SPACE AND FUNCTION IN SYNTAX

Of no less interest to linguistics than to philosophy and logic is the ultimate rooting of notions in a concrete stratum. Different languages will elaborate in ways peculiar to each, and in the compass of each it is at times hardest to confront, within their semantic outgrowth, the import of terms ascribed to the most elemental categories, space in the present context. The words there and where will bear reexamining. Specifically, the purpose of this paper is twofold in that it so happens that to an appraisal of the strong incidence of the spacial lineaments on the vesting of thought in the English expression can be applied hitherto unrecognized uses of these two words, which are here authenticated.

The latterly growing awareness of the complexities of language has come to be accepted as revealing that its intricacies will proliferate in the degree that it is explored, and that the achievement of finality is impeded by the views of speakers who have lived so intimately with their speech as to be wanting in perspective, let alone a grasp of the essential substance of anything but the gross traits of alien ones. Also, there is some way to go yet before an objective attitude is substituted at every step for the egis shrouding the study of language in the wake of its classical originators.

When it is affirmed that English, hardly less than some American Indian languages, is off the pattern of general Indo-European,1 one of the facts brought to bear is, presumably on a par with the dictum that French is grammar-ridden, the assumption that Indo-European is quintessentially typified in the desinent richness of, say, Greek

as drummed into countless generationes of scholars by exercises showing that French itself can only match it haltingly: «O vous des suppliants assis auprès des statues des dieux, soyez entendus, que vous soyez entendus, que vous fussiez entendus, que vous ayez été entendus, puisque-vous êtes entendus! que vous disiez vous être entendus, que vous disiez vous être entendus par Jupiter, souverain maître des dieux et des hommes».

Case is notoriously at a discount in the morphological framework of English: the derivate, for one, what with the obescent whose and only sentence ordering and to and for to serve it according to most grammars. Some include on, but the case also gets expressed by means which have not relinquished their slitve complexion:

It's like your horse falling dead under you in the midst of an uninhabited plain.

Implicit in the sample is the indication that English, more pertinently to the above assessment, approximates the fulness of Amerindian languages in its copious directives, though not quite equalling those which never omit mention of whether someone is on his feet, resting, or in motion, or a combination of these if need be. Still, the spatially loaded cognitive outlook so vital to its buildup, apparently too obvious to have been given its due, is a typologically fundamental trait of English.

The feature, it is ventured, is by no means to be deemed absent from the prordial stage of any language: quite the opposite, if the regard is cast back far enough: rupestrian art testifies to «the superb perception of people who depended on hunting for their existence», and they live on in the «painfully exact local circumstances» resorted to by some living languages. English is one of them.

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2 Bouillon, Cours de Théâtre Greco I, Paris, Garnier, 1890, pag. 97.

To begin at the root of perception, the body. It is, of course not universally idiomatic to involve it in expressions like

stare till his eyeballs are still in his head.

A real old-fashioned artist in bromstone and bellife, he fairly tried your liver in you.

In the same spirit, bizarre to many an ear, the speaker is the focal point of progress, as in

the distant rumble of an express train receding into the night when compared with

She stiffened and smiled and almost furiously began to edge away, covering her retreat with little hasty-nerved statements about the beautiful morning.

In the matter of progression, English has an uncommonly rich vocabulary available for distinguishing between different ways of walking — the Germanic kin itself lacks walk. But it is in the environmental stocktaking that the idiosyncrasy cuts deepest; a guest taking his leave might remark, if he is a southerner, it is raining; if English, it is raining outside, dragging in a — to the other — superfluous, indeed a redundant locative specification.

As representative of the delocative stance of English will be taken in the sequel the forrefture by where of its locative tie, and the raising of this tie by there to a conceptual abstraction.

To begin with where. The artificiality that sets in on the attainment by a language of literary status entails an increase in the inventory of components restricted to the sermo urbanus with the simultaneous curtailment of those pertaining to everyday speech.

Of the former, must are of an abstract character.

