the following ways: 'objective genitive + gerund', 'gerund + *of*-adjunct', and 'gerund + object'. Such patterns as 'determiner + gerund + *of*-adjunct' and 'determiner + gerund + object', however, never occur. Of the three patterns that do occur, the 'gerund + *of*-adjunct' (the *of*-adjunct after a gerund not preceded by any adjunct) is most frequent. This type of construction seems to be the most common pattern in 14th-century English. The most noteworthy fact, however, is that the gerund followed by a simple object—the regular construction in Present-day English—occurs at least six times (once in *Gawain* and five times in *Purity*). Relatively speaking, the construction is unusually often found in *Purity*.

4. Of the combination 'gerund + predicative', no examples occur in the works of the *Gawain*-poet or his contemporaries.

5. The use of adverbial adjuncts with the gerund is not common in the *Gawain*-poet, although a few examples are found in *Purity*, while it is fairly common in *Handl. Synne*, *PPl*, and *Mandev*.

6. There are no compound forms of either the perfect or the passive gerund not only in the *Gawain*-poet, but also in the other 14th-century writers.

7. The subject of the gerund is expressed in the genitive or possessive, and less frequently in the periphrastic genitive with *of*. There are no examples of the common case as the subject of the gerund. In the majority of cases, the subject of the gerund is not expressed in the *Gawain*-poet.

All things considered, it seems that most of the examples collected from the *Gawain*-poet's works are purely or strongly substantival in character; they do not share any of the verbal characteristics of the gerund. The fact that we can find several examples of the 'modern' gerund in *Purity* may, however, deserve attention, even though examples with verbal functions are practically non-existent in its companion poems—*Gawain*, *Pearl*, and *Patience*. To sum up, it might be safely said that the verbal nature of the gerund is, to some extent, developing in the *Gawain*-poet as it is in *Handl. Synne*, *PPl*, and *Mandev*. although it is still far from being fully developed.

(September 20, 1971)

While no examples can be found of the common case in the *Gawain*-poet's works, I have, nonetheless, found one clear instance of this type in *An Alphabet of Tales,* Part I, and two doubtful instances in *PPl* (B-Text).

> *An Alphabet of Tales* 11: 24-5 So he grawntid, and þe day of *hym commyng* drew nere; *PPl* VIII. 31-2 The wynde and the water and *the bote waggynge* Maketh the man many a tyme to falle and to stone (Cf. A: IX. 26 *the waggyng of the bot*; C: XI 34 *waggyng of the bote*); *Ib.* XVIII. 67 Ersonday about *sonne-rysyng* and sank with that til erthe.

The second example may be interpreted as a present participle although the reading of the corresponding lines in the A-text and the C-text makes us feel that *the bote* is the subject of the gerund *waggynge*. In the third example *sonne-rysyng* may be a compound consisting of "subject + gerund", although van der Gaaf does not agree. [56]

5. Summary

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

1. As the form of the gerund, the *-yng* is regular in the *Gawain*-poet, being distinct from the normal present participle ending *-and*. It may, however, be worthy of note that the gerund in *-ande* which is originally the present participle ending occurs once (*Purity* 751), perhaps owing to a functional confusion between the gerund in *-ing* and the present participle ending in *-and*.

2. The gerund, which was originally a substantive in *-ing*, has performed nearly all the functions of a substantive in the *Gawain*-poet. That is, the gerund is fairly common as subject and object of a finite verb, and especially common as the object of a preposition, and appears, although rarely, as predicative, attributive and in apposition. In addition, in the majority of cases, the gerund thus used is found with the definite and the indefinite article, adjectives, and other attributive adjuncts, including the periphrastic genitive with *of*. The gerund with a plural ending and the compound with a gerund are few in number. The genitive of a gerund never occurs.

3. In the *Gawain*-poet the object of the gerund is expressed in

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[56] *Op. cit.,* p. 71.

In the majority of cases, however, the subject is not expressed. This usually takes place when the subject of the gerund is general or indefinite (a); particularly when the subject of the gerund is identical with that of the main sentence (b); when the subject of the gerund is implied in some word in the sentence or easily inferred from the context (c); and when the gerund is purely or strongly substantival in character (d).

(a) *Pearl* 897-8 For neuer *lesyng* ne tale vntrwe Ne towched her tonge for no dysstresse; *Gawain* 1489 ʒet I kende yow of *kyssyng*; etc.

(b) *Gawain* 1979 With care and wyth *kyssyng* he carpez hem tille; *Purity* 3 Fayre formes myʒt he fynde in *forpering* his speche; etc.

(c) *Gawain* 924-5 In *menyng* of manerez mere Þis burne now schal vus bryng; *Purity* 1354-5 In *notyng* of nwe metes and of nice gettes, Al watz þe mynde of þat man on mischapen þinges; etc.

(d) *Pearl* 791 Arayed to þe *weddyng*; Gawain 853 þer *beddyng* watz noble; *Ib.* 2378 þer þe *falssyng*, foule mot hit falle; etc.

As the logical subject of the gerund, on the other hand, the common case also begins to be used at the beginning of the 14th century[53] as in: ModE "I insist upon Miss Sharp appearing" (q. *OED* s. v. *-ing*[1] 2). As a result of that, it is sometimes impossible or very difficult to tell whether a given *ing*-form is construed as a gerund or as a participle as in: I remember my grandfather *describing* this (q. Jespersen). The use of the common case as the subject of the gerund, however, shows that the verbal nature of the gerund, which was originally a pure substantive, was furthered in one more point. Jespersen[54] asserts that this kind of construction began to be frequent about 1700, and that it can be explained as a natural native development. In his article "The Gerund preceded by the Common Case" (*English Studies*, X, pp. 33-41 and 65-72), van der Gaaf insists that the construction was in use long before 1700, and that it is probably of French origin. And he substantiates his view by showing a number of quotations from 1350 on. Mustanoja[55] is of much the same opinion as van der Gaaf, though his earliest quotation is c. 1300 from Cursor 2397 þoru *corn* wanting.

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[53] Mustanoja, *op. cit.*, p. 574.   [54] *M. E. G.*, V, 9. 4. 1.
[55] *Op. cit.*, p. 574.

a new passive developed. This is the case with the gerund in the *Gawain*-poet. That is, in the *Gawain*-poet there are still no compound forms of the passive gerund. In the works of the *Gawain*-poet, the simple gerund is, for the most part, active in meaning as in:

> *Gawain* 1979 With care and with *kyssyng* he carpez hem tille;
> *Purity* 3 Fayre formes myʒt he fynde in *forpering* his speche.

Very infrequently, however, we do come across the simple gerund in a passive meaning. Three possible examples have come to hand:

> *Pearl* 452 If possible were her *mendyng*; *Purity* 1031 He most ay lyue in þat loʒe in *losing*[50] evermore; *Ib.* 1123 ho...wax ever in þe worle in *weryng* so olde.

