

現代英語における直喩表現

—— ‘(as) ~ as...’ 型の場合 ——

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比喩が表現効果を高めるための有効な手段であることは論を俟たない。今日の英語においては、その面でのどのような世界が展開されているであろうか。

直喩については、これまでに、磯川治一氏 (1956)、倉田達氏 (1971) などの研究¹⁾があるが、そこでは今日の英語にはほとんど触れられていない (前者で戦後の英語にごく僅か触れられているが)。そして、調査対象もほとんど文学の領域に限られている。

本稿では、今日の英語について、‘(as) ~ as...’ 型の直喩に限定して若干の調査をおこない考察を加えてみることにする。

調査の資料としては、癖のない平易明快な英文で現代英語の一典型とも言い得る *Reader's Digest* 誌を用いることにしたい。

今筆者の手許に、同誌の本国版 (U.S. Edition) 1970年~1974年までの26冊がある。号数は次のとおりである。

1970: Mar., May, Jun., Aug.

1972: Jan., Feb., Apr., Jul., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.

1973: Jan., Feb., Apr., May, Jun., Jul., Aug., Sept., Oct., Dec.

1974: Mar., May, Jul.

これら26冊を資料として、全ページにわたって用例を残らず拾うことにする。(平均264ページである。但し広告文は調査の対象としない。)

* * *

さて、simile については *Webster III* の次の定義がその本質を簡潔に言い表わしていると思われる。

‘a figure of speech comparing two essentially unlike things and often introduced by *like* or *as*’ (s.v. simile)

また、MEU²⁾ が

‘A simile is always a comparison; but a comparison is by no means always a simile, and still less often deserves to be called one.’ (s.v. simile)

と言うとおり、‘as ~ as+N’ のすべてが直喩であるわけでないことに十分注意しなければな

らない。次の例などは注意深く除外されねばならないものであろう。

They electrified their suburban lines, introduced stream-lining and powerful diesel locomotives for swifter freight trains, and made air-conditioned coaches *as comfortable as Pullman cars*.²⁾

きめては context にほかならない。

以下、調査の資料から得られる実例を見てゆくことにするが、引用の仕方などについて、予め一言しておきたい。

引用は、多くの場合、直喩を含む当該センテンスだけをあげればすむのであるが、場合によっては、それだけでは意味が不明であったり、あるいは不明瞭であったりすることもある。そうした場合には、引用を延長するなどして、できる限り意味をはっきりさせるよう配慮することにした。

なお、引用文の直喩表現の部分には下線を施し、また、それによって形容される語句（比喩される側）を引用文中で示すことができる場合は、イタリック体で表わすことにする。

実例の検討に当っては、COD⁵ (1964) および、研究社『英語学辞典』(1953) を参照してゆくことにする。前者は、成句を豊富に盛込んでいることが最大の特長とされるが、‘as¹’の項の〈語義5〉には、69個の直喩の model が示されている。また後者の‘simile’の項には、〈日常用いられるものの中の約100種〉があげられている。それらにあげられているものと、その都度比較をしてゆきたい。

(A) 形容詞が1語の直喩

はじめに、形容詞が1語のものを、形容詞に関して lexical order に並べて、順次見てゆくことにする。

なお、形容詞形で機能上は副詞のはたらきをしているとみられるもの（いわゆる〈flat adverb〉）もその中に含める。また、形容詞が複合語であるものもここに含める。

1. *Some of these speeches (i.e. Vice President Agnew's speeches) are as accurate as a sociologist's research report, and I've shown them to people who accuse Agnew of polarizing the country by saying these things.*³⁾
2. *She was no beauty, to be sure; just a waterfront hawker, tiny, wrinkled, harrowingly gaunt—and as ageless as the sea itself.*⁴⁾
3. *Now, instead of nodding with the dim bemusement of a stroke victim as he did ten years ago, the long-retired big-league player is as alert as a boy.*⁵⁾
4. *By the 1880s the valley floor was filled with 50,000 head of grazing cattle,*

consuming 1,000 tons of grass a day, and within a dozen years *the entire valley* had been nibbled as bald as a billiard table.⁶⁾

5. Nearby is *the elongated hexagonal scar*, bare as brick, where from the fortress of a pup tent cowboys and sheriffs battled cattle rustlers, and Indians laid siege to the cavalry.⁷⁾

