

(25) [int.] I flew back to Athens yesterday *for fifteen minutes* to pick up a girl named Helena Merelis to fly her to Crete for Demiris. — *OSM* 16.339.

(viii) With *stand* (2 examples):

(26) She stood there *for an hour*, ... — *OSM* 9.234.

(27) While he was performing an operation, he could stand on his artificial leg *for hours* on end, ... — *OSM* 23.433.

(ix) With *stay* (2 examples):

(28) She stayed there *for a week*, miserable and lonely. — *MM* 10.169.

(29) He stayed over in Paris *for forty-eight hours* after each flight, then returned home *for three days* before he flew out again. — *OSM* 13.277.

Quotation (29) contains an instance of the verb *return* used with the *for*-phrase of type A' — with the connotation of intended duration — in the second part, along with the relevant instance in the first.

(x) With *talk* (2 examples):

(30) The two men had talked *for six hours*, discussing every aspect of the case, every possible strategy. — *OSM* 23.422.

(31) I wonder if I could come in and talk to you *for a minute*? — *MM* 13.214.

(xi) With 28 different verbs or verbal clusters (each 1 example): *be closed, be gone, besiege, blow, budge, build up, call, disintegrate, divorce, do, eat, examine, forget, get along, go, go and ride, last, present, protect, quarter, recess, return, risk, rule, speak, try, turn or stir, and wonder*. Some of the examples will be cited below.¹²

(32) the museum had been closed *for half an hour*. — *MM* 12.208.

(33) He was gone *for five minutes*, ... — *MM* 17.274.

(34) *For weeks* members of the Greek judiciary had been besieged with requests from friends and relatives. — *OSM* 23.414.

(35) [iter.] The sandstorm blew every day *for a month*, driven by a howling wind with an

¹² The example with *quarter* will be cited in (134), where the *for*-phrase concerned, *for six months*, is immediately followed by a non-restrictive relative phrase, *during which time* (type C'). Another with *return* was shown above in (29).

intensity strong enough to drive men mad. — *MM* 2.18.

(36) (n) He hasn't budged *for forty-eight hours*. — *MM* 13.216.

(37) The rage inside him had been building up *for months*, fed by the indignities he had received from her, ... — *OSM* 15.334.

(38) The marriage of Constantin Demiris and Melina had been disintegrating *for years*, ... — *MM* 10.168.

(39) They had been divorced *for four years*. — *OSM* 4.182.

(40) The mass lasted *for one hour*, ... — *OSM* 21.386.

(41) The press had been trying to get to him *for months*, but he had simply made himself unavailable. — *OSM* Prol. 18.

(42) *For a split second* Noelle wondered whether this could be some kind of trick, part of a plan, ... — *OSM* 23.420.

Particularly, "was gone *for five minutes*" in (33) and "lasted *for one hour*" in (40) should be compared with "was gone *about thirty minutes*" in (15) in § 4.1, and "lasted *almost two hours*" in (12) in § 4.1, respectively.

ii. Next we shall cite the two examples of the *in*-phrase that are assignable to type A'. Both *in*-phrases determine negative predicate verbs.

(43) (n) he found himself talking about things he had not discussed *in years*... — *OSM* 4.112.

(44) (n) his eyes were hollowed, as though he had not slept *in days*. — *OSM* 6.154.

Type Ab':

The Sheldon corpus contains 45 examples of type Ab', as against a single instance of type Ab, i.e., *these long, lonely months* ((17) in § 4.1). They comprise 17 examples of the *for*-phrase, 14 of the *during*-phrase, 12 of the *over*-phrase, 1 of the *in*-phrase, and 1 of the *throughout*-phrase. The marked preponderance of the prepositional phrases of this kind, as contrasted with the scarcity of the corresponding non-prepositional phrases, is really symbolic of the syntactic style of Sydney Sheldon, or more generally, of present-day colloquial style. In respect of element order, the great majority of these Ab'-type instances are found in the initial positions of the sentences, thus standing free from the functional governance of the predicate verbs.

i. The 17 *for*-phrases of type Ab' are subdivided from a formal point of view in the following way.

(i) The form < *for the next ...* > (12 examples):

Here is a selection from these examples.

(45) (n) *For the next four weeks* Noelle never left her apartment, except to buy groceries. — *OSM* 2.74.

(46) *For the next month* with Fraser's blessing Catherine stayed away from the office and she and Larry spent almost every moment together. — *OSM* 11.258.

(47) *For the next two days* Tony Rizzoli stayed in his room, waiting for a knock on the door, sending a bellboy for food. — *MM* 13.216.

(48) He talked to her *for the next half hour*, arguing, threatening, cajoling, ... — *OSM* 4.110.

(49) Catherine was unable to sleep *for the next two nights*. — *MM* 3.29.

(ii) The form < *for the past...* > (3 examples):

(50) *For the past three months*, you've really been my assistant. — *OSM* 5.136.

(51) His reputation had grown quickly, and *for the past three years*, he had been forced to

turn new patients away.

(52) He...had flown single-engine airmail planes for the Government and had been an airline pilot for twenty years and Pan American chief pilot *for the past five years*. — *OSM* 13.271.

In (52) the A'-type adverbial *for twenty years* and the Ab'-type *for the past five years* appear parallel to each other, both determining the predicate verb *had been*.

(iii) The form <*for the first...*> / <*for the last...*> (each 1 example):

(53) *For the first few weeks* Noelle felt that she had been transported to another world. — *OSM* 2.44.