With regard to the passive forms of the gerund, Mustanoja affirms that they are first recorded at the beginning of the 15th century: Ellis *Letters* (dated 1417) II. i. 59 without *being stolen*; Pecock *Fol. Donet* 126 in *beyng movid.*[51] As expected, there are no compound forms of the passive gerund in both the *Gawain*-poet's works and the other 14th-century works.

4. 5   Subject of the Gerund

Like a verb, the gerund may have a subject of its own, expressed or unexpressed. According to Mustanoja,[52] from OE down to the present day the subject of the gerund has been in the genitive case. The periphrastic genitive with *of* has also occurred with the gerund since the time of its appearance. In the *Gawain*-poet, the logical subject of the gerund, if any, is expressed by the genitive case or a possessive pronoun (a), and less frequently by the periphrastic genitive with *of* (b).

(a)   Gawain 323 Haþel, by heuen, *þyn askyng* is nys; *Pearl* 1049 purʒ woʒe and won *my lokyng* ʒede; *Pearl* 450 Bot vchon fayn of *opereʒ hafyng*; *Purity* 887 Þay lest of *Lotez loggyng* any lysoun to fynde; etc.

(b)   *Gawain* 2360-61 Now know I wel...þe *wowyng of my wyf*; *Ib.* 1953-4 Þay maden as mery as any men moʒten—With *laʒyng of ladies*; etc.

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[50] The earliest example of this use in *OED* is c. 950 from *Lindsf. Gosp.* Matt. vii. 13 Weʒ ðiu lædas to *losing.*

[51] *Op. cit.,* p. 573.

[52] *Ibid.,* p. 573.

(3) past time: *Purity* 241 Bot þur3 þe *eggyng* of Eve he ete of an *apple.*

(4) no time: *Gawain* 1489 3et I kende yow of *kyssyng.* Cf. *PPl* V. 238 I wende *ryflynge* were restitucioun.

Thus it may be generally said that in the *Gawain*-poet the simple gerund refers to a time simultaneous with that of the main verb.

The examples in which the gerund is nearly purely substantival in character seem to admit of no temporal idea.

Pearl 859 We...hauen *cnawyng*; *Gawain* 853 per *beddyng* watz noble; *Purity* 921 Nou wale pe a *wonnyng* pat pe warisch my3t; *Patience* 115 Hit watz a *wenyng* vnwar.

Example abounds: *Gawain* 191, 540, 1750, etc.; *Pearl* 262, 450, 558, 791, 932, 935, etc.; *Purity* 378, 550, 710, 887, 921, 1161, 1795, etc.; *Patience* 139, 213, etc.

To this group belong the great majority of the examples of the gerund used in the works of the *Gawain*-poet. In other words, in the great majority of cases the gerund is used without reference to time. Hence it follows that in the *Gawain*-poet the gerund is as a rule still strongly substantival in character.

Of the compound forms of the gerund, i. e. the perfect gerund, denoting the past time-sphere, Trnka,[46] Curme,[47] and Mustanoja[48] seem to agree that it comes into existence as late as the close of the 16th century, although they don't mention the earliest instance of it. According to Sugden,[49] the perfect gerund, rare in Shakespeare, occurs several times in *Faerie Oueene* (e. g. III. 5. 33 And after *having searcht* the intuse deepe, She with her scarfe did bind the wound). *OED* quotes an example from Sidney: *Arcadia* I. (1725) 68 want of consideration in not *having demanded* thus much. In any case, examples of the perfect gerund are not found in the works of the *Gawain*-poet and his contemporaries.

4. 4 (2) Voice:

The non-finite forms (i. e. infinitive, participle, and gerund) of the verb were originally indifferent to voice. In the case of the gerund, therefore, the simple forms had to serve also for passive function until

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[46] *Op. cit.*, p. 93.   [47] *Op. cit.*, p. 362.   [48] *Op. cit.*, p. 573.
[49] *The Grammar of Faerie Queene*, pp. 143-4.

1482 By þe *drawyng vp* of his honde; 126 With *oft redyng*, mayst þou lere. Other examples: 127, 10989-90.

In the *Gawain*-poet only two instances occur, both of them in *Purity*:

> *Purity* 159-60 Grevyng and gretyng and *gryspyng harde* Of teþe tenfully togeder, to teche hym by quoynt; *Ib.* 1031 He most ay lyue in þat loȝe in *losyng evermore.*

Examples of the gerund with a pure adverb are not frequent in the other 14th-century texts except for *Mandeville*, being largely limited to four examples in *Handl. Synne*, two in *Bruce*, four in *PPl*, three in Ch. *TC*, fifteen in *Mandev.* and three in *Towneley.*

Of the gerund with an adverbial phrase, only two instances occur in the *Gawain*-poet:

> *Purity* 46 On payne of emprysonment and *puttyng in stokkez*; *Patience* 418-9 Wel knew I... Þy longe *abydyng wyth lur.*

Examples of this kind are found fairly often in *Mandev.* (20 exs.), *PPl* (13 exs.), less often in *Handl. Synne* (8 exs.), Ch. *TC* (5 exs.), *Towneley* (2 exs.), and never in *Cursor* (Part I), *Orfeo*, and Gower *CA* (Prol. and Book I).

Of the plural gerund with an adverbial phrase, I have found only one instance in *PPl* and this one has the verbal force marked by the addition of an adverbial phrase:

> *PPl* II. 89 As in werkes and in wordes and *waitynges with eies.*

4. 4 Tense and Voice of the Gerund

The verbal character of the gerund is prominent when it employs the compound forms (e. g. of *having done* it; the necessity of loving and *being loved*) to show tense and voice.

4. 4 (1) Tense:

As a substantive does not ordinarily admit of any indication of time, so the gerund had originally and to a great extent still has, no reference to time. The simple gerund was, therefore, used to express any time or no time in particular as shown in the following examples:

(1) future time: *Purity* 739-40 I schal... wythhalde my honde for *hortyng* on lede.

(2) present time: *Purity* 1542 And he wyth *plattyng* his paumes dis-layes his lers.

(19)

these facts are taken into account, it seems that the construction made its first appearance in the 14th or 15th century.

