

## Article

# Wright about Wight: A dialect glossary of the Isle of Wight based on *EDD Online*

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### Abstract

Describing specific dialect areas in terms of their lexis is an attractive idea now that the latest version of the *English Dialect Dictionary Online (EDD Online 3.0, 2019)* allows for quick and easy lexical retrievals of English dialect words of the Late Modern English period. This paper uses the Isle of Wight (I.W.) as a test case for putting such an idea into practice. The 137 words uniquely attributed in the *EDD* to I.W. are analyzed and interpreted in relation to the 1500-odd words used on I.W. alongside other areas of the UK. The paper informs the reader of the available query modes and discusses their pros and cons, quantifying and mapping the different numbers of isolated words in use on I.W. versus those unique to other English counties. The larger number of words that the island shared with the counties of the “mainland” will likewise be considered, thus allowing for first steps towards a “dialectometrical” analysis. The findings are related to the historical background of I.W., particularly in the 18th and 19th centuries.

**Keywords:** dialectology; lexicography; Late Modern English; dialectometry; dialect geography

### 1. Introduction

Joseph Wright (1850–1930), the compiler of the *English Dialect Dictionary (EDD; 1898–1905)*, described the dialectal distribution of his words and dialect features mainly in terms of counties, in particular as far as England is concerned. The number of references to counties overall amounts to 63,687 (40,259 to England alone), whereas there are only 15,528 ascriptions of dialect items to larger areas (“regions” and “nations”), such as the Highlands of Scotland and the US, respectively. Exact numbers such as the ones just given can be provided by the *English Dialect Dictionary Online 3.0 (EDD Online; Markus, 2019a)*, a database of the *EDD*, created by a research team at the University of Innsbruck (supervisor of project: Manfred Markus). The interface of this database allows for quick and easy retrievals of English dialect words of the Late Modern English period from 1700 to 1904. Its sophisticated potential has generally been depicted in previous publications (e.g., Markus, 2019b, 2020, 2021a). This paper suggests focusing on *EDD Online*’s useability as a tool for creating county glossaries, taking the Isle of Wight as a test case.

The *EDD*, which is the most comprehensive English dialect dictionary ever published, refers to the Isle of Wight (I.W.) 3,887 times. This is quite a number, given that Wright himself was a Yorkshireman and, therefore, naturally favoured northern English counties (cf., Praxmarer, 2010). By comparison, the Isle of Man can only boast of 1,216 references. This major role of I.W. prompts a few questions: Did Wright have special reasons for being so interested in I.W.-specific words? Did the fact count that I.W. had been part of Hampshire, the “mainland” county facing it, until it became an autonomous

county in 1890? Or was it simply the dialectal or sociocultural status of the island that awakened Wright’s keen interest?<sup>1</sup> A linguistic question to be raised in the face of almost 4,000 references to I.W. in the *EDD* concerns the validity and interpretability of the statistical numbers just mentioned. Statistics, as we all know, can easily be misleading. To be convincing, the numbers must be made transparent. This then is the second test object of this paper, *EDD Online* itself, with its tools of quantification.

Quantification and the measuring of dialect distribution (dialectometry) are two of the leading topics in recent dialectology.<sup>2</sup> With all its ramifications, including the creation of maps based on frequencies, dialectometry is, however, a very ambitious theory. This paper will only scratch the surface of the theoretical and dialectometrical implications of quantification<sup>3</sup> and focus instead on the practical aspects of *EDD Online* as a tool for providing dialect glossaries.

### 2. *EDD Online* searches in the (default) OR-mode

The “OR-mode” in *EDD Online* implies that different objects of search (e.g., dialect areas) are being combined by the Boolean operator OR, rather than by AND or ONLY. OR is the default query mode. Figure 1, on top of the right half, shows the three options, with OR in this case used for our query.

The screenshot of Figure 1 may introduce readers who are not familiar with the interface of *EDD Online* to the *EDD*’s subdivision of dialect areas into counties, regions, and nations as well as to four further options (the blue buttons on the top right) applied by Wright for different degrees of precision: only the first one, “prec” (for “precise”), implies exact reference to the whole area at issue, in our case the Isle of Wight.<sup>4</sup> The other three buttons mark a part(ial), fuzzy, or directional (north, south, etc.) reference to dialect areas. Our interface by default keeps all four options

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The screenshot shows the EDD Online 3.0 interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'EDD references', 'EDD ONLINE Guide', and 'contact'. The search bar contains the query '\* IN (headword) FOR (Isle of Wight)'. Below the search bar, there are options for 'search in' (headword, full text) and 'search protocol' (simple, advanced). The search filters section includes buttons for 'dialect areas', 'parts of speech', 'phonetic', 'etymology', 'usage labels', 'sources', 'morphemic', and 'time spans'. The search results are displayed in a list on the left, showing lemmas and their affiliations with 'I.W.' and its sub-categories (I.W.1, I.W.2). On the right, there are options for 'entry' (map, image, context) and a list of counties with checkboxes, where 'Isle of Wight' is selected. The search mode is set to 'OR'.

Figure 1. Searching for lemmas/headwords affiliated with 'I.W.' in the OR-mode.

activated, which seems justified in the face of the overall small role of nonprecise dialectal references in the *EDD*.

However, the main point in Figure 1 is the result of our query presented in the retrieval window (the left half). As can be seen, the search provides 1,550 items (i.e., headwords), with 1,549 entries involved.<sup>5</sup> Both numbers are automatically provided in the dark bar above the retrieval window. The references to the Isle of Wight come in the abbreviated “naked” form “I.W.” or with additional index figures (1, 2, etc.) that stand for Wright’s main sources for the island, with the coded abbreviations identified in the *EDD*’s Bibliography. These indexed source references have been interpreted, tagged, and counted by the Innsbruck team as information both on the sources themselves and simultaneously on dialect areas.<sup>6</sup> On this basis of counting, the interface, in the background, sums up all the ascriptions to “I.W.\*,” in this case 3,887. The summation is triggered by an option “column 2 counted,” provided in the small sorting menu (the white bar above the retrieval window). Figure 2 shows this rearrangement of the result list of Figure 1.

The entry example ACOLD of Figure 2 reveals the principles underlying our OR-query.<sup>7</sup> Each headword with at least one I.W. reference is included, no matter whether other counties are concerned as well. Moreover, this “all-inclusive” mode of retrieving dialect words compiles all I.W. words affiliated with the island, no matter for what reason. Figure 3, in the sorting mode that focuses on the headwords concerned by our query, presents the beginning of the A–Z glossary list.

Figure 3 shows with the opened entry that Wright also included prefixes such as *a-* in his lemmas (though lemmatised affixes are extremely rare). One can also see that I.W., in the given case, only plays a marginal role in the entry, as part of

the source reference *I.W.1* (see the blue marking). It is, however, technically feasible to extract the words of the retrieval list on the left by skipping the affixes and by copying and pasting the individual entries on the right. While this creation of an I.W. glossary means some work for the 1,549 entries, it can be done. But does it make sense?

