

common than the past participle. In the majority of cases (113 out of 115) the adverbial appositive participle refers to the subject of the finite verb and occurs all but 24 out of 113 times after, rather than before, the finite verb. The adverbial appositive participle which does not refer to the subject of the finite verb is extremely rare, occurring only twice.

In both the adjectival and adverbial uses of the appositive participle the participial phrase is occasionally connected with its head word or the main sentence by the conjunction *and*, the insertion of which may take place either for the sake of metre or on account of the looseness of the connection between the participle and its head word. This practice is also common in *PPI*.

(5) The absolute participle is comparatively frequent in the *Gawain*-poet. In this use the past participle is far more common than the present participle. Neither the nominative absolute or the dative absolute occurs in the *Gawain*-poet since all but one absolute participle are found with the substantives whose case it is impossible to tell. The one exception is 'outtaken' with the pronoun in the oblique case. However, this seems to be used as a preposition. Further, the absolute participle introduced by the prepositions *with*, *without*, *er* (=before), and *by* are not infrequently found in the *Gawain*-poet. This type of absolute participle is not common in ModE except when used after *with*.

4. The compound forms of the participle, denoting the past time-sphere and the passive voice can not be found in the works of the *Gawain*-poet and his contemporaries.

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164 are present participles and 328 are past participles. Thus the past participle is twice as frequent as the present participle.

2. The form of the participle in the *Gawain*-poet is clearly characteristic of the Northern and North Midland dialects. That is, the present participle normally ends in *-ande*, while *-yng* as a present participle ending is extremely rare, occurring only four times. Of the past participle ending, *-en* (in the case of strong verbs) and *-ed* (in the case of weak verbs) are regular in the *Gawain*-poet. The old past participle prefix *i-* (<OE *ge-*) occurs only once.

3. (1) The substantival use of the participle occurs only six times, all of which are past participles.

(2) As a subjective predicative the present participle is found only twice in the *Gawain*-poet and is placed in juxtaposition with a predicative adjective. The past participle in this function is also very rarely found after *seem*, *turn*, and *thyze* (=grew).

As an objective predicative the present participle occurs only once, while the past participle is fairly common after verbs of perception, mental action, causation, etc.

(3) The attributive use of the participle is quite common in the *Gawain*-poet, both the present and the past participle being almost equally frequent. In particular, the *Gawain*-poet's frequent use of the present participle in this function is worth noting in view of the fact that the attributive use of the present participle is not at all common in his contemporaries. Besides, the present participle is most frequently used in the attributive function.

In the *Gawain*-poet the attributive participle is normally placed before its head word. Occasionally, however, it is placed after its head word, owing probably to the demands of the rhyme, metre, and alliteration.

(4) The appositive use of the participle is by far the most common in the *Gawain*-poet. The adjectival use of the appositive participle is more common than its adverbial use. What is interesting here is that in the former use the past participle is far more frequent than the present participle, while in the latter the present participle is more

Such constructions as these are by no means common in ModE.

4. Tense and Voice

In ModE the participle often uses the compound forms to denote the past time-sphere and the passive voice. But the same cannot be said of the ME participle. According to Trnka, the compound forms of the participle, denoting the past time-sphere (e.g. *having done*) and the passive voice (e.g. *being done*), are fully "developed as late as the 16th century owing to the imitation of the Latin constructions."⁴⁰ In fact, only the simple forms, i.e. the present participle and the past participle occur in the *Gawain*-poet and his contemporaries, no compound forms of the participle being found. As to the compound participle, denoting the past time-sphere, Trnka quotes its early example from P. Sidney *Arcadia* 197: For *having* quite *lost* the way of noblenes, he strave to clime to the height of terriblenes. In addition, Biese's study of this type of compound participle in the works of Shakespeare and his contemporaries clearly shows that this construction "seems to have made its entry into English in the middle of the 16th centry but does not seem to have become more commonly used until the last quarter of the century."⁴¹

Concerning the passive present participle of the compound type, Mustanoja states that it begins to appear in the 15th century, and cites the following example: by means whereof he *being sore febeled and debrused*, now falle to greet age and poverty (Ellis *Letters* II i 96 [1422]).⁴²

5. Summary

What has been discussed in this paper will be summarized as follows:

1. In the *Gawain*-poet's works (6,087 lines) the participle used as a verbal adjective is quite frequent, occurring almost twice as often as in *PPl* (7,242 lines). Of the 492 examples found in the *Gawain*-poet,

⁴⁰ *Op. cit.*, p. 93.

⁴¹ Y.M. Biese, *Notes on the Compound Participle in the Works of Shakespeare and his contemporaries*, pp. 16-7.

⁴² *Op. cit.*, p. 549.

(XIII. 278-80) As in aparaille and in porte proude amonges the peple, Otherwyse than he hath wyth herte or syzte shewynge; *Hym willynge* that alle men wende he were that he is nouzte.

This is clearly a remnant of the old dative absolute and the only instance that occurs in *PPl* (B-text). This may indicate that the absolute case had not changed permanently from dative to nominative before the close of the 14th century. Needless to say, the construction with the pronoun in the oblique case is impossible in PE. Chaucer employed the nominative absolute (e. g. *TC* I. 309-10 *she*, this in black, *liking to Troilus*, O'er alle thing he stood for to beholde), but not a single instance of the nominative absolute can be found either in the *Gawain*-poet's works or in *PPl*.

