1966

A History of Six Spanish Verbs Meaning 'To Take, Seize, Grasp'.

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ING "TO TAKE, SEIZE, GRASP."**

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1966

A HISTORY OF SIX SPANISH VERBS MEANING
"TO TAKE, SEIZE, GRASP"

A Dissertation

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the
Louisiana State University and
Agricultural and Mechanical College
in partial fulfillment of the
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Doctor of Philosophy

in

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Bobby Ray Glover
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ABSTRACT

This dissertation is an effort to satisfy a need in Romance Linguistics--to write a history of a word or words in a particular language. In the case of this work, the history involves six Spanish verbs linked semantically. To record the history of these words, the writer has done essentially what an historian of any kind might do; that is, draw directly from the records of the makers of history, in this case authors and their products which use the words; draw from other historians who have studied the matter at hand to varying degrees, in this case compilers of word-lists, lexicons, dictionaries, journalistic articles, etc. and draw from the writer's own resources to study, interpret, edit and compile so that the end result is a true history, involving many people, events and things.

These six verbs, coger, prender, tomar, agarrar, apañar and asir, all mean now or meant at one time in the course of the Spanish language, "to take, seize, grasp." Even so, they did not evolve from a common source nor follow the same path through the ages. Herein, then, the several theories of the etymologies of the verbs are presented and the preferred etymon, in each case, is defended

or a different proposal is expounded. Rather fine semantic lines are drawn between the various uses of the several verbs during their employment in the literature of the Middle Ages. After this literary period, attention is paid to lexicons of importance up to the present time in regard to their entries for each word. The definitions supplied by these dictionaries are supported by citations from major Spanish authors, in most instances, of the several literary periods. Following this chronological treatment, the derivatives of each verb are listed and defined.

After the specific data have been presented in each chapter--one for each verb--general conclusions concerning the semantic behavior have been drawn.

Throughout, the Major Verbs--coger, prender, tomar--, which form the core of this semantic group, receive more attention than the other three, herein referred to as the Minor Verbs.

INTRODUCTION

The great scholar of the Spanish language and literature, don Ramón Menéndez Pidal, closed a paragraph in which he was discussing the verb fillar with these words: "Sería muy provechosa una monografía sobre la complicada historia de prender, tomar, coger, fillar, agarrar, apañar, etc."¹ This dissertation is an effort toward filling the lacuna mentioned by Menéndez Pidal.² The writer does not entertain the notion that he has done all that can be done in this direction, for to study thoroughly the entire history of a word through the course of a voluminous literature extending over nine or ten centuries is an exhausting--perhaps prohibitive--task. Yet one can lay the foundation of such a history, and this foundation can be built upon. In order to do this task one must know what is meant by the history of a word. It involves, most certainly in the cases of these six verbs, a study of the pure etymology of the word; that is, a history of the phonological development. And it involves a study of the semantics of the

¹Ramón Menéndez Pidal, Orígenes del español, 4th ed. (Madrid: Espasa-Calpe, 1956), p. 391. Hereafter cited as Orígenes.

²Fillar is not included in this thesis since it was found to be undesirable for this type of study.

word. Always the two areas, etymology and semantics, are knotted at the very birth of the word into the particular language. After the word has fixed its form, perhaps even before, the meanings it conveys begin to increase or decrease, so that the road that the word-historian travels becomes wider or more narrow. Often the way grows so wide and has so many semantic conjunctions, crossroads, etc. that the traveler is lost. At times, the road narrows until it is no more. Such are the cases with the six verbs treated herein. They all, at some time if not at all times, have meant "to take, seize, grasp." Coger, prender, and tomar receive the fullest treatment because they very early in the Spanish language assumed the meanings in discussion and became increasingly popular in the vocabulary of the people. It is true that these three verbs often have very specialized uses and it is also true that some of the ideas one of them expresses overlap the use of one of the others. But they grew and form the nucleus of the idea of "to take, seize, grasp" in Spanish. Hence, these three verbs demand more attention than agarrar, apañar, and asir, which verbs did not wax as strong and enduring as the others.

In trying to trace the history of each of these verbs, then, the writer has discussed the main theories concerning the etymology of each, choosing one theory as the most tenable or proposing another. The first documentation of the verb in Spanish is cited and the various

uses of the verb in Medieval Spanish literature have been categorized and documented according to meaning. This epoch of Spanish literature receives the fullest treatment herein, especially in the case of the three main verbs. After the Middle Ages more attention is paid to the treatment given the verbs by lexicographers. The increase or decrease in usage is noted up to the present and representative authors are chosen from different eras to exemplify the uses mentioned in the dictionaries. It is the intention of the writer that the reader, after studying each chapter, should get a succinct yet complete and emphatic picture of the history of each of these verbs in the Spanish language. After presenting each word separately, the writer will endeavor to draw pertinent conclusions that are likely to be needful.

It should be stated again that, for practical purposes, these six verbs have been divided into two groups: the Major Verbs group, comprising coger, prender and tomar and the Minor Verbs group, comprising agarrar, apañar and asir. The histories of the Major Verbs are of necessity presented with more detail and scrutiny; those of the Minor Verbs are presented adequately in a more concise and succinct manner.

CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX OF SOURCES

Not included in this list are those works cited from secondary sources.

Menéndez Pidal, Orígenes (9th - 11th centuries)
Oelschläger (900-1220)
Memorias de la Santa Iglesia (11th - 13th centuries)
Cid (1140)
Fuero de Avilés (1155)
Fuero de Madrid (1202)
Cortes de León y Castilla (1202 - 17th centuries)
Fuero de Guadalajara (1219)
Berceo (1220-1250)
Fuero Juzgo (1241)
Libro de Alexandre (1250)
Calila e Dymna (1251)
Poema del conde Fernán González (third quarter of 13th century)
Las Partidas (1256-1263)
Primera crónica general (ca. 1270-1290)
General estoria (ca. 1284)
Gran conquista de Ultramar (ca. 1300)
Juan Ruiz (1330-1343)
Juan Manuel (†ca. 1349)
Proverbios morales (middle 14th century)
Arte cisoria (1407)
Nebrija (1493)
Amadís (before 1500)
Pedro de Alcalá (1505)
Fernández de Oviedo (1526)
Diana enamorada (1564)

Cristóbal de las Casas (1570)
Percivale (1591)
Juan de Timoneda (16th century)
César Oudin (1607)
Covarrubias (1611)
Cervantes (†1616)
Franciosini (1620)
Diccionario de autoridades (1726-1739)
Sobrino (1791)
Moratín (†1828)
Salvá (1846)
Academy (1852)
Cuervo, Ap. (1872)
Bretón de los Herreros (†1873)
Cuervo, Dicc. (1886, 1893)
Zero lo (1895)
Academy (1899)
Pagés (1901)
Academy (1925)
Academy, Dicc. his. (1933)
Academy (1947)
Academy (1956)

CHAPTER I

COGER

The authorities who have studied the etymology of coger all agree that its source is the Latin COLLIGERE--CUM or COM plus LEGERE--"to collect, gather together, assemble." The Academy Dictionary in its first edition gave Latin COGERE for the etymon of coger in its first meaning there: "Allegar, y juntar en uno lo que está esparcido, y dividido. Viene del Latino COGERE."¹ For the other meanings of the verb in this same edition, COLLIGERE was listed as the source. And in following editions COGER (CUM + AGERE) was abandoned completely in favor of COLLIGERE for all meanings, since it was then clear that COGERE had nothing to do with the origin of coger. To arrive at coger from the Latin verb COLLIGERE, there was first *COLLIERE wherein the Latin -g- had disappeared, according to Menéndez Pidal "fri(g)idu ant. frido, mod. frío; dīgītu dedo; magistru maestro; sīgīllu, ant. seello, moderno sello; . . ."² Then LLY > LY and

¹Real Academia Española, Diccionario de la lengua castellana, 1st ed. (Madrid: F. del Hierro, 1726-39), II, 397.

²Ramón Menéndez Pidal, Manual de gramática histórica española, 8th ed. (Madrid: Espasa-Calpe, 1949), p. 133.

LY se palatiza en la j prepalatal antigua. La articulación de los dos canales linguales, uno lateral alveolar y otro central dorsal prepalatal, se simplifica reduciéndolos a uno solo . . . en castellano prevalece lo palatal y central de la y, contribuyendo la l sólo a estrechar el canal hasta producir la ž o j antigua . . . He aquí ejemplos castellanos: muliere mujer (arag. mullé, leonés muyer), cilla ceja, consiliu consejo, *similiat semeja . . . cõllī(g)o cojo, coger . . ."³

The final e fell later, "La E final se pierde siempre tras T, D, N, L, R, S, C (2); esta pérdida es muy tardía . . ."⁴ leaving coger, coyer and cojer.

The verb coger was first used in the Fuero de Palenzuela of the year 1074: "Si habuerit fructum de pane aut bino por coxere, non det ad palatium nada, nisi del ganado."⁵ This passage is listed by Oelschläger⁶ and Cuervo as the first documentation of coger. However, Oelschläger modernized the spelling partially by using the -g- instead of the -x-, but he kept the final -e-. In examples of usage cited by both Oelschläger and Cuervo, other variants of the Castilian infinitive appear. Cuervo quotes from the Libro de chantre in which cullir (COLLIGERE > *COLLIERE > *COLLIRE > cullir, a Leonese or Aragonese

³Ibid., pp. 152-153. ⁴Ibid., p. 80.

⁵Rufino José Cuervo, Diccionario de construcción y régimen de la lengua castellana (Bogotá: Instituto Caro y Cuervo, 1953), II, 185. Hereafter cited as Cuervo.

⁶Victor R. B. Oelschläger, A Medieval Spanish Word-List (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1940), p. 44.

form⁷) is found:

El dicho sacristan presenta cullidor al señor bispe et capital de Taragona, por cullir las decimas, el cual jura en poder del dicho señor bispe et capital bien et realment facer la dicha cullidor.⁸

Oelschläger lists coller (COLLIGERE > *COLLIERE > coller) as appearing in the Fuero de Avilés.⁹ Adding cogere to these we see four variations of the same infinitive. There were doubtless other spellings of the infinitive, but the scope of this work is not such as to pretend to exhaust all possibilities. Nor are variants found in infinitive form alone. Berceo used the present indicative cojedes (COLLIGITES > *colliedes > cojedes) in his Duelo de la Virgen:

En la natura sancta que del padre avedes,
Vos siempre sodes vivo, ca morir non podedes,
Mas en esta pobreza que vos de mi trahedes,
Famne, sede e muerte vos ende lo cojedes.¹⁰

⁷"LY se palataliza en la j prepalatal antigua . . . La articulación de los canales linguales . . . se simplifica reduciéndoles a uno solo; en aragonés y leonés antiguo prevalece lo dorsal prepalatal de la y y lo lateral de la l, resultando la dorsal prepalatal lateral ll . . ." Ramón Menéndez Pidal, Manual de gramática histórica española, p. 152.

⁸Cuervo, II, 183. The work itself was not obtainable for reference.

⁹"Et si uezino auezino fiadadura negar. colla del fiadador. adoble. acabo. que si pot arancar piuditio." Aureliano Fernández-Guerra y Orbe, El Fuero de Avilés. Discurso leído en junta pública de la Real Academia Española, para solemnizar el aniversario de su fundación (Madrid: Imprenta Nacional, 1865), p. 93. cf. also note 7.

¹⁰Gonzalo de Berceo, Duelo de la Virgen, ed. Florencio Janer (In Biblioteca de Autores Españoles, Vol. LVII. Madrid: Hernando, 1925), p. 135, Stanza 124. Hereafter cited as BAE.

The present subjunctive lent itself, seemingly, to more variation than did the same tense in the indicative.

Illustrative of such are: coiat¹¹ (COLLIGAT > *COLLIAT > *coliat > coiat), coygalo¹² (COLLIGAT > *COLLIGA > *coliga > coiga, coyga), coian¹³ (COLLIGANT > *colliant > *colian > coian), colligant,¹⁴ cuelgan¹⁵ (COLLIGANT > *collgant >

¹¹ Antonio Cavanilles, Memoria sobre el Fuero de Madrid, del año 1202, apéndice (In Memorias de la Academia de la Historia, Vol. VIII. Madrid: Real Academia de la Historia, 1796-1909), p. 32. Hereafter cited as Fuero de Madrid.

¹² "E al mudar de los platos, linpie con vn paño los manteles antel Rey, sy en ellos de la vianda o del pan alguna cosa auiere caydo, o coysgalo con el cuchillo ancho e pongalo en la nao o beçin en que el Rey lançca los huesos . . ." Enrique de Villena, Arte cisoria, ed. Felipe-Benicio Navarro (Madrid: Murillo, 1878), p. 40. The "s" in coysgalo is a scribal error.

¹³ "Mas vale que nos los vezcamos, que ellos coian el (p)an." Ramón Menéndez Pidal, Cantar de mio Cid, texto, gramática y vocabulario (Madrid: Espasa-Calpe, 1944-46), III, 959, Line 1691 b. Hereafter cited as Cantar de mio Cid.

¹⁴ "Toto homine que fugierit cum calumpnia de corre, los fiadores quod fuerint in loportiello, ipsos colligant suas calumpnias quod fecerint illos quod fugierint, per la iura quod habent facta . . ." Fuero de Madrid, p. 32.

¹⁵ ". . . et aquel que se non manifestat una vez en no anno al so Preste, aunque diga que se manifestó a otro, no reciba así como de suso es dicho, se lo non dexar par mandado de so Preste mientras fur vivo, et si así estovier, non lo cuelgan en la Eglesia, et a la muerte non sea soterrado." Manuel Risco, Memorias de la Santa Iglesia esenta de León, concernientes a los cinco últimos siglos, con un copioso apéndice de concilios, escrituras, y otros documentos muy útiles para la historia particular de esta ciudad y su iglesia, y para la general del reyno (In España Sagrada, Vol. XXXVI. Madrid: Blas Roman, 1787), p. 249. Hereafter referred to as Memorias de la Santa Iglesia.

*colgan > cuelgan. The orthographic change is due to analogy with colgar.), coga¹⁶ (The development is the same as for coiat except i [ž] is represented orthographically here by g and the final t has fallen.), and coja.¹⁷ In the preterite, the following variants are found: cogiron¹⁸ (COLLEGERUNT > *collieerunt > *cojiron. This -iron is often found in the preterite for -ieron.), coieron¹⁹ (developed as above), coio²⁰ (COLLEGIT > *collgivit > *colliívit > *colliív(i)t > *colliút > *collió > coió by analogy with AUDIVIT > *audíut > *audiót > oyó.) The future of the indicative is expressed by codremos²¹ (coger + emos > codremos by analogy with tener + emos >

¹⁶"Ningund ome por casa ni por vinna ni por moral ni por peral de un anno arriba non responda nin coga otor." Fuero de Guadalajara, ed. Hayward Keniston (In Elliott Monographs in the Romance Languages and Literatures, Vol. XVI. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1924), p. 7. Hereafter referred to as the Fuero de Guadalajara.

¹⁷"Qui cavallo perdiere yendo en apellido, coja de vezino un ochava de mencal." Ibid., XVI, 6.

¹⁸"Los griegos con Achilles fueron luego guaridos,/ Cogiron coraçones e fueron mas ardidos . . ." El libro de Alexandre (BAE, LVII, 165).

¹⁹"Tanto avyan de gran goso, que creer non lo quisieron,/ Dieron-se a correr quanto reço pudieron,/ Antes que llegasen al conde conosçieron,/ Allegaron-se a él, en los braços le coieron." Poema del conde Fernán González (BAE, LVII, 410).

²⁰"Martín Antolínez con ellos coio." Cantar de mío Cid, III, 918, Line 293.

²¹"Alla yaçen alzados, do bien los trobaremos,/ Nin nos serán negados, doblados los codremos." Gonzalo de Berceo, Loores de Nuestra Sennora (BAE, LVII, 92, Stanza 69).

tendremos, salir + emos > saldremos) and coger . . . an.²²
Cogie²³ (COLLIGEBAT > *colliē > cogīe, the -ie being a frequent variant of -ia) and cogien²⁴ (the third person plural which developed in the same manner as the singular above) are expected and regular examples of the imperfect tense. And the imperative singular, cógi²⁵ (COLLIGE > *colliē > cógi) is used by Berceo.

The Classical Latin COLLIGERE had as its primary meaning "Proprie usurpatur . . . de rebus,--quae, cum passim dispersae sint, in unum locum rediguntur."²⁶ As an example: "Colligere praesegmina (Plaut. Aulul. 2. 4. 34)."²⁷ The same main significance extended: "Item de fluidis et similibus. Cic. 2 Nat. D. 39. 101. Aer--concretus in nubes cogitur, humoremque colligens terram auget imbribus."²⁸ This idea of gathering together is

²²"Pressos serán los angeles, angeles infernales,/ Con candelas ardientes e con fuertes dogales/ Coger los an delante con azotes mortales,/ Ihu Xpo nos guarde tales serviçiales." Ibid., p. 102, Stanza 36.

²³"El luchador ageno esta uertur auie,/ Quanto mas lidiaua maor forçia cogie, . . ." "Anon." El libro de Alexandre (BAE, LVII, 183, Stanza 1149).

²⁴"Todos cogien esfuerçio solo quel fablaua." Ibid., p. 163, Stanza 524.

²⁵"Madre, cógi esfuerço, non quieras dessarrar . . ." Gonzalo de Berceo, Duelo de la Virgen (BAE, LVII, 134, Stanza 89).

²⁶Lexicon Totius Latinitatis, I, 685. ²⁷Ibid.

²⁸Ibid.

continued "item de fructibus, pecunia etc. Horat. 1. Ep. 12. 1. Colligere fructus."²⁹ and "Horat. 1. Ep. 10. 47. pecuniam."³⁰ Likewise, of the clothing the verb was used in Classical Latin, "Item de iis, quae distenduntur et in unum cogi possunt, cujusmodi sunt vestimenta. Martial. 7. 33. Colligere togam."³¹ As a synonym of "tollere" COLLIGERE was used for ". . . rebus, quae nobis e manibus excidunt . . . Plin. 2. Ep. 1 Liber seni elapsus est: quem dum consequitur colligitque, cecidit coxamque fregit."³² Finally, concerning "things" COLLIGERE was used to mean "to bring together" "Ovid. 2. Met. 398. Colligere equos."³³ The verb's use was not restricted, in that it also was applied to a person or persons, "De personis, quaeplures in unum coguntur et congregantur. Varro apud Gell. 13. 11. Belli homunculi collecti. h. e. ad convivium."³⁴ And "De singulis personis colligere occurrit apud Poetas, et significat contrahere, in arctum cogere. Virg. 12. Aen. 491. Substitit Aeneas et se collegit in arma."³⁵ In similar manner, COLLIGERE was used for things "non materialibus" such as writings, orations, narrations, etc. as their grouping or being gathered together.³⁶

The Castilian coger came into the Spanish lexicon

²⁹Ibid. ³⁰Ibid. ³¹Ibid. ³²Ibid. ³³Ibid.
³⁴Ibid. ³⁵Ibid. ³⁶Ibid., I, 685-686.

with the following meanings. In the Libro de chantre (Cf. note 8, p. 8) cullir most definitely means "to bring together" the loose monies into one receptacle, that being the "cullidor." The use of cojedes by Berceo³⁷ is of the same significance; i.e., that of bringing together "Famne, sede, e muerte," these each being separate items that will be collected or brought together. In similar manner, the meaning of coysgalo in the Arte cisoria³⁸ is very clear in its exhortation to gather together in one place the various items mentioned. Coian as used by the author of the Cid retains its Latin meaning in the particular instance cited³⁹--that, "to harvest." The use of coger in regard to people transfers also from Latin usage to Spanish. This is evident in the quotations above from the Memorias de Leon⁴⁰ in which the treatment is that of a person being received individually into a group, "la Iglesia;" from the Cantar de mio Cid⁴¹ wherein Martín Antolínez aligns himself with "them," and that they "take him in" is understood here; from the Loores de Nuestra Sennora where Berceo speaks of the angels as being caught up "pressos;"⁴² and in the Poema del conde Fernán González⁴³

³⁷Cf. note 10, p. 8. ³⁸Cf. note 12, p. 9.

³⁹Cf. note 13, p. 9. ⁴⁰Cf. note 15, p. 9.

⁴¹Cf. note 20, p. 10. ⁴²Cf. note 22, p. 11.

⁴³Cf. note 19, p. 10.

where again a person is caught up in the arms of others, drawn to them, brought together the two or many. Examples of things "non materialibus" may be gleaned from the Middle Ages also; i.e., "ipsos colligant suas calumpnias;"⁴⁴ "Cuanto mas lidiaua maor forçia cogie;"⁴⁵ and "cógi es-fuerzo."⁴⁶ In sum, each of these uses (and indeed all cited thus far) are directly traceable to the Latin verb COLLIGERE. So it can be seen that such a Latin verb engendered coger in form and meaning in the Middle Ages.

What follows now will be other instances of the employment of the verb coger. No effort will be made herein to associate it, in any of its forms, with the Latin verb COLLIGERE, already proven to be its parent. It will, however, be essayed to show the Castilian verb as it appeared in some of the best-known works of the Middle Age period. Of course, basic and inherent in all these meanings is the idea of "taking, seizing, grasping." From a study of the principal glossaries, vocabularies, word-lists, etc. of the outstanding writings and writers of the Middle Ages, one can see that coger takes on six distinct aspects of meaning. These will be discussed now in groups, equating them with their English counterparts.

⁴⁴Cf. note 14, p. 9. ⁴⁵Cf. note 23, p. 11.

⁴⁶Cf. note 25, p. 11.

I. TO STRIKE

"Venides, Martín Antolínez, el mio fidel vasallo!
 Aun vea el día que de mí ayades algo!"
 --"Vengo, Campeador, con todo buen recabdo:
 vos seysçientos e yo treynta he ganados.
 Mandad coger la tienda e vayamos privado,
 en San Pero de Cardeña í nos cante el gallo;
 veremos vuestra mugier, menbrada fija dalgo.⁴⁷

It is clear that Martín Antolínez is saying above, "Have the tents struck and let us go quickly." The entire action is that of moving on to San Pero de Cardeña to see the Cid's wife. Then following almost immediately upon the lines above are:

Estas palabras dichas, la tienda es cogida.
 Mio Çid e sus conpañas cavalgan tan aína.⁴⁸

Herein, the action of taking in the tent is completed, coger is used for the same, and the company moves on.

Mandaron cargar las azémilas con averes a nombre,
 cogida han la tienda de albergaron de noch,⁴⁹

The "Infantes" and their company have lodged for the night and, the sun having risen, the tents have been folded at their place of lodging and they move on. The idea expressed by the words is clearly that which has just been stated. From these examples, then, it can surely be stated that coger meant "to take in," especially in the sense of striking a tent.

⁴⁷Cantar de mío Cid, III, 1033, Lines 204-210.

⁴⁸Ibid., Lines 213-214.

⁴⁹Ibid., III, 1127, Lines 2705-2706.

Desque hobo la dueña vencido la hacienda
 Movi6 todo el real, mand6 coger su tienda;
 andando por el mundo mand6 facer emienda
 Los unos a los otros, non se paga de contienda.⁵⁰

The first two lines of the stanza translate into English as:

As soon as the lady had conquered the business
 and personal affairs,
 She moved all the camp, she commanded the tent
 be struck.

It is quite clear from the Spanish that, since the army headquarters were to be moved, the tents had to be taken in and that this is what "coger su tienda" means.

II. TO GATHER, COLLECT, TAKE IN.

An example of the use of coger with the meaning of gathering the harvest is, "meto: coier (T1978), i.e., 'coger la cosecha.'"⁵¹ Herein the Toledo Glossary shows meto used where coier would have been employed, and Professor Castro has explained the meaning further by using "la cosecha" in conjunction with coger. This phrase can mean nothing but that which is most obvious.

Furtábales las mieses al tiempo del segar,
 Non les podría el falso peor guerra buscar:
 Si por su auze mala lo pudiessen tomar,
 Por aver, monedado non podría escapar.
 Desamparó la tierra, que temíe malprender,
 Pasó allen la sierra a agosto coger,

⁵⁰ Juan Ruiz, Libro de buen amor, ed. Alfonso Reyes (Madrid: Saturnino Calleja, 1926), p. 164, Stanza 1173.

⁵¹ Américo Castro, Glosarios latino-españoles de la Edad Media (Madrid: Hernando, 1936), p. 249. The matter of cosecha will be more fully discussed later.

El su menester malo non lo quiso perder,
Prisiéronle segando, queriéndlo esponder.⁵²

Here the author is telling of a man who steals the fruits of the labors of others. He did not want to give up his evil habit so he "Passó allen la sierra a agosto coger;" that is, "he went beyond the mountains to gather harvest (of others)" in another land. Continuing in the same vein:

. . . et como quier que era físico, era sábio é filósofo, et dió al rey de India una petition que decia que él fallara en las escripturas de los filósofos que en tierra de India había unos montes en que había tantas de yerbas é de muchas maneras, et si conocidas fuesen é cogidas, é confacionadas, sacarian dellas melecinas con que resucitaria los muertos.⁵³

The phrase "et si conocidas fuesen é cogidas," is clearly translatable to English as "and if they (yerbas) were known and gathered," which is one other use of the past participle of coger in this same meaning.

Quien la priesa senbró
Cojó arrepentimiento.⁵⁴

Sem Tob is saying here, "Whoever sowed haste, reaped regret." Now coger is used here to mean "to gather, collect" as one gathers the harvest, collects the grain, etc.

⁵²Gonzalo de Berceo, Vida de Sancto Domingo de Silos y Vida de Sancta Oria, Virgen (Buenos Aires: Espasa-Calpe, Argentina, 1943), p. 58, Stanzas 420-421. Prender and prisiéronle will be treated later.

⁵³Abdallah Ben Al-Mocaffa, Calila é Dymna (BAE, LVI, 13).

⁵⁴Sem Tob, Proverbios Morales del Rabbi don Sem Tob (BAE, LVII, 358, Stanza 438).

and is easily expressed by the English verb "to reap." It is quite clear in the above that the verbal picture is one of sowing and gathering. While in English the verb "to reap" means both cutting and gathering, the heavier of the two is the gathering, since cut grain is hardly considered harvested until it is "taken in."

III. TO COLLECT TAXES.

"toloneus: do cogen el derecho del rey."⁵⁵ Here coger means "to receive the fees of the kind" since teloneum meant "oficina de contribuciones." Naturally, it might be rendered in English with the verb "to take" as might many if not most of the appearances of coger, but to make the distinction necessary "to receive, accept," even "to take, collect," is clearer.

IV. TO RECEIVE, ADMIT.

Mio Cid Roy Díaz, el que en buena çinxo espada,
posó en la glera quando nol coge nadi en casa;
derredor dél una buena compañía.⁵⁶

In these lines the reader can readily see that coger means "to receive" in the aspect of taking in and giving asylum-- "He camps on the sandy bank when no one receives him in his house." Earlier, as the young girl was speaking to the Cid, she used coger:

⁵⁵Américo Castro, p. 301.

⁵⁶Cantar de mio Cid, III, 1027, Lines 58-60.

Non vos osariemos abrir nin coger por nada;
 si non, perderiemos los averes e las casas,
 e aun demás los ojos de las caras.⁵⁷

This is, of course, the same use of coger as in the previous quotation, "to receive."

"Oíd a mí, Álbar Fáñez e todos los cavalleros!
 En este castiello gran aver avemos preso;
 los moros yazen muertos, de bivos pocos veo.
 Los moros e las moras vender non los podremos,
 que los descabeçemos nada non ganaremos;
 cojámoslos de dentro, ca el señorío tenemos;
 posaremos en sus casas e dellos nos serviremos."⁵⁸

"Cojámoslos de dentro" easily translates into English as "let us receive them within," "let us admit (accept) them inside (among us)."

Los de mio Cid firiendo en alcaz,
 el rey Fáriz en Terrer se fo entrar,
 e a Galve nol cogieron allá;⁵⁹

The last line gives English "and they did not receive (admit, accept) Galve there."

Quando ovo del bispo la liçcençia ganada,
 Issio de Taragona la bendiçion tomada,
 Metiose en carrera la persona onrada,
 Veno pora Berçeo a sue propria posada.
 Quando fue en Berçeo el lazrado varon,
 Nol podie conoçer la su generaçion,
 A los unos plazie e a los otros non;
 Pero la clereçia cogiolo en raçion.⁶⁰

As explained by Lanchetas the above quote, "cogerlo en

⁵⁷Ibid., III, 1027, Lines 44-46.

⁵⁸Ibid., III, 1049, Lines 616-622.

⁵⁹Ibid., III, 1055, Lines 772-774.

⁶⁰Gonzalo de Berceo, Vida de San Millán (BAE, LVII, 68, Stanzas 93-94).

ración, es entrar de racionero, admitirlo como racionero el cabildo de Santa Eulalia;"⁶¹ in other words, "to admit or accept (into church) a prebendary." There can be no doubt of these English equivalents when the verses are taken together and we know the significance of the particular Spanish phrase.

V. TO CONCEIVE.

This connotation is apparently not too prevalent in Medieval Spanish writings. Berceo, however, furnishes at least one good example of it:

Levantaron romanos un mal emperador
Si Nero fue muy malo, non fue esti meyor,
Cogió con Jesuchristo un tan grant desamor,
De oir el so nomne non avie nul sabor.⁶²

English "to conceive" would easily translate the author's use of coger. Berceo is one of the outstanding writers of the era that uses the verb in such context. It is a facile matter to see, however, why he might be led to such choice because here, still, is the overpowering meaning of "to take," and the other words of the verse and stanza even allow of the application of the more violent and active "to grasp, seize." The entire verse pertinent might be translated as "He conceived for Jesus Christ so great a

⁶¹Rufino Lanchetas, Gramática y vocabulario de las obras de Gonzalo de Berceo (Madrid: Sucesores de Rivadeneira, 1900), p. 229.