4. 2 Gerund + Predicative

The verbal character of the gerund is also prominent when it takes a predicative. In ModE this mode of expression is not infrequently found as in "your *being so sick* forbids me to discuss the matter with you now" (q. Curme), but in the *Gawain*-poet I was unable to find any examples of it. Commenting on this type of expression, Curme says: "Old English compounds were later in large measure dissolved and the parts arranged as syntactical elements. Not a single trace of these gerundial compounds containing a predicate in any form has been discovered in Middle English nor any dissolution of them."[39] In fact I have found no examples of this type in the *Gawain*-poet's works and any other 14th-century texts which I have read. Jespersen has his earliest example from *More*: U 84 – in a *standing reddie* at all occasions.[40] From these facts Curme seems to be right in saying that "the construction must be quite modern and that it is the last stage of, gerundial development."[41]

4. 3 Gerund + Adverbial Adjunct

The verbal nature of the gerund asserts itself further when it is modified by adverbial adjuncts. According to Curme,[42] the use of adverbial adjuncts with the gerund appears first in the ninth century and gradually becomes common. Mustanoja[43] seems to consider that this use has been found since early ME. But Curme's earliest example of an adverbial adjunct is a noun in the instrumental case and Mustanoja's example is an infinitive, neither of them being pure adverbs. On the other hand, Jespersen (*M.E.G.*, V, 9. 1. 1.), *OED* (s.v. *-ing*[1]), Trnka,[44] and Poutsma[45] think that this use begins in the 14th century, their earliest examle being c. 1340 from *Ayenbite* 263 ate uerste *guoinge in*. Judging from my material, however, the use of an adverb with the gerund is far older than the above-mentioned example. I have noted four examples in *Handl. Synne* (c. 1303):

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[39] "History of the English Gerund," *Englische Studien*, XLV, p. 374.
[40] *M. E. G.*, V, 9. 3. 10.
[41] *Loc. cit.*
[42] *Op. cit.*, p. 351.   [43] *Op. cit.*, p. 575.
[44] *Op. cit.*, p. 92.   [45] *Op. cit.*, p. 163.

to de rather idiomatic in ME. This *ing*-form may, therefore, be better explained as purely substantival rather than verbal. By contrast, the following example from Chaucer may be regarded as a gerund followed by a noun clause:

Ch. *TC* IV. 1016-7 in *shewynge* Howe the ordre of causes stant.

Incidentally I have one example from Chaucer of the gerund followed by a bare infinitive: Ch. *TC* V. 837 In *durryng don* that loneth to a knyght.

As far as the works of the *Gawain*-poet are concerned it may be noteworthy that the gerund followed by a simple object is unusually often found in *Purity* and after prepositions, especially *in*, although it is practically non-existent in its three companion poems (*Gawain, Pearl*, and *Patien*ce). It is also noteworthy that the wored-order 'gerund + object' is exclusively used in the *Gawain*-poet's works, while in *PPl* the construction 'object + gerund' is far more predominant.

4. 1 (5) Type E: Determiner + Gerund + Object:

This is the construction in which the gerund, preceded by determiners, such as *the, this, his*, etc., governs an object without the help of the preposition *of*. Accordingly this type of construction shows the mixed (i.e. verbal and substantival) character of the gerund by having a simple object even if it is preceded by an adjunct. The construction is by no means usual in PE except after possessives and genitives, but is common in Shakespeare's time. According to Onions,[38] this type is very charasteristic of early ModE. In 14th-century English, however, it is very rarely found. I have noted the following examples which are found, not after *the*, but after *this, thair, here* (=their):

> *Bruce* IX. 724 of *thair taking voundir*; *PPl* V. 385 *This shewyng shrifte*...schal be meryte to the; *Ib.* XI. 309 This *lokyng on lewed prestes* hath don me lepe; *Mandev.* 127. 11-2 we han *here makyng houses*.

There are no examples of this type in the *Gawain*-poet. Jespsersen quotes his earliest example of 'the + gerund + object' from Caxton: *Reynard* 24 *the wythholdyng you* fro it can do yow no good. When

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[38] *An Advanced English Syntax*, p. 130. Cf. Sugden's *The Grammar of Faerie Oueene*, p. 144, in which he says he has encountered no examples of the type "the + Gerund + Object".

Curme[35] remarks that it is much older and very common in early ME, and quotes his earliest example from Luke 7:45, *Lindsfarne* MS., about A. D. 950. But the few OE examples are, Mustanoja[36] contends, practically all interlinear glosses and mere imitations of the Latin gerund.

It does not seem, however, that this construction had been firmly established in the *Gawain*-poet's days, though sporadic instances are found in the works of his contemporaries, especially in *Mandev*. Nevertheless the construction can doubtless be traced further back than the above-mentioned scholars' earliest examples dated the second half of the 14th century, as is shown below:

> *Cursor* (c. 1300) 781 0(=of) *wityng bath god an[d] ill*; *Handl. Synne* (c. 1303) 408 yn *feblyng þe body* wyth moche fastyng; *Ib.* 10989-90 'Eleccyoun' ys 'weyl' *chesyng A gode man* to kepe holy þyng; *PPl* XIV. 186-7 *crauyng thi mercy* Shulde amende vs; *Ib.* XIX. 450 Bot if thei seiȝe as by syȝte somewhat to *wynnynge* (=to win something); *Mandev.* 12.23 in *schauyng oure berdes*; *Ib.* 110. 35-6 he fayle of *takyng his praye*.

Other examples from *Mandev.*; 30.33, 207.6, 209.22, 211.9-10.

In the *Gawain*-poet, I have noted six clear examples, five of which are found in *Purity*, the remaining one in *Gawain*. No examples of this construction occur in *Pearl* and *Patience*.

> *Gawain* 1333-4 Þen brekþ ay þe bale, Lystily for *laucyng [þe l]ere* of þe knot; *Purity* 3 in *for[þ]ering his speche*; *Ib.* 544 In *devoydynge þe vylanye*; *Ib.* 740 for *hortyng on lede*; *Ib.* 1448 in *lovyng hymselven*; *Ib.* 1542 wyth *plattyng his paumes*.

The following example may also be classed as a gerund followed by a simple object, in which the gerund is derived from a verb phrase equivalent to a transitive verb.[37]

Purity 1003 Al in *longing for Loth* leyen in a wache.

There is one case in which the object of the gerund is a clause: *Gawain* 2488 In *tokenyng* he watz tane in tech of a faute. The phrase *in tokenyng* means 'in token, as a token or evidence (that)' and seems

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[35] "History of the English Gerund," *Englische Studien*, XLV, pp. 352-3.
[36] *Op. cit.*, p.568.
[37] The same sort of construction is found in: *PPl* XV. 467 In *menynge after mete*; *Mandev.* 156.28 in *huntyng for the hente*; Gower *CA* I. 1784-5 he wolde hise yhen hyde fro *lokyng on that foule whyt*. Other examples: *Handl. Synne* 3132, 7578, 8286; *PPl.* Prol. 203.

The verbal character of the gerund is prominent when it takes a direct object without the preposition *of*. This is the regular construction in Present-day English. Before the modern word-order 'gerund + object' established itself, however, there existed another word-order 'object + gerund' in ME.

