論文

Obsolete Words and Meanings in Johnson’s Dictionary

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要旨

ジョンソン英語辞書には多くの使われなくなった語や意味が収録されている。本論文は廃語や廃義に注目し、ジョンソンの辞書観や編集方針を探るものである。その方法として、二つ折り判（1755）から八つ折り判（1756）への縮約に際して、どのような変更がなされているかを一つの指標として見ると。縮約に際してジョンソンはいろいろな項目を切り捨てたが、語彙の面では派生語や合成語を多く削除し廃語はほとんど削除していない。このことは示唆的である。ジョンソンは基本的には廃語を削除するつもりはなかったといえる。この点と深く関連するが、八つ折り判において引用文は削除されているが文筆家の名は掲載されている。これは八つ折り判辞書の性格づけにとって決定的である。この辞書は、シェイクスピアやスペンサーを始めとするイギリスにおける代表的作家の作品を読むことを念頭におき、受信を中心とした利用に供することを目的に編纂されたものだと結論づけられる。同時に、二つ折り判が受信と発信の両者を目的とする総合的な辞書を目指したものだといえる。

キーワード：Johnson’s Dictionary obsolete word lexicography
0. Objectives of This Paper

Johnson’s Dictionary first appeared in two forms: the folio edition, published in 1755, and the octavo edition, published in 1756. Both editions contained a great number of obsolete words. This study analyzed how Johnson reduced the number of obsolete words when compiling the octavo edition from the folio edition, with the goal of clarifying Johnson’s purpose for the dictionary and his intentions when compiling the abstracted octavo edition.

I used the digitalized edition of Johnson’s first folio edition and a printed version of the first octavo edition. Application of the digitalized dictionary made it possible to conduct exhaustive and detailed searches. First, I identified obsolete words and obsolete meanings in the corpus by conducting a search for ‘obsolete,’ and then consulted the octavo edition to determine whether or not these had been eliminated. Johnson included approximately 330 obsolete words and words with obsolete meanings in his folio dictionary. However, a search for ‘obs.’ produced no examples. Also, this was the first time I had conducted solid research by applying usage indicators such as ‘not now in use,’ ‘little in use,’ ‘out of use,’ or ‘antiquated.’

1. Obsolete Words in the Folio and Octavo Editions

The history of English dictionaries reveals that lexicographical ideas or ideals are sometimes reflected in the selection of particular groups of words. This study focused on Johnson’s treatment of obsolete words not only in the folio edition but also as he abstracted it into the octavo edition.

Before examining the issue of obsolete words, it is important to ensure that Johnson himself was responsible for the abstraction from the folio edition. It has been noted that, “The extent to which Johnson was necessarily involved in the process of abridgment is uncertain, and he could have delegated some of the work. But several circumstances point to Johnson having carried out the abridgment himself.”

Clearly, the primary motive for the abstraction of the folio edition was to make it considerably more concise and compact while retaining its utility. This was accomplished by shortening etymology, cutting superfluous words and long quotations, and removing unessential comments and usage notes. This study investigated these processes, but was limited to an analysis of a particular group of obsolete words. In
particular, the study was based on the hypothesis that the materials removed, and the process of removing these materials, may clarify Johnson’s reasons for compiling the octavo edition.

Johnson stated in his Plan of the Dictionary:

Of antiquated or obsolete words, none will be inserted but such as are to be found in authors who wrote since the accession of Elizabeth, from which we date the golden age of our language; and of these many might be omitted, but that the reader may require, with an appearance of reason, that no difficulty should be left unresolved in books which he finds himself invited to read, as confessed and established models of stile. These will be likewise pointed out by some note of exclusion, but not of disgrace.4