⁶²Gonzalo de Berceo, Martyrio de Sant Laurencio (BAE, LVII, 91, Stanza 25).

hatred" or "He took (seized) for Jesus Christ so great a hatred." In addition to Berceo's use of coger for this particular meaning, there is the same usage in La gran conquista de Ultramar:

. . . todas estas tierras eran muy bien pobladas á maravilla, cuando aquel rey de Persia las conquirió, é luego que las tovo en poder, comenzó á derribar las iglesias é agraviar los cristianos en tantas maneras, que cogieron dél tan gran miedo, que comenzaron todos á fuir é desamparar la tierra; . . .⁶³

"Cogieron dél tan gran miedo" is easily translated to English as "they conceived for him so great a fear."

Allí do los de aquella villa de Mansebrot, de que vos ya dijimos, estaban en tan gran fatiga como habédes oído con los de la hueste de los pelegrios que los estaban combatiendo, ellos estando en aquel peligro, é los de fuera, que los querian entrar por fuerza é matarlos á todos, quiso Dios así, que cayó un miedo tan grande é un tan fiero espanto en los corazones de aquellos que combatian la villa, sin hacer cosa por que lo hobiesen haber, que los unos caian de las escalas por do sobian al muro, é los otros comenzaron á huir, no sabiendo de qué fuera el miedo y el espanto que cogieran, é fué tan maño, que cuidaron todos ser muertos.⁶⁴

"Not knowing what kind of fear and fright they had conceived" is an accurate English translation of the Spanish "no sabiendo de qué fuera el miedo y el espanto que cogieran." Other similar employments of coger to convey this same meaning in this work follow:

⁶³La gran conquista de Ultramar (Vol. XLIV of Biblioteca de autores españoles desde la formación del lenguaje hasta nuestros días, ed. Pascual de Guayangos. 177 vols; Madrid: Hernando and Atlas, 1848-1964), p. 10. Hereafter cited as La gran conquista de Ultramar.

⁶⁴Ibid., p. 25.

. . . é tan bien ellos como la otra gente que estaba á pié fueron á herir en los moros, é de la ida que hicieron todos acordadamente, é del mensaje que les llegara á los moros cómo los de la otra gran hueste eran vencidos, cogieron tan gran miedo, que no habia ninguno que los quisiese esperar, é comenzaron todos á huir, é los cristiano á los matar; . . .⁶⁵

Mas la gente de pié que los otros traian le estorbaban mucho, parándosele delante é hiriéndole el caballo, que gelo hobieran de matar; pero con todo aquesto, tamaño miedo cogieron de los otros sus hermanos, que no lo osaron esperar, é huyeron, é metiéronse en aquel castillo que vos dijimos que estaba cerca, é perdieron mucha de la gente que traian, é Cárlos fué en pos dellos hasta el castillo; . . .⁶⁶

E el escudero creía . . . que los hombres honrados que allí se llegaran por oir lo que él dicia cogerian algun espanto, comenzólos a conhortar, diciendoles: . . .⁶⁷

Estos dos mensajeros, que llegaron cuase junto, pusieron á los cristianos de la hueste en gran miedo; mas los hombres buenos hobieron su acuerdo, é mandaron que non fuese esto dicho por la hueste, porque la gente menuda cogerian espanto é se irian della; . . .⁶⁸

VI. TO CHOOSE, SELECT.

This is a meaning that is evidently not too widely used in the Middle Age period. Berceo furnishes, however, a good example of this particular application of coger:

Fó luego a las primas la orden reformada,
La que por mal pecado yá era desatada:
Cojó de compañeros compañía mesurada,
Los que vedie que eran de maña pesada.⁶⁹

⁶⁵Ibid., p. 140. ⁶⁶Ibid., p. 181.

⁶⁷Ibid., p. 189. ⁶⁸Ibid., p. 232.

⁶⁹Gonzalo de Berceo, Vida de Sancto Domingo de Silos, p. 35, Stanza 216.

Quite clearly, coger could be rendered by English "took," but "chose" or "selected" is much more graphic and expressive of the idea Berceo is trying to convey, and such idea is deserving of a separate category.

VII. TO TAKE, SEIZE, GRASP.

Con un sombrero que tiene Félez Muñoz,
nuevo era e fresco, que de Valençial sacó,
cogió del agua en elle e a sus primas dió;⁷⁰

"He dipped water with it and gave to his cousins" is an accurate translation of this line using cogió. "He took" might also be used and be clearly understood but "dipped" is doubtless better. From a speech by the Cid, another example is furnished:

"Oídmе, cavalleros, non rastará por al;
oy es día bueno e mejor será cras;
por la mañana prieta todos armados seades,
el obispo do Jerome soltura nos dará,
dezir nos ha la missa, e penssad de cavalgar;
hir los hemos fferir, non passará por al,
en el nombre del Criador e d'apóstol santi Yague,
Más vale que nos los vezcamos, que ellos cojan
el pan."⁷¹

The last verse clearly translates to "It is better that we conquer them, than that they take our bread." Although "harvest" might be implied, it would be much less accurate and also incongruous to the preceding lines to say "reap our harvest."⁷²

⁷⁰Cantar de mío Cid, III, 1131, Lines 2799-2802.

⁷¹Ibid., III, 1089, Lines 1685-1691.

⁷²Ibid., II, 581.

Non le preste lo que dijo que con miedo e quejura
 Fizo la confesión cogido en angostura,
 Ca su miedo era vano, e no dijo cordura,
 Que a do buen alcalde juzga toda cosa es segura.⁷³

A translation of the pertinent line might clearly be stated as "He made his confession, seized by anguish," or ". . . taken by distress" or even ". . . in the grip of anguish" which is the same as being grasped by anguish.

Aun mas decia Corvalan en su llanto que hacia por Barhadin: "Agora es quebrantado el espejo en que todo el mundo se miraba. ¡Ay Barhadin! hijo del Emperador, ¡qué diré yo á vuestro padre, que con tan gran ahinco é piadat me dijo que os guardase de los cristianos que vos non cogiesen en su poder do vos pudiesen hacer mal?"⁷⁴

The question in the above quotation easily translates to "What will I say to your father, who with so great ardour and devotion, told me to keep you from the Christians who might take you in their power whereby they might do ill unto you?"

VIII. TO LEAVE, GO AWAY, DEPART.

Let it be stated at the beginning here that the examples that will be cited are divided into two uses-- reflexive and non-reflexive. The ones from the Cid are all reflexive and the first excerpt from La gran conquista de Ultramar is reflexive. The other quotation from the latter work and those from other sources are not

⁷³Juan Ruiz, op. cit., p. 57, Stanza 365.

⁷⁴La gran conquista de Ultramar (BAE, XLIV, 267).

necessarily so. Menéndez Pidal discusses this matter somewhat,⁷⁵ but his main purpose seems simply to state that the Cid uses only the reflexive whereas other authors and works have not all used coger thus. This lack of reflexive is no impediment to the above mentioned meanings of "to leave, go away, depart" but a confusion in form with the phrase "cogio su camino" which is not reflexive.

Mio Cid, quando los vío fuera, cogiós commo de
arrancada;
Cojós Salon ayuso, con los sos abuelta anda.⁷⁶

It is quite clear here that the Cid "left," "went away," "departed." The example given by Cejador y Frauca⁷⁷ as coming from the Primera crónica general is also very clearly the same employment of coger: "desampararon el campo et cogieronse a Salamanca." In the same vein, from Ríos' Historia crítica: "levantaron un çieruo e ssoltaron-le los canes, e el rey cogió en pos dél,"⁷⁸ meaning ". . . and the king went after it." In the latter, the meaning of coger is the same as that obtained by its use in the Cid, though not reflexive in form.

. . . é duró el alcance desde mediodía fasta hora de completas, é durara mas, sino por la noche, que gelo impidió; pero escaparon ende muy pocos, é

⁷⁵Cantar de mío Cid, II, 581-582.

⁷⁶Ibid., III, 1048, Lines 588-589.

⁷⁷Julio Cejador y Frauca, Vocabulario medieval castellano, 1st ed. (Madrid: Hernando, 1929), p. 102.

⁷⁸Ibid.

estos algunos de los que se hubieron á coger á las montañas ó se asconder por los risquillos é por los lugares enconados, que todos los otros fueron muertos é destruidos. . .⁷⁹

In the quotation above coger means "to go away," clearly, in order to escape.

Of the six semantic categories of coger pertinent to the Middle Age literary usage, there are three that did not survive this period, according to Martín Alonso,⁸⁰ whose categories, for the Middle Ages, roughly correspond to the six above. They are number I, as applied to "to take in, collect, fold a tent;" number II, in the same sense of "to give asylum;" and number VI, "to go away, leave, depart." Sr. Alonso lists number VI as pertaining to the twelfth century only, having overlooked its use in the Primera crónica general and by Espinel and Amador de los Ríos.⁸¹ Likewise, of coger as in "coger la tienda," Sr. Alonso overlooks its use in the Libro de buen amor

⁷⁹La gran conquista de Ultramar (BAE, XLIV, 82).

⁸⁰Martín Alonso, Enciclopedia del idioma; diccionario histórico y moderno de la lengua española (siglos XII al XX), etimológico, tecnológico, regional e hispanoamericano (Madrid: Aguilar, 1958), I, 1113. Hereafter cited as Encic. del idioma.

⁸¹"Cogi mí camino encomendándome a Dios." (Espinel, Escudero, rel III, desc. VII). "Levantaron un ciervo, e ssoltaronle los canes, e el rey cogió en pos del." (Cuento del emperador Carlos Maynes, en Amador de los Ríos (Hist. crit. tomo V, p. 345). Rufino José Cuervo, Apuntaciones críticas sobre el lenguaje bogotano con frecuente referencia al de los países de Hispano-América, 9th ed. (Bogotá: Instituto Caro y Cuervo, 1955), p. 600.

since he relegates the meaning to the twelfth century only. As for "to receive," as in "giving asylum," he lists the Libro de los estados,⁸² thus showing this usage through the fourteenth century. The other three categories are listed by M. Alonso as remaining until the present day.⁸³ The only one of these remaining three that has not been listed separately by M. Alonso is that of "alcanzar, llegar a juntarse con una persona o cosa que va delante."⁸⁴ It is cited by the Academy Dictionary (1956),⁸⁵ therefore giving credence to the fact that the meaning has endured until the twentieth century.

In 1607 Oudin's dictionary listed seven French verbs under coger. They are cueillir, recueillir, attraper, colliger, amasser, ramasser, prendre.⁸⁶ There is no entry in this dictionary, as is seen, that is the French equivalent of acogerse, which M. Alonso lists⁸⁷ as one of the

⁸²Alonso, Encic. del idioma, p. 102.

⁸³Ibid. It must be pointed out, however, that Sr. Alonso is the only scholar among those consulted that has made the effort to place his definition within given eras. This is an exacting and exhausting, if not prohibitive, task, especially on the scale that he has attempted. However, his work is heavily relied upon herein, and justly so.

⁸⁴Ibid.

⁸⁵Real Academia Española, Diccionario de la lengua española, 18th ed. (Madrid: Espasa-Calpe, 1956), p. 322.

⁸⁶Samuel Gili Gaya, Tesoro lexicográfico (Madrid: Aguirre, 1947), I, 577.

⁸⁷Alonso, Encic. del idioma, p. 1113.

meanings for coger, indicating it entered the Castilian language in the fifteenth century and has continued to the present.⁸⁸ Yet it is already early seventeenth century. The widespread use of such a meaning has evidently not obtained. In the same century (1611), Covarrubias is the best and most authoritative source of meanings for coger. His listings correspond to what we have already seen, except in "coger la ropa, doblarla;" "coger a uno a palabras, hazerle caer en la red, para obligarle o enganarle;" and "coger agua en cesto."⁸⁹ Then Covarrubias goes into the derivatives which will be treated later.

Most dictionaries after 1611 are repetitive of previous lexicographers. In 1879, however, the Nuevo diccionario de la lengua castellana appeared and therein were listings under coger not encountered before among recognized lexicons. Such were:

- 1) Recibir en sí alguna cosa: y así se dice: la tierra no ha cogido bastante agua. Recipere, absorbere, absumere.
- 2) Tener capacidad ó hueco para contener cierta cantidad de cosas; y así se dice: esta tinaja coge treinta arrobas de vino. Capere
- 3) Ocupar cierto distrito; como, la alfombra coge toda la sala. Extendi, aequari, implere.

⁸⁸This meaning was not mentioned earlier along with other Medieval listings because of its late appearance during the period.

⁸⁹Sebastián de Covarrubias, Tesor de la lengua castellana o española, ed. Martín de Riquer (Barcelona: S. A. Horta, 1943), p. 133. Hereafter cited as Tesoro.

- 4) Hallar, encontrar; y así se dice: me cogió descuidado; procuré cogerle de buen humor. Invenire.
- 5) Sobrevenir, sorprender; y así se dice: me cogió la hora, la noche, la tempestad, etc.⁹⁰

Covarrubias also includes in his dictionary a group of idiomatic uses for coger. These idioms include:

- 1) Coger de nuevo. fr. con que se explica que no se tenía noticia alguna ó especie antecedente de lo que se oye ó se ve, por lo cual parece que sorprende con la novedad. Novi aliquid evenire.
- 2) Coger en medio. fr. fam. Estar ó poner dos cosas á los dos lados de otra. Latera, occupare, tenere.
- 3) Coger las del Martillado. fr. Germ. Coger las de Villadiego.
- 4) Coger las de Villadiego. fr. fam. Escapar aceleradamente. Festinanter, celeriter, aufugere.
- 5) Cogíte. expr. fam. con que significa que a alguno se le ha convencido con maña á que confiese lo que quiere negar. Teneo te.
- 6) Aquí te cojo, y aquí te mato. fr. fam. con la cual se explica la prontitud con que se hace alguna cosa, sin dar tiempo ni espera. Illico, extemplo sine mora.⁹¹

Arriving at the twentieth century and its lexicographers, we shall treat of Martín Alonso first. Aside from the citations already used from his monumental work of 1958, there are two others which have not been mentioned

⁹⁰Vicente Salvá, Nuevo diccionario de la lengua castellana por la Academia Española añadido con unas veinte y seis mil voces, acepciones, frases, y locuciones entre ellos muchas americanas, 8th ed. (Paris: Garnier Hermanos, 1879), p. 258. Hereafter cited as Nuevo dicc.

⁹¹Covarrubias, Tesoro, p. 133.

thus far. This is not to say that they are all not included in the works of some of his contemporaries. They are:

- 1) s. XIX y XX. Taurom. Herir o enganchar el toro a una persona por los cuernos.⁹²
- 2) Copular, sobre todo el ganado vacuno.⁹³

The Academy Dictionary, eighteenth edition, 1956, has no listings that have not already been mentioned. It might be well to point out, however, that regarding the "copular" of Martín Alonso, the Academy gives as definition number thirteen, "Cubrir el macho a la hembra."⁹⁴ Thus Alonso is saying that the verb coger can apply or is used for "to copulate," in a general application, while the Academy definitely restricts the usage to the animal world. In the Diccionario enciclopédico de la lengua castellana are found no general meanings other than the ones previously listed. However, it does contain several idiomatic phrases not yet observed. They are:

⁹²Alonso, Encic. del idioma, p. 1113. Cf. note 63. This is the same use of the verb. However, Sr. Alonso is evidently showing that coger has been taken over by the vocabulary of the bullfight for a specific and special use peculiar to it.

⁹³Ibid. No dates given. More will be said later about the spread of this meaning as it has been discussed by Corominas.

⁹⁴Real Academia Española, Diccionario, 18th ed., p. 322.

- 1) +vulg. Amer. Cuba. Tener acto carnal con una mujer.⁹⁵
- 2) Coger á uno al espartillo. fr. fam. y fig. Encontrarle casualmente, y aprovecharse de aquella ocasión para conversar con él.⁹⁶
- 3) Coger á uno al paso. fr. fig. y fam. Encontrarle y detenerle para tratar con él una cosa.
- 4) Coger con el hurto en las manos. fr. fig. Sorprenderle en el acto mismo de ejecutar una cosa que quisiera no se supiese.
- 5) +Coger en rodondo. Mar. Lo mismo que adujar.
- 6) Coger en mal ó en mal latín. fr. fig. y fam. Coger en una falta, culpa o delito.
- 7) +Coger en viento. Mar. Dícese de una vela o del aparejo cuando están de modo que reciben el viento por la cara de popa.
- 8) +Coger las aguas. Albañ. Concluir de cubrir un edificio, dejándolo a cubierto de las lluvias.
- 9) +Coger las juntas. Albañ. Raspar el mortero de las juntas de una obra para sustituirlo por otro de mayor resistencia.
- 10) +Coger los cabos. Mar. Adujar.
- 11) +Coger sonda. Mar. Coger fondo.
- 12) +Coger un rumbo. Art. Nav. Apuntar, colocar, y clavar en un sitio el tablón ó trozo de él levantado en el casco de un buque.

⁹⁵I list this here, not because it fits as an idiomatic expression, but rather it shows another treatment of the verb coger in its relation to the expression of sexual intercourse. Here, for the first time thus far, a dictionary has shown coger to be used specifically for intercourse among human beings.

⁹⁶According to this source, this entry and all others not marked with a cross (+) have appeared in the Academy Dictionary. However, they are not listed under the verb coger but the substantive that completes the phrase, in this case "espartillo."

- 13) +Coger viejas. Min. Hacer excavaciones en
ativaderos antiguos ó en hundimientos.
- 14) +Coger vuelta. Mar. Dícese del cable que la
toma.⁹⁷

R. J. Cuervo has, among his fine delineation of meanings for coger, one that stands out particularly. It is ". . . aparece cómo sentido especial de Tomar para juntar o allegar, se ha pasado al general de Tomar con la mano o con algún instrumento que se tenga en ella."⁹⁸ Along with such a definition, the author has listed several examples, as is his custom. Quoted here is only one, the earliest he gives, and therefore, presumed to be the earliest use of the verb with this particular application:

Qué passatiempo mejor
orilla el mar puede hallarse,
qu'escuchar el ruyseñor,
coger la olorosa flor,
y en clara fuente lauarse?⁹⁹

What is strangest about this definition above is that it has been shown that such a use of coger = tomar existed in the Middle Ages.¹⁰⁰ Listed below are other examples of

⁹⁷Elías Zerolo, Miguel de Toro y Gómez, Emiliano Isaza, Diccionario enciclopédico de la lengua castellana (Paris: Garnier Hermanos, 19--), I, 613. Hereafter cited as Dicc. encic.

⁹⁸Cuervo, II, 178.

⁹⁹Gaspar Gil Polo, Diana Enamorada, trans. Bartholomew Young, ed. Raymond Grismer and Mildred B. Grismer (Minneapolis: Burges Publishing Co., 1959), pp. 132-133, Lines 36, 1-4.

¹⁰⁰Cf. note 64, p. 21.

the use of coger, from the Middle Age literature, used in the general sense of "Tomar con la mano o con algún instrumento que se tenga en ella."¹⁰¹

Desque estos niños comenzaron á andar, é entendian ya, procuraban de facer todavía armas, é dellos facian sus bofordos, que cogian desos árboles que habia ahí en el desierto . . .¹⁰²

E si vos acaesciere de tomar algunos dellos presos, ruégovos que me los enviédes, ca mi voluntad es de cuantos dellos pudiere coger en manos, de facer en ellos justicia, á tal que todos los del mundo fablen della, é tomen escarmiento de la su maldad.¹⁰³

. . . é todos habian muy gran sabor de matar é destruir al caballero del Cisne é á toda su compañía, é habian presupuesto entre sí que, si le pudiesen coger en la mano ó les cayese en poder, que por manera que en el mundo fuese, que no escapase á vida . . .¹⁰⁴

. . . é algunas dellas habia que cuando veian los maridos ó los parientes estar muertos ó heridos, salian contra los moros é tirábanles piedras ó aquello que podian coger en la mano. . .¹⁰⁵

. . . é por ende, cuando hobo de comenzar su razon, dio las espuelas al caballo en que estaba, é cogió las riendas, é hízole saltar en medio de un gran corro, do todos estaban en derredor . . .¹⁰⁶

Mas Arquílis, el muy crudo rey de Antioca, luego que esto hobo hecho, mandó tomar las cabezas dellos é hízolas echar en los engeños contra la hueste, é mandó armar a todos los de la villa, que saliesen á los cristianos allí do ellos viniesen á coger las cabezas, é que los matasen.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰¹Cuervo, II, 178.

¹⁰²La gran conquista de Ultramar (BAE, XLIV, 30).

¹⁰³Ibid., p. 55. ¹⁰⁴Ibid., p. 64.

¹⁰⁵Ibid., p. 139. ¹⁰⁶Ibid., p. 191.

¹⁰⁷Ibid., p. 215. Note the use of "tomar las cabezas" as well as "coger las cabezas" in the same sentence. There can be no mistaking, here, that both words express the same idea.

Compare, now, these six quotations above with some from the same source which will not use coger as equivalent of tomar with the special sense of "to take with the hand or something in the hand." And, the main point is that these uses are much earlier--thirteenth century--than the example used by Cuervo to prove his point and that they come from the same work as the others just cited.

. . . é esto facian ellos porque, si los derramasen, que los metiesen entre las dos celadas é les cogiesen en medio é los matasen.¹⁰⁸

. . . é tanto los apremiaban, que los cristianos no esperaban otra cosa sino que llegase Tranquer, que era ido en el alcance de la otra batalla, é que firiése á los moros de parte de las espaldas, é ellos de la otra, segun ficieron en la otra batalla, porque los cogiesen en medio.¹⁰⁹

E los que quedaron de fuera cogiéronlos en medio de la una parte los de la hueste, é de la otra los que venieron de la cabalgada, é matáronlos á todos, que no escapó ninguno á vida.¹¹⁰

. . . é siguiéronlos tanto, que llegaron hasta que dieron con ellos en la celada, é salieron estonces de la celada é cogiéronlos en medio, é sobretornó é hirió en ellos, é mató muchos dellos . . .¹¹¹

One other idiomatic phrase included in the study by Cuervo should also be mentioned here. It, as can be seen, has in reality been stated before in essence, but not in the words used below:

Coger entre puertas: se dice cuando al perro se le cierran las puertas apretándole el cuerpo entre

¹⁰⁸Ibid., p. 21. ¹⁰⁹Ibid., p. 174.

¹¹⁰Ibid., p. 187. ¹¹¹Ibid., p. 279.

ellas; y metafóricamente cuando se sorprende á una persona para obligarla á algo.¹¹²

To illustrate this expression, the following example is offered:

Los jueces nunca pierdan el respeto á los templos, porque les sucede lo que a los perros que andan buscando la vida, que si muchas veces comen, alguna los vienen á coger entre puertas.¹¹³

The single rare meaning, or one heretofore unmentioned, attributed to coger by Corominas in his dictionary (1954) is:

dar (un golpe): "Lisón le cogió en descubierto del adarga un golpe por los pechos, tan bravo que le metió la lança por el cuerpo." (Pérez de Hita, ed. Blanchard, I, 11).¹¹⁴

Professor Corominas gives a brief discussion, also, of coger taken in a sexual sense, explaining that such usage is:

ya antiguo y fué corriente aun en España . . . pero en América, donde esta acepción se ha afirmado más, ello ha sido causa, por razones de pudor, de la decadencia de coger en las demás acepciones . . .¹¹⁵

A very great service is rendered to lexicography and historical semantics by the listing of derivatives of coger by Professor Corominas. These derivatives, along with all

¹¹²Cuervo, II, 179.

¹¹³Vicente Espinel, El escudero Marcos de Obregón (BAE, XVIII, 430).

¹¹⁴Joan Corominas, Diccionario crítico etimológico de la lengua castellana (Bern: Francke, 1954), I, 838. Hereafter cited as Dicc. crítico.

¹¹⁵Ibid.

others deemed to be pertinent, will be treated next.

DERIVATIVES. The following derivatives of coger are popular; that is, except for collecho, which is discussed later, they have not retained the -ll- or -l- of the Latin COLLIGERE, but they have developed phonologically in popular ways. However, some of the words themselves, as usage goes, are not popular but rather learned. No finer line than this will be drawn here. The Spanish words are followed by the English meaning given in the New Revised Velázquez Spanish and English Dictionary.¹¹⁶

Acoger--va. 1. To admit one into our house or company;

to receive. 2. (Met.) To protect, to give an

asylum.--vr. 1. To take refuge, to resort to.

2. (Obs.) To embrace the opinion of another.

3. To make use of a pretext for dissimulation.

Acogedizo--a. Collected or gathered promiscuously.

Acogedor, -ora--m., f. Harbinger, protector.

Acogeta--f. Shelter, cover, refuge.

Acogida--f. 1. Reception. 2. The concurrence of a multitude of things in the same place; confluence; asylum. Dar acogida a una letra, (Com.) To honor or protect a bill. Reservar buena acogida a, To meet prompt attention.

¹¹⁶Ibid.

Acogido--m. 1. Collection of breeding mares given to the owners of the principal steed, to keep them at a certain price. 2. Temporary admission of flocks into pasture-ground. pp. of Acoger.

Acogimiento--m. V. Acogida.

Antecoger--va. 1. To bring any person or thing before one. 2. To gather in fruit before the due time.

Cogedora--f. Collector, gatherer. f. A sort of bee-hive used to gather a swarm which has left the group.

Cogedero--m. Collector, gatherer.

Cogedizo, a--m., f. That which can be easily collected or gathered.

Cogedor--l. Collector, gatherer. 2. Dust-box or dust-pan. 3. (Obs.) Tax-gatherer. 4. Among velvet-weavers, a box in which the woven velvet is put.

Cogedura--f. Act of gathering or collecting.

Cogido--a. Joined, united. m. Fold, accidental or designed, made in women's clothing, curtains, etc.

Cogido--a. Joined, united. f. 1. The gathering or harvesting of fruits. 2. The yield of fruits. 3. The act of the bull's catching the bull-fighter.

Cogienda--f. ant. Cosecha.

Cogimiento--m. (Obs.) Gathering, collecting, or catching.

Descoger--va. To unfold, to extend, to spread, to expand.

Desencoger--va. To unfold.

Desencogerse--vr. 1. (Met.) To lay aside bashfulness or reserve, to grow bold. 2. To make merry.

Encoger--va. 1. To contract, to draw together, to shorten. 2. To shrink, to make shrink. 3. (Met.) To discourage, to dispirit.

Encogerse--vr. 1. To be low-spirited, to be dismayed. 2. To humble one's self, to be dejected. 3. To shrink, to contract itself into less room.

Encogerse de hombros, To shrink the shoulders with fear; to put an end to a debate, to occasion silence.

Encogido, a--a. m., f. Pusillanimous, timid, fearful, narrow-minded.--pp. of Encoger.

Encogimiento--m. 1. Contraction, contracting, drawing together or shortening; constriction, corrugation. 2. Pusillanimity, want of resolution. 3. Lowness of spirits. 4. Humility, submission, resignation. Encogimiento de los costados, (Naut.) The caving in of the sides of a ship.

Entrecoger--va. 1. To catch, to intercept. 2. To compel by arguments or threats.

Entrecogedura--f. Act of catching.

Escoger--va. To choose, to select, to pick out, to excerpt, to cull, to elect.

Escogedor, -ora--m., f. Selector, chooser.

Escogido, a--m., f. 1. Select, choice. 2. Chosen.

Escogiente--part. of Escoger. Choosing, selecting,
etc.

Escogimiento--m. Choice, selection, choosing.

Recoger--va. 1. To retake, to take back. 2. To gather,
to collect, to hoard; to pick out; to contract.
3. To gather the fruits. 4. To receive, to protect,
to shelter. 5. To lock up in a mad-house. 6. To
suspend the use, or stop the course of anything.
7. To extract intelligence from books. Recoger una
proposición, To retract a proposal. Recoger un vale,
to take up a note. Recoger velas, To conclude a dis-
course; to become continent or moderate.--vr. 1. To
take shelter; to withdraw into retirement. 2. To
reform, or retrench one's expenses. 3. To go home,
to retire, to rest. 4. To abstract one's self from
worldly thoughts.

Recogedero--m. 1. Place where things are gathered
or collected. 2. Instrument with which things
are gathered.

Recogedor--m. 1. One who shelters or harbors.
2. Gatherer, cleaner.

Recogida--f. 1. The act of taking back anything
which circulates. 2. A woman shut up in a house
of correction.

Recogido, a--a. m., f. Retired, secluded;

contracted--pp. of Recoger.

Recogimiento--m. 1. Collection, assemblage.

2. Retreat, shelter. V. Reclusión. 3. House where women are confined, or live in retirement.

4. Abstraction from worldly concerns; preparation for spiritual exercises.

Sobrecoger--va. To surprise, to overtake.--vr. To become apprehensive.

Sobrecogedor--m. ant. One in charge of collecting money especially from the public.

Sobrecogimiento--m. Fearfulness, apprehension.

Cogecha--Of the more frequently used Spanish-English dictionaries, only the Velázquez mentioned above has an entry for cogecha. It reads as follows: "f. (Obs.) V. COSECHA."¹¹⁷ Under cosecha are the following definitions: "f. 1. Harvest, harvest-time. 2. Harvest, the corn ripened and gathered. 3. The season of reaping and gathering olives, etc. 4. The act of gathering the harvest. Cosecha de vino, Vintage. 4. (Met.) Collection of immaterial things, as virtues, vices, etc. De su cosecha, of one's own invention."¹¹⁸ Old Collecho (< COLLECTUS), due to

¹¹⁷ Mariano Velázquez de la Cadena, Edward Gray and Juan L. Iribas, New Revised Velázquez Spanish and English Dictionary, Revised by Ida Navarro Hinojosa (Chicago: Follett Publishing Co., 1959).

¹¹⁸ Ibid., p. 170.

the influence of coger which had earlier developed popularly, gave way to cogecho. Then the substantive from cogecho, which was cogecha, changed its ž to s through dissimilation--cogecho > coxecho > cosecho, cosecha.

The verb coger, in essence, expresses a very basic concept in Spanish and is therefore a very popular verb. The fact that it entered Spanish or became a part of the language so early and that it not only "held its own" but broadened in scope and purpose proves its acceptance and its necessarily broad treatment.

CHAPTER II

PRENDER

This verb has been a part of the Spanish language from the earliest times. A form of prender appears as early as 943 in writings from the Monastery of Eslonza,¹ in the Cid (1140)² and other works which will be cited later, and it means "to seize, grasp, take, catch."

