Word-formation of Chaucer's English (I)

— Collected data —

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(Received September 11, 1992)

This is a part of a revised version of an earlier paper: "Word-formation of Chaucer's English" delivered in the symposium III at the Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Japan Society for Medieval English Studies: "History of English Word-formation" chaired by Professor Yoshinobu Niwa, Chubu University, held at Hiroshima Shudo University, Hiroshima on 1 December 1991. The present paper shows only the collected data concerning the word-formation of Chaucer's English, the article which the present writer read then. The data consist of the following two parts: (1) complex words and (2) compound words. The detailed analysis of the data will be presented in the further study.

0. Introduction

When we look through the history of English, we will find that the Middle English period is full of variety. In fact, English, which has lost its public position since Norman Conquest, gradually comes back to its former office, as Old English had its public status in England. Geoffrey Chaucer, who is called not only the father of the English poetry but also the English language, appears in the latter half of the fourteenth century. The poet Chaucer is said to have made a great influence on the development of the English language from Middle English through Early and Late Modern English to the present-day English. What kind of linguistic influence Chaucer has made on the English language is not so easy to explain. In this paper, however, focusing our attention on the word-formation of Chaucer's English, we would like to consider an aspect of the development of the English language.

There are also many linguistic features when we consider the word-formation of Chaucer's English. So the present study only deals with two kinds of lexical features: (1) complex words and (2) compound words. Now the following two points should be mentioned here. First, the asterisk attached to the words shows that they are quoted in the Oxford English Dictionary. Second, all of Chaucerian words are from Machine Readable Texts of Chaucer Project, in which F.N.Robinson's The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer, 2nd Edition is the source textbook.

Then we would investigate the actual condition of the late Middle English, where native elements and foreign elements are scrupulously mixed. It is generally said that Middle English has fewer native affixes derived from Old English and more foreign affixes borrowed from Latin and French. So the main feature of the word-formation may have rapidly changed during the Middle English period. We should not forget, however, that we can find many native affixes used effectively in the Middle English texts, to say nothing of Chaucer's works.
1. Complex Words

Here we deal with the words that consist of “affix” and “root”. The types of “affix” are classified according to J. Fisiak’s *Morphemic Structure of Chaucer’s English*: (1) Meaning Modifiers (i.e., morphemes which modify the meaning of lexical morphemes without shifting words from one word-class to another) and (2) Word-Class Modifiers (i.e., morphemes which also change the class of the words to which they are added). Further, we have often referred to T. Nakao’s *Eigoshi II* (*A History of the English Language II*).

1.1. Prefix (Meaning Modifier)

- a- <OE on-, an-: a-bak, a-begged, a-begging, a-blakeberyed, a-bred, a-caterwawed, a-compas, a-coold, a-day*, a-daye, a-doun*, a-fere* (a-fyr, a-fyre), a-game*, a-gref* (a-grief), a-londe, a-lyne*, a-morwe*, a-new*, a-night* (a-nyght, a-nyghtes), a-rew[e (a-rew[e), a-roume*, a-slepe, a-slope, a-swoone* (a-sow[e, a-swowne), a-temple, a-two(o), a-wepe, a-werk(e).

- arche- <L (Greek archi: archaungell, archewyves*, erch(h)edeken*, erchebisshop*).

- be- <the stressless form of by-: becom, bedrede, befalle, bigyle*, bihoold*, bynomen*, bytakaen, etc.

- by- <OE bi-: by-word, etc.

- (circum- <L circum: circumserive*, circumsta(u)nce(s)*. Fisiak does not deal with this prefix.)

- co- <L com-: coempcioun*, coeterne*, etc.

- countre- <OF co(u)ntre-: co(u)ntrefete'(d, th) (contrefetin), co(u)ntrepe(i)se*, co(u)ntrewayte, countrepleted*, countretaille*.

- de- <L de-: deface*, defame*.


- en- <F <L in-: enselen*, envynen*, enlacen*, enforcen*, etc.

- entre- <L inter-: entrechaungengeynges*, enterdited*, entremetide(n), entrechaunge*, entrechaungeable, entrechaunged, entrecomunen*, entrecomunynge*, entrelaced*, intercept*, intervalle*, etc.