According to van der Gaaf,[28] the beginnings of the construction 'substantive (i. e. object) + gerund' are found in OE in which it was evidently felt to be a compound. In ME the substantive and the gerund sometimes are, or at any rate seem to be, less firmly cemented together than in OE, and constructions of this kind were freely made and used in ME. In addition, kellner[29] says that this practice was continued to the end of the ME period.

Despite their remarks, this construction is not found at all in the *Gawain*-poet, except for the single instance in which the 'substantive + gerund' is evidently a compound: *Gawain* 926-7 I hope þat may hym here Schal lerne of *luf-talkyng*. Nonetheless, this word-order is occasionally found in other 14th-century writers, especially Langland.

> *Cursor* 2050 *his sun hething* he vnder-toke; *Handl. Synne* 7887 whedyr hyt be yn *a womman handlyng*; *PPl* VII. 87 vsage...of *seyntes lyues redyng*; *Ib*. XV. 76 in-to *heigh clergye shewynge*; *Towneley* XXIX. 363 *my son myssyng* makes me to mowrne; *Ib*. XXXI. 160 in *mes syngyng*.

> Other examples from *PPl*: IV.117, XI.171, XII.282, XIX.72, XIX. 373, XIX. 374.

As regards the use of the gerund followed by a simple object, some scholars such as Trnka,[30] van der Gaaf,[31] Jespersen,[32] Kellner,[33] and *OED* (s. v. *ing*[1]) have placed the origin of this construction in the 14th century, especially its second half, quoting its oldest examples from Chaucer or Langland. On the other hand, Mossé[34] believes that the construction makes its first appearance at the end of the 12th century.

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[28] "The Gerund Preceded by the Common Case," *English Studies*, X (1928), p. 33.

[29] *Historical Outlines of English Syntax*, § 416.

[30] *Op. cit.*, p. 92. [31] *Op. cit.*, p. 41. [32] *M. E. G.*, V, 9.3.1. [33] *Op. cit.*, § 417.

[34] *Histoire de la forme périphrastic 'être + participe présent' en germanique*, II. p. 104.

Shakespeare the substantival use of the verbal with "the" before it and "of" after it seems to have been regarded as colloquial. [25]

In ME there are some cases in which the gerund is preceded by the indefinite article or other attributive adjuncts instead of "the" as in:

> *Handl. Synne* 8334 To fordo *a getyng* of a chylde; *Bruce* I. 596 he...had *no persawyng* Off the tresoun; Ch. *TC* V. 1833 And thus began *his lovyng* of Criseyde; *Mandev.* 209. 27-8 withouten *ony more rehercyng* of dyuersiteez; etc.

No such constructions are met with in the *Gawain*-poet (and in *PPl*).

4. 1 (3)   Type C: Gerund + *of*-adjunct:

This is the *of*-construction after a gerund which is not preceded by an adjunct.   Although it is generally considered that this type makes its first appearance about the time of Chaucer,[26] it is doubtless far older. I have examples from c. 1300 on: *Cursor* 483 with-outen *coueryng of his care*; *Handl. Synne* 7716 yn *handlyng of sum vyce*.   As a matter of fact, this is the regular construction in ME and early ModE although it is nowadays considerably rarer. [27]

In the *Gawain*-poet as well, this type is most frequent, occurring 12 times.

> *Gawain* 1601 There watz *blawyng of prys* in mony breme horne (Cf. 1362 Baldely thai *blw prys*); *Purity* 1565 In *expounyng of speche*; *Patience* 30 in *lyknyng of pewes*.

Other examples: *Gawain* 116, 472, 635, 924, 1751; *Purity* 186, 579, 1354.

The following quotation is quite interesting in that the gerund with an *of*-adjunct shows its mixed (i.e. verbal and substantival) character by taking an adverbial adjunct:

> *Purity* 159-60 Greving and gretyng and *gryspyng harde Of tepe tenfuly togeder.*

The type C may be considered to be a construction of transition from strongly substantival (i.e. A and B) to verbal (i.e. D and E), in that the gerund with an *of*-adjunct is not preceded by any adjunct.

4. 1 (4)   Type D: Gerund + Object:

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[25] Abbott, *A Shakespearian Grammar*, § 93.

[26] Cf. Jespersen, *M. E. G.*, V, 8. 4. 6.

[27] Jespersen: *Growth and Structure of the English Language*, § 208; Poutsma, *The Infinitive, the Gerund, and the Participles of the English Verb*, § 33.

tion. In 14th-century English, therefore, the object of the gerund, if any, is expressed in the genitive (or possessive), or the periphrastic genitive with *of*, or the accusative (or the common case). So the examples collected from the works of the *Gawain*-poet and his contemporaries may be roughly divided into the following five types referred to as A, B, C, D, and E respectively: A = objective genitive + gerund (e.g. *Pearl* 452 If possyble were *her mendyng*); B=determiner+gerund +*of*-adjunct (e. g. *PPl* XII. 242 For *the traillyng of his taille* ouertaken is he sone); C=gerund+*of*-adjunct (e. g. *Purity* 1565 In *expounyng of speche*); D=gerund+object (e.g. *Purity* 1542 wyth *plattyng his paumes*); E=determiner + gerund + object (e.g. Caxton *Reynard* 24 *the wythholdyng you* fro it can doo yow no good). Of these types, A and B are strongly substantival, and D and E are particularly characteristic of the verbal nature of the gerund in the sense that they take a direct object without a preposition. C is a transitional type from substantival to verbal in that, although the gerund is followed by an *of*-adjunct, it is not preceded by any determiner. In the *Gawain*-poet's works I have found about 21 examples of the gerund with a logical object. The frequency of each type is as follows: A (1); B (0); C (12); D (8); E (0).

4. 1 (1) Type A: Objective Genitive + Gerund:

As the object of the gerund, the genitive possessive was frequent in OE, but in ME it it rare, its function being supplanted by the periphrastic genitive with *of*. Only one example is found in the *Gawain*-poet, and there are none in *PPl*.

> *Pearl* 452 If possyble were *her mendyng*.
> Cf. *Handl. Synne* 7689-90 Þese men shuld for no þyng Come yn *Wymmens handlyng.*

4. 1 (2) Type B: Determiner + Gerund + *of*-adjunct:[24]

Along with type D, this is now the normal construction, especially when the determiner is "the". In the *Gawain*-poet, however, no example of this type is found, while there is only one in Langland (*PPl* XII. 242 For *the traillyng of his taille* ouertaken is he sone). Even in

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[24] Cf. *Purity* 241 purȝ *þe eggyng* of Eve he ete of an apple, in which case the function of the preposition *of* is subjective, not objective. For further examples of this kind see 3. 2 (4) (b).

In *PPl,* there are three examples in which the first part of a compound is an adverb to the verbal idea:

X. 462 at her hennes-*partynge*; XIV. 141 in ʒowre here-*beyng*; XIV. 165 after her hennes-*goynge.*

No such examples are found in the *Gawain*-poet.