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8 Hanley, J., Beyond the Horizon, At Bay, London, Faber, 1944, p. 66; Aiken, C., The Short Stories of Conrad Aiken, New York, Duell, Sloan, 1939, p. 36.
English makes liberal use of classically based terms, themselves originating in concrete notions, for the conveying of abstract ideas, but those of a vernacular cast have by no means been ousted; this is overwhelmingly the case when it comes to the sometimes laborious and not always terse assembling of a set of function words.

The syntactic devices serving subordination are well known to be the product of historical times, a process not to be considered as closed. Where, unquestioned as a subordinating conjunction, has been misspoken in the critical literature as regards its spectrum by ignoring its employment in phraseologies of the type:

I can see where I'll have plenty to eat here.

from which instance it is evident that there is not an opposition of place correlates.

Primarily, to be sure, a locative, its function as a connective makes it part of the intricate complex of overlaps and mergings extending to the whole of Indo-European, with the upshot of the base this being one of the factors at play in Germanic. Its encroachment seems however to have been blocked in expressions like the one occurring again in the following:

You can't have them around when you're trying to get something done. I can see where I'll have to be telling her what to do every second.

It will be well to recall that where goes back, like how in common with when as well as why, to the base k我們, unshifted in Latin. Vide et ergo quemque auditis is rendered 'take heed', therefore, how ye hear (and likewise in five translations) to hand other than the Authorized Version, after the Greek ἀφ' αυτων, where that would be expected.


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14 O'Neill, E., Maro Milligan, Act II, Scene 7.
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The subordination is replicated in

My father told me once how a man murdered a woman in there for her gold watch, he said that man was hanged by the neck in Cock jail, he said that was the last time the black flag flew on top of the jail.

The alternation of where as well as of how will be noticed in either case, first with that and then with plain paraletic omission. Also, not only that (or how) could be fitted into.

Sure, he could go in right ahead of me. But I sure can’t see where that gives him the right to take a man’s glass away from him.

So could why.

This usage of where is not (as the one of there, to follow, is) within the present writer’s solverly. But even if it were, it would

Coveo, R. J., Diccionario de Construcción y Regímenes de la Lengua Castellana, Paris, Roger, 1693.


O’Neill, E., Maroo Millions, Act II, Scene 2.


Some thirty loci of the comparable use of como are listed s. v. 8 in
not avail for as remote an occurrence as a vexed passage in
«Beowulf», namely lines 3062 ff., with hwor given as local in the
annotated editions21, an interpretation to be disputed. The lines go

earl cnafa-olf
liifgecyestead
myn mid his mgum

"Wundar hwor theome
end fege
thoms lang ne mung
methasold brian."

Clark Hall's translation is

where a valiant earl
may be destined to reach
the end of his life
when the man may no more
the end-sell frequent
with his own life and kin.22

In the first place, though the passage is edited in an exclamatory
strain by Holthausen, the first sthome should, it is submitted, be
taken not as correlatively temporal but as modal, this having possi-
bly been in the editor's mind as reminiscent of the Latin car, i. e.
why. There is, however, no compelling reason to assume that it is
the place of the hero's death that calls for a dramatization, and, besid-
es, the word is missing from the list of those certainly accented in
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Again, the later use of wonder and similar words is documented
(as it is in the classical languages) as followed by an empty connecti-
ve; so in the OED s. vv. wonder (6 c) and shame (16. a. d): Oh,
shame that ever it hath been said23. The proper reading of the
Beowulf lines would then be (It does give pause to) wonder that
even a hero should meet his death, &c.

