

## *The Floure and the Leafe* の英語

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### Some Notes on the Language of *The Floure and the Leafe*

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for men of þe est wiþ men of þe west, as it were vnder þe same  
partie of heuene, acordeþe more in sownyng of spech þan men of  
þe norþ wiþ men of þe souþ; þerfore it is þat Marcii, þat bee men  
of myddel Engelond, as it were parteners or þe endes, vnderstonde  
bette þe side langages, Norþerne and Souþerne, þan Norþerne and  
Souþerne vnderstonde eiþer oþer.

——— Trevisa ———

#### Abstract

The aim of this paper is to study the language of <sup>(1)</sup>*The Floure and the Leafe* (an allegorical poem of 595 lines in rhyme royal) in the literary dialect of London English at the latter half of the fifteenth century.

After scrutinizing of various linguistic characteristics of this work my conclusion is that this work had a considerable influence on the development of standard English.

#### 1 Verbs

##### 1. 1. 不定詞

1. 1. 1. 語尾の{-e}は恣意的である。

{-e}. rehearse(205), here(37), passe(62), devise(97), seke(234), gesse(525), etc.

{-ϕ}. sing(94), behold(286), meet(301), bestow(359), comfort(385), pray(414), etc.

1. 1. 2. 語尾の{-en}. (2語)

To *springen* here and there in field & in mede —(9)

Though he would all day *prien* to and fro(68)

##### 1. 2. 現在時制(単数・複数)

1. 2. 1. 語尾の{-e}は恣意的である。

{-e}. sleepe(17), mervaille(22), heare(39), deme(81), speake(140), assaile(366), etc.

{-ϕ}. trow(62), stond(90), aspy(108), pray(118), sey(135), tell(140), etc.

1. 2. 2. 3人称・単数・現在の語尾は{-e}thのみ使用されている。

When that Phebus his chaire of gold so hie

Had whirled up the sterry sky aloff,  
And in the Booke was entred certainly:  
When shoures sweet of raine discended [s]oft  
Causing the ground, fele times and oft,  
Up for to give many an wholesome aire,  
And every plaine was clothed faire

With new greene, and <sup>(2)</sup>*maketh* small flours  
To springen here and there in field & in mede-  
So very good and wholesome be shoures  
That it *renueth* that was old and deede  
In winter time…… (1-12)

I sie where there came singing lustily  
A world of ladies;but to tell aright  
Their great beauty, it *lieth* not in my might,  
Ne their array;(136-9)

And after that, within a little throw,  
The wind began so sturdily to blow  
That down *goeth* all the floures everichone  
So that in all the mede there laft not one, (361-4)

And she ayen, in right goodly manere,  
*Thanketh* her of her most friendly cheare, (419-20)

The lady of the Leafe *hath* one ysent  
For a parfray, after her intent,  
Araied well and faire in harneis of gold,  
For nothing lacked that to him long should. (424-7)

For one leafe given of that noble tre  
To any wight that *hath* done worthily,  
And it be done so as it ought to be  
Is more honour then any thing earthly. (526-9)

1. 3. 複数の過去時制

1. 3. 1 語尾が {-en}

With braunches brode, lade with leves new,  
That *sprongen* out ayen the sonne shene(33-4)

Perceive all tho that *yeden* there without(71)

1. 3. 2 *were*

Some of laurer, and some ful pleasantly  
Had chapelets of woodbind, and sadly

Some of Agnus castus <sup>(3)</sup>were also  
Chapelets fresh. But there were many of tho(158-61)

1. 4 過去分詞

1. 4. 1 接頭辞 {-y} の使用

To right apleasaunt herber, well *ywrought*(49)  
That they in greene without had in *ybe*-(375)  
The lady of the Leafe hath one *ysent*(424)

1. 4. 2 強変化動詞の過去分詞は通例 {-e(n)} であるが屈折語尾がφ

Under the which the grasse so fresh of hew  
Was newly *sprong*... (30-1)  
A mighty spheare, ful sharpe *ground* and *kene*. (258)

但し一般に{been}は{be}と短縮形で表記される.

And at the last a path of litle *breade*  
I found, that greatly had not used *be*, (43-4)  
For underneath there might it wel have *be*(308)

The savour eke rejoice would any wight  
That had *be sicke* or *melancolius*(313-4)

{done}の短縮形{do}が使用されている.