(54) [int.] *For the last forty-eight hours* sounds of intermittent gunfire had broken the unnatural, frightened silence of Paris. — *OSM* 4.93.

ii. The 14 *during*-phrases of type Ab' are subdivided as follows:

(i) The form <*during the next...*> (6 examples):

(55) *During the next few days*, Napoleon Chotas was busy getting ready for a new murder trial... — *MM* 8.152.

(56) (n) *During the next few days* Catherine heard nothing from her husband. — *OSM* 13.272.

(57) *During the next few weeks* Noelle was his passenger on several flights. — *OSM* 14.320.

(58) [iter.] *During the next two weeks*, Larry Douglas phoned at least a dozen times. — *OSM* 7.186.

(59) *During the next few years* Catherine donned an armor of indifference, which she wore as a shield against the attacks of the other children. — *OSM* 1.24.

(60) *During the next six months* Fraser was away a good deal. — *OSM* 5.134.

In each of these examples the *during*-phrase is placed in the initial position of the sentence. This use may be compared with that of the form <*for the next...*>, particularly as it is exemplified in (45)~(47) above.

(ii) The form <*during the...*> (3 examples):

Two of these examples, i.e., (61) and (62), have *during*-phrases introducing asyndetic clauses, and the other one, i.e., (63), contains a structure where the head of the *during*-phrase is further defined by a relative clause.

(61) [iter.] *During the years* she was growing up, she had overheard random snatches of conversations as her elders discussed sex. — *OSM* 4.114.

(62) [iter.] He had treated many attractive patients *during the years* he had been practicing, ... — *MM* 19.292.

(63) *During the week* that followed, Gautier was frantic. — *OSM* 4.114.

(iii) The form <*during those...*> (2 examples):

(64) *During those years*, Demiris patiently sat back and let Nicholas build his little empire. — *OSM* 10.243.

(65) *During those early years* her mother whom she saw every day seemed a vague, shapeless personality, ... — *OSM* 1.24.

(iv) The form <*during the past...*> / <*during the [one's] first...*> (each 1 example):

(66) *During the past year* Armand Gautier had ceased broaching the subject of marriage. — *OSM* 10.238.

(67) [iter.] *During the first week* the Vice-President of the United States called twice, half a dozen senators, the Secretary of State and a famous actress... — *OSM* 5.126.

(68) *During his first few days* on the island, he had been in a state of violence, screaming day and night that he was innocent and demanding a new trial. — *OSM* 23.456.

Particularly, (66) has to be compared with (50)~(52) above. Considering this and the other comparable cases hitherto treated under items i and ii, we feel a certain degree of greater, more emphatic force as adverbial of duration or iteration in the *during*-phrases than in the *for*-phrases, though *during* and *for* generally seem interchangeable in most of the cases.

iii. The Sheldon corpus contains 12 examples of *over*-phrases¹³ that are assignable to type Ab'. Out of these 12 examples 10 have preterite or present perfect verbs determined by *over*-phrases. They may be subdivided in the following way.

(i) The form <*over the...*> (6 examples):

(69) *Over the years*, Spyros Lambrou and Constantin Demiris had carried on their charade of friendship. — *MM* 6.91 [similarly *OSM* Prol. 18].

(70) They had known each other socially *over the years*, ... — *OSM* 12.422 [similarly *OSM* 23.418].

(71) *Over the centuries* tremendous stalagmites and stalactites have formed into the shapes of animals and palaces and jewels, ... — *OSM* 21.395.

(72) [iter.] They went to the Old Bailey, where criminals had been tried *over the centuries*, ... — *MM* 9.159.

(ii) The form <*over the next...*> (3 examples):

(73) *Over the next twenty years* Spyros Nicholas had gone into the meat-packing business and had become rich and successful. — *OSM* 10.243.

(74) [iter.] *Over the next few weeks*, Sybil Potter constantly found excuses to send for the young man. — *MM* 2.19.

(75) [iter.] The bank is considering loaning money to buy additional airplanes based on their current income of \$80,000 per year with projected increases of 30% per year, *over the next five years*. — *OSM* 13.285.

(iii) The form <*over the past...*> (3 examples):

(76) *Over the past six months* the talk on campuses across the country had shifted from sex and clothes and proms to the ROTC and the draft and land-lease. — *OSM* 3.91-2.

(77) *Over the past six years* Noelle had imagined their encounter in a hundred different ways. — *OSM* 14.316.

(78) *Over the past week*, we've had hotel clerks who are experts on human psychology, eyewitnesses who are nearsighted, ... — *OSM* 23.440.

Now if we compare the examples of the form <*over the next...*> — (73)~(75) — with those of the form <*for the next...*> — (45)~(49) — and with those of the form <*during the*

¹³ Since we are going to treat *over*-phrases as equivalent to adverbial accusatives of duration for the first time in this series, we would like to make a brief generic description of them here. According to the OED (s.v. *OVER prep.* 17a), the use of *over* denoting temporal duration in the sense of 'during, all through' has been transferred in ModE from the use denoting spacial extension. In OE the preposition *ofer* governing an accusative was used in this sense, as in: Here hæpne men ærest on Sceapige *ofer winter sætun*; — ChronA 66.6-7 (855) (=In this year the heathen men first settled in Sheppy through the winter) [*ofer winter*: type B']. In ME, however, this prepositional use of *over* was replaced by the more primary use of *over* as adverb appended to a phrase which is itself adverbial accusative, i.e., *al the night [yer] over* (type B), as in: many tyme he gert (=made) his men wake *all pe nyght ouer* —? a 1425 *Mandev.* (2) 71/4 (quoted from MED, s.v. *OVER adv.* 3 (c)). While this adverbial use of *over* has been preserved since then, the OE prepositional use has been, as it were, revived in ModE through a devious course.

next... — (55)~(60) —, and compare those of the form *<over the past...>* — (76)~(78) — with those of the form *<for the past...>* — (50)~(52) — and with the one of the form *<during the past...>* — (66) —, we can see that the *over*-phrases are more adaptable for the function of determining the predicate verbs in the iterative or resultative aspect.

iv. In the Sheldon corpus we also find one *in*-phrase and one *throughout*-phrase that are assignable to type Ab', as in:

(79) [iter.] *In his years* of defending people accused of capital crimes Chotas had scored success after success. — *MM* 8.137.

