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論文

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A Mode of Speech in Ancrene Wisse ................................出 本文 信

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Temple におけるジョージ・ハーバートの葛藤の中での
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広岛大学英文学会
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A Text-linguistic Pilgrimage to Chaucer's

The Canterbury Tales

— The World of Symmetry —

Shigeo Kikuchi

0. The purpose of this paper is to identify the 'macro-structure' (in the sense of van Dijk (1972)) underlying Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales (hereafter CT), which determines the ultimate message and the scope of 'equivalence' (in the sense of Jakobson (1960)) of equivalent units like rhyme words at the micro-structure. To this study of narrative structures the localist hypothesis applied to English verbs finds

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2) There is a special mention on "symmetry" and "parallelism" in Troilus and Criseyde and "order" in CT in Michio Masui, Chaucer Kenkyu (Chaucer Studies), 1st enl. ed. (Tokyo: Kenkyusha, 1973), pp. 148-54 et passim, which has led me to probe this structural principle in CT.


another powerful application: it is possible to assume a reasonably close affinity between the semantic structure of narrative texts and that of sentences which include verbs, each representing either a change in LOCUS, a change in POSSESSORSHIP or a change in CONDITION. In this paper I shall thus work on some tales of CT on the basis of the revised and simplified model of Ikegami (1974, 1978). Also with Chaucer, who is thought to be metonymical in his language use, analogical thought is working at the level of macro-structure to create a series of oppositions and impose them upon the world. The analysis of the analogical relationship between these oppositions will offer insights into the nature of the particular reality Chaucer perceived in the world in which he lived. This reality, as reflected in his mind, is the message he tries to convey to us.

1.1 The following four sample narrative units in the form of propositions, each depicting events in two tales from CT, can be assigned to two of the above three semantic types:

1. A rich miller steals ..........CHANGE IN POSSESSORSHIP (UNFAIR) flour from the poor students. \( (R_T^o) \)

2. The poor students get ..........CHANGE IN POSSESSORSHIP back their flour from the rich miller. \( (R_T^o) \)

3. A young lusty knight ..........CHANGE IN CONDITION ravishes a maiden. \( (WBT) \) (UNFAIR)

4. The woman proposes ..........CHANGE IN CONDITION marriage to the knight. \( (WBT) \) (FAIR)

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A Text-linguistic Pilgrimage to Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales*

(1) and (2), for example, describe two distinct but similar events. They are distinct, in that in (1) and (2) the direction of the movement of the object ‘flour’ is reversed; similar, in that this difference can be neutralized at a more abstract level, CHANGE IN POSSESSORSHIP.

By putting semantically equivalent units together in vertical columns similar to that attempted in Lévi-Strauss (1963), we arrive at the following chart of variants (Table 1). Here I take up three tales.

We thus have four vertical columns out of these tales, each of which consists of several variant narrative units forming a semantic bundle. All the bundles of units constitute pairs: FAIR and UNFAIR POSSESSION.

1.2 Now let us discuss how we arrive at this ultimate message by identifying the narrative macro-structure common to these texts.

1.2.1 All the significant events exemplified in (1) to (4) could be made abstract up to the level of ‘Enc(ounter)-Sep(aration).’ The event described in the narrative units is either an encounter with, or a separation from, a person, a place, a thing, or a condition. If one encounters or is separated from a thing, it is realized in a CHANGE IN POSSESSORSHIP (A rich miller steals flour from the poor students; The poor students get back their flour). If it is a condition, then we have a CHANGE IN CONDITION (A young lusty knight ravishes a maiden; The queen burdens the knight with a difficult problem). Finally if it is a place that is in question, we have a CHANGE IN LOCUS (Chauntecleer jumps down from the perch; Chauntecleer jumps up to the perch). These three changes are the semantic realization of a more abstract semantic pair of Enc-Sep.

1.2.2 As for both the Actants (a miller, a maiden) and Objects (flour, maidenhead) in the narrative units, we can also set up more abstract terms. They are The Have (H) and The Have-Not (H). H is the

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>POSSSESSION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PAIR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. A rich old man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. A young wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. A young man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The truth is 6. The knight and revealed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Both the knight and the woman live happily ever after</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. The truth is revealed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **UNPAIR** |
| **ADD** |
| 1. A lucky young man |
| 2. The green knight |
| 3. A crow old woman |
| 4. The woman proposes marriage to him in return for the answer |
| 5. The knight with a difficult problem |

| **WHAT** |
| **LEVEL** |
| 1. Reveal the student a blow |
| 2. The students |
| 3. The truth is revealed |
| 4. The miller gives two poor young men of flour from the mill |
| 5. The student gives a blow to the clerk |
| 6. The clerk gives a blow to the student |
| 7. The truth is revealed |
| 8. The circumstances and damages handed and surprised |

