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The category of ‘golf’ in a new *Historical Thesaurus of Scots*

Magdalena Warth-Szczyglowska

ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to present the category of *golf* in a new *Historical Thesaurus of Scots* (HTS). A new project to create a *Pilot Historical Thesaurus of Scots* (PHiTS) was based at the University of Glasgow. The *Historical Thesaurus of Scots* is a new resource of Scots containing vocabulary from the twelfth century to the present day, which is organised according to the relationship of synonymy and by semantic category. The thesaurus is based on the semantic information found in an existing digital resource, the *Dictionary of the Scots Language*, and is entirely digital. The HTS is modelled on the *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary* (HTOED), the first historical thesaurus for any language, which was compiled at the University of Glasgow and published in 2009. In the pilot phase of the project, which was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), and which lasted until September 2015, we explored domains which are lexically abundant in Scots. One such domain was *sports and games*, and this paper will present some initial results of our research, focusing on the game of golf.

A *Pilot Historical Thesaurus of Scots* (PHiTS)

A project to create a *Pilot Historical Thesaurus of Scots* (PHiTS), funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), was based at the University of Glasgow (<http://www.scotsthesaurus.org>). The project began in January 2014 and finished in September 2015. The aim of the pilot phase of the *Historical Thesaurus of Scots* (HTS) project was to create a new resource of Scots organised according to semantic category and by the relationship of synonymy. The project also considered aspects relating to data collection and the structure of the thesaurus, as these will help in the compilation of the complete *Historical Thesaurus of Scots* in future.

The HTS was based on the semantic analysis of words and phrases found in an existing digital resource, the *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (DSL).¹ The HTS is wholly digital and no paper version is available. Moreover, the HTS data are displayed in two formats: as a textual view and in the

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form of visualisations, in order to enable the user to analyse the data in different ways.

The *DSL* is a lexicographical resource which comprises two dictionaries: the *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue* (*DOST*) which contains Older Scots vocabulary, and the *Scottish National Dictionary* (*SND*) which contains modern Scots vocabulary. Overall the *DSL* contains over 77,000 entries which are illustrated by over 750,000 quotations.² Thus, the *HTS* provides a detailed historical record of the Scots language, as it contains vocabulary from the twelfth century to the present day. This new thesaurus acts as an excellent research tool for anyone interested in the language of Scots. The pilot phase of the project focused on domains which abound in Scots words: *sports and games*, *weather*, and *Scots idioms and proverbs*. It must be stressed, however, that the *HTS* is a bilingual resource since both the *SND* and *DOST* contain Scots entries with English definitions and the same structure is kept in the *HTS*. As Rennie, who was the Principal Investigator (PI) on the *HTS* project explains, this is not a new tradition, since ‘there has never been a complete monolingual dictionary which defines Scots headwords with Scots definitions’.³

The Pilot Historical Thesaurus of Scots (PHiTS) and the Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary (HTOED)

The *HTS* is modelled on the *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary* (*HTOED*), which is the first complete historical thesaurus for any language. It was compiled at the University of Glasgow and published in 2009.⁴ There are currently three versions of the thesaurus: the print version, which was published as the *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary* (*HTOED*), a version which is built into the *OED* online, which can be accessed at <http://www.oed.com/thesaurus>, and the online *Historical Thesaurus of English* (*HTE*) available at <http://historicalthesaurus.arts.gla.ac.uk>. Since the *HTE* has been updated, with changes to category numbering, ordering and hierarchy,⁵ it is not exactly the same as the print *HTOED*. In this article the database version 4.2, that is the online version which was released in September 2014, is used. The *HTOED* is based on the second edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary* (*OED*) as well as its Supplements and data from *A Thesaurus of Old English*. Despite the fact that the *HTOED* is mainly based on the *OED*, as Kay et al. explain, ‘[a]lthough we have relied heavily on the *OED*, we have not followed it slavishly’.⁶

Compiling a thesaurus, labelling words and putting them in the right categories is not an easy task. Kay, who responds to Landau’s argument that compiling thesauri is much easier than compiling dictionaries,⁷ argues:

An alphabetical dictionary at least has *a priori* framework; one starts at the letter ‘A’ (or wherever else takes one’s fancy) and continues until the

alphabetical sequence is complete. A thesaurus has no such god-given structure, no obvious beginning, middle or end. And yet, it must begin and end somewhere, and some structure must be apparent in the points in between.⁸

Kay is right. Deciding on a thesaurus's structure is not easy. As far as the *HTOED* is concerned, the data are divided into three main level sections which are then divided into relevant categories. These are: I The External World, II The Mental World, III The Social World. Kay et al. argue that

At the root of the *HTOED* system of classification is the contention that, within certain limits, each section should be allowed to develop its own semantic profile. However, as the body of data grew, it was felt that a high-level overall structure should be developed into which the categories assigned to individual classifiers could eventually be slotted. Samuels and Kay undertook the task of identifying key components in the *OED* definitions which would form the basis of major sections.⁹