The Classical Latin PREHENDERE (PRAE-) is the source of the Castilian verb prender. In fact, even in Classical Latin times the syncopated form prendo was used for prehendo, according to the Lexicon Totius Latinitatis.³ It is easily seen, then, that PRENDO, PRENDERE would naturally produce, in Castilian, prender. And the meaning of PREHENDERE was, in the most general sense, "to take, seize, grasp, lay hold of, snatch."

Generatim. Plaut. Asin. 3. 3. 78. Prehendere aliquem auriculis. Cic. 1. Orat. 56. 240. aliquem manu. Plaut. Most. 1. 3. 62. fauces alicui, atque enicare. Id. Pers. 2. 4. 22. Te hodie si prehendero, defigam in terram colaphis. Id. Epid. 1. 1. 1. quis me properantem prehendit pallio? Id. ibid. 2. 3. 65. Prehendit dexteram, seducit, rogat,

¹"ipsa presa de uestros molinos," Ramón Menéndez Pidal, Orígenes, p. 307.

²"prendellas con vuestras manos e daldas a los ifantes," Cantar de mio Cid, III, p. 1105, Line 2136.

³Lexicon Totius Latinitatis, III, 852.

cur, etc. Id. Rud. 5. 2. 4. Reteprehendere aliquod. Petron. Satyr. 138. Per aliquot vicos secutae fugientem, Prehendere furem, clamant. Plin. 10. Hist. nat. 33. 51. (103). Perdix aucupem jam jam prehensurum effugiens. Ovid. Medic. fac. 93. Arentisque rosae quantum manus una prehendat. Plin. 30 Hist. nat. 5. 12. (40). Cinerem eum dant bibendum quantum prehenditur ternis digitis.--Sic prendo per syncopen.⁴

In a more specialized sense, PREHENDERE meant "to hold, detain."

Speciatim, prehendere aliquem, alloquendi, aut rogandi causa sistere. Ter. Andr. 2. 2. 16 Tuus pater modo me prehendit: ait, tibi uxorem dare sese hodie. Id. Phorm. 4. 3. 15.⁵

Also, in particular, was the verb used to mean "to catch in the act, seize, take by surprise."

Item speciatim prehendere aliquem in furto etc. est Italice cogliere col furto in mano. --a Cum Ablat. et praeupos. in. Plaut. Asin. 3. 2. 17. Prehendi in furto. Cf. Horat. 2. Od. 16. 1. Otium divas rogat in patenti Prensus Aegaeo.⁶

Of trees and plants, PREHENDERE meant "to take root."

Item prehendere dicuntur quae sata proveniunt. Pallad. 3. R. R. 25. Pirorum plantas radicatae seramus, ut quum prehenderint, inserantur. et. ibid. 10. extr. Hoc genere quantum volueris numerus vitium transferes, sine ambiguitate prehendi.⁷

Likewise, "to take in with the eye, to catch with the eye" was expressed by this same verb.

Item poetice prehendere aliquid oculis est cernere, videre, apud Lucret. 4. 1136. Sic Lucan. 4. 19. Explicat hinc tellus campos effusa patentes, Vix oculo preendente modum. h. e. totam amplitudinem assequente, appena ne scuopre l'ampiezza.⁸

⁴Ibid. ⁵Ibid. ⁶Ibid., III, 852-853.

⁷Ibid., III, 853. ⁸Ibid.

And PREHENDERE means "to seize legally, arrest," as with a criminal or an offender of the law.

Item in jure est capere et in carcerem conjicere (V. PREHENSIO I.). Gell. 13. 12. ad fin. quae autem ratio fuit vocantibus nolle obsequi, quos confiteare jus habere prendendi? Nam qui jure prendi potest, et in vincula duci potest. Adde eumd. 13. 13.⁹

Figuratively, the verb was used to mean "to seize (with the mind), comprehend, apprehend."

Cic. 1. Legg. 23. 61. Quum animus rerum omnium naturam perspexerit, eaque unde generata, quo recurrant, viderit, ipsumque ea moderantem atque regentem p~~re~~henderit, etc. h. e. intelligentia assecutus fuerit.¹⁰

The infinitive prender and many of the finite forms appeared in early Spanish literature in forms that differ from those of the present day verb, since prender is today a regular verb of the second conjugation. Such regularization did not come about at once. The infinitive form preder (PRAEHENDERE > PREHENDERE > PRENDERE > prender > preder, a scribal representation, as shown by the note) appears in the Fuero de Avilés.¹¹ The past participle

⁹Ibid. ¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹"Et s'il rancuroso non quiser' preder uno de estos III directos, partianssee concilio d'ele, et tenganse cum altro." Fuero de Avilés, p. 119. In the critical edition the verb appears as Pnder (p. 90, stanza 4) and also as PDER (p. 95, stanza 33). The latter form is the one deciphered above as "preder," in keeping with the original. There are numerous other examples of the confusion in spelling of this verb, the following with the letter n: PNDER (p. 91, stanza 13); PNDA (id.); PNDO (p. 94, stanza 28); PNDA (p. 94, stanza 29); PNDEN (id.); PNDRA (p. 97, stanza 47); PNDA (p. 100, stanza 63); PNDENT (p. 14, stanza 86); the following without the letter n: FDA (p. 91, stanza 13); PDE (p. 92, stanza 19); FDAR (p. 97, stanza 47).

preso (PRAEHENSUM > PREHENSUM > PRENSUM > *presu > preso, an expected and natural development) did not remain, but through analogy with the development of the -ITUM forms, it has become prendido. Preso¹² was prevalent in the early literature. In addition to preso was priso as a past participle¹³ (by analogy with the old preterite form meaning "he seized," all of which in turn was by analogy with forms such as riso for "laughed" as a past participle and "he laughed," preterite) and as the third person singular of the preterite.¹⁴ Early forms of the present indicative will show development of the modern forms in process; such as prendet¹⁵ (PRAEHENDIT > PREHENDIT >

¹²"Nullus gradum ecclesiasticum percipiat qui totum psalterium uel babbtisterium aut ordinem salasparsionum uel sepulturarum perfecte structus (sapieret) non fuerit (preso fueret) agendi (dicere preso fueret) officio." Orígenes, p. 21, prisieronla los omes aqui dolía su mal./ cargaronla en andas; presa con un dogal./ Fueron poral sepulcro; del confessor cabdal./ En qui avie Dios puesta; gracia tan natural." Berceo, Vida de Santo Domingo de Silos, ed. Fray Alfonso Andrés O.S.B. (Madrid: Lure, 1958), p. 70, stanza 585.

¹³"Sennores, si quisieredes attender un poquiello,/ querriavos contar un poco de ratiello,/ un sermón que fué priso de un sancto libriello/ que fizo Santo Sheronimo un preçioso cabdiello." Berceo, Signos, stanza 1.

¹⁴"Vivie en esta vida en grand tribulacion,/ Murió por sus peccados por fiera ocasion,/ Nin priso Corpus Domini, nin fizo confession,/ Levaron los diablos la alma en preson." Berceo, Milagros de Nuestra Señora, ed. A. G. Solalinde (In Clásicos castellanos, Vol. XLIV. Madrid: La Lectura, 1922), pp. 43-44, stanza 163.

¹⁵"Qui detrait (cuesta prendet) uel consentit (sientet scuita placet) detraentem. vii. dies peniteat." R. Menéndez Pidal, Orígenes, p. 16.

*PRENDIT > prendet) and prendent¹⁶ (PRAEHENDUNT > PREHENDUNT > *PRENDUNT > prendent). Prendie¹⁷ (PRAEHENDEBAT > PRENDEBAT > *prendeat > prendía > prendíe, prendié, dialectal) is found in the imperfect along with the third person plural prendien¹⁸ (developed in the same manner as the singular above). The preterite tense in early Spanish literature showed a rejection of the PRAEHENDI form and took PRENSI as its model. There are numerous examples of such: prisi¹⁹ (PRENSI > PRESI > prise, by analogy with the weak preterite, such as vendí); prisiste²⁰ (developed

¹⁶"Mentre que in esta volta sunt, ante que directo prendent, fagant treguas per foro de la villa, sí de aquestas voltas cum de otras . . ." Fuero de Avilés, pp. 129-130.

¹⁷"Por exaltar su fama, el su precio crecer,/ Derramava sin duelo quanto podie aver:/ Sil menguaba lo suio, aun por más valer/ Prendie de sus vecinos mudado volunter." Berceo, Milagros de Nuestra Señora, p. 147, stanza 628.

¹⁸"Avie el omne vueno nomne Nepociano,/ Avie doble demonio, por ent nin era sano,/ Al uno e al otro prendienlos cutiano,/ Viven en grant laçerio yvierno e verano./ Todos estos demonios avien unas maneras,/ Semeiaban ermanos, façien unas sennoras,/ prendien en una guisa, tenien horas vezeras,/ Todas sues captenencias pareçian companneras." Berceo, San Millán, BAE, LVII, 70, stanzas 172-173.

¹⁹"Disso Guirald: "Sennor, pues vos ¿que me mandades?/ Complirlo quiero todo quequier que me digades,/ ca veo lo que fize grandes iniquidades,/ Non prisi el castigo que dicen los abbades." Berceo, Milagros de Nuestra Señora, p. 50, stanza 191.

²⁰"Sancto fue el tu parto, sancto lo que partiste,/ Virgo fuiste ante del parto, virgo remaneçiste,/ Pariendo, menoscabo ninguno non prisiste:/ El dicho de Isaya en eso lo compliste." Berceo, Loores, BAE, LVII, 94, stanza 26.

in manner of prisi); prisist²¹ (shows the apocopation of the final e, prevalent in the lines cited and others, from the Cid); prisiemos²² (by analogy with the -ie imperfect endings--prendiemos). The future tense forms, as well as the conditional tense forms, showed early their tendency to syncope, although the verb prender, in such tenses, later regularized itself. In Berceo appear prendré²³ (for prender....e), prendrás,²⁴ prendremos,²⁵ prendrán;²⁶

²¹"ya señor glorioso, padre que en cielo estase,/ fezist cielo e tierra, el tercero el mare;/ fezist estrellas e luna y el sol pora escalentare;/ prisist encarnación en Santa María madre, . . ." Cantar de mio Cid, III, 1037, Lines 330-333.

²²"Madre, repisos somos del yerro que fiziemos,/ Erramos duramente, gran locura trasquiemos,/ Prisiemos grand quebranto, maior lo mereçiemus . . ." Berceo, Milagros de Nuestra Señora, p. 97, stanza 392.

²³"Si la vuestra venida non fuere presurada,/ que dedes recodida a la vuestra mesnada,/ A mi fallarme pueden de cueyta enfogada,/ Qua non prendré buen sueño hasta vuestra tornada." Berceo, Duelo de la Virgen, BAE, LVII, 134, stanza 106.

²⁴"Diçiel la buena dueña: 'Don falso traïdor/ Que siempre en mal andas, eres de mal sennor:/ Si más aqui te prendo en esti derredor,/ De lo que oi prendes aun prendrás peor.'" Berceo, Milagros de Nuestra Señora, p. 115, stanza 74.

²⁵"Amigos a tal madre aguardarla devemos:/ Si a ella sirvieremos nuestra pro buscaremos,/ Onrraremos los cuerpos, las almas salvaremos,/ Por pocco de servicio grant galardón prendremos." Berceo, Milagros de Nuestra Señora, p. 19, stanza 74.

²⁶"Fyo en Ihesu Christo; Padre de piedad./ Que enesti maiuelo; metra el tal bondad./ Por ond aura grant cueslo; toda la uezindad./ Los deluen e delcerca prendran en caridad." Berceo, Santo Domingo de Silos, p. 60, stanza 501.

prendrie²⁷ (for prender....ie), and prendrien.²⁸ In the present of the subjunctive mood prencat²⁹ ("prencat" Gl Sil 182 'prenda,' forma navarroaragonesa, extraña al castellano Comp. prengan h. 1120 Fuero de Medinaceli, Muñoz, Colecc., Pág. 440; prengat h. 1129 Fuero de Carcastillo en Navarra, Muñoz, página 471; muy usual en los textos aragoneses posteriores.')."³⁰ The imperative singular prendi³¹ (as parti > parte) and the imperative plural prendet,³² both diversions from the regular forms, are noted in writings by Berceo.

As the Latin verb became a part of the Castilian language, it held on to its main idea, that of "to seize,

²⁷"Propuso la Gloriosa palabra colorada:/ Con esta alma, foles,-diz,- non avedes nada,/ Mentre fué en el cuerpo fué mi acomendada,/ Agora prendrie tuerto por yr desanparada?!" Berceo, Milagros de Nuestra Señora, p. 23, stanza 89.

²⁸"Embiaron messages a la gent renegada/ Que nunca más viniessen pedir esta soldada,/ Ca era contra ellos la tierra acordada,/ Si al quissiesen fer, prendrien grant sorrastrada." Berceo, San Millán, BAE, LVII, 77, stanza 398.

²⁹"Femina fidelis que adulterum maritum reliquerit (laiscaret) ne ducat (non prencat) alterum in uita adulteri; . . ." R. Menéndez Pidal, Orígenes, p. 18.

³⁰Ibid., p. 358.

³¹"Sennor, disso Valerio, ayamos aveneçia,/ Que non sea sonada esta nuestra entença:/ Prendi qual tu quisieres, tu fes la descogença, l l l" Berceo, Martirio de San Laurencio, BAE, LVII, 90, stanza 15 a, b, c.

³²"Amigos, si quisiesedes vuestras almas salvar,/ Si vos el mi conseio quisieredes tomar,/ Fech confession vera, non querades tardar,/ E prendet penitencia, pensatla de guardar." Berceo, Milagros de Nuestra Señora, p. 191, stanza 863.

take, grasp, snatch" as applied to things in general. This tenacity of idea is apparent throughout numerous old documents, chief among them the Cantar de mío Cid:

Enclinó las manos la barba vellida,
a las sues fijas en braço' las prendía,
llególas al coraçon, ca mucho las quería.³³

The gesture of seizing or holding one's beard was a sign of satisfaction in the Cid. This use of prender is definitely a transference of usage of PREHENDERE in its general meaning:

Prisos a la barba el buen Cid Campeador:
"non ayades miedo, ca todo es vuestra pro:
antes destos quinze días, si ploguiere al Criador,
abremos a ganar aquellos atamores. . ."34

"To take" with the hands something other than the beard (in this instance in the Cid the verb is best translated "stroked") is equally as well expressed by prender:

"Daquí las prendo por mis manos don Elvira e
doña Sol
e dólas por veladas a ifantes de Carrión."³⁵

³³Cantar de mío Cid, III, 1035, Lines 274-276. Although following lines do not use the verb prender, it is easily inserted, as shown, with the same meaning as cited above, "coger en brazos," a gesture of endearment, even as "prehendere aliquem auriculis" (Cf. page 41 above) was a friendly or loving act: "Fallaron un vergel con una linpia fuont;/ mandan fincar la tienda ifantes de Carrión,/ con quantos que ellos traen i yazen essa noch,/ con sus mugieres en braços demuestranles amor:" Ibid., III, 1127, Lines 2700-2703.

³⁴Ibid., III, 1088, Lines 1663-1668.

³⁵Ibid., III, 1104, Lines 2097-2098. Also, "Respondió el rey: 'afé aquí Álbar Fáñez;/ prendellos con vuestras manos e daldas a los ifantes,'" Ibid., III, 1105, Lines 2135-2136; "e' mano prenden las astas de los fierros tajadores," Ibid., III, 1159, Line 3585.

And "to take" people or "to seize, capture" them, not as an act of justice, is expressed thus and pertinent to the general Latin meaning:

. . . é si fallaba castillo ó cibdad, combatíala tan de recio, que la tomaba por fuerza por la muchedumbre de gentes que traía, é mandábalas derribar luego, é á los hombres mancebos de armas que podía prender matábalos todos. . .³⁶

Not dealing with people, but with things:

Por un mur muy pequeno que poco queso priso,
Dicen luego: "Los mures han comido el queso."
Sea el mal andante, sea el mal apreso
Quien a sí e a otros muchos estorba con mal seso.³⁷

Now, to consider prender (PREHENDERE) in its more specific uses, the first to treat is that meaning of "to lay hold of, detain" someone. Juan Ruiz (14th century) wrote:

Así fué que un tiempo una dueña me priso;
De su amor non fuí en ese tiempo repiso,
Siempre había della buena fabla e buen riso,
Nunca al fizó por mí, ni creo que facer quiso.³⁸

La vaquera traviesa diz: "Luchemos rato,
Liévate dende aprieta desvuélvete de aqués hato."
Por la muñeca me priso, hobe de facer cuanto quiso;
Creo que fiz buen barato.³⁹

Juan Ruiz was also one of the Middle Age writers to use prender to mean "to catch in the act, take by surprise:"

Prendióme sin sospecha la muerte en sus redes,
Parientes e amigos, ¡aquí non me acorredes?

³⁶La gran conquista de Ultramar, BAE, XLIV, 9.

³⁷Juan Ruiz, Libro de buen amor, p. 84, stanza 571.

³⁸Ibid., p. 17, stanza 77.

³⁹Ibid., pp. 136-137, stanza 971.

Obrad bien en la vida, a Dios non lo errades.
Que bien como yo morí, así todos morredes.⁴⁰

Non te puedo prender, tanta es tu maestría.
E maguer te presiese, crey que non te mataría
Tu cada que a mí prendes, tanta es tu orgullía,
Sin piedat me matas de noche e de día.⁴¹

From the Fuero Juzgo (1241) with the meaning of "to catch in the act" is:

Si la muier casada faze adulterio, é non la presieron con el adulterio, el marido la puede acusar antel iuez por sennales é por presumpciones é por cosas que sean convenibles.⁴²

There are, as may be expected, numerous examples of the use of prender meaning "to seize legally, arrest." The following give ample evidence to the transfer of this meaning from Latin to Castilian:

. . . et presieron iudicio de Gonzaluo Nunez de Cascagare, et iudicauit que portal cosa de erbatico che diesen dos pedones equales, . . . (1138)⁴³

a los judios te dexeste prender; do dizen monte Calvarie
pusiéronte en cruz por nombre de Golgotá; . . .⁴⁴

prender tr--mod, agarrar. Et non cesó de dezir fasta que entró el marido, e prendiólos, e

⁴⁰Ibid., p. 218, stanza 1577.

⁴¹Ibid., p. 35, stanza 214.

⁴²Fuero Juzgo, p. 56.

⁴³R. Menéndez Pidal, Documentos lingüísticos de España, reino de Castilla (Madrid: Hernando, 1919), I, 196.

⁴⁴Cantar de mío Cid, III, 1038, Lines 347-348.

firiólos muy mal, e lleuólos a la justia 76.500.
V. liebre, AIVc. (12th century)⁴⁵

Prender tr--mod; prisieron al marido, e leuronlo
al alcall 30.416.⁴⁶

Finally, "to seize, grasp with the mind" is found in early Castilian writing.

prender tr--sentir: prysjóme piedat 59.1267;
priso le grant cobdiçia 124.85; prísola gana del
marido nueuo que lo prometiera 196.311.⁴⁷

Assí cuemo la verdad non es prendida por la min-
tira, assi se signe que la mintira non viene de la
verdad; ca toda verdat viene de Dios, e la mintira
viene del diablo, ca el diablo fui siempre mente-
tero.⁴⁸

These examples of Castilian usage of prender, as can be seen, do not include one for "to take root"--"Item prehendere dicuntur quae sata proveniunt"⁴⁹--or "to take in with the eye, catch with the eye"--"Item poetice prehendere aliquid oculis es cernere, videre, . . ."⁵⁰ In no dictionary, word-list nor in any piece of literature of the Middle Ages consulted, is there any evidence of the latter meaning.⁵¹ The use of PRAEHENDERE in such instance was

⁴⁵Raoul M. Pérez, Vocabulario clasificado de Kalila et Digna (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1943), p. 81. The BAE edition was available but pagination, etc. was so different from that of the edition used by Mr. Pérez in his work as to be prohibitive.

⁴⁶Ibid., p. 194. ⁴⁷Ibid., p. 93.

⁴⁸Fuero Juzgo, p. 105.

⁴⁹Lexicon Totius Latinitatis, III, 853. ⁵⁰Ibid.

⁵¹As used by Juan Ruiz, me priso (Cf. note 38--"Así fué que un tiempo una dueña me priso") can be translated as "Caught my eye;" however, such a meaning is less satisfactory than the accepted translation.

evidently so infrequent and subtle that such a meaning was able to carry over into Castilian only as compound derivatives comprender, aprender, deprender, emprender, and reprender. The use of prender to mean "to take root" does not appear, according to Martín Alonso,⁵² until the sixteenth century, in Alonso de Herrera's Agricultura. Señor Alonso contends that such usage of the verb continues until the present century. This is borne out by other lexicographers and will be pointed out in more detail further on.

In addition to the divisions of meanings just discussed above, there are five others which will now be enumerated and cited. They are all a part of Spanish medieval literature but do not fall into any of the previous groups, nor do they go beyond the Middle Ages in their meanings. They all have in common the basic, underlying idea of "to take," but the idea has assumed a special significance. Therefore, each idea is deserving of a category of its own.

I. TO ABSOLVE.

The Bishop Jerome speaks to the Cid and his followers:

"El que aquí muriere lidiando de cara,
préndol yo los pecados, e Dios le abrá el
alma. . .⁵³

⁵²M. Alonso, Encic. del idioma, III, 3383.

⁵³Cantar de mío Cid, III, 1089, Lines 1704-1705.

These words of the prelate easily translate:

He who should die in face to face combat
His sins will I absolve, and God will have his
soul. . .

The speaker means that he will take upon himself the sins of the dead warriors, just as Christ absolved all Christians by taking upon himself the sins of the world.

Quite clear is it here how such a verb as prender, "to take," was used in such context.

II. TO COLLECT, ACCEPT, ACQUIRE, RECEIVE.

Here the two Jews speak:

Dixo Raquel e Vidas: "nos desto nos pagamos.
Las arcas aduchas, prendet seyesçientos marcos."⁵⁴

The second line of their speech is translated as "When the chests (are) delivered, collect six hundred marcos." It is quite clear that the meaning here is that Martín Antolínez is going "to take, acquire, get, collect, receive" six hundred marks in exchange for the chests. Any one of these verbs would as well express the idea in English.

"Mandó mio Cid, el que en buen ora nasco,
desta batalla que han arrancado
que todos prisiessen so derecho contado, . . ."⁵⁵

These lines translate into English:

My Cid, he who was born in a good hour, commanded
that of the battle that they had won all
receive their share of the booty. . .

⁵⁴Ibid., III, 1030, Lines 146-147.

⁵⁵Ibid., III, 1120, Lines 2484-2486.

Therefore, prisiessen clearly means "collect, acquire, get, take" in this instance also. These last two quotations--that is, these under Number II--definitely express the idea of taking in the sense of collecting what is due or owed or forthcoming.

Non lo detardan, los tres se apartaron.
 "Raquel e Vidas, amos me dat las manos,
 que non me descubrades a moros nin a cristianos;
 por siempre vos faré ricos, que non seades men-
 guados.
 El Campeador por las parias fo entrando,
 grandes averes priso e mucho sobejanos,
 retovo dellos quanto que fo algo;⁵⁶

The Cid . . . "collected great booty" is a good English translation of the "grandes averes priso." This particular employment of prender, along with another which follows, has been given special grouping by M. Alonso.⁵⁷ He contends that this meaning "recibir, tomar" is different from "coger, tomar, cobrar." Such distinction is not clear from the examples he cites.

"A Dios lo prometo, a aquel que está en alto:
 fata que yo me pague sobre mio buen cavallo,
 lidiando con moros en el campo,
 que enpleye la lança e al espada meta mano,
 e por el cobdo ayuso la sangre destellando,
 ante Roy Díaz el lidiador contado,
 non prendré de vos quanto un dinero malo.⁵⁸

Minaya is speaking here and says in the last line quoted above, "I shall not take (accept) from you a miserable

⁵⁶Ibid., III, 1029, Lines 105-111.

⁵⁷M. Alonso, Encic. del idioma, III, 3383.

⁵⁸Cantar de mio Cid, III, 1044, Lines 497-503.

cent." These two uses of prender quite naturally fall here under this category. There is no need for separate treatment. Menéndez Pidal, himself,⁵⁹ gives these usages under "cobrar, recibir." Yet Señor Alonso⁶⁰ has said that cobrar is appropriate for prender in the thirteenth century only, and he gives the Fuero de Madrid as his only source of proof. All this fine distinction is unnecessary and inappropriate, if not incorrect. Señor Alonso has erred in his relegation of said meaning to the thirteenth century only and also in giving such a meaning separate consideration. It is likely that this singular attention is due to the fact that he is drawing too fine a line semantically.

III. TO TAKE A DIRECTION.

Tornado es don Sancho, e fabló Albar Fáñez:
 "Si viéredes yentes venir por connusco ir, abbat,
 dezildes que prendan el rastro e pienssen de andar,"⁶¹

". . . tell them to take the trail," as we say in English or "pick up the trail," to be even more popular. These translations are clearly what is meant by the last quoted line above.

⁵⁹Ibid., II, 808.

⁶⁰M. Alonso, Encic. del idioma, III, 3383.

⁶¹Cantar de mío Cid, III, 1039, Lines 387-389.

IV. TO CONQUER.

This meaning of the verb, too, is very close to that meaning of "to take." In fact, in all instances quoted below it can easily be translated with the English verb "take." But "conquer" is more explicit, more graphic.

"Mas el castiello non lo quiero hermar;
ciento moros e çiento moras quiero las i quitar,
por que lo pris dellos que de mí non digan mal."⁶²

The last line translates easily into English "Since I conquered it (took it from them) and I don't want them to speak ill of me." Earlier, the Cid "Ganó a Castejón"⁶³ which says he "conquered Castejón" and the verb ganar was used. Above, in the passage quoted, prender is employed to convey the same idea. "Del castiello que prisieron todos ricos se parten;"⁶⁴ gives in English, "From the castle which they conquered, all leave rich."

Ayudól el Criador, el señor que es en çielo.
Él con todo esto priso a Murviedro;⁶⁵

"He with all this (help) conquered Murviedro" is the logical translation of the last line from the above quotation. "Prisieron Cebolla e quanto que es i adelant;"⁶⁶ gives in

⁶²Ibid., III, 1946, Lines 533-535.

⁶³Ibid., III, 1043, Line 473.

⁶⁴Ibid., III, 1046, Line 540.

⁶⁵Ibid., III, 1067, Lines 1094-1095.

⁶⁶Ibid., III, 1069, Line 1150.

English "They conquered Cebolla and all that is beyond," and "Quando pris a Cabra, e a vos por la barba,"⁶⁷ easily translates to "When I conquered Cabra and (seized) you by the beard." The verb pris is understood in the second part of the verse ("e [pris] a vos. . .") but the meaning is different. Actually, in this line and in all under this category the forms of prender could be translated simply with forms of the English "to take." This would waste much of the special meaning and flavor from the poem. But by using prender in many of its forms, the meanings intended are not lost or clouded. This verb was versatile enough in the mind of the poet of the age and also in the mind of the listener so that it could fulfill its semantic missions. And likewise, it is no trouble for one familiar with Medieval Spanish literature to find this one verb capable of so many nuances of meaning.

V. TO TIE, SECURE.

Professor Menéndez Pidal, in his study of the Cantar de mío Cid, has listed under prender⁶⁸ the use made of it to mean "to tie." From the Cid is the following:

"Velmezes vestidos por sufrir las guarnizones,
de suso las lorigas tan blancas como el sol;

⁶⁷Ibid., III, 1148, Line 3288.

⁶⁸Ibid., II, 808.

sobre las lorigas armiños e pelliçones,
e que no parezcan las armas, bien presos los
cordones."⁶⁹

The last line above translates easily, "And so that the arms (weapons) don't show, well tied the strings." Such use of prender is not commonly used by other authors of the period.

There are, at the same time, uses of the verb prender that began in Middle Age literature and continue right down to the present century. These are broad meanings. They do not include the more specialized and specific "nuance" meanings of certain geographically small or chronologically confined areas. Only two such broad meanings obtained from the twelfth to the twentieth century.

I. TO SEIZE, GRASP, CATCH, TAKE.

This is the general meaning that transferred to Castilian from Latin. In addition to the lines quoted on pages 48-49 (notes 34-39) and 50 (notes 40-41), others, from La gran conquista de Ultramar (14th century), are:

El conde Segar de Ombrin dió tan gran lanzada al caballero del Cisne, que le falsó su escudo é quebrantóle su lanza en medio de los pechos de sobre la loriga, é sino que era la loriga fuerte, hobíerale muerto ó mal lligado; mas el caballero del Cisne lo prendió de tal guisa que le falsó el escudo é la loriga maguera, que era muy buena.⁷⁰

⁶⁹Ibid., III, 1140, Lines 3073-3076.

⁷⁰La gran conquista de Ultramar, BAE, XLIV, 60.

·Mas salió en desviado é hirióle en soslayo; pero tan fieramente entró en él é le prendió, que la loriga non le aprovechó mas que una lua de cuero, e pasóle so la tetilla esquierda, é levóle la carne, como rayéndogela, hasta en los costillas . . .⁷¹

In both of the excerpts above, the Spanish prendió is easily and correctly translated by the English "caught" because we use the verb "to catch" in such vocabulary pertaining to fighting, as in "He caught him with an uppercut," "He caught him in the stomach," "The knife caught him in his back," etc. This particular use of prender which has been evidenced by the above two quotations has been taken over either by coger or tomar, probably the latter, as we shall see later. Yet the meaning itself, as used during the Middle Ages, does belong to the group here.