The absolute participle is often introduced by the preposition *with*. This introductory preposition is "the sign of subordination to the principal verb."³⁸ Mustanoja says, "Even as early as OE, an absolute construction is not infrequently introduced by the preposition *mid* (*with*), and in ME this is fairly common."³⁹ I have found 11 examples (with 14 participles) in the *Gawain*-poet. All of them are found with the past participle.

Purity 987 *With lyzt-lovez vplyfte* pay loved hym swype; *Patience* 197-202 Al blysnande whyt wat3 hir beau biys, ... *With lappez large*, ... *Dubbed* with double perle and *dyzte*.

Other examples: *Gawain* 187-9, 218-20, 574-7, 744-5, 1366-8; *Purity* 38, 643; *Patience* 237-9, 253-5.

Very rarely, however, the absolute phrase with the past participle is also introduced by *without*, *er* (=before), and *by*. Only four examples occur in the *Gawain*-poet's works:

Gawain 315 For al dares for drede *withoute dynt schewed*; *Ib.* 2333 I haf a stroke in pis sted *without stryf hent*; *Ib.* 2277 And pou, *er any harme hent*, argez in hert; *Purity* 1131 And he may polyce hym at pe prest, *by penance taken*.

³⁸ Curme, *Syntax* 20. 3.

³⁹ *Op. cit.*, pp. 116-7. Incidentally this introductory preposition is also found with a non-participial phrase, as in *Pearl* 183 *Wyth y3en open and mouth ful clos* I stod as hande as hawk in halle.

Doubtful examples³⁶: *Gawain* 187-8; *Pearl* 203-4; *Purity* 1072; 1389-92.

In three instances the absolute construction is connected with the rest of the sentence by 'and'. The absolute phrase may thereby be obscured. But this practice is said to be very common in ME.³⁷

Purity 1402-4 Sturmen trumpen strake steven in halle, Aywhere by þe woves wrasten krakkes, *And brode baneres perbi blusnande of gold.*

Other examples: *Purity* 1387-8; *Gawain* 1359-61.

There are also instances in which the past participle may be used as a preposition:

Purity 356-7 Schal no flesch upon folde by fonden on lyve, *Outtaken* yow aȝt in þis ark staued; *Ib.* 1512-3 And of my reme þe rychest to ryde wyth myselven, *Outtaken* bare two.

OED explains this prepositional use of 'outtaken' as follows:

Originally used in concord with a sb. or pron. in the absolute case (=Latin ablative absolute), e. g. exceptā sūa māt̃re, ME 'his moder outtaken', 'out-taken his moder'. Both these orders were in use, but the latter was the prevailing one; and the position and effect of a participle being equivalent to those of a preposition, it became at length identified with the prepositions.

As may already have been noticed, in the works of the *Gawain*-poet all the absolute participles but one are found with the substantives whose case it is impossible to tell. The one exception (*Purity* 357) is the prepositional use of the absolute participle with the pronoun in the oblique case. This cannot be considered to be an example of the dative absolute since this pronoun is followed by the attributive phrase. In *PPI*, however, there is one example in which the pronominal subject of the participle is in the oblique case:

³⁶ Those instances may be explained as occurring through the mere omission of the copula *be* found in the preceding sentence, as in: *Purity* 1072 Bot much clener watz hir corse, *God Kynned perinne.*

³⁷ C. H. Ross, *op. cit.*, p. 262. I have found three examples thus used in *PPI* (XII. 288-9; XIV. 231-2; XIX. 163).

used with a pronoun as subject. With these facts in mind, we can now examine instances of the absolute participle in the works of the *Gawain*-poet. As far as my observation goes, about 27 examples of the absolute participle construction are found in the *Gawain*-poet's works, which contain 33 participles. Incidentally I have found nine examples in *PPL*.³³ According to A. S. Irvine,³⁴ in Wycliffe's original English writings (1,840 pages) there are about 15 instances of the absolute participle. Hence it may be said that the *Gawain*-poet favours the absolute participle to some degree. The noteworthy thing is that the present participle is very rarely used as the absolute participle, since there are only five instances compared with 28 of the past participle. The examples quoted below will require little comment, being the common absolute participle constructions:

Examples with the present participle: *Gawain* 450 *as pou hatz hette in pis halle, herande pise knyghtes*³⁵; *Patience* 251 *pe folk zet haldande his fete, pe fysh hym tyd hentes*.

Other examples: *Gawain* 866-8 ; *Purity* 1045.

Examples with the past participle: *Pearl* 433-4 'Cortayse Quen', *penne sayde pat gaye, knelande to grounde, folde vp hyr face*³⁵; *Gawain* 72-5 *When pay had waschen worpyly pay wenten to sete, pe best burne au abof, as hit best semed, When (=Queen) Guenore, ful gay, grayped in pe myddes, Dressed on pe dere des, dubbed al aboute*.

Other examples: *Gawain* 210-12 (2 exs.), 600, 888-93 (4 exs.), 1233, 1733-41; *Pearl* 1035-6; *Purity* 8321-2; *Patience* 473-5.

³³ In his above-mentioned article (p. 255), Ross remarks that only three examples occur in *PPL* (B-text), but in reality as many as nine examples are found: XI. 297-8; XV. 222-3; XVII. 212; XIX. 161-2; XX. 341; XII. 288-9; XIV. 231-2; XIX. 163; XIII. 278-80. In this article there is no mention of the *Gawain*-poet's use of the absolute participle.