They justify their decision by saying that

This tripartite division reflects the fact that, for English in the British Isles, we are dealing with a world-view, or set of world-views, recorded over a period of about 1300 years, but often incorporating much earlier views. Our historical perspective enabled us to tackle one of the key problems of any system of classification: where do you start? For Roget, the answer was to start with abstractions, notions such as relationships of similarity, comparability, etc., which would inform later section. For *HTOED*, the solution was the opposite: to start in Section I with the most readily observable phenomena of the universe, the land, sea, sky, etc., followed by living beings, their characteristics and physical needs. ... Section II, the smallest of the three, presents the vocabulary of mental processes, such as Perception, Emotion, Will and (perhaps more marginally) Possession. Here there is a logical progression, since much of the lexis of this section derives metaphorically from that of Section I. ... Section III deals with the vocabulary of people as they organize into social groups, develop systems such as law and morality, exploit the environment, communicate, and enjoy themselves.¹⁰

According to Kay, although during the collection of the *HTOED* data, Roget's categories (*Roget's Thesaurus* Dutch edition, 1962) were used as a starting point, 'the intention of the *HTOED* team was always to devise a new system of classification which would do justice to both the nature and the quantity of our material'.¹¹ Having considered the fact that in the pilot phase of the *HTS* project we would only focus on selected domains and categories, it was decided best for the *HTS* to follow the *HTOED* categories (both main level categories and subcategories) and use them as a model. As far as they are concerned, it must be stressed that similarly to the work on the *HTOED*, the categories in the *HTOED* were a starting point and it was the data found in the *DSL* that would verify and indicate which (sub)categories should be kept and which abandoned, and whether new categories should be added in order to accurately represent the vocabulary of the Scots language as found in the *DSL*.

Work before PHiTS

The *HTS* is a unique historical resource of the Scots language, something that has not been created before.

Despite the fact that there have been some attempts to divide Scots vocabulary into certain categories, such as those by Boswell (work on his dictionary began in the 1760s, but was never finished), Sinclair and Jamieson (see Rennie) none of these can be considered fully successful and called thesauri in a full sense of the word.¹²

It was not until 1990 that a *Scots Thesaurus* was published.¹³ The *Scots Thesaurus* (*ST*) is the only thesaurus of Scots that is currently available. It was based on the *Concise Scots Dictionary* (*CSD*) published in 1985.¹⁴ Naturally, not all the data found in *DOST* and *SND* made it to the *CSD*; in most cases (although with some exceptions) words for which there were fewer than three references, were omitted, as were words considered to be of Norn origin spoken in Shetland, Orkney and Caithness. Additionally, vocabulary found only in reference sources such as dictionaries were excluded too. As far as quotations are concerned, they were included rarely and only for the purposes of clarification.¹⁵ According to Macleod, '[a]lthough ... [the Scots Thesaurus] also has obvious potential for educational uses, it is aimed mainly at a more general market and may be seen as a companion volume to the *CSD*, on which it was based'.¹⁶ The *HTS*, on the other hand, is based on the full *DSL*. Moreover, since it is entirely digital, the *HTS* entries are linked to the *DSL* entries and the users have access not only to the categories and networks in the *HTS*, but to the full *DSL* data that includes information such as definitions and original quotations. The *HTS* is aimed at both general and academic audiences.

It may be argued that the *HTS* has been a long-awaited resource. It was back in 1994 that Kay commented, while referring to the *Scots Thesaurus* (*ST*) and potential projects where *ST* could be used:

An equally fascinating, though less achievable, project, would be a much larger thesaurus of all the data in *DOST* and *SND*; there would be a good deal of overlap here with HT [Historical Thesaurus of English], but also much interest in the differences.¹⁷

Although in the pilot phase the focus was on selected lexical domains, these will nevertheless serve as a starting point as they demonstrate how useful it would be if, in future, a complete *HTS* was compiled.

As far as *ST* is concerned, it is interesting to note that it lacks an important category of *sports and games*, one of the categories that was explored in the pilot *HTS*. Although it may seem like an accidental omission, perhaps it was not. As explained by Macleod:

One plan was for books or booklets on various subjects: several were proposed at various times, including sports and games, food and drink, legal terms, and

building and architecture. Only the last of these actually appeared, as the *Dictionary of Scottish Building* (1996).¹⁸

It is intriguing, however, that except for *sports and games*, all the other three categories are found in the *Scots Thesaurus*.¹⁹ Since one of the categories explored in the pilot *HTS* was *sports and games*, as mentioned above, the *HTOED* categories served as a good starting point. Although the current *Scots Thesaurus*, was not used when creating the *sports and games* categories, it was useful when looking at the category of *weather*, which was also explored in the *HTS*.

Golf: The national game of Scotland

One of the games within the *sports and games* category is golf, which is considered to be a national game of Scotland. It is one of the oldest and most traditional games and this is the reason why golf was chosen to be explored in the *HTS*.

In recent years much has been written on the history of golf, looking at aspects such as golf in Scottish tourism,²⁰ British women in sport and female golf players in a male-dominated golf environment,²¹ the issues of class and race in golf,²² and professional lives of golf players.²³ Many scholars have also focused on golf equipment, clothing and footwear.²⁴ This paper, however, offers a different perspective on golf, as it discusses Scots golf categories and vocabulary in a new pilot *Historical Thesaurus of Scots* (*HTS*), which is based on the lexicographic data included in the *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (*DSL*). The aim of this paper is to explain the methodology of the project and to present initial results: the category of *golf* in the *HTS*.