When Johnson began making his dictionary, he may have intended to omit all obsolete words with some exceptions, but he must have gradually changed his mind during the process of compilation. In the preface to the folio edition, he wrote, “Obsolete words are admitted, when they are found in authours not obsolete, or when they have any force or beauty that may deserve revival.”5 However, it is very difficult to determine whether or not a word is obsolete. In the preface to his *Compendious Dictionary of the English Language* (1806), Noah Webster wrote:

Many words used in the reign of Elizabeth and James I. and found in authors who are still read, are really obsolete; but as long as the books in which they occur, are in common use, it is proper and even necessary to insert them in common dictionaries. Such of these words as are no longer used in the current language of the present age, are noted as obsolete. In executing this part of my plan, I may have sometimes erred; for it is not easy, nor perhaps possible, to decide in every case, when a word has ceased to be used.6

Johnson included approximately 200 obsolete words and 130 obsolete meanings in the folio edition. Their inclusion appears to be inconsistent because no clear criteria set out the rules for inclusion or exclusion. It is difficult, however, to determine whether Johnson included too many or too few entries of this type.
Ideally, this examination of obsolete words in the folio and octavo editions will reveal whether the following statement is true or not: “If Johnson had educational intentions for his Dictionary, then one might assume that these objectives would likewise be apparent in the abstracted edition of the work, intended not for Johnson’s intellectual peers but for the common reader.”

2. The Elimination of Obsolete Words and Meanings

The obsolete words that were included in the first folio edition (F) but excluded from the octavo edition (O) are listed below. The edition in which a comment appeared is also indicated by F or O, and names in parentheses refer to authors of illustrated passages included in the folio edition.

ABACKE (Spens. Past.), To ACCOURAGE, GOODLYHOOD, To POSSESSION (Carew), RISS (the obsolete preterite of rise. Benj. Johnson), SLIPPER (adj.) (F Obsolete. Perhaps never in use but for poetical convenience.), UNTIL (prep.) (To. Used of time. The other use is obsolete.)

Catherine Dille reported that while approximately 1,200 words were deleted from the folio for the octavo, most of these were derivative and compound words. The fact that as few as seven words were entirely eliminated suggests that Johnson did not specifically plan a dramatic reduction in obsolete words from the folio edition when compiling the octavo edition.

Elimination of obsolete meanings followed a similar trend; only 19 of the obsolete meanings that appeared in the folio edition were deleted when the octavo edition was being compiled. Since none of these meanings appeared in the octavo edition, all names and comments on usage indicated in parentheses were taken from the folio edition. The number after each entry indicates the number of the word’s meaning within the folio edition.

ALL (adv.) 4 (This sense is truly Teutonick, but now obsolete), To AMATE 1 (It is now obsolete.), To BIDE 4 (it being grown somewhat obsolete), CIDER 1 (now wholly obsolete), To CLAW 5 (an obsolete sense), CUSTOMER 2
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(Shakesp.), FEE 6 (Tuss. Husbandry), GENTILE 2 (Tusser), HEREOUT 2 (2. All the words compounded of here and a preposition, except hereafter, are obsolete, or obsolescent), To HIE 2 (2. It wasanciently used with the reciprocal pronoun. It is now almost obsolete in all its uses.), LACK 2 (Lack, whether noun or verb, is now almost obsolete.), LIKELINESS 1, 2 (Mistaken quotations of likelihood under LIKELINESS.), LIKELY 1 (Sidney, Shakesp.), MOTHER 9 (Tusser), To SHEND 4 (It is, though used by Dryden, wholly obsolete.), SIEGE 3 (Spenser), SIEGE 4 (Shakesp.), WEB 2 (Fairt)

The fact that only these 19 obsolete meanings were omitted indicates that as Johnson compiled the octavo edition his intention was not to omit obsolete words and meanings, albeit with a few exceptions, which were mainly derivative words, as such.

One important finding is that the octavo edition rarely omitted obsolete meanings that had been used in works by Shakespeare or Spenser. Thomas Tusser, a less famous writer of the sixteenth century, appears several times among the more distinguished names both in the folio and octavo editions.