II. TO IMPRISON, CAPTURE, SEIZE A PERSON.

This meaning of taking a person prisoner, putting him in jail, holding him prisoner, capturing, is also part of the general meaning of PRAEHENDERE, as used by the Latin speakers and evidenced in the quotations on page 49 (notes 37 and 38). Examples of such usage in Spanish follow:

E estuvieron hí ocho dias despues que la batalla fué vencida, partiendo lo que ganaron; é despues movieron de allí todos en uno derechamente á un castillo que llaman Rocamirabel, do se encerraran

⁷¹Ibid., p. 301.

una parte de los moros que fuyeron de la batalla, é cortáronle todas las huertas é las viñas, é mataron é prendieron muchos dellos. . . .⁷²

. . . mas en tanto que él (Baldovin) allí estaba comiendo, vino un escudero á él, é díjole que todos los moros eran acogidos para el alcazar, con gran miedo que habian de ser muertos, como aquellos que no entendian haber acorro de ninguna parte, é que creian que si otro dia los fuese á combatir, que los mataria ó los prenderia á todos, é habria aquella villa; . . .⁷³

Much fué Baldovin temido por las tierras en derredor; . . . é los cristianos de aquella tierra, que le recibieran por señor, hiciéranse tan guerreros, que ellos mesmos mataban é prendian los moros que hallaban en las fortalezas, . . .⁷⁴

Mas por non mostrar que así se partia del todo, que no hiciese mal á los moros, metió cuarenta caballeros en un su castillo que tenia hí cerca de la villa á cuatro leguas, é mandó que coriesen á Sarmos, é que no dejasen ninguna cosa salir fuera de los muros, que presa o muerta no fuese.⁷⁵

Por ende, cuando la gran hueste de los cristianos hobieron tomado la puente, é muerto é preso a aquellos que guardaban el paso, sino muy pocos dellos que escaparan . . .⁷⁶

. . . é levaban hombres de pie consigo, que mataban los caballos de los cristianos, porque temian ser vencidos é muertos ó presos; . . .⁷⁷

E si veian alguna poca compañía que iban por yerba ó en cabalgada, salian á ellos é desbaratarábanlos é matábanlos é prendíanlos; . . .⁷⁸

. . . é sin todo aquesto, creian que otro dia de mañana tomarian aquella torre, é prenderian é matarian todos los que estaban en ella; . . .⁷⁹

⁷²Ibid., p. 143.

⁷³Ibid., p. 146.

⁷⁴Ibid., p. 150.

⁷⁵Ibid., p. 151.

⁷⁶Ibid., p. 154.

⁷⁷Ibid., p. 166.

⁷⁸Ibid., p. 168.

⁷⁹Ibid., p. 170.

. . . é el moro respondió que estuviesen seguros é que no hobiesen miedo ninguno, ca bien de mañana les vernia tomaña acorro, que todos los cristianos serian muertos é presos.⁸⁰

pero habian gran miedo de Tranquer, que no era allegado, é creían que los moros lo habian preso ó muerto; . . .⁸¹

Also fitting into this group is the following quotation:

. . . así que, otro día de mañana hicieron prender de Duque estando durmiendo en su cama; . . .⁸²

The English translation of the above means "likewise, the next day they had the Duke, asleep in his bed, captured . . ." The very same meaning is true of the continuing part of the above Spanish sentence: ". . . é desde lo hubieron preso . . ."⁸³ This clearly means "and after he had been captured . . ."

. . . é cuando todo esto hobieron contado al Emperador, dijiéronle cómo le traian presos los dos condes Mirabel de Tabor é Folquer de Ribera . . .⁸⁴

Presos above is quite well translated to English as "captured:"

. . . and when they had told all this to the Emperor, they told him how they brought to him the two captured counts, Mirabel de Tabor and Folquer de Ribera. . .

Likewise:

. . . preguntó a los donceles dónde eran ó de cuál lugar; é aquel mayor dellos le repuso que eran fijos del señor del castillo Esforzado é sobrinos del emperador; é que dijiese por qué razon levaba

⁸⁰Ibid., p. 171. ⁸¹Ibid., p. 172.

⁸²Ibid., p. 184. ⁸³Ibid. ⁸⁴Ibid., p. 71.

aquellas doncellas presas así atadas las manos, é prendieran a ellos otrosí;⁸⁵

Translating the last part to English, it is easily seen that it means:

. . . and that he should say for what reason he brought those young girls captured, thus tied by their hands, and (why) they captured them besides

Many more examples of such usage are found in La gran conquista de Ultramar (Libro primero and Libro segundo, the parts studied for examples herein) for the translator was indeed fond of the combinations matar ó prender and matar é prender. There is no need to quote any more, however. Cervantes was using this meaning for prender in the Golden Age in Rinconete y Cortadillo (17th century): "Vino el que tenía a cargo el dinero tras mí, prendiéronme, tuue poco fauor."⁸⁶ So was Tirso de Molina (17th century):

--Vos por el rey me prendéis?
Pues ¿en qué he sido culpado?⁸⁷

--Dad la espada,
Que el rey os manda prender.⁸⁸

And in the eighteenth century L. Fernández de Moratín wrote:

Mandáronse demoler todos los teatros, prender y azotar públicamente a todas las personas

⁸⁵Ibid., p. 51.

⁸⁶Carlos Fernández Gómez, Vocab. de Cerv., p. 823.

⁸⁷Pagés, Dicc. de autoridades, IV, 543. ⁸⁸Ibid.

convencidas de representar comedias, en contraven-
cion á la citada ordenanza; . . .⁸⁹

In all of the Spanish quotations in this section, the use of prender is equivalent to the use of the English "imprison" a person or "seize" a person for imprisonment or punishment. This use of prender, according to M. Alonso⁹⁰ continues until the present day.

In the sixteenth century Cristóval de las Casas enters in his dictionary:

Prendere--prender⁹¹
Prendere--començar

It will be noted and apparent, of course, that two verbs are listed here with the exact spelling, prendere, one meaning prender in Castilian and the other comenzar.

César Oudin will have a similar listing, as we shall see later. But it is interesting to note here that Menéndez Pidal makes mention of this in his listing of the uses of prender:

'comenzar'; del sentido inceptivo cuando rige un infinitivo mediante a (p. 352³⁹), se pasa á una construcción análoga rigiendo sustantivo, priso a espolonada 2383, como si en vez de "echó a galopar, tomó a correr" decimos "echó a galope, tomó á carrera por el camino adelante."⁹²

⁸⁹Leandro Fernández de Moratín, Obras póstumas (Madrid: Rivadeneyra, 1867), I, 256-257.

⁹⁰M. Alonso, Encic. del idioma, III, 3383.

⁹¹Cristóval de las Casas, Vocabulario de las dos lenguas toscana y castellana (Venice: Juan Antonio Juliani, 1618), p. 172.

⁹²Cantar de mío Cid, II, 808-809.

The lines from the poem are:

El obispo don Jerome priso a espolonada
e ívalos ferir a cabo del albergada.⁹³

The word priso can simply be translated to English as "began." Nowhere else in Medieval Spanish literature that has been studied, has this usage of prender been found.

In the next century, César Oudin (1607) says the same thing in his dictionary that las Casas had put in his:

Prendere, prendre. Entreprendre
parf. presi.
Prendere, pour commencer: presi
andari, il commençay d'aller.⁹⁴

Later in the same century Lorenzo Franciosini (1620) put in his dictionary:

Prender--pigliare, acchiappare con forza e
violenza.⁹⁵

Here for the first time the lexicon has modified prender with words expressing force and violence. Covarrubias (1611), in the seventeenth century also, lists prender

⁹³Ibid., III, 1116, Lines 2383-2384.

⁹⁴César Oudin, Tesoro de las dos lenguas francesa y española. Thresor des deux langues françoise et espagnole (Paris: M. Orry, 1607), p. 383.

⁹⁵Lorenzo Franciosini, Vocabulario español e italiano aora nuevamente sacado a luz (Roma: 1620), II, 599. Note pigliare which, according to Corominas, Dicc. crítico, III, 791, gave Spanish pillar and came from Latin *PILIARE, sacado del radical de COMPILARE 'despojar, saquear,' Ibid. and acchiappare which is the same verb as Castilian caber < CAPERRE, involved in the use of coger; cf. preceding chapter.

twice:

1. Prender. Asir la planta en la tierra o qualquiera postura.⁹⁶

This meaning goes back to a Latin meaning given to PRAEHENDERE, page 42 above, but it has not been found in any of Spanish literature up to this time nor in any other dictionary.

2. Prender Vale asir, pero comúnmente se toma por llevar a la carcel, latine prendere uel prehendere.⁹⁷

In the eighteenth century Sobrino (1791) is more explicit in his listings for prender; therefore, they will be entered as they appear in his dictionary:

PRENDER, v. a. Prendre, arrêter une chose. L. Apprehendere. Comprehendere. Corripere.

Prender. Prendre saisir, arrêter, mettre en prison. L. Comprehendere.

Prender. Par extension, en style familier, signifie Arrêter, retenir quelqu'un, l'engager à dîner, à jouer, etc. L. Tenere, Retinere.

Prender. Prendre ses habits, s'habiller, s'acommoder, s'ajuster, se parer, ce qui se dit ordinairement des femmes. L. Comere. Ornare.

Prender. Se dit aussi des bêtes, s'entend de la jonction du mâle avec la femelle. L. Salire.

PRENDER, v. n. Prendre racine, ce qui se dit des plantes; et aussi moralement, de toute autre chose. L. Radices agere.⁹⁸

From these definitions it will be noted especially that

⁹⁶Covarrubias, Tesoro, p. 880. ⁹⁷Ibid.

⁹⁸Francisco Sobrino, Sobrino aumentado o nuevo diccionario de las lenguas española, francesa y latina, con un diccionario abreviado de geografía, en donde se hallan los nombres de los Reynos, de las Ciudades, de los Mares y Rios del Mundo (Leon: J. B. de la Molliere, 1791), I, Part II, p. 291. Hereafter cited as Sobrino aumentado.

the third entry harks back to the original Latin meaning on page 41, "to lay hold of, detain." This definition has not been mentioned by any of the other lexicographers consulted, since the Middle Ages. In addition, entries four and five appear for the first time, here, in connection with the usage of prender. They will both be seen more frequently later. Examples have already been cited of many of these meanings but in regard to the definition given third: "Par extension, (of prendre, saisir, arrêter, etc.) en style familier, signifie Arrêter, retenir quelqu'un etc," Cervantes has said in Pedro de Urdemales, "Roque a de ser el que prenda en este juego a la dama."⁹⁹ And in the eighteenth century Fernández de Moratín used the past participle of prender in the manner mentioned above by Sobrino, "Prendre ses habits . . . ce qui se dit ordinairement des femmes," when he wrote:

Las damas se presentan muy jalbegadas, muy prendidas, con su gracioso cendal guarnecido de blondas y la majestuosa basquiña, que suena y arrastra.¹⁰⁰

Concerning the meaning of the "jonction du mâle avec la femelle" given above by Sobrino, also for the first time in any dictionary consulted, it is believed that this meaning was used first by Juan de Torres in his Filosofía moral which came out in 1596. In this work appears, "El

⁹⁹Carlos Fernández Gómez, Vocab. de Cerv., p. 823.

¹⁰⁰Leandro Fernández de Moratín, op. cit., I, 438.

ciervo, en acabando de prender la hembra . . ., busca donde se esconder."¹⁰¹ This meaning has been in use until the present century also, since it is listed by both M. Alonso and Zerolo.¹⁰²

In the nineteenth century Salvá repeats many of the same definitions of prender. Those that he has added are:

1. ant. Tomar, recibir.¹⁰³
2. Empezar á ejercitar su cualidad o comunicar su virtud una cosa a otra, ya sea material ó inmaterial. Dícese regularmente del fuego, cuando se empieza á cebar en una materia dispuesta, Corripere, invadere.¹⁰⁴
3. Hacer presa una cosa en otra, estar asida de ella.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰¹Torres' work was unobtainable for consultation, but M. Alonso, Encic. del idioma, III, 3383, lists him as a source of this usage as does also Zerolo's Dicc. encic., II, 571.

¹⁰²Cf. note 99.

¹⁰³Vicente Salvá, Nuevo dicc., p. 875. This matter of a separate category for this usage was discussed on pages 53-55, under category Number II of the Middle Age meanings. It is interesting to note that the first Academy dictionary, eighteenth century, does not list this meaning, while the tenth edition, in the nineteenth century does.

¹⁰⁴"Llegó el día 22 de Febrero; cayó una bomba en la parte más alta del castillo, prendió fuego a unos cincuenta barriles de pólvora y varios mistos que el ineptísimo ingeniero había colocado allí; . . ." Leandro Fernández de Moratín, op. cit., II, 206.

¹⁰⁵M. Alonso, Encic. del idioma, III, 3383, gives the eighteenth century as the beginning century for this meaning, and it appears in dictionaries for the first time in the nineteenth century, but Cervantes said in the

The tenth edition of the Academy dictionary has exactly the same listing as those definitions listed by Salvá. Since the Academy dictionary was published in 1852 and Salvá's in 1879, this correspondence is expected but noteworthy.

The twentieth century lexicographers have been more voluminous, by and large, in their treatment of prender. Aniceto de Pagés (1901), who has been mentioned earlier, has no definition that has not been seen in the works heretofore discussed. He does have examples for almost all his listings, the exception being the definition "hacer presa una cosa en otra." In Zerolo's dictionary the additions or new material consist of these two idiomatic phrases:

--7. Pegado, prendido, o preso, con alfileres.
fr. V. alfiler.¹⁰⁶

--8. Quien da, bien vende, si no es ruin el que prende. ref. V. DAR.¹⁰⁷

Quijote, "Y echándola vna gran cadena de oro al cuello mostraron prenderla, rendirla y cautivarla," Vocab. de Cerv., p. 823. This definition seems to be more fitting here than simply "to capture" or "to subdue." They wanted to "entangle her, subdue her and capture her."

¹⁰⁶Zerolo, Dicc. encic., II, 571. Under Alfiler, to which the reader is referred, is found: "--10. Pegado, prendido o preso con alfileres. expr. fig. y fam. Dícese de todo lo que material or moralmente ofrece poca subsistencia o firmeza por faltarle fundamento sólido." Ibid., I, 123.

¹⁰⁷Ibid., II, 571. Listed under Dar is: "Quien da, bien vende si no es ruin el que prende. ref. que enseña que el que sabe usar la liberalidad granjea con lo que da." Ibid., I, 772.

In addition to the above idiomatic expressions, Zerolo has done something none of the others we have checked has done before him. He has, under the intransitive prender, entered the following:

--2. Empezar a ejercitar su cualidad o comunicar su virtud una cosa a otra, ya sea material o inmaterial. Dícese regularmente del fuego cuando se empieza a cebar en una materia dispuesta. "Aunque en las más prendió, en muchas pereció la fe." (P. Puente)¹⁰⁸

Then above this, under the transitive prender, he enters:

--6. +Arrimar o acercar la lumbre a un objeto para que se encienda. PRENDER fuego al hogar.
Que lleve al monte la llama,
Que prenda en la arista lumbre. (Cald.)¹⁰⁹

The only distinction clearly indicated by Zerolo is that the latter is transitive and means "to set fire," and the former is intransitive, and means "to catch fire." Such fine delineation has not been made previously, and as stated in note number 109, such difference is not given place in the eighteenth edition of the Academy dictionary. This dictionary lists only the one definition, that one on this page, under the number "2," and does not list it as intransitive.

M. Alonso has all the definitions that have been previously mentioned along with the centuries to which these uses pertain. While the categorizing of the

¹⁰⁸Ibid., II, 571.

¹⁰⁹Ibid. The cross (+) indicates that the definition has not appeared before in an Academy dictionary. It is not found in the eighteenth edition either.

meanings does not coincide with the ones herein, the meanings are essentially the same.

Joan Corominas, in his Dicc. crítico, III, 874-877, deals rather lengthily with the origin, early Castilian use and later American use of prender. One of his statements is:

En la época arcaica y en el s. XIV prender tenía acs. much más amplias que las modernas, no menos que las que tiene el vocablo en it., galorromance y cat.; se empleaba entonces en lugar del posterior tomar: . . .¹¹⁰

This usurpation by tomar accounts for the limited growth of prender in Spanish as a verb meaning "to take, catch, seize, grasp." More will be said of this matter when tomar is discussed.

DERIVATIVES. Following is a list of the words derived from prender or its parent Latin verb. The majority of the English definitions are from the New Revised Velázquez Spanish and English Dictionary.¹¹¹ Those words that, for one reason or another, are not included in Velázquez's dictionary nor any other modern Spanish-English dictionary are preceded by an asterisk and were translated by the author from the entries in the eighteenth edition of the Academy dictionary.

¹¹⁰Corominas, Dicc. crítico, III, 874.

¹¹¹Mariano Velázquez de la Cadena, Edward Gray and Juan L. Iribas, op. cit.

*Prendedura--f. A spot, as of blood, smaller than a lentil, which is found in the yolk of an egg laid by a fertile hen and without which the egg is infertile.

Prendido--m. 1. Dress of women. 2. Pattern for bonelace. Prendido, da--pp. of Prender.

Prendimiento--m. 1. Seizure, capture.

Prensil--adj. 1. Prehensile.

Preensión--f. 1. Prehension.

Prensor, sora--adj. and f. (Orn.) 1. Psittacine.

Presa--f. 1. Capture, seizure. 2. Prize, spoils, or booty taken from an enemy. 3. Dike, dam, mole, bank; drain, trench, conduit. 4. Slice of meat; a bit of any other kind of eatables. 5. Tusk, fang. 6. Claw of a bird of prey. 7. Carcass of a fowl or bird killed by a hawk or other bird of prey. 8. Among fishermen, fish weir, stake work. Presa de caldo, pulp, juice. V. Pisto. Hacer presa, to catch and tie anything so that it cannot escape.

Preso, sa--l. Prisoner.

Preso, sa--l. pp. irr. of Prender. Taken.

Presilla--f. 1. A small string with which anything is tied or fastened. 2. Loop in clothes, which serves as a button-hole. 3. Sort of linen. Presilla de un sombrero, loop for a hat.

Presada--f. 1. Color of a leek; a pale green color.

Presero--m. 1. The person who has the care of a dam or a dike.

Presera--f. 1. (Bot.) Goosegrass, cleavers. V.
Amor de hortelano.

Apresar--l. To seize, to grasp. 2. (Naut.) To take or capture an enemy's ship.

Apresador, ra--l. Privateer, cruiser. 2. Captor.

Apresamiento--m. 1. Capture, clutch, hold.

Prisión--f. 1. Seizure, capture, apprehension.

2. Prison, jail. 3. Anything which binds or holds physically. 4. Bond, union; cement or cause of union.--pl. chains, shackles, fetters.

Prisionero--m. 1. Prisoner, a soldier taken by an enemy. 2. Captivated by affection or passion.

Aprisionar--l. To confine, to imprison. 2. To bind, to subject.

Desaprisionar--l. To release from confinement, to set at liberty. vr. (met.) To extricate one's self from difficulties, to remove an impediment.

Aprender--l. To learn, to acquire knowledge. 2. To retain in the memory.

Aprendedor, ra--l. Learning, apt to learn.

*Aprendiente--l. ant. Learning.

Aprendiz, za--l. Apprentice or prentice; learner.

Aprendiz de todo, Oficial de nada, a jack of all trades.

Aprendizaje--m. 1. Apprenticeship, the years which an apprentice is to pass under a master to learn a trade.

Aprensión--f. 1. Apprehension. 2. False concept, and unfounded fear which it occasions. 3. Mistrust, suspicion: particularly of one believing himself sick, or in dread of contagion.

Aprensivo, va--l. Apprehensive, hypochondriac.

*Deprender--l. (little used) To learn.

Desprender--va. To unfasten, to loose, to disjoin, to separate. vr. 1. To give way, to fall down. 2. To extricate one's self, to dispossess one's self, give away. 3. To be deduced, to be inferred.

Desprendido, da--a. Disinterested, generous, uncovetous.

Desprendimiento--m. 1. Alienation, disinterestedness. 2. A landslide.

Comprender--l. To embrace, to encircle, to comprehend. 2. To comprise, to include, to contain. 3. To comprehend, to understand, to conceive, to know.

Comprendedor, ra--l. One who comprehends or understands.

*Comprendiente--l. ant. Comprehending.

Comprensible--l. Comprehensible, conceivable.

Comprensibilidad--f. 1. Comprehensibleness, comprehensibility.

Comprensivo, va--1. Comprehensive, having the power to comprehend. 2. Comprehensive, having the quality of comprising much.

Comprensión--f. 1. Comprehension, comprisal, conceiving, conception. 2. Comprehensiveness. 3. Act of comprising or containing.

Compensor, ra--1. (Theol.) The blessed, the one who enjoys the presence of God in the heavenly mansions. 2. One that understands, attains, or embraces a thing.

Emprender--1. To undertake, to engage in an arduous undertaking. 2. To attempt, to go about any business.

Emprender a or con alguno, to address or accost one, either to trouble, to reprimand, to supplicate or to quarrel with him.

Emprendedor--m. 1. Enterpriser, one who undertakes great things. 2. Undertaker, one who engages in projects or affairs.

Empresa--f. 1. Symbol, motto. 2. Enterprise, undertaking. 3. Design, an intention, a purpose.

Empresario--m. 1. The person who undertakes to do or perform, on his own account, some business of great importance. 2. Manager of a theater.

Reprender--1. To reprehend, to reprimand, to blame, to censure, to reprove, to chide, to correct.

*Reprendedor--1. adj. Censuring, reproving.

Reprendiente--l. adj. Censuring, reprimanding.

*Reprendimiento--l. Reprehension, blame, censure, reprimand, reproof, lesson.

Reprensible--l. Reprehensible.

Reprensión--f. 1. Reprehension, blame, censure, reprimand, reproof, lesson. Sujeto sin reprensión, an irreprehensible person.

Reprensor, ra--l. Reprehender, censurer, reprover.

Reprensorio--l. adj. ant. Said of that which reprimands, reproves.

Represalia, Represaria--f. 1. Reprisal, reprise.

Sorprender--l. To surprise, to fall upon unexpectedly, to take by surprise, to come upon; to overtake. 2. To execute anything silently and with caution. 3. To surprise, to astonish by something wonderful and sudden.

Sorprendente--l. Surprising. 2. Rare, extraordinary, strange. p. a. of Sorprender.

Sorpresa--f. 1. Surprise; taking by surprise; deceit, imposition. 2. Surprise, sudden confusion or perplexity. 3. Amazement, astonishment, consternation. Sorpresa de una carta, the act of intercepting a letter. Tomar por sorpresa, to surprise, to take unawares.

CHAPTER III

TOMAR

The etymology of tomar is clouded by uncertainties. Diez's theory¹ that tomar derives from Old Low German tōmian "to set free, liberate" has had scant following. The reasons for this lack of supporters are easily understood when one realizes that the existence of such a word in Gothic is extremely hypothetical, according to Corominas,² and that it is highly unlikely that the semantic difficulties involved in arriving at "to take" from "to set free, liberate" could have been resolved.³ For all this, Diez's explanation is untenable. The two other theories most widely favored are the one that contends Spanish tomar is onomatopoetic in origin (<TŪM(B)) and from the same family as French tomber "to fall," and the one that supports Latin AUTUMARE as the etymon of tomar.

¹Friedrich Diez, op. cit., p. 492.

²J. Corominas, Dicc. crít., IV, 492.

³Although Diez indicates that the similarities between the semantic development of quitar and of tomar are enough to breach such a gap, and although quitar is now often synonymous with tomar, he does not point out that tomar never meant "to free, liberate, or pay" as did quitar in the twelfth century. Corominas does state such, Dicc. crít., IV, 492.

Meyer-Lübke⁴ was the one to give TŮM(B) as the origin of Fr. tomber. This latter theory was vociferously defended by Spitzer⁵ and caused Meyer-Lübke, in the third edition of Romanisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch, to believe that Catalan tomar could deliver Spanish tomar semantically compatible with Fr. tomber. There are serious difficulties with the preceding theory. First, tomar has appeared most often in Castilian with a single -m- and occasionally with -mm-, the latter a scribal matter. If tomar were the offspring of tomber or even of other words in other languages or dialects which result from onomatopoetic TŮM(B), it is reasonable to assume that it would have appeared somewhere in some of its forms with -mb-. It does not, however. Next, Fr. tomber and Spanish tumbar "to tumble, fell, knock down, throw down" are semantically akin, and it is incredible that another verb of completely different meanings and orthography should appear on the Iberian peninsula from the same origin as the already existant tumbar. Third, Castilian tomar is in evidence early in the Spanish language (1074),⁶ but tumbar is not noted until the late fifteenth century (La Celestina). It is incongruous to believe that Fr. tomber should produce tomar, a

⁴W. Meyer-Lübke, REW, 3rd ed., p. 747.

⁵Leo Spitzer, "Notes étymologiques," Revista de filología española, XIII (1926), pp. 121-126.

⁶Oelschläger, op. cit., p. 204.

verb completely different semantically from the parent, so early and then much later produce tumbar, a verb of great semantic similarity to tomber. In addition, tomar is earlier than the onomatopoetic tomber, which Godefroy gives as late twelfth century.⁷

As regards the thesis of tomar < AUTUMARE, the following arguments in its favor will serve to point out the likelihood of the theory. These favorable statements and the abovementioned inverisimilitudes give more credence to AUTUMARE > tomar, if they do not prove conclusively this theory, first set down by Pio Rajna⁸ and strongly supported by Jud.⁹ Regarding the phonology involved in this instance, it is easily seen that AUTUMARE > ATUMARE > *ATOMAR > *OTOMAR > tomar. However, there are objections raised to this metamorphosis. Chief among the objections is the complete lack of the form *atomar in Spanish, alongside tomar.¹⁰ Yet Rajna and Jud both cite very convincing evidence in support of their belief:

⁷"Et les balerresses baler/ Et les tumberresses tunber." Perceval. Frédéric Godefroy, Dictionnaire de l'ancienne langue française et de tous ses dialects du IXe au XVe siècle (Paris: Emile Bouillon, 1892), VII, 739.

⁸Pio Rajna, "Discussioni etimologiche," Revista de filología española, VI (1919), pp. 1-13.

⁹J. Jud, "A propósito del español 'tomar,'" Homenaje ofrecido a Menéndez Pidal, II (1925), pp. 21-27.

¹⁰Spitzer's article in the "Notes étymologiques" of the RFE (page 77 above) shows this lacuna to be one of the two principal objections he has to this etymology.

Ora nello spagnolo . . . un gran numero di verbi ci si presentano nel medesimo significato, e con a iniziale e senza. Prendo a scorrere un vocabolario spagnolo usuale movendo dal principio: trovo abajar e bajar, abarloar e barloar, abarrenar e barrenar, abastar e bastar, abioldar e bioldar, ablandir e blandir, abotonar e botonar, abozar e bozar, ecc., ecc. Ricorro al prezioso "Vocabulario" speciale di cui il Menéndez Pidal ha corredato la sua mirabile edizione monumentale del Cantar de Mío Cid; e vi raccolgo acatar e catar, acoger e coger, acometer e cometer, adormirse e dormirse, aguisar e guisar, ajuntar e juntar, aquejarse e quejarse, arrancar e rancar, asorrendar e sorrendar.¹¹

Rajna is stating that it is not unlikely that a word such as *atomar might lose its prefix, in light of the many other Spanish words which do or have done the same. Jud's argument in favor of ATUMARE takes a different turn. His thesis is that of regressive development; that is, many words seem to be composites of prefixes or suffixes and radicals when actually there was no radical with affixes but a "simple" word. As an example, Jud cites the following:

El latín posee el verbo RECUPERARE 'recobrar;' pero el prov. ant. costrar, esp. costrar, port. costrar van corroborando la existencia de un verbo "sencillo," CUPERARE, sin duda alguna por haberse oscurecido el sentido del prefijo re- en ciertas acepciones de la voz.¹²

If this be the case TUMARE could easily have obtained in like manner, to be given over to the vocabulary of judicial language.

Since tomar was in Early Spanish primarily a law term, it is easy to see why it remained on the Iberian

¹¹Rajna, op. cit., p. 5. ¹²Jud, op. cit., p. 23.

Peninsula only, since there are several other words of extensive use in judicial matters that have kept to the same geographical area and have left no vestige in the rest of Romania. Jud has a convincing number of such words: OSp yengo, engo "free" (<L. INGENUUM); Sp. denostar "to offend, defame," denuesto "insult, abuse," OPtg deostar, Ptg doestar "to offend, reproach," doeste, "offense, reproach" (<L. DEHONESTARE); Sp. porfiar "to dispute and altercate obstinately and tenaciously," OPtg perfiar, pre-, porfiar "to persist" (<L. PERFIDIARE); Sp. reo "offender, criminal," OPtg reu (<L. REUS); Sp. pregonar, Ptg pregoar, Cat. pregonar "to announce publicly" (<L. PRAECONIUM);¹³ Sp. quejar, Ptg queixar "to plead before a judge" (<L. QUEROR); Sp preguntar, Ast perguntar "to interrogate someone, H-Sp pruntar "to ask," Ptg preguntar, perguntar "to demand, interrogate" (<L. PERCONTARI); OSp pescudar "to ask," OPtg pescudar "to make an inquisition" (<L. SCRUTARI); Sp entregar, Ptg entregar "to put in the hands or power of someone a person or thing; to return; to make restitution" (<L. INTEGRARE.).¹⁴ Such examples as these give ample proof of the possibility of a word such as tomar remaining on the Hispanic Peninsula, along with

¹³For a more comprehensive discussion of these words from L. PRAECONIUM and others in French and Italian that are often believed to be of the same origin cf. ibid., p. 26.

¹⁴Ibid., pp. 25-27.

others of its ilk and exclusiveness. That tomar was a very important part of legal terminology will be discussed shortly in connection with its semantic development. Although every possible question that might arise out of this etymological study has not been answered, it has been shown that AUTUMARE is by far the most likely answer to the problem.

Latin AUTUMARE meant literally and in its most general use "to say aye, to affirm; to assert, aver, say, name." In rarer usage it meant "to think, to believe." In the Latin language its history is long. It was used by Plautus¹⁵ and Terence,¹⁶ Horace,¹⁷ such churchmen as Tertulian¹⁸ and late authors as Gregory of Tours.¹⁹ Pio Rajna contends that AUTUMARE and ASSERERE are synonymous in their uses as judicial terms and that ASSERERE is equivalent to PRENDERE. If ASSERERE = PRENDERE and ASSERERE = AUTUMARE, then AUTUMARE = PRENDERE (tomar and prender are synonymous in several of their meanings,

¹⁵"PLAVT. Amph. 306 quattour . . . sopori se disse hic autumat." Thesaurus Linguae Latinae, II, 1605.

¹⁶"TER. Haut. 18 id esse factum non negat . . . et deinde facturum autumat poeta." Ibid., II, 1606.

¹⁷"HOR. sat. 2, 3, 45 quem . . . stultitia . . . agit, insanum Chrysippi . . . grex autumat." Ibid.