6. "I was shooting for *the eye (i.e. a whale's)*—big as a plate it looked."⁸⁾

7. Twice *the immense head (i.e. a whale's)* came lunging out of the water high into the air. It was big as a small house, glistening black on top and fish-white underneath.⁹⁾

8. Baldheaded, deeply wrinkled, as black as the bottom of an old cooking pot, her few remaining teeth a deep orange from the countless kola nuts she had gnawed on, *Nyo Bo* would settle herself with much grunting on her low stool and begin a story in the same way that all Mandinka storytellers began: "At this certain time, in this certain village, lived this certain person..."¹⁰⁾

COD⁵ に 'black as pitch' があげられている。(同辞書は、69の model をすべて、形容詞の前の 'as' を省いた形で示している) そうした使い古された表現とくらべて、この例では、何気ない身近なものとの比較が直截な効果を生んでいると言える。

9. Near the stream was *another patch of color*, bright as the Wyoming sky.¹¹⁾

COD⁵ に 'bright as a new pin' が、『英語学辞典』に 'as bright as a dollar (or sixpence)' があげられているが、この例では、また異った趣きで、ある具体的な色彩の拡りを明示するであろう。

10. So far, too, *their (i.e. lemmings') reproduction rate* is lazy. But in the second year of the cycle it builds up, and in the third or fourth year it becomes about as brisk as a machine gun. Females are almost continuously with young.¹²⁾

'reproduction rate' を形容するのに、本来動作を形容する形容詞 'lazy', 'brisk' を以てし、'brisk' を 'machine gun' と対比させて生彩ある表現を生んでいる。

11. Fearing that he would find the same conditions of corruption in his new post, he sought the counsel of an experienced captain in the department. After checking around, the captain reported: *the 7th Division* was "as clean as a hound's tooth." (THE STORY OF AN HONEST COP)¹³⁾

『英語学辞典』は ‘as clean as a penny’ をあげているが、両者の名詞が与える色彩のイメージの強さに大きな差があるであろう。

12. “The water of the south fork (Snake) is a greenish blue,” wrote Clark, “*the north (Clearwater) as clear as cristial.*”¹⁴⁾

‘cristial’ は ‘crystal’ の誤であろう。

13. As much as we have yet to learn, *one thing* is clear to me here in Anchorage—as clear as the peak of Mt. McKinley, 20,300 feet high against the blue Alaskan sky across the inlet. We need to move right now. The eyes of the world are turning north. We must start using our Arctic resources, those of natural beauty and those that meet man’s other needs.¹⁵⁾

アラスカの空にそそり立つ高峰を以て ‘clear’ の意味を、context にうまくなじむかたちで、みごとに強調している。なお、『英語学辞典』には ‘as clear as Heaven (or noonday)’ が示されている。

14. Americans know *pollution* well. It is as close as the water tap, the car-clogged streets and junk-filled landscape—their country’s visible decay, America the Ugly.¹⁶⁾

15. When Sharon’s (*i.e.* his daughter’s) now two-year-old son, Jamie, was born, Percy sent the baby a present with this note: “*Your Republican precinct captain is as close as the nearest telephone.*”¹⁷⁾

『英語学辞典』に、これらと意味の異なる ‘as close as a vice’ があげられている。上の2例とも、身近にあるものを表わす名詞を用いていることに注意したい。

16. “Stop!” she ordered again, *her voice* as cold as the steel pressing into my side.¹⁸⁾

COD⁵, 『英語学辞典』とも ‘(as) cold as charity’ だけをあげている。ここでは、もちろん context からして、‘as charity’ のような間接的表現でなく上のような直接的表現でなくてはならないであろう。

17. ‘I left the dishes for you for a change,’ I said, cool as a revolutionary.¹⁹⁾

ここでは、‘cool’ はいわゆる 〈flat adverb〉である。なお、COD⁵, 『英語学辞典』ともに古めかしい ‘(as) cool as a cucumber’ をあげるにとどまっている。

18. Finally, trying to relieve tension, one young officer declared, "If anyone thinks I'm scared, they're crazy as hell."²⁰⁾

次の引用に見るように, 'as hell' は非常に古くから用いられているようである。

Heaven trully knows that thou art false *as hell*. (*Oth.*, IV. ii. 39)

[スヴァルテングレン, 佐々木達訳『強意的直喩の研究』]

19. "He's as dead as a board," Boyle says.²¹⁾

COD⁵ は 'dead as a doornail', 'dead as mutton' とを, 『英語学辞典』は 'as dead as a doornail (or herring)' を, それぞれあげている。