The connections between golf and Scotland are mentioned in Clark (1875), one of the earliest books on golf, where in his Introduction Clark describes golf as 'a game peculiar to the Scots' which 'may indeed be called *par excellence* the National Game of Scotland'.²⁵

As far as the etymology of the word *golf* and the origins of the game are concerned, Geddes in the Introduction argues that '[t]he origins of golf are a matter of mystery and controversy'.²⁶ The *Oxford English Dictionary* (*OED*) also mentions that the etymology of *golf* is 'of obscure origin'.²⁷ There have been some suggestions, however, that its development may be connected with contacts with European languages. For example Dossena quotes from the publication available on the Scottish Government website that '(reputedly) Scots soldiers returning from the Hundred Years War brought back a game played with a stick and ball which was very popular among the Dutch and known as "het kol"'.²⁸ Dutch *kolf* being the original source of *golf* is suggested in other sources too. For example the *DSL* considers

kolf as an option: ‘Golf, Gouf, *n.*¹ ... [Probably adaptation of Dutch *kolf*, the club used in a game similar to golf].’²⁹

According to Geddes, various ‘ball and stick games’ have been common at least since the Middle Ages, and they were played in both open and enclosed areas.³⁰ As Geddes further argues, ‘[s]ome involved aiming at a target above ground, while in other cases the object was to hit the ball into a hole. These games must have constantly changed and evolved from one another over the years.’³¹ As far as the connection between *golf* and *kolf* is concerned, Geddes notes that

Legend has it that ‘colf’, a ‘golf-like game’, was played at Loenen aan de Vecht in the Province of North Holland in the Low Countries as early as 1297, and decrees restricting and even prohibiting ‘colf’ provide documentary evidence that the game was played there from the fourteenth century.³²

Although the etymology of the word *golf* is uncertain, it is indeed possible that it has its origins in the game of *colf*, although as argued by Geddes, these two games were not exactly the same.³³ For example, whereas the game of golf in Scotland involved aiming a ball at a hole, in *colf* one aimed at targets which were not in, but above the ground. Moreover:

Dutch ‘colf’ was often played on ice within a defined area, while the Scottish game was more wide-ranging and does not appear to have kept to a predefined course. Generally the Dutch played a ‘short game’, while the Scots version was a ‘long game’.³⁴

The first attested use of the word ‘*golf*’ dates back to 1457 and is found in an Act of Parliament.³⁵ Geddes argues that in the fifteenth century, when golf was mentioned for the first time, neither football nor golf, as opposed to archery, had a good reputation.³⁶ Although this ‘peaceable game’, as Geddes calls it,³⁷ may be considered a national game today, its beginnings were not easy. In the fifteenth century, golf, together with football, was considered ‘a nuisance, as well as a distraction from the practice of archery’.³⁸ As far as the game of golf and religious authorities are concerned, Geddes argues that ‘[w]hile little documentation survives to throw light on the attitude of the pre-reformation Church in Scotland towards golf’,³⁹ after the reformation the Church ‘clearly disapproved when it involved Sabbath-breaking. From about 1580 declarations to this effect were made by Kirk Sessions as far afield as Edinburgh, Perth, St Andrews, Leith, Banff, Cullen, and Stirling.’⁴⁰

Hamilton, who discusses golf in Glasgow, explains that it appears as if the Kirk was against golf simply because the game was considered dangerous, and the aim was ‘to protect the inhabitants of the town ... when about their business in the main street or the churchyard’.⁴¹ He adds that it was later, however, after the Reformation, that the focus was more on religion and golf was forbidden on Sundays.⁴² There is also evidence in the *DSL* that playing golf on Sundays during the sermon time was forbidden:

1596–7 Elgin Rec. II 46.

Walter Hay, ... accusit for playing at the boulis and golff upoun Sondaie in the tym of the sermon.⁴³

Although the attitude towards golf has not always been as positive as it is today, this game has attracted attention at least since the fifteenth century. As suggested by Geddes, all the declarations banning the game of golf in Scotland may demonstrate how popular this stick and ball game was.⁴⁴ However, the category of *golf* in the *HTS* may also indicate that golf has been an important game in Scotland since its introduction a few centuries ago.

The category of golf in the PHiTS

Methodology

As mentioned above, the *HTS* data is taken from the *Dictionary of the Scots Language (DSL)*.⁴⁵ In order to find vocabulary referring to *golf*, the team decided that the best way of finding all the relevant words and phrases would be to search for the word *golf* and then analyse all entries and categorise the vocabulary accordingly.⁴⁶ It was assumed that words which are used specifically in reference to golf would have the word *golf* somewhere in their definitions. The search for the word *golf* was performed in full text entries, in the advanced search area, in order to capture as much relevant information as possible. Full-text searching sometimes resulted in false hits where the word appeared in random quotations in entries which were not linked to golf in any way. On the other hand, this search enabled us to find entries which did not have definitions, but quotations only. Although the majority of the *DSL* entries have full dictionary definitions, there are words/phrases which do not have definitions, but rather quotations which act as dictionary definitions, such as in the case of the word *tousler*:

Tousler ... in *golf*: see 1952 quot. ...

Abd. 1952 Buchan Observer (12 Aug.):

A Toosler is a player who eases a ball out of the rough if lying badly.⁴⁷

The above-mentioned search resulted in 239 hits; 169 from the *SND* and 70 from *DOST*. The next step was to analyse each entry thoroughly and categorise the words properly. It must also be stressed that whenever necessary, non-standard spellings of words such as *golf* were also analysed.