¹⁸"TERT. pall. 2 p. 923, 4 Oehl. ut autumat superiorum profanitas." Ibid.

¹⁹"GREG. TVR. Franc. 4, 42 reppererat homines . . . nihil de his, quae accesserant, autumantes." Ibid.

clearly evident from the discussion of the previous chapter and what will follow in the present one). Further, since ASSERERE ALIQUID means "to reclaim or lay hold of an object," AUTUMARE ALIQUID means the same thing since it comes to be used in such phrases as tomare calumpnia, renda, medietate, etc.²⁰ Hence, that AUTUMARE > tomar in form and meaning is the most logical and acceptable theory yet set down.²¹

Since the use of tomar in legal documents played so important a part in its growth in Spanish, the first classification given the verb will pertain mainly to its usage in such writings. The following codification, including the first, is divided according to use in Medieval Spanish literature.

²⁰For a more detailed study of Rajna's logistic in this matter, see op. cit., RFE, VI, pp. 11-12.

²¹The etymology proported by Körting, op. cit., p. 679 and Vicente García de Diego, Diccionario etimológico español e hispánico (Madrid: S. A. E. T. A., 1954), p. 873, namely tomar < MUTUARE is so strained in regards to phonological development as to be inadmissable. The semantic similarities do not overcome the unreasonable change from MUTUARE to TOMUARE, as García de Diego believes, through the influence of TENERE; Gaston Paris, "Romanische Forschungen, I, 2," Romania, XII (1833), p. 133: "tomar esp.: de MUTUARE (?)"

I. TO RECEIVE, ACCEPT SOMETHING.²²

From the Leonese "fuero de Alfayates," written ca. 1200 appear: "toto homine que tomare qual cosa quisier sin grado de suo domino, déla duplada com 2 morabitanos"²³ and "toto omine qui renda aliena tomare . . . pectet 4 morabitanos."²⁴ From the "fuero de Castelo Bom," also ca. 1200 and also written in an area near Portugal, as was the "Alfayates:"

qui dampno fecerit in vinea . . . qui ibi acceperit porcos aut oves aut ganado aliquid . . . si voluerit mate de illis II, et non tome altera calumpnia²⁵

totos los parentes qui inimico segudaren . . . si omicilio cogeren, tome pater et mater la medietate; et si non habuerit pater aut mater, sos fratres tomen la medietate; . . . suos primos tomen la medietate . . . non toment nada²⁶

From the Fuero Juzgo:

E la carta que deve enviar el iuez al sayon deve ser desta forma: 'Tal iuez a tal sayon salud. Mandamos vos, que tal cosa que fulan demanda a fulan, que tiene agora en su poder, que ge la metades en poder sennaladamientre ante dos testimonios, o ante tres . . . e si alguna cosa es dentro, que non sea sennalada de su sennor, que la sennaledes de vostra sennal: por que non aya negun enganno. E vos don sayon non tomedes ende nada.'²⁷

²²Several of these examples come from Leges et consuetudines of the Portugaliae Monumenta Historica a saeculo VIII post Christum usque ad quintum decimum, published in 1856 by the Academia de Ciencias de Lisboa. These tomes being unavailable, a secondary source is cited.

²³Corominas, Dicc. crít., IV, 491. ²⁴Ibid.

²⁵Ibid. ²⁶Ibid.

²⁷Fuero Juzgo, p. 169.

From an earlier document (1174) from Aguilar de Campó:²⁸

Et si por aventura, non oviere hi filio de la villa, che canten los ffrayres amas las ecclesias e tomen todo. Et otrosi, si los ffrayres non podieren servir las ecclesias e fijos oviere hi de la ecclesia, sirvan las ecclesias e tomen todo²⁹

Later (1205) and from the province of Santander (La Montaña): "et ego Roi Diaz so filio otorgo esta vendida que vendio mio padre e tomo en precio iiii moravedis."³⁰ A translation to English of these excerpts from legal documents is not necessary to show that tomar in all these instances means "to take" in the sense of "to receive or accept something." This same use of tomar did not confine itself to legal documents. It appeared in other writings, both earlier and later, of the Spanish Middle Ages.

A tod el primer golpe trezientos marcos de plata, notólos don Martino, sin peso los tomava;³¹

These lines easily translate to English: "At the first pitch three hundred pieces of silver fell, Don Martino counted them, without weighing he accepted them."

II. TO TAKE POSSESSION OF SOMETHING.

'Si el rey me lo quisiere tomar, a mí non m'incal. Antes seré convusco que el sol quiera rayar.'³²

Here, in these lines, Martín Antolínez, "el Burgalés leal"

²⁸See Doc. ling., p. 32 for explanation of the geographical limits of Aguilar de Campó.

²⁹Ibid., p. 35. ³⁰Ibid., p. 19.

³¹Cantar de mio Cid, III, 1032, Lines 184-185.

³²Ibid., III, 1033, Lines 230-231.

is saying to the Cid: "If the king wishes to take my possessions from me, it will not bother me. I will be with you before the sun shines."

Et son dos maneras de feudo: la una es quando es otorgado sobre villa, o castiello o otra cosa que sea raiz: et este feudo atal non puede seer tomado al vasallo . . .³³

From the last colon, the English translation for the above easily reads: "and this fief cannot be taken away from the vassal."³⁴ In the context of the entire Partida IV, Título XXVI, Ley I this clause implies that the lord may not "repossess" the fief or "take possession" of it again. However, "take away" is doubtless the smoothest English translation.³⁵ In this passage it is readily seen that tomar harks back to AUTUMARE ALIQUID = ASSERERE ALIQUID in their uses in legal documents.

e este mal tan bien venia en los reyes e altos hombres como en los otros, que estos se guerreaban e

³³Libro de las Partidas, included in Tatiana Fottitch, An Anthology of Old Spanish (Washington: The Catholic University of America Press, 1962), p. 113.

³⁴Note the use of a instead of de. Cf. Cuervo, I, 8, where, speaking of a he writes, "Admiten dativo . . . Verbos conocidamente transitivos que llevan acusativo de persona o cosa, y en tal caso se señala el dativo el término adonde va a parar o la persona en cuyo daño o provecho redundo la acción ejercida sobre el acusativo."

³⁵In the last line of the same Partida is found, "et este feudo atal puede el rey toller cada que quisiere." Toller is listed by the eighteenth edition of the Spanish Academy dictionary as equivalent to quitar "to take away" and is synonymous with tomar in this Partida.

habían contienda entre sí, e el que mas podia tomaba al otro lo que habia³⁶

Translated to English, the last clause reads, "and the one who more easily could, took from the other what he possessed."

III. TO TAKE, SEIZE OR GRASP WITH THE HAND.

This category moves away from the semantics involved in the preceding group to constitute itself with the most general application of tomar; i.e., "to take, seize or grasp with the hand."

Las azes de los moros yas mueven adelant,
por a mio Çid e a los sos a manos los tomar.³⁷

These lines translate to English: "The files of Moors move forward to seize with their hands the Cid and his men." The poet has not left the reader to conjecture at the meaning of tomar in the above lines. He has used the words a manos to clearly indicate what is expressed often in English as "hand to hand combat."

Grandes son los poderes e a priessa llegandoos van,
entre moros e cristianos gentes se le allegan
grandes;
adelinan tras mio Çid el bueno de Bivar,
tres días e dos noches penssaron de andar,
alcançaron a mio Çid en Tévar e el pinar;
así vienen esforçados que a manos se le cuydan
tomar.³⁸

³⁶La gran conquista de Ultramar (BAE, XLIV, 5).
Note here also tomar a.

³⁷Cantar de mio Çid, III, 1052, Lines 700-701.

³⁸Ibid., III, 1062, Lines 967-972.

Above is a description of the forces of the Count of Barcelona, who has heard that the Cid is overrunning his lands. "They come in great numbers and think to take him in their hands." The enemy wants to seize the Cid by hand, "to get their hands on him" in order to do him ill.

Mio Cid don Rodrigo al cuello lo tomó,
e liévalo adestrando, en la red le metió.³⁹

In his encounter with the lion, "My Cid Rodrigo seized him by the neck, led him along and put him in his cage."

alçó la mano, a la barba se tomó:⁴⁰

The Cid "raised his hand and grasped his beard," a sign of satisfaction. This was a customary gesture of the hero and occurs elsewhere in the poem.⁴¹

Tomola el demonio a la Missa estando,
dio con ella en tierra, trayola mal menando⁴²

Berceo has used tomar here to mean "to seize, grasp with the hands" as he has personified Satan and shown him as taking hold of the girl and throwing her to the ground. Showing no violent action but simply the act of taking something with the hand, is the following:

³⁹Ibid., III, 1112, Lines 2300-2301. Later when Pedro Bermúdez challenges Fernando, he recalls to him this incident of the Cid and the lion and similar wording is used. However in this latter instance the verb employed is prender, showing that it, too, meant "to seize with the hands." See pages 48-49 of the previous chapter.

⁴⁰Ibid., III, 1119, Line 2476.

⁴¹Cf. lines 2829 and 3185.

⁴²Gonzalo de Berceo, Vida de Santo Domingo de Silos, p. 82, Stanza 690a, b.

Despues el sancto clerigo el que la missa canta,
Dando grandes sospiros toma la hostia sancta⁴³

Raoul M. Pérez, in his classified vocabulary of Kalila et Digna, has put tomar under the heading of "Acciones de las manos." He says that tomar, in such a meaning, is equivalent to modern Spanish coger.⁴⁴ Then he refers the reader back to the word veganbre where one finds:

tomó ella veganbre que avia puesto en una caña
lo ehcar al ome por las narizes, e puso la boca en la
caña por soplar. Et . . . cayó aella la veganbre en
la garganta, e cayo muerta⁴⁵

From the context it is easy to see that tomó does not mean "she took" in the sense of "she swallowed" but that "she took the poison (in her hand);" that is, "she took with the hand the reed" in which she had stored the poison.

The Archpriest of Hita, writing of his book, says:

Cualquier home que lo oya, si bien trovar sopiere,
Puede más y añadir e enmendar si quisiere
Ande de mano en mano a quienquier quel pidiere,
Como pella a las dueñas, tómelo quien podiere.⁴⁶

He exhorts in the last two lines of the stanza: "Let it go from hand to hand to whomever should ask for it. Take it whoever can, as the ladies with the ball."⁴⁷ By

⁴³Gonzalo de Berceo, Del sacrificio de la Missa (BAE, LVII, 89, Stanza 275, a, b).

⁴⁴Raoul M. Pérez, Vocabolario clasificado de 'Kalila et Digna', p. 76.

⁴⁵Ibid., p. 58.

⁴⁶Juan Ruiz, op. cit., p. 226, Stanza 1629.

⁴⁷pella = pelota. Also "pellota." According to José María Aguado, Glosario sobre Juan Ruiz, p. 507, "Dicho juego parece ser semejante al tenis de hoy."

comparing the taking of the book with the taking of the ball, the author has clearly indicated he means simply "to take in hand, with the hand." Earlier in the book, after speaking to some extent of the power of money, Juan Ruiz admonishes:

En suma te lo digo, tómallo tu mejor.⁴⁸

He is saying "take it (money)," "get your hands on it the best way you can."

e cuando esto le hobieron otorgado, fué él luego al alguacil de los moros e díjoles que aquel fecho el lo ficiera, el que no habian por qué fatigar los otros cristianos; e entonces soltaron los moros a todos los otros e diéronles todo lo suyo, e tomaron a él e descabezaronle⁴⁹

"and they seized him and beheaded him" clearly implies taking with the hands. Certainly no other manner is indicated, yet violence of action is doubtless a part of the act. Also, "E prometióles que todos aquellos que quisiessen tomar la cruz . . . que de cuantos pecados ficieron que de todos fuesen personados."⁵⁰ Although the act of taking up the cross is a figurative one in this instance, it is based on the real, physical action of picking up the cross with the hands and bearing it. For this reason, tomar is well used in such context.

⁴⁸Juan Ruiz, op. cit., p. 76.

⁴⁹La gran conquista de Ultramar (BAE, XLIV, 6).

⁵⁰Ibid., p. 14.

IV. TO TAKE, SEIZE THOUGH IT BE NOT WITH THE HAND.⁵¹

It is only natural that since tomar is used to mean "to take, seize, grasp with the hand" that it should come to be used to mean "to take, seize" when the instrument is not clearly indicated as the hand and indeed often is doubtless not such.

é fue tan grande el haber é la riqueza que hí allaron, que esto seria muy gran cosa de contar; ca, sin el oro é plata monedada, é los caballos é las armas é las tiendas que fueron tomadas . . .⁵²

This passage describes the booty taken or seized in battle. The point made is simply that gold and silver coins, horses, armor and tents were acquired by the victor, and the passage certainly does not imply explicit use of the hands. Doubtless all these goods were handled, as it were, in the course of events, but this handling is not what the author is writing of in this instance. Also, "é por ende, encubrió su saña lo mas que él pudo, é tomó toda su compañía que tenia en la villa, e salióse della con todos."⁵³ Beginning with "é tomó . . .," the English

⁵¹M. Alonso, Encic. del idioma, III, 3977, has stated that this use of tomar dates from the sixteenth century until the present. The examples cited herein are all earlier than the sixteenth century. It is obvious to the close observer that Sr. Alonso has erred to a great extent in the dating of this and other meanings he lists for tomar. This point will not be belabored herein since one may simply compare the two opinions.

⁵²La gran conquista de Ultramar (BAE, XLIV, 142).

⁵³Ibid., p. 146.

translation is easily rendered as "and he took all his company (of pilgrims) that were in the village, and left with all of them." This use of "took" is in English today and expresses exactly what it does in Spanish in the above passage; i.e., "to gather together, bring together, take or treat as a unit several individuals or what have you." For instance, "He took all the freshman students and showed them where to register." This is a good English sentence wherein "took" does not mean "took with the hand" but "took or treated as a group many individuals." Such an idea is expressed in Spanish in the preceding quotation.

pero con todo eso, mataron mas de las dos partes dellos, ca no quisieron tomar ninguno a vida, e tomaron cuanto levaban e tornáronse para la villa.⁵⁴

These lines translate to English: "Withal they killed more than two-thirds of them . . . and they took all that they had (carried) and returned to the village." The use of the infinitive "to take" in the passage just cited surely does not mean "to take with the hands" but it means exactly what it says, "to take alive," to take or seize as captive." The second use of tomar in "tomaron cuanto levaban" is the same use as explained on the preceding page, in the quotation footnoted number 53, "to take or treat as a unit." "E apareció a san Pedro e a san Juan e a Santiago, que andaban pescando, e hízoles tomar muchos peces mas que ante habian tomado."⁵⁵ Translated, it reads "and

⁵⁴Ibid., p. 148. ⁵⁵Ibid., p. 191.

he appeared to Saint Peter and Saint John and Saint James, who went about fishing, and he made them take many more fish than they had taken before." Recalling the passage from The Holy Bible, (Luke 5: 1-11), the King James Version, one remembers that these fishermen were using nets and were bade to cast such on the other side of the boat, and by doing so they took so many fish the nets almost broke. Therefore, tomar in the passage means "to catch." If one did not know a net was used, and indeed the reader of this passage does not find it mentioned therein, one would yet know that the hand was likely not the instrument directly involved, rather something held in the hand, although this meaning is not clearly indicated either. Let these preceding four examples, although from the same source, prove the existence of the meaning of tomar set down as number IV and prove that such usage occurred well before the sixteenth century.

V. TO ACCEPT, ADMIT, EMBRACE.

"To embrace" is employed here in the special sense of "to embrace a religion, a belief, a tenet."

'Por mano del rey Alfons, que a mí lo ovo mandado,
dovos estas dueñas,--amas son fijas dalgo,--
que las tomassedes por mugieres a ondra e a
recabdo.'⁵⁶

⁵⁶Cantar de mio Cid, III, 1109, Lines 2231-2233.
Note the spelling of tomassedes. This is one of the few archaic forms that tomar has. Such spelling is certainly not unusual or unexpected. What is unusual, perhaps, is

These lines, dealing with the wedding of the Cid's daughters, are readily rendered in English as: "By the hand of King Alfonso, who has commanded me thus, I give you these ladies--both are daughters of good birth,--May you accept them as your wives for honor and good." Of course, "take" could as easily be used as "accept." However, the latter is more appropriate since "give" is used before, the usual sequence being that one gives and another accepts.

'De nuestros casamientos agora somos vengados.
Non las deviemos tomar por varraganas, si non
fossemos rogados⁵⁷

The "Infantes de Carrion" are speaking of their wives, the Cid's daughters, whom they have left for dead, and thus they speak: "Now we are avenged of our marriage. We should not accept them as concubines even if we were begged." The idea here is very clearly expressed by the use of "accept" because the "Infantes" have all along felt that in actuality they were "accepting" the Cid's daughters, for the two men considered these young ladies below them in social status. Thus, to have them say in English

that more such Early Romance spellings are not encountered. This fact, however, might easily be taken as further proof that tomar was very early in Spanish and of wide use. Hence, its orthographic representation regularized itself very early to its phonological equivalent. Undeniably, too, so "simple" a verb as tomar < AUTUMARE would develop into "regular" Spanish forms much more easily than coger < COLLIGERE. Since so few variant spellings of tomar are found and those that appear are, for the most part, self-explanatory on sight, no lengthier treatment is devoted to them.

⁵⁷ Ibid., III, 1129, Lines 2758-2760.

that they would not accept them even as they might a concubine, is a rather exact rendition of tomar, all things taken into consideration. Berceo has used tomar to mean "to accept:"

'Estos son mis Sennores, e io su servicial,
Estos sean fianzas, ca non puedo fer al.'
Dissoli el iudio: 'Io bien los tomaré,
Io otros fiadores non te demandaré;⁵⁸

In response to the words "These are my Lords and I their servant" the Jew said, "I indeed accept them (as such)." And from the same work:

Tomó un buen conseio la bienaventurada.⁵⁹

This line is easily translated to English as "The one of good fortune accepted good counsel."

Et el rey et Turin fueron muy pagados de las razones que Julio dijiera, et levólo el rey consigo, et fízol' mucha honra et mucho bien, et mucho mas le ficiera si lo quisiera tomar: mas segund la manera que Julio habia tomado a servicio de Dios, non facia mengua lo que el rey le prometiera dar, et por ende non le quiso tomar ninguna cosa de lo suyo sinon la vianda que habia de comer, segund los ayunos et las abstinencias que facia.⁶⁰

In this excerpt, the infinitive tomar is translated to English as "to accept"--"and much more he would have done for him if he had wanted to accept it." The clause "que

⁵⁸Gonzalo de Berceo, Milagros, p. 151, Stanzas 651 c, d-652 a, b.

⁵⁹Ibid., p. 123, Stanza 516 c.

⁶⁰Juan Manuel, Libro del Infante o libro de los estados, ed. Pascual de Gayangos (Madrid: Hernando, 1922), vol. LI of 177 vols. of the Biblioteca de Autores Españoles, p. 290. Hereafter cited as Libro de los estados.

Julio habia tomado a servicio de Dios" is equally as well translated "Since Julio had embraced the service of the Lord." And "non le quiso tomar ninguna cosa" is expressed in English by "he did not want to accept anything from him."

'pero si vos sabedes que otras leys ha y entre las gentes, mostrádmelas, et catarémos cuál es la ley en que mejor puedo salvar el alma, et tomarla he de muy buen grado.'⁶¹

Translated to English, the above passage reads,

'but if you know that there are other laws (religions) among the people, show them to me, and we shall see which is the religion in which I can best save my soul, and I shall gladly accept (embrace) it.'

From Juan Ruiz:

Mas el que contra mí por acusarme venga,
Tómeme por palabra, a la peor que tenga
Faga cuanto podiere, en ello se atenga;
O callará vencido, o váyase por menga.⁶²

"Accept my word," or as is more current in English "take my word," is good for "Tómeme por palabra." Although "take" is the very verb used in this phrase in English, the meaning of it is clearly "accept." Such is easily seen in the Spanish passage above.

"Pedro el Ermitaño" speaks of delivering a message to the Pope:

si vos entendeis que yo so hombre para levar tan
alto mensaje como este, por el amor de Jesucristo

⁶¹Ibid., p. 291.

⁶²Juan Ruiz, op. cit., p. 120, Stanza 849.

é por remision de mis pecados, quiero vos la yo
hacer, é tomar este pleito sobre mí⁶³

Peter says, "I want to do it for you, and (I want) to accept this cause myself." He is saying that he wants "to take" the burden of such a task upon himself for the remission of his sins and his love of Christ. The seriousness of the matter, to Peter, renders it something of a calling, which he accepts, rather than merely takes. "Por ende, te ruego que le dés mi fija por mujer, é yo quiero ser monja é tomar orden."⁶⁴ She says, "I want to be a nun and embrace the order;" that is, "to take the vows," "admit herself to a nunnery" or whatever.

VI. TO EXPERIENCE, PERCEIVE.

This classification is small in the number of examples cited, yet it is important because it contributes another shade of meaning to tomar.

El fructo de los arbores era dulz e sabrido,
Si don Adam oviesse de tal fructo comido,
De tan mala manera non serie decibido,
Nin tomarien tal danno Eva ni so marido.⁶⁵

Berceo is preaching: "the fruit of the trees was sweet and savory; if Adam had eaten of such fruit, he would not have been deceived in such an evil manner, nor would Eve and her husband have experienced such harm." That

⁶³La gran conquista de Ultramar (BAE, XLIV, 12).

⁶⁴Ibid., p. 52.

⁶⁵Gonzalo de Berceo, Milagros, p. 5, Stanza 15.

"experienced" is applicable in the above passage is quite self-evident. Writing of the differences in rivers and their advantages and disadvantages to the hunter, Juan Manuel says:

Mas los que son de grandes çienos o tremendales o que ha las riberas altas aun que sean estrechas dize que en tales lugares alas vezes salen bien e alas vezes caen y en guisa que fazen Reyr e tomar plazer alos quelo veen⁶⁶

The last half is translated to English as "sometimes all goes well and sometimes they fall there in such a manner that causes those who see it to laugh and experience pleasure." The phrase "experience pleasure" may seem stilted and stiff in English but the Spanish is thus and the English phrase is very close to a literal translation. Yet the sense of the verb "to experience" is there and, therefore, is used. In the following quotation tomar leans toward the meaning of "to perceive":

la gente menuda del pueblo, que se cruzaban muchos dellos a maravilla, cuando veian que algunos hombres honrados de la tierra donde ellos eran ponian la cruz, llegábanse a ellos é tomábanlos por cab-dillos⁶⁷

In English today one would likely say, equivalent to the last Spanish clause above, "and they took them for superiors." Yet one might also say "and they perceived that

⁶⁶Juan Manuel, El libro de la caza, ed. G. Baist (Halle: Max Niemeyer, 1880), p. 83, Lines 12-16. This edition is used because it is the one employed by Felix Huerta Tejedas in compiling his vocabulary of Juan Manuel's works.

⁶⁷La gran conquista de Ultramar (BAE, XLIV, 15).

they were superiors." The real meaning is more accurately expressed by the latter translation.

VII. TO RECEIVE, ACQUIRE EFFECTS OF SOME THINGS.

Tomar, used with some nouns, indicates the acquisition of the effect of these particular nouns. This employment can best be explained by the example that follows:

Los que somos xpianos e en Xpo creemos,
Si estas visiones escusarlas queremos,
Meioremos las vidas, penitencias tomemos
Ganaremos la gloria, el mal escusaremos.⁶⁸

Berceo has been writing of the awful sights (visiones) that will be seen on the Day of Judgment and admonishes in the stanza above that if the Christians wish to avoid such sights "we will improve our lives, receive our penances."

El sexto dia ante que tomase la pasion
En la sancta çiudad entró con procesion:⁶⁹

"The sixth day, before he received the Passion, he entered the holy city in procession." This translation adequately shows that Christ received the effects of the Passion, the suffering, humiliation, etc., that were necessary if He was to accomplish His earthly mission, because He acquired unto Himself all the ills that would befall those who would accept Him as the Savior. Thus, those believing in Him would not receive such punishment. And this punishment--

⁶⁸Gonzalo de Berceo, Signos del juicio final, ed. Clemente Canales Toro (Santiago de Chile: Editorial Universitaria, 1955), p. 106, Stanza 76.

⁶⁹Gonzalo de Berceo, Loores de Nuestra Sennora (BAE, LVII, 95, Stanza 54 a, b).

the effects of the Passion--were received willingly and knowingly; therefore, the verb "acquired" might also be used in the translation of tomase. He set out deliberately to get, acquire the suffering.

Fijos de Israel quando la mar passaron,
Que por tu mandamiento tras Moises guiaron,
Iaciendo so las ondas nul danno non tomaron;
Mas los persecutores todos se enfogaron.⁷⁰

The third verse is easily translated as "Being⁷¹ under the waves, they received no harm." This is to say, they received no harmful effects from the waves as did their pursuers, who were drowned.

El que de tal manera se tenie por errado.

Tomasse penitencia de preste ordenado.⁷²

The lines are somewhat similar to those from the Signos quoted above (cf. note 68). That is, the translation to English is similar: "The one who in such manner has erred, let him receive penance by the priest." Perhaps the element of willingness is missing from this action of penance, but the effects of receiving it are the important things.

⁷⁰Gonzalo de Berceo, Milagros, p. 109, Stanza 455.

⁷¹"IACER y YACER-- . . . En cuanto a la significación de este verbo, hay que advertir que es enteramente parecida a la de nuestro actual verbo estar . . ." Rufino Lanchetas, Gramática y vocabulario de las obras de Gonzalo de Berceo (Madrid: Sucesores de Rivadeneyra, 1900), p. 402.

⁷²Gonzalo de Berceo, Vida de Santo Domingo de Silos, p. 56, Stanza 466.

Entraron en Medina, sirvÍalos Minaya,
 todos fueron alegres del cerviçio que tomaran⁷³

As is seen in these verses, the author of the Cantar de mÍo Cid employed tomar in the same sense that has just been seen used by Berceo. "They entered Medina, Minaya served them; all were happy with the service they received." By "service they received" is meant the effects of the service--the comfort, ease, etc.--that they enjoyed.

É de mí vos digo que nunca Dios haya parte en la
 mi alma si yo en ello he culpa; mas empero, por el
 amor de Dios É por salvar tanta multitud de cris-
 tianos, quiero yo tomar este hecho sobre mí É decir
 que yo lo eché aquel perro muerto alli⁷⁴

Translating from quiero: "I want to receive (the effects of the blame for) this act, myself, and to say that I threw the dead dog there." And what are the effects of receiving the blame? They are that God's love will be served and that a multitude of Christians will be saved.

Entonce tomó el Emperador la doncella por la mano,
 É diógela por otorgada mujer; É él recibióla por
 tal, É puso así, que luego otro día por la mañana
 tomasen bendiciones⁷⁵

The translation to English of "que . . . tomasen bendiciones" is easily seen as "that they might receive (the effects of) the blessings (benedictions)."

⁷³Cantar de mÍo Cid, III, 1083, Lines 1534-1535.

⁷⁴La gran conquista de Ultramar (BAE, XLIV, 6).

⁷⁵Ibid., p. 52.

VIII. WITH NOUNS THAT DERIVE FROM VERBS, TOMAR EXPRESSES THE IDEA OF THE VERBS.

This classification of lengthy title is almost completely self-explanatory. The examples that follow should make this use of tomar completely clear.

mio Çid salió sobré, e armas de fuste tomava.⁷⁶

"e armas de fuste tomava" = e se armaba de fuste = and he armed himself with wooden arms. This example, although applicable to this category for the reason of arma and armar, is also applicable to the classification given to tomar of meaning "to take, seize, grasp with the hand." In the event of the latter interpretation, the line in question would be translated "and he took wooden arms," implying the use of the hands. Both interpretations are equally valid. Indeed, any number of uses of tomar, or other verbs for that matter, might easily overlap when split with such fine lines of meaning.

Con la guarda sobeja que el pastor les daua.
Et con la sancta gracia que Dios les ministraua.
Aprodaua la grey cutiano meioraua.
Tanto que a algunos enbidia los tomaua.⁷⁷

"Tanto que a algunos enbidia los tomaua" = Tanto que algunos lo enbidiaban = So much that some envied him.

⁷⁶Cantar de mio Cid, III, 1085, line 1586.

⁷⁷Gonzalo de Berceo, Vida de Santo Domingo de Silos, p. 4, Stanza 25.

Este rey Morovan, por el grant amor que habia a Johas, su fijo el infante, receló que si sopiese qué cosa era la muerte, o qué cosa era pesar, que por fuerza habria a tomar cuidado et despagamiento del mundo⁷⁸

"habria a tomar cuidado et despagamiento del mundo" = habria a cuidarse et despagarse del mundo = he must be careful of and aloof from the world.

Otros toman esfuerzo en querer usar armas⁷⁹

This line = Otros se esfuerzan en querer usar armas = Others strengthen themselves by wanting to use arms.

Por una pequeña cosa pierde amor la mujer,
E por pequeña tacha que en ti podría haber,
Tomará tan grand enojo, que te querrá aborrecer⁸⁰

"Tomará tan grand enojo" = Se enojará tanto = She will get so angry.

'Señora,' diz la vieja, 'ese miedo non tomedes'⁸¹

"ese miedo non tomedes" = non se espantedes así = do not become afraid thus.

Algunos de los legos tomaron acedía⁸²

This line = Algunos de los legos se acedaron = Some of the laymen became embittered.

⁷⁸Juan Manuel, Libro de los estados (BAE, LI, 283).

⁷⁹Juan Ruiz, op. cit., p. 24, Stanza 126 b.

⁸⁰Ibid., p. 91, Stanza 628 a, b, c.

⁸¹Ibid., p. 201, Stanza 1444 a.

⁸²Ibid., p. 238, Stanza 1695 a.

é el consejo es esto: que si el Sancto Padre, que es cabeza de nuestra fe, é el rey de Francia é los otros reyes é los hombres honrados que son allende la mar . . . quisiesen haber piedad de nos, que tomasen entre sí consejo como nos acorriesen⁸³

"que tomasen entre sí consejo" = que se aconsejasen = that they get advice, counsel. The Pope speaks to his prelates concerning their preaching the Crusade to Ultramar:

E aun les otorgó mas: que mientras que ellos fuesen en servicio de Dios, que la Iglesia tomaba en guarda é en encomienda é en defendimiento todas las sus cosas⁸⁴

"que la Iglesia tomaba en guarda é en encomienda é en defendimiento todas las sus cosas" = que la Iglesia guardaba é encomendaba é defendia todas las sus cosas = that the Church would guard and protect and defend all their possessions.