- for- <OE fore-: foreknowynge, foreseyde, foreward*.
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(hemi- 〈Gk hemi-: hemysperie*. Fisiak does not deal with this prefix.)

in-1 〈OE in-: in-comyge, in-feere.


interminable*, invisible.

i-, y- 〈OE ge-: i-blessed, ibete, iblamed, iborn, ibounded, ibowed, ibrought, iburied, icawght, ichaunged, icled, icomen, icontynued, icorrupted, icovered, idarted, ido, idon, idrawe, ifalle, ifelschiped, ifounde, iforment, ifycchid, igeroned, igeren, igoverned, igraundit, igrounde*, ihardid, iheryed, ihveyed, ihid, ihight, iaped, ikaught, inkowe, ilad, ilaf, ilorn, ilost, iloved, ilyved, imaked, imedled*, imoed, imused, ipassed, iplauntyd, iplongnid, ipreysed, iproveid, ipurveied, ironne, isawde, isaye, ischad, ischaken, ischet, ischewid, isen, isent, iset, iseye, ishad, isope, isought, isped, ispind, istrengthid, isworn, itake, ithewed, ithrown.

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(meta- ⟨Gk meta: methamorphosis. Fisiak does not deal with this prefix.)

(mid- ⟨OE midd (= middle): midday(mydday), midnyght, myddeward, mydnight, mydnyght. Fisiak does not deal with this prefix.)

(non- ⟨AF noun-: noncerteyn*. Fisiak does not deal with this prefix.)

of- is included in the section 2: compound verbs.

pre- ⟨L prae-: preambulacioun*, predestinacioun*, etc.

re- ⟨L re-: rebatyng, receyve*, etc.

semi- ⟨L semi-: semycope*.

(step- ⟨OE steop-: stepmother. Fisiak does not deal with this prefix.)

sub- ⟨L sub-: subdekne.

super- ⟨L super: superfic(i)e*, superfluite(e), superfluyte(e)*, superfluytees, superlatyff*, supersticions*.

sur- ⟨OF sur-: surcote*, surfeet, surmounted(e)*(surmounteth,surmountith), surname, surplus*, surplys.

(trans- ⟨L trans: transferred, transfigure*, transform, translate, transmewe*, transmutaciouns*, transporten*. Fisiak does not deal with this prefix.)

(twi- ⟨OE twi-(=twice): tweyfoold. Fisiak does not deal with this prefix.)

un- ⟨OE un- or and-, one-: the classification of un-words is T.Shimogasa's (1975) with some corrections.
1): 'UN' + OE (+OE; OE='-ful', '-ing', '-ed'; '-ly'; '-ness', '-hood'
2): 'UN' + OE (+OF)
3): 'UN' + OF(or AF)
4): 'UN' + OF (+OE; OE='-ful', '-ly', '-ing')
5): 'UN' + OF (+OE; OE=pt. participial '-ed')
6): 'UN' + Latin (+OE; OE='-'ed' and its variant)
7): 'UN' + Old Norse
8): 'UN' + Old Norse (+OE; OE='-'y', '-ly', '-ful', '-ness')

unworshipful; uncunning; unknowing, unsitting; unwitting; unbowed; unbridled; unburied; ungrubbed; unhoped; unkissed; unslacked; untied; unweened; unwedded / (verbs = 30): unbetide, unbinde, unbody, undo, ungetter, unfold, unknit, unlove; unnest; unpin, unsew; unsheathe, unsuit, unvot, unwry; unbindeth, undo, unstrap; unyolden; unhorsed, unshowed; unwitting / (adverbs = 11): unnethe, unnethes, unright, unwar; unkindly, unwarly, unworthily, uncouthly, unrightfully; unfeelingly, unutteringly / (nouns = 17): unheal, unrest, unright, unthank, untime, untruth, unwit; unuxomness, unkindness, unseliness, unselinesses, unsteadfastness, unworthiness; unnanhood; uncunning, unfolding (verbal nouns)

