ON COLLOCATED WORDS IN CHAUCER’S TRANSLATION OF “LE LIVRE DE MELLIBEE ET PRUDENCE”

——A STYLISTIC COMPARISON OF THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION WITH THE FRENCH VERSION——

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INTRODUCTORY

In Le mou de Chaucer a Bukton Chaucer translated the Latin passage of Scripture “Quid est veritas?” (John, xviii, 38) into “what is trouthe or sothfastnesse” (Buk 2). Here he used two different English words to translate a word in the Latin. Will Héraucourt in his stimulating article has successfully analysed the meanings of “trouthe” and “sothfastnesse” in this passage, and explained the reason why Chaucer felt the need of rendering this scriptural passage into the two words. Subsequently he has examined in more detail Chaucer’s use of hendiadys (Das Hendiadyoin) in his translations and in his original works, and come to the conclusion that collocated words (hendiadys in his term) are not all, even in the translations, purely interpretative or explanatory, but are often used for emphasis of moral or ethical conceptions. Among the examples he has collected from the translation of Boethius’s De Consolatione Philosophiae, there are phrases like “strengthe and vygour” and “verray and soth”, which represent

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4 Héraucourt’s examination of moral or ethical values in Chaucer’s philosophy, as revealed in word-associations, has been expanded in a systematic and comprehensive manner in his voluminous and instructive book: Die Wertwelt Chaucers: Die Wertwelt einer Zeitwende (Heidelberg, 1939).
single Latin words "vigor" and "veram". On close investigation, however, it can be easily recognized that there is no evidence that he has assumed any connections with the French versions or originals. Due consideration of the French would have suggested some modifications to his conclusions. A comparison of the English with the French version, probably unknown to W. Héraucourt, will reveal that, in the examples cited by him, Chaucer's text shows resemblance to the French version. Examples from Boece may illustrate this:

(i) lecherie and covetise overthoweth hem mystorned (IV pr 2. 176)
   *Latin: libido; French: lecherie et convoitise*

(ii) what othe thing semeth hele of corages but bounte and prowess? (IV pr 6. 212–3)
   *Latin: probitas; French: bonté et proce

The Tale of Melibee (or Melibeus), one of the two prose tales in the Canterbury collection, is Chaucer's close translation of the French Livre de Melibe et de Dame Prudence, which was written sometime after 1336 by Renaud de Louens, a Dominican friar at Poligny. In the prose translation of this tale, Chaucer relies solely on the French original, while Chaucer's double reliance upon Latin and French is exemplified in Boece, his translation of Boethius's De Consolatione Philosophiae. The present essay emanates from my conviction that materials collected and conclusions reached through research into Chaucer's translation exclusively from French will contribute to a more confirmative analysis of the language of his translation of a document extant in both Latin

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1 i) withinne is ihidd the strengthe and the vygour of men (IV m 3. 40)
   *Latin: hominum uigor.

   ii) thilke sentence of Plato is verray and sotth (IV pr 2. 258)
   *Latin: veramque illam Platonis esse sententiam.


4 Renaud's version is a free adaptation rather than a strict rendering of a Latin work of the thirteenth century, the Liber Consolationis et Consilli by Albertanus of Brescia, an Italian jurist.
and French: *Boece*. Among Chaucer's verbal devices used in the *Melibee* as well as in *Boece* none is more conspicuous than the lavish use of collocated words or collocation of synonymous words. Too little attention has been paid to Chaucer's distinctive employment of collocated words from the viewpoint of comparison with the vocabulary and style of the French versions. This essay aims at a closer examination of these collocated phrases than has been as yet attempted: it is based on a comparison in vocabulary and style between the English and the French version. Without listing all the instances collected from the *Melibee*, some striking examples of various types will be taken and examined in an attempt to elucidate the quality of Chaucer's use of collocated words, especially in the case of his translations.

I

A Romance word first introduced by Chaucer into English or a less common Romance loanword is glossed by a native English word or a more familiar Romance word in collocation.

