

Title	チヨースー『カンタベリー物語総序歌』における虚辞 ther 構文
Author(s)	小林, 茂之
Citation	聖学院大学論叢, 23(1) : 57-69
URL	http://serve.seigakuin-univ.ac.jp/repos/modules/xoonips/detail.php?item_id=2250
Rights	

聖学院学術情報発信システム : SERVE

SEigakuin Repository for academic archiVE

〈原著論文〉

Expletive *Ther* Constructions in Chaucer's *General Prologue to The Canterbury Tales*

Shigeyuki KOBAYASHI

チョーサー『カンタベリー物語総序歌』における虚辞 *ther* 構文

小林茂之

ジェフリー・チョーサーの作品は、中期英語を代表する文献の一つであり、当時のロンドン周辺の言語によって書かれ、また後世へ影響を大きく及ぼしたという点で、現代英語の直接的な源流である。

本稿は、G・チョーサーの『カンタベリー物語総序歌』における虚辞 *ther(e)* 構文を検討し、統語的分析を試みた。現代英語の *there* 構文に対しては、*there* 上昇 (*there-raising*) 分析が提案されているが、この分析が通時統語論的に適用できることを示すデータが得られた。

Key words; expletive, *ther*, Middle English, *The Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer

0 Introduction

Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* is one of the most well-known pieces of literature in Middle English, and is also one of very common linguistic data. Chaucer's English is generally assumed to be one of the most plausible early examples of Middle English, from which Modern English is descended. In addition to that, it is quite accessible to scholars, including linguists, owing to the fact that many effective texts and references have been published.

The expletive *ther(e)* has been studied in relation with a raising construction in recent theoretical syntax, and seen to be externally merged at TP where no subjects exist due to the request of the EPP.

This study will focus on *The General Prologue to The Canterbury Tales* as a preliminary study of expletive *ther* constructions in ME.

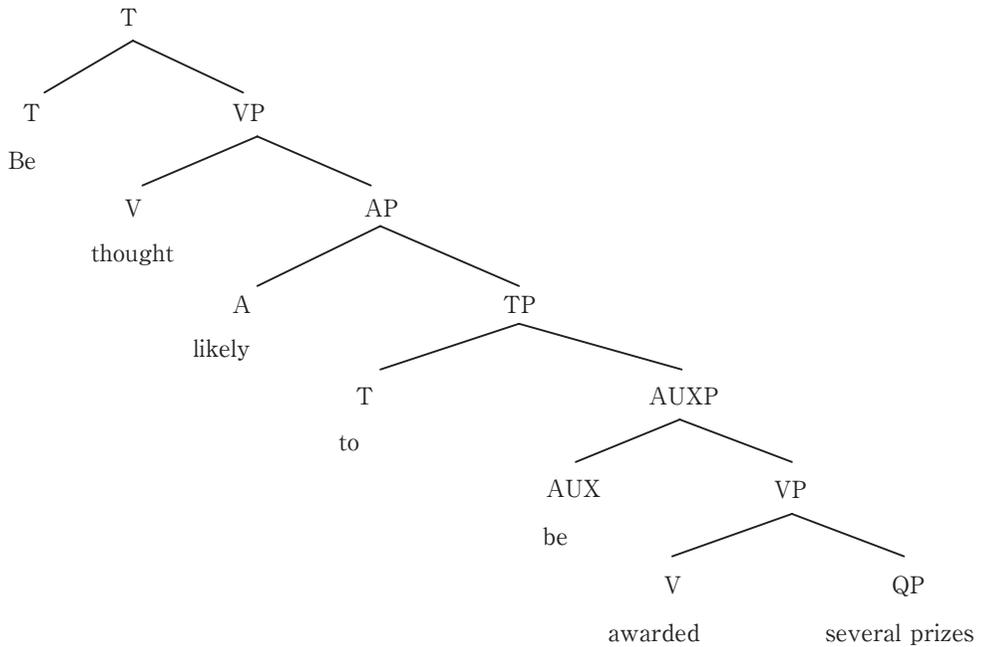
1 A Standard Analysis of Expletive *There* Constructions in the Minimalist Program

I will give a brief illustration of how *there* construction is analysed in the Minimalist Program in this section. The following example is cited from Radford (2004).

- (1) There are thought likely to be awarded several prizes.