(80) [iter.] Larry had seen photographs of him in news magazines *throughout the years*, but nothing had prepared him for the vital force of the man. — *OSM* 14.298.

In (79) "In his years" is immediately followed by a dependent *of*-phrase, giving the meaning 'in the years during which he had defended people...'.
Type Ac':

Type Ac':

The Sheldon corpus contains the following single instance of type Ac':

(81) We have followed him to the apartments of various women whom he had picked up, where he remained *for periods of from one hour to as long as five hours*, ... — *OSM* 12.267.

Type B':

The 17 examples of type B' comprise 11 of the *during*-phrase, 5 of the *for*-phrase, and 1 of the *through*-phrase.

(i) The form *<during...>* (11 examples):

(82) he thought of the incredible sensations he had experienced *during the night*... — *OSM* 4.109.

(83) *During the night* Noelle Page had a dream about Colonel Mueller. — *OSM* 8.205.

(84) [iter.] Half a dozen times *during the night* he started to bring up the subject of Helena, ... — *OSM* 17.344.

(85) Larry was away *during the day* but he tried to be home to have dinner with Catherine. — *OSM* 14.307.

(86) [iter.] When he telephoned Noelle *during the day*, she did not answer, ... — *OSM* 4.114.

(87) *during those days and nights*, Lanchon taught her the little that he knew about sex, ... — *OSM* 2.49.

(88) Catherine slept *during the afternoon*, ... — *MM* 15.241.

(89) Melina sat in her bedroom alone *during the long afternoon*, her mind trying to take in what was happening. — *MM* 21.312.

(90) (n) *During the entire evening*, Wim never once looked directly at Kirk Reynolds. — *MM* 9.161.

(91) She was very quiet *during the rest of the evening*. — *OSM* 7.172.

(92) The farmhouse windows and doors were kept tightly closed *during the twenty-four-hour period of harvest*. — *MM* 6.109.

(ii) The form *<for...>* (5 examples):

(93) Larry was silent *for the rest of the afternoon*. — *OSM* 17.349.

(94) [iter.] He asked me to go away with him *for the weekend*. — *OSM* 2.47 [similarly *OSM* 8.212, *MM* 7.126].

(95) I know we're only to be there *for the weekend*. — *OSM* 8.215.

Particularly, (93) has to be compared with (91) above. Indeed *for* and *during* in these

examples appear interchangeable; but there is the delicate difference that the *for*-phrase makes us feel more emphasis on the duration of the predicated state, while with the *during*-phrase more emphasis is placed on the duration of the period designated.

(iii) The form <*through*...> (1 example):

(96) A group of farmers, walking single file *through the black night*, rendezvoused with Mustafa. — *MM* 6.111.

Type C':

The Sheldon corpus contains 84 examples of type C', that is, 81 of the *for*-phrase, 2 of the *during*-phrase, and 1 of the *in*-phrase.

i. The 81 *for*-phrases of type C' may be subdivided into four subgroups: (i) *for a moment*, etc. (44 examples); (ii) *for an instant*, etc. (12 examples); (iii) *for a long time*, *for some time*, etc. (22 examples); and (iv) *for a while* (3 examples). The marked prevalence of *for a moment* and *for an instant* is worthy of note, since it may be interpreted as representing Sidney Sheldon's stylistic features — lively, energetic, and often coloured with exaggerated rapidity.

(i) *for a moment*, etc:

(ia) *for a moment* (31 examples, including one of *for only a moment*):

The use should be compared with that of the corresponding C-type form *a moment* as it is exemplified in (37)~(41) in § 4.1. Here is a selection from these examples.

(97) He studied her *for a moment*. — *OSM* 18.355.

(98) Armand Gautier looked at her *for a moment*, then shrugged. — *OSM* 4.104.

(99) Fraser watched her *for a moment*. — *OSM* 18.355.

(100) He started at her *for a moment*. — *OSM* 4.112.

(101) Catherine sat there *for a moment*, trembling, then rushed out into the street. — *MM* 3.40.

(102) [n] Noelle did not *for a moment* believe that the judges were being lenient because they were concerned about Demiris' being subjected to unpleasant publicity. — *OSM* 23.447 [similarly *OSM* 8.221, 23.416].

(103) Demiris hesitated *for only a moment*. — *MM* 23.320.

Comparing (97) — "He studied her *for a moment*" — with (37) in § 4.1 — "She studied him *a moment*" — we feel the difference in question to be negligible, except that the former has been imbued with a little more explicitness than the latter, which is terser in tone. However, we would rather recognize the author's stylistic quality in allowing either way of expression to be available in the appropriate situation. Comparing again (103) — "hesitated *for only a moment*" — with (39) in § 4.1 — "hesitated *a moment*" — we feel in the former a distinctive force of limited duration, which is absent in the latter.