2) (adjective = 1): unknowable

3) (adjectives = 26): unable, unagreeable, uncovenable, undepartable, uneschewable, unmeasurable, immovable, unprofitable, unreasonable, unstable, unstauchable, unsufferable, untreatable, uncertain, undign, undiscreet, undoubtous, unfamous, ungentle, unhardy, unpregal, unpietous, unresty, unsavoury, unsolemn, unstarange / (verbs = 6): unbuckle, unclose, uncouple, unjoin, unsplit, unspliteth / (nouns = 5): undevotion, unhonesty, unmovablety, unscience, unusage

4) (adjective = 3): unfaithful, unjoyful; unfeastly / (adverbs = 4): uncharitably, uncourteously, uneschewably, unrefluxently / (noun = 2): uncoiling, unstaunbleness,

5) (adjectives = 19): unadvised, unaraced, unassayed, unconstrained, undefouled, undeserved, undiscomfited, unspied, unfeigned, unforged, ungoden, unoccupied, unordered, unprayed, unpunished, unpurveyed, unstaunched, untormented, unpressed / (verbs = 10): unadvised, unarmed, unbuckled, unclosed, uncovered, unexercised, unjoined, unlaced, unremoved, untrused

6) (adjectives = 4): unapt, unreprouvble, uncommitted, uncircumscript

7) (adjectives = 2): unlike, unmeek / (verbs = 2): unburnt, untriste / (nouns = 4): unhap, unhappes, unhappens, unhapt


1.2. Suffix

-able (Word-Class Modifier) <F -able: abhomyable, acceptable, accordable, agreeable, anyable, aqueyntable, cerebrable, charitable, chaungable, comendable, compaignable, constable, corrupable, coupable, covenable, damnable, deceyvable, defensable, delitable, demonstrable, destinaible, dilettable, disagreeable, discorable, doubtful, durable, entrechaungable, excusable, favorable, honourable, importable, incurable, inestimable, interminable, merciable, mesurable, moevable, muable, mutuable, notable, palpable, perdurable, profitable, proportionables, provable, purveyable, ravysable, redowtable, remuable, requerable, resemblable, resonable, semblable, servysable, silable, suffrable, tretable, trowblable, unable, unagreeable, uncovenable, undepartable, uneschewable, unknowable, unmesurable, unmoevable, unmoevablete, unplitable, unprofitable, unreprouvable, unresonable, unstauchable, unsufferable, untretable, variable, vendable, ymaginable.

-acio(un) (Word-Class Modifier) <F -ation: abhomynacion, abjuracioun, accusacioun, administracioun, alfibicacion, alteracacion, arbitracion, calcinacion, castigacion, cavillacioun, citrinacioun, coempcioun, collacioun, commendacioun, compleccioun, composicioun,

-age1 (Meaning Modifier) <OF -age <L -actium: brocage*, cosinage, etc.

-age2 (Word-Class Modifier) <OF -age <L -actium: arryvage*, passage, servage*, etc.

-ail(le) (Word-Class Modifier) <OF -aille: chevesaile, governaille*, etc.

-(i)al (Word-Class Modifier) <L -alis: bestial, destinal*, etc.


-auntl (Word-Class Modifier) <F -ant, -ent: servaunt*, semblaut*, etc.

-a(u)nt2 (Word-Class Modifier) <F -ant, -ent: apertena(u)nt*, apparaunt, chargant, etc.

-dom (Word-Class Modifier) <OE -dom (= state): cristendom, fredom, kyngdom, martirdom, thraldom, wysdom*.

-e1 (Meaning Modifier): webbe*.

-e2 (Word-Class Modifier) <OE -e: brighte*, brode, clere*, faste*, etc.

-e3 (Word-Class Modifier) <OE e-: bileve, hunte*, blase, hete, elde*, faile*, etc.
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-ed (Word-Class Modifier) <OE -ede: blissed, cere'd (cited as ppl.a. in the OED), cobbled, fethered, helmed, hewed, shadwed, etc.

-ee1 (Word-Class Modifier) <AF -e: assemblee, ditee*, entree*, honeste*, etc.