4. Verbal Nature

As mentioned more than once, the gerund was originally a verbal substantive with no verbal properties. In the course of time, however, the verbal nature of the gerund becomes prominent while functioning as a substantive. That is to say, it begins to take an accusative object, a predicative, and adverbial abjuncts, and to show tense and voice by means of the compound forms. Furthermore, it comes to have a subject of its own like a verb. The verbal nature of the gerund is said, however, to be established only during the ME period, especially in the 14th century, though its assumption of tense and voice forms develops still later. By inquiring into the above-mentioned facts, therefore, we will see to what extent the verbal nature or function of the gerund was developed in the *Gawain*-poet. For comparative purposes I have examined nine other 14th-century works: *Cursor* (=*Cursor Mundi,* Part I), *Handl. Synne* (=Robert Mannyng of Brunne, *Handllng Synne*), *Orfeo* (=*Sir Orfeo*), *Bruce* (=Selections from *Barbour's Bruce*: Books I-X), *PPl* (=*Piers Plowman*: B-text), Ch. *TC* (Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde*), Gower *CA* (=John Gower's *Confessio Amantis*: Prologue and Book I), *Mandev.* (=*Mandeville's Travels*), and *Towneley* (=*The Towneley Plays*).[23]

4. 1 Object of the Gerund

As Mustanoja puts it, since OE the genitive has been commonly used as the logical object of the gerund (*þæs mynstres clænsunge; - in excusing of me*). With the development of the verbal nature of the gerund, however, it comes to take a direct object without a preposi-

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[23] For these, see my article "The Gerund in Fourteenth-century English with Reference to the Development of its Verbal Nature (「十四世紀英語における動名詞 — その動詞的性質の発達について—」)," *Essays in English Literature and Language Presented to Prof. Shuni-chi Maekawa in Honour of His Sixtieth Birthday* (『前川俊一教授還暦記念論文集』), Tokyo (Eihōsha), 1968, pp. 339-52.

Other examples: *Gawain* 116, 472, 924, 1601, 1751; *Purity* 159, 579, 1354, 1565.

3. 2 (4) (d)   With Demonstrative and Indefinite Pronouns (8 exs.):

this (1): *Gawain* 1798 Now, dere, at *þis departyng* do me þis ese.

such an (1): *Gawain* 349 er *such an askyng* is heuened so hyȝe in your sale.

no (or *ne*) (5): *Pearl* 932 I se *no bygyng* nawhere aboute; *Gawain* 2367 for no wylyde werke, *no wowyng* nauþer; *Gawain* 2253; *Pearl* 262; *Purity* 408.

wich (1): *Purity* 1060 Of *wich beryng* þat ho be.

3. 2 (4) (e)   With Adjectives (19 exs.):

The combination of 'adjective + gerund' occurs fairly frequently, namely 19 times in the *Gawain*-poet.

Gawain 1763 With *smoþe smylyng* and *smolt*; *Patience* 400 in his *mylde amesyng* he mercy may fynde; *Pearl* 80 wyth *schymeryng schene*; *Patience* 115 Hit watȝ a *wenyng vnwr*.

Other examples: *Gawain* 917, 1017, 1602, 1748, 1750, 1982; *Pearl* 244, 247, 935, 1180, 1208; *Purity* 751, 1611, 1625; *Patience* 419.

3. 2 (5)   Compounds:

Like a substantive, a gerund may enter into compounds in various ways, but this type of construction is not common in the *Gawain*-poet. Only six examples have come to hand.

Examples with the gerund as the first member of a compound (2 exs.):

Gawain 267 in *feȝtyng* wyse; *Pearl* 59 vpon a *slepyng*-slaȝte. (Cf. *PPl* V. 564 Treuthes *dwellyng*-place; XVI. 31 in *blowyng*-time; etc.)

As mentioned in 3. 1 (6), the *ing*-form is used attributively in these cases.

Examples with the gerund as the last part of a compound (4 exs.):

Gawain 1777 with luf-*laȝyng* a lyt he layd hym bysyde; *Gawain* 926-7 I hope þat may hym here Schal lerne of luf-*talkyng*; *Pearl* 1152 For luf-*longyng*; *Ib.* 754 Þyn angel-*hauyng* (=angelic demeanour). (Cf. *PPl* XI. 144 wyth-outen any bede-*byddynge*; XII. 282 in blode-*shedynge*; XIII. 451 in his deth-*deyinge*; etc.)

OED has no record of the above compounds except 'luf-longyng', whose earliest record is from a 1300: *Cursor Mundi* 24629 Þar laii in mi *luue langing*.

This is a construction like 'reading for reading's sake'. On this kind of construction, Jespersen comments: "The genitive of a gerund is naturally rare, because as a general rule only words denoting persons are used in the genitive. I have no examples except before *sake*."[22] As a matter of fact, not a single instance of this construction is found in the *Gawain*-poet. In the C-text of *PPl*, however, we come across the following example: XXI. 360 A lyttel ich ouer-lep for *lesynges* sake. This may be a case in point, though Skeat regards the word *lesynges* as plural in his *Glossary to PPl*.

3. 2 (3) With the Indefinite and the Definite Article:

With the indefinite article (2 exs.):

Purity 921 Nou wale þe *a wonnyng*; *Ib.* 1504 He wayned hem *a warnyng*.

With the definite article (11 exs.):

Gawain 1134 Arayed for *þe rydyng*; *Patience* 53 What grayþed me *þe grychchyng* bot grame more seche; *Purity* 172 And Lyued wyth *þe lykyng*.

Other instances: *Gawain* 1433, 2361, 2378; *Pearl* 791; *Purity* 241, 378, 490, 1102.

3. 2 (4) With Adjectives and Other Attributive Adjuncts:

Examples of these combinations are of frequent occurrence in the works of the *Gawain*-poet, as will be shown below.

3. 2 (4) (a) With Possessives and Genitives (15 exs.):

Gawain 1404 in *her burdyng*; *Purity* 887 þay lest of *Lotez logging*; *Pearl* 450 Bot vcho fayn of *operez hafyng*.

Other examples: *Gawain* 191, 323, 370, 1546, 1800; *Pearl* 452, 1049; *Purity* 688, 811, 1101, 1228, 1362.

3. 2 (4) (b) With the Periphrastic Subjective Genitive with *of* (9 exs.):

Gawain 2360-61 Now know I...þe *wowyng of my wyf*; *Purity* 1513 Þer watz *ryngyng*, on ryƷt, *of rych metalles*.

Other examples: *Gawain* 1160, 1514, 1954, 2460; *Purity* 241, 490, 1515.

3. 2 (4) (c) With the Periphrastic Objective Genitive with *of* (12 exc.):

Purity 186 For *marryng of maryagez*; *Gawain* 626 In *betoknyng of trawþe*; *Patience* 30 If we þyse ladyes wolde lof in *lyknyng of þewes*.