In (102) we have an instance of a C'-type phrase whose primary function as temporal determiner is idiomatically transferred to the secondary function as negative intensifier.

(ib) *for a long moment* (10 examples):

Here is a selection from these examples.

(104) She looked at him *for a long moment*. — *OSM* 4.155.

(105) General Scheider stared at him *for a long moment*, then turned to study Noelle. — *OSM* 8.224.

(106) Gautier watched her *for a long moment*, knowing that in some way Noelle was sick, ... — *OSM* 6.146.

(107) He studied her *for a long moment*. — *MM* 4.54.

(108) He stood there *for a long moment*. — *MM* 7.129.

(109) Lambrou sat there *for a long moment*. — *MM* Epil. 387.

With (104), (105) and (108) we should compare (43), (44) and (45) in § 4.1, respectively, where the corresponding C-type form *a long moment* is used.

(ic) *for a long, shocked moment / for one long moment / for the moment* (each 1 example):

(110) Monsieur Barbet stared at Noelle *for a long, shocked moment*, licking his lips. — *OSM* 12.267.

(111) *For one long moment* when the news was flashed, the world held its breath and then let out a grateful heartfelt cheer. — *OSM* 11.254.

(112) (n) She decided that *for the moment* she would say nothing and would find a way to handle herself. — *OSM* 2.46.

(ii) *for an instant*, etc.

(iia) *for an instant* (9 examples, including one of *for only an instant*)¹⁴:

The Sheldon corpus contains 9 instances of this C'-type form, but does not contain any of the corresponding C-type form *an instant*.¹⁵ Here is a selection from these examples.

(113) *For an instant* he was tempted to follow her and tell her what he thought of her, ... — *OSM* 14.319–20.

(114) It was an irregular face, the two profiles not quite matching, as though the minter's hand had slipped *for an instant*. — *OSM* 2.57.

(115) Korontzis shut his eyes *for an instant* and shuddered. — *MM* 16.253.

(116) He turned away *for an instant*. — *MM* 30.357.

(117) (n) When a beautiful woman wanted to go to bed with him, he did not *for an instant* flatter himself that it was because of his looks or personality, ... — *OSM* 10.242.

(118) Demiris hesitated *for only an instant*. — *MM* 2.22.

Just as *for a moment* in (102), *for an instant* in (117) has its primary function of temporal determination idiomatically transferred to the secondary function of negative intensification. Again, just like *for only a moment* in (103), *for only an instant* in (118) explicitly reveals the connotation of limited duration, which is characteristic of the *for*-phrase, as against the non-prepositional phrase.

(iib) *for a miraculous instant / for one terrible [frozen] instant* (each 1 example):

(119) *For a miraculous instant* the line cleared, and she heard the voice saying as though he were in the next room. — *OSM* 2.67.

(120) The guard tossed the vase back into the bag, and *for one terrible instant* Korontzis thought it was going to break. — *MM* 16.254.

(121) *for one frozen instant* in time it seemed to him that a gleam of intelligence, a look of joy came into her eyes, but a moment later it was gone... — *OSM* Epil. 462.

Here it may be worth noting that each of these descriptive adverbials of instantaneous duration is placed in the initial position of the clause.

(iii) *for a long time, for some time*, etc.:

¹⁴ Cf. (20) under type A' above and the comment made there.

¹⁵ Here it may be worth noting that Sheldon's more recent works — *The Doomsday Conspiracy* (1991), *The Stars Shine Down* (1992), and *Nothing Lasts Forever* (1994) — also contain the overwhelmingly abundant examples of (*for*) *a moment* — 56 of *for a moment* (type C') and 47 of *a moment* (type C) — as against the examples of (*for*) *an instant* — 7 of *for an instant* (type C') and 2 of *an instant* (type C). The only two examples of *an instant* occur in the collocation "hesitated *an instant*" in *The Doomsday Conspiracy* 31.181 and *ibid.* 34.201.

(iia) *for a long time* (16 examples):

These should be compared with (52) and (53) in §4.1, where the corresponding C-type form *a long time* is exemplified. Here is a selection from them.

(122) They've been riding me *for a long time*, Cathy. — *OSM* 13.283.

(123) You and I are going to be doing business together *for a long time*, Costa baby, ... — *MM* 14.227.

(124) Larry switched off the engines with numb fingers and sat motionless *for a long time*. — *OSM* 15.332.

(125) She stood there *for a long time*. — *MM* 21.311.

(126) Noelle stared at him *for a long time*, then turned her face to the wall, dry-eyed. — *OSM* 2.69.

(127) (n) He radiated an excitement that Catherine had not seen in him *for a long time*. — *OSM* 13.289.

(128) *For a long time* after that, Constantin was careful never to lose his temper with Melina. — *MM* 10.169.

(iiib) *for so long / for how long* (each 2 examples):

These prepositional phrases, which syntactically represent modern terse and explicit colloquialism, may be expanded into "for so long a time" and "for how long a time", respectively. Or rather we would shorten the latter into "how long", where *long* is an adverb. In (130) the phrase is used as equivalent to an interrogative sentence.

(129) She had sublimated her sexual feelings *for so long* that they were deeply buried, ... — *OSM* 11.257 [similarly *OSM* 1.32].

(130) Ten days later Noelle...told her that she was pregnant and asked for leave of absence. "*For how long?*" Madam Rose asked, eyeing Noelle's figure. — *OSM* 2.73 [similarly *OSM* 20.384¹⁶].

(iiic) *for some time / for what period of time* (each 1 example):

(131) I've had my eye on you *for some time*. — *MM* 8.154.