-ee2 (Word-Class Modifier) <AF -e: ordenee*.

-er(e)1 (Meaning Modifier) cf. OE-ere, L-arius: bordiler, chamberere, cloisterer, etc.

-er(e)2 (Word-Class Modifier) <OE -rian: approver*, bilder, beggere, etc.


-(e)rie1 (Meaning Modifier) <F -erie: conestablerye, harlotrye*, housbandrye*, etc.

-(e)rie2 (also spelled -erye) (Word-Class Modifier) <F -erie: bauderie*, chaunterie*, ragerye*, etc.


N.B. “-estere” in “frutestere” should be regarded as Meaning Modifier, but Fisiak includes its suffix in Word-Class Modifier.

-et(te) (Meaning Modifier) <OF -et: buffet, chapelet, crownet, flourette, etc.

-fast (Word-Class Modifier) <OE -faest: shamefast, soothfast, etc.

(-fold <OE -feald: manyfold*, scaffold*, thousandfold*, thresschfold*. Fisiak does not deal with this suffix.)

-he(e)d(e)1 (Meaning Modifier) OE had: chapmanhod*, childhood*, knyghthod*, manhod*, maydenhod, preesthod, prentishood*, unmanhood*, widwehod*, wifhood*, womanhod*.

-he(e)d(e)2 (Word-Class Modifier) OE had (= state, person(ality)): drerihe*, falshehe*, goodlihehehe*, etc.

-y (also spelled -i) (Word-Class Modifier) OE -ig: blosmy*, crafti*, slepy*, etc.

-ice (-yce) (Meaning Modifier) OF L -itia: emperyce, executrice*, etc.

-ie1 (-ye1) (Meaning Modifier) F -ie: bachelerie*, felonye, glotonye, etc.

-ie2 (-ye2) (Word-Class Modifier) F -ie: curteisye*, nigardie*, regalye*, etc.

-(at)if (-atyf) (Word-Class Modifier) F -if ([Fmnl-ive]): actif, conservatyf*, hastif (cf. hasty), jolif (cf. jolly), portatif (cf. importable).

-ify- (Word-Class Modifier) L -ificare: fructifyen*, mortifyen*, etc.

-(at)ik (Word-Class Modifier) F -(at)ique: colerik*, erratik*, etc.

-ing(e) (Word-Class Modifier) OE -ung, -ing: biwreying, conseiling, fasting, flothyng, grucching, herying, multiplying, shaving, smylyng, swerying, syngynge, etc.


-isel (-yse1) (Meaning Modifier) OF -ice L -itia: cowardyse, maistrise*, queyntyse, etc.

-isel2 (-yse2) (Word-Class Modifier) OF -ice L -itia: coveityse*, servyse*, tormentise*, etc.

-ish1 (Meaning Modifier) OE -isc: fattyssh*, grenyssh*, smalish*, Troianysshe, etc.

-ish2 (-ys (s) h2) (Word-Class Modifier) OE -isc: cherlyssh, childyssh*, elvyssh*, eyryssh*, Flaudryssh*, Grekyssh*, hevenyssh(e)*, hevenyshly, knavyssh*, mannyssh*, rammyssh*, scrvenyssh*, sonnyssh(e)*, wommanyssh*.
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-itude (Word-Class Modifier) <L tudo, tudonem: servitude*, etc.


Cf. nathelees.

(-like <OE gelic: aungelyke, evene-lyke, unlyk. Fisiak does not deal with this suffix.)

-ly1 (Meaning Modifier) <OE lic: dedly*, goodly*, lowly*.


(verb + -ly?): grisly*, semely, weely. Fisiak does not deal with these examples.

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-lich1 (Meaning Modifier) <OE lick: goodlich(e), smoterlich* (smotry a. and smotter v. + -ly).

-lich2 (Word-Class Modifier) <OE lice: unfeestlich*, wommanliche.