20. *A color as delicate as watermelon juice on a clean plate* ('Toward More Picturesque Speech' 欄)²²⁾

これは他のものからの引用文であるが, これ以上の context は示されていない。

21. Maggie was constitutionally incapable of understanding *anything as down-to-earth as a contract.*²³⁾

22. Seen from the outside, *a stained-glass window looks as drab as the wrong side of a butterfly's wing.*²⁴⁾

22 は, 一見何気なく見えて秀逸な比喩, といえよう。

23. There would still be *inventors, researchers, thinkers*, although for a few centuries they might seem as eccentric as saints and be as rare.²⁵⁾

24. *The act was as eloquent as a curse:* Get out! You're not wanted here.²⁶⁾

25. *It (i.e. Gothic architecture) was an engineering break-through as epochal as modern steel-and-concrete building.*²⁷⁾

26. "You see," Jim explained sheepishly, "my wife and I have dreamed about this for years, and we're as excited as two kids about it."²⁸⁾

27. Wishful thinking is hoping that someday *long grass* will become as fashionable as long hair.²⁹⁾

28. His (*i.e.* Pope John's) cook in Paris lamented, "For *a man* who is fat as a curate, he eats like a bird. It must be those books and newspapers he

devours that fill him out.”³⁰⁾

29. TIRED executive: “I’m about as fit as a fizzle.”⁸¹⁾

これは読者の投稿文であるが、使い古された ‘as fit as a fiddle’ をもじった一種の pun であろう。

30. Those were lovely times! We had a hill then, and *many neighbors* as fond as family.³²⁾

31. Later that evening, flat on my back in bed, I described for Liz a scene of heady refinement: flickering candles, *the girls* gay as Christmas presents in their white dresses, entering into the laughing give-and-take of repartee, their faces turned to me to provide the quote from Racine that no one else could remember.³³⁾

32. It is the first time I have studied *a grain of soot*; it is perfectly round, glossy as polished obsidian, beautiful.³⁴⁾

33. *She* (*i.e.* a panda) had her own little security blanket, and was as good as gold.³⁵⁾

COD⁵, 『英語学辞典』ともに 33 と同じものをあげている。言うまでもなく ‘good’ は ‘well-behaved’ の意である。古くからの直喩であるが、今日でも使われるようである。

34. But with world trade zooming, gold’s scarcity has made it inadequate for use as a universal cash, to settle accounts between nations. An everyday substitute was necessary. For decades that stand-in has been the “good as gold” *dollar*—supplemented lately by “paper gold,” or SDRs, created by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).³⁶⁾

この例では、前例が強意的であるのとことなり、叙述的な性格のものとして用いられている。なお、前位群化修飾の形態をとっていることに注意しておきたい。

35. “Whenever I see a whale spout before, and I supposes I see a t’ousand, only the top of the head and a bit of the fin and back would come out of the water. But this one...she made a slow start toward we, went under, and next thing we knowed was standing up with her whole head clear of the water, high as a cliff, and staring straight at we out of one big eye.”³⁷⁾

36. When she first visited me, *Marianne* was 37, tall, bony, as homely as Abra-

ham Lincoln.³⁸⁾

‘homely’は‘plain’の意であろうが、Abraham Lincoln と対比することにより何と簡潔にその女性の容姿を描き尽していることか。

37. “Uncle Trusty,” as we jokingly call this other me, was the brain-child of our attorney, one of many lawyers who believe that *our archaic probate law* are as incongruous today as a horse and buggy on an expressway.³⁹⁾

38. Italy’s great culinary unifier is *pasta*, as Italian as opera, and synonymous with “food.”⁴⁰⁾

39. It was as limp as a dishrag, a condition called atony.⁴¹⁾

40. As lonely as a merry-go-round without children⁴²⁾ (‘Toward More Picturesque Speech’ 欄)

41. As low as a puddle⁴³⁾ (同上 欄)

40, 41 の 2 例は context なしであげられている。

42. I am always going back to see if the big, black clams still cluster along the clay bottoms of the winding Rock River, in southern Wisconsin, hoping to find one with *a pearl* luminous as the moon.⁴⁴⁾

43. I was also told that as a result of the hubbub *many people in Burgeo* were “mad as hell at you for sticking your nose in where it weren’t wanted.”⁴⁵⁾