23 It is common to hear an uncorrected Spanish milagro que... or miraje que... — (it was a miracle that...) respectively (a stroke of good)
luck that... as a resumption of the train of thought leading up to a con-
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\begin{verbatim}
  "Wundar hwar tohune
  eadve gere
  theone long on maeg
  meode sledd biam."
\end{verbatim}

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\begin{verbatim}
  A wonder it is
  may be destined to reach
  when the man may no more
  with his own like and kin.
\end{verbatim}

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Hirt sees an example of the passage of a place adverb into a pure connective in Old Norse in Thó græk Thrór út, ok sér hwar lá miðir, "Thor then went out and saw (i.e. not being aware of what he will find) that a man lies prostrate."24

A stricture on the pertinent article in the OED makes it advisable to reproduce its essence verbatim when treating where as a compound relative to introduce a clause:

like: 1 - a case in which; 2 a person to whom; the point or particular in which. (cf. 'where' 3 (see below)).

1300, the heode where he seith, & his swery forth beile, To bring the od bren. 1375, I beid maine qubber so long varmey Wes gaven. 1603, I have heard, Where many of the best respect in Rome... Since wished that Nüde Bruni had his eyes. 1621, The Vowels of Women. Of no more bondage be to where they are made. Then they are to their Vertues. Mod. That was where failed. (colloq.) That's just where it is!

It is felt that this article is incongruent and that the first three quotations are definitely echoed in

"'Twas a terrible winter," whispered O'Sullivan. "I never saw so many people paling off. I see where old Sir John Philip went off yesterday."25

That would be the standard choice, rather than Schmidt's reading of the 1661 one (Shakespeare's 'Julius Caesar' I, ii, 59) as when26 and Schlegel's translating it by wot (how). Finally, the following must remain undecided:

"Perhaps you've read St. Bernard, Father, and recall where he says we priests remember well the apostolic counsel.

"I must confess I haven't read St. Bernard lately. Your Excellency."

Further on a similar question is countered by "Yes, Father Burner remembered seeing it in the papers."27 It is impossible to tell whether the last is conditioning the connective or if it belongs with an after-

thought or revision, or whether where has lain dormant since the turn of the seventeenth century and, relegated to the spoken language, is again emerging into the written standard, at least contextually determined or at best with its connectivity not hedged by a carried over locative connotation.

Space, «whatever its negativness as compared with matter, its ‘thereness’» 28, is the setting for the notion of existence as a condition of the epistemological envisioning of the self and its ambience as detached from each other.

A cosmos: a pyx, in place, motion, and direction should be rendered more nicely by their indicators being unbound: «shuffled out a cigarette», shuffled a cigarette half out of the pack 29.

The validity of this is not evident to all and sundry, the less for established locations and particularly for those with transferred meanings; nor are the makings of English quite those of unwritten languages, in some of which, with every resource autonomous, «the words are born on the tongue on the spur of the moment» 30.

However, the occurrence of the elements as free particles, their motivated selection every time, and the combinatorial possibilities all militate in favour of a higher expressiveness 31. As a matter of historical fact, this was the purpose of the poets who, at the cost of artificiality, preserved a tennia that had been idiomatic homeric. Their eventualization in preverbs is sweeping the case in the Romanic type:

Arriving at a solution, the elation gave him the momentary illusion that the top of his head was rising straight up in the air 32.

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The vicinity of Germanic with Italic before branching out accounts for the sharing of this kind of formation, so that affinities go beyond loan translations like

He must have caught back his mind from some other thought... tried to recapture that lost sympathy,

to fall together in

When I think back I can remember almost nothing of what was said, or (on a non-Indoeuropean base)

The folk are scared of us people coming west, so they are trying to scare us back.

The enlisting of back shows the mechanism in operation still:

And so, he replying to the man, the man to him, he back to the man, the man to his back, he went away 37.

The prefixed particle no longer being felt in Classical Latin as the olden directive, the task had to be entrusted to an adverb (as it is in «The mirror reflected back the flames» 38). By the side of foras in Lucretius' 'Incita cum uis / exagitata foras erumpitur' 39, the particle, as so common with emotive words, has become a mere reinforcement, which it likewise is in esseatis 40.

