

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

KIKUO YAMAKAWA

I. Introduction

1.1. The present instalment, Part III, is as the final continuation of Part I<sup>1</sup> and Part II<sup>2</sup> of "The Adverbial Accusative of Duration and its Prepositional Equivalent." These two parts dealt with the phenomenon in Old and Middle English and in Early Modern English, respectively. The main purpose in Part III is first to examine how the general tendency of the original accusative denoting temporal duration to be replaced by the equivalent prepositional phrase, representatively the *for*-phrase, has been furthered in Late Modern English, roughly the English of the eighteenth to the twentieth century. The tendency accords with the traditional belief in historical English syntax that synthetic, or non-prepositional, means of expression turn into analytical, or prepositional, ones, especially in the course of the periods from Old English to Middle and Modern English. Secondly, it is to consider how the original accusative usage has been preserved through the periods, alongside the corresponding prepositional usage. In both cases, we shall pay adequate attention to the motivation for each of the two types to be preferred from contextual, idiomatic or stylistic points of view.

Now let us review, with slight modification, the categories we have set up in proceeding with the analytical examination, which were shown in §1.6, Pt. I. Types A~D are non-prepositional, and types A'~D' prepositional. Each of the prepositional types A'~D' formally corresponds to each of the non-prepositional types A~D.

Type A: "numeral (including indefinite article) or quantifier+noun of time measurement"; e.g.: Doctor Parcival has been in Winesburg *about five years*.—S. Anderson, *Winesburg, Ohio*.

Type Ab: "determiner+numeral or quantifier+noun of time measurement"; e.g.: after all he had put up with Lydia *all these years*.—I. Murdoch, *The Italian Girl*.

Type Ac: "genitive (including *of*-genitive) of <numeral or quantifier+noun of time measurement>+noun meaning a space of time"; e.g.: Thus they lodged each against other *the space of eighteen days*;—Lord Berners, *The Chronicles of Froissart*.

---

\* I express my thanks to Professor P. E. Davenport, Hitotsubashi University, for reading the draft of this paper and making a number of valuable suggestions.

<sup>1</sup> Published in *Hitotsubashi Journal of Arts and Sciences*, Vol. 21, No. 1, 1980.

<sup>2</sup> Published *ibid.*, Vol. 23, No. 1, 1982.

Type B: “determiner (including definite article)+noun meaning a particular period”; e.g.: You’d better stay *the night*.—J. Galsworthy, *The Apple-Tree*.

Type C: “(article or determiner+)(adjective mainly expressing length of time+) noun meaning a space of time”; e.g.: Billy thought *a long time* what to say.—J. Steinbeck, *The Gift*.

Type D: “(all, etc. +) possessive personal pronoun+noun meaning lifetime”; e.g.: I’ve been reading *all my life*...—M. Spark, *The Father’s Daughter*.

Type A’: —e.g.: You remember it has been snowing *for several days*; —T. Wilder, *Our Town*.

Type Ab’: —e.g.: What have you done with yourself *for the last ten years*? —J. Wain, *Nuncle*.

Type Ac’: —e.g.: ...the suspension of worse forms of legal persecution, which has lasted *for about the space of a generation*, ...—J. S. Mill, *On Liberty*.

Type B’: —e.g.: he seemed to have been contemplating nothing but the inside of his own head *for the last day and night*...—M. Drabble, *Crossing the Alps*.

Type C’: —e.g.: Incheape...stood *for a long time* in a slatternly room smelling of slop-pails. —S. Anderson, *Wineburg, Ohio*.

Type D’: —e.g.: I could have been happy in the service of this lady, *for all the days of my life*.—S. Richardson, *Sir Charles Grandison*.

Now we would like to add that, concerning the assignment of type D’, we have altered the principle that was followed in the appropriate sections in Pt. I and Pt. II. There we assigned to type D’ those examples of the *in*-phrase (or OE *on*-phrase) related to a verb or verbal cluster whose aspect is perfective or effective, as in: Ne gymde Ic nanes læce-cræftas næfre *on minum life*,...—*LS* II. 380–1 (cf. (29) in §2.6, Pt. I) / He never yet no vileynye ne sayede *In al his lyf* unto no maner wight.—Chaucer, *CT*, ProL. 70–1 (cf. (4) in §3.6, Pt. I) / Whether you had not sometime *in your life* Er’d in this point, ...—Shakespeare, *MM* 1.5.15–16 (cf. (16) in §3.3, Pt. II) / he was one of the most troublesome pilgrims that ever I met with *in all my days*.—Bunyan, *PP* II. 107l.15–17 (cf. (28) in §3.8, Pt. II). In view of semantic or functional equivalency, however, we have now decided to exclude this kind of expression from type D’. Accordingly, in the treatment of the late ModE corpora we shall leave out of account such instances as: I never saw the park so thin *in my life* before; —Goldsmith, *CW* 1v (2.229.13) / for my part, I found Newgate as agreeable a place as ever I saw *in all my life*. —*ibid.*, cxix (2.401.17–18) / I never was so happy *in my life*!—Jane Austen, *NA* (1.11.90) / She had never seen a detective *in her life*.—Sidney Sheldon, *OSM* 2.56.<sup>3</sup>

Before embarking on the main theme, we shall explain the following symbols in brackets or parentheses which will be employed in exemplification as occasion arises. They will be put after the example numbers preceding the relevant quotations.

(n) indicates that the relevant example contains the kind of negative construction where the adverbial concerned stands outside the scope of negation. In this construction the adverbial of duration—more usually of the prepositional type—refers to the negated activity or state, which comes to imply some of the resultant aspect.

[n] indicates that the relevant example contains the kind of negative construction where the adverbial concerned stands inside the scope of negation. In this construction

<sup>3</sup> Cf. also footnote 54 below, at the end of §4.2.

there is a great deal of closeness in semantic association between the governing verbal cluster and the adverbial of duration—characteristically of the non-prepositional type.

[iter.] indicates that the adverbial concerned is related to the iterative aspect (or the aspect of iterative continuation) of the governing verb or verbal cluster. It is specially marked as a significant variant of the durative aspect, which we leave unmarked.

[int.] is marked where the adverbial concerned—usually the *for*-phrase—is explicitly related to the governing verb or verbal cluster with the notion of intended duration.

1.2. For the examination of the expressions in question as they are used in Late Modern English, we have used the following texts: (1) *Collected Works of Oliver Goldsmith* (5 vols.), edited by Arthur Friedman (Oxford Clarendon Press, 1966),<sup>4</sup> (2) *The Oxford Illustrated Jane Austen* (5 vols.), edited by R.W. Chapman (Oxford Univ. Press, 1923),<sup>5</sup> (3) Sidney Sheldon: *The Other Side of Midnight* (Pan Books, 1974) and *Memories of Midnight* (Fontana, 1990), and (4) the four gospels of *New Revised Standard Version* (abbreviated as NRSV) (Oxford Univ. Press, 1989).

Of these four corpora, (1) the Goldsmith corpus has been adopted as representing eighteenth-century English, (2) the Austen corpus as representing nineteenth-century English, and (3) the Sheldon corpus and (4) the NRSV corpus as representing twentieth-century English. The last has been specially taken up as representing the present-day stage subsequent to the three previous stages of the biblical part of the study—that is, the stage of the West-Saxon Gospels (abbreviated as WS) (cf. §§2.1, 2.6 in Pt. I), that of the Wycliffite Gospels (abbreviated as Wyc.) (cf. §§3.3, 3.4 in Pt. I), and that of the Authorised Version (abbreviated as AV) (cf. §§3.5, 3.6 in Pt. II)—so that we can make a comparative survey of the historical transition more purposefully.

## II. *The Goldsmith Corpus*

2.1. In the collected works of Oliver Goldsmith (1730?–1774), we find 543 examples of the expression concerned, of which 220 are of the non-prepositional type and 323 are of the prepositional type. The 220 examples of the non-prepositional type comprise 98 of type A, 29 of type Ab, 36 of type B, 42 of type C, and 15 of type D.

### Type A:

The 98 examples may be classified according to the governing verbs to which the adverbials concerned are related as follows: (i) 25 examples with *be* as main or auxiliary verb, (ii) 18 with *love*, (iii) 12 with *continue*, (iv) 4 with *wait*, (v) 4 with *remain*, (vi) 3 with *stay*, (vii) 2 with *reside*, (viii) 2 with *lie*, (ix) 2 with *pause*, (x) 2 with *walk*, (xi) 14 with intransitive verbs, each one example (i.e., *dine*, *exhibit*, *expostulate*, *go back*, *languish*, *last*, *linger*, *look*, *reign*, *rest*, *study*, *survive*, *travel*, and *work*), (xii) 2 with *keep* (vt.), and (xiii) 8 with other transitive verbs, each one example (i.e., *amuse*, *bind*, *do*, *govern*, *hold*, *swallow*, *take*, and *turn out*).

<sup>4</sup> For the examination of the relevant words used in this text, I have occasionally depended on *A Concordance to the Works of Oliver Goldsmith*, edited by Tosuke Tamai (Tokyo: Kaitakusha, 1984).

<sup>5</sup> For the examination of the relevant words used in this text, I have largely depended on *A Concordance to the Works of Jane Austen*, edited by Peter L. De Rose and S. W. McGuire (New York: Garland, 1982).

Ranging over these subgroups we shall pick up some of the examples. First, let us note a considerable number of instances where the adverbial of type A is placed immediately after the governing verb or verbal cluster, often preceding another kind of adverbial, that is an adjunct of place, manner, accompaniment, and so on. (In the exemplification of type A we append the subgroup number to each of the example numbers.)

- (1) (i) He was *but two years* in England, ...—*MV*<sup>6</sup> (3.254.11).<sup>7</sup>
- (2) (i) If a man has been married *a year, or fifteen months* at most, and his wife does not prove with child, he is carried out of the village on a wooden horse or pole, and plunged into a pond.—*MR* (1.68.6–8).
- (3) (i) I had now been confined *more than a fortnight* ...—*VW* xxviii (4.151.30).
- (4) (ii) I have lived *many years* in intimacy with you.—*SSC*, Pref. (5.101.5–6).
- (5) (iii) In this pleasing speculation I continued *a full half hour*, ...—*BB* (3.11.3).
- (6) (iv) I have known him, in London, wait *a whole day* at a window in the Smyrna coffee-house, in order to receive a bow from the Prince, or the Dutches of Marlborough, ...—*LRN* (3.345.13–16).
- (7) (vi) after having staid *half an hour* in his balcony, [he] retired to the royal apartment.—*CW* v (2.33.24–5).
- (8) (ix) after hearing my story, and pausing *some minutes*, he slapt his forehead, ...—*VW* xxvi (4.147.34–5).
- (9) (x) I...had walked *about two hours*, when I perceived what appeared at a distance like a waggon, ...—*VW* xviii (4.95.18–19).
- (10) (xi) This edifying discourse continued thro' three courses which lasted *as many hours*, ...—*CW* viii (2.241.35–242.1).
- (11) (xi) [n] Mr. K- was told, she could not survive *three or four days*;—*MRC* (4.427.25–6).

For “*about two hours*” in (9), which is assigned to type A, though *about* is itself interpreted as a preposition, we may well compare “*for about half an hour*” (type A') ((52) in §3.2) and other suchlike instances cited from the Austen corpus. It may be worth noting that in (10) and (11) we can see the specially close semantic association between the verb *last/survive* and the temporal determiner of type A.

Each of the following four examples is remarkable in having the adverbial of type A closely embedded in the sequence of <predicate verb+complementary element> as in (12), (13) and (15)—or in the predicate verb in the passive past perfect—as in (14).

<sup>6</sup> Here is a list of the abbreviations of the works of Goldsmith which contain the relevant examples, their full titles, and in brackets the appropriate dates. *B*: *The Bee* [1759]/ *BB*: Essays from the *Busy-Body* [1759]/ *BM*: Essays from the *British Magazine* [1760]/ *CR*: *The Critical Review* [1760]/ *CW*: *The Citizen of the World* [1762]/ *DV*: *The Deserted Village* [1770]/ *BB*: Essay from the *Babler* [1767]/ *GNM*: *The Good Natur'd Man* [1768]/ *HV*: *The Haunch of Venison, a Poetical Epistle to Lord Clare* [1776]/ *LB*: *The Life of Henry St. John, Lord Viscount Bolingbroke* [1770]/ *LEP*: Essays from *Lloyd's Evening Post* [1762]/ *LM*: Essays from the *Lady's Magazine* [1760]/ *LP*: *The Life of Dr. Parnell* [1770]/ *LRN*: *The Life of Richard Nash* [1762]/ *MP*: Miscellaneous Poems [1759–1801]/ *MR*: *The Monthly Review* [1757]/ *MRC*: *The Mystery Revealed; Cock-Lane Ghost* [1762]/ *MV*: *Memoirs of M. de Voltare* [1761]/ *PI*: Prefaces and Introductions [1758–76]/ *PL*: Essays from the *Public Ledger* [1761]/ *PLE*: *An Enquiry into the Present State of Polite Learning in Europe* [1759]/ *RM*: Essays from the *Royal Magazine* [1759–60]/ *SSC*: *She Stoops to Conquer* [1773]/ *TA*: *Threnodia Augustalis* [1772]/ *VW*: *The Vicar of Wakefield* [1766]/ *WM*: Essays from the *Westminster Magazine* [1773].

<sup>7</sup> In parentheses the location of each example is indicated numerically in the order of volume, page and line, according to the Friedman edition.