³⁴ *Op. cit.*, p. 10.

³⁵ In those two instances the participle precedes its logical subject, owing probably to the needs of the rhyme (in *Pearl* 434) and to alliteration (in *Gawain* 450).

in the works of the *Gawain*-poet. By contrast, it occurs as often as 9 times in *PPI*.²⁸

In ModE the appositive participle which is equivalent to an adverbial clause is occasionally preceded by a conjunction, as in: *While reading* I fell asleep (q. Zandvoort); For lovers hours are long, *though seeming short* (Shakespeare, *Venus and Adonis* 842). In the *Gawain*-poet's works, however, is found no instance of the type 'Conjunction+Participle'. This type of construction seems to make its first appearance in the 16th century.²⁹

3. 5 Absolute Participle

The absolute participle has been one of the much-debated problems of English syntax. Today it is generally agreed³⁰ that the absolute participle, not very frequent in OE, appears as the dative absolute in imitation of the Latin ablative absolute, as in: *gefultumigendum Gode* (L *dēo favente*), *him sprecendum* hi comon (L *eo loquento veniunt*). According to C. H. Ross in his important article "The Absolute Participle in Middle and Modern English,"³¹ the construction, practically non-existent, especially in poetry in the first period (1150-1350) of ME, became frequent in the second period (1350-1500). As regards the case of the absolute participle which changed its form from dative to nominative in ME, Ross concludes that its change "began to take place before the close of the thirteenth century and was finally effected during the second quarter of the fifteenth century."³² It must be remembered, however, that, owing to the coalescence of the dative with the nominative in early ME, the only instance in which we can clearly distinguish the case of the absolute participle in ME occurs when the participle is

²⁸ See Prol. 205-6 (2 exs.); IV. 129-30 (2 exs.), 145; XI. 297-8; XVIII. 297-8; XIX. 152-4 (2 exs.).

²⁹ O. P. Rhyne, "Conjunction + Participle Group in English," *Studies in Philology*, IV, p. 8. His earliest example of it is 1552 from *Ralph Roister Doister* I. 2. 187: For that maketh me eche, *where so highly favored*.

³⁰ See M. Callaway, Jr., *The Absolute Participle in Anglo-Saxon*, p. 30; Quirk & Wrenn, *Old English Grammar*, p. 66; H. Sweet, *Anglo-Saxon Primer*, § 87; Mustanoja, *op. cit.*, p. 559; etc.

³¹ In *PMLA*, VIII (1893), pp. 260-1.

³² *Ibid.*, p. 302.

Examples of the present participle (16 exs.): *Gawain* 1595 And he *zarrande* hym *zelde*; *Purity* 715 Al *sykande* he sayde; *Patience* 186 *solberande* he routes; *Pearl* 111-2 *Swangeande* swete þe water con swepe, Wyth a rownande rourde.

Other examples: *Gawain* 222, 731, 1068, 1212, 1796, 2126; *Pearl* 1018, 1175; *Purity* 953-6, 1691; *Patience* 433.

Examples of the past participle (8 exs.): *Gawain* 729 Ner *Slayn* wyth þe slete he sleted in his yrmes; *Pearl* 228-9 *Pyzt* in perle, þat precios pyce On wyper half water com doun þe schore; *Purity* 1673 þou, *remued* fro monnes sunes, on mor most abide.

Other examples: *Gawain* 714; *Pearl* 629; 1193; *Purity* 750, 1208.

Only very infrequently is the adverbial appositive participle coordinated with the main sentence by the conjunction *and*. Three examples are found in *Gawain*-poet:

Pearl 484-6 Þou cowþez neuer God nauper plese ne pray,... *And quen mad on þe fyrst day!* (= made queen on the first day)²⁶; *Purity* 929-31 fyne þou never,... *And ay goande on yor gate*; *Gawain* 2180-1 Hit hade a hole on þe end and on ayper syde, *And overgrown with greese in glodes anywhere*.

So far I have discussed the adverbial appositive participles which refer to the subject of the main sentence. There are, however, two instances in the *Gawain*-poet, in which this is not the case:

Gawain 830-1 *Alle hasped in his hez wede* to halle þay hym wonnen; *Purity* 296 *And ay glydande wyth his God* his grace watz þe more.

In the first instance the participle refers to the object of the finite verb and in the second it refers to the dependent possessive contained in the subject of the finite verb. With regard to this type of construction, Trnka says, "The pronominal subject of the absolute participle is often left out in Middle and Early Modern English, the context making the reference clear."²⁷ As shown above, this construction is extremely rare

²⁶ H. Koziol seems to consider that this is a doubtful example of the absolute participle found in an exclamatory sentence (*op. cit.*, p. 122).

²⁷ *On the Syntax of the English Verb from Caxton to Dryden*, p. 89.

3. 4 (2) The Adverbial Use

In the *Gawain*-poet's works I have found about 115 appositive participles which seem to be equivalent to a dependent adverbial clause of time, manner, attendant circumstances, etc. Of this number, 66 are present participles and 49 are past participles. Thus the present participle is used more frequently in this function than the past participle. The same is true of Langland's use of the adverbial appositive participle in *PPl* (the present participle, 51; the past participle, 38).