| **PAIR** |
| **FAIR** |
| 1. The truth is revealed |
| 2. The knight resembles a maiden |
| 3. The truth is revealed |
| 4. The woman |
| 5. The truth is revealed |
| 6. The knight and the woman live happily ever after |

| **ADD** |
| **SAD** |
| 1. A rich old man |
| 2. A young wife |
| 3. A young man |
| 4. The woman |
| 5. The truth is revealed |

| **WHAT** |
| **LEVEL** |
| 1. Reveal the student a blow |
| 2. The students |
| 3. The truth is revealed |
| 4. The miller gives two poor young men of flour from the mill |
| 5. The student gives a blow to the clerk |
| 6. The clerk gives a blow to the student |
| 7. The truth is revealed |
| 8. The circumstances and damages handed and surprised |
category which includes the Actant who possesses the Object which essentially does not belong to him (an elderly carpenter who possesses a young wife; a miller who steals flour) and the Object which essentially belongs to \( H \) (an insolent woman; punishment). \( \overline{H} \), on the other hand, is the complementary category which covers the Actant who lacks the Object essential to him (a young student who does not possess a young wife; the poor students who lose their flour) and the Object which essentially belongs to the Actant of \( \overline{H} \) (a young wife; flour). Thus the Actant and the Object in (2) can be categorized together and the two units (2) and (2)' are given the same semantic representation:

\[
(2) \quad \text{The poor students get back their flour.} \\
\begin{array}{c}
\text{H} \\
\text{H}
\end{array}
\Rightarrow \text{H Enc with H}
\]

\[
(2)' \quad \text{Their flour is returned to the poor students.} \\
\begin{array}{c}
\text{H} \\
\text{H}
\end{array}
\Rightarrow \text{H Enc with H}
\]

As to what sentence types and what lexical items are chosen, the author's selection is based on realizing the underlying semantic representation at the surface level, depending upon what M. A. K. Halliday calls 'ideational,' 'interpersonal,' and 'textual' factors and, beyond them, the author's personal style characteristics.

Thus at this stage we have the following abstract types:

1. Event types: Enc, Sep
2. Object types: H, \( \overline{H} \)

1.2.3 A combination of either one of the Event types with either one of the Object types constitutes theoretically possible narrative unit types as follows:

Ia. 
1. H Enc with H
2. H Enc with \( \overline{H} \)

IIa. (Reciprocals of Ia)
1. H Enc with H
2. \( \overline{H} \) Enc with H

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3. H Sep from H
4. H Sep from H

Ib.
1. H Enc with H
2. H Enc with H
3. H Sep from H
4. H Sep from H

Fig. 1

As the following equations hold:

Ila 1 = Ia 1
Ila 2 = Ib 1
Ila 3 = Ia 3
Ila 4 = Ib 3

IIb 1 = Ia 2
IIb 2 = Ib 2
IIb 3 = Ia 4
IIb 4 = Ib 4

the unit combinations in Fig. 1 are reduced to the following:

Ia.
1. H Enc with H
2. H Enc with H
3. H Sep from H
4. H Sep from H

Ib.
1. H Enc with H
2. H Enc with H
3. H Sep from H
4. H Sep from H

Fig. 2

That the world of these tales is divided into H and H makes another reduction possible. X leaving (i.e. Sep from) one world signifies its entering (i.e. Enc with) the other world and vice versa. Thus:

Ia. 1. H Enc with H=Ia. 4. H Sep from H
Ia. 2. H Enc with H=Ia. 3. H Sep from H
Ib. 1. H Enc with H=Ib. 4. H Sep from H
Ib. 2. H Enc with H=Ib. 3. H Sep from H

Fig. 3

The reciprocal Enc-Sep relation further enables us to assume the following equivalence relations:

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X Enc with Y ≡ Y Enc with X
X Sep from Y ≡ Y Sep from X
(where either X = H, Y = H or X = H, Y = H)

This shows, in short, the condition X ≠ Y. Thus:

Ia. 2. H Enc with H ≡ Ib. 1. H Enc with H
Ia. 4. H Sep from H ≡ Ib. 3. H Sep from H

The encounter of the Actant of H and the Object which originally belongs to H implies the complementary encounter of the H Actant and the H Object (‘The miller receives punishment’ implies ‘The poor students get back their flour’), which means the world moves towards peace or the state of FAIR. This implied equivalence is:

Ia. 1. H Enc with H ≡ Ib. 2. H Enc with H
Ia. 3. H Sep from H ≡ Ib. 4. H Sep from H

Fig. 4

By combining the schemes in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 we have the following pair of quaternary sets:

A. H Enc with H (Ia.2) ≡ H Sep from H (Ia.3)
   \[ \equiv \]
   H Enc with H (Ib.1) ≡ H Sep from H (Ib.4)
B. H Enc with H (Ia.1) ≡ H Sep from H (Ia.4)
   \[ \equiv \]
   H Enc with H (Ib.2) ≡ H Sep from H (Ib.3)