(132) 'Yes, he was (i.e. a patient of mine).' '*For what period of time?*' 'A little more than ten years.' — *MM* 7.127.

In the dialogue cited in (132), the C'-type *for*-phrase in question is followed by an A-type adverbial which is also used elliptically — *A little* (=He was a patient of mine a little) *more than ten years*.

ii. The Sheldon corpus contains 2 examples of the *during*-phrase and 1 of the *in*-phrase that are assignable to type C'.

(133) (n) *During the time* she and the Count had spent together, he had never made an improper advance toward her nor even given her a suggestive look. — *OSM* 14.312.

(134) A young Countess...was forced to quarter the officers of the local German Command in her downstairs rooms for six months, *during which time* she had five wanted members of the Maquis hidden on the upper floors of the chateau. — *OSM* 6.143.

(135) (n) He makes me feel like a woman. I haven't felt that way *in a long time*. — *MM* 9.159.

In (133) *the time*, the regimen of the preposition *during*, is defined by the subsequent contact clause. In (134) *which* in *during which time* refers to "for six months", which is an

¹⁶ The quotation will be shown in (140) under type D'.

instance of type A', in the foregoing clause. The *in*-phrase in (135) has to be compared with the *for*-phrase in (127) above. Both of them determine the negative predicate verbs; but the semantic difference consists in the fact that while *in a long time* in (135) places more emphasis on temporal process, *for a long time* in (127) places it on temporal duration.

Type D':

In the Sheldon corpus we find 13 examples of type D', that is, 9 of the form <for the rest of one's life> and 4 of the form <in one's life>. Each of the 4 *in*-phrases is related to the predicate verb in the iterative aspect.

(i) The form <for the rest of one's life> (9 examples):

Here is a selection from these examples.

(136) (n) he knew that if he won his services would be in such demand that he would never have to worry again *for the rest of his life*. — OSM Prol. 16.

(137) she knew that if she never saw him again, she would be grateful to him *for the rest of her life*. — OSM 7.199.

(138) You'll be singing soprano *for the rest of your life*... — MM 14.227.

(139) Catherine thought of the young women... , walled up here, shut away from the world *for the rest of their lives*, living in the deep permanent silence of the grave. — OSM 20.384.

(140) "... We have taken a vow of silence." "For how long?" Larry asked. "Gia panta * — *for the rest of our lives*. ..." — OSM 28.384 [*ModGk *gia panta* (i.e. *khronou*): for all (time), for ever, eternally].

In the dialogue cited in (140), the D'-type *for*-phrase in question is used as a sentence in response to the C'-type *for*-phrase "For how long?", which is equivalent to an interrogative sentence.¹⁷

(ii) The form <in one's life> (4 examples):

(141) [iter.] Catherine had tasted whiskey a few times *in her life* and hated it, ... — OSM 3.83.

(142) [iter.] It seemed to Noelle that everything she had achieved *in her life* had been through her hatred. — OSM 17.350.

(143) [iter.] She had only known two men carnally *in her life*, William Fraser and her husband. — MM 14.224.

(144) [iter.] Demiris had met many women *in his life* who had tried to use their sex to manipulate him in one way or another. — OSM 10.241.¹⁸

V. The NRSV Corpus

5.1. In the Gospels — i.e., *Matt.*, *Mark*, *Luke*, and *John* — of the *New Revised Standard Version* (1989) (abbreviated as *NRSV*), we find 54 examples of the expression concerned, that

¹⁷ For another example in a similar structural context, see (132) above.

¹⁸ These instances of the form <in one's life>, here treated as type D', are very naturally linked with the following ones of the same form, where the *in*-phrases determine the predicate verbs whose aspect is clearly perfective or effective and so are to be excluded from the category of type D': Only once *in his life* had Demiris permitted himself to lose control of his emotions. — MM 4.47 / It was the largest, most incredible thing Catherine had ever seen *in her life*. — OSM 3.91 / finally he learned to relax in bed and enjoy her as he had never enjoyed another woman *in his life*. — OSM 10.247.

is, 25 of the non-prepositional type and 29 of the prepositional type. The 25 examples of the non-prepositional type comprise 14 of type A, 5 of type C, and 1 of type D; while the 29 of the prepositional type comprise 14 of type A', 3 of type Ab', 1 of type B', 10 of type C', and 1 of type D'. Apart from the general low incidence of the relevant instances, we may note the comparative scarcity of the examples of the prepositional type as against those of the non-prepositional type, though — a minor point — no occurrence of type Ab, as against 3 examples of type Ab', may also be noteworthy.

Type A (14 examples):

The examples are arranged according to the governing verbs or verbal clusters in the following way.

- (1) When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb *four days*. — *John* 11.17 [similarly *Mark* 1.13].
- (2) Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead *four days*. — *John* 11.39.
- (3) there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up *three years and six months*, ... — *Luke* 4.25.
- (4) he stayed there *two days*. — *John* 4.40 [similarly *John* 2.12].
- (5) he stayed *two days longer* in the place where he was. — *John* 11.6.
- (6) Could you not keep awake *one hour*? — *Mark* 14.37 [similarly *Matt.* 26.40].
- (7) Mary remained with her *about three months* and then returned to her house. — *Luke* 1.56.
- (8) She was of a great age, having lived with her husband *seven years* after her marriage, ... — *Luke* 2.36.
- (9) These last worked only *one hour*, ... — *Matt.* 20.12.
- (10) He fasted *forty days and forty nights*, ... — *Matt.* 4.2.¹⁹

In (9) the A-type adverbial *one hour*, preposed by the intensive adverb *only*, connotes the notion of limited duration in an explicit way. In the history of biblical translation, the NRSV "These last worked *only one hour*" can be ascribed to the AV "These last have wrought *but one hour*".²⁰ As we commented on (29) in § 2.2: "... , who *but for six years of the early part of his life*, could seem divested of...", on (10) in § 3.2: "I went *for only one night*", on (103) in § 4.2: "hesitated *for only a moment*", and elsewhere, the *for*-phrase of type A', Ab', or C' has a characteristic liability to connote the notion of restriction or limited duration. Compare, also,

¹⁹ Another example, i.e., *Matt.* 12.40, will be cited in (22) below, where the instance concerned appears along with one of type A'.