The initial stage of creating the category of *golf* in the *HTS* involved working with the categories in the *HTOED*. However, as will be demonstrated, the *HTOED* was not followed strictly, and whenever necessary, new categories were created and the English categories which did not map onto the Scots vocabulary discarded. For example, it soon became evident that the

HTOED division of verbs into transitive and intransitive would not be followed, as in many verb entries in the *DSL* this information is not provided, therefore there is one category of verbs in which both transitive and intransitive verbs are included.

As stated above, the data in the *HTOED* are divided into three main level sections: I The External World, II The Mental World, III The Social World.⁴⁸ Within these sections there are categories which move from more general to more specific meanings. The words within these categories are organised chronologically from the earliest attested records, and according to their part of speech.⁴⁹ As far as the category of *golf* is concerned, it is found in the third section, The Social World, and the following is the hierarchical order of relevant categories:

- 03 Society
- 03.13 Leisure
- 03.13.04 Sport
- 03.13.04.13 Types of sport/game
- 03.13.04.13.16 Ball game
- 03.13.04.13.16.12 Golf

The category of *golf* in the *HTOED* is divided further into 16 categories which cover *golf*, *play golf*, *golf-course*, *equipment* and *forms of golf*. The category of *golf* in the *HTS* is discussed below.

The category of golf in the PHiTS

Results

The analysis of *golf* vocabulary found in the *DSL* enabled us to identify 10 main categories, 62 subcategories and 218 entries. As explained above, as far as the category of *golf* is concerned, the *HTS* currently follows the numbering system of the online version of *HTE*. It must be stressed that all headings are from the *HTOED*, unless stated as a new category. The main golf categories and subcategories are presented in the following tables: [Table 1](#) presents categories and subcategories of *golf* and *play golf* (category number 03.13.04.13.16.12), while [Table 2](#) presents categories and subcategories of *golf course* (category number 03.13.04.13.16.12.01), and [Table 3](#) presents categories and subcategories of *equipment* (category number 03.13.04.13.16.12.02).

The above categories were created on the basis of the analysis of the Scots vocabulary found in the *DSL* and the results demonstrate that the categories in the *HTS* are similar to those found in the *HTOED*. Similarly to the golf data in the *HTOED*, the categories can be divided into three main golf sections: *golf* (both as a noun and a verb), *golf course* and *equipment*. These sections will be discussed in turn.

Table 1 Categories and subcategories of *golf* and *play golf*

03.13.04.13.16.12 Noun (n) Golf	03.13.04.13.16.12 Adjective (aj) Golf	03.13.04.13.16.12 Verb (v) Play golf	03.13.04.13.16.12 Reflexive verb (vr) Play golf	03.13.04.13.16.12 Interjection (in) Play golf
Subcategories: Player	Subcategories: Types of stroke	Subcategories: Place ball on tee	Subcategories: Position oneself (New category)	Subcategory: Warning cry
Types of player	Lie of ball	Address the ball	To initiate oneself (New category)	
Caddy	Ahead of opponent	Type of play/stroke		
Types of game/ match	Scoring (new category)	Strike the ground		
Movements		Scrape the ground		
Position		Hole the ball		
Lie of club		Hole the ball unexpectedly (New category)		
Types of play		Score		
Types of shot/stroke		Act as caddy		
Holing the ball		To spoil a stroke (New category)		
(Holing the ball)		Movements		
Unexpectedly				
Lie of ball		Lie of ball		
Specific amount allowing for scope of the green				
Accidental interference				
Scoring				
Odds/handicaps				
Clothes worn by golfers (New category)				
Reward (New category)				
Luck (New category)				

Table 2 Categories and subcategories of *golf course*

03.13.04.13.16.12.01 Noun (n) Golf course	03.13.04.13.16.12.01 Adverb (av) Golf course
Subcategories: Section of Green (Ground for) tee Hazards Hole for ball Pin marking hole Club-house Mark left by a scaff (New category)	Subcategories: Golf-course

Table 3 Categories and subcategories of *equipment*

03.13.04.13.16.12.02 Noun (n) Equipment	03.13.04.13.16.12.02 Adjective (aj) Equipment	03.13.04.13.16.12.02 Verb (v) Equipment
Subcategories:	Subcategories:	Subcategories:
Club	Types of club	To splice two pieces of wood (New category)
Types of club	Type of ball	To cut the face of a club (New category)
Parts of club		Attach the head to the shaft (New category)
Specific manner of construction		
Ball		
Types of ball		
Case for golf-balls (New category)		
Clippings used for stuffing golf-balls (New category)		
Capacity for rolling along the ground (New category)		

Golf and Play golf

The category of *golf* is under the category number 03.13.04.13.16.12. In this umbrella *golf* category, five sections with different parts of speech are found: nouns, adjectives, verbs, reflexive verbs, and interjections.

There are a number of subcategories within the main category of *golf* words used as nouns. These include words referring to aspects such as players at golf, caddies or types of shots and play, just to name a few. These categories do not contain vocabulary referring to *golf-course* (category number 03.13.04.13.16.12.01) or *equipment* (category number 03.13.04.13.16.12.02).