(1) the whiche thre things ye be nat anientissa or destroyed hem (2438)

*French: ne les as pas abaisses en toy (455)*

In example (1) "anientissa" from Old French is used exclusively in the *Melibee*; "abaiss" appears once in the French text. Note should be here taken of the earliest instance given by the *MED* (s.v. "anientishen" v. 1. (a)), which is quoted from John Wycliffe:

Feith is *anentyschid* [L exinanita] or destroyed (*W* Bible (x) Rom. 4. 14)

The *Melibee* has five instances of "destroien", four of which are borrowed from "destruire" in Old French. Of special interest is the use of this verb in *Boece* which provides 13 instances. The following instances render even more remarkable the extent of the dependence

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1 One of the most substantial contributions to this field has been made by Professor Erwin W. Geissman in his doctoral dissertation: "The Style and Technique of Chaucer's Translations from French". (Yale University, 1952).


3 The one exception occurs in line 2941.
of the translator on the French version:

(i) They ne destroyen ne desseyyved nat hemself with outrage (II m 5, 3-4)
   *Latin: perditia; French: ne se destruiestrent pas
(ii) the debonayre force of God dispose hem as it was worthy (that is to sey, destroyde the geauntes, as it was worthy) (III pr 12. 135-6)
    *Latin: disposuit; French: les ordena et les destruir

(2) al be it that cursedly and damnably we han agilt agayn youre heigh lordshipe (3016)

In example (2) no equivalent is to be found in Old French for this collocation; this passage is added by Chaucer. The adverb “damnably” from “dampnable” of Romance descent is first introduced by him. This word used twice appears only in this collocation.1 “Cursedly”2 is not familiar to him, though of Anglo-Saxon origin; the MED cites the earliest instance from the Monk’s Tale 3419 (MED, s.v. “cursedly” adv. (a)). This collocation may well be one of Chaucer’s own creations.

II

In the Middle Ages the collocating of synonyms in pairs seems to have been a form of stylistic embellishment used widely by Latin and French authors.3 Renaud’s version also contains not a few collocated words, many of which are borrowed or translated into the English.

(1) man have no cause ne matiere to repreven hym that deffendeth hym of excesse and outrage (2726)
   *French: celui qui se deffent d’exces ne d’outrage (806-7)
(2) unto the sovereyn Juge that vengeith alle vileynyes and wronges (2648)
   *French: Juge qui venge toutes les villenies et injures (710-1)
(3) they shul venge the vileynyes and injuries (2659)
   *French: les villenies et les injures ne soient vengees (724-5)

In example (1) the English “excesse” used four times, is taken over

1 The other is cited from the Parson’s Tale 604. The MED provides “damnably” with two different senses: (i) Malibee: in a manner deserving condemnation; (ii) ParsT: in a manner deserving or incurring damnation or punishment.
2 This adverb is used in all three times by Chaucer.
from French "excés" which occurs four times in Renaud's text; 11 instances of "outrage" used in the Melibée are translated from Old French "outrage" with the single exception of one occurrence in the added gloss. In example (2) attention should be paid to the employment of "wrong" of Germanic origin for Old French "injure". This familiar word in the Melibée has various kinds of collocation. More important is the fact that the Melibée has 18 instances of "wrong", 17 of which are translated from the French word "injure". In example (3), as can be easily recognized, the Middle English phrase is a literal translation of "villenies et injures", which is also a French equivalent for "vileynyes and wronges" quoted in example (2). In this collocation "injure" seems to be less familiar to the translator; it is introduced into English in his Troilus and Criseyde (III 1018). Noticeable is the occurrence of this word in the Melibée; it is usually used in combination with "vileynye" or "wrong", and these collocated phrases are confined solely to this prose.

Scrutiny of Chaucer's policy of selection of the English equivalents for the Old French "injure", it may be remarked, will reveal the secret of his ways of forming collocated words such as "injurie and wrong" and "wrong and vileynye". The French word "injure" used 23 times by Renaud is translated into the following English words and phrases: (i) "injurie" (once); (ii) "wronge" (14 times); (iii) "vileynye" (twice); (iv) "werkyenge" from "faire l'injure" (once); (v) "injurie and wronge" (three times); (vi) "wrong and vileynye" (once) and (vii) "trespas and vileynye" (once).

III

In this connection it should be pointed out that there are many cases in which the French text contains collocated words which have been simplified or suppressed by Chaucer in his translation.

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1 Some examples may illustrate this: (i) wrong and vileynye (2548) *French: injure (586); (ii) injurie and wrong (3001) *French: injury (1112); (iii) wrong and wikkednesse (2213) *French: injure et malefic (96-7); (iv) wrong or harm doynge (2772) *French: dommage (864).