The possible reasons for affiliating headwords and counties in the *EDD* are manifold; the ascription of a headword to a dialect source (such as I.W.1) is only one of them. Other reasons are linguistically motivated. The *EDD* is full of information on pronunciation, spelling variants, types of word formation (such as compounds), etymology, the time when a form was in use, and many other categories of linguistic interest. The dialect marker “I.W.” may, in the context of an entry, refer to any of these criteria. This referential complexity is an asset of *EDD Online* when it comes to specific linguistic issues (cf., Markus, 2021c on the compatibility of source information with other query parameters and filters). However, when the aim is to create a county glossary, as in our case, the entries found in the OR-mode are overloaded with linguistic information that may only marginally be connected with I.W. What we need is a search mode that retrieves unique headwords of the island, excluding both linguistic features as criteria of the affiliation and other counties than I.W. In *EDD Online*, this search mode is provided by the tool of ONLY-queries.

### 3. Search for unique headwords in the ONLY-mode

The predictable wish of users to select the lexis unique to a certain area motivated the Innsbruck programmers to implement a button

search \*  last result

search in

headword  full text

1,550 items in 1549 entries found   Reverse

Isle of Wight	3887
I.W.	1316
I.W.1	1453
I.W.12	2 x 265
I.W.2	588
	3887

entry

**ACOLD**, *adj.* Wor. Brks. Cmb. I.W. Som. [əkouˈld, əkouˈd.] Cold.  
**se.Wor.1** Be yer 'onds acaowd? come ether an' warm um.  
**Brks.1** I be a-veelin acawld. **Cmb.** (M.J.B.) **I.W.1** Acoolde, very cold. **w.Som.1** I be a-cold sure 'nough z-mornin.  
 [A- (*pref.10*) + *cold*. This word is sometimes used as a quasi-archaic word by the poets of the 19th cent.: The owl for all his feathers was a-cold, KEATS *St. Agnes' Eve*. The word is best known from its occurrence in SHAKS., Tom's a-cold, *K. Lear*, III. iv. 59. ME. Thus lay this pouer in great distresse Acolde and hongry at the gate, GOWER *C. A.* III. 35. Perhaps the repr. of OE. *ācōlod*, pp. of *ācōlian*, to cool.]

Figure 2. Search for I.W. words, with quantification of the dialect references involved and the first entry opened.

search \*  last result

search in

headword  full text

1,550 items in 1549 entries found   Reverse

entry

A, *pref.1* Before *prp.* and *vbl. sb.*, repr. OE. an, on. Sc. Irel. Not found in Eng. counties n. of Pem. Shr. War. Nhp. Rut. n. Cam. Nrf., exc. in e. Lan. n. Lin. Lei. (Belgrave and Waltham); also not found in Hnt. nw. Nrf. e. Ken.  
 1. Before *prp.* or *vbl. sb.* used with *vb.* to be to form continuous tense.  
 Ir. I'm a-thinkin', BARLOW *Bog-land* (1892) 52. Lin. Git ma my ale, fur I bent a-gawin', TENNYSON *N. Farmer, Old Style* (1864) st. 1. n. Lin.1 A consumptive person is said to be awerin'. Rut.1 I'm a-goin' whum. Nhp.1 How they are a-talking! s. War.1 We are a-coming directly. Wor. I don't know how they'm a-going now (H.K.). se. Wor.1 Shr.1 Bin yo agwine? [going]. Glo.1 He'll be a puggin' all as he can; Glo.2, Oxf.1 Brks.1 Thaay be a-vinghtin. Bdf. 'Is she a-going?' he said, WARD *Bessie Costrell* (1895) 8. Ess. Who is a goin' to buy? DOWNE *Ballads* (1895) 7. Ken.1 She's always a making mischief about somebody or another. Sur. I've been a-draining this forty year, HOSKYNUS *Talpa* (1852) 16. Sus.1 I am a-going. I.W.1 n. Wil. Who's thus a comen out o' th' weaste? KITE *Sng. Sol.* (c. 1860) iii. 6. Wil.1 They was a-zaayin'. Dev. Who'm a-gwain for to kille? BLACKMORE *Christowell* (1881) ii; I know what I'm a-saying of, O'NEILL *Idylls* (1892) 23. e. Cor. The mutton is a-roasting, *Monthly Mag.* (1808) II. 421.  
 2. Before *vbl. sb.*  
 Sc. They hae taen Yule before it comes, and are gaun aguarding [mumming]. SCOTT *Guy Mannering* (1815) xxvii. e. Lan.1 Gone a-working. sw. Lin.1 The birds, they start a-whistling of a morning. Hrf.2 Measter's got seventeen on 'em out a yacornin [pigs feeding on acorns]. Glo.1 A-chatting, picking up chats or small sticks.

Figure 3. Listing I.W. headwords (based on OR search mode).

for dialect-specific queries, called ONLY (see the button above the filters). This offers itself as the first step for creating a glossary.

The output of the query of Figure 4 is 137 headwords. This is not even a tenth of the headwords retrieved in the OR-mode (Figure 3), but the good news is that Wright has excluded any other area than I.W. Again the default mode of the interface is to present the words together with the abbreviations for the dialect area or areas selected by the user, as shown in Figure 1.<sup>8</sup> In the present case, however, users

would certainly be interested in the list of the headwords alone, given that all of them have "I.W." as a dialect marker and that no other county is involved. The little white box on top of the retrieval window allows for access to different modes of presentation. One is *column 1 a-z*. A short extract of the result is shown in Figure 5.

The 137 words unique to I.W. are presented as a glossary in the Appendix. The chance of easily producing glossaries of this kind and quality—they would generally be more substantial and

EDD Online 3.0

search \* last result go clear search protocol \* IN (headword) FOR ONLY (Isle of Wight)

search in simple advanced

headword  full text

137 items in 137 entries found original result Reverse

ALEER, adj.  
I.W.  
I.W.1

ANDIER-DOGS, sb.  
I.W.  
I.W.1

BACCOBOLTS, sb.  
I.W.  
I.W.

BINDER, sb.2  
I.W.  
I.W.1  
I.W.2

BLETTERS, sb. [5]  
I.W.1

BOMESWISH, adv.  
I.W.  
I.W.2

BONNESWISH, adv.  
I.W.  
I.W.1

BOTHRESH, sb.  
I.W.1

BOZZOM, sb.  
I.W.

BRISH, sb.  
I.W.12

CAA v

search filters

dialect areas parts of speech phonetic etymology

usage labels sources morphemic time spans

entry map image context

OR  AND  ONLY

prec  part  fuzzy  directions

select all

county region nation

select all

England

- Bedfordshire
- Berkshire
- Buckinghamshire
- Cambridgeshire
- Channel Islands
- Cheshire
- Cornwall
- Cumberland
- Derbyshire
- Devonshire
- Dorsetshire
- Durham
- Essex
- Gloucestershire
- Guernsey
- Hampshire
- Herefordshire
- Hertfordshire
- Huntingdonshire
- Isle of Man
- Isle of Wight
- ...

Figure 4. ONLY-query for I.W. lexis.

professional than the glossaries published by the English Dialect Society (EDS) in the nineteenth century—is also enticing in view of other English counties. For Hampshire, for example, the interface delivers 284 headwords and for Devonshire 1,105. Users are encouraged to produce such county-specific dialect glossaries based on *EDD Online*, on condition that they give copyright credit to their source of information.

Glossaries of this kind would have to be examined manually and in an analysis that focuses on the individual entries. This is the concern of the next section.