As far as the main noun category is concerned, there are five entries that refer to the game of golf, two of which are found in *DOST* and three in the *SND*. As far as Older Scots is concerned, these are *golf* and *long gauff*, whereas in the *SND* there are *chow*, *gowf* and *tee*.⁵⁰ These indicate that even the game of golf itself can be named in a variety of ways. As mentioned above, the *HTS* provides information about the categories and links to the original entries in the *DSL*, therefore users have access to information such as the etymology of words, spelling variants, definitions and quotations; for example:

Golf, Gouf, *n*.¹ Also: golfe, golff, goulf; goufe, gouff(e, gowf, gowff(e, gauff; goff(e, gofe, goofe; goiff(f.

[Probably adaptation of Dutch *kolf*, the club used in a game similar to golf]

The game of golf.

1457 Acts II. 48/2.

At the fut bal ande the golf be vtterly criyt done and nocht vsyt.⁵¹

In the entry for *gowf* in the *SND*, information is given as to when golf was first thought to have been played in Scotland and later in England:

I. *n*. 1. The game of golf, played first in Scot. in the 15th c. and popularised in Eng. about 150 years later. Formerly frequently used with the *definite article*.⁵²

The entry for *tee*, on the other hand, is found in the *SND*, and according to the definition, the meaning of the *game of golf* developed through the meaning of *golf tee*, that is a heap of sand from which a ball is struck. The dagger, however, indicates that this sense of the word is obsolete:

Tee: I. *n.* 1. *Golf*: the small heap of sand or earth from which the ball is driven at the start of each hole (Sc. 1808 Jam.). ... †by extension, the game of golf.⁵³

This entry is accompanied by four quotations, the first of which is from Allan Ramsay's poems published in 1721:

Sc. 1721 RAMSAY Poems (S.T.S.) I. 223:
Driving their Baws frae Whins or Tee, There's no ae Gowfer to be seen.⁵⁴

The entry for *tee* demonstrates that differentiating senses is a complex process which requires considerable care. Although *tee* referring to the game of golf is found in 03.13.04.13.16.12.n, *tee* referring to the heap of sand is found in the section referring to a *golf course* discussed below.

Within section 03.13.04.13.16.12.n, a subcategory which is rich is Scots vocabulary, is *types of shot/stroke* which has almost 30 entries. It is here that one can find vocabulary referring to various shots such as a *baff* which is a 'stroke in golf, in which the ground is struck with the sole of the club-head',⁵⁵ *iron*, defined as 'a golf-club with an iron or steel head' but also 'rarely a shot played with such a club',⁵⁶ a *sniper*, which derives from the verb *to snipe* and which is defined as 'a driving stroke in golf',⁵⁷ and a *stimie*, which according to the *DSL* was used in English too:

Stimie: I. *n.* A shot in golf by which one's ball lands on the green not less than six inches from one's opponent's in a direct line between it and the hole so as to obstruct his putt. Adopted in St. Eng. in the form *stymie* but abolished from the rules of the game from 1952.⁵⁸

Some shots are defined as good or bad, such as *toucher*, which is defined as 'a good shot, one that gets near the hole' or *skuttle* defined as '[t]he meaning appears to be a botched, bungled or muffed shot (in golf)'.⁵⁹ In the latter definition, there is an uncertainty as to the meaning of the word. Only one quotation is provided and the meaning may appear to be slightly ambiguous:

Fif. 1891 J. G. MCPHERSON *Golf and Golfers* 93:
The flinty ground sounded like iron with the stroke. "What a skuttle!" remarked Bob. "What's cum ower ye?"

The example of the *iron* presented above demonstrates that some words in the *HTS*, such as those in the *type of shot/stroke* category have both a noun and a verb meaning, therefore, in such cases, each sense appears in the relevant categories in the thesaurus. Different types of shots require different clubs, so it can be assumed that the latter is also a rich category. It will be demonstrated below that the category of 'types of club' is indeed an abundant one too.

Many, but not all of the subcategories found in the *HTS* were also found in the *HTOED*. Examples of categories not found in the *HTOED* include the category of 'clothes worn by golfers' and the *red-coat* entry: 'a red coat worn by a town officer or †a golfer',⁶⁰ the category of *reward* and the word *medal*: '[a]s in English, a medallion given as a reward for merit; specifically one given by a golfing club',⁶¹ and the category of *luck* which includes the phrase *luck of the green*: '[t]he good luck associated with the successful outcome of a particular activity ... *the luck of the green*, in golf'.⁶² These differences, and others that may be teased out by further developments of the *HTS*, provide new methods of considering the similarities and differences between Scots and English.

On the other hand, there were categories in the *HTOED* that had to be abandoned in the *HTS* because no matching vocabulary was found, such as the category of *direction required for shot* or *privilege of playing first*. However, it must be stressed that the *HTS* is based on what is included in the *DSL*; for example the *SND* only includes words which are 'distinctively Scots',⁶³ whereas *DOST* includes vocabulary shared with English too. Therefore, if changes in the *DSL*'s coverage of Scots take place in future, these changes would have to be reflected in the complete *HTS*.