The underlying structure of (1) is assumed through several mergers as follows:

- (2)



The derivation from (2) to (1) is assumed as follows: the probe $[_T \text{ BE}]$ agrees in φ -features with the goal *several prizes*. Subsequently, the expletive *there* is merged in spec-TP to satisfy the [EPP] requirement for T to project a specifier ... (Radford 2004: 283).

The result of the derivation will be as follows:

- (3) $[_{CP} [_C \varphi] [_{TP} \text{ There } [_T \text{ are}] [_{VP} [_V \text{ thought}] [_{AP} [_A \text{ likely}] [_{TP} \text{ to be awarded several prizes}]]]]]$ (Radford2004: 283)

In the above analysis, *there* is inserted at the last stage of the derivation by the EPP.

2 *There-raising Analysis*

The other analysis of *there* constructions is the *there-raising* analysis. In this analysis, *there* is assumed to be raised from the TP-Spec in the subordinate *to* clause to the TP-Spec in the main clause. See the following sentence (Radford 2004: 315):

- (4) There do seem to remain several problems

There followed by *seem* as in (4) is assumed to be a raising construction, as the construction of *seem* has generally been analysed as a raising construction. The derivation of (4) is analysed as follows:

- (5) [_{TP} *There* [_T do] [_{VP} [_V seem] [_{TP} *there* [_T to] [_{VP} [_V remain] several problems]]]]
-

In the above analysis, Radford (2004: 315) illustrates that ‘the expletive *there* will become the specifier of *to remain several problems* at some stage of derivation, and thereafter be raised up to become the specifier of *do* on the main-clause TP cycle ...’.

In the previous analysis of (1), *there* is inserted or externally merged by the EPP requirement; however, (1) can be analysed as a raising construction, as follows:

- (6) [_{TP} *There* [_T are] [_{VP} [_V thought] [_{VP} *there* [_T to] [_{VP} [_V remain] several problems]]]]]
- (Radford 2004: 315)
-

We have seen the two ways of analysis of *there* constructions heretofore. We will see the evidence to support the *there-raising* analysis in the next section.

3 Other evidences of *there-raising*

In the Minimalist framework, the expletive *there* is eliminated at LF because it does not contribute to interpretation of the sentences.

Dikken (1995) pointed out that “the expletive-replacement” at LF, which has been proposed by

Chomsky (1995), doesn't hold. See the following sentences:

- (7) a. Some supplicants seem to me to be eligible for the job.
 b. There seem to me to be some applicants eligible for the job.

If “expletive-replacement” occurs at LF, the Binding Theory predicts that the following pair of sentences, as with the above pair, will be acceptable.

- (8) a. Some supplicants_i seem to each other_i to be eligible for the job.
 b. *There seem to each other_i to be some applicants_i eligible for the job.

The application of “The expletive-replacement” will give rise to the following representation for (8b) at LF.

- (9) [_{IP} [_{Spec} there] [_{NP} some applicants]_i] [_r seem to each other_i [_{IP} ... *t_i* ...]]]

In (9), the Binding theory predicts that the anaphor *each other* should be properly bound by the antecedent *some applicants*. However, this is not the case, as we have seen that (8) is ungrammatical.

Dikken instead proposed the *there*-raising approach to expletive *there* constructions.

- (10) a. There entered a man.
 b. [_{IP} there_i [_r Infl_i [_{VP} entered [_{SC} a man_i *t_i*]]]]]

Dikken illustrates the above structure as follows: ‘On this *there*-raising approach, there is no Case-theoretic motive for the post-verbal subject to undergo LF raising to Spec IP — the postverbal NP receives (or checks) Case in situ, which is possible by virtue of the chain of identical indexations linking it to *there* in Spec IP (via the latter’s trace)’.

The above argument makes clear that the *there*-raising analysis is favored over the *there*-replacement analysis.

4 *Ther* Constructions in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*

We find that *ther* is mainly used as the equivalent form of the expletive *there* in Chaucer's works, though *there* is also used. We will use the following examples cited mainly from *The General Prologue to The Canterbury Tales*.⁽¹⁾

4.1 Non-expletive Uses of *Ther(e)* in *The General Prologue to The Canterbury Tales*

Before we analyse the expletive *ther(e)*, we should exclude the several non-expletive uses of *ther(e)*. First, we'd like to examine the use of *ther(e)* as locative adverb.