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[22] Jespersen, *M.E.G.*, V, 8. 3. 2.

finite verb, or as the object of a preposition. It would also be natural, therefore, to expect it in apposition to any one of the preceding. In the *Gawain*-poet there are six examples of this use, five of which occur in apposition to the subject.

> *Gawain* 471-2 Wel bycomes such craft vpon Cristmasse, *Laykyng of enterludes*, to laȝe and to syng; *Ib.* 2377 Lo! þer þe *falssyng*, foule mot hit falle!; *Purity* 158-60 Depe in my doungoun þer doel ever dwellez, *Greving* and *gretyng* and *gryppyng* harde of teþe tenfully togeder.

The remaining example occurs in apposition to the object of a preposition:

> *Gawain* 44-7 For þer þe fest watz ilyche ful fiften dayes, With all þe mete and þe mirthe þat men couþe avyse; Such glaum and gle glorious to here, Dere dyn vpon day, *daunsyng* on nyȝtes.

3.1 (6) As an Attributive:

The gerund as an attributive to substantives is met with only twice in the *Gawain*-poet:

> *Gawain* 267 For had I founded in fere in *feȝtyng* wise;[20] *Pearl* 59 I slode vpon a *slepyng*-slaȝte.

3. 2 Substantival Nature

3. 2 (1) Plural of a Gerund:

The gerund can form a plural as one of its substantival characters. Five examples are found in the *Gawain*-poet:

> *Gawain* 1982 With ful colde *sykyngez*; *Pearl* 935 If þou hatz oþer *bygyneȝ* stoute; *Patience* 213 He osses hym by *vnnynges*;[21] *Purity* 1611 Danyel of derne *coninges*; *Ib.* 1803 And ȝet of *lykynges* on lofte letted, I trowe.

The gerunds with plural endings have so completely acquired a concrete or abstract signification that we can hardly regard them as gerunds and, in consequence, they are more or less detached from the verbs from which they are derived. But we may speak of a gerund in spite of the plural form in the following quotation where the verbal force is marked with the addition of an adverbial phrase.

> *PPl* III. 89 As in werkes and in wordes and *waitynges with eies*.

3. 2 (2) Genitive of a Gerund:

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[20] *OED* quotes this example as a specil combination meaning "battle array".
[21] The only example recorded in *OED* (<unne = to relate, tell).

for (8 exs.): *Purity* 186 *For Marryng* of maryagez, and mayntenaunce of schrewez; *Gawain* 1334, 2367; *Pearl* 1152; *Purity* 183, 1228.

In two cases out of eight, *for* occurs in the meaning of 'for fear of, to prevent, against'

> *Gawain* 1333-4 Þen brek þay þe bale,... Lystily *for laucyng* þe lere of þe knot; *Purity* 739-40 I schal...wythhalde my honde *for hortyng* on lede.

in (24 exs.): *Gawain* 1182, *in slomberyng* he slode; *Gawain* 97, 540, 626, 924, 1404, 1750, 1748, 1751, 2468; *Pearl* 1208; *Purity* 3, 239, 544, 710, 779, 1003, 1031, 1123, 1354, 1468, 1565; *Patience* 30, 400.

of (12 exs.): *Purity* 971 Such a ȝomerly ȝarm *of ȝellyng* þer rysed; *Gawain* 917, 927, 1489, 1514; *Pearl* 247, 450; *Purity* 46, 887, 1060, 1611, 1803.

on (2 exs.): *Gawain* 1102 *On huntyng* wyl I wende; *Ib.* 1143 þay chastysed and charred *on chasyng* þat went.

Referring to the type 'A-huntyng', Mustanoja says: "The verbal noun in *-ing* (*-ung*) preceded by the preposition *on* has been used since OE,... The phrase *on -ing* becomes increasingly common in ME.... The preposition often occurs in a weakened form (*an* and *a*).... The phrase is used particularly after verbs of motion to express the purpose or result of the motion."[19] The weakened forms *a* and *an* never occur in the *Gawain*-poet, whereas in *PPl a* and *an* each occur only once:

> III. 48 we han a wyndowe *a wirchyng* will sitten vs ful heigh; XVII. 115 And Hope the hostellers man shal be there the man lith *an helyng.*

to (4 exs.): *Pearl* 1154 My maneȝ mynde *to maddyng* malte; *Gawain* 1433 *to þe fyndyng*; *Pearl* 791 *to þe weddyng*; *Purity* 811 *to his byggyng.*

Those *ing*-forms are substantival enough to be found after *to*.

purȝ (1 ex.): *Purity* 241 Bot *purȝ þe eggyng* of Eve he ete of an apple.

with (15 exs.): *Purity* 1542 And he *wyth plattyng* his paumes displayes his lers; *Gawain* 116, 543, 977, 1763, 1777, 1954, 1979, 1982, 2120, 2460; *Pearl* 80; *Purity* 172; *Patience* 2, 139.

3.1 (5) In Apposition:

The gerund may be used as the subject, object, or predicative of a

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[19] *Op. cit.*, pp. 577-8.

Without adjuncts:

Gawain 492 he ȝerned ȝelpyng to here; *Pearl* 859 We þurȝoutly hauen *cnawyng*; *Purity* 1794-6 Dere Daryous. . .*saȝtlyng* makes Wyth all þe barounz þeraboute; *Ib.* 764 Wylt þou. . .*menddyng* abyde; *Ib.* 1150 Sone so þe kyng for his care *carping* myȝt wynne,

As we have seen above, all the examples are used as direct objects, but the gerund as an indirect object is never used in the *Gawain*-poet. Cf. Give *truth-telling* a chance (q. Jespersen).

The now common phrase *cannot help -ing* is not found in the *Gawain*-poet. It appears much later. *OED* has examples from 1711 on, while Söderlind quotes two slightly earlier examples from Dryden's prose: *Fables* (dated 1700) 206 you could not help *bestowing* more than is consisting with the fortune of a private man; *Letters* (dated 1655-1700) 27 I cannot help *hearing*, that white Sticks change their masters.[16]

3. 1 (4)   As the Object of a Preposition:

The gerund can be very freely used with any preposition except *to*. This enables it to express much finer shades of meaning than the infinitive, with its single preposition *to*, can. As Curme[17] puts it, its extensive development in this category gives English one of its most distinctive features.

The infrequency of the gerund after *to* may be ascribed partly to the fact that although the gerund was commonly used to express purpose, especially in OE, the infinitive was still more frequently used for this purpose.[18] The same explanation seems to be true of the *Gawain*-poet's use of the gerund since there are only four instances after *to*.