(12) (i) by these sounds alone he would have children taught to read, being of opinion, that they might learn by this method, in a few months, what they are *years* in acquiring by the other, now in use among us.—*MR* (1.126.23–5).

(13) (i) he has now been *near three years* absent, without ever writing to his friends or me.—*VW* xix (4.104.25–6).

(14) (i) A young Gentleman...has been *some years* afflicted with a slight Hernia,...—*MR* (1.24.21–2).

(15) (iii) here they continued *half an hour* bowing and cringing,...—*CW* xxxix (2.169.23–4).

Next we shall show some examples where the adverbial of type A is placed after the one of place or manner which follows the verb or verbal cluster directly.

(16) (i) The other replied, he had been at Tunbridge *a month*;—*LRN* (3.331.2–3).

(17) (i) He had been employ'd thus, *six or seven days*;—*MV* (3.274.19).

(18) (ii) in this manner he actually lived among his friends *a whole week* without being openly affronted.—*B* iii (1.399.13).

(19) (vi) My companion...proceeded...to assure me that if I stayed in this country *some months longer* I should see fine things.—*CW* cv (2.410.4–8).

(20) (vii) After I had resided at college *seven years* my father died,...—*CW* xxvii (2.115.12).

On “some months *longer*” in (19)—and also “a quarter of an hour *longer*” in (26) below—it may be commented that the comparative adverb *longer* is subjoined to the adverbial accusative *some months/a quarter of an hour* to express the notion of prolongation, forming a variant instance of type A.

In the following examples (21)~(26), as in (11) above, the adverbials of type A stand inside the scope of negation so as to reveal their functional closeness to the governing verbs, while in (27) the negative sense in the predicate does not extend to the adverbial *fifty years*, which is more loosely related to the governing verb.

(21) (i) [n] The widow had scarce been gone *an hour*, when an old disciple of Choang's ...came to pay him a visit.—*CW* xviii (2.78.25–7).

(22) (ii) [n] we told Mr. K-, she could not then live *twelve hours*.—*MRC* (4.427.33).

(23) (v) [n] At his new lodging he had not remained *above a week*, when Mrs. L- was taken ill:—*MRC* (4.420.15–16).

(24) (viii) [n] The prince therefore was...determined never to lie *two nights* in one place till he had found what he sought for.—*CW* xlix (2.207.7–9).

(25) (xii) [n] [he] never could keep a place *above a twelve month*:—*MR* (1.89.20).

(26) (xiii) [n] the ship could not hold it [i.e. the terrible situation] *a quarter of an hour longer*;—*BM* (3.122.18–19).

(27) (xiii) (n) she swallowed nothing but in the presence of the physician, at least *fifty hours* before her death:—*MRC* (4.428.20–1).

Just as in the case of “*about two hours*” in (9) above, “*above a week*” in (23) and “*above a twelvemonth*” in (25), which mean ‘*more than a week*’ and ‘*more than a twelvemonth*’, respectively, may be treated as instances of type A. Compare “*for above three years*” ((18) in §2.2), or “*for above a course of fifty years*” ((21) in §2.2), as an instance of type A’.

We shall add two more examples of type A which present formal or functional peculiarities.

(28) (v) At Easton he remained *between three and four years*;—*WM* (3.42.19).

(29) (xi) our taste has gone back *a whole century*,...—*VW* xviii (4.96.6).

In (28) “*between three and four years*” is outwardly prepositional. Functionally, however, the phrase is as much entitled to belong to type A as ‘*three or four years*’ would be. In (29) *has gone back* is figuratively used to mean ‘has dated back,’ and the adverbial concerned comes to imply the temporal distance through which the period runs backward.

Type Ab:

The Goldsmith corpus contains 29 examples. From a formal point of view with regard to the determiners, they are subdivided into 16 examples of the form <*these*...>, 6 of the form <*this*...>, 5 of the form <*the*...>, and 2 of the form <...*past*>. Here is a selection from these, one from each of the subdivisions.

(30) [iter.] I have tried to fret him myself every morning *these three years*;—*GNM* i (5.20.20–1).

(31) He and the Old Gentleman of the house have been laughing at Mr. Marlow’s mistake *this half-hour*.—*SSC* v (5.196.12–14).

(32) all that ever she could lay her hands upon she used to hide away from me, though we were obliged to starve *the whole week* after for it.—*CW* lxxv (2.270.16–17).

(33) *A few years past* the Fungus Agurici had...been found efficacious in stopping external hæmorrhages;—*MR* (1.23.25–7).

It must be admitted that *a few years past* in (33) might well be assigned to type A; but we would here note the use of the postposed determiner *past*, and considering “a few years past” equivalent to ‘*the past few years*,’ we assign it to type Ab.

We shall add rather a special instance, where the predicated situation continues in the future direction for the period specified by the adverbial of type Ab, as in:

(34) (n) I shall scarce recover my spirits *these three days*.—*GNM* i (5.27.11).

Type B:

The 36 examples of this type comprise (i) 7 of *all night*, 5 of *all the day*, and 6 other different forms, each with *all* as determiner (i.e., *all the morning*, *all the week*, *all the winter*, *all this day*, *all that morning*, and *all Saturday morning*); (ii) 2 of *the whole day*, and 8 other different forms, each with *whole* as determiner (i.e., *the whole day ensuring*, *the whole evening*, *the whole morning*, *the whole night*, *the whole journey*, *whole days*, *whole days and nights*, and *a whole morning*); and (iii) 2 of *that night*, and 6 other different forms (i.e., *that morning*, *this month*, *this winter*, *the next morning*, *the ensuring night*, and *last summer*). Below we show some of these examples.

(35) She only sleeps now from having sat up *all night* at a brag party.—*CW* xli (2.175.19).

(36) those who were undermost *all the day* now enjoyed a temporary eminence,...—*CW* xxi (2.89.19–20).

(37) he has got into such a rhodomontade manner *all the morning!*—*GNM* ii (5.44.2–3).

(38) you may go and see sights *the whole day*,...—*CW* lxxv (2.269.12).

(39) I have...laboured *whole days and nights*, in bringing the work to perfection,...—*CR* (1.229.26–8).

(40) I was *last summer* in Devonshire, and am *this winter* at Mrs. Bonyer’s.—*LP* (3.417.5–6).

(41) many among them [i.e. the writers]...are provided with a sufficient stock of reputation to last *the whole journey*.—*CW* xxi (2.89.17–20).

In (41) *journey in the whole journey* implies the sense ‘period during which they are taking their journey.’

Type C:

The 42 examples of type C comprise (i) 22 of the phrase with *time* as head noun, i.e., 8 of *some time*, 5 of *all the time*, 2 of *a long time* | *all this time*, and 1 of *a yet longer time* | *a very short time* | *so short a time* | *the whole time* | *time immemorial*; (ii) 14 of the phrase with *while* as head noun, i.e., 7 of *all this while*, 3 of *a while* [*awhile*<sup>8</sup>], 2 of *all the while*, and 1 of *a great while* | *a long while*; (iii) 5 of the phrase with *moment* as head noun, i.e., 4 of *a moment*, and 1 of *one moment*; and (iv) a single instance *a long life*.

First we shall select those examples, ranging over the above subdivisions, where each of the adverbials concerned occurs more than twice in the Goldsmith corpus.

(42) We waited *some time* for Tibbs’s arrival,...—*CW* lv (2.231.19) (cf. (61) in §2.2).

(43) He looked *all the time* with such irresistible impudence, that...—*CW* xxxix (2.167.11–12).

(44) This last opinion therefore was established in the schools *a long time* without much controversy,...—*PI* (5.252.13–14).

(45) My confounded genius has been *all this time* only leading me up to the garret,...—*GNM* v (5.79.17–18).

(46) My son continued *all this while* regardless of what I said,...—*VW* xxviii (4.167.10).

(47) He paused *a while* upon the properest means of providing for me,...—*VW* xx (4.115.17–18).

(48) [I] have been asleep *all the while*.—*PL* (3.178.9–10).

(49) If we delay *a moment*, all is lost for ever.—*SSC* v (5.208.19).

For the placing of *all this time* in (45) and *all this while* in (46) the case of (14) and (15) above should be compared.

Next we add two more where the adverbials concerned exhibit special features.

(50) ...this abode of felicity, of which they and their ancestors had been in possession *time immemorial*,...—*LEP* (3.196.6–7).

(51) in the space of a very few years Parnel attained a share of fame, equal to what most of his contemporaries were *a long life* in acquiring.—*LP* (3.422.25–7).

In (50) the idiomatic expression *time immemorial*<sup>9</sup> is interpreted as equivalent to ‘an immemorially long time.’ In (51) *a long life* can functionally be associated with ‘*a long time*,’ the typical instance of type C, though with respect to the head noun it may be compared with the instance of type D ‘*all their lives*.’

Type D:

The 15 examples comprise 14 of the form <*all one’s life*> (i.e., 8 of *all his life*, 4 of *all my life*, and 1 of *all your life* | *all their lives*) and 1 of *all the rest of my life*. Some of these

<sup>8</sup> The form *awhile* as adverbial of type C occurs once in the Goldsmith corpus. For this solid form, see the comment (together with footnote 23) made under the item of “Type C” in §2.4, Pt. II.

<sup>9</sup> The first and only appropriate quotation recorded under *IMMEMORIAL* by the OED is the one where the nominal cluster is introduced by the preposition *of*, as in: In making title by prescription and continuance of *time immemorial* (1602 Fulbecke, *Pandectes* IV.19).

are:

(52) Mr. Boyle felt *all his life* after the salutary effects of this hardy regimen, ...—*WN* (3.41.19–20).

(53) He spoke to me as if he knew me *all his life* before.—*SSC* iii (5.159.24).

(54) I had rather continue poor *all my life* than become rich at such a rate.—*WN* (3.41.19–20).

(55) From your air and manner, I concluded you had been bred *all your life* either at Ranelagh, St. James's, or Tower Wharf.—*SSC* ii (5.149.11–13).

(56) Bred up *all their lives* in colleges, they have there learned to think in track, servilely to follow the leader of their sect, ...—*PLE* v (1.277.22–4).

(57) Had we parted thus, I should have remained in a very strange situation *all the rest of my life*;—*LB* (3.460.21–2).

2.2. The prepositional adverbials in question as they occur in the Goldsmith corpus comprise 323 examples—that is, 146 of type A', 18 of type Ab', 3 of type Ac', 5 of type B', 140 of type C', and 11 of type D'.

Type A':

The 146 examples comprise 143 of the *for*-phrase and 3 of the *in*-phrase. Regarding the use of *for*-phrases, it may first be noted that as compared with the adverbials of type A they display marked variety and freedom. They are used more independently of the governing verbs or verbal clusters, or are less closely related to them, than the corresponding non-prepositional phrases (type A) would be. They are thus found in combination with a greater variety of verbs or verbal clusters. Below we shall arrange those instances where the verbs occur with the *for*-phrases of type A' with comparatively higher frequency—each occurring more than three times. Selected examples will be shown under the appropriate subgroups.

(i) With *continue* (17 examples):

(1) This political warfare continued *for ten years*, ...—*LB* (3.467.1) (cf. (60) below).

(2) they [i.e. the opinions] continued to be adopted by Physicians or Schoolmen *for a long succession of ages*, with blind veneration, ...—*PL* (5.249.37–9).

(3) In this state of solitude and disappointment they continued *for many years* still fishing but without success, ...—*CW* lxxxviii (2.359.23–4).

(ii) With <*be* + past participle> (10 examples):

(4) Honest Solomon and I have been acquainted *for many years together*.—*VW* xiv (4.75.16–17).

(5) they may now part with the inflated stile\* that has *for some years* been looked upon as fine writing, ...—*PLE* xi (1.322.17–18) [\**stile*: style].

(6) Thomas Parnell, D.D. was descended from an ancient family, that has *for some centuries* been settled at Congleton in Cheshire.—*LP* (3.407.11–12).

(iii) With *be* (with or without a prepositional adjunct) (6 examples):

(7) Having been *for a fortnight* together, they are then mighty good company, to be sure.—*WMM* (3.218.21–2).

(8) The sun, ...which had been *for some minutes* under a cloud, had begun to shine on a large crucifix, ...—*B* iii (1.414.10–12).

(iv) With <*be* + predicative noun or adjective> (5 examples):

(9) The climate of Italy had, *for several ages*, been different from what it was in the



times of the ancient Romans.—*RM* (3.84.34–5).

(10) *For some years*, Tragedy was reigning entertainment:—*WMN* (3.209.8–9).

(v) With *live* (5 examples):

(11) I have now lived in solitude and darkness *for more than fifty years*,...—*CW* lxxiii (2.305.4–5).

(12) In this manner he had lived *for twenty years*,...—*BM* (3.138.28–9).

(vi) With <*have* + object> (4 examples):

(13) The count De Castel Blanco had *for several months* at Havre, a considerable quantity of arms and ammunition,...—*LB* (3.459.26–7).

(vii) With <*be* + present participle> (3 examples):

(14) The house of Drandenburgh had been *for some ages* acquiring strength and power in Germany.—*MV* (3.256.36–7).

(15) ..., that sacred power that has *for some years* been every day declining,...—*VW* xix (4.98.18–19).

(viii) With *last* (3 examples):

(16) This passion for antiquity lasted *for many years*, to the utter exclusion of every other pursuit,...—*B* v (1.452.26–8).

(ix) With <*see* + object> (3 examples):

(17) (n) though he had not seen her *for some years*, his treatment of her was now changed, into the most assiduous complaisance.—*MV* (3.272.19–21).