- (11) And *there* oure Hoost bigan his hors areste
 And seyde, ...
 'There our Host drew up his horse and said, ...' (GP: 827)
- (12) In love-dayes koude he muchel help,
 For *there* he was nat lyk a cloystrer
 With a threadbare cope, as is a povre scoler
 'In love-days he was right efficacious, for he was not like a cloister-monk or a poor scholar
 with a threadbare cope...' (GP: 259)

Second, we'd like to examine the use of *ther(e)* in '*ther(e) as*', which is used as a relative adverb.

- (13) And made forward erly for to ryse
 To take oure wey *ther* as I yow devyse (GP: 34)
 'and agreed to rise early to take our way whither I have told you'
- (14) And overall, *ther* as profit sholde aryse,
 Curteys he was and lowely of servyse; (GP: 249)
 'But everywhere that advantage might follow he was courteous, lowly and serviceable.'
- (15) And whanne he rood, men myghte his brydel here
 Gyngle in a whistlynge wynd as cleer

And eek as loude as dooth the chapel belle

There as this lord is kepere of the selle. (GP: 172)

‘and when he rode, men could hear bridle jingling in a whistling wind as clear and loud as the chapel-bell where this lord was prior.’

The following sentence, where *ther* appears, is a passive construction. It may be counted as an expletive use; however, I would like to leave it for further study.

(16) Ylik a staf — *ther* was no calf yseene

‘like a stick; I could see no calf.’ (GP: 592)

Such kinds of *ther* as described above are excluded from the data that we will examine in the rest of this paper.

4.2 The expletive uses of *ther(e)* in *The General Prologue to The Canterbury Tales*

In expletive *there* constructions in Modern English, *there* comes to the sentence-initial position. *Ther* in Middle English, which is equivalent to *there*, can occupy the sentence-initial position.

(17) *Ther* was no man nowhere so virtuous.

‘Nowhere was any so capable.’ (GP: 251)

(18) *Ther* was noon swich from Hull to Cartage.

‘there was none such from Hull to Carthage.’ (GP: 404)

(19) *Ther* wiste no wight that he was in dette,

‘No wight knew that he was in debt.’ (GP: 280)

(20) *Ther* was no dore that he noodle heve of harre,

‘There was no door that he could not heave off its hinges, ...’ (GP: 550)

In the following example, *ther* appears in the clause:

(21) That in his coppe *ther* was no ferthyng seene

'that no film of grease was to be seen in her cup ...' (GP: 134)

If 'that' occupies the head position of the CP, 'in his coppe' should be assumed to occur in the TP. We also assume that the Spec-TP should be occupied by the expletive *ther*, and that 'in his coppe' followed by *ther* should be adjoined to the TP-Spec.⁽²⁾

Nas appears as a negative past third person singular form for existential verbs, where *was* appears in affirmative *ther* construction, as follows:

- (22) Ther nas bailiff, hierde, nor oother hyne
That he ne knew his sleyghte and his covyne;
'There was no baliff nor herdsman nor other churl whose tricks and craftiness he knew not.' (GP: 629)

If the expletive *ther(e)* in Chaucer always occupies the sentence-initial positions, according to the *there*-insertion analysis which has been proposed for ModE, this analysis would hold for ME. However, the expletive *ther(e)* in Chaucer doesn't always occupy the sentence-initial position, as in the following examples:

- (23) With him ther was his sone a yong Squyer,
'His son was with him, a young Squire, ...' (GP: 79)
- (24) With us ther was a Doctour of Physyk;
In al this world ne was ther noon hym lyk,
To speken of phisyk and of surgerye,
'With us was a Doctor of Physic; for skill in medicine and in surgery was not his peer in all this world.' (GP: 412)
- (25) With hym ther rood gentil Pardonner
Of Rouncyval, his freend and his comper,
That streight was comen fro the court of Rome.
'With him rode a gentle Pardonner, of Roncesvalles, his friend and crony, come straight from the court of Rome.' (GP: 669)

We can't assume that 'with us' is preposed after *ther* is inserted at the stage of Spell-Out. Instead, it would be preferable for us to adopt *there*-raising analysis for such cases as (23), (24) and (25).