#### 4. Interpretation of the glossary

Many samples in the Appendix glossary encourage some linguistic interpretation. ALEER, for example, is an obscured formation of West Germanic origin (cf. German *leer*) with a reduced prefix *a-*. Hoping for some systematic insights, users could investigate the etymologies and word formations of the other headwords. Wright provides French cognates for BRISH ('brush'), RIXE ('combat') and SAMPER (< OFr 'herbe de S. Pierre'), east Frisian cognates for LEBB ('the stomach of a calf') and MIZE (Efris. *mis* 'humid'), and OE precursors for ALEER ('empty') and SLETCH ('cease'). This etymological dispersal suggests a multilingual background of I.W. and quite agrees with the hybrid

etymological heritage of English as a whole. However, given that Wright was generally fond of adding etymological explanations, the overall poor results concerning etymological influences in I.W. underline what we can observe with the other headwords as well: they are, even if originally the result of import, usually assimilated and sometimes "homemade" and, therefore, hardly attest to language contacts in the past. The isolated situation on the island (at least in Modern English before the nineteenth century) and the frequent change of earlier occupants (on which some details in Section 5) may have, by and large, discouraged borrowings and encouraged other types of word formation.<sup>9</sup>

A more striking characteristic of the glossary words is assimilation, a process of erosion that resulted in many deviant formations (which Wright called "corrupt" forms): PREDNEY is a variant of "presently," SKURE is another spelling for "secure," RAATHY is a derivation of "wrath" equipped with deviant spellings (<wr> → <r>, <a> → <aa>). VLUCKER is a variant of "flutter," SWOP stands for the standard form "sop," TARNELLY for "eternally," TINUALLY for "continually." Another unique form is N-ECKLE, which is an "agglutinated" "an hackle" (meaning "covering"). The most frequent type of word formation to be addressed as a subtype of nonstandard forms is based on aphesis or aphaeresis, the loss of unstressed word-initial vowels or syllables, respectively.<sup>10</sup> Thus, in addition to TARNELLY and TINUALLY just mentioned, we have

The screenshot shows a search interface with a search bar containing an asterisk (\*). Below the search bar are options for 'simple' and 'advanced' search, and checkboxes for 'headword' (checked) and 'full text'. A search protocol is set to '\* IN (headword) FOR ONLY (Isle of Wight)'. Search filters include 'dialect areas', 'parts of speech', 'usage labels', 'sources', 'ph', and 'mor'. The search results list 137 items, with a dropdown menu showing options like 'column 1 a-z', 'original result', 'column 1 a-z', 'column 2 counted', and 'column 2 with 1'. The first item is 'ALEER, adj.'. A detailed entry for 'ALEER' is shown on the right, including its I.W. classification, phonetic transcription, and etymology.

Figure 5. Isolation of the headwords concerned by query for I.W.-words (beginning of list).

GAGEMENT for “engagement,” PUTE for “impute,” RECT for “direct,” SPEER for “aspire,” VENGEFUL for “revengeful,” VICE for “advice,” VOURE for “devour.”

Alongside VLUCKER, some other special spellings that deviate from the standard are phonologically motivated.<sup>11</sup> For example, the I.W. dialect often substituted voiced fricatives for voiceless ones, such as /v/ for /f/—as in VIRE-PAN (‘fire-pan’), VIRE-SPANNE (‘dog given to lying before the fire’), VARE (‘fare’) and VARMER (‘farmer’). This feature is generally known from other English southwestern counties such as Somerset. This also holds true for other voiced instead of voiceless fricatives, such as /z/ for /s/. In our I.W.-glossary, the <z>-spellings in MIZE (for *moise* ‘water’) and PURVIZER (‘proviso’) are interpretable as analogous cases of the *v/f*-alternation.

Another phonetic feature for I.W., seen in CAA (‘cry like a rook’), RAATHY (‘wrathful/angry’), SPAAN (‘a scolding, abusive woman’), et al. is /a:/ expressed by <aa>-spelling. Such double spellings of vowels are survivals from Middle English (see Markus, 2001). They were mostly practiced in England’s north, because in the area south of the Humber, /a:/ was generally raised to /ɔ:/ (in historical notation: /ā/ to /ō/).<sup>12</sup> The use of <aa> in the south is an example of persistent survival, typical of rural and relic areas and not surprising in the case of an island. On I.W., it is unique when used in diphthongs, as in MAAYCOCK (‘maycock’). <ee> and <oo> are likewise concerned: KEEAP (‘cape’), SOOURDER (<oo> for /ū/; ‘game-cock’).<sup>13</sup>

However, singular observations of this kind based on a relatively short glossary are bound to lack statistical evidence. The words found this way are sparse and could be untypical of the given feature. While the words as such are unique, the implicit types of word formation and the characteristics of phonetics/phonology, spelling, or whatever else may not be I.W.-specific and might well be shared by other areas. What we therefore need is a comparison to other counties. Even the very number of the unique words mentioned earlier (137) is meaningless unless related to the frequencies concerning other counties. Moreover, the items really worth comparing are not the numbers of headwords or entries (their absolute digits depend on Wright’s favouring or disfavouring counties), but the numbers of dialect references that come with the headwords or entries. The Innsbruck team has therefore implemented the

possibility of clustering ONLY-queries, that is, of addressing several counties (likewise regions or nations) simultaneously.<sup>14</sup> Users can, for example, combine all the counties of the south of England—Hampshire, Sussex, Surrey, Kent, Berkshire, Wiltshire, Devonshire, Somerset, Cornwall, and the Isle of Wight—to see where unique words are predominant or, on the other hand, the lexis is more a result of dialect mixture. The map in Figure 6 presents the numbers of unique headwords’ county references normalised in relation to their totals (i.e., the sum of all the references to the ten counties) as well as to the overall references to each of these counties in the whole dictionary.<sup>15</sup>

The map in Figure 6 reveals a distribution of lexical isolation versus mixture in England’s south in line with what one would expect: the two extremes are Berkshire (in royal blue) with the fewest isolated words, and Cornwall with the most. In the middle, the lighter blue that includes Hampshire, Dorsetshire, Wiltshire, Surrey, and the Isle of Wight marks an area of some relative mutual influence (the %-number of unique words is 20–29). We can also see that Devon ranks higher than Somerset, which, for its part, is on an equal level with Kent and Sussex. In sum, I.W. does not have a higher normalised percentage of unique words than the mainland counties facing it.

Apart from this comparison of southern counties with regard to unique words, users may wish to compare the numbers of headwords themselves as attributed to the counties, rather than the county references. The ensuing ranking list (bottom-up) is: Surrey (113), Berkshire (127), I.W. (137), Hampshire (284), Sussex (294), Dorset (362), Wiltshire (365), Kent (488), Somerset (746), Devonshire (1,105), and Cornwall (1,439). By and large, these figures confirm the earlier results based on county references: the Isle of Wight did not harbor many unique words but is, alongside Surrey and Berkshire, at the ranking list’s lower end. The marginal counties of the south, that is, Somerset, Devonshire and Cornwall in the west and Kent in the east, dominate the scene concerning lexical specificity. The counties in the mid-south were, like the Isle of Wight, less productive in coining or keeping words of their own.