-lich3 (Word-Class Modifier) <OE lice: certeynlich, cruelich, dedlich, deepliche, deliverliche, digneliche, dweliche, enterlich, erliche, ethliche, esilich, estatlich, eternalich, eveneliche, felliche, ferventliche, freundliche, fulliche, grevousliche, hastifiche, hastiliche, hevenliche, homliche, kyndeliche, lawfulliche, nameliche, newliche, onliche, outreliche, overtymeliche*, pitoulsich, pleynliche, povreliche, privelich, rewfullich, rewliche, roiuliche, rudeliche, sikliche, sobrelich, sodeynliche, softeliche, sorwfullich, sterneliche, tendreliche, trewelich, verrayliche, wonderliche.

N.B. Fisiak deals with these examples in the section of the suffix “-liche”, but it seems better to include them in the section of “-lich3”, because some of them do not have “final -e”.

-lyng (Word-Class Modifier) <OE -ling: derelyng.


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our1 (Meaning Modifier) <L -or, OF -or, -ur: achatour*, harpouur, limitour*, etc.

our2 (Word-Class Modifier) <L -or, OF -or, -ur: countour*, reportour*, etc.

(i)ous (Word-Class Modifier) <L -osus: daungerous*, gracious*, laborious*, etc.


Cf. We find many words which have the suffix "-schipe" in Ancrene Wisse.

som1 (Meaning Modifier) <OE: gladsom*, lyghtsom*, holsom*, unholsom*, etc.

som2 (Word-Class Modifier) <OE -sum: lufsom*.

t(e) (Word-Class Modifier) <OE -p: compleynt*, constreynte*, etc.

(i)tee (Word-Class Modifier) <OF -te: abilite*, adversite*, aggreablete, auctorite*, etc.

-the (Word-Class Modifier) <OE -du, -P: lengthe.

-ure (Word-Class Modifier) <F -ure: closure*, coverture*, peyunture*, etc.


ward2 (Word-Class Modifier) <OE: Canterbury-ward, contre-ward*, estward, gardynward, hemward, homward, hymself-ward, hymward, me-ward(e), paleis-ward*, Rome-ward, scoleward*, Scotland-ward, southward*, Thebes-ward, the-ward, Troieswardes, usward*, westward*, yowward.

2. Compound Words

Here we deal with the compound words that consist of two simple free morphemes. So these morphemes, not bound, may be independently separated from each other. In order to investigate the
compound words, the following patterns should be possible: (1) compound noun, (2) compound verb, (3) compound adjective, (4) compound adverb, (5) compound preposition, (6) compound conjunction, (7) compound interjection, and (8) contracted form. When we look at some compound words, we find they seem to be single words, e.g., lord and lady. We omit these words here. Instead, we have checked mainly the hyphenated compound words, e.g., ale-stake.

2.1. compound noun

2.1.1. noun + noun


Cf. north-north-west*.

2.1.2. noun + preposition + noun

faders- in- lawe, flour-de- lys, sone- in- lawe.

Cf. in- comynghe, after- dyner, after- mete, after- soper.

2.1.3. adjective + noun

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Cf. Pope-Holy* (N.+ Adj.)

2.1.4. verb + noun

combre-world* (?F.+OE), lette-game* (: one who hinders the game). Cf.brymstoon* (bern-, brinn-, stems of BURN v.+ STONE sb.), coverchief* (F.), grauntmercy, pykepurs*, wheston*.

2.1.5. adverb + verb

ageyn-coming, bobbe-up-and-doun.

Cf. ofspryng (conversion), welfare (conversion).

2.1.6. verb + verb

chaunte-pleure* (name of a French song).

2.2. compound verb

In this section we find many un-hyphenated compound verbs.


N.B. The following word-list shows that the simple words are separated from each other and that they form "verb + adverb combination": for cutteth, for dreyed, for leften, in knette, of taken, of thinketh, out breste, out bringe, out caughte, out drawe, out ringe, out rood, out springe, out twyne, over byde, to go, to greve, to hangen, to laugh, to romblen, to stoupe, to swinke, up embossed, up drowe, up haf, up plught, up ronne, up sprynge, up sterte, up yaf, up yolden.
2.3. compound adjective

2.3.1. noun + adjective

2.3.1.1. noun + adjective


Cf. "for" in the following words is the prefix: for-blak, for-hoor, for-old, for-wered, for-wery. See the OED's "for" 10.

gat-tothed*, laurel-crowned, two-foted*.