4.3 *Ther* of Genitive Constructions

We can observe several illustrations of *ther* of genitive constructions in *The General Prologue*, as follows:

(26) A gentil Maunciple was ther of a temple,
Of which achatours myghte exemple
For gentle to been wyse in bynyge of vitaille;
'There was a gentle Manciple of an Inn of Court, of whom other stewards might take ensample for craftiness in buying victual.' (GP: 567)

(27) A good wyf was ther of bisyde Bathe,
But she was somdel deaf, and that was scathe.
'There was a Goodwife from near Bath, but she was somewhat deaf and that was pity.'
(GP: 445)

(28) A good man was ther of religioun,
And was a povre Person of a toun,
'There was a good man of religion, a poor Parson, ...' (GP: 477)

In the above examples, the subject nominals are assumed to have occupied the positions of *ther* and to be raised to the sentence-initial positions. The derivation of (20) will be illustrated as follows:

(29) [_{TP} A gentil Maunciple_i [_T was [_{DP} [_{SC} *t_i* *ther*]] of a temple]],



According to Dikken (1995), the constituent, which consists of *t_i* and *ther*, is a small clause. *Ther* in (25) is thought to indicate that the original position of 'A gentil Maunciple' is in the SC.⁽³⁾

4.4 Some Evidences of *Ther*-raising

We can find some evidences of *ther*-raising in *The General Prologue*. If we assume *ther*-raising,

ther which comes to the left side of the verb should be raised from the position followed by the verb. Consider the following sentence:

- (30) Nowher so bisy a man as he ther nas.
 'Nowhere was there so busy a man, ...' (GP: 321)

We can assume the underlying structure for (24), as follows:

- (31) Nowher [_{TP} so bisy a man, as he ther_i nas [_{t_i t_j]]}

4.5 *Ther* in Null-subject Constructions

Ther independently occurred without any overt subjects, as follows:

- (32) That proeved wel, for overal ther cam,
 At wrastlynge he wolde have alwey the ram
 'and well he showed them, for everywhere he came to a wrestling match he would ever
 carry off the prize ram.' (GP: 546)

Ther was followed by action verbs, as follows:

- (33) And if ther dide, certeyn so wroth was shee
 That she was out of alle charitee.
 'In all the parish was no wife who should march up to make up an offering before her, and
 if any did, of a truth so wroth she was that she was out of charity.' (GP: 451)

Null subject constructions are commonly observed in ME. In (32) and (33), Null pronouns are assumed to exist in the positions followed by verbs.

4.6 Expletive *Ther* in Constructions with Auxiliary Verbs

When auxiliary verbs occur in main clauses, they are raised to the positions that abstract tense elements, which are phonetically realised in combination with auxiliary verbs or copulas as tense carriers, are assumed to occupy.

(34) Ther koude no wight pynchen at his writyng;
 ‘none could chide at his writing.’ (GP: 326)

(35) Ther koude no man brynge hym in arrearage.
 ‘none could ever find him out in arrears.’ (GP: 602)

Such constructions as the above examples reveal a basic word order of verbs and their subjects. The underlying structure for (35) should be assumed to be as follows:

(36) $[_{TP} \text{Ther}_i [_{Tns} + \text{kan}_i] [_{VP} t_i [_{VP} [_{sc} [\text{no man}] t_i] [\text{brynge hym}] \text{in arrenge}]]]]$

The order of VP is generally assumed to be VO for ME. The VP of (36) is subject to this general word order. The Aux ‘kan’ in the outer VP should be raised to occupy the position for Tense, where it is realized as ‘koude’.

4.7 Some Evidences of Small Clause Analysis for *Ther* Constructions

We have assumed small clause constructions for *ther* constructions in *The Canterbury Tales*. We observed that *ther(e)* is not always raised to the sentence-initial or other positions followed by the verbs; instead, the co-indexed subject DPs are raised as follows:

(37) In al the parysshe wyf ne was ther noon
 That to the offrynge before hire sholde goon;
 ‘In all the parish was no wife who should march up to make an offering before her.’ (GP: 449)

(38) A large man he was with eyen stepe —
 A fairer buygeys was *ther* noon in Chepe —
 Bould of his speche, and wys, and wel ytaught,
 And of manhode hym lakked right naught.
 ‘a large man with bright eyes, bold in speech, wise and discreet, lacking naught of manhood: there is not a fairer burgess in Cheapside.’ (GP: 754)

The structure for (37) should be assumed to be (39), as it follows.

(39) [_{CP} In al the parysshe_i [_{TP} wyf [ne was [_{SC} ther_i noon] ...