These instances present some significant features in respect of element order. In (10) the initial position of *for some years* shows that the prepositional phrase performs its self-contained function, not subjoined to the predicate verb—the characteristic feature of type A', as contrasted with type A. The same feature can also be seen in the parenthetical use of *for several ages* in (9), which is loosely placed amid the predicate verb.

In (3), (5)~(8), and (13)~(15), on the other hand, the *for*-phrase is connected, with marked closeness, to the predicate verb (or verbal) or its constituent, just as in the case of adverbials of type A. What is particularly noticeable is that in (13) *for several months*, along with the adverbial of place *at Havre*, is embedded in the sequence of the predicate verb and its object. In this connection, "Having been for a fortnight *together*" in (7) calls for special comment. Here *together* means 'in company' and so functions as predicative complement of the predicate verbal *having been*. In spite of the outward similarity, "for a fortnight *together*" in (7) is, both semantically and structurally, of a different nature from "for many years *together*" in (4), where *together*, meaning 'continuously,' is subjoined to emphasize the notion of temporal duration that the *for*-phrase expresses. The latter use of *together* has been idiomatically established,<sup>10</sup> and the Goldsmith corpus comprises eight other instances of the phrase "*for ~ together*" meaning 'for ~ continuously.'

Here it is worth noting that the placing of the *for*-phrase particularly exhibit in those examples above mentioned is certainly a distinct feature that may be largely ascribed to the syntactic style of Goldsmith's English, or the eighteenth-century English represented by his English—an exceedingly terse and periodic style, which may be considered somewhat archaic from the present-day point of view.

<sup>10</sup> Cf. footnote 38, Pt. II, which was given with reference to (3) (...*for the space of three years together* (type Ac')) in §2.9, Pt. II.

What also seems to be characteristic of the syntactic style of eighteenth-century English is the presence in the Goldsmith corpus of three examples of <*last*+*for*-phrase of type A'>—one of which has been cited in (16)<sup>11</sup>—as against a single one of <*last*+adverbial of type A> (cf. (10) in §2.1), in spite of the quasi-transitive nature of the verb *last* as it is used in the construction concerned.

Here may be added four more examples of the *for*-phrase:

(18) Harley, after maintaining the lead *for above three years*, was in his turn obliged to submit to the whigs, ...—*LB* (3.442.22–3).

(19) these are generally fleeting modes, which are...brought up to please *for a day*, soon to be displeased by others, ...—*B* iii (1.412.8–10).

(20) A want of rain *for a few days* beyond the expected season in China, spreads famine, desolation, and terror, over the whole country:—*CW* lxix (2.285.7–9).

(21) [iter.] he always practised the strictest regimen *for above a course of thirty years*;—*WM* (3.45.16–17).

In “*for above three years*” in (18), or “*for above a course of thirty years*” in (21), the regimen of the preposition *for* is what might outwardly be termed a prepositional phrase itself. It means ‘for more than three years / for more than a course of thirty years’ and so is a well-qualified instance of type A'. Compare (23) and (25) in §2.1, where “*above a week*” and “*above a twelvemonth*” occur as instances of type A. In (19) *for a day* connotes the notion of limited duration, which is a functional feature proper to the *for*-phrase, not observable in the corresponding non-prepositional phrase. In (20) the *for*-phrase is used adnominally. “A want of rain *for a few days*” here may be interpreted as implying the sense ‘a want of rain that has lasted for a few days.’ This syntactic versatility is also proper to the *for*-phrase, as against the corresponding non-prepositional phrase. In the Goldsmith corpus we find similar *for*-phrases in adnominal use in *SSC* iv (5.195.5) and *PI* (5.294.15). In (21) the rather special A'-type form “*for above a course of thirty years*” may be interpreted as a more deliberate variant of ‘for above thirty years.’

Next we shall illustrate the 3 *in*-phrases that are assignable to type A'.

(22) Our passions and our pride have been *in all ages* the same, ...—*LM* (3.149.10–11).

(23) [iter.] The generation of animals has excited curiosity *in all ages*...—*PI* (5.249.29–30).

(24) [iter.] It [i.e. His family] is found...*in a succession of ages* to have produced warriors, patriots, and statesmen, ...—*LB* (3.437.27–32).

Comparing “*in a succession of ages*” in (24) with “*for a long succession of ages*” in (2) above, we can see that *for* in the latter phrase is better adapted for the emphatic expression of duration than *in* in the former.

Type Ab':

The Goldsmith corpus contains 18 examples of type Ab', that is, 15 of the *for*-phrase and 3 of the *during*-phrase. The 15 *for*-phrases of type Ab' comprise 9 of the form <*for*...*past*> and 6 other different forms. Here is a selection from these examples.

(25) The Spanish nation has, *for many centuries past*, been remarkable for the great-

<sup>11</sup> The other two are: ...building...a pyramid to last *for ages*, ...—*CW* cxv (2.446.27–8) / ...his fits of spleen and uneasiness, which sometimes lasted *for weeks together*, ...—*LP* (3.415.25–6).

est ignorance in polite literature, especially in point of natural philosophy;—*B* iii (1.413.8–10).

(26) (n) no vessel, *for thirty years past*, has left the port of Buenos Ayres, without taking forty or fifty thousand skins on board.—*MR* (1.52.33–5).

(27) (n) there are our two plow horses, ... that have scarce done an earthly thing *for this month past*.—*VW* x (4.59.5–8).

(28) (n) we can hope ... for nothing perfect in this science, at least *for some years to come*.—*MR* (1.148.7–8).

(29) a young man, who *but for six years of the early part of his life*, could seem divested of all his passions, ... might indulge several of his favourite inclinations in manhood with the utmost security.—*B* v (1.437.1–5).

(30) the symptoms were, *for the first four or five days*, rather favourable;—*MRC* (4.427.19–20).

(31) (n) *For the last two days*, no persuasion could bring her to taste any thing;—*MRC* (4.427.27–8).

(32) a dinner with his lordship, has procured him invitations *for the whole week following*:—*PLE* x (1.311.4–6).

(33) *For the three ensuing days* I was in a state of anxiety, to know what reception my letter might meet with;—*VW* xxviii (4.153.25–6).

As compared with the case of non-prepositional adverbials of type Ab, these *for*-phrases reveal greater functional freedom from the predicate verbs, as reflected in the parenthetical use in (25), (26) and (30), not to mention their prominent placing in initial position in the sentences in (31) and (33). As for “*but for* six years of ...” in (29), we see the notion of limited duration inherent in the *for*-phrase explicitly denoted in the structural environment.

Next we shall illustrate the 3 *during*<sup>12</sup>-phrases that may be assigned to type Ab’.

(34) Of all parts of learning which our countrymen have cultivated, *during this last century*, with distinguished success, their own language seems to be that where in their efforts have been most weak or unsuccessful.—*PI* (5.304.11–14).

(35) Such were the sources of all that misgovernment which was imputed to him *during the first fifteen years of his reign*.—*MR* (1.48.6–8).

(36) Perhaps no philosopher ever enjoyed, while living, so much fame without alloy, ... unopposed by a single enemy *during the course of near thirty years*.—*WM* (3.45.3–6).

In (36) the rather special Ab’-type form “*during the course of near thirty years*” may be interpreted as a more deliberate variant of ‘during the [those] near thirty years.’

Type Ac’:

The 3 instances of type Ac’ comprise 2 of the form <*for the space of*...> and 1 of the form <*for the term of*...>, as in:

(37) he went at last to reside with a certain widow lady,—where he remained *for the space of two years*;—*MRC* (4.440.22–3).

(38) [iter.] ...the surprizing tricks and frauds he has practised *for the space of five years last past*, in different parts of England, particularly in the West.—*LRN* (3.346.24–6).

(39) I insist that he shall ... hire himself to me at least *for the term of six years*.—*MR*

<sup>12</sup> For the preposition *during*, see the comment made at the end of §2.3 in Pt. II.

(1.87.25–7).

Type B':

The 5 instances of type B' comprise 2 of the form <for the night> and 3 other different forms, i.e., 1 *for*-phrase and 2 *during*-phrases, as in:

(40) Besides this, every prisoner had a separate cell, where he was locked in *for the night*.—*VW* xxv (4.141.17–18) [similarly *MV* 3.277.4–5].

(41) I believe I shall have business for you *for the whole day*.—*GNM* i (5.29.11–12).

(42) After supper, as my spirits were exhausted by the alternation of pleasure and pain which they had sustained *during the day*, I asked permission to withdraw, ...—*VW* xxxi (4.181.37–182.2).

(43) they [i.e. the insects] sleep *during the continuance in the winter*.—*PI* (5.272.34–5).

Type C':

The Goldsmith corpus contains 140 examples of type C', as against 42 of type C. They comprise 129 of the *for*-phrase and 11 of the *during*-phrase.

(i) Among the various forms of the *for*-phrase, *for some time* occurs most frequently, as many as 87 times. This seems to be one of the elements of Goldsmith's syntactic style. Here is a selection from the examples of *for some time*.

(44) I gazed at the picture *for some time*, ...—*CW* xlv (2.297.14–15).

(45) In the mortifying situation we had continued *for some time*.—*CW* lxxi (2.297.14–15).

(46) Before him, our reputation for learning had *for some time* been established in Europe;—*MV* (3.248.33–4).

(47) I had *for some time* begun privately to harbour such an opinion myself.—*VM* xiv (4.73.37–8).

(48) I had been now *for some time* a concealed spectator of his follies, ...—*GNM* i (5.20.3–4).

Here again it is worth noting that in (46), (47) and (48) the *for*-phrase concerned is embedded in the compound predicate verb or the sequence of the predicate verb and its complement.

(ii) The other 42 examples of the *for*-phrase belonging to type C' comprise 9 of *for a while* (including 1 of *for awhile*), 8 of *for a moment*, 6 of *for a long time* (including 1 of *for a much longer time*), 5 of *for a time*, 3 of *for a short time*, 2 of *for a good while* | *for time immemorial*, and 1 of *for a little while* | *for the time* | *for that time* | *for a certain time* | *for the smallest space* | *for twice that space* | *for a little*.

Below we select some from these examples, ranging over those forms which occur, each more than twice, in the Goldsmith corpus.

(49) I have *for a while* forgot in hers [i.e. her distress], the miseries of my own hopeless situation.—*CW* xxxv (2.154.13–14).

(50) The highest rapture lasts only *for a moment*, ...—*CW* xlv (2.188.13–14).

(51) My wife had been *for a long time* all attention to this discourse;—*VW* xi (4.63.19).

(52) In this situation, the poet continued *for a time* in the character of a jealous lover, ...—*WMM* (3.208.5–6).

(53) the fancy-built fabric is stiled *for a short time* ingenious.—*PLE* (1.304.32–3).

(55) The duty of children to their parents...forms the strength of the government

which has subsisted *for time immemorial*.—*CW* xlii (2.177.2–5).

With respect to element order, again, we should pay particular notice to the embedding of *for a while* in the perfect tense form in (49), and the placing of *for a long time* in (51) and *for a short time* in (52) before the predicative complements “all attention to...” and “ingenious,” respectively. For *for time immemorial* in (55), compare (50) in §2.1, where the non-prepositional *time immemorial* is used as an adverbial of type C.

Let us add to these three instances that seem specially noteworthy.

(56) Here lessoned *for awhile*, and hence retreating, goes out, affronts his man, and takes a beating.—*MP* (4.396.27–8).

(57) it is impossible that both [i.e. pity and friendship] can reside in any breast *for the smallest space*, without impairing each other.—*B* iii (1.396.12–14).

(58) I will indulge the transports of nature *for a little*,...—*CW* xxii (2.94.30).

Example (56), containing the solid form *awhile* as the head of the prepositional phrase, is cited from the poems in the Goldsmith corpus (cf. (49)). In (57) *for the smallest space* is an instance of the *for*-phrase with *space* (=amount of time)<sup>13</sup> as its head; and there occurs in the corpus another instance of a similar form, i.e., *for twice that space*—*B* iii (1.396.21–2). For the use of *for a little* (=little while) in (58), see (12) in §3.3 in Pt. II and the comment made there.

(iii) The 11 instances of the *during*-phrase belonging to type C' comprise 3 of *during this interval*, 2 of *during which time*, and 6 other forms, each occurring once, i.e.: *during which interval*, *during some time*, *during the whole time*, *during this time*, *during a whole life*, and *during the course of a long life*, as in:

(59) *During this interval*, my thoughts were employed on some future means of supporting them;—*VW* iii (4.25.18–19) [similarly *LRN* (3.323.18–19), *MRC* (4.423.19–32)].

(60) This political warfare continued for ten years, *during which time* he laboured with great strength and perseverance,...—*LB* (3.467.1–2) [similarly *CW* xxx (2.132.15–16)].

(61) We waited some time for Mrs. Tibbs's arrival, *during which interval* I had a full opportunity of surveying the chamber, and all its furniture;—*CW* lv (2.231.19–21).

(62) a visible irritation is to be observed *during some time*, in ano.\*—*MR* 1.69.16–17 [\**ānō*: L abl. of *ānus* (m.) the buttocks].

(63) [liter.] I do not remember to have carried above one dictionary *during the whole time*.—*B* v (1.447.26–7).

(64) *During this time* both master, mistress, and servants...entertained each other with the dreams of the night,...—*LM* (2.148.14–16).

(65) [liter.] the occasion is often wanting *during a whole life* for a great exertion:—*LRN* (3.320.17–18).