In the *Gawain*-poet the adverbial appositive participle, in 113 instances out of 115, refers to the subject of the main sentence and, of the 113 instances thus used, 89 take the post-position in relation to the main verb. A few instances are given below:

Gawain 972 þe alder he haylses, *heldande* ful lowe; *Purity* 445 Hit saztled on a softe day *sykande* to grounde; *Patience* 169 þenne bispeke þe spakest, *dispayred* wel nere; *Gawain* 1151 Der drof in þe dale, *doted* for drede; etc.

According to Mustanoja, "When a participle occurs appositively after short finite verbs which have lost their emphasis and colour through frequent use, such as *come*, *fall*, *go*, *lie*, *sit*, and *stand*, the participle tends to become the carrier of the main verbal idea, while the finite verb tends to become reduced into a mere auxiliary."²⁵ In the *Gawain*-poet, this type of expression is not very common, occurring six times after *come*, *lie*, and *stand*:

Examples of the present participle (4 exs.): *Gawain* 1898 Renaud com *richchande*; *Ib.* 1757 þe lady luflich com *lazande* swete; *Ib.* 2266 As hit com *glydande* adoun; *Patience* 457-8 þe gome...Lys *loltrande* þer-inne. Cf. *PPl* VIII. 62 I went wide-where *walkyng* myn one.

Examples of the past participle (2 exs.): *Gawain* 1195 þe lede lay *lurked* a ful longe quyle; *Ib.* 2334-5 þat dozty...stondez *Armed*, ful a3lez.

Of the 113 adverbial appositive participles which refer to the subject of the main sentence, 24 take the pre-position in relation to the main verb, perhaps partly because of the needs of alliteration or metre:

²⁵ Mustanoja, *op. cit.*, p. 557.

The same sort of thing applies to Langland's use of the adjectival appositive participle in *PPI* in which 44 are past participles and 16 are present participles. In Wycliffe's original English writings the past participle occurs almost twice as often in this use as the present participle.²³ Callaway²⁴ points out that the use of the present participle as an adjectival appositive is largely due to Latin influence, whereas the past participle in this function is probably of native origin.

In the *Gawain*-poet the adjectival appositive participle is almost always accompanied by an object or adjunct:

Examples of the present participle (13 exs.): *Gawain* 268-9 I have a hauberghe at home... and a scharp spere, *schinande* bryzt; *Purity* 293 Penne in worlde watz a wyze *wonyande* on lyue; *Ib.* 1535 Non oper forme bot a fust *faylande* þe wryste, Pared on þe parget, purtrayed lettres.

Other examples: *Gawain* 305, 857, 1818; *Pearl* 446, 700, 1039-40; *Purity* 592, 783, 1389, 1410, 1482.

Examples of the past participle (130 exs.): *Patience* 386 Do dryue out a decre, *demed* of my seluen; *Pearl* 978 launceȝ so lufly *leued*; *Gawain* 159 vpon silk bordes *barred* ful ryche; *Ib.* 2242 And pou knowez þe couenauntez *kest* vus bytwene; etc.

Very infrequently this type of appositive participle is connected with its head word by the conjunction *and*. Only two examples of this occur in the *Gawain*-poet:

Purity 144 In on so ratted a *robe* and *rent* at þe sydez; *Ib.* 1405-7 Burnes...served þerwyth, Lyfte *logges* þerover and on lofte *corven*.

This practice may be explained as occurring because of the looseness of the connection between the appositive participle and its head word.

There is one possible instance in which the adjectival appositive participle is not accompanied by an object or adjunct.

Pearl 700 For non *lyuande* to þe is justyfyet (=no one living is justified before thee).

²³ Cf. A. S. Irvine, *op. cit.*, pp. 26-7.

²⁴ *Op. cit.*, p. 298.

of more than one interpretation, with one shading into the other. In addition, the co-ordinate use of the appositive participle may be more adequately discussed under its adverbial use, since according to Callaway it denotes either an accompanying circumstance or repeats the idea of the principal verb. In fact, Callaway²⁰ himself seems to think that this co-ordinate use is adverbial. Such being the case, the appositive participle can be largely divided into the following two uses which are more or less distinct: (1) the adjectival use, in which the participle is equivalent to a dependent adjectival (relative) clause (e.g. *Purity* 1389 *Pat watz a palayce of pryde passande alle oper*; *Gawain* 2320 *Neuer syn pat he watz burne borne of his moder*) and (2) the adverbial use, in which it is equivalent to a dependent adverbial clause, and denotes time, manner, means, attendant circumstances, etc. (e.g. *Patience* 186 *Sloberande he routes*; *Pearl* 1193-4 *As helde, drawn to Goddez present, To mo of his mysterys I had ben dryuen*).

According to Mustanoja, "in the course of ME the appositive participle becomes quite common, possibly supported by the parallel French and Latin usage, although the role of foreign influence is sometimes exaggerated."²¹ In the *Gawain*-poet the appositive use of the participle is the most common of all the uses of the participle. Of the 491 examples of the participle, 259 or 52.7 per cent are used appositively, of which 79 are present participles and 180 past participles. Much the same is said of Langland's use of the appositive participle in *PPl*. About 50 per cent or 149 examples of the participle are appositive, of which 67 are present participles and 82 past participles. These statistics from the *Gawain*-poet and Langland seem to agree with Koziol's statement that the appositive past participle is quite common in ME alliterative poetry.²²

3. 4 (1) The Adjectival Use

In the *Gawain*-poet the adjectival use of the appositive participle occurs far more frequently with the past participle than with the present participle, there being 130 of the former compared with 14 of the latter.