²⁰ The relevant passage of the RSV is identical with that of the NRSV. To the AV way of expression we can also ascribe the NASB "These last men have worked *only one hour*" and the NJB "The men who came last have done *only one hour*".

	AV	RSV	NASB	JB / NJB	NEB / REB	NRSV
<i>Luke</i> 13.7	<i>these three yeeres</i> (Ab)	<i>these three years</i> (Ab)	<i>for three years</i> (A')	<i>for three years</i> (A')	<i>for the last three years</i> (Ab')	<i>for three years</i> (A')
<i>Luke</i> 13.16	<i>these eighteene yeeres</i> (Ab)	<i>for eighteen years</i> (A')	<i>for eighteen long years</i> (A')	<i>these eighteen years</i> (Ab)	<i>for eighteen long years</i> (A')	<i>for eighteen long years</i> (A')
<i>Luke</i> 15.29	<i>these many yeeres</i> (Ab)	<i>these many years</i> (Ab)	<i>for so many years</i> (A')	<i>all these years</i> (Ab)	<i>all these years</i> (Ab)	<i>for all these years</i> (Ab')

(38) below. In view of this fact, the way of expression here seems to deserve special notice.²¹

Type B (5 examples):

(11) Why are you standing here idle *all day*? — *Matt.* 20.6.

(12) Master, we have worked *all night long* but have caught nothing. — *Luke* 5.5.

(13) But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest *that year*, said to them, ... — *John* 11.49.

(14) being high priest *that year* he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, ... — *John* 11.51.

(15) they remained with him *that day*. — *John* 1.39.

Type C (5 examples):

(16) When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there *a long time*, ... — *John* 5.6.

(17) Have I been with you *all this time*, Philip, and you still do not know me? — *John* 14.9.

(18) Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest *a while*. — *Mark* 6.31.

(19) I will be with you *a little while longer*, ... — *John* 7.33.

(20) Little children, I am with you only *a little longer*. — *John* 13.33.

The shorter form *a little longer* in (20) can be interpreted as equivalent to *a little while longer* in (19).

Type D (1 example):

(21) Thus he...has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we...might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him *all our days*. — *Luke* 1.72–5.

5.2. Whereas all the non-prepositional phrases hitherto illustrated are placed after the governing verbs or verbal clusters, 10 of the 29 prepositional phrases that we are going to deal with are placed in the initial positions of the clauses, thus revealing their greater potentiality as adverbials and functional freedom from the predicate verbs.

Type A' (14 examples):

All the instances are *for*-phrases. The first example (22) is particularly noteworthy.

(22) For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so *for three days and three nights* the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth. — *Matt.* 12.40.

Here *three days and three nights* (type A) in the subordinate clause and *for three days and three nights* (type A') in the principal clause are expressed in antithetic positions — the former after the predicate verb, and the latter in the initial position of the clause, imbued with contrastive emphasis.²²

(23) *For three years* I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. —

²¹ Cf. the similar instances of types C and A occurring in the Austen corpus, which were cited under the item (v) in §3.2, i.e.: ..., he will probably remain *but a very short time*, perhaps *only a few days* behind us. — *NA* 2.4.152. Concerning the fact that the NRSV corpus contains no instance of type Ab, we find it significant to recall that the AV corpus contains three instances of this type — *Luke* 13.7, 13.16 and 15.29 — and show in the table (shown at the bottom of the preceding page) how they correspond to their counterparts in the twentieth-century Versions including the NRSV.

²² Cf. the corresponding verse in the RSV, the predecessor of the NRSV: For as Jonah was *three days and three nights* in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of man be *three days and three nights* in the heart of the earth. It is interesting to see in the NEB [REB] that the contrastive emphasis is placed in a reversed way, as in: Jonah was in the sea-monster's belly *for three days and three nights*, and in the same way [Just as Jonah was in the sea monster's belly *for three days and three nights*, so] the Son of Man will be *three days and three nights* in the bowels of the earth.

Luke 13.7.

(24) *for five months* she remained in seclusion. — Luke 1.24.

(25) Jesus...was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where *for thirty days* he was tempted by the devil. — Luke 4.1-2.

(26) Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages *for twelve years*. — Mark 5.25 [similarly Matt. 9.20, Luke 8.43].

(27) they have been with me now *for three days* and have nothing to eat. — Mark 8.2 [similarly Mark 15.32].

(28) One man was there who had been ill *for thirty-eight years*. — John 5.5.

(29) This temple has been under construction *for forty-six years*, ... — John 3.20.

(30) Sir, let it alone *for one more year*, ... — Luke 13.8.

(31) just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her *for eighteen years*. — Luke 13.11.

(32) ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound *for eighteen long years*, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day? — Luke 13.16.