However, the latter ranking list just described is, in my view, of limited value because it is not based on normalised figures of usage frequency, whereas those of the county references are. Another,

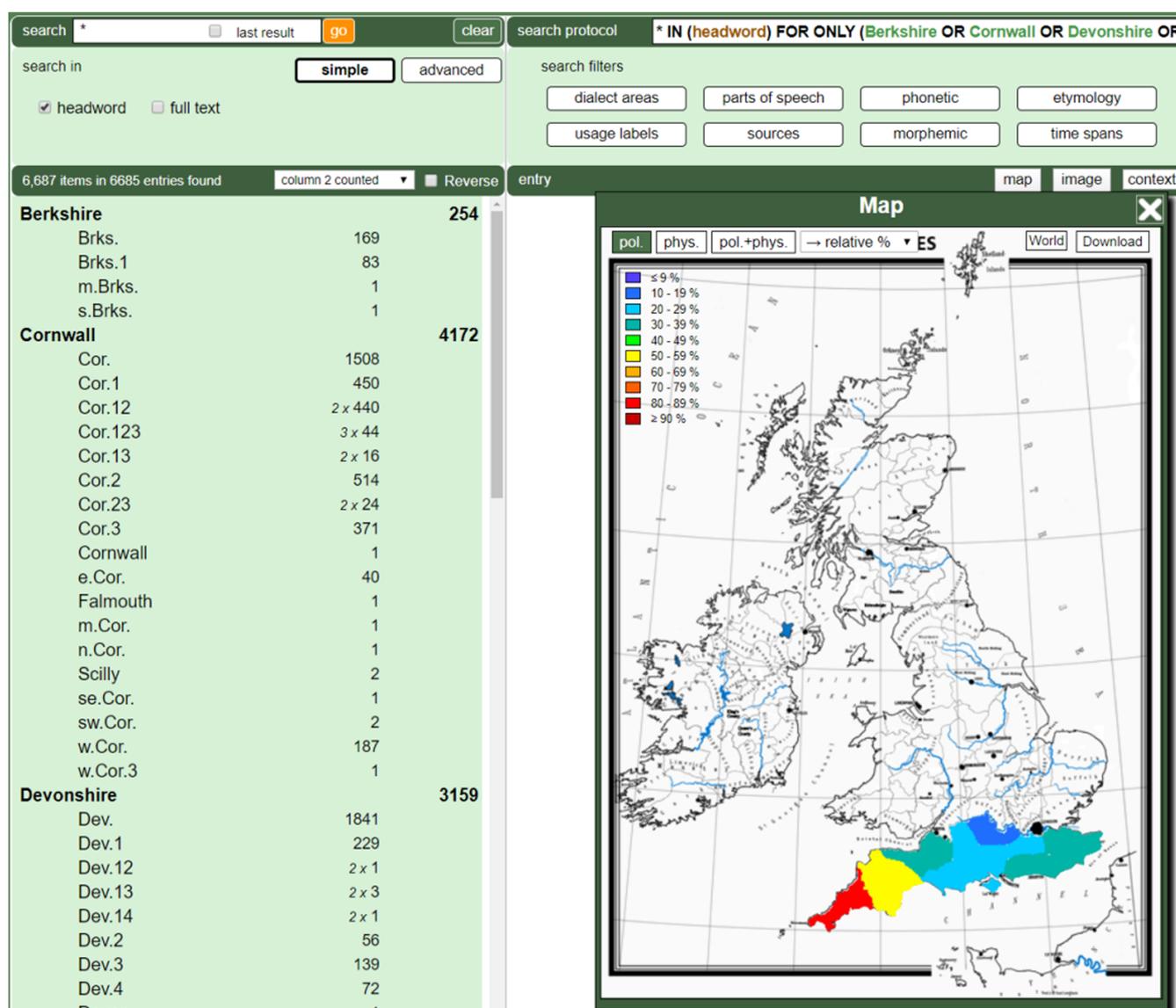


Figure 6. Quantification of unique words in southern English counties.

practical, advantage of the reference figures is, of course, that they do not have to be gleaned manually but are provided by the *EDD* software and that they can automatically be transferred to a map. The main drawback of simply counting words is, however, a conceptual one: when one thinks about it, unique words of an area are never equally integrated in people's usage. They may be part of everyday lexical usage or marginal, and there may be just one source of evidence in the *EDD* or several sources. It therefore makes sense not to consider them as if they were all alike but to "weigh" them according to their degree of usage integration. The more often Wright found reasons for ascribing them to I.W., the more evidence this is for their lexical relevance.

*EDD Online* harbors many types of statistical data beyond headwords and county references. Within seconds, users can retrieve seventy-two derivations, 208 compounds, 333 combinations,<sup>16</sup> 279 phrases, 739 variants (with evidence of the spellings tackled earlier), 244 headwords with an etymological marker, and 1,460 references to etymological precursors up to 1500, all and sundry attributed to I.W. On this basis we could raise many questions

on linguistic features of the I.W. dialect. This paper, however, has focused on the glossary as a whole, its production, and the possibility of drawing some provisional conclusions on lexical features. An in-depth study of detailed linguistic features must be undertaken on another occasion.<sup>17</sup>

The task that remains in this paper is an interpretation of our observations in relation to I.W.

### 5. The Isle of Wight: Geography, history, and its dialect lexis

For readers less familiar with the geography of Britain, Figure 7 presents a simple map, free of copyright restrictions, of I.W. and its English mainland surroundings. The Isle of Wight, with its geographical position in the Channel off the coast of Hampshire, its mild climate, and its natural beauty, has always attracted occupants and settlers, and later, tourists and residents.<sup>18</sup> Its history of the last two thousand years reveals that it was of interest to the Romans, the Frisians (who, as seafarers and traders, were immediate



**Figure 7.** The Isle of Wight: geographical location (with pre-1974 counties).

neighbors),<sup>19</sup> the Jutes (who settled along the southern English coast from Kent to Hampshire),<sup>20</sup> and the West Saxons (who conquered the island in 688 under King Ceadwalla). The new millennium brought the influx of the Danes (Cnut), the Anglo-Normans with their French dialect, and the French of the Hundred Years' War. Later, I.W. was administered as part of Hampshire, so that some linguistic influence from the mainland can be assumed. In the 19th century, I.W. became a favourite destination of holiday-makers and tourists, and many well-to-do people, including Queen Victoria, had a residence there. In the early 1800s, the first steamship ferry began to operate, one of the reasons why the island is now relatively densely populated (372/km<sup>2</sup>).<sup>21</sup>

In sum, the history of the island is marked by many new settlers, and different cultures and languages. In the 19th century, it was mainly affected by the influx of residents and tourists from the British mainland. Though an island, it did not remain a rural retreat area. Its most striking dialect features in Late Modern English accord with this role of attracting many, from conquerors and monarchs to Jimi Hendrix, who played his last concert there.

Given this mixed historical and cultural background, it does not come as a surprise that the glossary of the I.W. is only moderately dialect-specific. Words pass language borders quickly, so that a comparison of the unique words of I.W. with those of the other southern English counties, normalised by correlative usage frequencies, led to the conclusion that I.W. was lexically less isolated than, for example, Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset, on the one hand, and Kent, on the other hand. Instead, our quantification reflects the affinity to the mainland counties north of I.W. (Hampshire, Dorsetshire, and so on). Only Berkshire turned out to be even more assimilated in its lexis to its surroundings (in this case wider-London).<sup>22</sup>

As regards the glossary samples in detail, this paper's analysis turned out to be "eclectic" (i.e., "including a mixture of many different things," definition in DCE, 2009). Etymologically, the words confirmed the multicultural background of the Isle of Wight, with some Old French, Frisian, Juto-Kentish, and West Germanic cognates or precursors. In terms of word formation, some of the words were the product of aphetic or aphaeretic processes, as they are also common in other dialects. The most prominent I.W.-specific features could be found in a few spelling idiosyncrasies (double vowels for [length], voiced fricatives for voiceless ones, and agglutination of the /n/ of the indefinite article *an* before vowel-initial nouns), but again nearly all these characteristics were shared by various other counties of the English south. Only double spellings within diphthongs seem to be I.W.-specific, but the glossary as a corpus

basis proved to be too small for conclusive evidence, and the issue would deserve an in-depth and systematic analysis of the spellings and sound patterns on the Isle of Wight. Such an analysis would have to be based on all orthographic features in *EDD Online* attributed to the Isle of Wight, irrespective of whether the headwords involved were unique or not (see Markus, forthcoming).