In the *Gawain*-poet out of 123 instances of the gerund, 68 or 55.3 per cent occur after prepositions. The prepositions used are: *at, by, for, in, on, of, to, þurȝ* and *with*, the most common being *in, with, of, for*. The phenomenon is so familiar that, with a few exceptions, a bare enumeration of examples will be sufficient to show combinations of this kind:

at (1 ex.): *Gawain* 1798 Now, dere, *at þis departyng* do me þis ese.

by (1 ex.): *Patience* 213 He ossed hym *by vnnynges*.

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[16] *Op. cit.*, § 553.

[17] "History of the English Gerund," *Englische Studien*, XLV (1912), p. 378.

[18] Cf. Curme, *Ibid.*, p. 380.

Gawain 232 Ther watz *lokyng* on lenþe þe lude to beholde; *Purity* 1513 þer watȝ *rynging*, on ryȝt, of rych metalles; *Patience* 237 Per watz *louyng* on lofte, when þay þe londe wonnen.

Other examples: *Gawain* 1601-2 (2 exs.); *Purity* 1515.

Despite the existence of the examples just quoted, the idiomatic phrase 'there is no -*ing*' never appears in the *Gawain*-poet, though it is recorded in ME and Elizabethans.[14]

3. 1 (2)   As a Predicative:

In ModE the gerund is often used in this function as in: His chief hobby is *gardening*, but sucn a construction is extremely rare, occurring only twice in the *Gawain*-poet.

> *Purity* 489-50 Pat was þe syngne of savyte þat sende hem oure Lorde, And þe *saȝtlyng* of hymself wyth þo sely bestez; *Patience* 115 Hit watz a *wenyng* vnwar þat welt in his mynde. Cf. *PPl* XIII. 95 And but if the fyrst lyne be *lesyng* leue me neuer after.

Both gerunds are used as subjective predicatives, wnile no instances of the gerund as an objective predicative are found in either the *Gawain*-poet or Langland. Cf. Dryden, *An Evening's Love* 269 And this horse-play they call *making love*.[15]

3. 1 (3)   As an Object:

The use of the gerund as an object is somewhat common in the *Gawain*-poet.   Twenty-one instances of this are found, nine of which, strictly speaking, occur as the object of the infinitive with or without *to*. In most cases the gerund has a strongly substantival character and, as a result, appears with various attributive adjuncts.

> *Gawain* 369-70 he...gef hym Goddez *blessyng*; *Ib*. 1546 I wolde yowre wylnyng worche at my myȝt; *Pearl* 244 Much *longeyng* haf I for þe layned; *Ib*. 932 I se no *bygyng* nawhere aboute; *Purity* 1504 He wayned hem a *warnyng*; *Patience* 418-9 Wel knew I...þy longe *abydyng* wyth lur.

> Other examples: *Gawain* 1160, 1800, 2253, 2360-1; *Pearl* 558, 935; *Purity* 378, 688, 921, 1625.

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[14] Jespersen (*M. E. G.*, V, 8. 3. 4) has its earliest instance from *Ancrene Riwle* (c. 1230-50): *AR* 288 þet ter nis *non wiðsigginge* (=there is no refus-ing): Wycliffe, *Mat.* 22. 23 there is *no rysyng* aȝein.

[15] Ouoted by Söderlind in *Verb Syntax in John Dryden's Prose*, Part II, § 551.

3. Substantival Function and Nature

As already remarked, the gerund was once felt to be only a substantive. Accordingly it may possess all the syntactical functions of a substantive: (1) the gerund may function as: a subject, predicative, or object of a finite verb, an object of a preposition, a substantive in apposition to any one of the preceding, and an attributive; (2) in these functions the gerund can form a plural and a genitive, and take various adjuncts, such as articles, adjectives, substantives or pronouns in the genitive or in the common case, and possessive and indefinite pronouns. It can also enter into compounds. These substantival characteristics will be referred to separately in the following sections.

3. 1 Substantival Function

3. 1 (1) As a Subject:

In the works of the *Gawain*-poet there are, in all, 24 instances of this use. They are found mostly with various adjuncts (a) and rarely without them (b).

(a) *Gawain* 323 Haþel, by heuen, *pyn askyng* is nys; *Pearl* 1180 *A longeyng hevy* my strok in swone; *Purity* 408 *no sprawlyng* awayled; *Purity* 578-9 Bot non nuyez hym ....As harlottrye unhost, *hepyng of selven.*[11]

Other examples: *Gawain* 191, 349, 1017; *Pearl* 452, 754[12], 1049; *Purity* 751, 1101-2 (2 exs.), 1362; *Patience* 53.

(b) *Gawain* 853 Þat broȝt hym to a bryȝt bourne, þer *beddyng* watz noble; *Pearl* 262 þer mys nee *mornyng* com neuer nere; *Ib.* 897 For neuer *lesyng*...Ne towched her tonge for no dystresse.

In ModE the gerund is often used with the formal or preparatory 'it' (e.g. it is no good *talking* to him), but no examples of this type are found in the *Gawain*-poet. Infrequently, however, we do come across the construction with the preparatory 'there'. According to Mustanoja,[13] the construction *there was ...-ing* is frequently used in ME for the expression of indefinite agency. In the *Gawain*-poet the construction occurs only six times (cf. also six times in *PPl*).

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[11] Properly an *ing*-group that is compared with the subject by means of *as*.

[12] Strictly speaking, an *ing*-group that is the logical subject of the absolute phrase.

[13] *Op. cit.*, p. 576.

-*ung*, but -*ing* was also frequent. In early ME, -*ung* rapidly died out, being scarcely found after 1250, and -*ing* became the regular form. In later ME, -*yng* was a frequent scribal variant.

In the works of the *Gawain*-poet the gerund in its 123 instances occurs as: -*yng* (106 exs.), -*ynge* (pl. -*ynges*) (5 exs.), -*ing* (pl. -*inges*) (11 exs.) and -*ande* (1 ex.). In *PPl*, on the other hand, the gerund appears as: -*ynge* (pl. -*ynges*) (200 exs.), -*yng* (123 exs.), -*ing(e)* (11 exs.) and -*ende* (1 ex.). As expected, the -*yng(e)* (i. e. a scribal variant of -*ing*) is firmly estabilshed both in the *Gawain*-poet and Langland. Thus as far as the *Gawain*-poet is concerned, the gerund ending -*yng* is strongly contrasted with the normal present participle ending -*ande*,[7] so that there are practically no borderline cases in which it is difficult to decide whether a given *yng*-form is a present participle or a gerund. The noteworthy fact, however, is that the participial suffixes -*inde*, -*ende*, -*ande* occur occasionally as the gerundial suffixes in some ME texts,[8] probably owing to a functional confusion between the verbal substantive in -*ing* and the present participle. I have come across one doubtful instance in the *Gawain*-poet and one clear example in *PPl*:

> *Purity* 751 What if þretty *pryvande*[9] be þrad in 3on taunez; *PPl* VIII. 80-2 Who-so...is trusty of his *tailende*[10] taketh but his owne.