Type Ab' (3 examples):

These instances comprise 1 *for*-phrase and 2 *during*-phrases, as in:

(33) *For all these years* I have been working like a slave for you, ... — Luke 15.29.²³

(34) [iter.] Now *during those days* he went out to the mountain to pray; — Luke 6.12.

(35) (n) He ate nothing at all *during those days*, ... — Luke 4.2.

Type B' (1 example):

The single instance is a *during*-phrase, as in:

(36) Those who walk *during the day* do not stumble, because they see the light of the world. — John 11.9.

Type C' (10 examples):

The NRSV corpus contains 10 examples of type C'. All the instances are *for*-phrases, that is, 5 of *for a while*, 3 of *for a long time*, 1 of *for some time*, and 1 of *for a little longer*, as in:

(37) *For a while* he refused; — Luke 18.4.

(38) But they have no root, and endure only *for a while*; — Mark 4.17 [similarly Matt. 13.21, Luke 8.13].

(39) He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice *for a while* in his light. — John 5.35.

(40) (n) *For a long time* he had worn no clothes, ... — Luke 8.27.

(41) he had been wanting to see him *for a long time*. — Luke 23.8.

(42) [int.] A man planted a vineyard, and leased it to tenants, and went to another country *for a long time*. — Luke 20.9.

(43) summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead *for some time*. — Mark 15.44.

(44) The light is with you *for a little longer*. — John 12.35.

The use of *for a while* in (37), (38) and (39) should be compared with that of *a while* in (18). Special attention is to be given to *only for a while* in Mark 4.17 (and also Matt. 13.21 and Luke 8.13) cited in (38). There we see the connotation of limited duration inherent in the

²³ Cf. footnote 21 above.

for-phrase of this kind explicitly displayed by the intensive adverb *only*.²⁴ Also the use of *for a long time* in (40), (41) and (42) should be compared with that of *a long time* in (16), and the use of *for a little longer* in (44) with that of *a little longer* in (20).

Type D' (1 example):

The single instance is a *during*-phrase. It determines the predicate verb in the iterative aspect, as in:

(45) [iter.] Child, remember that *during your lifetime* you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things; — *Luke* 16.25.

VI. Conclusion

6.1. In concluding our study of the late ModE period, the last stage in this series of historical observation, we would first reflect on the preceding stages leading to that of the NRSV corpus, which we treated in the last foregoing sections, and so survey by the following table the distribution of the examples ranging over the biblical corpora, that is, the WS corpus (OE), the Wyc. corpus (ME), the AV corpus (early ModE), and the NRSV corpus (20th-c. E). Henceforth, figures in parentheses shown in the columns headed "Prepositional" (or "Prep. phr.") indicate the appropriate frequencies of *for*-phrases.

Non-prepositional						Prepositional					
Corpus Type	WS	Wyc.	AV	NRSV	Total	Corpus Type	WS	Wyc.	AV	NRSV	Total
A	26	20	25	14	85	A'	2(2)	2	0	14(14)	18(16)
Ab	0	0	3	0	3	Ab'	0	0	0	3(1)	3(1)
B	4	3	9	5	21	B'	0	0	0	1	1
C	9	9	9	5	32	C'	0	2	7(6)	10(10)	19(16)
D	0	0	1	1	2	D'	0	1	0	1	2
Total	39	32	47	25	143	Total	2(2)	5	7(6)	29(25)	43(33)

The above table shows us that the most remarkable feature is the sudden increase of examples of the prepositional type in the NRSV corpus as against the case of the earlier corpora, though we find only slightly more examples of the prepositional type than of the non-prepositional in the NRSV corpus itself. Especially, we are afresh impressed by the delay in the development of *for*-phrases of duration. Apart from the germinal use in the WS corpus, they began to occur as C'-type instances in the AV corpus and have not prevailed till the stage of the NRSV corpus.

6.2. Incorporating the information about the NRSV corpus as it is compared with the earlier biblical corpora, we shall next see by the following table how the examples are distributed over the four late ModE corpora — the Goldsmith corpus (18th c.), the Austen corpus (19th c.), the Sheldon corpus (20th c.), and the NRSV corpus (20th c.).

²⁴ The corresponding verse of the AV runs: ...endure *but for a time*.

Non-prepositional						Prepositional					
Corpus Type	Goldsmith	Austen	Sheldon	NRSV	Total	Corpus Type	Goldsmith	Austen	Sheldon	NRSV	Total
A	98	304	35	14	451	A'	146(103)	334(330)	70(68)	14(14)	564(515)
Ab	29	48	1	0	78	Ab'	18(15)	61(45)	45(17)	3(1)	127(78)
						Ac'	3(3)	5(4)	1(1)	0	9(8)
B	36	106	34	5	181	B'	5(3)	43(19)	17(5)	1	66(27)
C	42	139	82	5	268	C'	140(129)	193(190)	84(81)	10(10)	427(410)
D	15	24	5	1	45	D'	11(2)	9(4)	13(9)	1	34(15)
Total	220	621	157	25	1023	Total	323(255)	645(592)	230(181)	29(25)	1227(1053)

Comparing the total of non-prepositional phrases with that of prepositional phrases as used in the four late ModE corpora, we get the ratio:

Non-prep. phr.	Prep. phr. (<i>For</i> -phr.)
45%	55% (51%)

We are now in a position to observe that the prepositional phrases concerned, particularly *for*-phrases of duration, have made a remarkable advance at the cost of non-prepositional phrases of duration since the beginning of the ModE period, and that the transition is conspicuously marked in and after the eighteenth century. By referring to § 4.1 in Pt. I for the OE and ME stages, to § 4.1 in Pt. II for the early ModE stage, and to the above table for the late ModE stage, we can summarize the overall process in the following table. For purposes of ready comparison, we shall take up the incidence of non-prepositional phrases as against that of *for*-phrases with regard to each of the three stages.