COD⁵ は ‘mad as a hatter’ ‘mad as a March hare’ とを、『英語学辞典』は ‘as mad as a March hare’ をあげている。それらの表現が今日普通に用いられるか否かはさておいて、それらとくらべて ‘as hell’ の方が一層強意的な響きを持つのではあるまいか。(《用例 18》の説明を参照)

44. I was crouched, motionless as a stone, when a voice spoke suddenly above my head:⁴⁶⁾

45. It is *a vast forbidding territory* as mysterious as the moon, yet under its cover of ice and snow lies a unique opportunity for the future.⁴⁷⁾

46. *The boys and girls* scampered about as naked as animals.⁴⁸⁾

47. He knows that the guys are grateful that he took the time to cook and *the wise-cracks* are as natural as the rising sun.⁴⁹⁾

48. As nervous as a mailman at a dog show⁵⁰⁾ (‘Toward More Picturesque Speech’ 欄)

48 は context があげられていない。

49. Maybe *the apple trees in my back yard* are the same old trees, minus a couple of branches that came down last winter, but when they burst bud and appear in full blossom, they are as new as sunrise—and as old.⁵¹⁾

50. *He* didn’t look violent, just old—as old as the mountain behind the personage.⁵²⁾

COD⁵⁾、『英語学辞典』ともに ‘(as) old as the hills’ をあげている。それと類似してはいるが、特定の山を比較の対象に選んでいる点に注意しておきたい。

51. Through these cables, which come from a Cable TV station, pours television fare of such rich diversity and optical clarity that it makes *over-the-air television* seem as old-fashioned as a crank-up phonograph.⁵³⁾

52. *Her face* was pale as death itself, and her skin had a transparent quality.⁵⁴⁾

COD⁵⁾ に ‘pale as a ghost’ があげられている。‘death’ との対比が ‘pale’ の意を大いに強めるが、ここでは、‘itself’ を加えて更に強めている。

次の例は 1 文に 2 つの直喩が含まれているものである。

53. And one April we went down the Delmarva Peninsula in the midst of *peach blossoms*, pink as a maiden’s cheek, sweet as peach jam, and again loud with bees.⁵⁵⁾

なお、『英語学辞典』に ‘as sweet as a peach’ が見られる。

54. Later, when the patient gets dressed and comes into my office, I’m no longer just a doctor, but a man, too. Sometimes on a *patient’s* chart I’ll put down, “Pretty as hell.”⁵⁶⁾

55. *Colley Reserve*, a park in Glenelg, Australia, was left looking pretty as a picture after a mammoth kiddies’ picnic. At day’s end, organizers broadcast the news that hidden among all the litter were two secretly marked pieces of rubbish

which could be traded in for new bicycles. Never has a picnic ground been cleaned as quickly.⁵⁷⁾

‘pretty as a picture’のような、一見月並にも見える直喩が、見事に生かされる場面があることに注意すべきであろう。

56. Adults may like to be fashionably late, but at a children’s birthday party *the participants are as punctual as lawyers*.⁵⁸⁾

‘quiet’については、COD⁵は‘quiet as a mouse’を、『英語学辞典』は‘as quiet as pussy’をそれぞれあげているが、調査資料に見出されるのは次の3例である。

57. *The place was as quiet as a loser’s locker room; everyone was hard at work*.⁵⁹⁾

58. As quiet as a gathering of memories⁶⁰⁾ (‘Toward More Picturesque Speech’ 欄)

59. Then, quiet as a serpent, I slipped through the back gate.⁶¹⁾

場面に応じてそれぞれに工夫をこらした多様な使われ方がされている。動作を表現するのに、今日では(人間のある器官を意味することがあるので)『英語学辞典』のあげる‘pussy’はあまり用いられないであろう。(cf. Webster III, s.v. ‘pussy’)

60. *Weather as raw as a skinned knee*⁶²⁾ (‘Toward More Picturesque Speech’ 欄)

61. It (*i.e.* the B-I superbomber) is a gorgeous bird, bright white, with *long clean, swept-back lines, sleek as a needle*.⁶³⁾

62. *A Piper Cub turns on a dime, but is slow as molasses*.⁶⁴⁾

『英語学辞典』に古くからの‘as slow as a snail’があげられている。

63. The Michigan researchers soon learned that *the Wankel (*i.e.* the Wankel rotary engine) without any pollution controls was about as smoky as wet firewood*.⁶⁵⁾