3. The Retention of Obsolete Words and Meanings

The obsolete words and meanings that were retained in the octavo edition are listed below: 188 words in total.

To ABUT (O obsolete, No name), To ACLOY (F almost obsolete), ADREAD (Sidney), AFEARD (O Fairy Queen, Ben. Johnson), To AGNIZE (Shakesp.), ALGATES (Fairfax), To APPAY (Milton), To ASTOUND (F This word is now somewhat obsolete. O Milton), ATOMY (Shakesp.), AULD (Shakesp.), BELAMOUR (Spenser), BENEMENT (Spenser), BLENT (F O The obsolete participle of blend. No name), BOMBARD (Knolles), CARK (Sidney), CAROCHEN (No name), To CHAFFER (u.a.) (Spenser), CHALICED (Shakesp.), CHERISHMENT (Spenser), CHIEVANCE (Bacon), To CLEPE (Shakesp.), CONYCATCHER (No name), To CUND (F Dutch origin. O Carew), To DARK (Spenser), DEARNLY (Spenser), To DEFFECT (Brown), DEFENST (Fairfax), DEFLY (F O Properly defily. Spenser.), DEFT (O Obsolete. Shakesp.,
Dryden), DEFTLY (O Obsolete. Shakesp.), To DERÉ (O Obsolete. Spenser), DESPAIRFUL (O Obsolete. Sidney), To DIRKE (Spenser), DISPLEASANCE (Spencer), To DISPODE (Shakesp.), DISTILMENT (Shakesp.), DIT (Shakesp.), To DOFF (Croshaw, Shakesp.), EFTSOONS (F Spenser, Knolles, Gay. O Knolles), EMBERING (Tusser), EME (Spenser), ENAUNTER (O An obsolete word explained by Spenser himself to mean least that.), To ESCHEW (F Sidney, Spenser. O Sidney), EXTRAUGHT (F This is an obsolete participle from extract. O Shakesp.), FAITOURED (Spenser), FALSER (Spenser), FAXED (Camden), FEAR (O A Companion. Obsolete. No name), FEATEOUS (No name), FOEMAN (Spenser), FON (Spenser), FOOLHARDISE (Spenser), FOY (Spenser), FORNE (Spenser), GAFFER (O A word of respect now obsolete.), GEMOTE (No name), To GENTLE (Shakesp.), GENTLESHP (Ascham), To GHOST (Shakesp.), GILT (Shakesp.), GLEED (F A provincial and obsolete word. O No name), GOLL (F Used in contempt, and obsolete. O Spenser), GOODLY (Spenser), GRAMERCY (F O An obsolete expression of surprise. O Shakesp.), GUIDON (No name), HANDFAST (Shakesp.), HARDIHEAD, or HARDIHOOD (O Obsolete. Milton), HAZARDRY (Spenser), To HENCE (Sidney), HENCHMAN (Dryden), HOGH (F Fairy Queen. O No name.), HOULT (Fairfax), To HOUSEL (F Both the noun and verb are obsolete. F O No name.), To JEOPARD (O Bible 2 Mac.), JUMP (adv.) (Shakesp.), KNIGHTLESS (O Obsolete. Spenser), To LIP (O Obsolete. Shakesp.), To LISTEN (v.a.) (Shakesp.), LOPE (O Obsolete. This is retained in Scotland. O pret. of leap. Obsolete. Spenser.), LOREL (Spenser), LOSEL (Tusser’s Tale), To LOUT (Ben. Johnson), To MALICE (Spenser), MANURANCE (F An obsolete word, worthy of revival. O Spenser), To MAR (Dryden), To MELD (Spenser), To MELL (Spenser), MELOCOTON (F Bacon. O No name), MEYNT (O Obsolete. Spenser), MICKLE (Camden), MISPRIDE (Shakesp.), MISProud (Shakesp.), To MISSEEM (Spenser), MOSTWHAT (Hammond), MOTE (Spenser), MOUHGHT (No name), NATHLESS (Spenser), NOIOUS (Spenser), NYS (Spenser), OVERLASHINGLY (F A mean word, now obsolete. O Brerewood), PALLIARDISE (O Obsolete. No name), To PARTICULATE (Camden),