²⁰ *Op. cit.*, pp. 144-9.

²¹ *Op. cit.*, p. 555.

²² *Grundzüge der Syntax der Mittelenglischen Stabreimdichtungen*, pp. 110-11.

does not place the alliterated word in the final position:

Gawain 633 Gawan watz for gode knawen, and as golde *pured*;
Purity 33 Forpy hyz not to heven in haterez *totorne*; *Ib.* 1134 And
polysed als playn as parchmen *schaven*.

The word-order 'substantive + participle' in the remaining examples may depend to some extent on the demands of the metre or rhythm, or may be consistent with his habit of often placing the attributive adjective after its head word, as in: *Purity* 4 combraunce *huge*; *Gawain* 288 pys giserne *ryche*; etc.

Gawain 800 So many pynakle *payntet* watz poudred ayquere; *Purity* 1758 Segges *slepande* were slayne; *Ib.* 554 As pe beryl *bornyst* byhouez be clene.

Other examples: *Gawain* 1512; *Pearl* 926; *Purity* 41, 838, 1155.

3. 4 Appositive Use

As already stated at the beginning of Section 3, a participle is used appositively when "the connection between the participle and its principal is so loose that the two seem to constitute two independent ideas."

According to Callaway,¹⁹ the appositive participle has three chief uses:

1. The Adjectival, in which it is equivalent to a Dependent Adjectival (Relative) clause, and denotes either an action or a state;
2. The Adverbial, in which it is equivalent to a Dependent Adverbial clause, and denotes time, manner, means, etc.;
3. The Co-ordinate, in which it is equivalent to an Independent clause, and either denotes an accompanying circumstance or repeats the idea of the principal verb.

He further divides the adverbial use into six subclasses: 1. Modal (a. Manner, b. Means), 2. Temporal, 3. Causal, 4. Final, 5. Concessive, 6. Conditional. What we should note is that he relies entirely upon the contextual meaning of each case, in order to set up his minute classification. This kind of classification, however, often tends to be subjective, depending upon the reader's interpretation of the context. As a matter of fact, most examples of the appositive participle admit

¹⁹ *Op. cit.*, pp. 268-9.

verbs¹⁷ also occur in this function, as in ModE: a *travelled* person, a *fallen* angel, the *risen* sun, a *withered* flower, etc. In the *Gawain*-poet I have found eight possible examples of this type (including one example placed after its head word):

Gawain 22 In mony *turned* tyme; *Ib.* 305 his *bresed* brozez; *Ib.* 1740 Hir *pryuen* face (also *Purity* 298); *Purity* 367 Mony *clustered* clowde (also in 1951); *Ib.* 115 his fader *forloyne*¹⁸ (=his erring father) ...feched hem wyth strenpe; *Patience* 196 *doted* wrech.

The one example which deserves to be mentioned is:

Pearl 461-2 Ryzt so is vch a krysten sawle A *longande* lym to pe Mayster of myste (=A limb belonging to the Master of spiritual mysteries).

In this instance the present participle which we would naturally expect after its head word (cf. *Purity* 1096 alle *pat longed* to luper ful lodly he hated) is found before it, probably because of the needs of the metre. This may, therefore, be regarded as an example of the adjectival use of the appositive participle (cf. 3. 4 (1)) rather than as an attributive participle.

The attributive participle is occasionally placed after its head word. I have found 4 present participles and 13 past participles used attributively after their head word. On closer examination, most of them seem to be placed in this position by the demands of the rhyme, metre, and alliteration as might have been expected in the poems examined. Of the 17 examples 5 occur in rhyme:

Gawain 1207 Wyth lyppez smal *lazande* (rhyme: 1203 *hande*, 1205 *blande*); *Pearl* 865 Lest les pou leue my tale *farande* (rhyme: 867 *stande*, 869 *powstande*, 871 *fande*); *Ib.* 1136 purz hynde *torente* (rhyme: 1130 *went*, 1132 *spent*, 1134 *gent*).

Other examples: *Gawain* 1368; *Pearl* 1012.

In the following instances the word-order 'substantive + participle' may be due to alliteration, namely, to the fact that the *Gawain*-poet

¹⁷ Verbs denoting a passing from one place or state to another (cf. Zandvoort, *op. cit.*, p. 48).

¹⁸ Cf. *OED* s. v. *Forloin*, v. I. b. intr. (=To stray, err).

are past participles. In the *Gawain*-poet, then, the present participle and the past participle are almost equally frequent in this function. Of additional interest is the fact that the present participle is most frequently used as an attributive. By contrast, in *PPI*, there are only 93 attributive participles in the 7,242 lines, of which 20 are present participles and 73 are past participles. According to A. S. Irvine,¹⁵ in Wycliffe's original English writings, the attributive use of the participle is not common and the past participle is more frequent in this function than the present participle. Of the present participle used attributively in ME, Eikenel (*Streifzüge durch die Mittelenglische Syntax*, p. 274) says:

Zu attributiver Verwendung ist das neue Part. Praes. gewiss erst sehr spat gekommen. Bei Chaucer findet es sich noch selten.¹⁶

As compared with the above-mentioned statements, it is noteworthy that in the *Gawain*-poet the attributive use of the participle, particularly of the present participle, is quite frequent.