64. I sold a large Oriental rug to two young men, who came for it in a Volkswagen. I doubted that they could get it into the small car, but they folded it to a size approximating the back seat and managed to cram it in. Whereupon one of them turned elatedly to me and said, “I guess that’s what you could call ‘snug as a rug in a bug!’”⁶⁶⁾

64 の文章は読者の投稿文である。ここに登場する青年は、旧来用いられている ‘as snug as a bug in a rug’ の ‘bug’ と ‘rug’ を逆に用いてピッタリと決めている (Volkswagen を bug に見たてたのは言うまでもない)。なお、COD⁵、『英語学辞典』ともに ‘as snug as a bug in a rug’ をあげている。

65. Barefoot, we kicked down back roads in *dust* as soft as brown talcum powder.⁶⁷⁾

COD⁵ は ‘soft as butter’, ‘soft as velvet’ の 2 つを、『英語学辞典』は ‘as soft as soap’ をあげている。

66. When *the first real trouble* appeared in the summer of 1970, it was as startling as a crack of lightning on a clear night.⁶⁸⁾

‘stiff’ については次の 3 つの用例が見出される。

67. They dragged me into that room where they had *Ratterman* laid out stiff as a board.⁶⁹⁾

68. He began to gag and gasp, and his eyes to stand out, and his forelegs to spread and in about a quarter of a minute *he fell over* as stiff as a carpenter’s workbench, and died a death of indescribable agony.⁷⁰⁾

69. *Insects and spiders in the soil* lie in the cold as stiff as plastic toys, safe until spring.⁷¹⁾

COD⁵ に ‘stiff as a poker’ が示されているが、実例は、場面に応じてこのように多様である。

70. “Your classes are scattered, but fortunately *the routes to all of them* are straight as an arrow.”⁷²⁾

COD⁵ は ‘straight as a die’ を、『英語学辞典』は ‘straight as an arrow’ をそれぞれあげている。後者はこのように今日も用いるようである。

71. “Purpose or no, Farley, bye, he sure as hell drub a couple hundred barrels right straight into the cove.”⁷³⁾

72. Again, it is not police raids and tougher laws that we need; it is merely strength. The strength to explain, in our potty, middle-aged way, that what they seek, we sought; that it is somewhere, but sure as hell not in drugs.⁷⁴⁾

‘sure’については上の2例を見出したが、いずれも‘as hell’である。(ともに〈flat adverb〉である)なお、COD⁵は‘sure as fate’を『英語学辞典』は‘as sure as a gun (or eggs are eggs)’をそれぞれあげている。(《用例18》の説明を参照)

‘as hell’は、以上で5例を見たが、それらの諸例から見て、非常に強い intensifier であると言えそうである。(《用例18, 43, 54》参照)

‘sweet’については《用例53》を参照。

73. *The small arms and legs were scratched, and thin as matchsticks*⁷⁵⁾

74. Supermarkets operate on *profit margins as thin as wrapping paper*; .9 percent on sales is the current average margin.⁷⁶⁾

‘thin’については上の2例が見出される。74の例など、contextにとけ込んで適切に用いられた好例であろう。なお、COD⁵には‘thin as a lath’が、『英語学辞典』には‘as thin as a rail (or an eel)’がそれぞれ示されている。

75. Sullen and suspicious, as touchy as a misanthropic cobra, he believed that everybody was out to cheat him.⁷⁷⁾

76. When I say that Halsey was loved, I do not mean that he was soft in any way; on the contrary, he was tough as hardtack.⁷⁸⁾

77. On an expedition to British Columbia, he wrote: “There has been a *bird note* which has mystified us all—from deep in the woods, very loud, pure and beautiful, as true as a flute.”⁷⁹⁾

COD⁵, 『英語学辞典』は、ともに‘as true as steel’をあげるにとどまっている。

78. I tried to ease my conscience with the thought that they had derived much benefit from their voyage and that *our (i.e. 43-foot schooner's) sinking* was as unforeseeable as an earthquake, or an airplane crash.⁸⁰⁾

79. A store near my home recently advertised a “fabulous white sale.” It was using the same word to push sheets that Thomas Wolfe had used to describe America: “the only fabulous country”—that is, a *land* as unreal as a fable.⁸¹⁾

