

菅野正彦: *Confessio Amantis* の不定詞の統語法 ISyntax of the Infinitive in J. Gower's *Confessio Amantis* I*Introduction*: Masahiko Kanno

As to the language of J. Gower we must bear in our mind that his language is that of poetry in the fourteenth century. *Confessio Amantis*⁽ⁱ⁾ is written in the octosyllabic couplet. Especially as to the syntax much attention must be paid to the influence of rhythm, rhyme and idiomatic expressions. From such a viewpoint some light will be thrown on the language of J. Gower.

Josef Bihl attempted to elucidate the languages of Chaucer and Gower from the standpoint of the influence of rhythm. ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ C. A. Smith regarded the appearance of the prepositional infinitive in the special examples as the influence of distance. ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ The appearance of the infinitive **to** in the Middle English was not so limited as in the Present-day English. This fact may be clearly proved by the instances of the causative verb **maken**.

The problems of syllables, rhythm and rhyme as well as grammatical explanation, therefore, must be taken into considerations.

The Simple Infinitive of Purpose

In Old English the simple infinitive is used in order to express the purpose of transitive and intransitive verbs of motion. Kenyon says that in Chaucer this usage is confined to the verbs **gon** and **comen**. In Gower we can not meet with the simple infinitive after the verb **gon**.

Comen: So him befell upon a tide On his hunting as he **cam ride**, In a Forest al one he was:

(i, 349)

Sche syh clad in o suite a route Of ladis, wher thei **comen ryde** Along under the wodes syde: (iv, 1306)

After the verb **gon** and **comen** the present participle is used.

Gon: And **goth glistrende** ayein the Sunne. (i, 1137)

Wher thei **go walkende** on the Stronde, (ii, 758)

I **go fastende** to my bedde. (vi, 702)

Comen: It fell ther **cam ridende** nhy King Alisandre with a route: (iii, 1226)

The phrase **go aboute** is used in Gower. According to Kenyon's explanation, in Chaucer it has the meaning of **begin**, **attempt**. In the following examples the purpose or motive of going is merely indicated.

Riht so this newe tapinage Of lollardie **goth aboute** To sette Cristes feith in doute. (v, 1810)

Which **goth** the large world **aboute** To seche thavantages oute, (v, 1977)

A similar construction is used.

(i) *Confessio Amantis*, in *The English Works of John Gower*, ed G.C. Macaulay, 2 vols., EETS ES Lxxx I, Lxxx II, Oxford, 1957.

(ii) J. Bihl. *Die Wirkungen des Rhythmus in der Sprache von Chaucer und Gower*, Heidelberg, 1916.

(iii) C. A. Smith. *The Short Circuit in English Syntax*, tr. by S. Takatani, 1957.

Strange adventures **forto seche**, He rod the Marches al aboute. (i, 1416)
 Thei **sende** in every lond aboute The yonge children **forto seche**, (ii, 3218)
 If that hew olde **wenden oute**, **To sen** hou that it stod aboute. (vii, 4329)
 The morwe cam, and he **is gon To seche aboute** in other stede His ston to selle, and
 he so dede, (v, 5112)
 Bot sche caste al that lore aweie, And as sche **wente hir out to pleie**, **To gadre** floures
 in a pleine, (v, 1285)

All the examples above denote the purpose of the verb.

The Prepositional Infinitive of Purpose

Originally the prepositional infinitive denotes the direction, purpose, destination of the verb of motion.⁽ⁱ⁾ In Gower there appears the infinitive with both to and forto without distinction of meaning. Such variations, in general, are due to the needs of metre.

I. There are numerous examples in which a conscious purpose infinitive is used after the verb of motion.

Comen: Infinitive with **to** and **forto**

In every place wher thei **come To telle** and **witnesse** this, (v, 2994)
 Bot for the worschipe of Minerve, To whom thei **comen forto serve**, (i, 1147)

Gon: He bad anon men scholden **go To se** what it betokne mai. (ii, 728)

Bot Adrian,**Goth** in to France **forto pleigne**. (Prol. 745)

Fle: I seie thanne I wolde **fle** Into the chambre **forto se** If eny grace wolde falle, (v, 6677)

Lyen: His herte is ever more awaked And dremeth, as he **lith to slepe**, (v, 424)
 And him which wery is to swinke, Upon his wombe and **lith to drinke**, (viii, 3673)
 And in my barm ther **lith to wepe**⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ Thi child and myn which sobbeth faste. (iii, 302)

Riden: Ther **rod** he **forto hunte** and **pleie**. (i, 348)

Sitten: And thus fulofte there he **sat To muse**⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ in his philosophie Solein withoute compaignie:
 (iii, 1218)

Spede: It is no resoun that he **spede** In loves cause **forto winne**; (iv, 2692)

II. After the verb of motion or rest the prepositional infinitive of purpose is used generally in Gower. The prepositional infinitive of purpose is used in order to introduce a clause.

Bot **forto helpe** in such a cas, He seith himself that for here ese He wolde, (ii, 2206)

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- (i) K. Brunner. **Die Englische Sprache ihre geschichtliche Entwicklung** II, Halle, 1950. p.312.
 (ii) J. S. Kenyon. **Syntax of the Infinitive in Chaucer**, Chaucer Society. Second Series 44. London, 1909. He explains as follows: Possibly this is on the analogy of **lith to slepe**.
 (iii) In this example the sense of result is felt rather rather than that of purpose. See **The Infinitive of Result**.
 (iv) T. F. Mustanoja. **A Middle English Syntax, Part I**. Helsinki, 1960. He explains as follows: It is probable that the infinitive with **to** in these cases is originally an infinitive of purpose; yet any implication of purpose has become so faint that **to lie to sleep** is practically identical in function with **to lie sleep** or **to lie sleeping**. (p.537)

And **forto seche** an evidence, With honour and gret reverence, (ii, 2751)
 Bot **forto schewe** in evidence That thei fulofte sothe thinges Betokne, I thenke in my
 wrytinges To telle a tale therupon, (iv, 2922)

The construction '**so to-infinitive**' sometimes denotes purpose.

for overmor I wolde thanne do my myht **So forto stonden** in here lyht, (iii, 918)
 And **so to make** his regne stabe, With al the wil that mai yive I preie and schal whil
 that I live, (iii, 3036)

In the following examples the infinitive is used to denote purpose.

And sche, **to make** him more assote, Hire love granteth, (i, 2596)
 And he, **to kepe** his observance, To love doth his obeisance, And weneth it be Glodeside;
 (i, 2605)
 For which whan that a man be sleyhte, The ston **to winne** and him **to daute**, With his
 carecte him wolde enchaunte, (i, 468)

In the following example the sense of purpose may be strongly felt rather than the conditional sense.

Bot forto loken of the tweie, A man **to go** the siker weie, Betre is to yive than to take:
 (v, 7723)

The sense of conscious purpose is denoted in the following example.

Bot that sche wolde anon forth fecche Hire harpe and **don** al that sche can **To glade** with
 that sory man, (viii, 757)
 And sche **to don** hir fader heste Hire harpe **fette**, (viii, 760)

The indication of purpose is expressed by '**in hope to-infinitive**'.

Mi kinges heste schal noght falle, That I, **in hope to deserve** His thonk, ne schal his
 wil observe; (Prol. 70)
 And as the Tigre his time awaiteth **In hope forto cacche** his preie. (vii, 4944)

Cp. Chaucer, Prol. 88. **In hope to stonden** in his grace. '**In pourpos forto-infinitive**' is met with.