2 The total number of occurrence of this word throughout his works is five.

3 The Melibée has 15 instances of "vileynye".
(1) now wol I teche yow which conseil ye oghte to eschewe (2362)
*French: lequel conseil tu doiz fuir et eschever (338)

(2) of which folk ye shul folwe the conseil (2390)
*French: lequel tu doiz eschever et fuir (385)

(3) for ells were it agayn reson (2726)
*French: car autrement ce seroit contre droit et raison (807)

In example (1) the Middle English verb "eschewen" which was introduced into English by John Wycliffe in 1384,¹ is used 15 times in Chaucer's Melibee; and in 11 cases this verb is translated from "fuir" (6 times), "eschiver" (3 times) and their collocated phrase "fuir et eschever" (twice) in Old French. In example (2) the translation of "folwen" of Anglo-Saxon origin from the French collocated phrase "eschever et fuir" seems to be Chaucer's bold experimentation towards the realization of his own style.² In comparison with this kind of special cases, of course, we should note Chaucer's usual trick of translating a word by a pair of synonyms, which may be exemplified in the following correspondence between English and French:

therfore sholde a man flee and eschew werre (2860)³
*French: l'on doit fuir guerre (960)

Based on our analysis of materials collected from the Old French and Middle English texts it may be concluded that the occurrence of "eschewe and fleen" in the Melibee is ascribed to the existence of the French phrase "eschever et fuir" (or "fuir et eschever") and that Chaucer's condensation of the French collocated phrase into one English word ("eschewe" or "folwe") is probably due to his recognition of the Old French collocation as a pair of synonyms or a kind of received clichés. His ways of rendering French "fuir" into English equiva-

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¹ Cf. the MED, s.v. "escheuen" v. 2a. (a).
² See the other collocations of "folwen": (i) folwe and sewe (2692) *French: ensuivre (763); (ii) seke and folwe (2883) *French: quier et pourchace (988). However, the sanction for the reading "folwe" is explained by J. Burke Severs in his note to the French text on the basis of probable confusion between "suir" and "fuir" in Chaucer's manuscript. (Cf. Sources and Analogues of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, p. 582 n.)
³ This collocation is also used by John Lydgate: þei fled and eschewid his swerde (The Serpent of Division, 51). Quoted from Margaret Schlauch, "Stylistic Attributes of John Lydgate's Prose", To Honor Roman Jacobson: Essays on the Occasion of His Seventieth Birthday, III (The Hague, 1967), p. 1759.)
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lents here will be of primary importance for the confirmation of my conclusion.¹

In example (3) the single occurrence of the French collocation “droit et raison” in Renaud’s text is of particular significance in revealing the secret of the correspondence of the two French words with the English “resoun.” The translator’s selection for each French word calls for adequate consideration here. The French noun “droit” used 14 times is translated into the following English words and phrases: (i) “lawe” (four times); (a) from “droit” (twice), (b) from “ordre de droit” (once), (c) from “rigle de droit” (once); (ii) “right” (four times); (iii) “resoun” from “droit et raison” (once); (iv) “right and resoun” (once); (v) “right and lawe” (once); (vi) “rightfully” from “selon droit” (once); and (vii) one free translation. Specimens are given to show the interrelation between the English and the French version:

(i) the vengeance that is done after the lawe (2646)²
*French: la vengeance qui se fait selon l’ordre de droit (707)
(ii) The juge that dredeith to do right, maketh men schrewes (2629)
*French: Le juge qui doubté faire les droiz (686)
(iii) I sette cas ye myghte enjoyne hem that payne by right and by lawe (3041)
*French: engendrer tele painne selon droit (1152)³

Here note should be taken of the non-occurrence of rendering French “droit” into one English word “resoun” exclusive of its combination with “right.” The French “raison” used 32 times is for the most part transferred literally into “resoun” in English.⁴ From this analysis it may be inferred that the French collocated phrase “droit et resoun” is synonymous with a single word “droit”, at least in Renaud’s version. For the French collocation Chaucer should have had