Fig. 5

The presupposition for Set A is that before H Enc with H, for example, H is with H (or H is without H) and H is with H (or H is without H). This stage represents the world in peace, i.e. FAIR POSSESSION, all things in the world being in their right place and with the right things. The presupposition for Set B, on the other hand, is H is with H (or H is without H) and H is with H (or H is without H). This stage represents the unsettled world, i.e. UNFAIR POSSESSION. Thus, together with these two presuppositions, the
final syntagmatic arrangement of the narrative units of the tales in Table 1 will be as follows:

Initial State : $H$ is with $H\equiv H$ is without $H$
(FAIR POSSESSION)

Enc-Sep 1 : $H$ Enc with $H\equiv H$ Sep from $H$

Transitional State : $H$ is with $H\equiv H$ is without $H$
(UNFAIR POSSESSION)

Enc-Sep 2 : $H$ Enc with $H\equiv H$ Sep from $H$

Final State : $H$ is with $H\equiv H$ is without $H$

/Initial State (FAIR POSSESSION)

(Divine Revelation)

$H$ is with $H\equiv H$ is without $H$

Fig. 61)

1) All the instances of rhyme word *nyght* in the *Reeve's Tale* are lexically related to FAIR POSSESSION and they are all made 'equivalent,' i.e. here this thematic idea realizes itself atnight:

But shortly, til that it was verray *nyght,*
They koude nat, though they dide al hir myght,
Hir capul cacche, ...

The millere sittynge by the fyr he fond,
For it was *nyght,* and forther myghte they noght; (4117)
But for the love of God they hym bisoght
Of herberwe and of ese, as for hir peny.

This lange *nyght* ther tydes me na reste; (4175)
But yet, nafors, al sal be for the best.

Aleyn wax wery in the dawenynge,
For he had swoken al the longe *nyght,* (4235)
And seyde, "Fare well, Malyne, sweete wight!"

Myn heed is toty of my swynk to-*nyght;*
That makes me that I ga nat aright.

As I have thries in this shorte *nyght*
Swyved the millere doghter bolt upright,
For she was falle aselepe a lite wight
With John the clerk, that waked hadde al *nyght,* (4284)

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All three tales lack the Initial State (See Ikegami, 1974, 64; 1978, 127), because of which the tales are given a motivation for their development. In the state of fairness, for example 'A young man is with his young wife,' there is no motivation for the tales to be developed. Therefore, the *Miller's Tale* starts at the Transitional State in which an elderly carpenter is with his young wife; the *Reeve's Tale* starts at Enc-Sep 1 which opens with the description of the miller's stealing flour; the *Wife of Bath's Tale* begins at the same stage as the *Reeve's Tale*. All these tales repeat the cycle twice. In the *Reeve's Tale*, for instance, as the miller fights back with the student on hearing mistaken confidence (Divine Revelation) the story begins again at the Enc-Sep 1. (By this Chaucer implies that we should not resist Divine Providence).

**Conclusion**: The general opposition underlying *CT* is between two views of the state in which human beings are put: (1) that they are not fairly rewarded in this world; (2) that they should be fairly rewarded. This opposition tells us that Chaucer's constant concern was with the hard reality on earth where righteous people are not necessarily rewarded and people who mourn are not always comforted. At the end of these tales everything returns to where it should properly belong. This state, Chaucer hoped for all the people on earth. This is quite in accordance with what is arrived at in the analysis of folk tales by Propp (1968 [1928]) and Dundes (1965) and in the anthropological studies of myth by Lévi-Strauss (1963). Just as myth deals and tries to give some solution to problems which are difficult for the human order to overcome, so Chaucer, with the aid of divine justice, the source of all fairness on earth, tries to give fair


solutions to the hard realities on earth. This reflects Chaucer's 'moralizing interpretation' of the unfair world. He, hoped, as his other contemporary narrative poets did that God's will may be done on earth to achieve an harmonious universe, and he teaches us to bear with patience the present hardships that we may be in, for if we are truly fair we shall be fairly rewarded. This "Christian Platonism" is the state Boethius reached in his later years, the same state as Chaucer reached on his way to CT.


3) For this, see Michio Masui, Chaucer No Sekai (Chaucer's World) (Tokyo: Iwanami, 1976), pp. 97-98.
編集後記

洋の東西を問わず、学術雑誌にいわゆる編集後記のような紳足をつけ加えている例はあまりない。掲載された論文のテーマや質が、その雑誌の編集方針や性格を如実に物語るからであろう。『英語英文学研究』も創刊らい34年を数え、Year's Work in English に HSELL の略称で掲載論文が取上げられた時期もあった。伝統あるわれわれの機関誌が、学術誌としていっそうの充実と発展を図るには、今後は研究論文だけでなく、reviews, short notices, notes & queries のような記事の掲載も検討に値すると思われる。

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