And tho Juno, which was the wif Of Jupiter, wroth and hastif, **In pourpos forto** do
 vengance Cam forth upon this ilke chance, (v, 6285)

The sense of purpose is denoted by a preposition closely attached to the infinitive. In the case of the preposition **with**, the infinitive may be more closely attached to the verb to denote purpose in Gower.

To gete with: Which whanne he walked over londe, Fulofte time he tok on honde, **To gete him with**
 his sustenance, For lacke of other pourveance, (v, 923)

To helpe with: Bot natheles this I believe, **To helpe with** his oghne lond Behoveth every man his hond
 To sette upon necessite; (vii, 2138)

To hindre with: For this Envie hath such a kinde, That he wold sette himself behinde **To hindre with**
 an othre wyht, And gladly lese his oghne riht To make an other lesen his. (ii, 281)

To rocke with: And tho sche tok hire schild in honde And yaf it sowke, and evere among Sche wepte, and
 otherwhile song **To rocke with** hire child aslepe: (ii, 1078)

To tarie with: And over this yet I thee rede That thou be war of thin heringe, Which to the Herte the tidinge Of many a vanite hath broght, **To tarie with** a mannes thoght. (i, 448)

⁽ⁱ⁾
To tendre with: As thei that were full of sorwe, Al naked bot of smok and scherte, **To tendre with** the kynges herte, (i, 2170)

The OED cites the last example as the earliest instance.

The Infinitive with Adjective

The infinitive dependent upon an adjective expresses the direction, purpose, or application, of the quality of the adjective. In Gower as well as in Chaucer the infinitive combined with adjectives can be classified into two large divisions from the quality of the adjective.

i) The cases where the subject of adjective, be it expressed or implied, is the same as that of the infinitive.

(a) The infinitive combined with adjectives which indicate the passive states of person or thing. Generally speaking, the adjectives as **able**, **mihti**, **worthi**, etc. indicate the powers or qualities of person or thing.⁽ⁱⁱ⁾

Able Ferst for his hevye continance Of that he semeth evere unglad, He is noght **able to ben had**; (ii, 3116)

Thou miht noght of thiself ben **able To winne** love or **make** it stable, (iv, 267)

The cause why I have it laft Mai be for I unto that craft Am nothing **able so to stele**, (v, 7103)

Conjoint Libra thei ben and Sagittaire With Scorpio, which is **conjoint** With him **to stonde** upon that point: (vii, 1258)

Convenient For therupon the ground is leid Of every kinges Regiment, As thing which most **Convenient** Is **forto sette** a long on evene Bothe in this world and ek in hevne (vii, 1980)

⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾
Eth Bot if thou cowthest **sette** in reule Tho tuo, the thre were **eth to reule**: (i, 543)

Ferthest whan he weneth have an ende, Thanne is he **ferthest to beginne**. (iv, 12)

Gracious Thei weren **gracious** and **wys** And **worthi forto bere** a pris. (vii, 1447)

Hevy Al is **to hevye** and to hot **To sette** on hond withoute leve: (v, 6600)

Impossible And what thing is passible **To ben** a god is **impossible**. (v, 771)

Mihti For Slowthe is **mihti to confounde** The spied of every mannes werk. (iv, 300)

Most For if the pouer were myn, Mi will is **most in special To rifle** and **geten** overal The large worldes good aboute. (iii, 2382)

Newe For whan men wene best to have achieved, Ful ofte it is al **newe to beginne**: (Praise,

(i) These examples are quoted in Kenyon's **Syntax**, p. 34. According to G. C. Macaulay's note '**to tendre with**' means '**whereby to soften**'. p. 474.

(ii) E. Mätzner. **Englische Grammatik, II**. Berlin, 1885. p. 40.

(iii) O. E. D. s. v. **Eath, eith**. A. 2. a. Const. **inf.**, usually active in form but passive in sense. Cp. Chaucer, **TC** v 849. He was **ethe** ynough **to maken dwelle**. **Rom. Rose** 3955. A foole is **eyth to bigyle**.

- 177)
- Suffisaunt** As that which mad is **sufficant To bere** up al the remenant. (vii, 227)
 He is of kinde **sufficant To holde** love his covenant, (vii, 417)
 His grace schal be **suffisant To governe** al the remenant Which longith to his duite;
 (viii, 3099)
- Swifttest** Bot whanne he berth lowest the Seil, Thanne is he **swifttest to beguile** The womman,
 (i, 704)
- Unmyhti** For thei withoute lyves chiere **Unmyhti** ben **to se** or hier e Or speke or do or elles fiele;
 (v, 1501)
- Wys** Thei weren gracious and **wys** And worthi **forto bere** a pris. (vii, 1447)
- Wont** The wyn which he was **wont to drinke** He tok thanne of the welles brinke (i, 2979)
 So that withinne a litel throwe The myht of him was overthrowe, That whilom were **wont to stonde**, (vii, 4429)
 For god is **myhty** oueral **To forthren** every mannes trowthe, (vii, 3614)
- Worthi** For thanne were I al beschrewed And **worthi to be put** abak With al the sorwe upon my
 bac That eny man ordeigne cowthe, (iii, 480)
 And further mor, to telle trowthe, Sche, that hath evere be wel named, Were **worthi**
 thanne **to be blamed**. (iii, 1598)
 To telle hou ther is such a man Which is **worthi to love** and can Al that a good man
 scholde kunne; (v, 2906)
- In Gower we can find a following example in which the infinitive without **to** follows after '**worthi**'.
- To hem that were of such a pris Sche was nocht **worthi axen** there, (iv, 1334)
- Worth** And whan he was so mochel **worth To stonden** in a mannes stede. (vi, 1624)
- Ynough** And who that wol him justefie, It is **ynough to do** the lawe. (v, 6424)
- Unbehovely** I am **unbehovely** Your Court fro this day forth **to serve**: (viii, 2884)
- (b) The adjectives as **fain**, **glad**, **loth** denote the activity of the mind.
- Adrad** That he schal nothing ben **adrad** Ayein king Agag **forto fihte**; (vii, 3822)
- Besi** How **besi** that he is **to kepe** His tresor, that no thief it stele. (v, 426)
- Curious** And in his thoght (he) was **curious To wite** what was best to do: (i, 1524)
- Doubtous** Bot elles, if he be **doubtous To slen** in cause of rihtwisnesse, It mai be said no
 Pitousnesse, (vii, 3524)
- Dull** Wherof the bodi fat and full Is unto gostli labour **dull** And slowh **to handle** thilke plowh.
 (v, 1947)
- Fain** So thei begunne forto rave, That he was **fain** himself **to save**; (vii, 4109)
- Glad** And thus upon his comandyng Myn herte is wel the more **glad To write** so as he me
 bad; (Prol. 54)
- Inquisitif** Me liketh nocht in other place To lette noman of his grace, Ne forto ben **inquisitif To**