(66) He was learned and rich, and *during the course of a long life* indefatigable and accurate.—*PI* (5.231.28–30).

The examples (60) and (61) are specially to be noted. In (60) *for ten years* (type A')<sup>14</sup> and *during which time* (type C') appear side by side, both with the common referent; and in (61) *some time* (type C)<sup>15</sup> is followed by *during which interval* (type C'), both phrases also

<sup>13</sup> Cf. OED, s.v. *SPACE* sb. 3b.

<sup>14</sup> The part of the example which contains “*for ten years*” was cited in (1) above.

<sup>15</sup> The part of the example which contains “*some time*” was cited in (24) in §2.1.

having a common referent. In (62) *during some time* seems to be equivalent to *for some time*. The *during*-phrase, however, is more forceful in expressing the durative process of time. In (65) and (66) the *during*-phrases of type C' may be readily associated with the corresponding phrases of type D'—that is, *during a while life* in (65) with *during their whole lives* and *during the course of a long life* in (66) with *during his long life*.

Type D':

The 11 examples of type D' comprise 6 of the *during*-phrase—i.e., 3 of the form <*during one's (whole) life*>, 2 of the form <*during the...part of (one's) life*>, and 1 of the form <*during the...years of one's life*>—, 2 of the *for*-phrase, 2 of the *through*-phrase, and 1 of the *in*-phrase. These are:

(67) Among this number was the old duchess of Marlborough, who conceived a particular friendship for him, and which continued *during her life*.—LRN (3.331.40–332.2) [similarly: ...*during my life*...—VW xxii (4.129.19–20)].

(68) Montaigne was, *during his whole life*,...incapable of thinking conceitedly:—MR (1.131.30–1).

(69) The friends, to whom, *during the latter part of his life*, he was chiefly attached, were Pope, Swift, Arbuthnot, Jervas, and Gay.—LP (3.416.31–2) [similarly: ...*during the younger part of life*...—RM (3.85.7–9)].

(70) *During the two or three last years of his life*, he was more fond of company than ever,...—LP (3.422.15–16).

(71) When a man knows his power over the fair sex, he generally commences their admirer *for the rest of life*.—LRN (3.293.15–16).

(72) to gratify a momentary passion, thou hast made one poor creature wretched *for life*,...—VW xxiv (4.137.18–19).

(73) the person once listed as a gamester...pursues it *through his whole life*;—LRN (3.389.5–6).

(74) for men who are contented with more humble stations, I fancy such truths only are serviceable as may conduct them safely *through life*.—LRN (3.291.13–14).

(75) he who had been accustomed *in the early parts of life* to affluence and prodigality, when reduced to an hundred and twenty-six pounds a year, must pine in actual indigence.—LRN (3.364.1–4).

In (71) and (73), we see rather an unusual case where the adverbial of duration concerned has its reference extending into the future. It may be understood that *for life* in (72) and *through life* in (74) imply 'for (=during) her life' and 'through (=during) their lives,' respectively.

### III. *The Austen Corpus*

3.1. In the six main novels<sup>16</sup> by Jane Austen (1775–1817) we find 1266 examples of the expression concerned, of which 621 are of the non-prepositional type and 645 are of

<sup>16</sup> Here is a list of the abbreviations of the main novels by Jane Austen, their full titles, and in brackets the appropriate dates: —SS: *Sense and Sensibility* [1811]; PP: *Pride and Prejudice* [1813]; MP: *Mansfield Park* [1814]; E: *Emma* [1816]; NA: *Northanger Abbey* [1818]; P: *Persuasion* [1818].

the prepositional type. The 621 examples of the non-prepositional type comprise 304 of type A, 48 of type Ab, 106 of type B, 139 of type C, and 24 of type D.

Type A:

Considering the primary syntactic nature of the non-prepositional phrase concerned—that is, its close association, both functional and structural, with the verb or verbal cluster whose aspect is durative, or sometimes iterative—we shall here arrange some of the 304 examples of type A according to the verbs to which the adverbials concerned are related. First we shall illustrate the subgroups (i)~(xi) where each of the appropriate examples occurs more than three times in the Austen corpus.

(i) With *be* as main verb (101 examples):

One feature of the *be*-construction in general is that in the majority of instances the predicate verbs appear in the past perfect *had been*. Another is that the [n] construction is well adapted to the close semantic relation between the predicate verb and the adverbial of type A.

(ia) <*had been* (etc.)+adverbial of type A+adverbial of place (or sometimes, (non)-accompaniment)> (47 examples<sup>17</sup>):

(1) Jane has been a *week* in town, without either seeing or hearing from Caroline.—*PP* 2.3.147.<sup>18</sup>

(2) [n] Mary had not been *three hours* in the house before she told her what she had planned.—*MP* 1.4.42.

(3) You have been *five years* with us, ...—*MP* 1.3.25.

(4) with regard to Anne's dislike of Bath, she [i.e. Lady Russell] considered it as a prejudice and mistake, arising first from the circumstance of her having been *three years* at school there, after her mother's death, ...—*P* 1.2.14.

(ib) <*had been* (etc.)+adverbial of place+adverbial of type A > (30 examples):

(5) [n] They had not been a *twelvemonth* when he left England.—*MP* 2.3.196.

(6) I was out *above an hour*.—*MP* 1.7.72.

(7) I expect we shall be all very much at Southerton *another year*.—*MP* 2.4.210.

(ic) <*had been* (etc.)+complement+adverbial of type A > (10 examples):

(8) She had never heard of his having had any relations, except a father and mother, both of whom had been dead *many years*.—*PP* 3.6.296.

(9) [n] I had not been of age *three months* before Everingham was all that it is now.—*MP* 1.6.61.

(10) He was clerk to my poor father *twenty-seven years*;—*E* 3.8.383.

(id) <*had been* (etc.)+adverbial of type A+complement > (5 examples):

(11) The recollection of what I then said...is now, and has been *many months*, in-

<sup>17</sup> These include the special cases where (1) the adverbial in question is involved in an elliptical construction introduced by *though*—as in: he had passed through Bath in November, in his way to London, ...though (=though he had been) only *twenty-hours* in the place, ...(*P* 2.3.138)—or occurring in a context of dialogue—as in: "How long did you say that he was at Rosings?" "Nearly *three weeks* (=He was nearly three weeks at Rosings)." (*PP* 2.18.233-4)—and (2) it is placed in the initial position of a dependent interrogative clause—as in: Remember *how few minutes* I was at Randall's, ...(*E* 3.14.439) [similarly *MP* 3.13.423]—or it is emphatically expressed in the initial position of a sentence—as in: *Sixteen years* had Miss Taylor been in Mr. Woodhouse's family, ...(*E* 1.1.5).

<sup>18</sup> The numerical indication is given in the order of volume, chapter and page, according to the Chapman edition.

expressibly painful to me.—*PP* 3.16.367.

(12) It had been *so many years* my province to give advice, that you cannot be surprized, Mr. Knightley, at this little remains of office.—*E* 1.5.40.

(ie) <*had been* (etc.)+adverbial of type A+present participle or *in*+gerund> (5 examples):

(13) They had been a *year or two* waiting for fortune and promotion.—*P* 1.11.96.

(14) We have been exactly *an hour* coming from Puttery-street, very little more than seven miles;—*NA* 1.11.85.

(15) Her mother was *three months* in teaching her only to repeat the “Beggar’s Petition;”—*NA* 1.1.14.

(if) <*had been* (etc.)+adverbial of type A> (3 examples):

(16) [n] The shower was heavy, but short; and it had not been *over five minutes*, when in came Harriet,···—*E* 2.3.177.

For the treatment of “*above an hour*” in (6) as an instance of type A, see the comment made on (5) and (6) in §2.1. In the same way, “*over five minutes*” (also meaning ‘*more than five minutes*’) in (16) may be treated as assignable to type A. It is worth noting that in “*is now, and has been many months*” in (11), we see the parallel predicate verbs *is* and *has been*, and their respective temporal determiners *now* and *many months*, expressed with well-balanced proximity and antithesis. With “*They had been a year or two waiting*···” in (13) is to be compared ‘*they had been waiting*···(*for a year or two*)’ (cf. (37) below). The latter is structurally different from the former in having a past perfect progressive form as predicate verb.

(ii) With *stay* (41 examples<sup>19</sup>):

One of the remarkable features in this subcategory is that the form of prolongation “*···longer*” (as in (18) below) occurs four times with the verb *stay*.

(17) I remember he told us, that he had been staying *a fortnight* with some friends near Plymouth.—*SS* 1.22.134.

(18) That gentleman could have put me out of patience, had he staid with you *half a minute longer*.—*NA* 1.10.76.

(19) [n] when he first came in, he had said that he could not stay *five minutes*···—*E* 3.11.410.

(20) if you will stay *another month complete*, it will be in my power to take one of you as far as London,···—*PP* 2.14.211.

(21) as there could be no occasion for their staying *above a week* at Cleveland, they might now be at home in little more than three weeks’ time—*SS* 3.3.280.

In “*another month complete*” in (20), the postpositive adjective *complete* intensifies the full course of *another month*.<sup>20</sup>

(iii) With *sit* (22 examples)<sup>21</sup>:

<sup>19</sup> These include special cases where the adverbial in question stands alone as sentence-equivalent in a context of dialogue or of similar nature, as in: “···but I cannot stay to hear it.” “Oh! Mr. Knightley, *one moment more* (=stay one moment more);···” (*E* 2.10.245) [similarly *PP* 1.15.77] / she asked Bingley, whether he meant to make any stay in the country at present. *A few weeks* (=He would stay a few weeks), he believed. (*PP* 3.2.337).

<sup>20</sup> Cf. OED, s.v. COMPLETE *a.2*.

<sup>21</sup> These include one instance where *set* in the sense of ‘sit’ is used in a relevant construction, as in: And so, there she had set (=sat)···*full ten minutes*, perhaps—when···(*E* 2.8.178).



A noticeable structural feature of this subcategory is that the gerund *sitting*, introduced by the preposition *after*, is followed by an adverbial of type A. This terse type of phrasal construction, as in (25) below, occurs six times in the Austen corpus.<sup>22</sup>

(22) I sat *three quarters of an hour* in the flower garden.—*MP* 1.7.72.

(23) She then sat still *five minutes longer*;—*PP* 3.13.345.

(24) Colonel Fitzwilliam had been sitting with them at least *an hour*,...—*PP* 2.13.209.

(25) when the two Morlands, after sitting *an hour* with the Thorpes, set off to walk together to Mr. Allen's,...—*NA* 1.7.50 [similarly *NA* 1.13.103, *SS* 1.22.135, *PP* 2.6.162, 2.9.179, 3.2.268].

(26) that kind of intimacy must be submitted to, which consists of sitting *an hour or two* together in the same room almost every day.—*SS* 1.21.124.

(iv) With *live* (16 examples):

Here the adverbial of type A is immediately combined with the verb *live*—except in a single instance, i.e., (31) below, where the adverbial of type A is introduced by the indirect interrogative *how* and is placed in the initial position of the clause. In seven instances, including (30) and (31) below, the adverbial of type A, often in the form of prolongation <...*longer*>, displays the force of reference extending into the future.

(27) [n] she had not lived *above six-and-thirty hours* after his return.—*E* 3.9.387.

(28) [she] derived the immediate advantage of fancying herself obliged to leave her own house, where she had been living *a month* at her own cost,...—*MP* 1.13.129.

(29) her reddened and weather-breathen complexion...made her seem to have lived *some years longer* in the world than her real eight and thirty.—*P* 1.6.48.

(30) He may live *thirty years longer*.—*SS* 1.8.37 [similarly *PP* 1.19.106, *MP* 3.1.319].

(31) Lady Lucas began directly to calculate..., *how many years longer* Mr. Bennet was likely to live;—*PP* 1.22.122.

In (29) we see the form of prolongation "some years *longer*" used in the context where the base of comparison is definitely expressed.

(v) With *remain* (16 examples):

(32) Mrs. Dashwood remained at Norland *several months*;—*SS* 1.3.14.

(33) Lucy, who had owed his mother no duty,...still remained *some weeks longer* unpardoned.—*SS* 3.14.377.

(34) [n] Their visitors were not to remain *above ten days* with them.—*PP* 3.9.318.

(35) Miss Hiss Hamilton, ...remaining *another year* at school, had been useful and good to her...—*P* 2.5.152.

(36) after remaining *a few moments* silent, [she] was on the point of reverting to what interested her at that time...—*NA* 1.6.42-3.

It may be worth particularly noting that in (33) and (36) the adverbial concerned im-

<sup>22</sup> Cf. (7) and (8) in §2.1, where <*after*+gerund> phrases with adverbials of type A are used by Goldsmith. Also cf. (111), (115), (116), (123) and (135) below, where <*after*+gerund> phrases with adverbials of type C are used, just as in (25) here, by Jane Austen. It must be added that <*after*+gerund> phrases also occur with adverbials of type A' in (16), (24), (61), (63) and (69) in §3.2.

mediately follows the verb or verbal, even preceding the predicative adjective.<sup>23</sup>

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

(37) the poor fellow was waiting for me *half an hour*.—MP 1.7.73.

(38) wait *half-a-minute* till I have finished my job.—E 2.9.236.

(39) Better wait *an hour or two*, or even *half a day* for your letters, than run the risk of bringing on your cough again.—E 2.16.295.

(40) I do think it is not worth while to wait *two or three months* for him.—SS 3.4.291.