The attributive participle is usually placed before its head word, in which case the adjectival character is prominent. In other words, it functions as an ordinary adjective. In the *Gawain*-poet's works 135 participles (73 present and 62 past) occur in this position. To give a few examples:

Present Participle: *Gawain* 679 A *lowande* leder; *Pearl* 70 þe *gle-mande* glory; *Purity* 382 þe roȝ *raynande* ryg, þe *raykande* wowez; *Patience* 445 þe *dawande* day; etc.

Past Participle: *Gawain* 2412 myn *honoured* ladyez; *Pearl* 77 As *bornyst* syluer; *Purity* 330 þy *wedded* wyf; *Patience* 246 þat *schended* schyp; etc.

The attributive use of the past participle is mainly restricted in English to the transitive verbs as shown above. But the past participles of some intransitive verbs, classed as the so-called mutative

¹⁵ "The Participle in Wycliffe with Special Reference to His Original English Works," *University of Texas Bulletin: Studies in English*, IX (1929), pp. 23-4.

¹⁶ Quoted by A. S. Irvine, *op. cit.*, p. 24.

of perception, mental action, causation, etc. In the *Gawain*-poet's works the past participle is far more frequent in this function than the present participle, with 9 examples of the former and only one of the latter. The same is said of Langland's use of the participle in *PPl* where the past participle occurs 18 times and the present participle 7 times as an objective predicative. The only example of the present participle that seems to occur in the *Gawain*-poet is:

Pearl 836-7 þe apostel John *hym* sa3 as bare, *Lesande* þe boke with leuez sware.

It is evident from the context that the participle *lesande* refers to the object of the finite verb, not to its subject. After verbs of this kind, the present participle competes with the infinitive. According to Mustanoja,¹⁴ the use of the present participle as an objective predicative begins in OE under the influence of Latin, but even in ME it is less common than the infinitive. In the *Gawain*-poet the present participle in this function is found only once as shown above, its place usually being taken by the infinitive (e.g. *Pearl* 879 A note ful nwe I herde hem *warpe*).

As already stated, the past participle used as an objective predicative is fairly common in the *Gawain*-poet, occurring 19 times after verbs of perception, mental action, causation, etc.

Gawain 2341 halde (=consider) þe wel *payed*; *Ib.* 648-9 At þis cause þe kny3t comlyche hade Inþe inore half of his schelde hir ymage *depaynted*; *Pearl* 282 I trawed my perle *don* out of dawez; *Purity* 459-60 carayne he fyndez *kast* up on a clyffe.

Other examples: *Gawain* 1760, 2167, 2393 (2 exs.); *Pearl* 66, 179, 267, 385, 790-1, 871, 1032; *Purity* 197, 281-2; *Patience* 193 (2 exs.).

3. 3 Attributive Use

The attributive use of the participle is very common in the *Gawain*-poet, since there are about 151 examples (including one doubtful example) in the 6,087 lines. This constitutes approximately 31 percent of the total of participles used. Of the examles, 76 are present participles and 75

¹⁴ *Op. cit.*, pp. 552-3.

and (2) Objective Predicative when referring to the object of the finite verb.

3. 2 (1) Subjective Predicative

The participle as a subjective predicative is chiefly used in the progressive form (*be* + present participle), the perfect tenses (*have* + past participle, or *be* + past participle of certain intransitive verbs of motion, such as *go* and *come*) and the passive voice (*be* + past participle), none of which are treated in this section as stated at the beginning of this paper. The following instances consisting of '*be* + present participle', however, may hardly be regarded as examples of the progressive, usually defined as denoting "an action or an activity as in progress"¹² or as implying "an aspect of duration and continuity" and showing "that a happening is thought of as being in progress and occupying a limited time."¹³

Gawain 144-5 Both his wombe and his wast were worthily smale,
And all his fetures *folzande*, in forme pat he hade; *Purity* 1015-7
a sea *is* ...drovy and dym, and ded in hit kynde, Blo, *bluberande*,
and blak, unblype to neze.

In the first instance, '*folzande*' is naturally considered as being governed by 'were' of the preceding line since the two constructions are parallel. The second instance, of course, is construed with '*is*'. In these two instances the present participle is placed in juxtaposition with an ordinary adjective as predicative and seems to denote a state or a quality. In other words, the participle seems to be adjectival rather than verbal in character.

As a subjective predicative the past participle is also found, though very infrequently, with copulas other than *be*:

Gawain 802 Pat *pared* out of papure purely hit semed; *Ib.* 1662-3
how-se-euer pe dede turned *towrast*; *Purity* 1687 mony pik thyze
(=grew) *pryzt* umbe his lyre.

3. 2 (2) Objective Predicative

As an objective predicative the participle is usually found with verbs

¹² Zandvoort, *A Handbook of English Grammar*, p. 37.

¹³ Scheurweghs, *op. cit.*, p. 319.

se þe blypely *blent*; 3. Attributive—*Pearl* 112 *rownande* rourde; 4. Appositive—*Patience* 386 Do dryue out a decree, *demed* of my seluen; *Purity* 715 Al *sykande* he sayde; 5. Absolute—*Patience* 251 *þe folk zet haldande his fete*, þe fysch hym tyd hentes.

In the following pages an attempt will be made to inquire into these various uses of the participle as they occur in the works of the *Gawain*-poet.