- knowe** an other mannes lif: (ii, 1985)
- Loth** He seith often, 'Have good day, ,' That **loth** is **forto take** his leve. Thei weren bothe **loth to rise**, Bot for thei weren bothe wise, Up thei arisen ate laste: (v, 3551)
The fader and the moder bothe **To leve** here douhter weren **lothe**. (v, 5606)
- Lusty** Bot at this time natheles, What other man his thonk deserve, The world so **lusti** is **to serve**, (v, 1932)
For al the metes and the spices, That eny Lombard couthe make, Ne be so **lusti forto take** Ne so ferforth restauratif, (vi, 856)
- Merciable** Him thinkth he is so fer coupable, That god wol nought be **merciable** A gret a Sinne **forto foryive**: (iv, 3425)
- Redy** And seide that the goddes wille Sche was al **redy to fulfille**, (i, 855)
I am al **redy forto bere** Mi peine, and also **to forbere** What thing that ye wol nought allowe; (ii, 537)
- Slepi** And gan to pipe in his manere Thing which was **slepi forto hiere**: (iv, 3343)
- Slowh** For thogh my tunge is **slowh to crave** At alle time, as I have bede, (iv, 54)
Wherof the bodi fat and full Is unto gostli labour dull And **slowh to handle** thilke plowh. (v, 1947)
- Sory** Mi fader, of this aventure Which yef have told, I you assure Min herte is **sory forto hiere**, (iii, 2201)
- Swete** A thocht so swete in mi corage, That nevere Pymment ne vernage Was half so **swete forto drinke**. (vi, 217)
- Wery** And him which **wery** is ⁽ⁱ⁾ **to swinke**, Upon his wombe and lith to drinke, (vii, 3673)
- ii) There are some examples in which the subject belonging to the adjective can be regarded as the logical object of the infinitive.
- So that thensample of this histoire Is **good** for every king **to holde**; (vii, 3790)
So mai a man the sothe wite and knowe, That pes is **good** for every king **to have**: (Praise. 288)
- In the following examples the expression '**on to se**' is worth noticing. ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾
- Bot when sche was fulliche arraied And hire atyr was al assaied, Tho was sche **foulere on to se**: (i, 1757)
That (thei) weren yonge and tendre of age, And of stature and of visage Right **faire** and **lusty on to se**. (i, 2165)
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- (i) Kenyon says that this example shows clearly that in M. E. **wery+infinitive** did not need to denote **fatigue from a thing** but as well could mean **disinclination toward it**. (op. cit. p. 6)
- (ii) O. E. D. s. v. **See**, 16.
Cp. Chaucer, **Dethe Blaunche** 1177
That swete wyght That is **so semely on to se**.

The expression '**feer to seche**' is used in order to predicate of a person's faculties. It means 'utterly at a loss'.

For as me thenketh be thi speche Thi wittes ben riht **feer to seche**. (i, 569)

This example is recorded as the earliest quotation in the OED.

iii) He was an **esy** man **to yeve** penaunce, Chaucer. (Prol. 223.)

In the example above, the adjective before the noun takes the infinitive after the phrase. It is difficult to decide whether the infinitive is a modifier of the noun or the adjective.

In general we can say that the infinitive is connected strongly with the adjective rather than the noun. There are a few examples.

And thus to take an evidence, It semeth love is wel willende To hem that ben continuende
With **besi** herte **to poursuie** Thing which that is to love due. (iv, 506)

To every craft for mannes helpe He hadde a **redi** wit **to helpe** Thurgh naturel experience:
(v, 1035)

Wherof men maden dyches **depe** And **hyhe** walles **forto kepe** The gold which Avarice
encloseth. (v, 19)

Bot yit hem liketh nought to stere Here **gostliche** yhe **forto se** The world in his adversite:
(v, 1854)

And if ther be to this matiere Some **goodly tale forto liere** How I mai do lachesce aweie,
That ye it wolden telle I preie. (iv, 69)

Whiche is a thing full **necessaire To contrepaise** the balance, Wher lacketh other suffi-
cance. (vii, 1504)

The Infinitive with Nouns

In Middle English syntax generally, in the case of the infinitive with nouns, especially when the nouns are the objects of transitive verbs, it is often difficult to decide whether the infinitive is to be connected with the verbs or with the objects. This is because the original meaning of the infinitive is retained in such cases, and Gower offers us many such instances.

In the following example, it is a difficult matter to decide whether the infinitive modifies the verb or its noun-object.

Ther is noman can finde **a salve** Pleinly **to helen** such a Sor; (ii, 2788)

On the other hand, there are examples in which the infinitive can be properly regarded as a modifier to the noun.

Ther is no **cok to crowe** a day, (iv, 3003)

The above example can be recognized as '**ther-is no-cok-to-crowe**'. To put it plainly, '**cok-to-crowe**' is a unit.

Taking into consideration these circumstances above stated we will treat the infinitive with nouns mainly from the standpoint of its meaning. For this division by meaning, cp.

I. The examples in which the noun is the logical subject of the infinitive.

(i) intention or futurity

He **no child** his oghne hadde **To regnen** after his decess. (v, 3252)

We may include the following example of the passive infinitive into this division.

whil that he mai take **Richesses** wherof **to be founde**. (vi, 632)

There are also in Gower a few cases in which the infinitive is used with prepositions.

And he non other vertu couthe Of **craft to helpe** himselve **with**, (v, 960)

(ii) obligation or necessity

And hath **hise Angles** him **to serve**, (viii, 7)

(iii) possibility

This Steward in his oghne herte Sih that his lord mai noght asterte His maladie, bot he have
A lusti womman him **to save**, (v, 2699)

The second example given in (i) above may also be regarded as a passive form of this meaning, though the earliest citation of this construction in the OED is from 1533.⁽ⁱ⁾

II. The examples in which the noun is the logical object of the infinitive: the so-called retroactive infinitive.

(i) intention or futurity

So that ther is **nomor to seie** Touchende of that (Pride) (i, 3439)

Thi schrifte forto make plein, Ther is yit **more forto sein** Of love which is unavised.
(vii, 5431)

(ii) obligation or necessity

Whan ther is **eny thing to done**, (v, 1984)

And natheles on morwe sone Sche lefte **alle other thing to done**, (vi, 2017)

In the second example, the infinitive is thought to be also related with the verb. In this division we may include the following idiomatic expression with infinitive.

Whan Deianyre hath herd this speche **Ther was no sorwe forto seche**:⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ (ii, 2275)

Cp. the following example, which is to be treated in **Infinitive as Predicate**.

My sorwe is thanne noght to seche: (ii, 44)

This infinitival phrase is often used, together with a negative particle, for the description of extremity of emotion especially sorrow.

Other examples are:

Ther was no care forto seche: (iv, 2963)

Ther was no joie forto seche, (v, 3821)

Ther is no wisdom forto seke As for the reule of his persone, (vii, 1663)

Tho was no sorwe forto seke: (vii, 5077)

(i) O. E. D. s. v. **To**, B. II. c.

(ii) quoted O. E. D. s. v. **Seek**, 19. b.

The descoloured pale hewe Is now become a rody cheke, **Ther was no merthe forto seke**,
(viii, 1908)

A similar phrase '**for to winne**' may be an idiomatic expression, though this may more properly belong to the division of '**possibility**' below.

Ther was no bote forto winne, (iii, 316)

Bot whil he hath **o day to live**, He wole nothing rewarde ayein; (v, 4904)

In this example '**o day**' is also regarded as a sort of cognate object.

Yit tok I nevere Slep on honde, Whan **it was time forto wake**; (iv, 3136)

Apointed in the newe Mone, Whan **it was time forto done**, Sche sette a caldron on the fyr, (v, 4114)

Whan **it is time to ben armed**, (vii, 4353)

In the last example, though the infinitive is passive, the noun '**time**' is not the logical subject of the infinitive.

(iii) application of the action or quality implied in the noun

And riht thus in the same wise This vice upon the cause of love So proudly set the herte above, And doth him plainly forto wene That he **to loven** eny qwene Hath **worthnesse** and **sufficance**: (i, 1910)

A gret ensample thou schalt finde This veine gloire **forto fle**, (i, 2782)

Wher he hath **his devocioun To don** his sacrifice and **preie**, (iv, 2940)

I fell on knes upon the grene, And tok **my leve forto wende**. (viii, 2900)

Compare the following example.