We should note the order <*wait* + adverbial of type A + *for*-phrase> in (39) and (40), as against the order <*wait* + *for*-phrase + adverbial of type A> in (37). See the comment made on (13) above.

(vii) With *know* (9 examples):

(41) She who had known him intimately *half a year!*—MP 3.12.417.

(42) [n] I had not known you *a month* before I felt that you were the last man in the world whom I could ever be prevailed on to marry.—PP 2.2.193.

(43) They only knew each other, I think, *a few weeks* in Bath.—P 2.6.167.

(44) Have you known of this *four months?*—SS 3.1.262.

(viii) With *continue* (7 examples):

(45) this they continued *a few minutes*,...—P 1.9.79.

(46) In this manner they had continued *about a quarter of an hour*, when Marianne...was startled by a rap at the door.—SS 2.9.203.

(47) Mrs. Bennet was forced to submit to separation, which...was likely to continue at least *a twelvemonth*.—PP 3.11.330.

(ix) With *last* (7 examples):

On account of the semantic quality of the verb *last*, it is immediately followed by an adverbial of type A, as though the latter were the accusative object of a transitive verb, in each of the seven examples.<sup>24</sup>

(48) when there [i.e. in bed] she immediately fell into a sound sleep which lasted *nine hours*,...—NA 1.9.60.

(49) It astonished her that Tom's sisters could be satisfied with remaining in London at such a time—through an illness, which had now, under different degrees of danger, lasted *several weeks*.—MP 3.14.432.

(50) a thing of that sort in good hands will last *above twenty years* after it is fairly worn out.—P 2.9.196.

(x) With *be gone* (5 examples):

(51) he was gone *above an hour*;—MP 1.12.291.

(52) Bingley had now been gone *a week*, and nothing was heard of his return.—PP 1.23.128.

(53) She had some satisfaction in finding that...he could be gone *the greater part of two days*.—P 4.10.214.

The special A-type form *the greater part of two days* in (53) may well be compared with

<sup>23</sup> Another example belonging to this subgroup will be cited under type C', i (v), in §3.2 (p. 34), where the adverbial concerned, "only *a few days*," is expressed appositionally after an adverbial of type C, "but *a very short time*."

<sup>24</sup> Cf., however, (16) in §2.2 and the comment made there.

'nearly two days.'

(ix) With *detain* / *lie* / *sleep* / *stand* (each 3 examples):

(54) [n] I will not detain you *a minute*,...—PP 3.4.276.

(55) She lay awake *two whole hours*, endeavouring to make them [i.e. her feelings] out.—PP 3.2.265.

(56) now she is so impatient to be in town, that she means to sleep only *two nights* on the road.—E 2.18.306.

(57) She stood *several minutes* before the picture in earnest contemplation,...—PP 3.1.250.

(xii) We shall add here one of the two examples with *be left*, so that it can be specially compared with (29) in §3.2 below:

(58) she had been left *four days together* without any choice of companions or exercise.—MP 1.7.74.<sup>25</sup>

Type Ab:

According to the determiners introducing the adverbials of type Ab, the 48 examples are classified into three subgroups. Here is a selection from each of them.

(i) The form <*these*...> (19 examples):

(59) My eldest sister has been in town *these three months*.—PP 2.7.171.

(60) She has been dead *these nine years*.—NA 2.8.186.

(61) I only wonder that I am alive after what I have suffered for Edward's sake *these last four years*.—SS 1.22.133.

(62) (n) I have not cared much for her *these three years*.—MP 3.5.359.

(63) "I hope you have not been here long?" "Oh! *these ten ages* at least."—NA 1.6.39.

In (63) "*these ten ages*..." may be structurally expanded into 'I have been here *these ten ages*...' For the colloquial exaggerated use of *ages*, see OED, s.v. AGE 10b. Compare also "this long *age*" in (68) below.

(ii) The form <*this*...> (16 examples):

(64) We have been looking for you *this half hour*.—MP 3.7.377.

(65) (n) if ever I meet him again, I will give him such a dressing\* as he has not had *this many a day*.—SS 2.8.192 [\**dressing*: severe rebuke].

(66) Mr. Edward Ferrars, it seems, has been engaged *above this twelvemonth* to my cousin Lucy!—SS 3.1.258.

(67) [iter.] I have been seeing him every day *this last fortnight*.—P 4.2.132.

(68) My sweetest Catherine, how have you been *this long age*?—NA 1.10.70.

In (67) *this last fortnight* is related to the aspect of iterative continuation implied by the predicate verb *have been seeing*.

(iii) The form <*the last* [*first*, etc.]...> (13 examples):

(69) "Why, to own the truth," cried Miss Bates, who had been trying in vain to be

<sup>25</sup> Two other instances of type A, each occurring once in the Austen corpus, will be cited under type Ab, in (72) and footnote 26, which will be made concerning it, where the adverbials concerned are used antithetically along with the adverbials of type Ab. Two more instances of type A will be shown in the appropriate places in §3.2. One is the single instance with *delay*, which will be cited in comparison with the one of type A' with *delay*, that is, (65) in §3.2. The other is the instance—also a single one—with *go*, which appears in the same sentence along with the D'-type phrase *in the course of my life*, that is, (17) in §3.2.

heard *the last two minutes*,...—E 3.3.345.

(70) he was now quite a different creature from what he had been *the first week*.—P 2.2.133.

(71) To the Great House accordingly they went, to sit *the full half hour* in the old-fashioned square parlour,...—P 3.5.40.

(72) While I...was behaving one hour with objectionable particularity to another woman, was she to be consenting *the next* to a proposal which might have made every previous caution useless?—E 3.14.441.

The last example, (72), is particularly noticeable in containing the elliptical *the next*, standing for 'the next hour,' which is antithetically expressed after the A-type adverbial *one hour* that precedes it in the same sentence.<sup>26</sup>

Type B:

The Austen corpus contains 106 examples, which may be subdivided in the following way. Under each of the subgroups selected examples will be shown.

(i) *all day (long)* (15 examples):

(73) Benwick sits at her elbow, reading verses, or whispering to her, *all day long*.—P 2.10.218.

(74) Did not I see them together in Devonshire every day, and *all day long*...?—SS 2.7.182.

(75) here are a variety of amusements, a variety of things to be seen and done *all day long*,...—VA 1.10.78–9.

(76) I should like to sit talking with you here *all day*,...—MP 3.5.364.

(77) No, it is 'Fanny' that I think of *all day*, and dream of *all night*.—MP 3.3.344.

In (77) we see two adverbials of type B, *all day* and *all night* used in parallel positions.

(ii) *all night* (10 examples):

(78) I have been talking incessantly *all night*, and with nothing to say.—MP 2.10.278.

(79) Sleeping or waking, my head has been full of this matter *all night*.—PP 1.16.156.

(80) The morning was rather favourable, though it has rained *all night*,...—SS 1.13.63.

(81) (n) I could not sleep a wink *all night* for thinking of it.—NA 1.15.18.

(iii) *the whole evening* (10 examples):

(82) The rain continued *the whole evening* without intermission;—PP 1.7.31.

(83) Mr. Elliot, and his friends in Marlborough Buildings, were talked of *the whole evening*.—P 2.3.141.

(84) Mrs. Jennings...saw him, with amazement, remain *the whole evening* more serious and thoughtful than usual.—SS 2.8.200.

(85) (n) we shall have no occasion to open the windows at all—not once *the whole evening*.—E 3.8.377.

In (84) we should note *the whole evening* related so closely to the verbal *remain* as to

<sup>26</sup> Another instance with the same kind of construction occurs in MP 2.6.237: She could...even reward the owner with a smile when the animal was *one minute* tendered to his use again; and *the next*, with the greatest cordiality...made over to his use entirely so long as he remained in Northamptonshire.

precede the predicative complement *more serious and thoughtful*...

(iv) *all the morning* (9 examples):

(86) Thus much was settled before Edmund, who had been out *all the morning*, knew any thing of the matter;—*MP* 1.15.138.

(87) For their own comfort, they would much rather have remained, at least *all the morning*, in Mrs. Jennings's home;—*SS* 2.14.246.

(88) She has a dreadful headache just now, waiting *all the morning*:—*E* 3.8.378–9.

(v) *the whole day* (8 examples):

(89) Miss Fairfax, I suppose, ... has been making up his mind *the whole day*.—*E* 8.8.381.

(90) But I really had been engaged *the whole day* to Mr. Thorpe.—*NA* 1.10.72.

(91) (n) Scarcely any thing was talked of *the whole day* or next day, but their visit to Rosings.—*PP* 2.6.160.

In (91) *next day*, which is expressed alternatively with *the whole day*, may be interpreted as instrumental-dative.

(vi) *all the evening* (6 examples):

(92) She was rather low *all the evening*, ...—*E* 1.7.55.

(93) (n) You and I are to be left to shift by ourselves, with this poor little sick child—and not a creature coming near us *all the evening*!—*P* 1.7.56.

(94) She had been expecting to see him *the whole morning*—and *all the evening* too was still expecting him.—*MP* 2.2.192.

Example (94) has two adverbials of type B—*the whole morning* and *all the evening*—placed antithetically in parallel clauses.<sup>27</sup>

(vii) *the whole morning* (6 examples):

(95) He was particularly grave *the whole morning*.—*SS* 1.18.99.

(96) (n) I have not seen a creature *the whole morning*!—*P* 1.5.37.

(97) he had been walking away from William Larkins *the whole morning*, to have his thoughts to himself.—*E* 3.15.449.

(viii) *all the winter* / *the whole winter* (each 4 examples):

(98) We shall be at Newcastle *all the winter*, ...—*PP* 3.9.317.

(99) (n) I thought ... that I might not have such another opportunity *all the winter*.—*MP* 2.5.222.

(100) it [i.e. the militia regiment] was to remain *the whole winter* ...—*PP* 1.7.28.

(101) (n) it has not been so dirty *the whole winter*:—*NA* 1.11.85.

(ix) *all the year round* / *all this morning* / *the whole night* / *the whole afternoon* / *the rest of the evening* / *all the rest of the day* (each 2 examples):

(102) Lady Middleton had the advantage of being able to spoil her children *all the year round*, ...—*SS* 1.7.32.

(103) But, my dearest Catherine, what have you been doing with yourself *all this morning*?—*NA* 1.6.39.

(104) She was awake *the whole night*, ...—*SS* 1.16.83.

<sup>27</sup> Cf. the following quotation, where *all the evening* may be interpreted as the accusative object of *idling away* (=passing...in idleness), though its syntactic function is fairly affined to the form illustrated in (92)~(94): That is a very foolish trick, Fanny, to be idling away *all the evening* upon a sofa.—*MP* 1.7.71.

(105) She continued by the side of her sister with little intermission *the whole afternoon*,...—SS 3.7.315.

(106) Isabella...talked *the rest of the evening* to James.—NA 1.10.71.

(107) Fanny was out of spirits *all the rest of the day*.—MP 3.11.413.

The Austen corpus also contains 22 other different forms of type B, each occurring once: *all dinner time, all the autumn, all the following morning, all the rest of the evening, all the rest of the year, all the summer evenings, all this evening, all this morning, all this whole morning, the whole of last summer, the whole of that morning, the whole of the following morning, the whole spring, the whole winter and spring, the chief of the morning, the rest of the night, half my time, half the evening, half the morning, the night*,<sup>28</sup> *the only winter*..., and *this autumn*.

Type C:

The Austen corpus contains 139 examples of type C. According to their formation they may be subdivided in the following way. Here is a selection from each of the subgroups. The favourite of these forms of type C is *some time*, which occurs as many as 44 times.

(i) *some time* (44 examples):

(108) So then he...talked on *some time* about what they should do,...—SS 3.2.274.

(109) She sat *some time* in a good deal of agitation,...—MP 3.1.311.

(110) These (i.e. books) will last us *some time*.—NA 1.6.40.

(111) after speaking *some time* of what the poor must suffer in winter,...she found something else must be done.—E 2.1.155.

(112) They combated the point *some time longer* in the same way;—E 2.8.226.

In (110) *last us some time* (=suffice for our requirements for some time)<sup>29</sup> presents a special case with an adverbial of type C, since it can be superficially compared to the construction <ditransitive verb + dative object + accusative object>.

(ii) *a moment* (24 examples); *one moment* (5 examples):

(113) She paused *a moment* in breathless wonder.—NA 2.6.168.

(114) Oh! cousin, stop *a moment*, pray stop.—MP 2.9.261.

(115) After waiting *a moment*, as if to be sure she intended to say no more, he replied.—E 3.13.425.

(116) after listening *a moment*, she heard somebody running up stairs in a violent hurry, and calling loudly after her.—PP 2.5.158.

(117) *One moment* she feared that no serious design had ever been formed on his side; and *the next* that some unfortunate quarrel had taken place between him and her sister;—SS 1.15.77.

In (117) the two adverbials of type C, *one moment* and *the next* (=the next moment), are expressed antithetically in the initial positions of the parallel clauses.

(iii) *all the time* (13 examples):

(118) Marianna was *all the time* busy in observing the direction of the wind,...—SS 2.5.168.

(119) (n) We have not been so silent *all the time*...—MP 3.3.336.

<sup>28</sup> Used in the idiomatic collocation <stay *the night*>, as in: They were consequently to stay *the night* there, and not to be expected back till the next day's dinner.—P 1.11.94–5.

<sup>29</sup> Cf. OED, s.v. LAST v. 3b.

(120) (n) nothing beyond the merest common-place had been talked almost *all the time*...—*E* 2.5.186.