IX. TO BE AFFECTED, OVERCOME BY SOMETHING.

In this category, as in many of the others, the verb "to take" might be used, but in most of the examples of the uses that will be cited in this classification, "to take" would necessarily have to become used in the passive voice of the various tenses. In English one might say, "I was taken by a great thirst," "I was overcome by a great thirst," "I was consumed by a great thirst," "I was affected by a great thirst" and "I was very thirsty." The last English example is, perhaps, the one most commonly

⁸³La gran conquista de Ultramar (BAE, XLIV, 11).

⁸⁴Ibid., p. 14.

heard, and similar simple constructions with the verb "to be" plus a predicate adjective are indeed very popular in everyday speech. But to give emphasis to the effect, one of the other constructions is often employed. So it is in Spanish that tomar was used, even in the Middle Ages, instead of tener or estar, the more common and popular verbs used in the conveying of such effects as shall be seen in the examples to follow:

Las sus grandes merçedes qui las podria contar?
Madre, serie follia en solo lo asmar:
Pavor me va tomando desti logar pasar, 85
Ca las falas del omne seran a porfazar.

Verse c of the above stanza is translated to English: "I am being affected by fear of passing from this place," or "I am being overcome (or taken) by fear of passing from this place." As can easily be seen "Pavor me va tomando" is more expressive and forceful in Spanish than "Tengo pavor."

'Ira e vanagloria traes, en el mundo non hay tanta,
Más orgullo e más bríos tienes que toda España,
Si non se face tuyo, tomas ira e saña, 86
Enojo e mal querencia anda en tu compañía.

From the preceding passage, verse c is equivalent to English "If you do not have your way, you are overcome with anger and fury." To use "overcome" in the context is not an exaggeration, as is easily seen by the strength of the

⁸⁵Gonzalo de Berceo, Loores de Nuestra Sennora (BAE, LVII, 95, Stanza 53).

⁸⁶Juan Ruiz, op. cit., p. 49, Stanza 304.

other descriptions of the faults of the one under discussion.

é allí do él estaba de hinojos é llorando muy de corazon é rogando a nuestro Señor que él le guiase en aquella carrera que queria facer por su servicio, tomóle un sueño a deshora⁸⁷

The last phrase above is readily translated to English as: "sleep overcame him unexpectedly" or "he was affected by sleep at a bad time."

E el hombre de aquella casa criaba aquellas aves tales del señor del castillo, é quando aquel vió aquellas palomas echólas de comer é halagólas e tomólas, é quando les halló aquellas cartas atadas en las alas, levólas a su señor, é desenvolvieron las cartas é leyéronlas: é el señor vió en ellas que habia el sello del Duque, é que le venia en acorro con gran esfuerzo, é hobo muy gran alegría, tomó en sí por ello gran atrevimiento e aderezóse⁸⁸

The last clause from the above gives English "and he was overcome by great boldness because of it and got himself ready."

X. TO UNDERTAKE A JOURNEY.⁸⁹

The examples cited herein are all from the same source. This is no weakness because proof positive is

⁸⁷La gran conquista de Ultramar (BAE, XLIV, 12).

⁸⁸Ibid., p. 277.

⁸⁹Attention is called again to M. Alonso, Encic. del idioma, III, 2977, wherein is the definition "Encaminarse, empezar a seguir una dirección determinada." To such usage the dates "s. XVIII al XX" are attached. Yet tomar was employed by Juan Manuel (cf. Félix Huerta Tejadas, Vocabulario de las obras de don Juan Manuel, p. 174) with this meaning. And, as shall be shown in this paper, tomar was used as such in La gran conquista de Ultramar.

offered, regardless, that such a meaning was in use in the Middle Ages, contrary to the listings of some lexicographers.

Juntáronse los grandes hombres . . . é todos los otros de que ya muchas veces oistes hablar, cuando ya hobieron tomado⁹⁰ aquellas dos ciudades, conviene a saber, la Peña é la Rosa é tomaron su camino derecho para Antioca⁹¹

E el Soldan, cuando aquello oyó, ayuntóse con sesenta mil turcos, é mandólos aderezar, é tomó su camino para el monte Tigris para buscar aquella sierpe, é si la hallase, lidiar con ella.⁹²

Mas enseñóle é mandóle que dejase la carrera de diestro, que se acostaba al monte, é tomase la siniestra.⁹³

é no hay agua é hay muchos caños cubiertos, do se crian é andan muchas bestias fieras, é no hay carrera salida que hombre pueda tomar para hallar la sierpe, sino a dicha⁹⁴

From these four citations it is quite evident and unmistakably clear that tomar used with camino, via, carrera or such means "to undertake a journey."

XI. TO CONTRACT AN ILLNESS.

This use of tomar is noted very early in Spanish. In Kalila et Digna one reads: "le tomará postema a la garganta, e morrá luego."⁹⁵ In English this Spanish gives "he will contract an abcess on (in) the throat, and will

⁹⁰This use of tomar is discussed in detail later.

⁹¹La gran conquista de Ultramar (BAE, XLIV, 152).

⁹²Ibid., p. 306. ⁹³Ibid. ⁹⁴Ibid., p. 307.

⁹⁵Raoul M. Pérez, op. cit., p. 53.

later die." Berceo, in speaking of the gout (la gota) writes:

Prendielo alas vezes; una gota mortal
Omne que essa uio; non uio su equal.
Solie lo esta gota; tomar al coraçon.⁹⁶

The last line is translated "It happened that the heart contracted this gout." Of course, it could also be translated as "This gout happened to affect the heart." The use of "affect" in this instance is not the same as that in category number IX and is not preferred. In the above lines, the poet is endeavoring to make clear, and at the same time ominous, what part of the body was attacked by the infirmity. Hence, the first English translation given is best.

XII. TO CAPTURE, CONQUER, TAKE PRISONER.

Tomar, used to convey these meanings, is often modified by por fuerza or a similar phrase needed to give the verb the force necessary to express exactly the desired idea. Tomar is thus used with cities, countries, fortresses, people, etc.

La primera cosa que él les mandó fué esta: que pasasen todos el río de Cobar é que se fuesen derechamente a Persia, é que la tomasen por fuerza é trabajasen en se vengar del mal que les habian hecho⁹⁷

⁹⁶Gonzalo de Berceo, Vida de Santo Domingo de Silos, p. 48, Stanzas 398 c, d-399 a. Note in the first line of the quotation that prender is used. Here it means "seized" in the way that illness grips a person.

⁹⁷La gran conquista de Ultramar (BAE, XLIV, 8).

The phrase using tomasen translated to English reads "and that they conquer it (Persia)." There is no need to translate por fuerza unless one wishes the phrase to read "and that they take it by force." This latter rendition is less desirable than the former unless the author is distinguishing between modes of capturing--by force, by peaceful surrender, etc. But such is not the case.

é yendo allá, pasaron por tierra de Suria, que estaba en el Camino, é conquiriéndola toda, é entre todos los otros lugares tomaron la santa cibdad de Hierusalem⁹⁸

In this passage, the author does not feel that tomar needs por fuerza or any other modifier since it is quite clear, from context, that tomaron means "they captured." The summary of Chapter XVII reads thus: "Como el soldan de Persia venció al emperador de Constantinople é lo tomó preso."⁹⁹ Translated to English, this is "How the sultan of Persia overcame the emperor of Constantinople and took him prisoner."¹⁰⁰ Other examples of the use of tomar and por fuerza are: "una villa . . . que tomaron los turcos por fuerza de los griegos,"¹⁰¹ "é cercaron la villa . . .

⁹⁸Ibid. ⁹⁹Ibid., p. 9.

¹⁰⁰In this work tomar preso is equivalent to prender, especially as prender is used so often with matar in, for example, mataron é prendieron. Prender, meaning tomar preso, is much more frequently used in this piece of literature since the message desired to be conveyed by its use is embedded in its essential meaning. See the preceding chapter.

¹⁰¹La gran conquista de Ultramar (BAE, XLIV, 16).

é tomáronla por fuerza,"¹⁰² "é en cómo le tenia el Duque toda su tierra tomada por fuerza."¹⁰³ These excerpts need no explanation of their meanings as tomar por fuerza has already been discussed and translated. Examples of tomar used without por fuerza yet clearly meaning "to capture or conquer" are: "E cuando supo que havian tomado los alemanes aquel castillo,"¹⁰⁴ and "cuando ya hobieron tomado aquellas dos cibdades."¹⁰⁵

XIII. TO BEGIN.

Tomarse a means "to begin" and is usually followed by an infinitive that expresses the act that is begun:

Quando mio Çid el castiello quiso quitar,
moros e moras tomáronse a quexar:¹⁰⁶

These lines are translated to English: "When the Cid wanted to leave the castle, the Moorish men and women began to lament." Other examples that are equally clear are:

Los que ivan mesurando e llegando delant
luego toman armas e tómanse a deportar¹⁰⁷

Por el rey don Alfons tómanse a preguntar.¹⁰⁸

These thirteen groups show the main and outstanding

¹⁰²Ibid., p. 17. ¹⁰³Ibid., p. 40.

¹⁰⁴Ibid., p. 21. ¹⁰⁵Ibid., p. 152.

¹⁰⁶Cantar de mio Cid, III, 1058, Lines 851-852.

¹⁰⁷Ibid., III, 1082, Lines 1513-1514.

¹⁰⁸Ibid., III, 1094, Line 1825.

uses of tomar during the Middle Ages in Spain. In the sixteenth century, there had been no additions to these meanings, although, judging by Las Casas' dictionary, there were shades of meaning not already seen that applied to some of the classifications which have been given herein. His listing appears as follows:

TOMAR--appigliare, apprendere, assumere, carpire,
dar di piglio, pigliare, prendere, recare,
ripigliare, retogliere, togliere, torre.¹⁰⁹

Apprendere (aprender "to learn") and assumere (entender "to understand") represent meanings that have not been given separate categories, but their meanings are inherent in the usage of tomar in some contexts. For example, from the Libro de los estados:

'pero si vos sabedes que otros leys ha y entre las gentes, mostrádmelas, et cataremos cual es la ley en que mejor puedo salvar el alma, et tomarla he de muy buen grado.'¹¹⁰

In the translation given on page 95, tomarla was rendered as "accept it." As is seen from the passage, the speaker is talking of religion, and when he "accepts" or "embraces" the religion he has learned of it or learned about it. Therefore, "to learn" is inherent in the use of the verb tomar in such context.

In the Golden Age of Spanish literature,

¹⁰⁹Cristóbal de las Casas, Vocabulario de las dos lenguas toscana y castellana (Venecia: Damian Zenaro, 1576), p. 427.

¹¹⁰Cf. page 95, note 61.

Covarrubias' Tesoro de la lengua castellana o española is surely the best known dictionary. But it gives scant semantic treatment to tomar. The few uses and phrases listed therein and appearing for the first time are all included in a Spanish-Italian dictionary of the seventeenth century, Lorenzo Franciosini's Vocabulario español e italiano aora nuevamente sacado a luz. This lexicon is interesting in that it gives a rather lengthy list (more than thirty) of phrases using tomar. Some of the phrases or the ideas expressed by them have been noted before, but most have not. This is clear proof of the growing popularity of the verb. The phrases that have not been noted before will be listed and examples of the employment of some will be offered. Most of the examples are taken from the writings of Cervantes, the most representative, for our purposes, of the Golden Age authors.

- 1) Tomar prestado¹¹¹--Pigliar in presto.
- 2) Tomar fiado¹¹²--Pigliar a credenza.

¹¹¹"Nuevo hermoso firmamento,/ Donde dos estrellas juntas pintas,/ Sin tomar la luz prestada/ Al cielo y al suelo alumbran." (Ilustre freg., IV, 172 v.^o). All quotations from the works of Miguel de Cervantes are obtained from the following: Carlos Fernández Gómez, Vocabulario de Cervantes (Madrid: Real Academia Española, 1962), pp. 1017-1019. The reason for such, as has been stated earlier, is that the edition of Obras completas employed by Sr. Fernández Gómez is not available.

¹¹²"De suerte, que allí se toma el alma por el movimiento." (Lope de Vega). Zerolo et al., Dicc. encic., II, 892.

- 3) Tomar a logro¹¹³--Pigliar a ysurà.
- 4) Tomar a su cargo¹¹⁴--Pigliar sopra di se, cioè pigliar s'il carico, e la cura di far ogni cosa.
- 5) Tomar a buena parte¹¹⁵--Pigliar una cosa in buona parte, cioè entenderla, interpretarla con grandizio sano.
- 6) Tomar a mal alguna cosa¹¹⁶--Dispiacergli, o ricever disgusto da una cosa.
- 7) Tomar con el hurro--Corre, o acchiapar, uno in fragrantí; cioè nel tiempo che rubba, o che fa il male.
- 8) Tomar en prendas--Pigliar in pegno.
- 9) Tomar a cuestras¹¹⁷--Pigliar adosso, cioè metter-si sopra le spalle.
- 10) Tomar agüero--Pigliar agurio.

¹¹³"Mas debilita a los reyes lo que los toman que lo que gustan." (Francisco de Quevedo). Ibid.

¹¹⁴"Que yo, como tu padre, tomo a cargo el ponerte en estado que no desdiga de quien eres." (Gitanilla, IV, 35). Fernández Gómez, op. cit., p. 1018.

¹¹⁵"Y sabe tomar la niña,/ Cuando de ella más se quejan,/ Lo que la dicen de burlas/ Y lo que la dan de veras." (Esquil.) Zerolo et al, Dicc. encic., II, 892. This definition may be equated with Las Casas' assumere but since there is some difference, especially in the fact of the phrase tomar a buena parte itself, it is included here. Note that the exact phrase is not in the citation, but the meaning of the phrase is, and the latter is the concern of this study.

¹¹⁶"Y fue tanto el asco que tomó, que reboviéndosele el estómago, vomitó las tripas sobre su mismo señor." (Quijote, I, II, 78 y 78 v.º). Fernández Gómez, op. cit., p. 1018. This use, however, might be considered as the same as tomar + infinitive = reflexive infinitive.

¹¹⁷"Donde los andantes Cavalleros tomaron a su cargo y echaron sobre sus espaldas la defensa de los Reynos." (Quijote, II, III, 69 v.º). Ibid.

- 11) Tomar a otro el juramento--Far giurar uno.
- 12) Tomar a otro la confesion--Esaminar uno.
- 13) Tomar con aquelo--Pigliar con hamo.
- 14) Tomar la mano--Si dice di colui che comincia a dar principio a un raziunamento.
- 15) Tomar de coro, o de cabeza¹¹⁸--Imparar a mente.
- 16) Tomar de cabeça--Imparar a mente. Al villano dalde el pie, tomarse ha la mano--Se voi date un piedi al villano, non gli basterà questo, che anche vi pigliar a la mano. Mas vale un toma, que dos te daré.¹¹⁹
- 17) Tomarse de vino--Imbriacarsi, esser soggetto al vizio dell'imbriachezza.
- 18) Tomarse--Trattandosi d'animali maschi e femmine, significa congiugnerse,--unirsi carnalmente.
- 19) Tomar el cielo con las manos¹²⁰--è un modo d'esaggerar la collera, e vale pigliari il cielo con le mani.
- 20) Tomalla con alcuno--Pigliarla con uno, cioè haver parole, o adirarsi con uno. No saveis con quien os tomais?--Non sapete con chi voi havete da fare? Cosa de dar, y tomar--Maniera d'essagerar la bontà, ed eccellenza d'una cosa, che noi dirremmo, è cosa de vedere, e da mostrare.
- 21) Tomar las de villa diego--è un modo di dire surbesco che significa, battersela, corsela, cioè fuggir via.

¹¹⁸"Toda esta lición tomaron bien de memoria."
(Rinconete, IV, 69 v.^o). Ibid., p. 1017.

¹¹⁹"Y a Dios rogando y con el mazo dando, y que más vale un toma que dos te daré." (Quijote, II, III, 138 v.^o). Ibid., p. 1018.

¹²⁰"De esto los vecinos tomaban el cielo con las manos." (Francisco de Quevedo). Zerolo et al, Dicc. encic., II, 892.

- 22) Tomar de repente¹²¹--Pigliar il nome, termino usato dalle guardie, o sentinelle nelle fortezze.¹²²

Representative of the nineteenth century lexicographers in Spain is Vicente Salvá; representative of the authors from the end of the Golden Age to the Modern period in literature is Leandro Fernández de Moratín. Below is a list of Salvá's entries that had not appeared before in a dictionary of the Spanish language. Accompanying most of them are examples of the particular use of tomar taken from the works of Moratín and Cervantes.¹²³

- 1) Percibir o cobrar.¹²⁴ Percipere, accipere.
- 2) Entender or interpretar en determinado sentido lo que está oscuro, dudoso o equívoco.¹²⁵
Accipere.

¹²¹"Sentéme sobre un escaño y con la pesadumbre me tomó un sueño tan pesado, que no despertara tan presto si no me despertaran." (Casam. engañ., IV, 237 v.^o). Fernández Gómez, op. cit., p. 1018.

¹²²Lorenzo Franciosini, Vocabulario español e italiano aora nuevamente sacado a luz (Roma: Juan Pablo Prodlilio, 1620), p. 730.

¹²³The examples taken from the works of Cervantes indicate clearly that the meanings they illustrate were in use at least as early as his time, perhaps before. But they have not appeared in a dictionary that has been consulted, prior to Salvá's.

¹²⁴"acabada su obra, hacian entrega del manuscrito, tomaban su doblon, y volvian a casa." Leandro Fernández de Moratín, Obras póstumas, I, 100-101.

¹²⁵"Tenga usted cuajo y tómelo todo con frescura." Ibid., II, 241.

- 3) Atajar, cercar o cerrar los pasos o caminos.¹²⁶ Vias intercludere, intercipere.
- 4) Comprar.¹²⁷ Pretio accipere, emere.
- 5) Aplicarse a algún empleo u oficio.¹²⁸ Manus exercere, in illud incumbere.
- 6) Elegir entre varias cosas que se ofrecen al arbitrio, alguna de ellas.¹²⁹ Eligere.
- 7) En el juego de naipes, hacer o ganar la baza. Chartas lusorias sibi apponere.
- 8) En el juego de pelota, suspender y parar la que se ha sacado, sin volverla ni jugarla, por no estar los jugadores en su lugar u otro motivo semejante. Pilae factum sistere.
- 9) Aportar, arribar o llegar a algún fondeadero o lugar conveniente.¹³⁰ Appellere.
- 10) Cubrirse de moho u orín. Dícese propiamente de los metales.¹³¹ Ferrugine, obtegi, obrui.

¹²⁶"E qual sabido por el Alcalde tío del muerto vio tomados los caminos de su vergança." (Gitanilla, IV, 37). Fernández Gómez, op. cit., p. 1018.

¹²⁷"si se les apura a que suelten dinero, y se les amaga con las cuentas atrasadas desde el año de ocho, son capaces de quemarme la casa . . . Si logro deshacerme de ella, traspasaré mis derechos a quien la tome," Leandro Fernández de Moratín, op. cit., II, 386.

¹²⁸"Así que se te manda y ordena . . . 2.º Tomar a tu cargo la administración de dichos beneficios . . . 3.º Tomar cuentas a los administradores locales de ellos." Ibid., II, 154.

¹²⁹"La invención que tomó, no fué ciertamente de las más felices." Federico Ruiz Morcuende, op. cit., II, 1505.

¹³⁰"pero la violencia, que nos habia estorbado la entrada en Cartagena, nos impidió que tomáramos el puerto de Málaga." Leandro Fernández de Moratín, op. cit., II, 5.

¹³¹"Y lo primero que hizo fue limpiar unas armas que avían sido de sus visabuelos, que tomadas de orín y llenas de moho." (Quijote, I, II, 2v.º y 3). Fernández Gómez, op. cit., p. 1018.

- 11) Tomar algo o alguna cosa por donde quema. fr. met. y fam. Entenderlo y tomarlo en el sentido contrario y picante (en sentido picante y contrario) a la intención del que lo hace y (o) dice. In malam partem accipere.
- 12) Tomar de mas alto alguna cosa. fr. met. Acercarse más al origen o principio de ella. Rem ab origine proprius (propius) repetere.
- 13) Tomar dos de lias y Juan Danzante. fr. met. Ausentarse impensadamente o hacer fuga. Fugam capere, arripere.
- 14) Tomar o ir las duras con las maduras. ref. que se usa para significar que debe llevar las incomodidades de un empleo u oficio al que tiene los utilidades y los provechos. Cui commodum, et incommodum.
- 15) Tomar por adelante. fr. Náut. Virar la nave involuntariamente o de propósito por la parte por donde viene el viento. Navim cursu deflectere.
- 16) Toma o tome. Voces del verbo tomar, que se usan como interjección, para significar la extrañeza que hace alguna especie.¹³² Proh! eja.
- 17) Tómate esa. expr. que se usa cuando a alguno se le da algun golpe o se hace con él otra acción que sienta, para dar a entender que lo merecia el que la recibe, o el acierto del que la ejecuta: suele añadirse: Y vuelve por otra. Hoc habe.¹³³

It should be noted that in Sr. Morcuende's work there appear two categories that do not appear in Salvá's dictionary. These are Alquilar and Injerir.¹³⁴ But Salvá has

¹³²"¿Dos veces/ estuvo?--Dos. Pues si anda/ siempre . . . ¡toma! . . . y hace señas." Federico Ruiz de Morcuende, op. cit., II, 1505.

¹³³Vicente Salvá, Nuevo dicc., pp. 1056-1057.

¹³⁴These categories that will be mentioned are neither found in the thirteenth edition (1899) of the Royal Spanish Academy dictionary.

shown the rapid growth of the use of tomar with other words to form phrases with special and specific meanings. Many of these phrases are a continuation of the early habit of using tomar with nouns that derive from verbs to express the idea the verb would express. Others are simply the coupling of tomar with nouns that are not "verbal." Below is Salvá's list; there are a few which have already been included to indicate the vast semantic growth of tomar.

-- a cuestras, aires, a pechos, a pulso, calor, carnes, colera, rabia, temor, etc., color, consejo, dictámen, parecer, etc., cuentas, cuerpo, el aire, el asiento, el lugar, la derecha, el cielo con las manos, el color, el fresco, el hilo, el medio o los medios, el pecho, el portante, el pulso, el rábano por las hojas, el sol, el trote, el viento, en cuenta, figura, traza, etc., huelgo, la delantera, la lección, la mano, la ocasion por los cabellos, la muerte a alguno, la palabra, la sangre, las armas, la medida, la taba, la voz, lección, lengua, voz o señas, mujer, parecer, partido, paso, perfiles, pié, por escrito, por su cuenta, posesion, puerto, puntos, sus medidas, tabaco, tema, tiempo, tierra, una obra, un paso o un portante, y voz. fr. V. cuesta, aire, pecho etc. etc.¹³⁵

The twentieth century lexicons of most importance, such as the dictionaries of the Spanish Academy, Martín Alonso, and Joan Corominas, have been under discussion from time to time throughout this chapter and it is not necessary to go into a lengthy dissection of them now. The matters of importance concerning each have already been mentioned to the extent required. The Diccionario enciclopédico has a

¹³⁵Vicente Salvá, Nuevo dicc., p. 1057.

long list of idiomatic phrases and proverbs that employ tomar, but the list is so lengthy and has such little value to a semantic study that it is not included.

DERIVATIVES. The number of words in Spanish that derive from tomar are few. This paucity is especially noted when one takes into account the derivatives of coger and prender. Outstanding, also, is the fact that prefixes, with the exception of re- in retomar, do not have a place in the composition of the derivatives. It is this lack of compound words using a prefix and tomar in various verbal, substantival and adjectival forms that accounts for the small number of derivatives. This lacuna is in turn due to the fact that tomar, throughout its history, has held tenaciously to its basic meaning of "to take" and has been coupled with other words to form phrases that express variations in this meaning, rather than form derivatives of the one-word kind. The popularity of the single verb has been shown by its constant growth in usage and is further proved by the fact that the speaker of Spanish has preferred to use it without a great number of affixes. In other words, tomar to the speaker of Spanish means "to take."

Toma--f. 1. Taking, receiving, hold, grasp. 2. Capture, conquest, seizure. 3. Portion, of anything taken at once. Toma de razón, Entry of receipts, bills of sale, etc., in books of accounts; counting-house

journal, account or memorandum book. Una toma de quina, a dose of bark. 4. Opening into a canal or drain.--int. There, well, what.

Tomajón, na--a. Taking or accepting easily or frequently.

Tomamiento--m. ant. Taking, receiving, hold, grasp.

Tomante--p. a. ant. de Tomar. Taking, receiving, holding, grasping.

Tomón, na--a. Accepting.

Tomada--f. 1. (obs.) Conquest, capture, seizure.

2. Take, the quantity of a copy taken at one time by a compositor for setting up; the same in type.

Tomadero--m. 1. Handle, haft. 2. Opening into a drain.

Tomado--m. Ornamental plait in cloths.--Tomado, da, pp. of Tomar.

Tomador, ra--m. & f. 1. Taker, receiver. 2. Retriever, a dog that finds or fetches the game. 3. (Coll.) Pickpocket, pilferer. Tomadores, (Naut.) Ropebands, gaskets.

Tomadura--f. Catch, seizure, grip, hold, grasp, capture: commonly, the portion of a thing taken at once.

Retomar--To retake, renew, resume. (Employed in writing although lacking in dictionaries.)

CHAPTER IV

AGARRAR

Most dictionaries and lexicons with etymological and semantic goals quickly admit that agarrar comes from a, which "expresa el movimiento de aproximación y el contacto,"¹ and the substantive garra. This is as far as the majority goes. But what of the origin of garra? Covarrubias lists three possible sources, settling on none. One given by him is garrar, which "en arábigo dizen vale encorvar."² Or, he says, "se dixo de la palabra italiana gara, que vale contienda y pelamesa, porque antes que se huviesen fabricado las armas empezaron a rifar con los puñados y con las uñas."³ This explanation is entirely too contrived and far-fetched for its lack of geographical proximity and thus a doubtless scarcity of usage. The third he offers is from the Hebrew, "del verbo 𐤒𐤒𐤁, garar, que vale cortar, hender, de donde se dixo desgarrar, el hender y romper con la garra."⁴ It is inconceivable that a word such as the one which is being dealt with could pop up into the Castilian language from such veritable lexical

¹Cuervo, I, 252. ²Covarrubias, Tesoro, p. 630.

³Ibid. ⁴Ibid.

hinterlands.

Meyer-Lübke, in his discussion of garra in Zeitschrift für Romanische Philologie,⁵ established that there are two lexical groups for the word. According to him, each group is quite distinct, both in meaning and origin. One garra is of Celtic origin and gave French jarret "grappling-iron; hock, gambrel, calf; leg." The other group is the Castilian garra, synonym of zarpa, from which it differs only in that garra is used not only in referring to the claws of birds of prey but also to the feet of wild beasts. Herein the concern is with the garra of the second group (to use Meyer-Lübke's labeling, which will be considered tenable for the time being)--the Ibero-Romance or, better said, the Castilian. In the third edition of the REW Meyer-Lübke⁶ set forth GARRA, an Iberian word, as the explanation of the Castilian garra "zarpa." The Iberian garra, according to him, meant "claw, talon; paw, hoof," and it is compared by him to the Basque garro "tentacle," also of the same origin. Schuchardt took exception to Meyer-Lübke's proposal:

Deriva Meyer-Lübke vasc. Garranga = 'tenedor de pescado,' de vasc. garro 'tentáculo, brazo del calamar, al cual atribuye origen ibérico (esp. garra). Pero es probable que no lo hubiese hecho si hubiera tenido en cuenta formas secundarias o

⁵W. Meyer-Lübke, "Vermischtes. Zur Wortgeschichte," Zeitschrift für Romanische Philologie, XL (1921), 210-212.

⁶W. Meyer-Lübke, REW, p. 316.

por lo menos sinónimas de garro: u arro, guar, erro (este último significa originariamente 'raíz': *u-erro habría que traducirlo 'raíz de agua.' Habría que explicar además olagarro, olarro 'pólipo' (comp. olagarro 'ola alta,' olarro 'mar gruesa').⁷

Schuchardt has not, however, proposed any solution to the puzzle of immediate interest. Corominas, in his treatment of garra⁸ has taken Meyer-Lübke to task for referring to the meaning of the second group as Ibero-Romance when in reality it is Castilian, in the strictest sense. He rather laboriously points out that in Catalan garra "zarpa" does not exist; it is unknown. In fact, he says "En el sentido de 'zarpa,' garra no se ha empleado nunca en Cataluña, Rosellón ni Baleares, aunque lo registre Labernia, que era de la provincia de Castellón. En el Sur del dominio ha penetrado, pero en fecha reciente . . ." (p. 688). In Murcian and Aragonese garras means "piernas delgadas," and is therefore "galorromance." There are some compound words made with garra in which its meaning seems to be only "leg"; i.e., garrilargo "piernilargo" and the idea "delgado" no longer is inherent. In the speech of Argelita garra simply means "pierna." In concluding with these dialects Corominas states "claro está que hoy el castellano de Aragón y Murcia ha aceptado . . . la ac. castellana." (p. 688.) In Portuguese garra "zarpa" has

⁷H. Schuchardt, "Problemas etimológicos," Revista de filología española, VIII (1921), 402.