There are some other categories deserving attention, for example the category of *type of game/match* with words such as *bonspiel* defined as a 'match between two opposite parties in the game of curling. It takes place gen. between different clubs or parishes. In former days the word was employed in a wider sense – e.g. in connection with golf or archery' and *fower-some* defined as a 'match of four players, two on either side'⁶⁴ which also indicates, similarly to *types of shot/stroke*, that all aspects of the game were extremely important. Similarly, people were important too. Not only are there general terms for players, which are *gouffer* and *gowfer*,⁶⁵ but also types of players: *putter* defined as 'a person who putts' and *tousler* where according to a quotation provided in the entry '[a] Toosler is a player who eases a ball out of the rough if lying badly'.⁶⁶

The category of adjectives (03.13.04.13.16.12.aj) is smaller than the equivalent category in the *HTOED* as it contains only four subcategories, the richest of which is the category of *scoring*, with three entries, all from the *SND*: *half* defined as 'the allowance of a stroke at alternate holes to one's opponent ... now commonly known as "a half" or "half a stroke"', *natural* defined as 'in the same number of strokes, with the same score as one's opponent for the hole' and *one*, for which a quotation is given: 'If your opponent has played ... two strokes more ... your next stroke will be "the one off two"; if three more, "the one off three," and so on.'⁶⁷

The category of *play golf* (v) is quite prolific. Although there are a number of subcategories within verbs, it is the category of *types of stroke/shot* that is the richest, containing almost 20 entries. Although the *DSL* provides

information regarding transitivity in many cases, there are some *golf* verbs where it is not explained whether a given verb is transitive or intransitive (for example *heel* and *shank*),⁶⁸ therefore the team decided to create a general category of verbs, without dividing them into these two types. Whenever this information is given, a reader will be able to find it in the relevant *DSL* entries.

Within the category of *types of play/stroke*, words such as *cleek*, *drive* or *heel* demonstrate that in the network of senses of words relating to golf, different types of shots are used for different purposes, and some types of shots are related to the clubs or parts of club used in a particular shot:

Cleek: To strike (a golf-ball) with a *cleek*, so as to make it leap over an obstacle.⁶⁹

Drive: 2. *transitive* and *intransitive* In *golf*: to strike the ball for a distance shot, now especially in playing off the tee. Hence *driver*, the club thus used, also ‡*driving cleek*, ‡-*iron*, †-*putter*.⁷⁰

Heel: 3. *Golf*: to strike the ball with the heel of the club ..., and send the ball to the side.⁷¹

Within the category of verbs, the word *tee*, which has already been briefly discussed, appears again. This time it is in the subcategory of *place ball on tee*:

Tee: II. v. 1. To place a golf ball on a tee.⁷²

The example of a *tee* demonstrates that one entry in the *DSL* does not necessarily refer to one sense only in the *HTS*. Rather the opposite, since words and their derivatives appear in many categories in the *HTS*. For example the entry for *sclaff* is in the following categories: *types of shot* (n), *type of stroke* (aj), *type of play/stroke* (v), *scrape the ground* (v) and *mark left by a sclaff* (n).⁷³

As far as other verb categories are concerned, although there are a number of them, in most cases there are only one or two entries per category. This does not mean, however, that they are irrelevant. It only demonstrates that certain aspects of the game seem to be more strongly represented than others. The category of *types* in verbs, similarly to *types* in nouns discussed above, is the most prolific category. For example, the sole entry for the category *to spoil a stroke* is the word *trauchle*: ‘in 1931 quot., to spoil a shot at golf, to muff a stroke’.⁷⁴ The symbol used in this definition means ‘that no evidence for the word in question has been found, beyond that quoted in the article’.⁷⁵ Despite the fact that this is a rare use of the word, it is still included in the thesaurus as it was the team’s decision to include all relevant entries found in the *DSL* regardless of the number of quotations or references.

As far as reflexive verbs are concerned, there are currently two subcategories, not found in the *HTOED*: *positioning oneself* and *initiating oneself*. The first category includes *address* meaning ‘[t]o place oneself, especially the feet and hands, in a proper position for striking the ball with the club;

now generally transitive, to position oneself relative to (the ball) before driving it'.⁷⁶ The second category includes a phrase *to play (oneself) in* defined as 'of a newly-appointed official of a Golf Club: to initiate oneself by means of a ceremonial drive-off from the first tee'.⁷⁷

The category of interjections contains only one category with one word in it. It is the *warning cry* category, with the word *fore* which is 'used as an interjection to warn anyone standing or moving in the flight of the ball',⁷⁸ which has been adopted in English too.

The categories of golf used as nouns and verbs indicate that although there are a number of subcategories referring to various aspects of the game, it is types, which are the most prolific sections. This might confirm the point made by Rennie that '[Scots] has remained strong in certain semantic categories, in particular those which reflect the natural or built environment of Scotland, and those which relate to Scottish material culture or cultural traditions'.⁷⁹ On the other hand, the wealth of categories suggests that golf has played an important part in the culture of Scots, with words referring to all possible aspects of the game.

Golf-course

Golf course (category number 03.13.04.13.16.12.01), with subcategories referring to aspects and elements of a golf course such as a golf course itself, holes or hazards, is the smallest category. It is here that the word *tee* is found again, this time within the (*ground for*) *tee* subcategory.⁸⁰ The word *green*, on the other hand, meaning 'the piece of finely-turfed grass used as the putting-ground' is found within the green category.⁸¹ Another word found within this category is *putting green*, defined as 'the area of close-cut turf surrounding the hole; a green containing a series of short holes used for *putting* practice or for recreational *putting* competitions'.⁸² As far as the category of *hole for ball* is concerned, there are three entries: *hole*, *mug* and *play-hole*.⁸³ Interestingly, *mug* is thought to be 'an extended usage of *mug*, a cup' and is a term used mainly in reference to holes in the game of marbles as well as the game itself; it is, however, also used in reference to holes in games such as *golf*:

Mug: Jocularly applied to the target in other games: the hole in a golf-green.