Incidentally I have noted one example of the old *ung*-form in *The Towneley Plays*: XXIII. 103 ffor *fallvng* be thou bold.

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[7] Cf. my article "On the Use of the Participle in the Works of the *Gawain*-poet," *Studies in the Humanities* (『文芸と思想』), Vol. 34 (1970), p. 51.

[8] See Few, W. P., "Verbal Nouns in -*inde* in ME and the Participial -*ing* Suffix," *Harvard Studies and Notes ın Philology and Literature*, V (1896), pp. 269-76. He finds examples of the gerund ending in -*inde*, -*ende*, -*ande* in the following texts: *Old English Homilies of the Twelfth Century* (4 exs.), *The Life of Saint Katherine* (2 exs.), *Seinte Marherete* (1 ex.), *Ancrene Riwle* (1 ex.), *Debate of the Body and Soul* (1 ex.), *The Metrical Chronicle of Robert of Gloucester* (1 ex.), *Ayenbite of Inwyt* (14 exs.), and Trevisa's translation of Higden's *Polychronicon* (1 ex.).

[9] This example may be construed as the substantival use of the present participle (cf. H. Koziol, *Grundzüge der Syntax der Mittelenglischen Stabreimdichtungen*, p. 111). Cf. *PPl* X. 431 There aren witty and *wel-libbynge* ac her werkes ben yhudde.

[10] Skeat (*Glossary*) comments that it is "a false form for *tailynge*, by confusion of the sb. ending -*ynge* with the pres. pt. suffix -*ende*."

most discussed problems of English verb syntax. After giving useful surveys of earlier views concerning the origin of the verbal nature of the gerund, Mustanoja most aptly summarizes them in the following manner (although we should read 'the verbal nature or function of the gerund' for 'the gerund'):

> ...the first sporadic signs of the gerundial function of the noun in -*ing* appear in late OE. They are slavish imitations of Latin gerunds, but they do suggest that the noun in -*ing* is at least capable of acquiring verbal properties. The rise of the gerund seems to take place essentially within the ME period. The influence of the OF *gérondif* seems to play a significant part in the development of the English gerund .... One significant contributory factor is obviously the analogy of the English present participle, and the gerund no doubt receives several of its functions from the infinitive. The influence of the participle and the infinitive is evidently facilitated by the remarkable confusion between forms ending in -*n*, and -*nd*, and -*ng* in ME.[5]

As is apparent from Mustanoja's remarks, the development of the verbal nature of the gerund from its OE verbal substantive in -*ing* is a very complicated process involving various factors.

To sum up, the rise of the 'modern' gerund, or the gerund with certain verbal properties seems to take place essentially within the ME period, especially in the 14th century.[6] Here it must be remembered that the works of the *Gawain*-poet with which we are concerned were written in the second half of the 14th century.

In the *Gawain*-poet's works the gerund is not very common, occurring 123 times in all the 6,087 lines, as contrasted with the 366 times it occurs in all the 7,242 lines of *PPl.* In discussing the *Gawain*-poet's use of the gerund, which includes both its substantival and varbal nature, my material will, for the sake of convenience and clarity, be considered under two different headings: (1) Substantival Function and Nature and (2) Verbal Nature. Before going into details, however, we shall first observe the forms of the gerund.

2. Form

According to *OED* (s. v. -*ing*[1]), in OE the more usual form was

[5] Mustanoja, *Midde English Syntax*, p. 572.
[6] *Ibid.*, p. 569; Curme, G. O. "History of the English Gerund," *Englische Studien*, XLV (1912), p. 353.

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 a statistical reading of all instances of the gerund in the corpus. For comparative purposes, however, occasional reference is made to his contemporaries' works, particularly Langland's *Piers Plowman* (B-text) (hereafter referred to as *PPl*).[3]

The 'gerund' may be viewed in this paper as: the *ing*-form which is derived from a verb and functions as a substantive.

As noted in *OED* (s. v.-*ing*[1]), the most notable development of the gerund is its acquisition of certain verbal properties. In other words, the gerund was originally a mere verbal substantive ending in -*ing* (or -*ung*) with no verbal characteristics. Subsequently its verbal nature becomes marked, which is evidently reflected in the facts that it governs an object or a predicative, or is qualified by an adverbial adjunct, and that it expresses tense and voice by means of the compound forms. On the origin of the verbal nature of the gerund, however, there is much divergence of opinion among scholars,[4] although it has been one of the

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[2] Cf. Gordon (ed.), *Pearl*, pp. xliii-xliv.

[3] For Langland's use of the gerund, see my article "Verbals in *Piers the Plowman* (II): Gerund," *Studies in the Humanities* (『文芸と思想』), Vol. 31 (1968), pp. 29-53.

[4] To mention a few: G. O. Curme assumes that the verbal nature of the gerund is a native development from the Old English verbal noun in -*ung* (-*ing*) without any foreign help ("History of the English Gerund," *Englische Studien*, XLV (1912), 348-80 and "The Gerund in Old English and German," *Anglia*, XXXVIII (1914), 491-98); Einenkel seems to hold that it is largely due to Anglo-Norman influence upon English syntax ("Die Entwicklung des englischen Gerundiums," *Anglia*, XXXVIII(1914), 1-76); Langenhove concludes, after a remarkably detailed study of the phonological factors in the development of the English gerund, that the verbal nature of the gerund ⋯ "owes its existence to a double confusion: (a) of the inflected and uninflected infinitives, as its form is the inflected one without the preposition *to*; (b) of the infinitive in -*n* and the verbal noun in -*ing*, both words having in the spoken language the same form, often the same meaning, sometimes the same construction" (*On the Origin of the Gerund in English: Phonology*, p. 132); M. Callaway, Jr. contends that it is primarily due to Latin influence and for several reasons, such as the influence of the present participle and the French gerundial-participial constructions ("Concerning the origin of the gerund in English," *Studies in English Philology: a Mecellany in Honor of F. Klaeber*, 1929, pp. 32-49). For other views see J. L. Armstrong, "The Gerund in Nineteenth-Century English," *PMLA*, VII (1892), 200-11; *OED* s. v. -*ing*[1]; W. van der Gaaf, "The Gerund Preceded by the Common Case," *English Studies*, X (1928), pp. 33-41 and 65-72; B. Trnka, *On the Syntax of the English Verb from Caxton to Dryden*, p. 92; etc.

ON THE USE OF THE GERUND IN THE WORKS OF THE *GAWAIN*-POET

Matsuji Tajima

CONTENTS

1. Introductory Remarks

The main purpose of this paper is to describe the syntax of the gerund 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

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[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, 2nd ed., ed. N. Davis, Oxford (Clarendon Press), 1968.