Bot yet he was noght **of such myht** The strengthe of love **to withstonde**, (i, 786)

In the above example, apparently, the infinitive is connected with the noun '**myht**', but it factually qualifies the adjective phrase '**of such myht**' and therefore is regarded as adverbial.

To every craft for mannes helpe He hadde **a redi wit to helpe** Thurgh naturel experience:
(v, 1035)

In this example the infinitive seems to be connected with the adjective+noun, rather than the noun alone.

Bot he mot nedes somewhat sein, Although ther be no reson inne, Which secheth **cause forto winne**: (iii, 2332)

Ther is **no certein forto winne**, For lord and knave al is o weie, Whan thei be bore and whan thei deie. (v, 200)

(iv) possibility

And what Schep that is ful of wulle Upon his back, thei toose and pulle, Whil ther is **eny thing to pile**: (Prol. 399)

Ther was **no womman forto love**. (i, 2279)

and of thei lese, Ther is **no weie forto chese**, (i, 1349)

Whil ther is **oyle forto fyre**, (viii, 2775)

Tho was ther **many a mowth to kisse**, (viii, 1894)

In the last example the infinitive has the adverbial meaning, i. e. direction or purpose.

Lastly we must mention the following example in which the infinitive is used after a predicate noun.

That forto loke upon his cheke And sen his childly manere eke, **He was a womman to beholde**. (v, 3019)

III. The examples in which the noun is in instrumental relation to the infinitive.

(i) use or function (the examples are rare.)

So whan thei weren bothe al one, As he which **when** hadde **none To se** reson, his Moder kiste; (v, 1411)

(ii) time or space

Sche with him hadde **a leisir To speke and telle** of hir desir. (v, 3435)

That Jason with that suete may Tokedre sete and hadden **space To speke**, and he besoughte hir grace. (v, 3438)

And thoghte tho was **time and space To put** hire in hir fader grace, (viii, 891)
and of that speche Tho was **no time to beseche**; (viii, 873)

(iii) in sense apposition to the noun, denoting its contents.

For in good feith I have **no miht To hele** fro that swete wiht, If that it touche hire eny thing. (ii, 2055)

If that mihte in eny weie Toward the goddes finde **grace** His brother hele **to pourchace**, (iv, 2942)

The Gregois hadden **mochel peine Alday to fihte and to assaile**. (v, 3074)

The king, which therof tok good kepe, Hath **gret Pite to sen** him wepe, (viii, 751)
He wan, that every man hath **doute** Upon his marche **forto saile**; (v, 990)

The Absolute Infinitive

In Gower we can also find the absolute infinitive which is called often the parenthetical infinitive. We will classify this use of infinitive by its types.

i) The Parenthetical Infinitive.

Along with the lengthy expression of adverbial clause, there is the infinitival expression of the similar meaning.

Type I: **to (forto) seie a soth**: I trowe, in al this world to seche, Nis womman that in dede and speche Woll betre advise hire what sche doth, Ne betre, **forto seie a soth**, Kepe hire honour ate alle tide, (ii, 55)

And riht so, **forto seie a soth**, In loves cause if I schal trete, (v, 7032)

And natheles **to seie a soth**, (v, 7085)

And bothe, **forto seie a soth**, Be sondri cause forto have, (vii, 4140)

Type II: **to (forto) telle trowthe**: And furthermor, **to telle trowthe**, Sche, that hath evere be wel named, Were worthi thanne to be blamed. (iii, 1598)

Mi fader, as toward the Love Of Maidens **forto telle trowthe**, Ye have thilke vice of Slowthe, (iv, 1596)

Type III: **the soth to (forto) telle**: And natheles, **the soth to telle**, (ii, 497)

And natheles, **the soth to telle**, Ayeinward of it so befelle That I at thilke time sihe On me that sche miscaste hire yhe, (iii, 107)

And thus, **the sothe forto telle**, He rifleth bothe book and belle, So forth with al, (v, 7035)*

Cp. **to telle soth** (vi, 712)

Type IV: **Soth to (forto) seie**: So yifith it me the more feith And makth me hardi, **soth to seie**,

That I dar wel the betre preie Mi ladi, which a womman is. (iii, 538)

Mi goode Sone, **soth to seie**, If ther be siker eny weie To loves cause forto winne; (iv, 2687)

As so yit couthe I nevere winne, Ne yit so mochel, **soth to sein**, That for the hole I mihte have half, Of so full love as I have lent: (v, 4446)

And thus, mi fader, **soth to seie**, In cherche riht as in the weie, (v, 7157)

and I to ryde Began the chace, and **soth to seie**, Withinne a while out of mi weie I rod, (v, 7404)

and **soth to seie**, Sche is with sterres wel beseie, (vii, 1087)

Bot ate laste, **soth to sein**, Thei bothe tornen hom ayein Unto Cartage and scole lete. (vii, 2233)

Type V: **sothly forto telle**: And that is, **sothly forto say**, Bot only to my lady selve: (ii, 522)

Ye mai wel axe of this and that, Bot **sothli forto telle plat**, In al this world ther is bot on The which myn herte hath overgon; (viii, 179)

The so-called subjective utterances are used at the end of a line in Gower as well as in Chaucer. These rime-tags may be called asseverations or 'abbreviations'. A very suggestive explanation is shown by Dr. M. Masui. (i)

Type VI. Analogous examples: And **schortly to describe** hire al, (i, 1690)

Bot natheles **to speke it plein**, (iv, 3140)

schort tale forto telle, (v, 5358)

And thus **to telle of him in soth**, (vi, 1285)

To telle soth riht as I wene, (vi, 1363)

To telle plein (vii, 627)

(i) Dr. M. Masui. **The Structure of Chaucer's Rime Words: An Exploration into the Poetic Language of Chaucer.** Kenkyusha, Tokyo, 1964, p. 237.

The Infinitive of Cause

In general the infinitive of cause is indicated by such nouns, verbs, and adjectives as **joy, gladen, glad**. With regard to adjectives, we have surveyed in 'The Infinitive with Adjectives'.

I. The verbs and adjectives denoting the mental activity often introduce the infinitive of cause.

(i) With verb

That thei upon her tirannie Ne **gladen** hem the men **to sle**; (vii, 3408)

Bot yit among full pitously Sche preiede that thei nolden **drecche** Hire housebonde **forto decche** Forth with hire fader ek also. (vii, 5008)

(ii) With adjective

In the following examples the infinitive of cause is expressed.

Adrad That he schal nothing **ben adrad** Ayein king Agag **forto fihte**; (vii, 3822)

Doubtous Bot elles, if he **be doubtous To slen** in cause of rihtwisnesse, It mai be said no Pitousnesse, (vii, 3524)

Fain So thei begunne forto rave, That he **was fain** himself **to save**; (vii, 4109)

Glad And thus upon his comandynge Myn herte **is wel the more glad To write** so as he me bad; (Prol. 54)*

Loth He sith often, 'Have good day,' That **loth is forto** take his leve. (iv, 2815)

Thei weren bothe **loth to rise**, (v, 3551)

The fader and the moder bothe **To leve** here douhter **weren lothe**. (v, 5606)

Sory Mi fader, of this aventure Which ye have told, I you assure Min herte **is sory forto hiere**, (iii, 2201)

Wery And him which **wery is to swinke**, Upon his wombe and lith to drinke, (vii, 3673)

III. With noun

The infinitive as a subject often has a causal force. In the following examples the predicate is a noun.