## 6. Conclusion

This paper has tested the chance spontaneously to produce county glossaries of a better quality than what the EDS glossarists of the 1850s to 1890s provided.<sup>23</sup> The pieces of information given in the *EDD*'s entries allow for selective conclusions in the domains of etymology, orthography, and, up to a point, word formation, but it has become obvious that a county glossary has its limits and that the filter inventory of *EDD Online* would allow for in-depth studies of linguistic features within the domains just mentioned and beyond (e.g., in pragmatics).

In concrete terms, the analysis has shown that the dialect of the Isle of Wight, despite more than the hundred words uniquely attributable to it, does not have a very marked lexical profile of its own. Instead, it shares most of its dialect words with other counties, some 1,400 as a subset of the 1,550 headwords retrieved by *EDD Online* in its OR-mode. Though an island, I.W. does not, in terms of a quantified uniqueness of the lexis, have more words "of its own" than the opposite counties on the mainland (Hampshire, Dorset, Wiltshire, and Surrey) and fewer such words than the counties in the southwest and in the southeast. It combines some traditional modes of spelling and etymological traces of languages or dialects of former settlers with the tendency to clip and, thus, uproot words. The spelling variants have revealed voicing and aphaesis as the main phonological/phonotactic characteristics, but they proved to be far from I.W.-specific. Orthographic doublets of vowels (<aa>, <oo>, and <ee>) are likewise generally nonspecific except in digraphs of the type <aae>, where they apparently are. However, the text basis for evidential conclusions is too small. In any case, the <aa>-spelling is a relic from Middle English.

By and large, however, I.W. was, by the nineteenth century, not an island of lexical survivals, but—both lexically and administratively—a part of Hampshire. The overall moderate specificity of its dialect, if we dare to give reasons, is a result of its historically conditioned mixed and non-autonomous nature. Owing to its continuing popularity from the eighteenth century on and, in particular, since the nineteenth, the Isle of Wight was bound to lose the distinctive features it may have had in the past.

A substantial glossary of the (unique) headwords of the Isle of Wight in use during the Late Modern English period is, however, only a first step in the right direction. There are many open questions, concerning linguistic patterns, distinctive features, and quantities of distribution, questions that the parameters and filters implemented in *EDD Online* are ready to help answer. Beyond its lexis, that is, in phonetics, orthography, word formation, and other linguistic domains, the Isle of Wight may, at second sight in the future, prove to have unique traits of its own.

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## Notes

- 1 Until the first half of the 19th century, I.W. was rural, but then a boom in tourism, spurred by growing wealth and Queen Victoria's and Prince Albert's residence in East Cowes (Osborne House), led to an increasing contact with the mainland and the island's partial urbanisation (see <https://www.visitisleofwight.co.uk/things-to-do/victorias-island-trail/victoria-andosborne>) (accessed November 20, 2020).
- 2 For details on the concept of dialectometry, initiated by Goebel (2016), see Markus (2017, 2020).
- 3 These are discussed at length in Markus (in press).
- 4 A condensed description of *EDD Online* is provided by Markus (2019b) in the interface of *EDD Online* itself (see button *The Use of EDD Online 3.0 – a Short Guide* in [eddonline-proj.uibk.ac.at](http://eddonline-proj.uibk.ac.at)). For a detailed discussion of *EDD Online*, also as regards its possibilities, see Markus (2021a).
- 5 The reason for the slight difference between the number of items and that of entries is that one entry may include more than one item/headword.
- 6 There are many entries that only refer to the dialects *via* the source references. Moreover, the two types of information generally refer to different parts of an entry.
- 7 This and some of the following figures are intentionally cut off on the right to increase legibility.
- 8 As mentioned, the Innsbruck project team decided to count these source references as if they were dialect references proper because the indexed references to the sources are often the only dialect reference available in an entry. The disadvantage of occasional double counting was considered preferable to missing references.
- 9 The particular productivity of dialects in terms of word formation has been more generally discussed in Markus (2020).
- 10 On the general role of aphaeresis and aphaeresis in dialects, see Markus (2021b).
- 11 The substitution of /k/ for /t/ is based on phonetic velarisation, which can, however, not be pursued further in this paper.
- 12 This sound shift has been ascribed to the twelfth to fourteenth century (Pinsker, 1963: §37). In the south, it could only affect new words with /ā/, such as loanwords from French.
- 13 For full evidence on these spellings unique to I.W., see Markus (forthcoming).
- 14 In terms of referential relevance, the units “headword” and “entry” can be treated as equivalent in ONLY-queries. Unlike OR-queries, the ONLY-searches produce I.W. ascriptions that clearly refer to the headword and not to any other specific part of an entry.
- 15 In other words, there are two factors that relativise the absolute numbers: (1) the sum total of all the counties considered, in our case, the ten counties of the south; (2) the minor or major role of each of all counties in the whole *EDD*, according to which the poorly represented counties, such as I.W., get, as it were, a bonus factor. The ratios are calculated in the background by the *EDD Online* software.
- 16 For the difference between combinations and compounds, see Onysko (2012).
- 17 I will present such a study in Markus (forthcoming).
- 18 Basic information on the Isle of Wight today is ubiquitous; see *A Glossary of Words in Use in the Isle of Wight* (Smith & Smith, 1881) and the informative *AA Illustrated Guide to Britain* (1972:98–99).
- 19 Bremmer (2009:128) claimed that the close Anglo-Frisian relationship is not only one of inheritance from the common North Sea Germanic ancestry, but also one of ongoing contacts both before and after the migration of the Anglo-Saxons to Britain in the fifth century. Salmons (2017) supported this view with case studies of common Anglo-Frisian phonological features (382–385).
- 20 Kökeritz (1941), investigating placenames, proved the role of the Jutes not only in (the south of) Kent, but along the southern English coast westward to Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. In Figure 6 above, the shape of the green area in the southeast of England, petering out in the west, confirms a wider expansion by the Jutes than commonly assumed.
- 21 For the historical background data provided here, see, in addition to the literature mentioned, Falkus and Gillingham (1981:30–31).
- 22 Richard Puttenham, the author of *Arte of English Poesie*, in 1589 referred to “London and the shires lying about London within lx. myles, and not much

above” as the area of the London standard (quoted from Baugh, 1951:235). Berkshire, while generally classified as a “southern” Middle English dialectal area, is part of that London standard.

23 As regards I.W., the *EDD* is partly based on two of these county-specific glossaries, by Smith and Smith (1881) and by W. H. Long (1886); the latter was also re-edited online in 2012 and is presently on offer on the book market. A closer look at this work by Long reveals that it includes many words that were not unique to I.W. at the time of compilation (e.g., AATERCLAP, see *EDD AFTERCLAP*). Both glossaries, as most other glossaries of the EDS, focus entirely on the headwords as such, widely disregarding linguistic information. For a detailed description of the EDS glossaries and their deficits, see Markus (2021c).