And for to sing they painted hem both as sore  
As they had *do* of all the day before. (447-8)

1. 5 強変化動詞として使用されている {shape(n)} (過去分詞)

And *shapen* was this herber, roofe and all(64)

...whose heavenly figured face  
So pleasaunt was, and her wele-*shape* person. (166-7)

1. 6 強意の接頭辞 {for-}, {to-} の使用

For it *forgrown*(=overgrown)was with grass and weede(45)  
*Forshronke*(=shrunk completely)with heat; the ladies eke tobrent(358)  
Though that they shuld their harts all *to-tere*(=tear to pieces)(488)

## 2 Verbals

2. 動名詞:動詞の語幹+ {-ing}

2. 1 10例を数えるのみで非常に少ない。しかし用法としては現代英語とまったく同じで'superfluous'な前置詞は全く併用されていない。

beginning(124), garnishing(25), gardering(411), justing(292),  
longing(437), seeing(299, 415), shining(332), springing(25),  
thundering(192), writing(589)

2. 2 現在分詞:語幹+{-ing} (本作品では非常に多用されている.)  
according(112), anointing(410), awaiting(22, 382), bearing(173),  
brenning(408), causing(5), comforting(123), comming(196), dauncing(183431),  
disguising(276), enclining(316), guiding(230), hanging(211),  
harkening(127), joying(92), keping(554), lasting(551), passing(96),  
persevering(548), plaining(320), riding(251, 505), saying(421),  
sitting(141, 145, 380, 431), wringing(406), unconning(591)
2. 3 不定詞
2. 3. 1. {To-inf}. [29例(但し使用動詞数は24)]  
behold(286, 296), comfort(377, 385), dry(406), fold(446), go(392),  
here(353), hew(404), honour(578), keep(379), know(453), make(63, 385, 403),  
me(e)te(456, 301), pray(404), purvey(429), say(563), seeke(549), sene(157),  
sing(437), soup(417), springen(9), square(404), take(438), tell(137), seke(234)
2. 3. 2. {For to-inf}. [(11例)使用動詞数は10]  
be(116), ease(378), give(6), hauke(538), here(37), hunt(538),  
pley(538), refresh(413), sing(347, 447), tell(459)

目的を表す表現として用いられた場合の上記の2種類の表記法を検討してみたが、明確な相異は認められない。要するに{for to-inf.}の方が<aim>や<purpose>を強調する時に用いるという原義が感じられるが、それとても極めて微細なものであるし、文中に占める<position>も恣意的で両者の使用上の差異は認められない。

### 3 Auxiliaries

#### 3. 1 should

shouldは10回, shuldは1回使用されている。

As though it *should* have departed the sky(193)

So that they *should* have felt no grevance(311)

Thogh that they *shuld* their harts all to-tere(488)

主語がtheyの文が他に3例, いずれもshouldが使用されている。

#### 3. 2 <sup>(4)</sup>could

標準形の{could}は使用されておらず, 異綴の{coud}, {couth}の2形が認められる。

coud

If her voice perceive *coud* any where(42)

So rich a field *coud* not be espide(75)

It was more pleasaunt then I *coud* devise(97)

Who fairest was, who *coud* best dance or sing(188)

And at the last, as evenly as they *coud*(278)

Must her befall, as I *coud* most humbly(461)

couth

And I, that *couth* not yet in no manere(39)

And forth, as I *couth*, most humbly(585)

#### 3. 3 do

所謂「言明」の事実を強く確認するための補助要素としての{do}とは違い, 単に音節調整のために用いられたものであるから強勢はない。

(因みにChaucerは疑問文においてのみ{do}を使用)

With cloth of gold and furred with ermine  
Were the trappours of their stedes strong,  
Wide and large, that to the ground *did hong*. (243-5)

#### 4 Adjectives

比較級・最上級の形態は現代英語のそれと全く同じであるが、所謂 *double comparison* (*periphrastic mode of comparison*) が認められる。

Me thought that I heard voices sodainly,  
The *most sweetest* and most delicious  
That ever any might, I trow *trewly* (128-30)

I thank you now, in my *most humble wise* (567)

#### 5 Pronouns

##### 5. 1 人称代名詞

概ね標準的用法で Chaucer とほぼ同じであるが、3人称複数に異同が認められる。

5. 1. 1 <sup>(5)</sup>their (42例) (標準的用法) ther (2例), there (1例)  
in *their* clockes white (207),  
hundred persons at *their* own plesance (309)  
so worthy of *ther* hond (482)  
chapelets on *ther* hed (484)  
*there* guiding they did so manerly (230)