A gret delit To sen it was **a gret delit** The joie that the cite made; (vi, 1836)

A sori lust It is **a sori lust to lyke**, (vii, 4461)

Gret mervaile That hem **to se** was **gret mervaile**: (v, 7248)

An ydel peine it were **an ydel peine To lerne** a thing which mai nocht be. (iv, 2678)

Pite A tale of gret ensample I finde Wherof it is **pite to wite** In the manere as it is write, (iv, 728)

A gret pite it was **a gret pite To se** so lusti on as sche Be coupled with so loured a wiht: (v, 655)

Gret routhe Which is **gret routhe forto hiere**. (viii, 592)

A wonder It is **a wonder forto hiere**. (v, 2213)

In the above examples the implication of cause is felt rather than the infinitive as the subject of predicate noun. We meet with the following instance.

The king, which therof tok good kepe, Hath **gret Pite to sen** him wepe, (viii, 751)

The Object Infinitive

In this Chapter, we exclude the commonest use of the infinitive as object as seen in **I wish to go**, and limit our treatment to the construction 'Subject+Infinitive as Object of Main Verb'. It is natural that the construction, Accusative with Infinitive, should be included here. From the quality of verbs we may classify the objective infinitives into two divisions.

I. Verbs of causal content

- Axen** And **asken** hire **forto wedde**. (vii, 5323)
- Bidden**⁽ⁱ⁾ And (they) **bidden** ous therefore **eschue** That wikkid is, and do the goode. (Prol. 458)
Sche **bad** me **telle ane seie** hir trowthe, (i, 181)
cf. For ofte time sche me **bit To leven** hire and **chese** a newe. (i, 1310)
- Bisechen** I wot no weie What gentlesce is forto seie, Wherof **to telle** I you **beseche**. (iv, 2201)
- Causen** Which **causeth** every king **to regne** That his corone longe stode. (Prol. 32)*
And every gladschipe, as I finde, Is confort unto loves kinde And **causeth** ofte a man **to spede**. (v, 4795)
- Chargen** Forthi, mi Sone, as I wel dar, I **charge** thee **to fle** that vice, (i, 1222)
- Don**⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ He **doth** ous somdel **forto wite** The cause of thilke prelacie, (Prol. 286)
And axed hou and in what wise Men scholde **don** hem **to juise**. (vii, 1605)
- Given**⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ And tho sche **yaf** him **drinke** a drauchte, (v, 4167) (= 'she gave him a draft to drink')
- Granten** The king him **granteth to fulfille** His axinge at his oghne wille (iv, 2127)
Cp. ther myghty God yet **graunte** us **see** that houre (Ch. TC ii 588)
- Leten** I prai the **let** me noght **mistime** Mi schrifte. (i, 220)
For if he **lete** it **overpasse**, (v, 771)
- Maken** thou blake ymage, Which of thi derke cloudy face **Makst** al the worldes lyht **deface**.

- (i) T. F. Mustanoja. **A. Middle English Syntax, Part I**. Helsinki, 1960. He explains as follows: A peculiar use of this verb is recorded in a number of ME texts: and thanne in slep such joie I finde That I ne *bede* nevere *awake* (iv, 2904).
- (ii) Causative 'DO'. holy cherche ayein he wroghte Into franchise, and **doth restore** The pop es lost (Prol. 761)
and **doth** his ladi **t'understonde**
The Message of hire housebonde: (ii, 815)
- Causative 'DO' and 'LET' followed by 'DO'+infinitive. and **let do wryten** othre newe (ii, 985)
the vessel...with clene water of the welle...he **let do felle** (ii, 3448)
and **let do crien** al aboute (ii, 3468)
- These instances above are quoted by Mustanoja. p. 601, 605. O. E. D. s. v. **DO**. III. 21. c.
To do (one) to wit, know, or understand: to cause (one) to know; to give (one) to understand;
- And other while of his falshede He **feignede** him **to conne** arede Of thing which after scholde falle; (v, 927)
- So be ther manye, in such a wise That **feignen** wordes **to be** wise, (vii, 2487)
- (iii) F. Mossé. **A Handbook of Middle English**, translated by J. A. Walker, Baltimore, 1952. p. 100. O. E. D. s. v. **Give**, II. 6. b. With ellipsis of ob. before an inf., **to give to eat, drink**. See Mustanoja. **op. cit.** p. 531

(iv, 2843)

And (he) **made** him there **forto seche**, And fond the knif, wher he it leide. (ii, 858)

That **maken** many an herte **sinke** And many an herte also **to flete**, (vi, 334)

Preyen And thanne I **preide** him **forto seie** His will, (i, 290)

I **prei** you **tell** me nay or yee, (iii, 2487)

And Hellican be name he hihte, Which **preide** his lord **to have** insihte Upon himself,
(viii, 575)

Suffren So most thou **soffre** an other **be**, (ii, 206)

And in ensample of tho wommen, That **soffren** men **to deie** so, (iv, 3676)

And he with that began to crie, And preide Bachus to foryive His gilt, and **soffre** him
forto live (v, 290)

Techen As sche him **tauhte** tho **to rede**; (v, 3582)

To techen him Philosophie **Entenden**, (vi, 2276)

That **techeth** upon armonie A man **to make** melodie Be vois and soun of instrument
(vii, 165)

Wenen And **wenen** every man **be** thief, To stale away that hem is lief; (v, 439)

II. Verbs of Perception

In Gower the verbs as **sen**, **heren**, take the simple infinitive after the object.

Sen He **syh** upon the grene gras The faire freisshe floures **springe**, (i, 352)

Sche **sih** hem **deie** on every side; (ii, 701)

And forth withal sche caste a lok And **sih** this ladi **blede** there, (ii, 844)

After 'se' to-infinitive is used.

Hate is a wraththe noght schewende, Bot of long time gaderende, And duelleth in the
herte loken, Til he **se** time **to be wroken**; (iii, 856)

Heren The fader **herde** his dowhter **speche**, (i, 3208)

Sche sih the swote floures springe, Sche **herde** glade foules **singe**, (iv, 1297)

Of that sche **herde** folk so **speke**. (viii, 1248)

The present participles are used instead of the simple infinitives.

Sen **Sen** And whan he **sih** upon the wawe The Schip **drivende** al one so (ii, 728)

And whan sche **sih** hire lord livende In liknesse of a bridd **swimmende**, (iv, 3097)

Heren Tho myhte I **hiere** gret partie **Spekende**, (viii, 2760)

In Gower there are the following examples.

For I have ofte **herd** you **seid**, (i, 3153)

As thou hast **herd** me **seid** tofore: (v, 1623)

(ii) T. F. Mustanoja. *op. cit.* p. 531.

He explains as follows: the rare occurrence of the plain infinitive after this verb is perhaps due to the analogy **let**.

As thou hast **herd** me **told** before. (v, 7609)

G. C. Macaulay explains these forms as follows: i. e., 'This form of expression, **herd me told**, for **herd you seie, herd me telle**, may have sprung from such a use of the participle as we have in v, 3376, **Sche hadde herd spoke of his name**.

Cf. And whan that Bachus **herd sein** How Mide hath don his courtesie, (v, 168)

For this example, compare O. E. D. **Hear**; 3. c.

'By ellipsis of such objects as **people, persons, some one**, before the infinitives **say, speak, talk, tell**, the phrases **to hear say, hear tell**, etc., of which some are still in dialectical or colloquial, and occasionally literary, use. Formerly also with pa. pple., as **to hear told** (obs.).

Of that sche **herde folk so speke**. (viii, 1248)

Infinitive as Object

The following finite verbs take the infinitive with **to (forto)**, or without **to**.