To PASSION (O Obsolete. Shakesp.), To PASSIONATE (Spenser, Shakesp.),
PATCH (O Obsolete. Shakesp.), To PATIENT (Shakesp.), PEREGAL (O Obsolete. Spenser), PERK (Spenser), PLEASUREFUL (O Obsolete. Abbot),
POLLenger (Tusser), To POND (Spenser), PORTGRAVE, or PORTGREVE (O Obsolete. No name), QUOOK (O Obsolete. Spenser), READ (Sternhold, Spenser), To REAVE (Carew), To REBUT (Spenser), REEVE (Dryden), To REGUERDON (Shakesp.), To RELENT (v.a.) (Spenser), To REMERCIE (Spenser), To RESIEGE (Spenser), RETRAICT (O Obsolete. Bacon, Shakesp.), RICHED (O Obsolete. Shakesp.), To RUINATE (Shakesp., Bacon), RUINATION (Camden), SIMPLESS (Spenser), SITH (Hooker), To SKINK (F Both noun and verb are wholly obsolete), SNEAKUP (Shakesp.),
To SOLACE (F The neutral sense is obsolete. O Shakesp.), SOMEDEAL (Spenser), SOOTH (s.) (Shakesp.), SPIAL (Fairfax), SPLEENLESS (Chapman),
SPRENT (Sidney), SPRONG (O Obsolete. Hooker), STAFFISH (Ascham),
STOMACHOUS (Spenser), STOUR (O Obsolete. Spenser), STRAKE (O The obsolete preterite of strike. Spenser.), SUFFISANCE (Spenser),
SUILLAGE (Wotton), SUPPORTANCE, or SUPPORTATION (F Both these words are obsolete.), To SURCEASE (Spenser), SURQUENDRY (Spenser, Donne), SUSPECT (Sidney, Suckling), To SWINK (Spenser),
SWINK (Spenser), TABRERE (Spenser), THILK (O Obsolete. Spenser),
TOFORE (Shakesp.), To TOOT (Spenser), TOPPINGLY (Tusser), TORT (Fairfax), To TRANSMEW (Spenser), TREEN (O old plur. of tree, Benj. Johnson), To TRUNK (Spenser), UNKEMPt (Spenser), UNKENT (O Obsolete. Spenser), UNNETH, or UNNETHES (Spenser), UNTO (O It was the old word for to; now obsolete. Hooker, Brown, Temple), To VOICE (v.n.) (Bacon), URE (Hooker), WAREFULNESS (O Obsolete. Sidney), WARRE (Spenser), To WAYMENT (Spenser), WEAL (Spenser), WEBSTER (O Obsolete. Camden), To WEEN (O Spenser, Shakesp., Milton), To WEET (O Spenser, Prior), WIGHT (Davies, Milton, Addison), To WIS (Ascham),
WISENESS (Spenser), WITCRAFT (Camden), WITHOUTEN (Spenser),
WOFT (O The obsolete participle passive from To WAFT. Shakesp.),
WOMANHOOD, or WOMANHEAD (O Spenser, Donne), WON (O Obsolete. Spenser), WOOD (a.) (Tusser), To WOT (O Hooker, Shakesp.),
WOX, or WOXE (O Obsolete. Spenser), WOXEN (O Spenser), To YEAD, or YEDE (Spenser), YOLD (O Obsolete. Spenser), YOUNGTH (Spenser), YOUTHLY (Spenser)