The poet's theme is Eris. For a perfectly ordinary happening with a formatively parallel but by no means descriptively detrimental phrasing of shake (with out since Germanic and Italic lack ex) the action is quickened, even distressing, in each case keyed to the mood of the book:

39 Lucretius' De Rerum Naturae VI, 283 translated by H. A. J. Martin (Chicago, Bantam, 1952) 'stirred and dashed into fury, bursts abroad'.
40 Lately "If a servant is in the room you've got to include him in as a human being". M. Wiggles, Memoirs of a Maverick, London, Nelson, 1966, pag. 194.
M. BERTENS CHARNLEY

In charge, she was the most severe of all. She would rush at us like a fury with her hair blowing out behind her and shake our bones out of their joints.

In the weeks and months to come he read more and more of her letters, and as he thought of the well-turned limbs, the sleek yellow painted and more and more depressed by the cloud of dust she created whenever she bent her head and shook out her brain over the writing table 46.

The metaphor to be read into the formation of exist gives way in time to the abstraction which has become a mere intensification of be. Similar in its reference to space is the phrasing of the latter's forms with there, acting in ways such as to lend actuality to progressives.

You can see now — out of the roof. There is smoke coming out.

to passives

There is not much left of it to look at.

or other locative circumstances

I went out into the icy evening. There was nobody about 48.

The local import is dimmed further, however, to the point of grammaticalization when used since earliest Old English 49, as variously designated, empty, pleonastic, expletive, formal, introductory, existential. Always free though homologizing with Danish dervermende and a handful of German and Dutch other verbs 50, it has to be

50 Its function also that of Latin ad in the expression of locomotion having its goal as referent, and arrive having no vernacular counterpart: "The glacier used to fill the valley when the first settlers came thence" (E. Shipton, Space and function in syntax, account a morpheme word 2 or to fail back in turn — soi éyó — on classical theorists, a lexis, as a word peculiar in form or signification 6.

What was originally a predication has subsided, at times ever so indecisively, to a receptive token, deprived though framed of the asseverative quality ordinarily imparted by that means, the effect being that of presenting a subject as placer before the mind, its extasy so to speak 40.

A reservation attaches to poietical occurrences when, since in recitation "the method of throwing away a line, so valuable in the theatre, is never popular with recording engineers, who want it spoken as a kind of afterthoughts" 44, passages in a poem, then, following


40 Not least for its various developments. Another of them, inceptively recognized in the OED s. v. 7 as interjunctial, has now become a synecdochic construction; thus F. Swinnerton, The Bridge Lights, (London, Hutchinson, 1914, pag. 96). "Here! I've made your check wet." The by now expendable stop is dropped in H. E. Bates, The Scarlet Sword (London, Michael Joseph, 1930, pag. 45): "He asked her if she were tired and she said: 'A bit. It's been a hell of a day,' He laughed and she said: 'There I go again. Pure habit. I'll never break myself.' Likewise in persuasive: "He would say things he neither cannot nor believed. His friend would take the other side then, there they were again." (O. F. Powers, op. cit., pag. 7).

The result is a communiques report not unlike the deteriorative in Maupassant's Tausa (cited by L. H. Gray, Foundations of Language, New York, Macmillan, 1939, 207). Another use of there in RLA, 1972, pag. 50 i.

41 Even when the verb is emphatic: There is a wind. The level type There's a wind, sometimes operated with, also does not occur as a sentence in its own right, but is synonymous when not part of a paragalogic context. More so such as There's always the paupership (this synonymous always in the OED, Suppl.) Evidence cannot be transformed by expertise or rhetoric into, however sure it may permit the inferring of existence. As soon credit is thrown on he: "it is a great deprivation. And yet there is something else, something there! (Iadies in original), which you never knew was there and which you can't express." (D. H. Lawrence, "The Blind Man," in C. Isherwood (Ed.), Great English Short Stories, New York, Dell, 1957, pag. 227).