Withoute which mai non **achieve To gete** him Paradis ayein: (v, 1786)

So that in prive conseil there Thei ben **assented forto** wende. (ii, 2538)

And sche **began to bidde** and **preie** (i, 934)

He **bad to gon** on his message And fonde forto make him glad. (viii, 734)

Which with hire chiere can **deserve To be beloved** betre ywiss Than sche per cas that richest is (v, 2610)

Atteint thei were be the lawe And **diemed forto honge** and **drawe**, (viii, 1947)

To whom Calistre and Aristote **To techen** him Philosophie **Entenden**, (vi, 2274)

Yit the symplesse of my poverté **Desireth forto do** plesance To hem... (viii, 3134)

What man that schal with other dele, He mai noght **faile to repente**. (v, 2836)

he gan to fare Into the field and loke and stare, As he which **feigneth to be** wod: (iv, 1831)

he at eny time scholde Evere after in his herte **finde To folsen** and **to ben** unkinde. (v, 5180)

Thurgh which the Philosophre hath **founde To techen** sondri knowlechinges Upon the bodiliche thinges. (vii, 137)

and noght **forsake To ben** als comun as sche wolde. (v, 1428)

And he his profit understod And **granteth** with hem **forto wende**. (viii, 1882)

Unto the wode I **gan to fare** (i, 110)

And thries ek sche **gan doun loute** (v, 3972)

And thoghte that sche nevere **kepte To ben** a worldes womman more, (v, 5754)

And that is love, of which I **mene To trete**, as after schal ye sene. (i, 15)

So ne wol I noght **poursuie** Mi lust of love **forto seche**. (vi, 2406)

The Maister Schipman...And **profreth** Thaise **forto selle**. (viii, 1407)

Thus, I, which am a burel clerk, **Purpose forto wryte** a bok (Prol. 52)
 And thus he profreth him to **swere To serven** evere til he die, (v, 2892)
 And if thei **techen to restreigne** Mi love, it were an ydel peine To lerne a thing which
 mai noght be. (iv, 2677)
 I **thenke make** A bok for Engelondes sake (Prol. 23)
 For tho sche **thoghte to beginne** Such thing as semeth impossible, (v, 4026)

The Concessive Infinitive

Kenyon explains as follows: The infinitive denotes a reward for doing, or a penalty for not doing, an action, in spite of which the action does not take place.

I. In Gower there are examples in which the infinitive indicates both reward and penalty.

Cf. Bot **whether that I winne or lese**, I moste hire loven til I deie; (i, 1332)

1. **forto wynne or (forto) lese:**

Sche put hire hand and be his leve Besoghte him that he wolde leve, And seith that **forto wynne or lese** He mot on of tuo thinges chese, (i, 1807)

He kneleth doun unto the king, And seith that thei upon this thing, **or forto winne or forto lese**, Ben alle avised forto chese. (v, 2359)

I thoghte thanne how love is swete, And was miself the lasse aschamed, **Or forto lese or forto winne** In the meschief that I was inne: (viii, 2720)

2. **forto deie or forto live:**

Bot be him lief or be him loth, Unto the Castell forth he goth His full answer forto yive, Or **forto deie or forto live**. (i, 1627)

3. **forto spille or forto save:**

So stant it al in his power Or **forto spille or forto save**. (viii, 3062)

4. **forto take or elles forto lese:**

That chese he mot on of the tuo, Or **forto take** hire to his wif Or **elles forto lese** his lif. (i, 1572)

(i)
 The phrases above may be called rime-phrases.

II. The concessive infinitive is expressed by the construction, such as **al to (forto)+infinitive**.

And that me makth fulofte asprie And usen wordes of Envie, **Al forto make** hem bere a blame. (ii, 463)

And ech of hem his time awaiteth, And ech of hem his tale affaiteth, **Al to deceive** an innocent, Which woll noght ben of here assent; (ii, 463)

III. In Gower there are some examples of **for+object+to+infinitive**, as is often found in ME. ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾

(i) Dr. M. Masui. *op. cit.* p.174.

(ii) Kenyon. *Syntax of the Infinitive in Chaucer*, p.78.

Ferst **for thin oghne astat to kepe**, To be thiself so wel bethoght That thou supplanted were noght, (ii, 2440)

And **for the wodes in demeynes To kepe**, tho ben Driades; (v, 1332)

The above examples express the concession according to Kenyon.

The Conditional Infinitive

The infinitive of purpose easily leads to hypothetical conception. In Gower the conditional infinitive is frequently used.

I. The following example shows that the purpose infinitive comes to have a conditional force.

a man **to beie** him pes Behoveth soffre as Socrates Ensample lefte.⁽ⁱ⁾ (iii, 639)

II. The conditional sense is often indicated by the phrase **In al world to seche**.⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ There are a few examples in Gower.

I trowe, **in al this world to seche**, Nis womman that in dede and speche Woll betre avise hire what sche doth, Ne betre, forto seie a soth, Kepe hire honour atte alle tide, (ii, 55)

That other hadde a dowhter eke, **In al the lond forto seke, Men wisten non so faire as sche**. (iii, 1345)

That **forto seche in every lond** So wys an other noman fond, (viii, 1331)

In the following first example, **al the worldes riche** is the object of **to sechen**. There is a slight difference between the two expressions.

Ther was whilom a lordes Sone, Which of his Pride a nyce wo ne Hath cawht, that worthi to his liche, **To sechen al the worldes riche**, Ther was no womman forto leve (i, 2275)

For after that the bokes telle, **To seche in al this worldesriche**, Men schal noght finde upon his liche A beste forto take his preie: (iii, 2586)

III. In Gower the infinitive introduced by 'as' sometimes denotes the conditional sense.

As forto speke of eny grace, Mi ladi merci to pourchace. (iv, 3479)

For tho was al the wordes fame In Grece, **as forto speke** of Armes. (v, 3358)

In the following examples the sense of comparison is more or less felt.

That it welny stant al reversed, **As forto speke** of tyme ago. (Prol. 30)

Of which the propre vertu is To mannes hele forto serve, **As forto kepe and to preserve** The bodi fro siknesses alle, (iv, 2536)

IV. A similar conditional meaning is expressed after the verb 'recchen'.

And so **to sette** himselven inne, He **reccheth** noght, be so he winne, Of that an other

(i) This instance is quoted by Kenyon. (*Syntax of the Infinitive in Chaucer*)

(ii) T. F. Mustanoja regards this instance as infinitive of concession. (*A Middle English Syntax, Part I*, p. 536)

man schal lese, (ii, 2343)

V. The infinitive as subject which put in extraposition often indicates the conditional sense. Numerous instances are met with in Gower. A slight difference may be felt between the following two examples with regard to the implication.

It is a wonder thing to hiere, (v, 3954)

And how his wit aboute renneth Upon the love in which he brenneth, **It were a wonder forto hiere**: (ii, 1409)

In the last example the conditional sense is felt more clearly than in the first. It may be paraphrased '**it were a wonder if you would hear...**'. As seen in **the Infinitive of Cause**, it is a difficult matter to draw a strict distinction. It also denotes the causal implication. In general it may be said that the construction, such as '**it were good or a wonder thing to...**', sometimes expresses the conditional sense except a few examples.

For **betre it were** honour **to winne** Than love, which likinge is inne. (iv, 1867)

In the above instance the infinitive is clearly used as subject. It may be led to the conclusion that when the infinitive is used with the comparison, it has the function as a subject.