The most striking difference between Johnson’s octavo edition and other octavo dictionaries, including Bailey’s dictionary first published in 1721, is its insertion of an author’s name accompanying each sense of an entry word, even though illustrative passages by authors have been deleted from the text. Johnson explains this practice in the preface to the octavo edition.

To the words, and to the different senses of each word, are subjoined from the large dictionary the names of those writers by whom they have been used; so that the reader who knows the different periods of the language, and the time of its authors, may judge of the elegance or prevalence of any word, or meaning of a word; and without recurring to other books, may know what are antiquated, what are unusual, and what are recommended by the best authority.9

Interestingly, the label of ‘obsolete’ accompanies almost all these words in the folio edition, but accompanies only 36 of the 188 words in the octavo edition. Johnson must have had some criteria or rule for including the designation in the octavo edition. However, the basis for this action is not clear to me.

Finally, the 112 obsolete meanings that appear in the octavo edition are listed below. The number after each entry indicates the number of the word’s meaning within the folio edition.

AFFECTIONED 1 (Shakesp.), ARCH 4 (Shakesp.), ATTAIN’T 1 (Shakesp.), AWFUL 2 (Shakesp.), To BETAKE 1 (O Spenser, Meaning F 3 is eliminated.), To BLEND 4 (Spenser), To BOLSTER 4 (F somewhat coarse and obsolete, O South), BURDEN 3 (Shakesp.), COACTIVE 2 (O Shakesp.), CONSIGN 2 (Shakesp.), To CONVENCE 4 (Shakesp.), COUNTY 3 (F Shakesp. & Davies. O Davies), To CUP 1 (Shakesp.), DECLARATION 2 (No name), DEFESANCE 4 (O Spenser), DELL 1 (O Spenser, Tickell), DERN 2 (No name), To DESCRY
1 (F This sense is now obsolete. O No name), DISLOYAL 2 (Shakesp.), DISLOYAL 4 (No name), DISLOYALTY 2 (Shakesp.), DISPOSE 3 (Shakesp.), DISPOSE 4 (Shakesp.), DREAMINGMENT 2 (Spenser), ENDURANCE 3 (O Shakesp. Meaning F2 is deleted.), To ENHANCE 1 (Spenser), ENTAIL 3 (Spenser), To ENTAIL 3 (Spenser), To ENTERPRISE 2 (Spenser), ENTERTAINMENT 6 (Davies), FAVOURABLE 5 (Spenser), FAY 2 (Spenser), To FEIGN (v.a.) 4 (Spenser), FLUENCY 3 (Sandys), To FLUSH (v.n.) 4 (Spenser), To FORBID (v.a.) 4 (Shakesp.), To FOREDO 1 (Shakesp.), FORFEIT 2 (Shakesp.), GALLIARD 2 (F Shakesp., Bacon. O Bacon), GENTLENESS 3 (Shakesp.), GENTRY 3 (Shakesp.), GOVERNANCE 3 (O Obsolete. No name), GOVERNMENT 6 (Spenser), To GRAPPLE 1 (Shakesp.), GRATEFULNESS 1 (Herbert), HIGHT 2 (F 2. It is now obsolete, except in burlesque.), JET 3 (O Obsolete. Tusser), To IMBRUE 2 (O Obsolete. Spenser.), IMPROBABLY 2 (O Obsolete. Boyle), INCONTINENT 2 (Shakesp.), INCONTINUENCY 2 (O An obsolete sense. Spenser.), To INQUIRE (v.a) 2 (O Obsolete. Spenser), To INSTATE 2 (O Obsolete. Shakesp.), To INTEND 1 (O Obsolete. Spenser), KNAVE 1, 2 (O Both these are obsolete. Sidney), To LAY (v.a.) 58 (Knolles), LEWD 1 (Davies), To LIKE (v.n.) 1 (Hooker), MAJOR 2 (No name), MAJORITY 5 (Shakesp.), MAN 6 (Shakesp.), MEASURE 10 (Shakesp.), MEDIOCRITY 2 (Hooker), MOUNT 3 (Bacon), NAPKIN 2 (O Obsolete. Shakesp.), To OWE 4 (Shakesp.), PAIN 4 (Waller), PARTAKE (v.a.) 2 (Spenser), To PASS 9 (v.n.) (O Obsolete. Shakesp.), PENDANT 3 (O Obsolete. Digby), To POST (v.a.) 4 (Shakesp.), PREGNANT 4 (Shakesp.), PREGNANT 6 (Shakesp.), PREST 2 (F Tusser's Husbandry. O No name), PROMOTER 2 (Tusser), QUAIN 2 (O Obsolete. Chaucer), RECOUSE 1 (Shekesp.), To REDUCE 1 (Shakesp.), RESPECTIVE 4 (Hooker), RESPECTIVELY 3 (O Obsolete. Hooker), To REVERSE (v.a) 7 (Spenser), RIGHT 3 (Ben. Johnson), ROTE 1 (Spenser), RUFF 3 (Chapman), To SALVE 4 (Spenser), To SAUCE 2 (Shakesp.), SAY 4 (O Obsolete. No name), SERVITOR 1 (Davies), To SHAPE 4 (Palm), SPIRIT 13 (F A French word, happily growing obsolete. O Dryden), To SQUARE (v.n.) 2 (Shakesp.), To STARVE (v.n.) 1 (Fairfax), STATE 13 (Latymer), STEAD 1 (Spenser), To STEAD 1 (F A word somewhat obsolete.
O Sidney, Rowe), To STEAD 2 (Shakesp.), To STREAK 2 (Chapman), SUCCESS 2 (Spenser), SUIT 5 (Sidney), TARTAR 1 (F A word used by the old poets, now obsolete. O Shakesp.), To TOLL 3 (Bacon), TRUSS 3 (No name), UNWARY 2 (Spenser), USAGE 3 (Spenser), WARRANT 4 (Shakesp.), To WEND 1 (F This word is now obsolete, but its preterite went, is still in use. O Arbuthnot), WHEREAS 2 (Shakesp.), WHITHER 4 (Ben. Johnson), WHOLESOME 3 (Psalms), WIERY 3 (Shakesp.), WISEACRE 1 (O Obsolete. No name), WORLD 13 (O Obsolete. Knolles)