The example of *mug* demonstrates that, at least in sporting vocabulary, the same terms are often used in reference to various games. In this case *mug* is used in reference to holes in two different ball games: *marbles* and *golf*.

Bunker, found in the *hazards* subcategory, is another example of a word which is not only used in golf. *Bunker* in the game of golf refers to '[a] small sand-pit; now generally used in reference to golf'.⁸⁴ It is also used in curling where *bunker* refers to 'a hillock or prominence on the ice'. Words

like *mug* and *bunker* will therefore appear in various sections in the *HTS*: once a quick search has been performed (for example looking for *mug*), a list of category numbers and labels will be displayed and users will be able to choose the category they are interested in; when looking for the word *mug*, these are the categories of *golf* and *marbles*.

A category which was not found in the *HTOED* is 'mark left by a scloff' with one entry, *scloff-mark*, defined as 'the scrape or hack made in the ground by such a stroke'.⁸⁵ Although the word *scloff* is found in the *HTOED* in both noun and verb categories, the combination *scloff-mark* seems to be only found in Scots.

In the *golf-course* category there is also a subcategory of adverbs. This category, however, has one entry only, the word *in* defined as 'over the last nine holes of an eighteen-hole course, which in most golf courses are turned inwards towards the point of starting, on the return journey'.⁸⁶

Equipment

The category of *equipment* (category number 03.13.04.13.16.12.02), which includes different types of clubs and balls, provides insights into golfing equipment: what kind of equipment was used in the past, how it was made and how clubs and balls have changed over the years. Similarly to the type subcategories in section 03.13.04.13.16.12.n., here the category of types is prolific too.

Equipment, as the data in the *HTS* indicate, may be considered as a very important, if not the most important, aspect of golf. Clubs and balls are, after all, part and parcel of the game.

As far as golf equipment in late sixteenth century is concerned, Geddes discusses a diary of James Melville, a St Andrews University student, who among other things, reveals some information about his life in St Andrews and the games he played, one of them being golf.⁸⁷ As Geddes notes, '[n]o details are given in the diary of golfing equipment available in the St Andrews of 1574, save that James Melville has "club and balls", indicating that the game was perhaps played using a single club'.⁸⁸ She adds that information about the construction of clubs is scarce, although '[i]t is clear from later accounts, however, that the heads and shafts of clubs were made from different woods, as heads were indeed replaced'.⁸⁹

How the game of golf evolved and changed in the seventeenth century is presented in a book that, according to Geddes, initially was not considered to be a good source of information on golf.⁹⁰ Wedderburn's *Vocabula*, which dates back to around 1636, contains Latin sporting vocabulary, including words and phrases relating to golf. Geddes argues that this document is important because 'here, for the first time, we are given some indication of how golf was played at the time'.⁹¹ As far as golf clubs are concerned, as demonstrated by Geddes, in Aberdeen players were using different clubs,

rather than restricting themselves to just one club.⁹² Moreover, as she adds '[t]he Dutch poet, Bredero, also tells of a choice of clubs available to the early seventeenth-century ... golfer'.⁹³

The category of *equipment* in the *HTS* includes clubs such as *baffie*, *driver*, *iron*, *niblick*, *putter*, *scraping-club* and *spune*, just to name a few, and these demonstrate not only a variety of clubs in the game of golf, but also enormous usefulness of such variety to a player.⁹⁴ Although most of the terms are from the *SND*, there is vocabulary from *DOST* too: *play-club*, *putting-club* and *scraper*. A *play-club* is '[a]pparently a wooden golf club, specifically a "driver", as in the later dialect'; a *putting club* is defined as '[a] "putter" in the game of golf, whereas a *scraper* is "[a] golf-club "of the niblick or bunker iron sort (*SND*)"'.⁹⁵

The *HTS* demonstrates that the category of *parts of club* contains words such as *heel*, *neck*, *nose* and *sole*.⁹⁶ In one of the *DSL* quotations, these are described as 'mysterious characteristics':⁹⁷

Sc. 1887 Golfing (Chambers) 93:

A head is the lowest part of a club, and possesses, among other mysterious characteristics, a *sole*, a *heel*, a *toe* or *nose*, a *neck*, and a *face*!

The category of *types of ball*, despite being smaller than the category of *types of club*, is an interesting one too as it also demonstrates how the game of golf has evolved and changed since its humble beginnings in the fifteenth century. There are fewer than ten entries in this category and they include *gutty-perky* which is 'a golf ball made of solid gutta-percha', *gutta* defined as '[a] gutta-percha golf-ball', and *pen-ball* which refers to '[a] ball (probably a golf ball) stuffed with feathers,? a "feathery" ...'. It is worth mentioning that the question mark in this definition is the *DSL*'s style of labelling uncertain definitions.⁹⁸ As far as *feathery* (spelled *featherie* by Geddes) is concerned, according to Geddes 'a well made featherie represented a significant technological advance on the earlier wooden balls'.⁹⁹ However, as she adds, it did have flaws such as the ability to absorb water, get heavy and lose its shape.¹⁰⁰ In the *DSL* the feathery is described as '[a]n old style of golf-ball, cased in leather and stuffed with feathers, in use c.1850 before the invention of the gutta-percha ball'.¹⁰¹

In the category of *equipment*, there are also two other parts of speech categories: adjectives and verbs. As far as adjectives are concerned, there are two categories, with four words for *types of club*, and two words for *types of ball*, and these include words such as *grassed* referring to golf clubs and *deid* referring to balls.¹⁰² The category of verbs, although containing only one word per category, indicates the importance of construction of equipment, in this case, clubs.