The Infinitive of Result

The infinitive of purpose easily passes into that of result after verbs, nouns, and adjectives. In the cases where the distinction between the infinitive of purpose and that of result is not clear, it is often the context that helps us to decide. Gower offers us some illustrative examples.

I. With noun and verb:

In the following instance, the infinitive may be regarded as that of result. The implication of purpose approaches to that of result.

Phisque hath don the besinesse Of sondri cures manyon **To make him hol**; (v, 2654)

The following instances show the sense of result more clearly.

And thus fulofte there he **sat To muse** in his philosophie Solein withoute compaignie:
(iii, 1218)

and ther sche **fell** Upon hire bedd **to wepe and crie**, (i, 954)

II. With **so to**:

The construction '**so to**' sometimes denotes the sense of result. In the following example both purpose and result are indicated. '**so forto-infinitive**' may be regarded as result.

This yonge king makth mochel wo **So forto se** the Schip travaile: (viii, 614)

III. With **so...to**:

To indicate the result, the construction '**so...to**' is also used.

Er that hire fader **so** mistriste **To tellen** hire of that he wiste: (i, 3165)

And if a man schal telle soth, Of guile and of soubtilite Is non **so** slyh in his degre **To feigne** a thing for his beyete, As is this vice of which I trete. (v, 7086)

IV. With **to** (= **too**):

In Gower there are cases where the infinitive of result is expressed by the construction 'to...to'. The adverb **to** often introduces the implication of negative result.

Bot al the hole progenie Of goddes in that ilke time **To** long it were **forto rime**. (v, 1368)

In the above example it is a question to decide that the infinitive '**forto rime**' is a negative result, but in the following examples the implication of negative result is evident.

Bot for my wittes ben **to** smale **To tellen** every man his tale, (Prol. 81)

Betwen hire hih astat and me Comparison ther mai non be, So that I fiele and wel I wot, Al is **to** hevye and **to** hot **To sette** on hond withoute leve: (v, 6597)

V. With **ynow**, **ynouh**:

Me thenkth it oughthe **ynow** suffise Withouten other covoitise **To love** such on and **to serve**, (2607)

And yive hire good **ynouh to spende** For evere whil sche scholde live: (v, 6472)

In the latter example the sense of result is felt more strongly than in the former.

The Infinitive with Impersonals

The transition from the impersonal to the personal can be seen in Gower.

(i) So that **it me nothing merveilleth**, (vi, 385)

(ii) And **everich be himself merveilleth** What thing it is that me so eilleth. (vi, 171)

(iii) and **he merveilleth** So sodeinly what thing hire eyleth, (ii, 1347)

Only the infinitives with impersonals as a part of the impersonal constructions are limited to in this section. The method as to classification is due to van der Gaaf's where the various stages of developments of the impersonal to the personal are classified into the four types.

Acorden X For it **acordeth** noight to kinde Min oghne harm **to seche and finde** Of that I schal my brother grieve; (ii, 369)

Availen X I thanke it that **it myhte avayle** In his service **to travaile**: (Prol. 77)
it myhte availe The toun **to winne** thurgh prouesse, (i, 1082)

D As thogh **Crist myhte noight availe To don** hem riht be other weie. (Prol. 270)

(i) van der Gaaf. **The Transition from the Impersonal to the Personal Construction in Middle English**, Heidelberg, 1904.

Type A. The verb governs a dative or an accusative, as **methinks, meseems, melist, it behoves me, woe is me**.

Type B. The noun or pronoun connected with the verb may, as far as external evidence goes, be taken either for a nominative or for an objective.

Type C. The verb governs a prepositional dative, as, **it seems to me**;

Type D. The original dative or accusative has become a nominative with the verb for its predicate, as he did just as **he pleased**; (p. 40)

Kenyon adds another Type **X** to them. i. e. an impersonal construction, as, **it behooves to go**. See **Syntax of the Infinitive**, p. 118.

- He myhte availe** in many a stede **To make** pes wher now is hate; (Prol. 1074)
 Wher **I miself mai nocht availe To sen** an other man travaile, (ii, 265)
 Hou that **he mihte** his cause **availe To gete** him gold withoute faile. (v, 229)
- Bihoven** X Bot **it behoveth** nocht **to seke** Only the werre for worschipe, (vii, 3600)
 A Bot what king wole his regne save, Ferst **him behoveth forto have** After the god and his believe (vii, 3913)
 A. D **A king behoveth ek to fle** The vice of Prodegalite. (vii, 2025)⁽ⁱ⁾
 Mi Sone, **a man** to beie him pes **Behoveth soffre** as Socrates Ensample leftte. (iii, 639)⁽ⁱⁱ⁾
- Deignen** A. Whan he himself so wolde drecche, That to so vil a povere wrecche **Him deigneth schewe** such simplese (i, 2097)⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾
 Bot so fortune upon hire whiel On hih **me deigneth nocht to sette**, (vi, 292)
 B. And yit **you deigneth nocht to plie**, Ne toward me youre Ere encline. (iv, 3564)
- Fallen** A. And if **it falle** in eny stede **A man to lese** so his galle, (iii, 702)
 As he which was chivalerous, **It fell him to ben amerous**, (v, 653)
- Happen** A. And who that **happeth hir to finde**, (viii, 1127)
 Whan comen is the somer heete, **It hapneth tuo men forto meete**, (vii, 3212)
- Greven** X In hih astat it is a vice To go to lowe, and in service **It grieveth forto go** to hye, (iv, 1035)
 A. **It grieveth** be diverse weie In desespier **a man to falle**, (iv, 3686)
- Helpen** X Bot if thin happ therto be schape, **It mai nocht helpe forto rape**. (iii, 1678)
It halp no mercy **forto crie** To him which whilom dede non; (vii, 3484)
- In Gower when the verb 'helpen' is used as an impersonal construction, generally it appears as the Type. A.
- A. And **forto fiele and forto go. It helpeth man of bothe tuo**: (iv, 2547)
 Forthi **it helpeth** at som tyde **A man to slepe**, as it belongeth, (iv, 3128)
It helpeth nocht **a man be bore** If goddes Sone were unbore; (v, 1747)
- Liken** A. And if **thee like to be** myn, That stant upon thin oghne wille. (i, 950)
 And if it falle as for a time **Hir liketh** nocht **abide** bime. (iv, 1181)
 Bot if **it like you to telle** Hou suche goddes come aplace, (v, 734)
- Listen** A. **it list him to comune** Part of his good, (v, 984)
 Of Pite **list hem** nocht **to speke**. (iii, 1110)
 And **me lest** nothing **forto slepe**. (iv, 3229)

The following examples show the transitional cases from the impersonal to the personal.

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- (i) This example shows clearly the transitional case from the impersonal to the personal construction.
 (ii) In Gower, generally, the verb 'behoven' takes the prepositional infinitive. The simple infinitive is used after 'behoveth'.
 (iii) It is worth noticing that the simple infinitive is used after the verb 'deigneth'.

If **thou** the vices **lest to knowe**, Mi Sone, it hath noght ben unknowe, (iii, 1)
 thanne **a king list** noght **to plie** (vii, 4023)

Cf. **The lestyth** nat a louere **be**. (Chaucer, L. G. W. Prol. 490)

Longen In Gower the transitional examples from the impersonal to the personal can be seen.