42 Cecil Tressourcier in a personal communication on the antemelodic closing lines after each character description in Chaucer's Prologue to the Canterbury Tales as done by him for the BBC, "for the sake of the variety it gave in an immensely long reading;"
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27 His function also that of Latte ad in the expression of locomotion he
28 The singular goal as referent, and arrive having no verumdem counterpart: «The glacier used to fill the valley when the first settlers came there» (E. Shipston.)
29 M. BERTISCH CHARNLEY
30 space and function in syntax
or preceding a pause, could evidence the lexis epidiectically stressed. Or even, as archaisms are often retained in poetry and especially as
the overall ordering of words is influenced by the metrical form, the shaping — this in «Beowulf» — can only have been effected in the direction of more ancient patterns» 6. But in such cases the
construction would not have entirely shied the overtone of its declamatory
burden.

The purely extantive there is not stressed:

«Are you going to creenc this safe yourself, or would you like the
young fellow to go along?»

«What stuff is there there?»

The eastern side of the range was comparatively unexplored, but even
there was much interesting work to be done 96.

Stressed, however, in

Set the tale in Dublin or New York, and at once the pattern is predi-
catable: we know what people we shall meet, what rules are there to be broken 76.

there is not necessarily a special correlate of the tows named, and
is distinctly not so of here in

At your age you must do what you like. You see, I'm assuming that
you like being here? Well, then, do what you like; follow your caprice.
After all, that's what you're there for 86.

The lexis, besides, is now moveable in sentences not interrogative:

His age set between him and other people a distance he no longer
wanted to cross. It was not that he had lost his sharpness of mind.
Simply, the distance was there.

86 Rien, J., Die Weltzunge im Beowulf, Halle, Niemoever, 1907, pag. 70.
86 Aumonier, S., «The Accident of Crime» in Georhine Best Stories, London,
Chapman and Hall, 1924, pág. 6; Shipston, R., op. cit., pág. 15.
86 Cutting from Spectator, 7 April 1956.
86 Huxley, A., Two or Three Guineas, London, Canto & Winkas, 1929,
pág. 69.

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He felt bitterly that the arrangement was unjust. However, there it was, and he had to make the best of it 4.

The singleness of semantic content of what thus emerges as a locution ensues from its alternation with grow and happen:

They were allowing the recollection of him to be a barrier between
them — a barrier which would not vanish because they pretended it
was not there, but would grow.

When anyone talks to you like that, you remember it all your days,
and you always wonder why. There is no use trying to figure it out. There is no use, even in a story, trying to make it credible. It just sometimes
happens. It simply is there 96.

In opposition with the emptiness of the introductory phrase, a
metaphorical idiom is not excluded:

That woman's uncommonly all there, though. Lot in what she said 11.

Differing, then, on one hand from the extantive phrase but also
from the neutral denotation of existence by be or exist, this locution
assumes a plastic character:

In business, when he passed from one subject to another, he did not
switch off the light in a compartment of thought and yet remain in that
compartment; instead he proceeded mentally from one well-lighted room
to another, shutting the door firmly behind him; the room he had left
closed to exist for him until he chose to re-enter it. But when in a
room of his own soul he switched off the light, the room was still
there. His consciousness of being in it receded, but continued never-
theless.

Noticeable is the assertoric ring:

'Everything but religion. I never caught that from you'.
'It's not a catching thing. Sunday you just relax. And there it is 12.'
or preceding a pause, could evince the texts epideictically stressed. Or even, as archaisms are often retained in poetry and especially as
the overall ordering of words is influenced by the metrical form, the
shaping — this in *Beowulf* — can only have been effected in
the direction of more ancient patterns. But in such cases the
construction would not have entirely shed the overtones of its delictic
burden.

The purely extantive there is not stressed:

"Are you going to crack this safe yourself, or would you like the
young fellow to go along?"

"What stuff is there there?"

The eastern side of the room was comparatively unexplored, but even
there there was much interesting work to be done.

Stressed, however, in

Set the tale in Dublin or New York, and at once the pattern is predict-
bable: we know what people we shall meet, what rules are there to
be broken.

there is not necessarily a spatial correlate of the towns named, and
is distinctly not so of here

At your age you must do what you like. You see, I'm assuming that
you like being here? Well then, do what you like; follow your caprice.
After all, that's what you're there for.