(121) And there was my aunt, *all the time* I was dressing, preaching and talking away as if she was reading a sermon.—*PP* 3.9.319.

In (121) *all the time*, an adverbial of type C, performs the function of connective introducing the adverbial clause of temporal determination.

(iv) *a little while* (11 examples):

(122) Allow me to stay here *a little while*,...—*MP* 1.18.168.

(123) after observing her *a little while*, he added,...—*E* 3.18.472.

(124) She reproached her with having more affection for Miss Tilney, though she had known her *so little a while*, than for her best and oldest friends;—*NA* 1.13.98.

(v) *the whole time* (7 examples):

(125) you appeared tired *the whole time*.—*E* 2.10.242.

(126) if I could have altered the weather, you would have had a good sharp east wind blowing you *the whole time*...—*MP* 2.4.212.

(127) He continued with her *the whole time of her writing*, to assist her with his pen-knife or his orthography,...—*MP* 1.2.16.

The example (127) has a special instance of *the whole time* defined by the following *of*-phrase.

(vi) *a great while* (5 examples):

(128) [n] the present incumbent [is] not likely to live *a great while*.—*SS* 2.2.149.

(129) if her uncle were to be a *great while* considering and deciding, ...and at last decide against her, she might not be able to appear properly submissive and indifferent.—*MP* 2.5.218.

In (128) we can note the close association between the verb *live* and the C-type adverbial *a great while*. What is remarkable in (129) is the embedding of *a great while* in the sequence of <*be* + predicative participles>.

(vii) *all the while* (4 examples):

(130) when the first tumult of joy was over, she began to declare that it was what she had expected *all the while*.—*PP* 1.2.7.

(131) why he should say one thing so positively, and mean another *all the while*, was most unaccountable!—*NA* 2.11.211.

(viii) *all this time* (3 examples):

(132) Has he been acting a part in his behaviour to your sister *all this time*?—*SS* 1.15.80.

(133) My dear Henry, where can you possibly have been *all this time*?—*MP* 2.12.291.

(ix) *a considerable time* [*while*] | *a good while* | *some little time* | *the next* (i.e. moment) | *this long while* (each 2 examples):

(134) Her sleep...lasted *a considerable time*;—*SS* 3.7.310.

(135) After pausing on this point *a considerable while*, she once more continued to read.—*PP* 2.13.206.

(136) You were *a good while* at Lyme, I think?—*P* 2.8.183.

(137) I have been thinking of it *some little time*.—*E* 3.9.385.

(138) (n) She has not been out on horseback now *this long while*,...—*MP* 1.7.73.

Although one of the two examples of “*the next* (i.e. moment)” was shown above in (117) under (ii), the other is also worth citing here:

(139) She knew that what Marianna and her mother conjectured *one moment*, they believed *the next*—that with them, to wish was to hope, and to hope was to expect.—SS 1.4.21.

The Austen corpus also contains these forms of type C, each occurring once: *a little time*,<sup>\*30</sup> *a little more time*, *a longer time*,<sup>\*</sup> *so long a time*,<sup>\*</sup> *a very short time*,<sup>\*</sup> *half the time*,<sup>\*</sup> *what an immense time*, *awhile*,<sup>\*</sup> *all this while*, *the preceding one* (=moment), and *an unnecessary instant*.

Type D:

The 24 examples of type D comprise (i) 17 of the form <*all one's life*>, (ii) 5 of the form <*all the rest of one's life*>, (iii) 1 of the form <*half one's life*>, and (iv) 1 of the form <*all one's days*>. Here is a selection from these examples.

(i) (140) I have known them *all my life*.—E 2.5.194.

(141) I wish you would try to understand what an amiable young man may be likely to feel in directly opposing those, whom as child and boy he has been looking up to *all his life*.—E 1.18.148.

(142) he trusted that she would be the wiser and happier woman *all her life*, for the experiment he had devised.—MP 3.6.369.

(143) You confined to the society of the illiterate and vulgar *all your life!*—E 1.7.54.

(144) Indeed I think it quite melancholy to have such excellent people as Dr. and Mrs. Shirley, who have been doing good *all their lives*, wearing out their last days in a place like Uppercross, ...—P 1.12.102.

In (142) *all her life*, related to the predicate verb *would be*, has its reference extending into the future from the past point that is contextually implied.

(ii) (145) How many a man has committed himself on a short acquaintance, and rued it *all the rest of his life*.—E 3.7.372.

(146) it is very well worth while to be tormented for two or three years of one's life for the sake of being able to read *all the rest of it*.—NA 1.14.110.

In (146) *it* in “all the rest of *it*” refers to *one's life* in the foregoing phrase of type Ab’ “for two or three years of *one's life*.”

(iii) (147) Had Fanny been at all addicted to raptures, she must have had a strong attack of them, ... when her uncle first made her the offer of visiting the parents and brothers, and sisters, from whom she had been divided, almost *half her life*, ...—MP 3.6.369.

(iv) (148) [n] We none of us expect to be in smooth water *all our days*.—P 1.8.70.

3.2. The Austen corpus contains 645 examples of the prepositional type, as against 621 of the non-prepositional type. Of the 645 examples 592 are of the *for*-phrase. The 645 examples comprise 334 of type A’, 61 of type Ab’, 5 of type Ac’, 43 of type B’, 193 of type C’, and 9 of type D’.

Type A’:

The great majority of the 334 instances of type A’ are *for*-phrases, which amount to

<sup>30</sup> The examples of the asterisked forms will be referred to in the appropriate places in §3.2, as compared with the corresponding forms of type C’.



330. The others are 2 *through*-phrases and 2 *in*-phrases.

i. Below we shall show some of the 334 examples of the *for*-phrase of type A' arranging them under the governing verbs. We shall take up those subgroups in each of which appropriate instances occur more than three times.

(i) Which *be* (48 examples):

(1) Frank was here in February *for a fortnight*.—E 2.18.307.

(2) Even your mother was out to-day *for above an hour*.—MP 1.7.72.

(3) Mrs. Fraser had been my intimate friend *for years*.—MP 3.5.359.

(4) (n) He had not been at Donwell *for two years*.—E 3.6.359.

(5) [n] John Thorpe, who was never in the same part of the house *for ten minutes together*, was engaged in conversation with General Tilney:—NA 1.12.95.

(6) Captain Wentworth, after being unseen and unheard of at Uppercross *for two days*, appeared again among them to justify himself by a relation of what had kept him away.—P 6.11.94.

(7) She had been *for three months* her companion, ...—SS 3.7.313.

(8) Catherine, *for a few moments*, was motionless with horror.—NA 2.6.170.

(9) *For six weeks*, I allow Bath is pleasant enough: but beyond that, it is the most tiresome place in the world.—NA 1.10.78.

Especially for *above in for above an hour* in (2), we should compare *above* in the corresponding form of type A that occurs in (6) in §3.1: I was out *above an hour*. In respect of the placing of the adverbial of type A', we should specially note *for three months* embedded in the sequence of <*had been*+complement> in (7). On the other hand, *for six weeks* in (9) is placed in the initial position of the sentence, apparently to emphasize the notion of restriction on the duration designated.

(ii) With *go* (21 examples):

As in the case of (iii) below, the *for*-phrases of type A' are usually used here with the notion of intended duration.

(10) [int.] I went *for only one night*, and could not get away till that very day se'nnight.—E 1.13.115.

(11) [int.] the Campbells were gone to Ireland *for three months*;—E 2.15.285.

(12) [int.] I am going there early in June, *for a week*;—PP 2.14.211.

(13) [int.] We are going to Longtown's near Hereford, *for a fortnight*.—NA 2.13.324.

(14) [int.] I shall go abroad *for a couple of years*...—E 3.7.373.

(15) go out *for an hour* on the gravel, you will have the shrubbery to yourself, ...—MP 3.1.322.

In (10) *for only one night* connotes the notion of restriction added to that of intended duration.

(iii) With *come* (17 examples):

(16) [int.] Jane had come to Highway professedly *for three months*;—E 2.15.285.

(17) [int.] Mr. Bingley, who came from the dance *for a few minutes*, to press his friend to join it.—PP 1.3.11.

(18) [int.] She wished he had come *only for one day*...—MP 3.10.406.

(19) [int.] She is coming *for only one week*.—E 1.9.79.

(20) [int.] He is at Oxford to-day, and he comes *for a whole fortnight*;—E 2.5.188.

In *only for one day* in (18) and *for only one week* (19) we see the notion of restriction

added to that of intended duration.

(iv) With *leave* (15 examples):

(21) I can leave them at the Great House very well, *for a month or six weeks*.—*P* 2.6.163.

(22) [n] he should not have left home *for a week*, when her own departure from Mansfield was so near.—*MP* 2.11.286.

(23) (n) Mrs. Churchill...has not been able to leave the sofa *for a week together*.—*E* 2.10.306.

(24) After leaving him to his happier thoughts *for some minutes*, Fanny...returned to Mr. Crawford,...—*MP* 3.4.349.

(25) (n) it [i.e. the house] has never been uninhabited and left deserted *for years*,...—*NA* 2.5.158.

(v) With *have* (13 examples):

(26) She is not well, she has had a nervous complaint on her *for several weeks*.—*SS* 2.11.227.

(27) Mr. Wickham is the son of a very respectable man, who had *for many years* the management of all the Pemberley estates;—*PP* 2.12.199.

(28) *For four months*, Marianne, I have had all this hanging on my mind, without being at liberty to speak of it to a single creature;—*SS* 3.1.263.

(29) (n) He was ashamed to think that *for four days together* she had not had the power of riding,...—*MP* 1.7.74.

(30) Whenever you are next inclined to stay at home, I think Miss Crawford would be glad to have her [i.e. the mare] for a longer time—*for a whole morning* in short.—*MP* 1.7.69.

It is particularly noteworthy that just a few lines above quotation (29) in the same text we find a very comparable sentence with the A-type adverbial *four days together*, which was cited as (58) in §3.1, i.e.: she had been left *four days together*,... We should notice that while in (58) in §3.1 the adverbial of type A is closely combined with the passive predicate verb, in (29) above the adverbial of type A' is expressed emphatically in the initial position of the clause. In (30) we see the A'-type adverbial *for a whole morning*, used appositively after the C'-type adverbial *for a longer time*. As for (27), the embedding of *for many years* in the sequence of <had+object> is also worth noting.

(vi) With *take* (9 examples):

(31) Lady Dalrymple had taken a house, *for three months*, in Laura-place, and would be living in style.—*P* 2.4.149.

(32) He [i.e. My horse] will, most likely, give a plunge or two, and perhaps take the rest *for a minute*;—*NA* 1.9.62.

(33) it was determined that the lodgings should be taken *for another fortnight*.—*NA* 2.2.138.

(34) the good luck...seemed the reward...of his dutiful attention to the Admiral, in having *for many years* taken in the paper esteemed to have the earliest naval intelligence.—*MP* 11.6.232.

The placing of *for many years* in (34) is again notable.

(vii) With *feel* / *see* / *speak* (each 7 examples):

(35) (n) Fanny had not felt so comfortable *for days and days*.—*MP* 3.4.347.

(36) soon she began to wish that she could feel secure even *for a week*.—*P* 1.7.53.

(37) *For a few moments*, indeed, she felt that he would probably strike into some other path.—*PP* 3.1.254.

(38) (n) She had not seen her poor sister Price *for more than twenty years*;—*MP* 3.6.372.

(39) he thought himself lucky in seeing Mary *for even half an hour*,...—*MP* 3.10.400-1.

(40) two or three days had passed away, without her seeing Isabella *for more than a few minutes together*.—*NA* 2.3.143.

(41) (n) Sometimes he won't speak to me *for half a day together*,...—*SS* 1.20.113.

(42) (n) He could not speak a word *for full ten minutes*.—*PP* 3.5.292.

(43) (n) after the first starts and exclamations, not a word was spoken *for half a minute*;—*MP* 2.1.175.

In *even for a week* in (36) and *for even half an hour* in (39), we see the notion of limited duration explicitly denoted.

(viii) With *call / say / talk* (each 6 examples):

(44) Mrs. Cole had just been there, just called in *for ten minutes*,...—*E* 2.1.156.

(45) when I was called away *for only five minutes* to answer a note, instead of waiting for me, you took the volume into the Hermitage-walk,...—*NA* 1.14.107.

(46) (n) Nothing further was said *for a few minutes*;—*NA* 2.10.204.

(47) (n) *For a moment or two* she could say no more;—*SS* 2.7.189.

(48) (n) Mrs. Bennet could not...speak her approbation in terms warm enough to satisfy her feelings, though she talked to Bingley of nothing else, *for half an hour*:—*PP* 3.13.348.

(49) After Emma had talked about it *for ten minutes*, Mr. Woodhouse felt no unwillingness,...—*E* 2.16.291.

In *for only five minutes* in (45) we see the notion of restriction added to that of duration.

(ix) With *do / make / remain / sit / walk* (each 5 examples):

(50) What should a young fellow, like you, do ashore, *for half a year together*?—*P* 1.8.65.

(51) "There is hardly any desiring to refresh such a memory as that"—said Mr. Knightley, feelingly; and *for a moment or two* he had done.—*E* 1.5.37.

(52) in short, she made herself as miserable as possible *for about half an hour*,...—*NA* 2.10.190.

(53) he had gone to her in such a state of mind, so softened, so devoted, as made it *for a few moments* impossible to Fanny's fears, that it should be the last.—*MP* 3.16.454.