¹ The French verb “fuir” used 18 times in Renaud’s version is translated into the following English words and phrases: (i) “fleyn” (7 times); (ii) “eschuen”; (a) from “fuir” (6 times), (b) from “fuir et eschever” (twice); (iii) “fleyn and eschuen” (once); (iv) “fleyn” from “eschever et fuir” (once); (v) no equivalent in Middle English (once). The Melibee has 8 instances of “fleyn”, all of which are translated from “fuir”. The French verb “eschever” occurs 6 times in all.
² See the following instance: the lawe seith (2731) *French: la rigle de droit dit (814–5).
³ See the following instance: French: selon droit (609) *Chaucer: by right and resoun (2569).
⁴ The total occurrence of this noun for the French “raison” numbers 21.
"lawe", or "right and resoun", or "right and lawe" in the Melibee. This is one of his careless though not erroneous translations.¹

IV

In his prose translations Chaucer sometimes adds a sentence, phrase, or word for which there is no precedent in the Latin or French texts. Chaucer’s additions to his originals "do not, strictly speaking, constitute additions of content, but are primarily concerned with expression".² The most characteristic kind of addition to the Melibee is the formal gloss introduced by a superfluous "this (or that) is to seyn" in order to explain an already translated word or passage:

(1) For the lawe seith that ‘ther maketh no man himselfen riche, if he do harm to another wight.’ / This is to seyn, that nature deffendeth and forbedeth by right that no man make hymself riche unto the harm of another persone (2773-4)
*French: Car la loy dit que nulz ne se face riches au dommage d’autruy (864-5)

The collocated phrase “deffenden and forbeden” in the added gloss echoes an expression in the translated passage. The following is an example of this:

(2) by a strenger resoun he deffendeth and forbedeth a man to yeven hymself to his enemy (2948)³
*French: par plus fort raison il deffent que l’on ne la donne pas a son ennemi (1058)

The nature or quality of the glosses can be explained by the translator’s instinctive habit of singling out his favorite collocated phrases for the French equivalents.

¹ Chaucer’s usual masterly skill in rendition of Romance words is displayed by his treatment of “lawe” or “resoun” in Boece:
(i) there ne be had no resoun or lawe of correccioun (IV pr 4. 92) *Latin: ratio correctionis; French: raison de chastiement
(ii) the ryghtes or the lawes of the heye thondrere (IV m 6. 2) *Latin: iura; French: les droiturez
² E. W. Geissman, op. cit., p. 67.
³ Boece affords a close parallel of much interest: every beest traveileth hym to defende and kepe the savacion of his lif (III pr 11. 87-8) *Latin: tueri; French: defendre. This is apparently correlated to the following passage in the Melibee: I may my persone and myn hous so kepen and deffenden that (2524) *French: je ne puisse garder et defendre (554).
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(3) ye shul venge yow after the ordre of right, that is to seyn, by the lawe, and nought by excesse ne by outrage (2719)
*French: vous vous devez venger selon l’ordre de droit (797)

In example (3) the English “after the ordre of right” is a starkly accurate and literal transference from the French on the part of the translator. Nevertheless, it is glossed by “by the lawe” here. His employment of the gloss is properly interpreted by Prof. Geissman to the effect that Chaucer makes the sense more concrete than is intended in the French.1 It may be added however that his argument will be reinforced by scrutiny of the verbal correspondence between “lawe” and “ordre de droit” evidenced in the English and French texts:

(4) the vengeance that is doon after the lawe and biforn the juge ne liketh yow nat (2646)
*French: la vengence qui se fait selon l’ordre de droit et devant le juge ne te plait (707)

In the Melibee “after (or by) the lawe” is a close synonym of “after the ordre of right”, though they cannot be actually coupled with each other anywhere in Chaucer’s works.

V

The collocated words are, for the most part, formed by adding an English word to the foreign one. The creation of word parallelism of this kind is not difficult for Chaucer: all he has to do is to transfer the French word and then add the equivalent English. The following example is the most typical:

(1) sweete wordes multiplien and encreescen freendes, and maken shrewes to be debonaire and meeke (2930)
*French: et fait debonnaire les ennemis (1038)

All instances of Middle English “debonaire” taken directly from Old French “debonnaire”2 occur in conjunction with “meeke”3 of