80. *The Gurnard* is as unwieldy as a barge, even in a calm harbor.⁸²⁾

81. Since World War II, Cretans have realized that a *tourist* is as valuable as an olive tree—and a lot easier to pick.⁸³⁾

82. In a little girl's voice that sounded as warm as July, Kit introduced herself.⁸⁴⁾

83. They're (i.e. three kids are) skedaddling through the sprinkler, wet as frogs and jumping twice as high.⁸⁵⁾

最後に, 'white' について, 次の3例がある。

84. But the priest kept coming, unsteady, face white as death, ignoring the raised weapons of the guards.⁸⁶⁾

85. Harry, the wounded one, was now sleeping on my bed, his face as white as the snow outside.⁸⁷⁾

86. He had a dress suit of white broadcloth, swallow-tail coat and all, which made him white as a ghost.⁸⁸⁾

COD⁵ は 'white as a sheet' を示し, 『英語学辞典』は 'as white as sheet (or snow)' としている。

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以上が, 資料の全ページから得られた, <形容詞が1語の直喩> の用例のすべてである。《用例53》が1文中に2つの直喩を含んでいるので, 都合87となる。

以下, その他の用例を見てゆくことにする。

(B) その他の直喩

その他の用例は, a) 形容詞が2つ以上のもの, b) 形容詞の前に副詞を伴うもの, c) 形容詞の後に副詞句を伴うもの, d) 形容詞の後に '冠詞+名詞' を伴うもの, に4分類することができる。

* * *

a) 形容詞が2つ以上のもの

87. The morning of December 31, 1968 was dark and cold as my guard, nicknamed "Porky", unlocked my leg irons.⁸⁹⁾

88. High over the crowd-packed stadium at a Billy Graham Crusade, a familiar and jubilant voice is heard. Warm and mellow as a muted trumpet, it breaks free from the staid cadences of the choir and takes off on exuberant excursions of its own.⁹⁰⁾

89. She has always been as uninhibited and irrepressible as a hurricane.⁹¹⁾

90. I pressed back the stick* and soared up into air that was as soft and smooth

as old wine.⁹²⁾ (* control stick of an airplane)

91. "But Miser Stevens ain't dead! You can't tell me he is!" said Jabez. "He was just as spry and mean as a woodchuck Tuesday!"⁹³⁾

92. Then I knew the release of tears. Not alone for the dog whose fulfilled years had to end. Not for a house now empty of his merry welcome, as it was empty of a child's voice and a boy's whistle. But in gratitude for *the small joys, the brief, exquisite moments of beauty, as fleeting and iridescent as light on water.*⁹⁴⁾

93. Pretty soon all was as before—as noisy and as cheerful as a barn dance.⁹⁵⁾

94. Then, as the day of battle wore on, *Yamamoto* sat stern and impassive as a judge while his staff excitedly prepared suggestion after suggestion for retrieving the situation.⁹⁶⁾

95. *He* was a slender man, straight and deadly as a Toledo blade.⁹⁷⁾

96. Of course, this showing off didn't last: *Judy* emerged from the tomboy chrysalis to become as graceful, tall and beautiful as a show-girl.⁹⁸⁾

97. Read *it* (*i.e.* the Bible) as though it were as antient and exotic and wise as the I Ching or the Tarot Deck.⁹⁹⁾

b) 形容詞の前に副詞を伴うもの

98. *The roses* are as wildly colored as a New England autumn: not just red, pink and yellow, but lavender, blue, purple and orange.¹⁰⁰⁾

99. Now *it* (*i.e.* the Suez Canal) is as ruminatively empty as the tombs of the Pharaohs at Giza.¹⁰¹⁾

c) 形容詞の後に副詞句を伴うもの

100. *They* (*i.e.* diamonds) may be a girl's best friend, but when bought for an engagement ring they can be as hard to assess as the bride-to-be.¹⁰²⁾

101. *Facial muscles,* as unaccustomed to relaxation as rusty hinges, cracked into smiles.¹⁰³⁾

d) 形容詞の後に '冠詞+名詞' を伴うもの

102. Several years ago a young high flier who needed money for a business propo-

sition went to Dallas' largest bank, the 48-story Republic National, for a \$50,000 loan. The loan officer heard his story, then asked about collateral. The young man bristled. "I am not accustomed to talk about collateral for small loans," he said. The official excused himself and reported the details to the chairman of the bank. "Give the boy his money," this experienced Texan replied. "With that kind of confidence he's as good an investment as a straight flush."¹⁰⁴⁾