(54) he remained *for some minutes* most civilly answering all Mrs. Morland's common remarks about the weather and roads.—*NA* 2.15.242.

(55) Elinor *for a few moments* remained silent.—*SS* 1.22.130.

(56) [he] sat down close to her *for ten minutes*, talking with a very raised voice,...—*P* 2.2.134.

(57) he has always such an excellent dinner at home, that sitting down to a middling one *for one day* could not signify.—*NA* 1.1.211.

(58) he would not dine from home, but he might walk in *for half an hour*.—*P* 1.7. 55.

(59) she was not able to refrain from a start, or a heavy sigh, or even from walking about the room *for a few seconds*...—*E* 3.12.423.

In the special use of *for a few moments* in (53) we see the primary function of temporal determination transferred to the secondary function of negative intensification.<sup>31</sup> As for the difference of positioning with regard to the *for*-phrases in (54) and (55), we feel some parenthetic lightness in “remained *for some minutes* most civilly answering...” in the former, as against a greater emphasis placed on the elements of “Elinor *for a few moments* remained silent” in the latter. In (57) *for one day*, expressed antithetically to the foregoing *always*, has acquired a notion of restriction mingled with duration.

(x) With *listen / wait* (each 4 examples):

(60) I could listen to him, *for an hour together*.—*MP* 3.4.206.

(61) Lady Catherine approached, and, after listening *for a few minutes*, said to Darcy, ...—*PP* 2.8.1.

(62) they were kept waiting *for two hours together*.—*SS* 2.10 214–5.

(63) [int.] After waiting at home every morning *for a fortnight*,...the visitor did at last appear;—*PP* 2.3.147.

(xi) *continue / delay / fix / hear / look / observe / stand* (each 3 examples):

(64) he continued to apologise *for a quarter of an hour*.—*PP* 1.13.65.

(65) [n] As far as I am concerned, sir, I could not have delayed his return *for a day*.—*MP* 2.5.225.

(66) Edward was now fixed at the cottage at least *for a week*;—*SS* 3.13.363.

(67) (n) *For about three years*, I heard little of him;—*PP* 2.12.201.

(68) a lady of about her own age, who was sitting by her, and had been looking at her attentively *for several minutes*, addressed her with great complaisance...—*NA* 1.4.31.

(69) after observing Mr. Collins *for a few moments*, he asked Elizabeth in a low voice whether her relation were very intimately acquainted with the family of de Bourgh.—*PP* 1.16.83.

(70) I stood *for a minute*, feeling dreadfully, you know, one can't tell how;—*E*2.3.179.

With example (65) using *delay*, we should compare the corresponding one of type A, that is, the single instance of type A with *delay*, i.e.: [n] How rejoiced was Elizabeth that their own journey had not by any circumstance been delayed *a day!*—*PP* 3.1.247.

ii. The Austen corpus contains 2 *through*-phrases and 2 *in*-phrases which may be assigned to type A', as in:

(71) it is a solid walled, roomy, mansion-like looking house, such as one might suppose a respectable old country family had lived in from generation to generation, *through two centuries* at least,...—*MP* 2.7.243.

(72) Emma was sorry;—to have to pay civilities to a person she did not like *through three long months!*—*E* 2.2.106.

(73) [int.] *in the course of seven years* [he] had known every variety of danger, which sea and war together could offer.—*MP* 2.6.236.

(74) [iter.] *in the course of a long morning*,...she was often under the influence of much less sanguine views.—*MP* 2.9.267.

<sup>31</sup> Cf. the use of *for a moment* and *for an instant* as exemplified in (102) and (117) in §4.2 below.

The two *through*-phrases in (71) and (72) should be compared with their less emphatic counterparts 'for two centuries' and 'for three long months,' respectively. In (73) and (74) "in the course of seven years" and "in the course of a long morning" are apparently better adapted for the connotation of iterative continuation than 'for seven years' and 'for a long morning,' respectively.

Type Ab':

The Austen corpus contains 62 examples of type Ab'. They comprise 46 of the *for*-phrase, 13 of the *during*-phrase, 2 of the *in*-phrase, and 1 of the *through*-phrase.

i. From a formal point of view the 46 *for*-phrases of type Ab' are subdivided in the following way. Under the subgroups (i) down to (v) we shall show a selection from the examples.

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

(75) it had rained every day *for the last fortnight*;—SS 1.12.62.

(76) By not one of the circle was he listened to with such unbroken unalloyed enjoyment as by his wife, ... whose feelings were so warmed by his sudden arrival, as to place her nearer agitation than she had been *for the last twenty years*.—MP 2.1.179.

(77) [n] *For the last week* they had seen very little of either Lady Catherine or her daughter.—PP 2.8.172.

(78) A thousand alarming presentiments of evil to her beloved Catherine from this terrific separation must oppress her heart with sadness, and drown her in tears *for the last day or two* of their being together;—NA 1.2.18.

With these should be compared (69) in §3.1, which exemplifies the use of the corresponding Ab-type form *the last two minutes*.

In (78) we have a special case where *for the last day or two* is further determined by *of their being together* (= of the period during which they were together).

(ii) The form <for the...> (10 examples):

Of these *for the moment* occurs five times and *for the rest of the week* twice. It should be noted here that the idiomatic phrase *for the moment*, meaning 'temporarily during the brief space referred to'<sup>32</sup> is highly coloured with the connotation of restriction or particularity.

(79) Her health seemed *for the moment* completely deranged...—E 3.9.389.

(80) How can two sermons a week... govern the conduct and fashion the manners of a large congregation *for the rest of the week*?—MP 1.9.92-3.

(81) Miss Darcy is always down *for the summer months*.—PP 1.9.92-3.

(iii) The form <for the first...> (6 examples):

(82) Every girl in or near Meryton, was out of her senses about him *for the first two months*;—PP 3.5.285.

(83) (n) *for the first twelvemonth* afterwards, I had not even the nominal employment, ...—SS 3.13.362.

With these should be compared (70) in §3.1, which exemplifies the use of the corresponding Ab-type form *the first week*.

(iv) The form <for the next...> (6 examples):

(84) If you are a good girl *for the next ten years*, I will take you to a review at the end

<sup>32</sup> Cf. OED, s.v. MOMENT *sb.* 1c.

of them.—*PP* 3.6.300.

(85) (n) no sounds were heard in the room *for the next two hours* beyond the reckonings of the game...—*MP* 2.10.283.

Compare (72) in §2.1, which exemplifies the elliptical use of *the next* (=the next hour) belonging to type Ab.

(v) The form <*for...past*> (6 examples):

(86) she had been feeling neglected, and been struggling against discontent and envy *for some days past*.—*MP* 3.7.74.

(87) [iter.] Every thing that I have said or done, *for many weeks past*, has been with the sole view of marking my adoration of yourself.—*E* 1.15.33.

(vi) The form <*for...years of one's life*> (4 examples):

This form, which has been assigned to type Ab', is semantically associated with the phrase of type D' <*all one's life*> ; and it is interesting to see in (146) in §3.1 the adverbial concerned—*for two or three years of one's life*—and the adverbial of type D—*all the rest of it* (=one's life)—appearing one after another in parallel positions. Below we shall show the other three examples:

(88) The late owner of this estate was a single man,...who *for many years of his life*, had a constant companion and housekeeper in his sister.—*SS* 1.1.3.

(89) [iter.] *For many years of her life* she had had two sons;—*SS* 3.14.373.

(90) the Morlands...were in general very plain, and Catherine, *for many years of her life*, as plain as any.—*NA* 1.1.13.

(vii) The form <*for these...>* / <*for those...>* (each one example):

(91) (n) I have really for some time past, *for at least these three months*, cared nothing about him.—*E* 3.10.396.

(92) now, when the due visit was paid, on her arrival, after a two years' interval, she was particularly struck with the very appearance and manners, which *for those two whole years* she had been depreciating.—*E* 2.2.167.

In (91) the *for*-phrase of type Ab' in question is expressed in apposition to the one of type C' *for some time past*. Compare the use of the corresponding form of type Ab <*these...>*, exemplified by (59)~(63) in §3.1.

ii. Below we shall show four of the thirteen examples of the *during*-phrase, one of the two examples of the *in*-phrase, and the one of the *through*-phrase.

(93) We were only in anxiety and distress *during the last two hours*; —*P* 2.8.184.

(94) His spirits, *during the last two or three days*,...were greatly improved...—*SS* 1.19.101.

(95) [iter.] *during those days*, she had seen him only twice, in a short and hurried way, when he had come ashore on duty.—*MP* 3.8.388.

(96) (n) My behaviour, *during the very happy fortnight* which I spent with you, did not, I hope, lay me open to reprehension, excepting on me point.—*E* 3.14.438.

(97) [iter.] that had influenced him in every thing he had said and done, or omitted to say and do, *in the last four-and-twenty hours*.—*P* 2.11. 241.

(98) she could...talk to him, as her heart had been yearning to do, *through many a past year*.—*MP* 2.6.234.

In (96) the *during*-phrase of type Ab' is further defined by the relative clause.

Type Ac':

In the Austen corpus we find 5 examples of type Ac', that is, 4 of the form <*for the*

*space of... >* and 1 of the form *<through a period of... >*. These are:

(99) We have entered into a contract of mutual agreeableness *for the space of an evening*,...—*NA* 1.10.76.

(100) ...using the billiard-room *for the space of a week* without playing at billiards in it,...—*MP* 1.13.127.

(101) (n) though no second letter arrived *for the space of a week*, she had still the same feeling when it did come.—*MP* 3.15.437.

(102) *for the space of two entire scenes*, did she thus watch Henry Tilney, without being once able to catch his eye.—*NA* 1.12.92.

(103) his direct holidays might with justice be constantly given to the sister, who had been his best correspondent *through a period of seven years*,...—*MP* 2.6.233.

In (102) *for the space of two entire scenes* implies the sense 'for the space of so long a time as two entire scenes took to be enacted.'

Type B':

In the Austen corpus we find 43 examples of type B', comprising 19 of the *for*-phrase, 14 of the *during*-phrase, 4 of the *in*-phrase, 4 of the *throughout*-phrase, and 2 of the *through*-phrase.

i. From a formal point of view the 19 *for*-phrases of type B' may be subdivided in the following way. Here is a selection from these examples.

(i) The form *<for the rest of... >* (5 examples):

(104) the assiduous attentions were transferred *for the rest of the day* to Miss Lucas, ...—*PP* 1.21.115.

(105) positively refusing Elinor's offered attendances, [she] went out alone *for the rest of the morning*.—*SS* 2.9.203.

(106) much was Catherine then surprized by the General's proposal of her taking his place in his son's curriple *for the rest of the journey*.—*NA* 2.5.156.

Compare the use of the corresponding B-type forms, *the rest of the evening* and *all the rest of the day*, exemplified in (106) and (107) in §3.1.

(ii) *for the winter* (4 examples) | *for the summer* (2 examples) | *for summer* (1 example):

(107) [int.] A letter from his friend, Captain Harville,...had brought intelligence of Captain Haville's being settled with his family at Lyme *for the winter*;—*P* 1.11.94.

(108) [int.] Many of my acquaintance are already there *for the winter*;—*PP* 1.21.117.

(109) [int.] She asked the chambermaid...whether the family were down *for the summer*.—*PP* 2.19.241.

(110) On reaching the house, they were shown through the hall into the saloon, whose northern aspect rendered it delightful *for summer*.—*PP* 3.3.267.

It may be noted that "for the winter" in (107) and (108) and "for the summer" in (109) have a connotation of intention or purpose, implying 'to spend the winter [summer].' With these we should compare the corresponding phrases of type B, that is, *all the winter* and *the whole winter* as they are used in (98)~(101) in §3.1.

(iii) *for about half the evening* (2 examples):

(111) To dance without much observation or any extraordinary fatigue, to have strength and partners *for about half the evening*,...was the height of her ambition,...—*MP* 2.9.267 [similarly *PP* 1.13.10].

(iv) *for the evening* | *for the night* | *for the chief of the morning* | *for part of one of these*

days / for the whole day (each one example):

Of these, the last may deserve special notice, as in:

(112) [int.] When I found he was really going to his friends at Thornberry-park *for the whole day* tomorrow, I had compassion in him.—*P* 2.10.213.

Here “*for the whole day*” has a connotation of intended duration. Compare the use of the corresponding B-type form *the whole day* exemplified in (89)~(91) in §3.1.

ii. The 14 *during*-phrases of type B' are subdivided in the following way.

(i) *during the evening* (3 examples):

(113) had her family made an agreement to expose themselves as much as they could *during the evening*, it would have been impossible for them to play their parts with more spirit, or finer success;—*PP* 1.18.101–2 [similarly *NA* 1.2.23].

(114) (n) Of her other...friend, Isabella,...she scarcely saw any thing *during the evening*.—*NA* 1.10.81.

(ii) *during the rest of...* (3 examples):

(115) on these two points she principally dwelt *during the rest of the day*.—*PP* 1.21.127 [similarly *E* 3.3.336].

(116) it [i.e. the note] supplied them with fresh matter for thought and conversation *during the rest of their lonely evening*.—*E* 1.17.141.

(iii) *during the whole of...* (2 examples):

(117) (n) however little of novelty could be added to their fears, hopes, and conjectures, on this interesting subject, by its repeated discussion, no other could detain them from it long, *during the whole of the journey*.—*PP* 3.5.285.

(118) Willoughby's behaviour *during the whole of the evening* declared at once his affection and happiness.—*SS* 1.14.74.