⁸Corominas, Dicc. crít., II, 688-689.

been strong, although gadanho, gafa, and unha are still prevalent today for "zarpa." A date cannot be fixed for the penetration of garra from Castilian since most lexicographers do not cite dates. Vieira's examples come from the beginning of the seventeenth century. Earlier, pouta existed in the area but it remains in a figurative sense only, having been replaced by garra. Pouta, instead of garra, is used in Galicia for "zarpa." Concerning Leonese, Corominas has this to say: "Tampoco en leonés occidental es autóctona la forma garra "zarpa"; en el Occidente de Asturias se emplea en su lugar garfa "garra, zarpa, mano," según Acevedo, y más al Norte, en la zona litoral estudiada por M. Fernández y Fernández, la forma garfia (botar as garfias a úa cosa "hurtarla"), con la i típica del leonés." (p. 688). Then in his presentation of the two views of origin previously discussed, Corominas is quick to join ranks with Schuchardt in protest of Meyer-Lübke's proposal, adding that the Iberian-origin theory is made even shakier by the fact that the Gallic +GARRA "pierna" is the more tenable of the two because of its meaning. Continuing his rejection, Corominas points out the geographic incongruity encountered in embracing an Iberian origin theory, and lastly cites what he considers

otro grave motivo de duda: la falta total de testimonios medievales de garra "zarpa." Garra está en Casas, Percivale (1591), Oudin y Covarrubias, pero todavía no aparece in APal., Nebr. ni PAlc. (1505) . . . Los testimonios más tempranos que trae Aut. son de la primera parte del Quijote y de Góngora.

Agregando los de agarrar reunidos en el dicc. de Cuervo y otras fuentes, sólo llegamos hasta 1569, con La Araucana.⁹

To continue his thesis, Corominas contends that, instead of garra, garfa was the form used in the Middle Ages and that agarrar was preceded by garfar or agarfiar. Excerpts of early works using these three forms are cited.¹⁰ Next, he shows how garfa could become garra in modern Castilian by evidencing other words in which -rf- > -rr-. But what of the origin of garfa? Corominas declares it to be the Hispano-Arabic gárfa, which

figura precisamente en el sentido de 'puñado' en el Idrisi (a. 1154), evolución natural de la ac. clásica del ár. gárfa o gúrfa 'lo que se coge con la mano,' 'cucharada,' y derivado del ár. gáraf, que si en el idioma común puede ser 'cortar, recortar,' también significa 'coger algo por entero' y 'sacar agua con la mano o con cuchara . . .'¹¹

⁹Corominas, Dicc. crít., II, 688-689. Explanation of abbreviations: APal. = Alonso Fernández de Palencia, Universal vocabulario en latín y en romance. Nebr. = Antonio de Nebrija, Dictionarium ex hispaniensi in latinum sermonem. PAlc. = Pedro de Alcalá, Arte para ligeramente saber la lengua arábiga and Vocabulista arábigo en lengua castellana.

¹⁰"En medio de la taula // estaua vn leon/ tenia so la garpha // a toda Babilon / cataua contra Dario // a guisa de fellon / ca uermeia turuia // tenia la enuision," El libro de Alexandre, ed. Raymond S. Willis, Jr., in Elliott Monographs, ed. Edward C. Armstrong (Princeton, 1934), XXXII, 25. "Quien leuanta testimonio / Leuar-lo ha el demonia / Bien garfado, en el punno / A su casa," Pedro de Berague, Tratado de la Doctrina (BAE, LVII, 374). Garfiar--O. H. Hauptmann, "A Glossary of The Pentateuch of Escorial Biblical Manuscript I. j. 4," Hispanic Review, X (1942), 38.

¹¹Corominas, Dicc. crít., II, 689.

This, then, is the essence of Corominas' theory concerning the etymology of Castilian garra "zarpa." Diez¹² and Körting¹³ hold to a Celtic origin of garra by giving its etymon as Welsh gâr, necessarily, thereby, tying the French jarret to the Spanish garra--the thing that Corominas so painstakingly disputes--and thus destroying Meyer-Lübke's theory of two families. Bloch and von Wartburg enter under jarret the following:

Dér. d'un simple attesté a. pr. (garra) et dans les patois du centre (jarre "cuisse"). Gaulois *garra, qu'on peut supposer d'après gallois garr, bret. gâr "jambe," et d'où viennent aussi esp. port. garra "griffe."¹⁴

It is interesting, also, to note what the 1956 edition of the Academy dictionary gives as the etyma of the various words which have been listed above as original, intermediate or final forms for garra, for which it gives agarrar as the source. For the word garra the dictionary asserts: "Del célt. garra, "pierna."¹⁵ The primary meaning of the word is given as follows: "Mano o pie del animal, cuando están armados de uñas corvas, fuertes y agudos;

¹²Friedrich Diez, Etymologisches Wörterbuch der Romanischen Sprachen, 1st ed. (Bonn: Adolph Marcus, 1878), p. 157.

¹³Gustav Körting, op. cit., p. 472.

¹⁴Oscar Bloch et W. von Wartburg, Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue française, 12th ed. (Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1950), p. 333.

¹⁵Dic. ac. esp., 1956 ed., p. 657.

como el león y el águila."¹⁶ Thus the Royal Spanish Academy proclaims the Celtic language as parent of Spanish garra, aligning itself with Diez and Körting, Bloch and von Wartburg and thereby, as previously cited, holding that this word is a direct descendant of the same source as French jarret and not allowing for any Arabic influence whatsoever.

Of garfa, the noun which Corominas cites as the Middle Age form of the noun garra,¹⁷ the Academy dictionary proposes "De ant. alto al. harfan, agarrar."¹⁸ The primary definition here is "cada una de las uñas de las manos en los animales que las tienen corvas."¹⁹ Yet a study of the quotation from El libro de Alexandre²⁰ clearly leads one to prefer for the meaning of the garpha therein the Academy meaning for garra. This is in line with Corominas' theory thus far. But the meaning or origin of garfa given by the Academy does not approach Corominas' proposal. There cannot be any reconciliation of O. H. G. harfan and Arabic gārfa or gūrfa. Monlau states plainly and succinctly his belief that Celtic gār is the origin.²¹

¹⁶Ibid. ¹⁷Cf. note 10 above.

¹⁸Dic. ac. esp., 1956 ed., p. 657. ¹⁹Ibid.

²⁰Cf. note 10 above.

²¹Pedro Felipe Monlau, Diccionario etimológico de la lengua castellana (Buenos Aires: El Ateneo, 1941), p. 734.

García de Diego, after presenting quite simply theories of origin of several scholars, devoting comparatively lengthy summary to Corominas' ideas, states the matter very well: "Si son distintos de origen garra 'pierna' y garra 'zarpa' o ambos proceden de un céltico garra es oscuro."²² At this point, it should be quite clear that the matter is obscure, as García de Diego pointed out. Of those prof-fered, the theory of Celtic origin is most tenable because it is most plausible. The form of garra is rather constant and this fact sustains the single-origin theory. Also, it is very easy to see an intermingling of the idea of hand, foot, claw, paw, leg, etc. between man and animal. This is not an unusual phenomenon so why must two different words of two separate origins for expression of a very similar concept be demanded? If, however, agarrar began with Celtic *garra, why is garra not documented in Middle Age Spanish literature? The reason for this lack is the similarity between garra and garfa, the Arabic word used by Corominas. Since Arabic influence on Spanish is indisputable, it is highly regular that the Arabic word could have been penned for the existing garra and that in later years during or approaching the period of greatest language stabilization garfa (and garfar) changed to comply with what was current in other places. Or, as Corominas

²²Vicente García de Diego, Diccionario etimológico español e hispánico (Madrid: SAETA, 1954), pp. 782-783.

points out, garfa could easily have developed into garra phonetically and naturally in the mouths of the people. This assumption leads one to question whether garra could be of Arabic origin completely in Castilian. The form and meaning certainly present no restrictions. One of the main problems along this line of thought is, as Corominas has already pointed out, that garra entered Portuguese and Catalan from the south and that Galician has no equivalent of garra. If indeed it be Celtic in origin, was it likely to be discarded by the people in an area of Celtic concentration, so to speak, and of presumably heavy influence from the substratum? Yet, if it is of Arabic origin in Castilian, did it go on to appear in French, etc. from this same origin? If not, must it then be assumed that there were, indeed, two sources? Not since one of the facts that speaks loudest in favor of the Celtic origin theory is the prevalence of the gar stem in so many languages. One has only to check the citation in Diez's and Körting's works on the matter to become acutely aware of such. Let the matter of the etymology of Castilian garra be left considered as ultimately Celtic but influenced in form during the Middle Ages by the Arabic. Thus it is with this word garra plus a that Castilian produced agarrar in the modern form.

I. TO SEIZE FORCEFULLY WITH THE HAND OR CLAW.

The first documentation of agarrar in Spanish is in

Ercilla's La Araucana (1569-89):

Se desafierra
llevándose en las manos apretado
cuanto en la dura presa había agarrado.²³

Herein, agarrado is used to mean "seized forcefully with the hands." This definition extended by "or with the claw" to give "to seize forcefully with the hand or claw" is the main or principal meaning of agarrar. As early as 1599 R. Percivale had included agarrar in his dictionary, and for its English equivalent he listed "to claspe, to buckle."²⁴ Palet (1604) and Oudin (1607) also included the verb. These two latter dictionaries, however, are of the early seventeenth century. But with Percivale they indicate adequately the appearance of agarrar in the lexicons of the Spanish Golden Age as does Ercilla in literature. And Covarrubias (1611) put agarrar in his completely Spanish dictionary:

AGARRAR. Asir de alguno con la garra, como hazen las aves de rapiña, y llevarle agarrado, vale ir bien asido con las manos como garras.²⁵

Tirso also used agarrar with this same meaning:

Con ella ha de agarrarme
para que no me deje.²⁶

²³Academia Española, Diccionario histórico de la lengua española (Madrid: Hernando, 1933), I, 263. Hereafter cited as Academy Dicc. his.

²⁴Gili Gaya, op. cit., p. 57.

²⁵Covarrubias, Tesoro, p. 48.

²⁶Academy Dicc. his., I, 263.

This definition offered by Covarrubias is not sufficient to cover all the uses of agarrar as it was employed by other authors of the Golden Age, especially authors of the seventeenth century.

II. TO SEIZE IN ANOTHER MANNER, TO TAKE HOLD.

Agarrar also meant, then, "to seize in another manner (other than with the hand or claw); to take hold, as an anchor."

Y en medio el sesgo puerto, al tumbo y arco
de crespas olas y de aljofar grueso,
la áncora corva en el arena agarra,
y al primer viento ha de dejar la barra.²⁷

III. TO TAKE, SEIZE, GRASP, ROB.

In use in the seventeenth century also was the meaning of "to take, seize, grasp, rob or take possession of a person or thing": "Quando te dieren un Condado agárrale, y quando te hizieren tus tus con alguna buena dádiva, embásala."²⁸

Entre dos alguaciles de Toledo,
y otra gente que agarra sin ser liga,
nos llevan a la cárcel por ladrones.²⁹

Dientes tiene el artificio
porque me puede agarrar
la justicia en el camino.³⁰

²⁷Ibid. Valbuena.

²⁸Fernández Gómez, op. cit., p. 30.

²⁹Academy, Dicc. his., I, 263. Lope de Vega.

³⁰Ibid. Ruiz de Alarcón.

IV. Also agarrar meant: "TO GET WHAT WAS INTENDED; TO OBTAIN WHAT ONE TRIED TO OBTAIN."

Agarra una señoría.³¹

V. TO SEIZE IN ORDER TO HOLD, ADHERE.

This use of the verb is seen in "Pidieron que me dejase dormir, y decía uno: 'Y si vuesa merced no lo cree, levanta amigo . . .,' y agarraba de la ropa"³² and "Fingí que me había dado mal de corazón; agarréme a los palos y hice visajes."³³

Salvá, in the nineteenth century, has an entry for agarrar that is worthy of noting in its entirety because it offers the most detailed list of meanings that had appeared until then:

AGARRAR. a. Asir fuertemente con la mano alguna cosa. Prehendere, inferre manum. (//--EL PUERTO O EL FONDEADERO. fr. Llegar a ellos con dificultad.// a. y n. -- EL ANCLA. Internar en el fondo la uña del ancla.)// r. (ASIRSE. // REÑIR.) // met. Valerse de cualquier modo o recurso, por frívolo que sea, para lograr y conseguir lo que se intenta, así se dice: AGARRARSE de un pelo. Ansam aliquid faciendi arripere.// AGARRARSE DE UN CLAVO o DE UN HIERRO ARDIENDO. (fr. met. Acogerse a cualquier recurso, por débil o peligroso que sea, en un grande aprieto. // Mar. Hablando del tiempo, obstinarse en su mal estado.)³⁴

The following four uses for agarrar are noted first among authors in Spain of the nineteenth century and continue until the present.

³¹Ibid. Tirso de Molina. ³²Ibid. Quevedo.

³³Ibid. Quevedo. ³⁴Salvá, Nuevo dicc., p. 28.

I. TO ATTACK, AS AN ILLNESS.

"Y a breve trecho donde me agarron los mortales zumbidos, descubrí un mazorcon de trapajos."³⁵ And later "A nosotros los de la profesión, como ya nos conocen, no se nos agarran las enfermedades."³⁶

II. TO CONTRACT A DISEASE.

"Salen calientes y abiertos de poros a dormir al campo . . ., y se constipan y llenan de frialdades o agarran otras enfermedades peligrosas."³⁷ Then "O agarra un escorbato que le tumbe."³⁸

III. TO CATCH, OVERCOME, SURPRISE.

"Y a mí me pueden agarrar estas y otras mayores des-venturas."³⁹ "Porque las demás diligencias las hacía a pulso, y en el primer rincón donde me agarraba la necesidad."⁴⁰ "Y haciendo visajes con las ofensas del humo, el vino y los vapores del pernil, nos agarró a todos el sueño."⁴¹ "Huyendo de los sofiones y los vardascos que me daba en los hocicos una furiosa lluvia que me agarró en las cercanías del Mentidero."⁴²

³⁵Academy Dicc. his., I, 263. Villaroel.

³⁶Ibid. Hartzenbusch. ³⁷Ibid. Villaroel.

³⁸Ibid. Bretón. ³⁹Ibid. Villaroel.

⁴⁰Ibid. Villaroel. ⁴¹Ibid. Villaroel.

⁴²Ibid. Villaroel.

IV. TO BECOME STUCK OR GLUED, AS A PICTURE.

"Harán provecho al yeso blanco, y si no, podrás darla de llana y rasparlo, para que en lo áspero agarre."⁴³
 R. J. Cuervo, also in the nineteenth century, offers a specialized maritime use of agarrar that Salvá did not have in his dictionary:

Mar. Refl. Hablándose de una embarcación varada, Profundizarse demasiado en el fondo y no poder salir de la varadura, a lo menos con los esfuerzos o maniobras ordinarias.⁴⁴

Moving on to dictionaries of the twentieth century, one notes that Zerolo has only one entry that has not appeared before in the principal lexicons:

+Agarrar a la mano o a la brida. Equit. Se dice que el jinete se agarra a la mano cuando tiene en ella poca finura y tira de la riendas. Dicese también que el caballo se agarra a la brida, cuando se apoya en ella.⁴⁵

In Martín Alonso's dictionary the entries unseen thus far are equally as specialized and inapplicable in a general sense:

Agarrar a uno sin perros. fr. fam. ARGENT. Tomarle desprevenido.

Agarrar un condado--Agarrar una vaca al toro. fr. TAUROMAQUIA. Quedar aquella preñada.⁴⁶

M. Alonso points out the fact also, that agarrar, in

⁴³Ibid. Fr. L. de S. Nicolás.

⁴⁴Cuervo, I, 252.

⁴⁵Zerolo et al, Dicc. encic., I, 76.

⁴⁶M. Alonso, Encic. del idioma, I, 160.

America, is used indiscriminately to mean "to take":

Amer. Se usa indistintamente por asir, tomar, coger, recoger, pillar, adquirir, cobrar, contraer: AGARRAR el bastón; A. una borrachera; A. un tortecillo; A. el tren; A. frutas; A. bienes; A. por la derecha; A. todo el cuerpo (un dolor).⁴⁷

DERIVATIVES. The words that will be treated as derivatives of agarrar will include principally those infinitive forms made on prefix + garra. Therefore, the list will not include every derivative of the substantive garra.⁴⁸ No attention will be given garfio (< L. GRAPHIUM "stylus for writing") + garfa.⁴⁹

⁴⁷Ibid. It is doubtless that in American Spanish agarrar has been used increasingly for coger and thereby diminished the use of coger in America due to the association of coger with the sexual realm of speech. Such use of coger has caused it, in polite conversation, to give way to agarrar and other verbs that mean "to take, seize, grasp."

⁴⁸Garrote, etc. is of uncertain origin, likely connected to Celtic *GARRA and influenced by the Germanic. These words are not included for this reason.

⁴⁹The noun garfio "instrumento de hierro, corvo y puntiagudo, que sirve para aferrar algún objeto" appears in "El Purgatorio de San Patricio" as this appeared in the Homenaje a Menéndez Pidal, II, 227, 229, 230. This edition of the "Purgatorio" was given after comparison with several fragments, the majority pertaining to Alfonso X. It is Folio 159 to 164 of code number 43-20 in the library of the Cathedral of Toledo. Following are the excerpts using garfio: ". . . e tiraronle aquende e allende en la foguera con garfios de fierro:" Homenaje a MP, II, 227; "los otros estauan en flamas e tenian garfios de fierro fincados en los oios, e en . . ." Ibid., II, 229; "et las alabes eran todos leñas de garfios de fierros do estauan colgados e fincados los pecadores mezuquinos." Ibid.; ". . . los diablos corrieron sobre el rio e chauan sus garfios contra el cauallero . . .," Ibid., II, 230. The word grafio, evidently a methasis of garfio and influenced

Agarrada--f. (Coll.) Altercation, wordy quarrel.

Agarradero--m. 1. (Naut.) Anchoring-ground.

2. (Coll.) Hold, handle.

Agarrado, da--a. Miserable, stingy, close-fisted.

Agarrador, ra--m. & f. 1. One that grasps or seizes.

2. Catch-pale, bailiff. 3. Holder, utensil to grasp plates when hot.

Agarro--m. Grasp.

Agarrón--m. Amer. The action of seizing and throwing with force.

Agarroch(e)ar--va. To prick with a pike or spear; to goad.

Agarrochador--m. Pricker, goader.

Desagarrar--va. 1. To rend, to tear; to claw. 2. (Cuba)

To expectorate, cough up (phlegm). --vr. 1. To withdraw from one's company; to retire. 2. To give a loose rein to one's passions, to lead a licentious life.

Desgarradamente--adv. Impudently, barefacedly,

probably by Greco-Latin GRAPHIUM "instrument for writing," is used by Berceo in the Milagros de Nuestra Señora, ed. Clásicos Castellanos by A. G. Solalinde (Madrid: La Lectura, 1922), I, 156; e.g. "Vinieron al roído cristianos sabidores / Con grafios, con quizquios, galeas valedores," (676 a, b). In the study by Rufino Lanchetas, Gramática y vocabulario de las obras de Gonzalo de Berceo (Madrid: Sucesores de Rivadeneyra, 1900), p. 387, grafio is listed as a metathesized garfio and the words garra, agarrar are listed with the entry as references. However, neither of the latter appears in the aforementioned study by Lanchetas. One is to assume, doubtless, that grafio (garfio) is related to agarrar, thereby.

shamelessly.

Desgarrado, da--a. 1. Licentious, dissolute; impudent, shameless, bold--pp. of Desgarrar. 2. Irregularly segmented upon the border: applied to leaves and to wings of insects.

Desgarrador, ra--m. & f. Tearer.

Desgarradura--f. (Prov.) Rent, laceration, break.

Desgarramiento--m. 1. Action or effect of rending, tearing, clawing. 2. Action or effect of retiring; giving loose rein to one's passions, leading a licentious life.

Desgarro--m. 1. Laceration, rent, break, breach. 2. Impudence, effrontery. 3. Looseness, criminal levity. 4. Idle boast, brag. 4. Solution of continuity, in a tissue by being overstretched.

Desgarrón--m. 1. (Aug.) A large rent or hole. 2. Piece of cloth torn off.

Engarrar--va. Archaic for agarrar.

Engarro--m. The action or effect of the verb engarrar.

Engarrafar--va. (Coll.) 1. To claw, to seize with the claws or talons. 2. To grapple with hooks.

Engarrofador--m. Grappler.

Engarriar(se)--va. & vn. 1. To climb, to clamber, to crawl. 2. To creep upon supports: applied to ivy and other plants. 3. To ornament with edging.

4. To raise; to elevate. 5. To extol, to exaggerate. 6. To reach an eminent post.

Garrochear--va. To prick with a pike or spear; to goad.

(Agarrochear).

Garrocha--f. 1. A sort of javelin with a hooked head. 2. A kind of dart used to prick bulls.

Garrochada, f. or Garrochazo, m.--Prick with a javelin or dart.

Garrocheador--m. Goader, pricker.

Garrochon--m. Spear, used by bullfighters on horseback.

CHAPTER V

APañAR

Corominas begins his treatment of apañar "to take (some object); to compose, arrange" by saying ". . . origen incierto, parece ser derivado de paño (procedente del lat. PANNUS íd.) . . ."¹ He is quite correct when stating that apañar is of uncertain origin. The Academy Dicc. his. (p. 637) enters: "De a 4.º art., y paño>"; The Academy dictionary (1956, p. 101) says, "De a, 2º art., y paño>"; M. Alonso writes simply "(de paño)";² García de Diego goes into more detail but produces the same result:

4778. PANNUS 'paño': paño 'tela de lana' cast.; pano 'íd.' port. gall. ast. Acevedo; pany 'íd.' cat. (pana 'tabla de la embarcación, tela' cast., del fr. panne, de pinna 5042). Der. panilla 'medida' cast.; pañar 'apañar' ast.; apañar 'arropar, guardar, coger' cast.; apaño 'retención, arreglo' cast.; . . .³

Diez listed under the stem PAN the following: "altfr. pr. tuch, stück tuch, fetzen (lat. pannus, it. panno, sp. paño) erscheint im altfranz. auch in der bed. weggenommene sache,

¹Corominas, Dicc. crít., I, 231.

²M. Alonso, Encic. del idioma, I, 407.

³Vicente García de Diego, Diccionario etimológico español e hispánico (Madrid: Montana, 1954), p. 888.

vb. paner, pr. panar, sp. apañar wegnehmen . . . ;"⁴ Meyer-Lübke followed along with:

pannus 'tuch' It. panno, log. pannu, engad. pan, frz., prov. pan, kat. pany, sp. pañó, pg. pano bedeuten auch "Segel" . . . Afrz. paner, panir, lütt. pané, prov. panar "ergreifen," "wegnehmen," afrz. panise "Wegnahme," sp. apañar (> pg. apanhar) "ergreifen," "packen" . . .⁵

These scholars are the principal ones of this school of thought. The only other theory that is of any consequence is that one doubtfully set forth by Pagés⁶ and Zerolo⁷ in their dictionaries;⁸ namely, that Spanish apañar is from L. APPANGĒRE (AD + PANGĒRE) "to fasten to, join."⁹ While this latter theory may seem strained due to semantic difficulties, it is not nearly so much so as the other

⁴Diez, Wörterbuch der Romanischen Sprachen, 4th ed., p. 654.

⁵Meyer-Lübke, REW, p. 509.

⁶Pagés, Gran. dicc., I, 463.

⁷Zerolo et al, Dicc. encic., I, 207.

⁸Covarrubias, Tesoro, is notably silent about the etymology of apañar, devoting his brief treatment to the semantics of the verb.

⁹Julius Pokorny, Indogermanisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch (München: A. Francke, 1959), I, 787-788, shows that PANGO, PANGERE hark back to the Indo-European stems "pāk- und pāg-, 'festmachen' . . . lat. paciſcō (sek. -or) 'einen Vertrag oder Vergleich festmachen, abschliessen,' alat. paciō, 'pactiō,' pacunt 'paciscuntur,' pāx, -cis f. 'Friede; freundliche Gesinnung' (umbr. pase tua 'pāce tuā' in der Anrede an Gottheiten), pālus 'Pfahl' (aus *pak-slos, vgl. Demin. paxillus); pango (pepiġi; geneuert pēgi noch frēgi, und panxi) 'befestigen, einschangen; aneinanderfügen, schriftlich verfassen, festsetzen' . . ."

contention since the meaning for apañar of "to dress" was not evident until the time of Lope de Rueda¹⁰ and the first documentation of apañar is from the General estoria and, as will be seen, clearly means "to take with the hand."

Quando uio el rey que esto non tenie pro pora lo que el querie, metio los, segund cuenta maestro Pedro e otras, aque alimpiassen las plaças de las cibdades e delas uillas, e cogiessen en cueuanos los muradales e los lodos dellas, e aun quelos apannassen con las manos, e quelos echassen acuestas fuera delas cibdades.¹¹

The only difficulty, other than a slight semantic one, that arises from this etymology is morphological, in that APPANGĒRE did not become apañar but rather went to the first conjugation in Spanish, as did other Latin third conjugation verbs: MINUĒRE > menguar, MEJĒRE > mear, FIDĒRE > fiar. This transition had to be very early in the development of Spanish since there is only slight evidence that can be gleaned to show that an apañar or any form of a Spanish second conjugation existed for apañar. One might ask why APPANGĒRE became a Spanish first conjugation. Likely as not, the change was due to assimilation of the -E- in -ERE (> -a in -ar) to the initial and pretonic a's. In consonantal development, the -PP->-p- and -NG->-ñ-, both of which changes follow the normal

¹⁰Cf. Academy Dicc. his., I, 637, no. 4.

¹¹Alfonso el Sabio, General estoria, ed. by Antonio G. Solalinde (Madrid: José Molina, 1930), p. 291.

development from Latin to Spanish. Since, when one looks under APPANGO in the Lexicon Totius Latinitatis he is referred to PANGO, it is well to see what meanings this Latin verb had. Its general meaning was "to fasten, make fast, fix; to drive in, sink in," FIGERE: "Festus p. 213. 32. Mull. Pangere, figere: unde plantae pangi dicuntur; ceterum Liv. 7. 3. Ut qui praetor maximus sit, idit. Septembr. clavum pangat."¹² The Latin verb also was used to mean "to set, plant anything:" "Sueton. Gall. 1. Pangi ramulum placuit; Colum. 3. R. R. 3. 12. Vicena millia malleolorum per vineae jugerum inter ordines pangimus."¹³ Also APPANGERE was employed when "to set, plant anything with anything" was the meaning desired: "Propert. 3. 15. 15. Ipse seram vites, pangamque ex ordinare colles."¹⁴ And "to beget children" was one of its uses: "Pangere filios, h. e. procreare, dixit Tertull. Apolog. 9 ad fin."¹⁵ Then some authors employed APPANGERE when they meant "to compose, make, write, record:" "Paul. Diac. p. 108. 6. Mull. Ennius apud Cic. 1. Tusc. 15.34. Hic vestrum panxit maxima facta patrum."¹⁶ The verb was also used meaning "to make" in a general sense: "Virg. 8. Aen. 143 . . . neque prima per artem Tentamenta tui pepigi. h. e. feci."¹⁷ In the perfect only, the forms

¹²Lexicon Totius Latinitatis, III, 558. ¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Ibid. ¹⁵Ibid. ¹⁶Ibid., III, 558-559.

¹⁷Ibid., III, 559.

were used for "to fix, settle, determine, agree upon, agree, covenant, conclude, stipulate, contract." For the present and future PACISCI was used: "Quint. 1, 6, 10, sq.: paciscor fecit et pepigi et pactus sum."¹⁸ Often the perfect was used in referring to a marriage contract. Therefore, the verb meant "to promise, engage, pledge:" "Ovid. Herod. 16. 36. Te peto, quam lecto pepigit Venus aurea nostro."¹⁹

The verb PANGERE and various of its conjugations appear in the Glosarios latinos from the monastery at Silos. García de Diego has studied scrupulously these glossaries and has listed their contents. There are three codices--one called A by García de Diego, designated as 1296 by the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris and believed to be of the tenth century A.D.; one called B, 1297, of the twelfth century A.D.; and one called 1298 from the eleventh century. The following is the list of pertinent words as it appears in García de Diego's work. They are cited by him as coming from Codex A.

*Pangat--cantet, psallat
 Pangere--ordinare a plantado
 *Pangit--carminat vel componit
 *Panget--jungit (4)
 Pangit--pingit, carminat, injungit, inligat (5)

¹⁸Harpers' Latin Dictionary, p. 1297.

¹⁹Lexicon Totius Latinitatis, III, 559.

Pangit--carmina componit
 Pangunt--defigunt (6)²⁰

The asterisks indicate that the words are in Codex 1298 also and the numbers refer to footnotes, which read as follows:

- (4) A. añ (= añade) vel conligat
- (5) A. añ aut pabum figit aut cithara tangit
- (6) A. añ aut percutiunt. B. detrás del 1.^{er} pangit²¹

It is very interesting to note that the explanation of PANGET in Codex A is CONLIGAT, and CONLIGAT is a form of a Latin verb that came to mean "to take" in Spanish--COLLIGERE > coger. If CONLIGAT is a synonym of PANGET then PANGET and *APPANGET and eventually apaña mean "takes." Hereby one can easily see how the semantics of apañar is developing. More proof of the fact that APPANGERE is coming to mean "to take, seize" is evident from the contents of footnote 5 (see above) wherein TANGIT is used. While TANGIT (< TANGERE) herein means, doubtless, "play," the Latin infinitive also meant "to take, steal, rob"--

4. Item pro sumere, capere, auferre, furari, pigliare, torre, rubare. Plaut. Aulul. 4. 10. 10. Cur id ausus facere, ut id, quod non tuum esset, tangeres? metter la mano su quel d'altrui. et Ter. Adelph. 2. 1. 24. Tetigin tui quidquam? Cic. 2. Fam. 17. ante med. De praeda mea teruncium nec attigit nec tacturus est quisquam. Cic. 2. leg. Agr. 25. sub. fin. Idcirco agros nominare non possum, quia tangam nullum ab invito.²²

²⁰ Eduardo García de Diego, Glosarios latinos del Monasterio de Silos (Murcia: Sucesores de Nogués, 1933), p. 304. Hereafter cited as Glos. lat.

²¹ Ibid. ²² Lexicon Totius Latinitatis, IV, 663.

And although modern Sp. tañer means "to play an instrument," it earlier also meant "to take" as "to take the instrument in hand."