The texts, besides, is now moveable in sentences not interrogative:

His age set between him and other people a distance he no longer
wanted to cross. It was not that he had lost his sharpness of mind.
Simply, the distance was there.

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44 Rees, J., *Die Wurtzolf im Beowulf*, Halle, Niemeyer, 1907, p. 70.
45 Ascher, S., *"The Accident of Crime" in Georgian Best Stories*, London,
Chapman and Hall, 1921, p. 6; Shipston, E., op. cit., p. 11.
46 Cutting from *Speculator*, 7 April 1956.
47 Huxley, A., *Two or Three Graces*, London, Chatto & Windus, 1929,
p. 66.
But the coming forth and the standing out are inevitably locative:

At the end of the snowfield a small conical peak guarded the pass. It looked an hour away. But size and distance are hopelessly deceptive in snowy mountains at night. When, after hours, the peak had come no nearer, we wondered if it was really there at all.55

That is, somehow at the distant place where the peak had been visible but where they now stood; if even then not materializing and after all a mirage, then inexcusable. Both are queried jointly.

It would be incumbent on speakers of the kindred languages to decide whether the co-reference holds good in them also, as is to be expected. For instance, in the case of the introductory Danish der with local particulars added or readily suggested64, if this last means their addition — in the overt utterance — or else a conceptual explicitness, or again in what measure the corresponding South Norwegian har65 is overlaid by a deixis.

The speakers would, moreover, have to be in a position to afdore the requisite straddle: close as the agreement would seem to be with the specification (cited above) of rain as falling outside a habitation, to give as what-like outside today a Swahili kunakukwaje nje leo? is open to doubt as a possible superposition in the translation.66 But then, daylight was proclaimed in early Latin by lucet hoc, literally 'it is lighting this'.67

The point it is expected to have made is that this discrete — phrasal or unagglutinated — makeup permits the denotation of existence bracketed together with — not connating or connoted by — space, thus preserving an outlook which bears the unmistakable imprint of earliest antiquity, long before the impressive morphemic aggre-

58 Seidell, A., Swahili Grammar, Heidelberg, Gruna, 1961, p. 269. Also the author of a Lithuania Grammar in Hartleben's Bibliothek der Sprachenkunde, Wien, as well as of five other languages.
59 Plautus, Miles Gloriosus, 2. 2. 43.
But the coming forth and the standing out are inevitably locative:

At the end of the snowfield a small conical peak guarded the pass.
It looked an hour away. But size and distance are hopelessly deceptive
in snow-covered mountains at night. When, after hours, the peak had come no
 nearer, we wondered if it was really there at all.13

That is, nowhere at the distant place where the peak had been visible
but where they now stood; if even then not materializing and after
all a mirage, then inexistential. Both are queried jointly.

It would be incumbent on speakers of the kindred languages to
decide whether the co-reference holds good in them also, as is to be
expected. For instance, in the case of the introductory Danish der
with less particular adduced or readily suggested14, if this last
means their addition — in the overt utterance — or else a concep
tual implicitness, or again in what measure the corresponding South
Norwegian har15 is overlaid by a deictic.

The speakers would, moreover, have to be in a position to afford
the requisite straddle: close as the agreement would seem to be
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tation, to give as what-like outside today a Swahili kuna kwasili
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of earliest antiquity, long before the impressive morphemic aggre-

14 Jensen, H., Neualbtische Syntax, Heidelberg, Winter, 1922, pág. 139.
15 Larsen, A. B., spada Posession, J. C., Norwegische Sprache, Wien, Hartleben,
  a. d., pág. 128.
16 Siedel, A., Swahili Grammatik, Heidelberg, Gruy, 1941, pág. 286. Also
  the author of a Lithuanian grammar in Hartleben's Bibliothek der Sprachen-
  kunde, Wien, as well as of five other languages.
17 Plautus, Miles Gloriosus, 2. 2. 63.