2.3.1.2. noun + verb (past participle)

clow-gelofre, gold-(y)bete, gold-hewen, gold-ytressed, wo-bigoon*.

2.3.2. adjective + adjective


2.3.3. adjective + noun

barefoot*.

2.3.4. adverb + adjective

ayen-ledynge, over-greet*, over-hard, over-heye?, over-hoot*, over-large, over-oold*, wel-willy*, wel-faryng*.

2.4. compound adverb


2.5. compound preposition

heer-agayns, in-tyl*, in-with*, ther-agayns, through-out, to-forn*, under-nethe*.
2.6. compound conjunction

further-over*.

2.7. compound interjection

depardieux*, farwel*, tehee*, welawey*.

2.8. contracted form

These forms mainly consist of the following patterns: (1) le + noun, (2) ne + verb, (3) to + verb, (4) the + noun or adjective, and (5) the second person singular of the verb + thow. The editor frequently uses the apostrophe, not the hyphen.

l'amour, lenvoy, nad, nadde, n'a, n'acheveth, n'am, n'apoplexie, n'appartient, n'arette, n'art, n'asaieth, n'at, n'avantour, n'axe, n'encrees, n'enforce, n'entendement, n'envie, nil, nillynge, nilt, nis, niste, n'of, nolde, noost, n'y, n'yn, noskynnes, tabiden, tabrayde, tabregge, t'abyde, t'acpe, t'acheve, t'acord, t'acoye, t'affraye, t'agaste, t'alighte, t'allegge, t'amende (n), t'an, t'anoyen, t'answere, t'apere, t'aproche, t'arede, t'arest, t'arraye, t'assy, t'assail(le), t'assy(e), t'assayen, t'assemble, t'asoille, t'assure, t'avise, t'avyse, t'awayt, t'embrace, t'enclose, t'encressen, t'endite, t'endure, t'endyte, t'enquere, t'enspire, t'entende, t'escape, t'espye, t'expounden, t'obeye, t'onfolde, t'ottroye, t'overbyde, th'absence, th'aquyeuntaunce, th'affectioun, th'air, th'aleyen, th'alighte, th'amendes, th'amorouse, th'angel, th'answer, th'apocalips, th'apostel, th'apostle, th'appostles, th'aquayntance, th'aqveyntaunce, th'armes, th'array, th'art, th'asege, th'assay, th'assege, th'assemble(e), th'assemblenyge, th'atempre, th'aventaille, th'avys, th'avysysoun, th'effect(es), th'egle, th'eir, th'embassadours, th'emerour, th'emprise, th'encens, th'ende, th'engendrynge, th'engyn, th'entencioun, th'entente, th'enyyoue, th'erbe, th'erthe, th'eschaunge, th'eschewing, th'experience, th'estaat, th'excellent, th'exucion, th'excuse, th'experience, th'ooccident, th'olde, th'ouour, th'oriente, th'orignyal, th'orisonente, th'unworthiest, th'ymage(s), th'ynegot, artow, axestow, bigilestow, blamestow, cridestow, darstow, demestow, denystow, desirestow, despietow, disseyvistow, dorsteestow, dostow, dowtestow, drawestow, enforcestow, feffedestow, gabbestow, grauntestow, haddestow, hastow, herdestow, herestow, holdestow, hydestow, intendeestow, juggestow, kanstow, knowestow, levestow, listow, lyvestow, makestow, maystow, meanestow, myghtestow, mustow, noldestow, nostow, nyltow, oughtestow, pleynestow, prechestow, profestow, refusestow, remembestow, rydestow, schaltow, schewedestow, scholdestow, scornestow, seestow, seistow, sekestow, seydestow, selestow, slombrestow, sorwestow, spekestow, spillestow, suffrestow, syngestow, takestow, thynekstow, trowestow, undirstondistow, wentestow, wepistow, werestow, wiltow, woldestow, woltow, wostow, wroghtestow.

Cf. rit, etc.

References

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