Our preliminary research into sports terms reveals a great richness of words relating to various aspects of *sports and games*, and the *HTS* offers a new way of looking at this rich cultural heritage. Because the aim of the *HTS* is to take historical aspects into account, a reader will have access to vocabulary from the

earliest records and thus have access to words that are both obsolete and those that are still in use. Referring to plant terms, Fenton in the Introduction to *ST* argued that '[i]t may be that the names remain even if the species has vanished'.¹⁰³ His words could equally be applied to sporting vocabulary where it may happen that even if an item such as a specific type of golf ball no longer exists, the meaning of the word is not lost, although it does not happen in every case. The *HTS* can be considered to have an important role to play, as it can help to preserve Scots. It has been argued that Scots is not as strong as it once was, although a lot has been done in recent years to help revive it. In 2003 Macafee wrote that '[o]ver much of the Lowlands, Scots is now at an advanced stage of language death. Part of this process is the erosion of distinctively Scots vocabulary'.¹⁰⁴ In 2012 MacLeod argued that

The language has certainly diminished alarmingly over the past century, not least in the use of fewer distinctive Scots words by most of its speakers. On the other hand, with more enlightened attitudes to minority languages ... its outlook is not as grim as it was half a century ago.¹⁰⁵

Rennie mentions the process of vocabulary decline, but adds that Scots 'has remained strong in certain semantic categories, in particular those which reflect the natural or built environment of Scotland, and those which relate to Scottish material culture or cultural traditions'.¹⁰⁶ Corbett also considers questions of Scots usage, decline and revival and discusses many important issues including Scots acquisition and education.¹⁰⁷ In recent years a lot has been done in order to promote Scots. The language has been evolving and developing, and although Scots vocabulary has declined,

Scotland is beginning to celebrate its Scots heritage once again. *Curriculum for Excellence* includes Scots as an integral component of our children's education. Teachers and pupils are discovering that learning in Scots can offer fun and constructive pathways into language and literacy. Outside school, folk continue to speak Scots as they have done for centuries but now the language is used more frequently in advertising, shop names, official signs and for texts and e-mails. Scots is a language with a long and often difficult history which may well be looking forward to a more promising future.¹⁰⁸

Conclusion

The sporting vocabulary found in the *DSL* and *HTS* may contribute to the understanding of the culture of the native speakers of Scots. It has been raised before (e.g. Kay¹⁰⁹) that thesauri offer a view on the people who speak a particular language; therefore the *HTS* offers much more than just lists of words put in various categories. This new resource takes diachronic aspects into account by including vocabulary from the twelfth century to the present day, and the vocabulary is organised by semantic category and according to the relationship of synonymy. As mentioned above, there are

domains of life such as cultural traditions where Scots vocabulary is particularly strong, and the category of *golf* is an example of such domain. The *HTS* enables a reader to delve into the world of the native speakers of Scots and see their language in a new light. Moreover, despite only being in its pilot stage, the *HTS* project may also contribute to the revival of the Scots language, as it is only through a joint effort that such positive changes can be achieved.

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93. Ibid.
94. baffie (SND, baffie n), driver (SND, drive v., n., adv.), iron (SND, iron n, adj), niblick (SND, niblick n), putter (SND, putt v, n¹), scraping-club (SND, scrape v, n), spune (SND spune n, v), at <http://www.dsl.ac.uk/>
95. play-club (SND play-club n), putting club (DOST putting-club n), scraper (DOST scraper, n), at <http://www.dsl.ac.uk/>
96. heel (SND heel n¹, v), neck (SND, neck n, v), nose (SND nose, n, v), sole (SND sole, n, v), at <http://www.dsl.ac.uk/>
97. neck (SND neck n, v), at <http://www.dsl.ac.uk/>
98. gutty-perky (SND gutty-perky, n), gutta (SND, gutta, n), feathery (SND, feathery, n), pen-ball (DOST pen-ball, n), at <http://www.dsl.ac.uk/>
99. Geddes, *A Swing Through Time*, 36.

100. Ibid.
101. feathery (*SND*, feathery n), at <http://www.dsl.ac.uk/>
102. grassed (*SND* girse n, v), deid (*SND* deid adj, n), at <http://www.dsl.ac.uk/>
103. Alexander Fenton, introduction to *The Scots Thesaurus* (see note 13), xi.
104. Caroline Macafee, 'Studying Scots Vocabulary', in *The Edinburgh Companion to Scots*, eds John Corbett, J. Derrick McClure and Jane Stuart-Smith (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press: 2003), 51.
105. Macleod, 'Scottish National Dictionary', 144–5.
106. Rennie, 'Creating a Historical Thesaurus of Scots'.
107. John Corbett, 'Language Planning and Modern Scots', in *The Edinburgh Companion to Scots*, eds John Corbett, J. Derrick McClure and Jane Stuart-Smith (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press: 2003), 251–72.
108. Education Scotland, 'History of Scots', at <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/knowledgeoflanguage/scots/introducingscots/history/index.asp> (accessed 28 November 2015).
109. Kay, 'A Lexical View', 41–7.