以上、今回の調査で得られた 103 の用例を一通り見たわけである。以下まとめをして稿を結ぶことにする。

まず統計的観点から整理をすると、103 例のうち形容詞が 1 語のものが 87 例と圧倒的に多いが、(as), as の間が必ずしも形容詞 1 語になると限らないことに注意すべきであろう。また、特定の形容詞への片寄りはありません。これを形容詞が 1 語の場合について見ると、74 種の形容詞について '(as) ~ as' 型の直喩が用いられており、

87 例	{	3 例見られる形容詞…… 3 種
		2 例見られる形容詞…… 7 種
		1 例だけの形容詞 …… 64 種

となっている。非常に広く用いられているといえよう。

その表現形式について言えば、型にはまらず、多様と言うほかはない。自由闊達、臨機応変である。従来、慣用的として示されてきた定型的な model の例は、(今回の調査に見る限りは)非常に少ない。COD⁵⁾、『英語学辞典』などのあげる model と同じものは《用例 33, 70》などに見られるだけである。今日では、(特にアメリカにおいては)個性や創造性こそが重んじられて、古めかしい陳腐なきまり文句は cliché として退けられるのであろう。調査結果から、そのことがはっきり言えそうである。また、従来、頭韻をふむものがかなり多いとされる(前掲『強意的直喩の研究』(p. 18)は全体の 5 分の 1 という)が、調査の結果得られた用例では、頭韻をふんでいるものは非常に少ない。

そこには形式にとらわれない自由さが認められるのである。

かなりはっきり窺われるのは、できるだけ image の鮮明な名詞、明確な image を与える具象的な名詞を用いて明確化させようとする傾向である。名詞部分がかなり長い用例もいくつか目につくが、それも image の明確化ということと決して無関係ではないであろう。また、固有名を用いたものもかなり見えている。

以上簡単にまとめをしてみた。限られた調査ではあったが、多彩な世界が開けているのを見ることができた。時代相・社会相もそこには如実に映し出されている。この面でも、英語は今日流動しているのである。

用いた資料の性格からみて、今日という時点での、特定分野に片よらない平均的な英語の 1 つの共時的スケッチを描くことはできたように思われる。

(1976 年 4 月 12 日稿)

— 註 —

1) 『直喩と英語の文体』篠崎書林；『英文法論叢』同。
2) *The Readers Digest*, Jan., 1973, p. 174.

3) *ibid.*, Apr., 1973, p. 79.
4) *ibid.*, Jan., 1973, p. 100.