Ne and *was* are assumed to be adjacent because they often become the contracted form *nas*. The co-indexed subject seems to bind *ther* in the SC. It functions as a resumptive pronoun in the Danish language.⁽⁴⁾

We can observe a case where *ther* appears to be split and raised from the original position in the SC, as we observed in (37) and (38), as follows:

(40) A bettre preest I trowe ther nowher noon ys.

'I believe that there was nowhere a better priest than he.' (GP: 524)

The structure for (40) should be assumed to be (41), as follows:

(41) [_{CP} [A bettre preest_{t_i}]_i [_{TP} I trowe [_{CP} [_{TP} ther_i nowher [_{SC} t_i noon] ys]]]]]

In (41), *ther* is assumed to show the landing site from where “A better preest” moves to the sentence-initial position in the main clause. If we assume that SC is also a cycle node like CP and NP, *ther* should be the landing site which prevents this movement from violating the bounding theory⁽⁵⁾ or the subjacency condition, which ban such movements that go beyond more than two cyclic nodes.

This phenomenon is very interesting in relation with the current syntactic analysis of *there* construction in ModE.

5 Conclusion

The *ther*-raising analysis is theoretically plausible; however, it would be preferable to have historical detail which would support such a *ther*-raising analysis. The data which has been taken up in this study may be quite limited, but some examples show *ther*-raising in overt syntactic constructions. Further studies supported by a broader range of data and exhaustive examples of uses of *ther(e)* in ME will be needed.

Remarks

- (1) The Chaucer's text cited in this paper is from Karibe T., Sasagawa, R., Koyama, R., and Tanaka, Y. (revised and annotated) (2000), who adopt the *Hengwrt Manuscript*.
- (2) In other words, another TP-Spec node is Chomsky-adjoined to the original TP node.
- (3) The Modern English translation is based on Tatlock, John S. P. and Mackaye, Percy (1912, rept. in 1966), adding some modifications. Those that follow are the same.
- (4) Miyagawa (2010: 41) analysed resumptive pronoun in Danish sentences as follows:
 - (i) a. *Vennen [(some) han pastod [at havde lant] [bogen]]
 Friend-DEF C he claimed C had borrowed book-DEF
 var forsvundet.
 was disappeared
 'The friend that he claimed had borrowed the book had disappeared.'
 - b. Vennen [(some) han pastod [at *der* havde lant]
 Friend-DEF C he claimed C there had borrowed
 bogen]] var forsvundet.
 book-DEF was disappeared
 'The friend that he claimed had borrowed the book had disappeared.'

According to his analysis, the above data shows that the *-t* effect, i. e. tensed verbs, should always request the The expletive *der* and be followed by them. In *ther* construction, the The expletive *ther* seems to be requested to occupy the position in SC.

- (5) We find that *ther* is also proposed and followed by 'was', as follows:
 - (ii) A Clerc ther was of Oxenford also,
 'There was also an Oxford Clerk, ...' (GP: 285)

It is not clear what position 'A Clerc' occupies, although *ther* is assumed to occupy the TP-Spec position. I would like to leave this as a problem to be solved in the future.

(6) See Chomsky (1986).

References

- Allen, L. C. (2008). *Genitives in Early English: Typology and Evidence*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Burrow, J. A. and Turville-Petre, T. (2005). *A Book of Middle English*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
- Chomsky, N. (1986). *Barriers*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
- Chomsky, N. (1995). *The Minimalist Syntax*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
- Davis, N., Gray, D., Ingham, P. and Wallace-Hadrill, A. (1979). *A Chaucer Glossary*. Oxford: Oxford at the Clarendon Press.
- Dikken, den M. (1995). "Binding, The expletives, and Levels". *Linguistic Inquiry* 26: 347-354.
- Karibe T., Sasagawa, R., Koyama, R., and Tanaka, Y. (eds. and annot.) (2000). *A New Invitation to Chaucer's General Prologue to The Canterbury Tales*. Tokyo: Shohakusya.
- Oizumi, A. (1991). *A Complete Concordance to the Works of Geoffrey Chaucer. Vol. 1-4; A Kwic Concordance to the Canterbury Tales*. Hildesheim Zürich New York: Olms-Weidman.
- Radford, A. (2004). *Minimalist Syntax: Exploring the structure English*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Tatlock, John S. P. and Mackaye, Percy (1912, rept in 1966). *The Complete Poetical Works of Geoffrey Chaucer: Now First Put into Modern English*. New York: The Free Press.