Apañar first appeared in a dictionary in the early sixteenth century. Fr. Pedro de Alcalá in Vocabulista arábigo en letra castellana (Granada, 1505) gave the following: "robar, aiharref, harreft, harref; ataviar, aiguellef, guelleft, guellef; enformar, santabaa, antabaat, antabaa."²³ Las Casas, under Apañar, wrote "vee arrebatat."²⁴ For Arrebatat the following definitions appear: "dar di piglio, graffiare, grifare, inbolare, rapire, scarpire, incapare."²⁵ R. Percivale's A Dictionary in Spanish and English (London, 1599) equates apañar with "to catch, to snatch, to take up, to accomodate, to make fit."²⁶ César Oudin, in 1607, explained the Spanish verb with the following French ones: "prendre, happer, gripper, attraper, empoigner, desrober; apañarse, se ioindre, et s'attacher à quelque chose; apañarse a todo, se conformer et s'accommoder à tout. v. arrebatat."²⁷ Covarrubias writes:

²³Gili Gaya, Tesoro lexicográfico, p. 183.

²⁴C. de las Casas, Vocabulario de las dos lenguas toscana y castellana, p. 283.

²⁵Ibid., p. 286. ²⁶Gili Gaya, op. cit., p. 183.

²⁷Ibid.

Vale arrebatarse súbitamente de alguna cosa, como el amenaza que hazen a la gente ruyn, diziéndoles: yo os prometo que si apaño un garrote . . ., dexando trocada la razón . . . Apañar, vale hurtar alguna cosa a vista de su dueño, y vale tanto como apuñar de puño. También significa recoger y poner en orden la cosa, porque no esté mal puesta, sino ceñida como lo que se aprieta en el puño. Apañado el ataviado.²⁸

Franciosini explains apañar in Italian:

achiappare, pigliar con violenza una cosa; anche significa strappar una cosa di mano a uno, accomodarla per ordine; apañarse a todo, auuenirglisi o hauer grazia e garbo in far ogni cosa, metter mano a ogni cosa.²⁹

Salvá has no definitions that have not already been seen in a dictionary and R. J. Cuervo does not even include the word in his dictionary, perhaps expecting to treat it under paño in a later volume. The important dictionaries of the twentieth century that have been referred to frequently in this study (Academy, M. Alonso, Pagés, Zerolo)³⁰ have the same definitions for this verb apañar. And since the entries in all these concur with those in the Academy's historical dictionary, it is well to discuss now all the definitions from this particular dictionary, paying due attention to the chronology of each. The following uses of apañar are found in Medieval Spanish literature and

²⁸Covarrubias, Tesoro, p. 129.

²⁹L. Franciosini, Vocabulario español e italiano, p. 60.

³⁰Academy Dictionary, 18th ed. (1956), p. 101; M. Alonso, Encic. del idioma, I, 407; Pagés, Gran. Dicc., I, 463; Zerolo et al., Dicc. encic., I, 207.

continue until the present, according to the Academy's eighteenth edition of its dictionary. M. Alonso's dates do not correspond to these; that is, he does not bring all of the following meanings to the present century. However, if the definitions are included in the Academy dictionary as recently as its 1956 edition, one must admit to the existence of the meaning in the language.

I. TO TAKE, SEIZE WITH THE HAND OR, IN GENERAL, TO TAKE HOLD OF.

Besides the quotation already cited from the General estoria (see page 140 above), which is generally considered to be the first documentation, other examples of this use of apañar follow:

Fuerza es que poco apriete
quien apaña gran rabaño.³¹

e quanto los pescados salen cerca de la superficie
del agua, déxase caer de alto donde anda volando,
e con aquella mano de presa apaña alguna pez . . .³²

Como vino cerca de media noche, levantóse otro
quistor que tenia pendencias con Esbarroya para
hacer sus hechos, y salido al corral, conociendo
quién era el que estaba en la necesaria con la
claridad de la luna que hacia, aguardó un rato:
tanto estuvo aguardando, que amohinado pensando que

³¹Academy Dicc. his., I, 637.

³²Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo y Valdés, Historia general y natural de las Indias, islas y tierra--firme del Mar Océano, ed. by José Amador de los Ríos (Madrid: José Rodríguez, 1851), I, 226.

el otro lo hacia adrede, apañó de un canto, y dióle en la cabeza de tal manera que le derribó.³³

entonces el señor diciendo y haciendo, apañó una gallina por aquel pescuezo, . . .³⁴

(Estaré alerta:
si le traen carta, la apaño.)³⁵

II. TO DRESS, PREPARE, EMBELLISH, ARRANGE.

This definition does not mean "to dress" in the sense of "to put on clothes" but in the sense that a lady "dresses" her hair or one embellishes a costume. From the Cancionero de Baena is:

Ca non vale un pelo
su dichoso moçuelo,
más fryo q'el yelo
por más que lo apañe.³⁶

Donde el apetito apaña
sus cebecillos continos
con que a voluntad engaña,
¡oh, qué breña tan extraña
llena de zargas y espinos!³⁷

³³Juan de Timoneda, El Patrañuelo (In Biblioteca de Autores Españoles, Vol. III. Madrid: Hernando, 1925), p. 134.

³⁴Leandro Fernández de Moratín, Obras. Cornudo y contenido, 2nd ed. by Buenaventura Carlos Aribau (In Biblioteca de Autores Españoles, Vol. II. Madrid: Rivadeneira, 1848), p. 281. Ruiz Morcuende has pointed out numerous words included in his two-volume Vocabulario de don Leandro Fernández de Moratín which are not in various editions of the Academy dictionaries. Let it be pointed out here that apañar (and in this particular case apañó) does not appear in his Vocabulario.

³⁵Adelardo López de Ayala, Consuelo, p. 428, in Teatro moderno español, vol. II: Autores contemporáneos y joyas del teatro español del siglo XIX (Madrid: Fortanet, 1882), vol. II.

³⁶Academy Dicc. his., I, 637. ³⁷Ibid.

Apañar. Una de las acepciones conviene a la cocina, y se dice cuando se compone o adereza un plato para presentarlo en la mesa.³⁸

III. TO TRY, CONTRIVE TO DO SOMETHING.

The Academy historical dictionary refers to this use of apañar as "familiar."

Si falleciere o fallare que menguó o falleció en alguna cosa desto (el emperador), arrepíentate et apañe de lo enmendar lo ante que pudiere.³⁹

Doña Cruz qué bien se apaña
a sylvar por la mañana.⁴⁰

The following meanings of apañar are not found in Medieval Spanish literature but are evident later, the first two categories showing evidence as early as the sixteenth century, the third in the nineteenth and the last category relegated by all dictionaries consulted to Aragon and Murcia with no attempt at fixing any dates. All of the following definitions appear in the eighteenth edition of the Academy dictionary. M. Alonso⁴¹ limits the second group below to the sixteenth century only and gives no dates for the third and fourth. Group one is said to extend to the present.

³⁸Ibid. Muro, Dicc. de cocina. Angel Muro lived at the end of the nineteenth century. Therefore, Sr. Alonso's statement that the definition of apañar under discussion went out of the language in the eighteenth century is incorrect.

³⁹Juan Manuel, Libro de los estados, p. 311.

⁴⁰Academy Dicc. his., I, 637. Cancionero de Baena.

⁴¹M. Alonso, Encic. del idioma, I, 407.

I. TO SEIZE, GRASP, TAKE HOLD OR POSSESSION OF SOMETHING
DECEPTIVELY.

Porque ellas, puesto que engañan
por sus ardides y afietes
con que los bienes apañan,
súfrese ya lo que dañan
por precio de sus deleites.⁴²

Vos, señor procurador,
que procuráis lo primero
apañar más de dinero
que el negocio ha de valor.⁴³

Había tan sotiles ladrones algunos, que en le-
vantándose la vendedora o volviendo la cabeza, le
apañaban de lo que tenía.⁴⁴

Díganme todos los que aquí se apañan
o, por mejor decir, así arrebañan
del clandestino amor en la escudilla
viles goces revueltos con mancilla.⁴⁵

II. TO CLOTHE, DRESS, WRAP UP.

This definition is easily distinguishable from the
earlier one which means "to dress, embellish, etc." as
with food, raiment, etc.

Agora menester será, pues le he hecho encreyente a
este animalazo, questa carátula es el rostro de
Diego Sánchez, de hacerle una burla sobrella; y es
que yo me quiero ir a apañar con una sábana lo mejor
y más artificiosamente que pueda, y le saldré al
encuentro fingiendo que soy el espíritu de Diego
Sánchez.⁴⁶

⁴²Academy Dicc. his., I, 637. ⁴³Ibid.

⁴⁴Ibid. ⁴⁵Ibid. ⁴⁶Ibid.

III. TO PLACE, PUT, KEEP.

¿Llevaste a la diligencia
mi cofrecillo de viaje?
--Sí, ya lo han puesto en el coche.
Lo demás, ¿dónde lo apaño?
¿En aquel bolso tamaño . . . ?
--Pues en el saco de noche.⁴⁷

DERIVATIVES.

Apañado, da--a. 1. Resembling woolen cloth in body.

(Coll.) 2. Suitable, fit (for), opposite. 3. Dexterous, skillful.--pp. of APAÑAR.

Apañador, ra--m. & f. 1. One who grasps or seizes.

2. A pilferer.

Apañadura--f. The act of seizing, snatching, or grasping away.

Apañamiento--m. See APAÑO.

Apaño--m. 1. The act of seizing or grasping.

2. Cleverness or ability to do a thing.

3. (Prov.) A patch or other way of mending a thing.

It is not a difficult matter to see how apañar, meaning originally "to take, seize, grasp with the hand" could come to have meanings completely different from the first due to its physical likeness to pañó. The ramifications and nuances of pañó plus those of apañar easily produced such diversity in meanings.

⁴⁷Bretón de los Herreros, Me voy de Madrid. Obras de don Manuel Bretón de los Herreros (Madrid: Miguel Gínesta, 1883), I, 347.

CHAPTER VI

ASIR

There is a great diversity of opinion concerning the origin of asir "to grasp or seize with the hand, to lay hold of." Corominas¹ states his belief that the verb is derived from asa "handle" (< L. ANSA "handle") because of asir's initial meaning of "to take by the handle"--coger por el asa. Then, as is his custom, Corominas presents the essentials of the theories of some of the scholars that have commented upon the etymology of asir. Zerolo and his cohorts, with great lack of conviction, give asa, also, as the parent of asir. Martín Alonso, however, is much stronger in his support of asa as the etymon: "asa < L. ansa "asidero," según García de Diego del germ. saziam 'agarrar.'"³ Cuervo,⁴ too, discusses several theories of origin that others have offered and ends his discussion by simply stating that the etymon of asir remains to be uncovered. A proposal for the origin of asir that has

¹Corominas, Dicc. crít., I, 303.

²Zerolo et al, Dicc. encic., I, 268.

³M. Alonso, Encic. del idioma, I, 530.

⁴Cuervo, I, 707.

provoked not a little discussion (especially by Corominas and also by Cuervo) is that of Johann Storm.⁵ He maintains that asir is from French saisir which derived from OHG sazian "to place, put in possession." One of the main objections to Storm's solution is the disappearance of initial s from saisir to asir. Storm says that there was first a des-sasir and then a desasir and through a process of dissimilation asir came about from its opposite, desasir. Such thinking is of no help when the a is initial since desasir would have given sasir, if anything. And, too, since there are no forms of saisir in France without initial s, it is most unlikely that asir came into Spanish in such a manner. Storm argues for the disappearance of the initial s in Spanish simply by saying "il est difficile de séparer asir, v. esp. azir du prov. sazir, fr. saisir, ital. sagire, saisir quelqu'un de quelque chose, le mettre en possession . . ."⁶ Meyer-Lübke⁷ has essentially the same thing to say by giving Fr. saisir, Prov. sazir as the etymon of Spanish and Port. asir, azir. He does, however, declare that OHG sazian is the origin of the French and Provençal verbs. Körting⁸ is of the same

⁵Johann Storm, "Mélanges Étymologiques," Romania, V (1876), 166-167.

⁶Ibid., p. 166. ⁷Meyer-Lübke, REW, p. 632.

⁸Gustav Körting, Lateinisch-Romanisches Wörterbuch, p. 860.

opinion as Meyer-Lübke and lists OHG sazjan as the parent of Fr. saisir, Prov. sazir and ultimately Spanish, Port. asir, azir. However, Körting brings out the fact that Gaston Paris⁹ believes saca? to be the origin of Fr. saisir. Saca is an Old Saxon word which came from Frankish *sakjan "adversary" and became OHG sahha "legal exchange or quarrel in court." As the etymon of Fr. saisir, *sakjan is preferred by Buck.¹⁰ He says that gasacio, which belongs to *sakjan, or means the same thing, is found in the Lex Salica. Bloch,¹¹ in the same vein, says saisir is of Germanic origin and appears to be from *sakjan. He also states that sacire (ad proprietatem sacire) is attested in the Lois Barbares and thus indicates, evidently, that it is an intermediary between *sakjan and saisir. Gamillscheg¹² says precisely the same thing concerning the origin of saisir as do Bloch and Buck. Among the Spanish scholars who hold to the ultimate German

⁹Gaston Paris, Extraits de la Chanson de Roland, 9th ed. (Paris: Librairie Hachette et Cie., 1907), p. 154.

¹⁰Carl Darling Buck, A Dictionary of Selected Synonyms in the Principal Indo-European Languages (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1949), p. 744.

¹¹Oscar Bloch et Walter von Wartburg, Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue française, 2nd ed. (Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1950), p. 541.

¹²Ernst Gamillscheg, Etymologisches Wörterbuch der Französischen Sprache (Heidelberg: C. Winter, 1928), p. 781.

origin of saisir and thereby asir is García de Diego.¹³ He, however, favors sazian over *sakjan and supports the theory that des(s)asir or se (s)asir became asir. Menéndez Pidal has very little to say about the origin of asir: "probablemente del germánico sazjan."¹⁴ The proposal of the etymon of asir that receives least favor, perhaps, among scholars engaged in the matter is that of Diez.¹⁵ He rejects L. ANSA and Basque atsi because of the -g- which is found in certain finite forms of asir. L. APISCI gave APISCIRE, he contends, to produce *apsir and, later, asir. The present indicative APISCOR > *apsco > asgo. However, this -g- of the first person singular of the present indicative and of all the present subjunctive did not become a part of the verb until the sixteenth century, as stated by Menéndez Pidal¹⁶ and evidenced, in the fourteenth century, by Juan Ruiz.¹⁷ This very -g- was one

¹³Vicente García de Diego, Diccionario etimológico español e histórico (Madrid: Talleres Gráficos Montaña, 1954), p. 966.

¹⁴Ramón Menéndez Pidal, Manual de gramática histórica española, 10th ed. (Madrid: Espasa-Calpe, 1958), p. 295.

¹⁵Friedrich Diez, Wörterbuch der Romanischen Sprachen, 4th ed. (Bonn: Adolph Marcus, 1878), p. 427.

¹⁶Menéndez Pidal, Manual de gramática histórica española, p. 295.

¹⁷"Pusola cerca el fuego, cerca de buena blasa;/ Avivo la culebra; ante que la el asa,/ Entro en un forado desa cocina rasa." Juan Ruiz, Libro de cantares (BAE, LVII, 269).

reason Diez rejected other theories and clung to his. Yet the -g- cannot be etymological if it did not appear until the sixteenth century. To explain its development, at such a time, one would have to say either that it arose by analogy with similar verbs such as pongo and salgo, the -g- of neither of which is etymological; or explain it as a distinguishing mark from forms of asar. The Spanish Academy Dicc. his.¹⁸ also gives APISCI as the source of asir. The Academy's dictionary of the Spanish language in its sixteenth (1939)¹⁹ and seventeenth (1947)²⁰ editions lists APSICI as the etymon of asir. The 1956 edition of the same dictionary gives German sazian.²¹ The most likely source of asir is that one proposed by the thirteenth (1899) edition of the Academy dictionary²² and by Pagés.²³ These two sources give L. ADSCISCERE, meaning "to take or receive a thing with knowledge (and approbation), to approve, receive as true," and "to take or receive a person to one's self."²⁴ The later form of ADSCISCERE is ADSCIRE "to receive, admit,"²⁵ also written ASCIRE. In addition

¹⁸Academy Dicc. his., I, 849. ¹⁹p. 128.

²⁰p. 128. ²¹Cf. pages 153 and 154 above.

²²p. 101. ²³Pagés, Gran dicc., I, 640.

²⁴A New Latin Dictionary, ed. E. A. Andrews (New York: American Book Co., 1879), p. 171. Herein and hereafter cited as Harper's Dictionary.

²⁵Ibid.

to the examples listed in Harper's Dictionary there are several cited in the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae.²⁶ ADSCIRE (ascire) > asir (azir) and ASCIO > aso and later aso took on the -g- by analogy with similar conjugations as pongo, salgo and thereby, also, distinguished itself from asar. The meaning, meanwhile, was undergoing a simplification so that it finally meant "to take," although, as shall be seen presently, often with a special connotation. These, then, are the main theories concerning the origin of asir. They do not, however, solve the problem since the source of the verb is still uncertain.

The first use of the already formed asir in Spanish literature, as far as can be ascertained, occurs in the Gran conquista de Ultramar: "E asióle con el brazo izquierdo, muy de récio."²⁷ The word "brazo" is misleading when only this one line is read because one is inclined to translate it as "arm." However, since earlier the right arm had been struck by the adversary and the hand had been cut off and had fallen to the ground, the writer is simply emphasizing the fact that the left hand had to be used. With this in mind, it is clear that the instrument of seizing was the hand, an important point since it is this particular aspect of meaning that has continued to be an

²⁶Thesaurus Linguae Latinae, II, 763.

²⁷La gran conquista de Ultramar (BAE. XLIV, 49).

inherent part of the verb even until today. However, as will be seen in more detail later, this concept was not restrictive, since asir also means to take by other modes and has expressed this latter idea, too, since the very earliest times. As the word became more frequently used it took on various shades of meaning to express more graphically the idea intended. Yet it has not lost the basic and essential idea of "to take." The meanings of asir group themselves into five categories that cover its uses in Medieval Spanish literature.

I. TO TAKE OR SEIZE WITH THE HAND.

In addition to the example already cited from the Gran conquista de Ultramar the following excerpts are from Spanish literature of the Middle Ages:

Púsola cerca el fuego, cerca de buena blasa;
avivó la culebra; ante que la él asa
Entró en un forado desa cocina rasa.²⁸

and "Bajando con presteza los jueces del cadahalso, le asieron de las riendas disciendole: Vos seredes preso."²⁹ The examples of the use of asir for this particular meaning are scarce in Middle Age Spanish literature. The fact that asir can easily be seen to have five distinct meanings in the early language and yet be used so infrequently at first might appear strange. However, if one remembers

²⁸Academy Dicc. his., I, 849. Arcipreste de Hita.

²⁹Cuervo, I, 707. Passo honroso.

that coger, prender and tomar all appeared earlier and were used much more copiously, it is not to be wondered at that a verb appearing as late as 1300 might not gain the importance that synonymous words had been enjoying for at least one hundred years.

II. IN GENERAL, TO TAKE, GRASP. (Also asirse).

"La qual vino sobre él e le pensó asir la cabeça con las arpas."³⁰ In this quotation it is quite clear that asir means "to take, seize," and it is stated in the lines by what means the taking is to be done, thus showing clearly the hands were not involved.

III. TO SEIZE, TAKE A FIRM HOLD OF SOMETHING. (refl.).

In this use, asirse expresses more force or firmness than conveyed in number II above.

Al punto que retorné
asime de los cabellos,
e los unos arranqué
e los otros quebranté.³¹

It is easy to see that asime de los cabellos, in its above context, indicates a definite idea of taking a firm hold rather than simply taking hold. "El caballo que en el agua cayó asíóse al caballo de Guilán."³² This use above

³⁰Academy Dicc. his., I, 849. Lib. de Caball.

³¹Ibid., I, 850. Canc. de Gómez Manrique.

³²Ibid. Amadís. Although the date of publication of Amadís is very early sixteenth century, no one doubts its earlier existence. For this reason, it is included in the sources for examples from Medieval literature.

of asióse definitely shows a firmness of action.

IV. TO TAKE THE OCCASION OR PRETEXT TO DO WHAT ONE WANTS.

"A osadas que me maten si no te has asido a una palabrilla que te dije el otro día, viniendo por la calle, que cuanto yo tenía era tuyo."³³

V. TO QUARREL OR CONTEND, IN DEED OR WORD.

"El Rey e Agrajes estaban tan asidos que los no podían quitar, ni tampoco derribarse el uno al otro, porque los de su parte los tenían en medio e los sostenían que no cayesen."³⁴

Asir appeared in Nebrija's Vocabulario de Romance en Latín (1492). The definitions given for it were, of course, not as copious as the ones just listed, which have been compiled in retrospect. In most cases Nebrija explained asir by using L. PREHENDO: "prehendo, is; prendo, is, prendi; asir a menudo, prensó, as, aui; asirse a otra cosa, adhaero, es."³⁵ Nebrija's definitions do not in any way appear to include definitions IV and V as set down above. Las Casas (1570) has the following in his dictionary: "asir con garfio, arroncigliare, vncinare; asir,

³³Ibid. La Celestina. ³⁴Ibid. Amadís.

³⁵Gili Gaya, op. cit., p. 237. That PREHENDO, PRENDO, PRENSO all appear in Nebrija's entry is nothing new. Cf. preceding chapter on Prender.

affigere, arrampare, attacare, carpire, ghermire." ³⁶ He has made plain the difference between "taking with the hand" and "taking with a hook" thereby bringing out the differences, clearly, in the meaning of "to take" and "to seize, grasp." But Las Casas has not fully covered the actual uses of asir. Also in the sixteenth century Percivale wrote in A Dictionary of Spanish and English (1599): "to take hold on, to sticke to, to cleave to, to bud." ³⁷ This latter definition is somewhat inexact since asir was used, in the sixteenth century by Herrera, in writing of plants, to mean "to take root" which is actually different from "to bud." But it is seen in Percivale's lexicon for the first time. César Oudin's dictionary of 1607 includes for asir in French almost exactly what Nebrija had in Spanish. Covarrubias (1611) writes almost entirely of his etymological theories concerning asir with little or nothing to say of its meanings or employment. However, along with Percivale's hint of a new meaning--"to take root in the ground" ³⁸--there are two other definitions that came into being in the sixteenth century. One was a figurative use employed by the mystical Spanish writers, and to them asirse meant "to have recourse to, to seek the protection

³⁶Las Casas, op. cit., p. 287.

³⁷Gili Gaya, op. cit., p. 237.

³⁸"Y así asen y se arraigan sin riesgo de perderse," G. Herrera. Academy Dicc. his., I, 850.

of" as Spanish ampararse is used today. Santa Teresa wrote: "Mirad bien cuán presto se mudan las personas y cuán poco hay que fiar dellas, y ansí asirse bien de Dios, que no se muda."³⁹ And Fr. L. de León also used asirse thus: "Siempre fué flaca defensa asirse a la letra, cuando la razón evidente descubre el verdadero sentido."⁴⁰ The other new meaning taken on by asir during this Golden Age period was one that meant "to be related or united to." This definition evidently did not usually apply to persons but to things. For example Fr. L. de León wrote: "Podemos decir que este verso no se ase con lo de arriba, sino viene con lo que después de él se sigue."⁴¹ The uses to which Cervantes puts asir (asirse) in his works almost all confine themselves to the first three categories of meanings listed above in the discussion of the employment of asir in the Medieval literature. Some examples are: "Y cerrando cō él le assiό fuertemente de la capa; . . . Apeόse, en fin, pero con tan malas entrañas que arremetiό a su enemigo, y assiéndola con ambas manos por la garganta dio con él en el suelo; . . . Assiό con la otra las riendas de Rozinante; . . . Pero nuestro Licenciado, bolbiēdose a nuestro Capellā y assiēdole de las manos, le dixo; . . . Y la respuesta q̄ dio Preciosa fue soltar las manos de la Corregidora y assirse de los pies del Corregidor."⁴²

³⁹Ibid. ⁴⁰Ibid. ⁴¹Ibid.

⁴²Fernández Gómez, op. cit., p. 101.

The important thing notable in Cervantes' writings is that there is apparently no new use of asir made by him. In fact, the later and even the earlier more specialized meanings (numbers IV and V above) do not find place in his works. Nevertheless, these uses are, during Cervantes' time, already entrenched in the language. In Salvá's dictionary, all the meanings thus far listed appear with the exception of the last two--that use of asirse made by Santa Teresa and Fr. Luis de León; namely, "to have recourse to, to seek protection of" and "to be related or united to." And these two definitions, according to Martín Alonso, and judging by examples offered by other late lexicographers, along with all the other meanings except the very first three mentioned, do not live in the language past the seventeenth century. Therefore, one is to assume that the basic meaning of asir is "to take, seize, grasp with the hands" or in general; "to seize or hold firmly to something." And while all the definitions that have been mentioned are included in the dictionaries of Zerolo, Pagés, the Royal Spanish Academy and Cuervo, they are all most definitely not widely employed today and are included only because they were, at one time in literary history, in use.

DERIVATIVES.

Asidero--m. 1. Handle. 2. (Met.) Occasion, pretext.

Asideos, (Naut.) Ropes with which vessels are hauled

along the shore.

Asido, da--pp. of ASIR, Seized, grasped, laid hold of.

--a. Fastened, tied, attached.

Asidura--f. 1. Handle. 2. (Met.) Occasion, pretext. 3. Grasp, the act of seizing or grasping. 4. Attachment, affection.

Asimiento--m. 1. Grasp, the act of seizing or grasping. 2. Attachment, affection. --

CONCLUSION

Hopefully, the treatment each verb has received has been conclusive enough. There are, however, a few questions that might have come into the mind of the reader. An effort has been made to anticipate such and mention is now made of them in an effort to resolve any strugglings of the mind and reason.

Language, by and large, is unpredictable. There are, of course, certain very predictable generalities about it. The student knows that it has always tended to simplify itself morphologically and augment itself in vocabulary; that the nominally educated or uneducated speakers exert more influence on the trend of a language than the highly skilled orator or author but still learned influence is often undeniable; and that language is not logical. Therefore, since man is not a totally illogical being, questions that ask "why" about language are the easiest for him to ask and the most difficult to answer. It seems natural that some of the following interrogations should obtain concerning these six verbs. Why did coger, prender and tomar assume the burden of semantic representation of "to take, seize, grasp" and leave the others to founder, disappear or over-specialize? Of the Major Verbs,

why did tomar become most used? Why does apañar have such a distance between its principal meanings, which are relatively few in number? Why did agarrar maintain its strongly restrictive sense of the use of force? These questions cannot be answered with complete certainty or authority. Regarding the semantics or meanings of a word one can base one's conclusions only on the general habits of language. Practically every statement is a mere assumption. With etymology, such is not the case, necessarily. Since the etymologies of the verbs have been discussed and concluded in each chapter, little more will be said of them here--only that which is pertinent to the coagulation of a semantic theory.

Because the Major Verbs have their sources deep in the Latin language and that language--in whatever state--evolved into the Spanish language, it is very likely that these three verbs should hold their semantic roots firm even though transplanted to another geographical area. And although apañar, too, is from the Latin, its meanings grew very early to be specialized. While apañar first meant "to take in the hand," it soon became involved with the idea expressed by pañó (< PANNUS) and its meanings then began to diversify greatly, so that it came to mean "to embellish" and "to clothe." This association with pañó is the reason for the distance between its principal meanings. Coger and tomar enjoyed an almost parallel growth and use, up to a point, but at this point--and it

was very early in the language, as has been noted--coger became slightly more specialized in its meaning and tomar was growing more general so that the latter grew in popularity and generalized to the point that its use in idiomatic phrases and the like that wanted to express "taking, seizing, grasping" in some manner was almost unlimited. Coger, on the other hand, in addition to specializing somewhat in the direction of "receiving, occupying" assumed a spurious meaning among the lower classes and in the Americas, thereby stunting its growth. Prender was overshadowed by tomar because the former, although very popular, had the idea essential to its use of "to take a person prisoner; to subjugate." That is to say, it was involved semantically with taking, catching people and detaining. Such limitations did not become imposed on tomar. Agarrar, because of its kinship to garfa "hook, claw, talon" and the natural idea of force conveyed by the use of hook, claw, talon etc. in taking, was limited in use to the expression of the forcefulness. Asir, also of Latin origin and of use relatively early, was not favored among the people to grow to the stature of the Major Verbs but simply expressed its meanings and exists as a synonym of the other verbs, and means essentially "to take in or by the hand."

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VITA

Bobby Ray Glover, oldest child and only son of Valma Shepherd and Raymond Platt Glover, was born on July 5, 1931, in De Soto Parish, Louisiana, near Mansfield. He was graduated from Mansfield High School in 1948 and entered the University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, Louisiana in the fall of the same year.

After the first year at this institution, Mr. Glover changed his major field of study to Spanish and English. In 1951, upon the completion of his junior year of studies, he was chosen by the Head of the Department of Foreign Languages to be the first exchange student to represent his school at the University of Madrid. Upon the completion of a school year in the Spanish university, Mr. Glover received a Diploma de Estudios Hispánicos and returned to his university in the United States to complete his undergraduate studies. In the spring of 1953, he was graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Education with majors in Spanish and English.

The summer following his graduation Mr. Glover lived in Guadalajara, Mexico as a chosen representative of the Baptist college students in Louisiana. Here he lived and worked in a boys' residence and taught native young

people in various summer schools.

In the fall of the same year (1953) Mr. Glover assumed duties as teacher of Spanish and English at Sulphur High School, Sulphur, Louisiana where he remained until June of 1955, when he returned to Lafayette to work in the family business.

In 1959 Mr. Glover was awarded a National Defense Education Act--Title IV--scholarship to study toward the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Romance Languages and Literatures at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. He taught Spanish at Southeastern Louisiana College, Hammond, Louisiana in 1963-64 and is presently Instructor of Spanish at the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

EXAMINATION AND THESIS REPORT

Candidate: Bobby Ray Glover

Major Field: Romance Philology

Title of Thesis: A History of Six Spanish Verbs Meaning "To Take, Seize, Grasp."

Approved:

Wyatt A. Pickens
Major Professor and Chairman

Max Goodred
Dean of the Graduate School

EXAMINING COMMITTEE:

J. Thompson
W. Berumen

Peter J. Luminarin

Harry L. Kirby, Jr.

Elliott D. Healy

Date of Examination:

November 8, 1965