A of tho pointz **me longeth To wite** plainly what thei meene. (iii, 2760)

For in non other wise **hem longeth To love**, bot thei profit finde; (v, 2526)

A. D **min herte** sore **longth To wite** what it wolde mene. (vi, 2414)

D **He ne longeth** al so sore, **To wite** what him schal betide, (ii, 1424)

Cf. Thanne **longen folk to goon** on pilgrimages (Chaucer, Prol. 12)

Hasten A And he with spore in horse side **Him hasteth** faste **forto ride**, (i, 2301)

Lacken A What bargain scholde a man assaie, What that **him lacketh forto paie?** (viii, 2431)

Neden X The cause whi it changeth so **It needeth** nought **to specific**, (Prol. 32)

It nedeth noght **to make** it queinte (i, 283)

A For whanne a man is most above, **Him nedeth** most **to gete** him love. (iii, 1835)

The following instance shows a transitional case.

B. D **This tale nedeth** noght **be glosed**. (viii, 3786)

As we have examined, generally in Gower the verb ‘**neden**’ takes the prepositional infinitive. There is an instance where the simple infinitive is used after **neden**.

X **It nedeth take** no witesse, (viii, 2391)

Sitten In Gower the construction ‘it sit wel...’ appears with prepositional infinitive as follows:

B For **it sit wel** in alle wise **A kniht to ben** of hih empeise (iv, 1897)

It sit him wel to ben avised, (vii, 1717)

So **sit it wel a king** therefore **To loven** hem that trouthe mene; (vii, 2686)

Stonden The verb ‘**stonden**’ shows an A construction changing to a D construction in Gower.

A **hem stant** no doute **To voide** with a soubtil hond. (ii, 2124)

For **it** with kinde nevere **stod A man to yelden** evel for good. (v, 4925)

D **The remenant of folk** aboute Unethe **stonden** eny doute **To werre** ech other and to slee.
 (iii, 2536)

Suffisen A **To studie** upon the worldes lore **Sufficeth** now withoute more; (Prol. 323)

Me thenkth **it oughte ynow suffise** Withouten other covoitise **To love** such on and **to serve**, (v, 2607)

Thurfen A **Thee thar** noght **drede** tant ne quant. (ii, 2430)

him thar noght **be** reson **pleigne**. (vii, 2344)

D Me semeth that **thou tharst** noght **care**, (iv, 1774)

Thynken A So that **thoghte hem** for the beste **To fle**, for there was no reste: (i, 2631)

And sein, **it thoghte him** gret pite **To se** so worthi on as sche, (ii, 1239)

Owe A **It oghte a kinges herte stere**, (vii, 3202)

D **Thou oghtest wel to be comended.** (iv, 1794)

Adjective phrases are used as impersonal constructions. The infinitive is the subject of the adjective as the predicate.

Betre ben X **Betre is to winke** than to loke. (i, 383)

A For **me were betre** fulli **die**, (iv, 2751)

That **him were betre to be ded.** (v, 5037)

That **betre him were have** drunke noght And al his bred have eten dreie; (vi, 374)

Dr. M. Masui says: I was not able to find the construction **me were better**, yet there appears at least one very analogous example, namely, '**hem were bet**' (**Some Observations on the Construction of Preference in Chaucer**). At least three examples are met with in Gower. As seen in the above examples, the construction '**me were betre**' takes both a simple and a prepositional infinitive.

Best ben A And in the meene while he caste What thing **him were best to do:** (v, 5330)

And therupon his wit he caste What thing **him were best to feigne**, (vii, 2946)

And axen him if that he wiste What thing **hem were best to done**, (ii, 2186)

X whan **best were To speke** of love, (iv, 343)

Lef ben The impersonal construction '**me were lief**' is met with in Gower.

A Anon I am with covoitise So smite, that **me were lief To ben** in holi cherche a thief;
(v, 7132)

Levere ben There are comparatively many examples where '**levere ben**' takes a simple infinitive or a prepositional infinitive.

(i) The prepositional infinitive after '**levere ben**'.

A That **him was levere forto chese**⁽ⁱ⁾ Than his oghne bodi forto lese, (ii, 3291)

For as of me this wol I seie, That **me is levere forto deie** Than live after this sorghful day. (iii, 1479)

For **him was levere** in the bataille, He seith, **to deien** as a knyht, Than forto lyve in al his myht (iv, 1928)

(ii) The simple infinitive after '**levere ben**'.

A For **me were levere lacke** breth Than speken of hire name amis. (ii, 530)

(iii) The construction '**it were to me levere**' is used.

C And so **it were to me levere** Than such a sihte forto leve, (vi, 200)

(i) '**me were levere**' is a syntactic unit in Gower as well as in Chaucer, but the following instance is met with.

And seith that **levere him is to chese** Hise children bothe forto lese, (v, 4315)

In the **Havelok the Dane** three kind of expressions are met with.

For **him wore leuere** þat his lif Him wore reft, þan she in blame Felle, or lauthe ani shame. (1671-3)

þat **were him leuere** to ben ded. (1193)

Leuere was him to be forsworen þan drenchen me, and ben forlorn; (1423-4)

Levest ben A on of hem schal sein What thing **him is lievest to crave.** (ii, 329)

Kyng Salomon, which hadde at his axinge Of god what thing **him was levest to crave,**
(Praise, 29)

Loth ben D **Thei weren** bothe **loth to rise,** (v, 3551)

The fader and the moder bothe **To leve** here douhter **weren lothe.** (v, 5606)

Cf. For **hym were looth** byiaped **for to be.** (Chaucer, **Manciple's T.** 41)

Wo ben X It is a comfort, as men sein, To him the which **is wo besein To sen** an other in his peine,
(ii, 261)

Worth ben X **To hasten is noght worth** a kerse; (iii, 1652)

A And whan **he was so mochel worth To stonden** in a mannes stede. (vi, 1624)

菅野正彦: Havelok the Dane の言語と表現

Masahiko Kanno: The Language and Expression of Havelok the Dane

Havelok the Dane⁽¹⁾ は、1285年頃、north-midland 方言を用いて書かれたものであり、Norse の影響を強く言語に示している作品である。⁽²⁾ この物語はあまり教養の高くない聴衆 (audience) のために作られたものである。物語の背景描写も13世紀イギリスの下層階級の生活を反映しているものが見られるのも特徴である。後のチャーサーやガッアーのように、宮廷人を対象にして書かれたものではなく、主人公 Havelok と同じ階層に属する人々を対象にしていることが理解される。語り掛ける口調の中にも、Fil me a cuppe of ful god ale (14) と非常に親しみ深い調子を感じられる。特に聴衆が感心を抱いて聞き入る戦闘と冒険に話の中心が置かれ、女主人公 Goldeboru も単にプロットとしての域を出ず、⁽³⁾ 'sentimentality' は完全に無視された作品になっているため、単純な気がしないでもない。実際のイギリスの地名なども使われているけれども、歴史的な事実とは一応切り難して理解されるものである。

I. Havelok the Dane の一つの特徴は、Norse の影響を強くうけていることである。語彙の上から Old Norse に関係の深いものを例挙し、品詞別に分類すると次の様である。

1) Noun:

ark (2018) a chest, box ON. **örk** (gen. **arkar**),

(1) **Havelok the Dane**, in **Middle English Metrical Romances**, ed. W. H. French and C. B. Hale, Vol. I., New York, 1964.

(2) The original was composed about 1270 in a Northeast Midland dialect (Lincolnshire), at the southern limit of the Northern dialect where Scandinavian influence was very strong. But before coming to us it evidently passed through scribes of Southern origin; thus the dialect is very mixed: in it are found forms from the North, the Midlands and the South. (F. Mossé, **Handbook of Middle English**, tr. by J. A. Walker, Baltimore, 1952) p.366.

(3) R. M. Wilson, **Early Middle English Literature**, Methuen, 1951. p.224.