5. 1. 2 her (4例), hir (3例)  
...the prety tender floures  
Had lost the beauty of *her* fresh coloures (356-7)

And she come riding by *hir* selfe alone (458)

5. 1. 3 'They' の対格として {them} と {hem} が併用されており、頻度として 12:23 で後者が圧倒的に多い。<sup>(6)</sup> {hem} は OE {heom} に由来する語で {them} とは別起源の語である。16世紀後半には <colloquialism> と見做されるようになったが、ME では由緒ある語として (literary) 使用された。
- ##### 5. 2 再帰代名詞

5. 2. 1 {-self(e)} は常に分離して表記される。  
my self (22), my selfe (469),  
her selfe (165), hir selfe (458)

Wherefore I mervaile greatly of *my selfe*,  
That I so long withouten sleepe lay; (22-3)

But one there yede in mid the company  
Soole by her selfe... (164-5)

And she come riding by hir selfe alone (458)  
Unto the Leafe, and I my selfe am one (469)

How darst thou put thy self in press for drede?(592)

5. 2. 2 再帰代名詞の代用として<sup>(7)</sup>名詞の対格(単純形再帰代名詞)が用いられる。

The goldfinch eke, that fro the medill tree  
Was fled for heat into the bashes cold,  
Unto the lady of the Flower gan fle,  
And on hir hond he set *him*, as he wold, (442-5)

...and on the sate grasse  
I set *me* downe... (117-8)

5. 3 <sup>(8)</sup>関係代名詞

5. 3. 1 that=what

With new greene, and maketh small flours  
To springen here and there in field & in mede-  
So very good and wholsome be the shoures  
That it renueth *that* was old and deed  
In winter time, ... (8-12)

5. 3. 2 <sup>(9)</sup>the which

Under *the which* the grasse so fresh of hew(30)  
In mid *the which* they found a tuft that was(342)

5. 3. 3 関係詞の省略

On every trumpe hanging, a broad banere  
Of fine tartarium, *were* ful richely bete-(211-2)

<were>の前に主格の<which>が省略されている。

一般に ME ではよく生じる現象で, Chaucer 等の作品でも見かける。この<sup>(10)</sup>construction は EModE に引き継がれ現在も使用されている。

## 6 Impersonal construction

6. 1 この構文は OE から ME にかけて多用されたが LME になると急速に衰退し, 本作品にも 1 例しか認められない。しかし「人称構文」への移行過程の現象として<it>を省略し, 目的語を動詞の前に出した構文が 5 例ある。[本作品には 'I thought' という表現はない。類似したものとして I deme(81, 124)がある。これはつまり語順が非常に重用視されてきた証左と断じてよい。]

it you please

...and if that *it you please*

To go with me, I shall do you the ease(391-2)

6. 2 me thought

Which as me thought was right a plesaunt sight(36)

Whereof I had so inly great pleasure  
That as *me thought* I surely ravished was  
Into Pradise... (113-5)

With voice sweet entuned and so small,

That *me thought* it the sweetest melody(180-1)

For as *me thought*, among her notes sweete  
She said *Si douce est la Margarete*. (349-50)

*Me thought* that I heard voices sodainly,  
The most sweetest and most delicious  
That ever any wight, I trow trewly,  
Heard in their life……(128-31)

## 7 Conjunctions

### 7. 1 (11)Pleonastic that: 色々な接続詞と結合し頻用される.

After 'because'

And for because *that* she a maiden is(473)

After 'how'

And how *that* he that was a conquerour(510)

After 'if'

'Madam' guod I, 'if *that* I durst enquere'(463)

After 'sith'

Sith *that* it hath liked your beaute(494)

After 'thogh'

Though *that* they shuld their harts all to-tere(488)

After 'till'

Till *that* their lives there asunder brast(490)

After 'what'

What that these knights be, in rich armour(496)

after 'when'

When *that* Phebus his chaire of gold so hie(1)

When *that* I heard, not fer of, sodainly,

So great a noise of thundering trumps blow(191-2)

After 'where'

Where *that* they yede the sick fast annointing(410)

After 'why'

And why that some did reverence to the tre(498)

