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Relation	

Chaucer's Use of Similes in *The Canterbury Tales*

Tomoya Oboshi

This thesis has examined similes in *The Canterbury Tales (CT)* and considered the creativity of Chaucer. Chapter 1 examined the definition of simile and the explanations of its major components. It also made clear the differences between *as*-similes and *like*-similes.

In Chapter 2, I discussed the forms of similes. First, I showed that similes are formed with a noun phrase or with a clause and considered the flexibility of the latter. Next, I arranged the classification of similes according to the vehicles employed in *CT*. Vehicles are classified mainly into six types, among which numerous examples belong to the categories of Creatures, Nature or Artifacts. Within the Creatures category many examples have birds as the vehicle, which may suggest that Chaucer was especially interested in birds. In addition, I referred to his knowledge of science. Finally, I examined Chaucer's creativity based on Whiting's study. I indicated his creativity by showing the examples in which the ground of the vehicle is extended, those in which new grounds are given to the vehicles and those which use new vehicles.

In Chapter 3, I dealt with the functions of similes and the connection between similes and the contents of three Tales: "The General Prologue," "The Miller's Tale" and "The Tale of Sir Thopas." The functions can be divided mainly into two types based on the relationship between the vehicle and the context, and in both types, similes can be used to describe the tenor ironically. Additionally, the chapter found another example, in which the vehicle has double meanings, and pointed out that it has an effect of entertaining the audience. Then, regarding the connection between the high frequency of similes and the Tales in *CT*, I argued that while in "The General Prologue" similes are used to introduce the characters at the beginning of *CT*, the other two tales use them cumulatively in order to emphasize the comical qualities of the characters and to parody the genre of romance.

In this way, this thesis has demonstrated one aspect of Chaucer's creativity in the use of similes.