3. 1 Substantival Use

Because of its adjectival nature the participle is infrequently used substantivally. I have found only six such examples in the *Gawain*-poet, all of which are past participles:

Pearl 368 my dere *endorde* (=adored one); *Purity* 114 Ay þe best byfore and bryztest *atyred*; *Ib.* 1628 Pou unhyles uch *hidde*; *Ib.* 1094-5 zet comen lodly to pat Lede, as lazares monye, Summe lepre, summe lome and lomerande blynde, *Poysened* (=poisoned), and perlatyk, and *pyned in fyres* (=those pained with fevers); *Patience* 163 *þo wery forwrozt* wyst no bote (=those men, worn out from overwork, saw no remedy).¹¹

In the last two instances, it would be more natural to take the whole participial phrase as expressing one concept than to separate the participle from the rest of the phrase. Those instances seem to be uncommon in both ME and ModE. In the following instance from *PPl*, the phrase 'past participle + object' as a whole expresses one concept and functions substantivally:

(VIII. 101-3) Blynde and bedered and *broken here membres*
...Han as pleyne pardoun as the plowman hym-self.

This may be said to be an extremely rare type in ME, and in ModE would be impossible.

3. 2 Predicative Use

As already stated, the predicative participle is subdivided into (1) Subjective Predicative when referring to the subject of the finite verb

¹¹ The construction 'wery + for- + past participle' is an idiomatic expression in ME. According to Mustanoja (*op. cit.*, pp. 560-3), it is a peculiarity of ME syntax, not attested in OE. As yet the origin and primary character of it have not been made completely clear.

its principal is so close that the two constitute one indivisible idea

- (b) *appositive*, when the connection between the participle and its principal is so loose that the two seem to constitute two independent ideas; or, to use the words of Sweet (§ 90), "When the subordination of an assumptive (attributive) word to its head-word is so slight that the two are almost coordinate, the adjunct-word is said to be in apposition to its head-word."¹⁰

In discussing the *Gawain*-poet's use of the participle, I have generally followed the classification of Callaway. Minor revisions, however, include the substantival use of the past participle, i.e. the past participle used as a substantive, which Callaway has not treated. Another change to be mentioned is that the subdivisions of the predicative participle are termed in this paper: (1) *subjective predicative* instead of *predicate nominative*, (having reference to the subject of the finite verb), and (2) *objective predicative* instead of *predicate accusative*, (having reference to the object of the finite verb), since ME, especially late ME, has neither 'nominative' nor 'accusative'.

The order of the treatment in this paper has also been altered as follows:

1. Substantival Use
2. Predicative Use
 - (1) Subjective Predicative
 - (2) Objective Predicative
3. Attributive Use
4. Appositive Use
5. Absolute Use

Examples from the *Gawain*-poet illustrating these various uses are as follows: 1. Substantival—*Purity* 1628 And pou unhyles vch *hidde* pat Hevenkyng myntes; 2 (1) Subjective Predicative—*Gawain* 1662-3 *pe dede* turned *towrast*; (2) Objective Predicative—*Pearl* 385 In blysse I

¹⁰ Cf. T. Matsunami, "Functional Development of the Present Participle in English: Part I," *Collected Papers published in Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of Faculty of Literature, Kyushu University*, 1966, pp. 318-9.

-ed in the latter are regular in the *Gawain*-poet. The noticeable thing here is that of all the past participles found in the *Gawain*-poet only one instance retains the old participle prefix *i-* (<OE *ġe-*): *Pearl* 904 *ichose*⁷, in which case *i-* is required metrically.⁸ Examples of this prefix are, however, not infrequent in *PPl* (e.g. VI. 184 *ybroken*; VIII. 1 *yrobed*; XIV. 232 *i-wrye*; etc.). Chaucer also uses this prefix fairly commonly in his poetry. According to Mustanoja,⁹ in ME the *y-*, *i-* is preserved only in the southern dialects. In the North it is not found at all. By the end of the 14th century *i-* becomes archaic in London English. In the South, including Kent, the prefix remains in use down to the 15th century. In this regard, too, the *Gawain*-poet's use of the past participle is characteristic of the Northern dialect.

3. Use

In his important article "The Appositive Participle in Anglo-Saxon" (*PMLA*, XVI, pp. 142-3), M. Callaway classifies the uses of a participle according to its relationship to its principal or semantic subject in the following manner.

A participle is:

- (A) *Independent* (or *absolute*) when its subject is grammatically independent of the rest of the sentence
- (B) *dependent* (or *conjoint*) when its subject is not grammatically independent of the rest of the sentence, but is intimately bound up therewith
 - (1) *predicative* (or *supplementary*), when the participle is joined to its subject by means of a verb
 - (a) *predicate nominative*
 - (b) *predicate accusative*
 - (2) *non-predicative* (or *assumptive*), when not joined to its subject by the instrumentality of a verb
 - (a) *attributive*, when the connection between the participle and

⁷ Those three examples are found in the Passive Voice which is not treated in this paper.

⁸ Gordon, *op. cit.*, p. 42.

⁹ *Op. cit.*, p. 447: Cf. Mossé, *Handbook of Middle English*, p. 80.