If I durst aske what is the cause and why

*That* knights have the signe of honour

Rather by the leafe than by the floure?(544-6)

### 7. 2 After 'which'

And every lady then, anon right,

That were in white, one of them took in grene

By the hond; which *when* the knights had sene, (397-9)

## 8 Miscellaneous constructions

8. 1 an *eight foot* or nine(31)  
 (12) *A thousand pound*(248)  
 〈fout〉, 〈pound〉とも方言では現在も単数で使用されている
8. 2 (13) *An hundred persons*(309)
8. 3 And tho that breare bowes in their hond  
 Of the precious laurer so notable,  
 Be such as were, I woll ye understond,  
 Noble knights of the Round Table,  
 And eke the Douseperis honourable;  
*Which* they beare in signe of victory—  
 It is witnes of their dedes mightily. (512-8)  
 517 行目の 'which' の先行詩は 513 行目の 'laurer' である。  
 このような分離は非常に awkward であるのみならず, incongruous である。
8. 4 { - thing }  
 any thing(417), every thing(569),  
 no thing(234), any where(42),  
 cf. nothing(229, 347)
8. 5 class cleavage(adnoun)  
 by many-fold(120), by manyfold(96, 120) (いずれも文尾で使用)  
 of new(319)  
 on hye(222)

## Notes

引用文はすべて D A Pearsall(ed),

*The Floure and the Leafe* and *The Assembly of Ladies* (Manchester University Press, 1962)  
 による。[Italics mine. 但し, p.7 1.3(350)は除く]

- 作者不詳の本作品は 1598 年に Thomas Speght が当時残存していた唯一のテキストに準拠して編んだのが最初である。  
 Geoffrey Chaucer の著作集の中に入れられ、爾来長きにわたって彼の詩作と見做され、評価されてきた。Dryden, Pope, Hazlitt も大いなる称賛をおし、Keats に至っては、Sonnet の 1 つで詠っている位である。少なくとも 1870 年位迄は Chaucer Canon として広く認められ、彼の最高の寓意詩といわれた。しかし 1878 年の Skeet の改訂版によって、これまでの通説は翻され、Chaucer 説は霧散し、anonym となり現在に至る。  
 しかしこの 2 作には Chaucer (あるいは Lydgate) と著しく類似した用語、惜辞が認められるのである。
- loose な構文で、*maketh* の主語は first-stanza の 4 行目の *raine* (sing.) なのか *shoures* (pl.) なのか確定しがたいが、文章の流れからみれば *raine* と解釈する方が自然である。ME ではこの種の構文はかなりみられる。
- 一般に 1500 年頃までこの語形はあまり使用されていない。理由はよく分からないが *pear*, *tear* 等の一連の動詞の類推によるものといわれる。
- I shal rehearse, so as I can, a lite*(205)  
*In all the pleasure that I can or may*(393)

(mayも動詞として使用されている.)

5. And as I sat, the birds harkening thus,  
Me thought that I heard voices sodainly,  
The most sweetest and most delicious  
That ever any wight, I trow trewly,  
Heard in *their* life, ... (131)

この *their* は text からみて明らかに単数の *his* の意味を表している。この種の用法は Shakespeare にもみられる。IH6, I. i. 83, Oth, III. iii. 66. etc.

6. Partridge, A. C. *Tudor to Augustan English* p. 34  
7. (古) 中英語では再帰代名詞よりも単純再帰代名詞の方が一般的であったが, 17世紀以降漸次衰退していった。  
8. Cf. Mustanoja, T. F. *A Middle English Syntax. Part I*, pp. 192-206  
9. 'the which' は北部方言から生まれたといわれる (*Cursor Mundi* では頻用されている) が発生ルートは不明である。一部の学者はフランス語の <lequel> に依ったと言うが説得力はそれ程ない。ModE になってもまだ使用されていたが (例えば Shakespeare) 17世紀後半から急速に衰えた。  
10. With hym ther was a PLOWMAN, was his brother Chaucer (GP, 529)  
I have a brother *is* condem'd to die. Shakespeare, (*Meas.* II. ii. 33)  
11. Cf. Franz, W. *Shakespeare-Grammatic* p. 430  
12. Tell'n—I'll take *a thousand pound*. Hardy (*Tess*)  
13. an hour (288) からみて hundred の <h> は silent であったと推定される。

### Literature

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