In (118) “Willoughby's behaviour *during the whole of the evening*,” where the *during*-phrase functions adnominally, means ‘how Willoughby behaved *during the whole of the evening*.’

(iv) The Austen corpus contains 6 other *during*-phrases of type B', each occurring once, i.e.: *during the day*, *during the chief of the day*, *during the greatest part of the evening*, *during the last month*, *during the time*, and *during dinner time*.

iii. The 4 examples of the *in*-phrase belonging to type B' are as follows:

(119) [iter.] How many letters you must have occasion to write *in the course of the year!*—*PP* 1.10.47 [similarly *PP* 3.1.248].

(120) [iter.] Mary had had enough of her own friends, enough of vanity, ambition, love, and disappointment *in the course of the last half year*, to be in need of the true kindness of her sister's heart, and the rational tranquillity of her ways.—*MP* 3.1.7469.

(121) Such was the state of affairs *in the month of July*,...—*MP* 1.4.40.

The last example (121) may be interpreted as implying that the state of affairs continued through the month of July so that *in the month of July* is assignable to type B'.

iv. The 4 *throughout*-phrases<sup>33</sup> and 2 *through*-phrases are illustrated as follows:

<sup>33</sup> Since we are going to treat the *throughout*-phrase as equivalent to the adverbial accusative of duration for the first time in this series, we shall make a brief generic comment on it here. According to the OED (s.v. THROUGHOUT *prep.* 2b), the word in the sense of “through or during the whole of (a period of time or course of action)” began to be recorded in c 1540, and ever since the quotations contain instances where *throughout*-phrases are of type B'.



(122) The chapel was soon afterwards left to the silence and stillness which reigned in it with few interruptions *throughout the year*.—MP 1.9.89 [similarly MP 3.2.408, E 3.5.351].

(123) Edmund...was amused and gratified by seeing...how the eyes which had appeared so studiously to avoid him *throughout the day*, were turned and fixed on Crawford, ...—MP 3.3.337.

(124) As for Lady Bertram, he must continue in charge of all her fame and fortune *through the whole evening*;—MP 2.7.240.

(125) one of the concluding arrangements of this important conference, which carried them *through the greater part of the morning*, was, that Anne had full liberty to communicate to her friend every thing relative to Mrs. Smith, ...—S 1.7.58.

Comparing (124) with the examples (82), (83) and (84) in §3.1, we can clearly see that the prepositional adverbial (type B') in the former displays greater functional force in its own right than the non-prepositional adverbials (type B) in the latter, whose function as temporal determiners is to a larger extent dependent on the predicate verbs.

Type C':

The Austen corpus contains 193 examples of type C', comprising 190 of the *for*-phrase, 2 of the *during*-phrase, and 1 of the *in*-phrase.

i. The 190 *for*-phrases of type C' are subdivided in the following way. Here is a selection from these examples.

(i) *for some time* (56 examples):

These should be compared with (108)~(112) in §3.1, where the corresponding C-type form *some time* is used.

(126) there had been total silence among them *for some time*, ...—P 1.12.117.

(127) She reflected on the affair *for some time* in much perplexity, ...—NA 1.9.66.

(128) it was not without an effort, the restless, unquiet thoughtfulness in which she had been *for some time* previously sitting...—SS 3.11.349.

(129) (n) She, therefore, said no more *for some time*.—E 1.4.34.

(130) *for some time* she was in danger of feeling the loss in her health as well as in her affections, ...—MP 1.4.35.

In (128) it is worth noting that *for some time* is embedded in the sequence of <*had been* + present participle>.<sup>34</sup>

(ii) *for a moment* (48 examples); *for one moment* (1 example):

(131) Mary sat down *for a moment*, ...—P 1.10.87.

(132) [n] As to my attentions on his side, ...I never was sensible of them *for a moment* ...—NA 2.3.144.

(133) She should always send for Perry, if the child appeared in the slightest degree disordered, were it only *for a moment*.—E 3.18.479.

(134) Elinor advised her to lie down again, and *for a moment* she did so:—SS 2.7.191.

(135) Nay, nay, I entreat you; *for one moment* put down your work.—MP 3.3.342.

A marked feature concerning the use of *for a moment* is perceivable in (132), where

<sup>34</sup> Another example with *for some time* was shown above in (91), where the phrase of type C' is followed by an appositional one of type Ab' *for at least these three months*.

the function of temporal determination is coloured with that of negative intensification. It is also to be noted that in (133) the prepositional phrase of type C' is well adapted for the context that explicitly denotes the notion of limited duration.

(iii) *for a while* (18 examples); *for awhile* (1 example):

In contrast to these C'-type examples of *for a while* | *for awhile*, we find as the corresponding C-type form a single one of the solid form *awhile*, as in: (n) I was almost sure you would not leave London *awhile*;—SS 2.10.217.

(136) His imprudence had made her miserable *for a while*;—SS 2.1.140.

(137) He had ruined *for a while* every hope of happiness for the most affectionate, generous heart in the world;—SS 2.10.186.

(138) Anne could not immediately fall into a quotation again. The sweet scenes of autumn were *for a while* put by...—P 1.10.85.

(139) the disappointment and wretchedness...rendered...her feelings for him so like hatred, as to make them *for a while* each other's punishment,...—MP 3.17.464.

(140) the voices of the ladies were drowned *for awhile*,...—E 3.2.324.

In (137), (138) and (139), the position of *for a while* should be specially noticed. The *for*-phrase is embedded in the syntactic sequence: <had ruined+object> in (137), <were+past participle> in (138), and <to make them+object complement> in (139).

(iv) *for a time* (14 examples); *for the time* (3 examples); *for that time* | *for half the time* (each 1 example):

With *for half the time*, illustrated in (146) below, we should compare the single instance of the corresponding C-type form *half the time*, as in: Sir John's independent employments were in existence only *half the time*.—SS 1.7.32.

(141) though it would make us miserable *for a time*, we should be happier in the end.—SS 2.2.149–50.

(142) the concert being just opening, she must consent *for a time* to be happy in an humbler way.—P 2.8.186.

(143) I was obliged to confess one thing, which *for a time*, and not unjustly, offended him.—PP 3.16.371.

(144) though...the three boys all burst into the room together and sat down, Fanny could not consider it as a proof of any thing more than their being *for the time* thoroughly fagged,...—MP 3.7.383.

(145) all our agreeableness belongs solely to each other *for that time*.—NA 1.10.76.

(146) If dancing formed the amusement of the night, they were partners *for half the time*;—SS 1.11.54.

Especially in the *for*-phrases in (144) and (145) we can see their marked functional feature, that is, the notion of temporal restriction. In (144), also, the placing of *for the time* between *being* and *thoroughly fagged* is to be noticed.

(v) *for a short time* (14 examples); *for a very short time* | *for the short time* (each 1 example):

With *for a very short time*, illustrated in (150) below, we have to compare the single instance of the corresponding C-type form *a very short time*, as in: Though Frederick does not leave Bath with us, he will probably remain but *a very short time*, perhaps only a few days behind us.—NA 2.4.152.<sup>35</sup>

(147) Oh! that I could transport you *for a short time* into our circle in town,...!—

MP 3.5.360.

(148) Elizabeth was, *for a short time*, suffering a good deal.—P 2.10.219.

(149) the indignity with which she was treated...made her *for a short time* sensible only of resentment.—NA 2.13.228.

(150) Her affection for me deserved better treatment, and I often, with great self-reproach, recal the tenderness which, *for a very short time*, had the power of creating any return.—SS 3.8.322.

(151) [she] said she would amuse herself *for the short time* she could stay below with a book.—PP 1.8.37.

With regard to the placing of the adverbial in question, each of these examples shows the compactness of the clause structure. The point is more distinguished in (151), where “for *the short time*” defined by the asyndetic relative clause “she could stay below” as a whole precedes “with a book,” which is related to “amuse herself” as complementary adjunct.

(vi) *for a little while* (7 examples):

These should be compared with (122)~(124) in §3.1, where the corresponding C-type form *a little while* is used.

(152) there was silence between them *for a little while*.—P 1.10.85.

(153) the next time we come to a seat,...I should be glad to sit down *for a little while*.—MP 1.9.94.

(154) *For a little while* Emma persevered in her silence;—E 1.7.52.

(vii) *for an instant* (4 examples); *for half an instant* (1 example):

The Austen corpus does not contain any example of the corresponding C-type form *an instant*, nor any of *half an instant*.

(155) Bingley, she had likewise seen *for an instant*, and in that short period saw him looking both pleased and embarrassed.—PP 3.11.335.

(156) [n] till this very day, she had never, *for an instant*, suspected it to mean any thing but grateful respect to her as Harriet’s friend.—E 1.16.135.

(157) [n] as for all the rest, there was nothing to regret *for half an instant*.—NA 1.16.116.

As in the case of *for a moment* exemplified in (132) above, *for an instant* in (156) and *for half an instant* in (157) have the primary function of temporal determination coloured with the secondary function of negative intensification.

(viii) *for a longer time* (3 examples); *for a long time* (2 examples); *for a much longer time* / *for as [so] long a time* (each 1 example):

As the corresponding forms of type C we find the single instances of *a longer time* and *so long a time*, as in: She has now been *a longer time* stationary there, than she ever was before,...—E 2.18.307 / How I could *so long a time* be fancying myself!—E 3.4.337.

(158) I think Miss Crawford would be glad to have her *for a longer time*—for a whole morning in short.—MS 1.7.69.<sup>35</sup>

(159) They battled it together *for a long time*,...—PP 3.10.324.

<sup>35</sup> This quotation also contains an A-type adverbial “only *a few days*” used appositionally after “but *a very short time*” (type C).

<sup>36</sup> In this quotation we see *for a longer time* immediately followed by the appositional phrase of type A *for a whole morning*. See (30) above, where the same quotation is shown in an expanded context.

(160) What a charming thing it is that Mrs. Dashwood can spare you both *for so long a time together!*—SS 2.10.818.

Comparing the use of *for a longer time* in (158) and *for so long a time* in (160) with that of *a longer time* and *so long a time* in the above-mentioned quotations, we can clearly see a marked feature of each—the free placing of the former as against the proximity to the predicate verbs of the latter.

(ix) *for any time* (2 examples):

The Austen corpus contains no example of the corresponding C-type form *any time*.

(161) you know one has always a world of little odd things to do after one has been away *for any time*;—SS 2.4.163.

(162) it seemed as if she could even walk about the house rather than remain fixed *for any time* in the parlour.—NA 2.15.240.

(x) The Austen corpus also contains 9 other different *for*-phrases of type C', each occurring once: *for a little time*, *for a considerable time*, *for the whole time (of...)*, *for that space of time*, *for a great while*, *for a long while*, *for one while*, *for a short period*, and *for a considerable period*. Among these, *for a little time* and *for a great while* demand special consideration.

(163) you resolve to refuse him at once, without wishing even *for a little time* to consider of it...—MP 3.1.318-9.

(164) *For a great while* it was so;—MP 3.14.431.

Of these, the former has to be compared with the single example of *a little time* (type C): *A little time* (=Wait a little time) therefore.—PP 2.1.134; and the latter with (128) and (129) in §3.1, where *a great while* (type C) is illustrated.

ii. There are also 2 *during*-phrases and 1 *in*-phrase that may be assigned to type C', as in:

(165) (n) scarcely another word was said by either *during the time* of their remaining together.—NA 2.13.229.

(166) *During all this time* he was evidently struggling for composure.—SS 3.6.177.

(167) [iter.] it seems but a fortnight I declare; and yet there have been things enough happened *in the time*.—PP 3.9.316.

In the *apo koinou* construction of (167), “happened *in the time*” means ‘that have happened during the time.’

Type D':

The Austen corpus contains 9 examples of type D', that is, 4 of the *for*-phrase, 3 of the *during*-phrase, 1 of the *in*-phrase, and 1 of the *through*-phrase.

The 4 *for*-phrases are in the form <*for the rest of one's life*>, as in:

(168) At any rate, she cannot grow many degrees worse, without authorizing us to lock her up *for the rest of her life*.—PP 2.18.232 [similarly PP 3.19.385, P 2.9.204].

(169) If you are not so compassionate as to dine to-day with Louise and me, we shall be in danger of hating each other *for the rest of our lives*,...—PP 1.9.30.

Two of the *during*-phrases are in the form <*during the rest of one's life*>, as in:

(170) Are those who have been disappointed in their first choice...to be equally indifferent *during the rest of their lives*?—SS 1.2.56.

(171) [iter.] I visited her every day *during the rest of her short life*;—SS 2.9.207.

The other one is in the form <*during one's life*>, as in:

(172) [iter.] All that is required of you is, ...to enter into an engagement of allowing her, *during your life*, one hundred pounds per annum.—*PP* 3.7.302.

The examples of the *in*-phrase and *through*-phrase are:

(173) I have observed, Mrs. Elton, *in the course of my life*, that if things are going un-  
towardly one month,<sup>37</sup> they are sure to mend the next.—*E* 2.18.308.

(174) ..., when she considers the wretched and hopeless situation of this poor girl,  
...with a mind tormented by self-reproach, which must attend her *through life*.—*SS* 2.9.  
210.

For the treatment of *through life* as an instance of type D', compare the comment made  
on *through life* occurring in (74) in §2.2.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF HITOTSUBASHI UNIVERSITY

---

<sup>37</sup> This "*one month*" is an instance of type A. Incidentally, *the next* (=the next month) at the end of the same sentence may be interpreted as meaning 'in the next month' and so should be treated as instrumental-dative.