The above lists reveal several interesting findings. Firstly, the octavo edition includes the names of authors, but not the names of works, after the interpretation. For example, the folio edition includes *Fairy Queen*, while in the octavo edition this is replaced by the author Spenser; similarly, the folio edition includes *Brown’s Vulgar Erroors*, which becomes Brown in the octavo edition. Johnson made these changes not only to save space but also because he considered it sufficient to cite only the names of authors (with which not all readers would be familiar).

Secondly, under the headword of the entry To MAR in the folio edition, Johnson included some quotations from several authors, including Spenser, Ascham, Shakespeare, Faint, Daniel, Bacon, Davies, Milton, Waller, and Dryden; in the octavo edition, he only included Dryden. In addition, under the headword of the entry SERVITGOR in the folio edition, Johnson included some quotations from Davies, Hooker, and Shakespeare; in the octavo edition, however, he only included Davies. Much more significant is the fact that Shakespeare and Spenser authored almost all the quotations listed above. These facts indicate that Johnson intended to compile the octavo edition for readers who read the works of Shakespeare and Spenser, or that he expected common readers to read these works.

Thirdly, the octavo edition rarely contains the label or note of ‘obsolete’ especially in the first half of the dictionary, with some exceptions such as DISPAIRFUL and DEFTLY. Apart from To ABUT, the first appearance of an obsolete word in the octavo edition is the entry of DEFT; the first appearance of an obsolete meaning is in the entry of GOVERNANCE. This finding may indicate that Johnson changed his original plan of deleting all the labels or notes of ‘obsolete’, or that a person other than Johnson worked on this abstraction.
4. Conclusions

This study was not intended simply to identify obsolete words or meanings in the folio and octavo editions, but to understand Johnson's intentions as he compiled the octavo. It has revealed three clear findings.