1 Cf. E. W. Geissman, op. cit., p. 74.
2 Renaud’s version has three instances of “debonnaire”.
3 In the Melibee Chaucer uses “meeke” exclusively in this combination. Two more instances are found: (i) he is debonaire and meeke, large, curteys (2950) *French: il est debonnaires, larges, et courtois (1060); (ii) he is debonaire and meeke (3051) *French: il est debonnaire (1160).
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Germanic origin. This collocation is, it may be noted, restricted exclusively to the *Melibee.* Boece has six instances of "debonaire", all of which are borrowed from the French. His ways of selecting this adjective from the two Romance sources can be seen in the following examples cited from the three texts:

(i) the *debonere* wynd (I m. 5. 22)
   *Latin: mites; French: li debonnairez vens
(ii) to *debonayre* folk (III m. 9. 47)
   *Latin: piis; French: aus debonnaeres et aus piteus
(iii) the *debonayre* force of God (III pr 12. 135)
   *Latin: benigna fortitude; French: la debonnaire force
(iv) pytous and *debonayre* (IV pr 4. 264)
   *Latin: miserantibusque; French: debonnairez et piteus

In the Boethius translation Chaucer seems to avoid use of the collocated phrases, three instances of which do exist in the French. Full of suggestions to us in example (iii) is his choice of "debonaire" from the French, not from the Latin which has "benigna", as an immediate source. Chaucer has missed his chance for the formation of two possible collocations "benigne and debonnaire" and "meke and benygne", both of which are favoured by John Lydgate.

(2) for no richesse ye shullen do no thyng which may in any manere displese God, that is youre *creatur and makere* (2817)
   *French: chose qui desplaise a Dieu ton creatour* (909)

The following two passages from the *Melibee* are helpful in explaining the process of creation of the word parallelism "creatur and makere" instanced in example (2):

(i) hym ne wanteth somewhat of the perfeccioun of God, that is his makere (2270)
   *French: a la perfection de son creatour* (208)

1 This Chaucerian phrase is adopted by John Lydgate: His entryng was *meek and debonaire* (Fall of Princes, 3. 1065. Quoted from the MED).
2 The French "aus debonnaeres et" is added by the translator.
3 But he forms an adverbial collocation: they weren right glad and joyful, and answere-den ful *mekely and benignely* (Mel 2993) *French: respondirent benignement* (1105).
4 (i) Yiff that God, *benigne and debonaire, With his yerde off castigacioun Chastise you* (Fall of Princes, 1. 841. Quoted from the MED).
   (ii) They...cam at his bidding In goodly wyse, *meke and ful benygne* (Siege of Thebes, 1655. Quoted from the MED).
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(ii) thou art dronken, and hast forgeten Jhesu Crist thy creatour (2602)
*French: as oublie Dieu ton creatour (650)

This collocation is confined solely to the *Melibee.¹

We proceed next to consider an unusual type of collocation which is contained in the following passage:

(3) when the defense is doon anon withouten intervale or withouten tariyng or delay (2723)
*French: la deffense se fait incontinent senz intervalle (804)

The available evidence to be cited indicates that this complicated phrase is a kind of triplet and composed of three components: “withouten intervale”, “withouten tariyng” and “withouten delay”.² Chaucer is a first creator and introducer of the phrase “withouten intervale”, which occurs once only throughout his works. “Withouten tariyng” created in Chaucer’s period³ is employed five times in his works. The noun “delay” makes its first appearance in English in the form of “withouten delai”.⁴ In this connection it may be added that “delay”, used four times in this prose, occurs solely in this phrase.

VI

Many and various types of collocated phrases are at Chaucer’s disposal, especially in the case of the *Melibee. In a fair percentage of instances he uses collocated expressions made up of two words which are of Anglo-Saxon, or Germanic, origin. The following example will serve as illustration:

¹ The French text has three instances of “creatour”.
² Each component can be exemplified in the following passages: (i) withouten tariyngge (Sec NT 187); withoute tariyng (Rom 803) *French: Senz demorance e senz arest; (ii) withouten delay or tariyng (Mel 2974) *French: incontinent (1089); withouten delay or tariyng (Mel 2989) *French: incontinent (1102); (iii) withouten delay (Mel 2995) *French: senz dilation (1107) [see Wycliffe’s translation from Latin: withoute ony delay [L sine ulla dilatione] (W’Bible (i) Deeds 25. 17. Quoted from the MED)]; withouten delay (Rom 4656) *French: senz point de demeure. Citations from the French source of the Romanunt of the Rose follow Ernest Langlois’s edition: Le Roman de la Rose par Guillaume de Lorris et Jean de Meun, 5 vols. (Paris, 1914–24).
³ The earliest instance given by the OED: 1340–70. Alex. & Dind. 818: Wip-o-vte tariyng tide his tipingus come.
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The phrase "hool and sound" is favoured by Middle English authors. Chaucer uses it four times outside the Melibee. Most illuminating here is his use of this phrase twice in the Boethius translation:

