

SUMMARY

1. Objective and Contents of This Dissertation

Samuel Johnson published the folio edition of *A Dictionary of the English Language* in 1755 [henceforth "the folio"] and its abstracted edition in 1756 [henceforth "the abstract"]. In this dissertation, the folio and the abstract are regarded as a set of two dictionaries with which Johnson contributed to 18th century England.

With regard to the target users, it was found that the target users of the folio were those who intended to write themselves and that the target users of the abstract were those who seldom intended to write but who turned over books only to amuse their leisure, etc. Under that interpretation of the target users, this dissertation conducted contrastive research of the folio and the abstract in order to answer the following research questions:

(1) Research question No. 1:

In terms of "an active dictionary" versus "a passive dictionary," which type of dictionary did Johnson intend the folio and the abstract to be, respectively?

(2) Research question No. 2:

Did Johnson conduct the abridgment of the folio by himself in compiling the abstract all the way from the outset to the end of the abridgment work?

2. Chapter 2: Contrastive Analysis of the Headwords and the Reduction Strategies of Pages

In this chapter, a contrastive analysis between the folio and the abstract was made on (a) the substitution of an author's name for an author's work after each definition, (b) the deleted headwords, and (c) the reduction strategies of pages.

As a result of investigating the descriptions after each definition, it was found that in the folio, the name of the author or the author's work is shown after a quotation and that in the abstract, only the name of the author is shown without a quotation.

As a result of investigating the deleted headwords, it was found that the deleted headwords from the folio accounted for only 5.2%. That result implies Johnson's intention of retaining as many headwords as possible in the abstract so that the users of the abstract can refer to the abstract for difficult words in reading.

The reduction strategies of pages to make the abstract handy and inexpensive

were also investigated. It was found that the strategies were taken as to (a) the abstraction of definitions, etymologies or parts of speech, and (b) the deletion of usage information, variant spellings, and the labels for obsolete words or subject labels.

The results of the investigations in this chapter lead to the envisioning of the folio as an active dictionary as well as a passive dictionary and that of the abstract as a passive dictionary.

3. Chapter 3: Contrastive Analysis of Quoted Works and Authors

In this chapter, in order to see if there is any difference in the principle of incorporating authors between the folio and the abstract, two kinds of investigation were conducted: one did not take into account the period of time in which each author lived and the other took into account the period of time in which each author lived and the golden age of the English language.

As a result of the investigation without regard to the period of time, it was found that the authors incorporated in the folio could be categorized into three groups: authors of high frequency, those of medium frequency, and those of low frequency. It was also found that authors of high frequency in the folio were incorporated frequently in the abstract as well. That result implies that Johnson thought that the target users of the abstract needed to know the meanings of the words used by authors of high frequency.

As a result of the investigation with regard to the period of time, it was found that Johnson was inclined to value the authors who belonged to the golden age of the English language, but that he also incorporated the quotations from the authors after the golden age, if those authors' works satisfied Johnson's literary preference.

4. Chapter 4: Contrastive Analysis of Collocations and Phrasal Verbs

In this chapter, an investigation was conducted as to the treatment of verb-preposition collocations, adjective-preposition collocations, and phrasal verbs in the folio and in the abstract.

The results of the investigation showed that despite the fact that the correct usage of prepositions was a matter of interest in 18th century England, verb-/ adjective-preposition collocations and phrasal verbs were rarely observed in the folio. However, it was found that when verb-/ adjective- preposition collocations and phrasal verbs were described in the folio, some consistent principles of the abridgment of the folio were observed. As for verb-/ adjective- preposition collocations, the information in the folio

regarding which preposition comes after the verb or the adjective is mostly deleted in the abstract. On the other hand, as for phrasal verbs, the information about which particle comes after the verb is mostly retained in the abstract.

The results of the investigation in this chapter strengthen the presumption that Johnson intended the folio as an active dictionary as well as a passive dictionary and that he intended the abstract only as a passive dictionary. That presumption is supported by the fact that the folio has not only the meanings of words but also usage notes on the proper prepositions to be used with verbs and adjectives in the case of collocations, whereas the abstract has only the meanings of words without notes on the proper usage of prepositions.

The presumption is also supported by another fact that the information about the proper particle in the phrasal verb is mostly retained in the abstract. The meaning of the phrasal verb cannot be understood without the information about the particle to be used with the verb, and therefore it can be thought that Johnson retained the information in the abstract so that the user of the abstract could understand the meaning of the phrasal verb with the aid of the abstract.

5. Chapter 5: Phonetic Descriptions of the Letters of the Alphabet

In this chapter, an investigation was made as to the description of the pronunciation for each letter of the alphabet in order to clarify the features of the descriptions. An analysis was also made as to the way of abridging the description of the pronunciation in the folio.

The result of the investigation has revealed that in the folio there are some features commonly observed among the phonetic descriptions of letters, specifically (a) treating each letter as a phonics symbol, (b) comparing English pronunciations with those of other languages, (c) paying attention to the original pronunciations of the Saxon language and to the influence from Latin and French, (d) paying attention to mute sounds, and (e) paying attention to the length of vowels. It has also been revealed that some technical words related to phonetics are used with different meanings from those of English phonetics of today.

The result of the investigation has also revealed that in compiling the abstract, Johnson tried to cut space by deleting such phonetic information from the folio as (a) additional illustrative words, (b) etymological information, (c) reference to the sounds of other languages, and (d) parts of which Johnson was uncertain.

On the other hand, it has also been found that the core information about the

pronunciation of each letter of the alphabet was retained in the abstract. That implies that Johnson had the intention of showing the correct pronunciation of each letter to the common readers.

6. Chapter 6: Johnson's Participation in the Compilation of the Abstract

In this chapter, an investigation was conducted to analyze how much Johnson actually engaged himself in the compilation of the abstract.

The contrastive research between the folio and the abstract was conducted in terms of (a) the rate of the deletion of headwords, (b) the number of deleted headwords by letter and category, (c) the number of authors for each definition, and (d) the label of *Dic.* for a definition source.

The result of the research has revealed inconsistencies in the method of abridgment among the letters, and it has led me to the "four-compiler hypothesis" that a team of four compilers, including Johnson, carried out the abridgment concurrently.

7. Conclusion of This Dissertation

Through the contrastive researches in this dissertation, the following answers have been found for the research questions:

As for the research question No.1, it has been found that Johnson published the folio as an active dictionary as well as a passive dictionary for the sake of the intellectuals who not only read but also wrote themselves, whereas he published the abstract as a passive dictionary for the sake of the common readers who only read but seldom wrote themselves. For that reason, Johnson incorporated into the folio such information as is necessary for the production of sentences. On the other hand, most of the headwords of the folio were not deleted so that the common readers could read with the aid of the abstract.

As for the research question No.2, inconsistency was observed in abridgment work among the letters of the alphabet and it can be presumed that the abridgment was conducted by four compilers including Johnson. Thus, the "four-compiler hypothesis" concerning the abstract was presented in this dissertation.