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### Appendix. Unique EDD words on the Isle of Wight (copied from EDD Online)

- ALEER**, *adj.* I.W. [əliəˈ(r).] Empty; unladen.  
I.W.1 Goo whooam wi' the wagon aleer.  
[A- prob. repr. OE. *ge*; cp. *gelære*, empty; or the *pref.* may = on (the *pref.* of state or condition). See **Leer**.]
- ANDIER-DOGS**, *sb. pl.* I.W. Andirons.  
I.W.1 Anjur-dogs, kitchen utensils for the spit to run on.  
[For etym. see Andirons, and cp. An-dogs.]
- BACCOBOLTS**, *sb. pl.* I.W. *Typha latifolia*, or common bulrush.  
I.W. So called from the spikes resembling a roll of tobacco.  
[See **Bolt**.]
- BINDER**, *sb.2* I.W. [baiˈndə(r).] A large quantity, esp. of food.  
I.W.1 A pretty good binder of it; I.W.2 I ded take in a binder.
- BLETTERS**, *sb. pl.* I.W.1 Small pancakes, flitters, (s.v. Vlitters.)
- BOMESWISH**, *adv.* I.W. At full speed, headlong.  
See **Bonneswish**.  
I.W.2 I met wold varmer Taalor and hes missus in their new pony caart gwyne bomeswish over Staplers.
- BONNESWISH**, *adv.* I.W. Rapidly, swiftly, in phr. to go *bonneswish*. [Perh. misprint for *bomeswish*, q.v.]
- I.W.1 There they goos *bonneswish*.
- BOTHRESH**, *sb.* I.W.1 The squalling thrush, 'bull-thrush,' q.v.
- BOZZOM**, *sb.* I.W. Also written **bozzum**. Name given to the plants (1) *Chrysanthemum segetum*; (2) *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* (C.J.V.). Cf. **buddle**.
- BRISH**, *sb.* I.W.12 [brif.] A brush.  
[OFr. *broisse*, a brush (HATZFELD, s.v. **Brosse**).]
- CAA**, *v.* I.W. Also written **kaa** I.W.1 To cry like a rook.  
I.W.1 What bi'st caaun about like that vor?
- CHINKERS**, *sb. pl.* I.W.2 [tʃiˈŋkəz.] Chinks, fissures.
- CHOPPEKIN**, *sb.* I.W. [tʃoˈpəkɪn.] The chap or under-jaw of a pig salted and smoked.  
I.W.2 We had a choppekin that day vor dinner.
- CHUTE**, *sb.* I.W. [Not known to our correspondents.]  
A steep, hilly road. (Hall.)
- CLUNGE**, *v.* I.W.1 [klʌŋz.] To crowd; to squeeze closely together.  
[Conn. w. liter. E. *cling* (vb.). Heavy clinging mists, MORE *Song Soul* (1647) 11. (N.E.D.)]
- CLUTTERS**, *sb. pl.* I.W.12 [klʌˈtəz.] Part of the tackling of a plough or harrow.
- COAST**, *v.* I.W. In phr. To *coast about*. Of a hawk: to fly so as to keep at a distance.  
I.W.1 A hawk or kite flying round a farmyard is said to be 'cooastun about.'

**COCKY-BABY**, *sb.* I.W. The plant *Arum maculatum* (B. & H.).

‡**CONTRAVESS**, *adv.* I.W.1 [Not known to our correspondents.] Quite the reverse.

**CRABBUN**, *sb.* I.W.1 [kræˈbʌn.] A dunghill fowl; a coward.

[A form of liter. E. *craven*, cowardly, a coward, applied technically to a cock that is 'not game.' No cock of mine, you crow too like a craven, SHAKS. *T. Shrew*, ii. i. 228. ME. *cravant*, vanquished, defeated (MÄTZNER).]

**CRISH**, *sb.1* I.W.1 [krif.] A crash.

**CURRIDGE**, *v.* I.W. [kəˈridʒ.] To encourage.

I.W.1 Why doesn't curridge'n on to fight?

**DACK**, *sb.* and *v.* I.W. [dæk.] 1. *sb.* A blow, esp. a gentle or slight blow, such as washerwomen give fine things in washing.

I.W.1 I'll ghee thee a dack wi' the zull paddul, 49; I.W.2 I'll gie ee a dack wi' the prong-steel if thee doesn't mind.

2. *v.* To touch gently; to dab with a cloth; to anoint.

I.W. (J.D.R.); I.W.2 My vinger is miserable bad: just dack en vor me.

**DEYAN**, *v.* I.W.1 [dēˈən.] Used imprecatively, in the same way as 'damn,' 'confound.'

Odd deyan thee. I'll be deydand if I doant.

Hence **Deyannashun**, *sb.* damnation.

Odd deyanashun seyze thee.

**DOMP**, *adj.* I.W.1 Also in form **dompy**. [doˈmp, doˈmpi.] Short, stunted, 'dumpy.'

**DRAUGHTY**, *adj.* I.W. [drəˈti.] Windy, outdoors as well as indoors. (J.D.R.)

**DRILLEN**, *pp. adj.* I.W.2 [driˈlən.] Dripping with wet. [With that, swift watry drops drill from his eye, HEYWOOD *Troia* (1609) (NARES).]

**DRILLING**, *prp.* I.W. Dripping, soaking wet. Cf. dreening, s.v. Dreen, *v.*

They be all a-drillen with wet, Gray *Ribstone Pippins* (1898) 33.

**DRUSS**, *sb.* I.W.12 [drʊs.] A slight slope or descent on the road.

**DWYES**, *sb. pl.* I.W. [dwaiz.] Eddies.

From the dwyes of the withy-bed when they dived, MONCRIEFF *Dream* (1863) l. 47; I.W.12

**ENNY**, *adv.* I.W. [əˈni.] Only. (J.D.R.); I.W.1

**FLANYER**, *v.* I.W.2 To flourish, brandish.

He's out there flanyeren about wi' a sparrow.

**FLUSTERGATED**, *pp.* I.W. Blustering. (HALL.)

‡**FOUNDER**, *sb.* I.W. Meaning unknown.

The path by a founder of hammock was shut, MONCRIEFF *Dream* (1863) l. 6.

**GAGEMENT**, *sb.* I.W. Written **gaaigement** I.W.1  
An engagement, a fight. (HALL.), I.W.1

**GENGE**, *sb.* I.W. Also written **geyenge**, **ghenge**  
I.W.1 [gen(d)ʒ.] Depth of soil; the depth of the furrow.  
Also in *comb.* **Plough-genge**.

I.W.1 The rain esn't gone into the ground not ploughenge deep;  
I.W.2 I must alter my genge when I gits out end [I must alter the depth of the furrow when I get to the end of the field].

‡**GRISKIN**, *sb.* I.W. Meaning unknown.

A griskin on her head bones, MONCRIEFF *Dream* (1863) l. 40.

**GRUMPSHUN**, *sb.* I.W.1 Foresight; 'gumption.'

**HALPED**, *pp. adj.* I.W. Crippled. (HALL.)

**HEARLED**, *pp.* I.W. With *up*; perplexed, confused.  
See **Harl**, *v.* 2.

I be mis'ble hearded up wi' lies vokes tells, GRAY *Ribstone Pippins* (1898) 141.

**HUNCHEd-UP**, pp. I.W. [**ɛnft.**] Of a crop of apples, potatoes, &c.: diminished in size. (J.D.R.), I.W.1 See **Hunch**, sb.1 2.