2. 1 Present Participle

In discussing the form of the present participle, Mustanoja states: The OE ending of the present participle, *-ende*, is found in ME in the form *-inde* (*-ende*) in the South and the Midlands and in the form *-ande* in the North and N Midlands. At the end of the 12th century and in the course of the 13th the ending of the participle becomes *-ing(e)* in the southern and central parts of the country.⁶

In the 13th century, particularly in southern and central England, the ending of the present participle had become the same as that of the gerund, namely *-ing(e)*. The *Gawain*-poet, however, does no more than foreshadow this change from the OE ending *-ende* to the late ME ending *-ing*. In the works of the *Gawain*-poet the *-ande* ending is the rule, while *-yng* as a participial ending occurs very rarely. That is, *-ande* occurs 157 times (e. g. *Gawain* 108 *talkande*; *Pearl* 14 *wyschande*; etc.), *-and* once (*Gawain* 181 *Fannand*), and *-ende* once (*Purity* 324 *quavende*). The ending *-yng*, however, occurs only four times: *Gawain* 753 *skyng*, 2126 *gruchyng*; *Pearl* 446 *beyng*, 1175 *skyng*.

Thus in the *Gawain*-poet the present participle shows the Northern ending and is quite distinct from the gerund ending *-yng*. On the other hand, in *PPI* written in the West Midland dialect in the second half of the 14th century, the ending *-yng(e)* is the rule and has completely supplanted its OE ending so that the form of the present participle is identical with that of the gerund: *-yng(e)* (103 exs.), *-ing(e)* (2), *-enge* (1), *-ende* (3), *-ande* (2), *-ant* (1). In Chaucer the present participle ends in *-ynge(e)*, while the endings *-ande*, *-ende* do not seem to occur.

2. 2 Past Participle

The past participle in the *Gawain*-poet occurs, in the case of strong verbs, under forms *-en* (*Gawain* 177 *brawen*), *-ne* (*Purity* 33 *totorne*), *-e* (*Gawain* 396 *funde*,⁷ 2069 *brayde*⁷), and, in the case of weak verbs, under forms *-ed* (*Patience* 386 *demed*), *-t* (*Gawain* 212 *burnyst*). *-de* (*Pearl* 140 *made*), *-d* (*Gawain* 596 *gyld*) or without any special ending (*Gawain* 902 *put*, 2092 *note*). Of these endings, *-en* in the former and

⁶ *Middle English Syntax*, Part I, p. 547 (in which Mustanoja seems to think that the ending *-ande* is due to the influence of the ON participle ending *-andi*).

a statistical reading of all instances of the participle in the corpus. Whenever it was considered useful, however, I have endeavoured to refer to the language of his contemporaries Langland, Chaucer, etc. and to explain historical matters in order to indicate the position of the *Gawain*-poet's usage.

The participles used to form the progressive tense (e.g. he is *going*), the perfect and pluperfect tenses (e.g. he has *seen*; he had *seen*), and the passive voice (e.g. he was *seen*) are not considered in this paper, because they are more properly discussed as parts of finite verbs. Accordingly, only those participles considered as 'verbal adjectives'³ (i.e. adjectives with certain verbal functions) are discussed in the present paper.

In the *Gawain*-poet there are at least 491 participles (163 present and 328 past) which must be analyzed to determine their syntactic properties. By contrast, there are about 291 participles (104 present and 187 past) found in the contemporary work of Langland—*Piers Plowman* (B-text) (hereafter referred to as *PPI*).⁴

Comparatively speaking, therefore, the participle is far more frequent in the *Gawain*-poet's works (6,087 lines) than in *PPI* (7,242 lines). In addition, two more obvious conclusions are drawn from a cursory examination of these participles found in the *Gawain*-poet. That is, the *Gawain*-poet reflects the common ME literary practice of a greater frequency of usage of the past participle than of the present participle.⁵ The *Gawain*-poet also has much the same uses for the participle as are found in ModE. Before going more deeply into such uses of the participle, the form of the participle in the *Gawain*-poet must first be studied.

2. Form

English has two participles, i.e. the present participle and the past participle.

³ Cf. G. Scheurweghs, *Present-day English Syntax*, p. 158.

⁴ For Langland's use of the participle see my article "Verbals in Langland (I): Participle," *Cairn* No. 8(1966), pp. 76-90.

⁵ Cf. Gordon, *op. cit.*, p. 83.

ON THE USE OF THE PARTICIPLE IN THE WORKS OF THE GAWAIN-POET

Matsuji Tajima

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1. Introductory Remarks

The main purpose of this paper is to describe the syntax of the participle in the ME alliterative poems attributed to the anonymous writer known as the *Gawain*-poet. The poems are: *Patience* (532 lines), *Purity* (or *Cleanness*, as it is also called) (1,812 lines), *Pearl* (1,212 lines), and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (hereafter referred to as *Gawain*) (2,531 lines),¹ which are generally considered to have been composed in the North-West Midland dialect in the second half of the 14th century (possibly "about 1360-95"²). The study is based upon

¹ The editions of the *Gawain*-poet used for this study are: *Patience*, ed. J. J. Anderson, Manchester (Manchester University Press), 1969; *Purity*, ed. R. J. Menner, New Haven (Yale University Press), 1920; *Pearl*, ed. E. V. Gordon, Oxford (Clarendon Press), 1963; *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, ed. J. R. Tolkien and E. V. Gordon, Oxford (Clarendon Press), 1968.

² Cf. Gordon (ed.), *Pearl*, p. 83.