1) When compiling the octavo edition, Johnson appeared to have no intention of drastically eliminating obsolete words or meanings from the folio edition. This assumption is supported by my previous study, which revealed that changes in the word-list from the folio to the octavo were largely due to the omission of derivative and compound words.

2) All the obsolete words were collected from literary works of the best writers, particularly from the seventeenth century. The very small number of words eliminated from the folio edition suggests that Johnson never intended to reduce the number of the words. Therefore, even the abstracted octavo edition could enable common readers to read English literature written by the best authors.

3) The above analysis of the four lists of words clarifies one of Johnson's intentions when compiling the octavo edition: he compiled it for readers who read the works of the best writers such as Shakespeare and Spenser, some parts of which might be difficult for the common reader to understand.

From the outset of his dictionary project, Johnson clearly understood that a significant proportion of the literate populace would not only find the folio edition too expensive to purchase but also too voluminous for daily use. He also appears to have had some understanding of the various uses of a dictionary. One such general application is that made by “the greater number of readers, who, seldom intending to write or presuming to judge, turn over books only to amuse their leisure, and to gain degrees of knowledge suitable to lower characters, or necessary to the common business of life.” According to modern lexicography, the latter could be termed a receptive use, while the former is a productive use. However, when compiling the folio edition, Johnson must have had in mind an idea of comprehensive (receptive and productive) use, an application that would have been limited to certain intellectual peers.
Notes


2. The word ‘antiquated’ appears about 20 times in the text of the folio edition on CD-ROM. The expression ‘not (not) in use’ appears about 320 times; ‘out of use’ appears about 115 times, and ‘little in use’ appears about 30 times. For a discussion of a variety of diagnostic words in the folio edition, see Geoff Barnbrook, ‘Johnson the prescriptivist? The case for the prosecution,’ in *Anniversary Essays on Johnson’s Dictionary* (Cambridge University Press, 2005, pp. 92–112).


4. In the 64th paragraph of *The Plan of a Dictionary of the English Language* (London, 1747).

5. In the 37th paragraph in the preface to Johnson’s *Dictionary of the English Language*. Another reference to obsolete words appears in the 88th paragraph, “As politeness increases, some expressions will be considered as too gross and vulgar for the delicate, others as too formal and ceremonious for the gay and airy; new phrases are therefore adopted, which must, for the same reasons, be in time dismissed. Swift, in his petty treatise on the English language, allows that new words must sometimes be introduced, but proposes that none should be suffered to become obsolete. But what makes a word obsolete, more than general agreement to forbear it? and how shall it be continued, when it conveys an offensive idea, or recalled again into the mouths of mankind, when it has once by disuse become unfamiliar by disuse, and by unfamiliarity displeasing.”


8. “Johnson had silently trimmed his word list for the abstracted edition by over 1,200 entries, representing about 3 percent of the lexicon of the folio edition.” (*Ibid.*, p. 204)

9. This is one of seven advantages of the octavo edition, as addressed in the preface, which can be supposed to be written not by Johnson himself but by a bookseller.

10. “Among the deleted words, a noticeable proportion had been designated “obsolete,” “not now in use,” or “little in use” in the folio *Dictionary*, or were only included on the authority of earlier dictionaries, like Bailey’s and Phillip’s *New World of Words*, but most frequently merely attributed to “Dict.” These together account for approximately 15 percent of the deleted words and suggest that Johnson thought that words suitable for contemporary use were more appropriate for a popular dictionary.” (Dille 2005, p. 205)

11. ‘Johnson’s Abstracted Dictionary in the History of English Lexicography,’ *Literary Symposium,*

12. In the preface to Johnson’s *Dictionary of the English Language … Abstracted from the Folio Edition* (1756).