**HURDLE-SHELL**, sb. I.W.2 Tortoiseshell; *gen.* used *attrib.* of colour, lit. reddle-shell.

I got zummet like a cat now, a hurdle-shell one.

**INFORMATION**, sb. I.W. GRAY *Ribstone Pippins* (1898) 140.

**INLESS**, conj. I.W. [**inle's.**] Unless. (J.D.R.), I.W.1 [*In less*, for the older *on lesse*, on a less supposition that; see SKEAT *Etym. Dict.* (s.v. **Unless**).]

**KEEAP**, sb. I.W.1 [**kiəp.**] 1. The cape of a coat.  
2. A landmark.

**KITES**, sb. pl. I.W. The dead boughs of a tree; also in *comb.* **Kite boughs**.

I.W.1; I.W.2 I got a bundle o' kite boughs.

**KITTLES**, sb. pl. I.W.2 Strings for tying the mouths of sacks.

**LARBETS**, sb. pl. I.W.2 [**lā·bəts.**] The testicles of lambs.

**LEBB**, sb. I.W. [**leb.**] The stomach of a calf.

Reserving the lebb, pluck, and haslet, MONCRIEFF *Dream* (1863) l. 36; I.W.12

[EFris. *lebbe*, *leb*, 'kälbermagen' (KOOLMAN); Du. *lebbe*, 'runnet' (HEXHAM).]

**LEEWARD**, adv. I.W. [**li'wəd.**] In phr. *to go to leeward*, to go to the bad. (J.D.R.)

**LOOP**, v.3 I.W.1 [**lūp.**] To elope.

She loop'd away wi' un.

**LUC(K)**, sb. I.W. [**lɛk.**] A pool of water left behind by the receding tide. (J.D.R.), I.W.12

**LUCKEY**, adj. I.W.2 Morose, sulky.

He sims to be lucky about zummet or nother.

**LURRY**, sb.2 I.W.2 [**lɔ'ri.**] Loose talk.

He ded goo on wi' some pretty lurry, I can tell ye.

[To turn prayer into a kind of lurrey, MILTON *Eikonoklastes* (1649) xvi.]

**MAAMOUTH**, sb. I.W.2 A silly, talkative person.

Hence **Maamouthed**, *ppl. adj.* talking foolishly, stupid.

Cf. **mawmooin**.

Ded ye ever zee sich a gurt zote, maamouthed thing as she is?

**MAAYCOCK**, sb. I.W.1 A conceited fellow; a coxcomb.

[A meacock wretch can make the curtest shrew, SHAKS. *T. Shrew*, II. i. 315.]

**MARINERS**, sb. pl. I.W.2 A game resembling 'Fox and geese.'

**MILLET**, sb. I.W. The wood club-rush, *Scirpus sylvaticus*. (B. & H.)

**MIT**, sb.3 I.W. [**mit.**] A maggot. (C.J.V.)

**MIZE**, sb. and v. I.W. Also in form **moise** I.W.1

[**maiz.**] 1. sb. Water. I.W.1 Cf. **mizzle**, v.1, **miz-wet**.

2. v. To ooze; to discharge slowly. (J.D.R.), I.W.12

[1. Cp. Efris. *mīs*, 'feucht'; *mīsīg* (KOOLMAN).]

**MUD(D)**, sb. I.W. [**mʊd.**] A silly, thoughtless, stupid person.

(HALL.) I.W.1; I.W.2 *Gen.* applied to a child. 'Ah, ye zote mud, don't da that.'

**MUDGETTY**, adj. I.W.2 [Not known to our correspondents.]

Of straw: broken, short, as trodden by cattle.

**MUGGLETON**, sb. I.W.1 An old name for a rat, prob.

only used in nursery stories.

**MUMMY**, adj. I.W. [**mʊ'mi.**] Dusk, dark; twilight.

It begins to get mummy (J.D.R.); I.W.1; I.W.2 'Twas gitten mummy avore I come away.

**N-ECKLE**, sb. I.W.2 [**ne'kl.**] A house; a dwelling.

See **Hackle**, sb.1 2.

**NEYARES**, sb. pl. I.W. The nostrils.

I.W.1 [Nares, the nostrils of a hawk (HALL).]

[There is a Machiavelian plot, Tho' ev'ry nare olfact it not, BUTLER *Hudibras* (1664) I. i. 742.]

**NUBBY-JOE**, sb. I.W.2 [**nu'bi-dʒō.**] A walking-stick having a large knob at the end. See **Knobby**, 3.

If I onny gits 'long zide on 'en wi' my nubby Joe he'll zoon be afeared o' me.

**OVERER**, sb. I.W. A settler from Great Britain.

*Life of Freeman* (1895) II. 51. Cf. **overun**.

**OVERUN**, adj., adv. and sb. I.W. [**ō'vərən.**] 1. adj.

Coming from the mainland across the water, not native to the island.

They'm better than the overun ducks (J.D.R.); I.W.1; I.W.2 Overun feller.

2. adv. Over, too, very.

(J.D.R.); I.W.1 'It don't look so overun toppun,' i.e. so over well.

3. sb. Any person or thing that is not native to the island; anything coming from the mainland. Also called Overuner or Overner.

(J.D.R.); I.W.2 I wish the wind had capsized they there overners comen across. What do they wunt over here, tryen to take the bread out o' vokes' mouths?

**PINE-RAFT**, sb. I.W. See below.

Part of the silicified trunk of a coniferous tree, probably allied to the pine; from the 'pine-raft' which covers the shore between high and low-water marks, at Brook Point... This sandstone, which forms Brook Point, is the lowest bed seen at the base of the cliff, and reposes on the red and green variegated marls underlying the sandstone with the trunks of the trees forming the pine-raft, RAMSAY *Rock Spec.* (1862) 151.

**POKEASSIN**, *prp.* I.W. Also written **pokassun** I.W.1

[**pō-kəsin.**] 1. Prying about; following people slyly to find out what they are doing; *gen.* with *about*. I.W.12

2. Pottering about, spending time to no purpose. I.W.2

**POLEAPS**, sb. I.W.12 Also written **polehaps** I.W.2

[**pō'l-əps.**] A leather strap fastening the harness at the top of a horse-collar; lit. 'pole-hasp.' See **Hasp**, sb.1

**PRAJANT**, adj. I.W.1 [**prə'ʒənt.**] 'Swaggering'; conceited.

**PRANKLE**, sb. I.W. [**præ'ŋkl.**] A prawn. (HALL.), (C.J.V.)

**PRANKLE**, v. I.W. [**præ'əŋkl.**] To prance. (C.J.V.)

**PREDNEY**, adv. I.W.2 [**pre'dni.**] A corruption of 'presently.' 'I'll gi' ye a belting predney.'

**PURVIZER**, adv. I.W.1 With a proviso.

**PUSSIKEY**, sb. and adj. I.W. [**pʊ'siki.**] 1. sb. A little, short, conceited person. I.W.12 2. adj. Small and self-important.

I.W.2 She's a regular pussikey little bit o' goods.