	Non-prep. phr.	<i>For</i> -phr.
OE and ME	99 %	1 %
Early ModE	83 %	17 %
Late ModE	49 %	51 %

6.3. Next we shall reflect on the syntactic or idiomatic aspects of the non-prepositional and prepositional phrases of duration as they have been treated in Part III ((I) and (II)) on the late ModE period. Generally speaking, the marked feature is that non-prepositional phrases (types A~D) are placed closely after their governing verbs or verbals, which are characteristically in the durative or iterative aspect, either of their own lexical nature or as determined by the structural environment. In this case we usually see a close and often fixed combination between the verb or verbal cluster and the non-prepositional adverbial, which may be historically termed the adverbial accusative of duration. In contrast, prepositional phrases (types A'~D'), which may be fairly represented by *for*-phrases, are more free and self-contained, less restrained by their governing verbs or verbals, so that they are liable to stand in the initial positions of the clause when they are structurally emphasized.

This greater freedom and versatility of *for*-phrases of duration, as against non-prepositional adverbials of duration, is further heightened by the often-witnessed connotation

of restriction or limited duration (e.g., (19), (29) in § 2.2; (9), (10), (18), (127), etc. in § 3.2; (103), (112), (118) in § 4.2; (38) in § 5.2), or of intended duration (e.g., (10), (16), (101), etc. in § 3.2; (25), (29), (94), etc. in § 4.2; (42) in § 5.2), either of which is inherent in the nature of the *for*-phrase. Here we must admit that in the strict sense the designation of “prepositional equivalent” should be invalidated to a further extent.

Now, because of this general tendency it seems to be the more remarkable that we can point out a considerable number of instances, particularly in the Goldsmith corpus and less conspicuously in the Austen corpus, where *for*-phrases, as well as non-prepositional phrases, are embedded amid the constituents of compound tenses or passive forms (e.g., (5), (6), (9), (14), (15), (25), (46), (47), (49) in § 3.2) or in the sequences of <verb or verbal cluster + complementary element> (e.g., (3), (8), (13), (30), (48), (53), (54) in § 2.2; (7), (53), (79), (97), (130) in § 3.2). This feature of element order involving *for*-phrases of duration may now be considered somewhat old-fashioned; but it is symbolic of the terse, parenthetical and periodic style of the authors. In this connection, it is worth noting the modern idiomatic expression <negative + *for a moment* [*an instant*]> — e.g., (150) in § 3.2, and (102) and (117) in § 4.2 — where the *for*-phrase of type C', being closely connected to the negative *not* or *never*, has the function of temporal determination transferred to that of negative intensification.

Lastly, we shall review how the favourite forms of types C and C' have been in use for the last three centuries, taking the case of the early ModE corpora into consideration as the basis

TYPE C

	Early ModE	Goldsmith	Austen	Sheldon	NRSV	Total
(1) <i>a moment</i>	2	4	24	58	0	88
(2) <i>a while</i> [<i>awhile</i>]	76	3	1	0	1	81
(3) <i>some time</i>	3	8	44	0	0	55
(4) <i>a long time</i> ²⁵	33	2	0	2	1	38
(5) <i>all this while</i>	30	7	0	0	0	37
(6) <i>all the time</i>	2	5	13	8	0	28
(7) <i>a great while</i>	19	1	5	0	0	25
(8) <i>all the while</i>	12	2	4	0	0	18
(9) <i>a little while</i>	6	0	11	0	1	18
(10) <i>a good while</i>	11	0	2	0	0	13

TYPE C'

	Early ModE	Goldsmith	Austen	Sheldon	NRSV	Total
(1) <i>for some time</i>	3	87	56	1	1	148
(2) <i>for a moment</i>	0	8	48	31	0	87
(3) <i>for a while</i> [<i>awhile</i>]	18	9	19	0	5	51
(4) <i>for a long time</i>	2	5	2	16	3	28
(5) <i>for a time</i>	9	5	14	0	0	28
(6) <i>for a short time</i>	0	3	14	0	0	17
(7) <i>for an instant</i>	0	0	4	9	0	13

²⁵ The 33 instances of “*a long time*” in the Early ModE corpus include 25 instances of the articleless form <*long time*>, i.e., 9 in Lyly, 3 in Sidney, 10 in Spenser, 2 in Delony, and 1 in the AV.

of comparison. In the above tables we take up those forms of types C and C' whose individual incidence amounts totally to more than ten.

This lead us to point out the following prominent features. As forms of type C, *a moment* and *some time* began to make a marked advance in the late ModE stage. *A moment* became prevalent in the Austen corpus, and particularly in the Sheldon corpus; and *some time* prevailed in the Austen corpus but has disappeared in the Sheldon corpus. On the other hand, *a while* [*awhile*] and *a long time*, which were so prevalent in the early ModE corpora, were conspicuously on the decrease in the late ModE corpora. As forms of type C', *for some time* and *for a moment* started increasing in the late ModE stage, especially the former in the Goldsmith and Austen corpora and the latter in the Austen and Sheldon corpora. *For a long time* has maintained its steady advance throughout the early and late ModE stages.

These points seem significant in suggesting a certain historical tendency in ModE idiomatic usage, although we must make allowances for the stylistic factors of the individual writers, not to speak of the limitation — both quantative and qualitative — of the material we have adopted.

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