(i) thou, myghty of welefulnesse, hool and sound, ne se eftsones thi contre (III pr 12, 51)²
*Latin: sospes; French: tu revoies sains et haitiez ton pais

(ii) thow,..., shalt mowen retourne hool and sound into thi contree (IV pr 1, 69)
*Latin: sospes; French: tu,..., retourneras sains et haitiez a ton paiz

The English phrase instanced in Boece is apparently a close rendering of the French "sains et haitiez", which seems to have become a cliché in Old French.⁴ Chaucer's choice of words in the Melibee is based on the vernacular tradition.⁵

Not infrequently, in making some collocated phrases Chaucer makes felicitous use of French conventional phrases. The following three passages will be of particular significance because they reveal one of the most notable contributions of Chaucer to the English poetic style:

(2) right so men sholde wreken hir wronges whil that they been fresshe and newe (2226)
*French: comme elle est fresche (121)

(i) The water is evere fesh and newe (:chewe) (Rom 1560)
*French: L'ève est toz jorz fresche e novele (1530)
(ii) Ful fressb and newe hir geer apiked was (Gen Prol 365)

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¹ One more example of the same type is added: I shal restoore yow youre doghter hool and sound (2300) *French: je te rendray ta fille toute sainne (255).
² The others occur in MLT 1150 and LGW F 2468.
³ The Latin original has two instances of "sospes".
⁵ One example from Caxton is useful: whiles that thou arte bole & sounde, in good plyghte and ioyouse *French: sain (Enyedos, 155. 5. Citations follow W. T. Cully & F. J. Furnivall (eds.), Caxton's Enyedos 1490 (EETS, E. S. 57) (London, 1962)).
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The phrase introduced by the poet into English seems to have poetic associations, and it is a stylistic device useful in engendering conventional rural familiarity especially in the description of the five gildsmen in the General Prologue. This phrase is confined to the Canterbury Tales and the Romaunt of the Rose which has five instances. Its frequent occurrence in the English translation may be attributed to the source Chaucer was using. In the Melibee the phrase is translated from one French word “fresche” which occurs once in Renaud’s text. The English “fresshe” appears once and that in this phrase, while all instances of “newe” of Anglo-Saxon origin are rendered from French “nouvelle.”

CONCLUDING REMARK

The above research has been concerned to examine some characteristic features of the collocated words employed by Chaucer in the Tale of Melibee in comparison with the French version. His excessive use of this expression is the most striking of stylistic traits in the prose translation. It is now clear that in many cases, as we have seen, linguistic characteristics and peculiarities in the vocabulary and style of the French source are reflected in his translation. With serious consideration for this fact, our stylistic, sometimes semantic, analysis of Chaucer’s collocated phrases in the Melibee has been made principally based on a close examination of individual occurrences of words and phrases in Renaud’s version of Old French. In this connection it

1 The others occur in ShipT 1499 and PardT 928.
2 Two more examples from the English Romaunt are:
   (i) Ther sprang the vyolet al newe, And fresib pervynke, riche of hewe (1431-2)
   *French: E parvenche fresche e novele
   (ii) Ne lette therfore to dryne clare, Or pyment makid fresh and newe (:brewe) (6027)
   *French: Que piment en laissiez a beivre
3 Of interest is Caxton’s practice of rendering one French word by two English collocated words:
   she maketh to be brought to her certayne herbes, fresbe and newe mowen & taken by nyght
   *French: nouvelles (Enesdus, 88. 27).
4 Boece has none; the Romaunt of the Rose has 32 instances, only four of which are translated from French “fresche”.
5 Boece has six instances of “newe”, all of which are translated from Latin “novus” and French “nouvelle”.

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should be noted that his practice of this stylistic device even in the translation must be discussed in relation to the original works, and at the same time in terms of the vernacular poetic tradition of lyric and romance, which is one of the two main poetic and artistic resources of Chaucer the poet.