**PUTE**, v. I.W.1 [**piut.**] To impute.

**QUILT**, v.3 I.W.12 [**kwilt.**] To cover a ball with twine.

**QUILT**, adj. I.W. [**kwilt.**] Fatigued; unfit for work. (HALL.), I.W.1

**RAATHY**, adj. I.W.1 [**rā'þi.**] Angry, full of wrath; a deriv. of 'wrath.'

**RASPBERRIES AND CREAM**, phr. I.W. The hemp agrimony, *Eupatorium cannabinum*. (B. & H.)

**RECT**, v. I.W.1 A shortened form of 'direct.' Hence **Rectun-pooast**, sb. a signpost.

**RENYARD**, sb. I.W.12 [**re'njəd.**] A dial. form of 'reynard,' a fox.

**RIG**, v.5 I.W.1 [**rig.**] To mark sheep.

**RIVE**, adj. I.W. [**raiv.**] Amorous. (C.J.V.), I.W.1

**RIXE**, sb. I.W. [**riks.**] A pugilistic contest. (W.W.S.) Cf. **rix**, sb.2 and **adj.1** [Fr. *rix*, a combat.]

**ROUNTY**, adj. I.W.1 [**re'unti.**] Of marshes: rough.

**ROXELL**, v. I.W. Also written **roxall**. [**ro'ksl.**] To wrestle. (C.J.V.), I.W.2 See **Rossle**, 2.

**RUDDER**, v. I.W.2 [**rē'də(r).**] To shake the head. The paason ruddered his head at 'en.

**SAMPER**, sb. I.W.12 Also written **sampur** I.W.2 [**sæ'mpə(r).**] Samphire. [Sampier herbe, BARET (1580); *herbe de S. Pierre*, sampire (COTGR.).]

**SANGLE**, sb. I.W.1 [**sæ'ŋgl.**] A drunken bout.

**SCANTWAYS**, adv. I.W. Obliquely. (J.D.R.)

**SCOGGEL**, v. I.W.2 [**sko'gl.**] To eat voraciously; to gulp down. 'They scogged up the lot.'

**SCRANNEL**, v. I.W.2 [**skræ'nɪ.**] To eat greedily; to swallow up.

**SHELT**, v. I.W. [**felt.**] with *in*: of days: to grow shorter, to become dusk earlier, to shorten. I.W.1 The days be sheltun in; I.W.2 Aater Michaelmas the days begin shelten in vast.

**SHONTO**, sb. I.W. A donkey. (HALL.), WRIGHT. ? Misprint for 'shouto.'

**SHOUTO**, sb. I.W.1 A donkey. ? A misprint for 'shonto.'

**SHROKE**, ppl. adj. I.W. [**frōk.**] Shrivelled, withered. Cf. **shrockled**.

I.W.1; I.W.2 They there apples be all shroke up to nothen.

**SKILTER-VAMP**, sb. I.W.1 A half-boot laced in front; ? misprint for 'skitter-vamp' (q.v.).

**SKIMMURTON**, sb. I.W.1 [**ski'mætən.**] A skeleton.

**SKUFFY**, adj. I.W.1 [**skø'fi.**] In a scurvy state.

**SKURE**, v. I.W.1 [**skiu'ə(r).**] A dial. form of 'secure.'

**SLETCHE**, v. and sb. I.W. [**sletf.**] 1. v. To cease, stop. Cf. **sleck**, v.1

I.W.1 It raained aal day without sletchun; I.W.2 2. sb. Cessation.

I.W.1 There's noo sletch in ut; I.W.2 'Twas hard slaavery and noo sletch in it, vrom mornen to night. [OE. *ge-sleccan*, to make slack; to weaken (B.T.).]

**SMOLCHE**, v. I.W.1 [**smoltf.**] To discolour or daub with paint or dirt.

**SNAPSEN**, sb. I.W. [**snæ'psən.**] The aspen, *Populus tremula*; also used *attrib.* (B. & H.); I.W.1 He shakes like a snapsen leaf.

**SNARKER**, sb. I.W.2 [**snā'kə(r).**] A cinder. The cake's burnt to a snarker.

**SNOBBLE**, v.2 I.W.12 [**sno'bl.**] To devour greedily; to gobble; to snap at food. Cf. **snabble**.

**SOOURDER**, sb. I.W.1 [**sū'əðə(r).**] A game-cock that wounds its antagonist much.

**SPAAN**, sb. I.W.1 A scolding, abusive woman.

**SPAIKED**, ppl. adj. I.W.2 [**spēkt.**] Speckled, spotted.

Cf. **sparked**.

**SPEER**, v.2 I.W.1 [**spiə(r).**] To aspire.

**SPINEDY**, adj. I.W.1 [**spai'ndi.**] Muscular.

**STAST**, v. I.W.12 [**stæst.**] To stop; to give up, abandon; to flag.

**STOCK**, adj.1 I.W. [Not known to our correspondents.]

Strong, muscular. (HALL.) Cf. **stocky**.

**SUSS**, sb. I.W. [**sʊs.**] A dog-fish. I.W.1 [SATCHELL (1879).]

**SWIVELLY**, adj. I.W. Giddy. (HALL.) A misprint for 'swivetty' (q.v.).

**SWOP**, v. I.W. [**swop.**] To dab up with a cloth; dial. form of 'sop.' (J.D.R.), I.W.1

**TARNELLY**, adv. I.W.1 [**tā'nəli.**] An aphetic dial. form of 'eternally.' 'She's tarnelly talkun about et.'

**THUCKSTER**, sb. I.W. [**þʊ'kstə(r).**] A courser.

Wait in close covert the thuckster's 'so, ho,' MONCRIEFF *Dream* (1863) l. 26; I.W.1

**TINT**, v. I.W. [**tint.**] To blend. (J.D.R.), I.W.1

**TINUALLY**, adv. I.W.1 [**ti'niwəli.**] An aphetic form of 'continually.'

**TWICKERED OUT**, phr. I.W. Tired, exhausted, done up.

A must be purely twickered out wiv het and doust and drouth and all, GRAY *Ribstone Pippins* (1898) 39; I.W.2 My wold dooman sim prid near twickered out.

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**UNDERGROUND**, adj.2 I.W. Undergrown, short, dumpy.

I.W.1 He's a miseryeabul little underground chap; I.W.2

**VARE**, v. I.W.1 [**veə(r).**] With *out*: to plough the first two furrows of the different lands or ridges of a field. Goo and vare out that ground.

**VARMER**, sb. I.W. [Not known to our correspondents.] A large hawk. (HALL.)

**VENGEVUL**, adj. I.W.1 An aphetic form of 'vengeful.'

**VICE**, sb.4 I.W.1 Also in form **vize**. An aphetic form of 'advice.'

**VIRE-PAN**, sb. I.W.2 A fire-shovel. See **Fire-pan**, s.v. **Fire**, 1 (45).

**VIRE-SPANNE**, sb. I.W.2 A dog given to lying before the fire. See **Fire-spannel**, s.v. **Fire**, 1 (59).

**VLUCKER**, v. I.W.12 [**vlʊ'kə(r).**] To flutter; to fly about.

**YOUR**, v. I.W.1 An aphetic form of 'devour.'

**WINTLE-END**, sb. I.W.1 [**wi'ntl-end.**] The end of a shoemaker's thread.

**WOLD**, adj. I.W.2 In *comb.* **Wold England**, the country, as opposed to London. See **Old**, 1 (33).

Joe Tucker went to Lunnon . . . When a come back . . . a zed, 'Well, it med be all very well vor people that's used to't, but gimme wold England – that's the place that suits me best.'

**WRAPPED**, ppl. adj. I.W. In form **wropped**. [**ro'pt.**] Creased. (J.D.R.), I.W.1

**ZEMMIES**, int. I.W.1 [**ze'miz.**] An exclamation of surprise or rebuke; also in *Comb.* **Zemmies hauw**. Zemmies hauw! what dost do that vor?