- 5) *ibid.*, Jul., 1972, p. 57.
- 6) *ibid.*, Dec., 1972, p. 108.
- 7) *ibid.*, May, 1973, p. 243.
- 8) *ibid.*, Feb., 1973, p. 225.
- 9) *ibid.*, Feb., 1973, p. 232.
- 10) *ibid.*, May, 1974, p. 81.
- 11) *ibid.*, Jan., 1972, p. 107.
- 12) *ibid.*, Aug., 1970, p. 168.
- 13) *ibid.*, May, 1973, p. 305.
- 14) *ibid.*, Feb., 1972, p. 226.
- 15) *ibid.*, Jun., 1973, p. 136.
- 16) *ibid.*, May, 1970, p. 63.
- 17) *ibid.*, Sept., 1972, p. 123.
- 18) *ibid.*, Dec., 1973, p. 138.
- 19) *ibid.*, Mar., 1974, p. 129.
- 20) *ibid.*, May, 1974, p. 57.
- 21) *ibid.*, Jul., 1972, p. 229.
- 22) *ibid.*, Aug., 1970, p. 52.
- 23) *ibid.*, Apr., 1973, p. 145.
- 24) *ibid.*, Sept., 1973, p. 113.
- 25) *ibid.*, Feb., 1972, p. 287.
- 26) *ibid.*, Jul., 1973, p. 108.
- 27) *ibid.*, Sept., 1973, p. 111.
- 28) *ibid.*, Jul., 1973, pp. 111 f.
- 29) *ibid.*, Jul., 1973, p. 95.
- 30) *ibid.*, Dec., 1972, p. 246.
- 31) *ibid.*, Jan., 1972, p. 41.
- 32) *ibid.*, Feb., 1973, p. 139.
- 33) *ibid.*, Jan., 1973, pp. 161 f.
- 34) *ibid.*, May, 1973, p. 265.
- 35) *ibid.*, Jul., 1972, p. 208.
- 36) *ibid.*, Jun., 1973, p. 174.
- 37) *ibid.*, Feb., 1973, p. 224.
- 38) *ibid.*, Apr., 1973, p. 284.
- 39) *ibid.*, Jun., 1970, p. 93.
- 40) *ibid.*, Mar., 1974, p. 21.
- 41) *ibid.*, Apr., 1973, p. 288.
- 42) *ibid.*, Feb., 1973, p. 75.
- 43) *ibid.*, Feb., 1973, p. 75.
- 44) *ibid.*, Oct., 1972, p. 281.
- 45) *ibid.*, Feb., 1973, p. 247.
- 46) *ibid.*, Jun., 1970, p. 77.
- 47) *ibid.*, Jun., 1973, p. 133.
- 48) *ibid.*, May, 1974, p. 81.
- 49) *ibid.*, Jul., 1972, p. 236.
- 50) *ibid.*, Feb., 1973, p. 75.
- 51) *ibid.*, Apr., 1973, p. 22.
- 52) *ibid.*, Oct., 1973, p. 161.
- 53) *ibid.*, Oct., 1972, p. 31.
- 54) *ibid.*, Dec., 1973, p. 250.
- 55) *ibid.*, Apr., 1973, p. 22.
- 56) *ibid.*, Apr., 1973, p. 262.
- 57) *ibid.*, Nov., 1972, p. 135.
- 58) *ibid.*, Jan., 1972, pp. 91 f.
- 59) *ibid.*, May, 1973, p. 189.
- 60) *ibid.*, Dec., 1972, p. 216.
- 61) *ibid.*, Sept., 1973, p. 143.
- 62) *ibid.*, Feb., 1973, p. 75.
- 63) *ibid.*, Dec., 1972, p. 122.
- 64) *ibid.*, Feb., 1972, p. 44.
- 65) *ibid.*, Jan., 1972, p. 150.
- 66) *ibid.*, Sept., 1972, p. 24.
- 67) *ibid.*, Jun., 1973, p. 77.
- 68) *ibid.*, Nov., 1972, p. 95.
- 69) *ibid.*, Apr., 1973, p. 178.
- 70) *ibid.*, Dec., 1973, p. 30.
- 71) *ibid.*, Jan., 1972, p. 174.
- 72) *ibid.*, Aug., 1972, p. 218.
- 73) *ibid.*, Feb., 1973, p. 248.
- 74) *ibid.*, Jun., 1970, p. 131.
- 75) *ibid.*, Jan., 1972, p. 107.
- 76) *ibid.*, Jul., 1973, p. 66.
- 77) *ibid.*, Jun., 1970, pp. 112 f.
- 78) *ibid.*, Sept., 1973, p. 119.
- 79) *ibid.*, Mar., 1974, p. 142.
- 80) *ibid.*, Oct., 1973, p. 308.
- 81) *ibid.*, Mar., 1970, p. B 3.
- 82) *ibid.*, Dec., 1973, p. 75.
- 83) *ibid.*, Oct., 1972, p. 135.
- 84) *ibid.*, Aug., 1972, p. 221.
- 85) *ibid.*, Jul., 1972, p. 106.
- 86) *ibid.*, Jul., 1973, p. 98.
- 87) *ibid.*, Jan., 1973, p. 112.
- 88) *ibid.*, Aug., 1973, p. 229.
- 89) *ibid.*, Jan., 1972, p. 219.
- 90) *ibid.*, Dec., 1972, p. 81.
- 91) *ibid.*, Dec., 1972, p. 82.
- 92) *ibid.*, May, 1974, p. 118.
- 93) *ibid.*, Jul., 1974, p. 212.
- 94) *ibid.*, Jan., 1973, p. 70.
- 95) *ibid.*, Jan., 1973, p. 163.
- 96) *ibid.*, Nov., 1972, p. 302.
- 97) *ibid.*, Nov., 1972, p. 260.
- 98) *ibid.*, Nov., 1972, p. 185.
- 99) *ibid.*, Sept., 1972, p. 129.
- 100) *ibid.*, Sept., 1973, p. 220.
- 101) *ibid.*, May, 1970, p. 137.
- 102) *ibid.*, May, 1970, p. 188.
- 103) *ibid.*, Apr., 1972, p. 220.
- 104) *ibid.*, Jun., 1970, p. 158.

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