

思想史研究会

現代アメリカ英語方言に見られる 動詞の言語思想史的語形変化の諸相

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現代のアメリカの口語や俗語・方言にはイギリスの中世時代（1150-1500）に使われていた古い時代の動詞の活用形の語形が所によって、依然として根強く残っているのが文学作品の中に数多く散見される。これらのルーツはいうまでもなく17世紀に母国イギリスから宗教・信仰の自由を求めて迫害の恐れのない新大陸に渡来した開拓者達が当時母国イギリスで彼らが使用していた言葉（英語）そのものを持ち込んだもので、それが根付き、世代を越えて受け継がれ、子々孫々に至るまでしっかりと伝えられてきた名残と思われる。その事により、地域によっては現代も庶民の言葉（特に話し言葉）の中に根強く残存している。取りわけアメリカ南部諸地域、特に Missouri 州南部 Arkansas 州北部 Oklahoma 州東部にわたるオザーク（Ozarks）丘陵地帯や Appalachian Mountains（アパラチア山脈地帯）に住む住人達の間での会話などに今なお数多く残存しているのが見受けられる。そこでアメリカ英語に見られる庶民の言葉のありのままの姿の一端を文学作品を通して実証的に検証していくことにする。

はじめに

動詞の活用変化（Conjugation）とは人称、数、時制、法、態を表すための動詞の語形変化のことを言う。歴史的には、動詞の活用変化は古期英語時代（Old English, 700-1150頃）には極めて複雑であったものが、時代が経つにつれて次第に単純化されて現代では、一般に原形、過去、過去分詞の三主要形を動詞の活用変化と言っている。

ミシガン大学名誉教授、フリーズ先生（Charles Carpenter Fries, 1887-1969）は現代アメリカ英語研究の言語素材として生粋のアメリカの一般市民の自由で闊達な束縛のない話し言葉として、書簡2000余通と他の1000余通の手紙を取り上げて、熟慮分析研究してアメリカの記述英語の言語大系を構築した現代アメリカ英語研究の第一人者の一人と目されてきた。これに対して、本稿では英語を母語としない筆者は恥ずかしながら極めて甚だ小粒ではあるが、記述英語として、可能な限り多くの英米の文学作品に目を通して、資料収集に没頭し、

丹念に集めた多くの語彙語法を、重要な生きた言語研究の原語素材として意欲的に取り上げて、特に発話として用いられている一般庶民の話し言葉の中核を構成する動詞の語形変化の有り体を、探求研究したものである。その理由は、いうまでもなく、極めて浅学非才の筆者のような英語を母語としない一研究者 (nonnative speaker) にとって、これが出来得るせめてもの、筆者としては最上の研究方策 (approach) と考えているからである。

まずは、動詞の活用変化を歴史的に概観すると、話し手と聞き手との間で誤解無く意志疎通が円滑に成立するためには話者の発話の内容が基本的には、「～です、～でした、～したことがある」など、双方のコミュニケーションの意志疎通が円滑に誤解なくはかれるためには、少なくとも最低この三原則は話の内容や筋及び時間的な流れを聞き手に明確に示して、理解してもらうことが必要不可欠である。そのためにあるのが本稿で取り上げる動詞の活用変化である。概略すると、古期英語時代 (OE, 紀元8世紀～1150年頃まで) には動詞自体に含まれている母音の変化によって過去、過去分詞を作り、過去分詞には特徴として、語尾に“-en”がある強変化活用動詞 (Strong Conjugation)、今日で言う、いわゆる不規則変化活用動詞 (Irregular Verbs) と“d”又は“t”を含む屈折語尾によって過去形を表す弱変化活用動詞 (Weak Conjugation) の二種類がある。

フリーズ先生によれば、OE から12-15世紀の ME (Middle English, 中期英語) に至る過程で312の強変化動詞のうち PE (Present-day English, 現代英語) まで残っているものが195、その内129、即ち、大半 (約65%) が弱変化動詞になったと言われている。このあたりの説明をフリーズ先生の下記の著書から引用すると、

The pattern is that of the Old English “weak” verbs, the various classes of which fell together as a result of the levelling and loss of inflectional vowels in Early Middle English and in Early Modern English respectively. In general the pull of this pattern has been so great that most of the verbs which formed their past tense by other means have lost their old forms and have adopted the dental suffix. For example, of the 195 old “strong” verbs which still last in Modern English 129 or about 65 per cent have gone over to this regular pattern.

—— Charles Carpenter Fries, *American English Grammar*, p. 80.

活用変化には基本的には現在、即ち、原形 (Root Form)、過去 (Past)、過去分詞 (Past Participle) の3つの語形変化があり、その活用変化にも規則活用変化 (Regular Conjugation) と不規則活用変化 (Irregular Conjugation) とがある。規則活用変化の動詞は概ね、「原形 + ed」で過去、過去分詞を作る。それ以外は不規則活用変化の動詞というこ

とになる。そこで、地域によっては、特に南部諸地域には時として、古い時代の動詞の語形変化の姿が今なお根強く残存している所があり、それが現代アメリカ英語の方言（口語、俗語を含む）に現在でもなお散見される古い時代の英語の古語語法の典型的な例の1つであると言われている。そこで古い時代の動詞の語形変化が、特にアメリカ南部諸地域に多く、現代もなお残存している諸相の一端をささやかながら英米の文学作品から抽出した実例を通して実証的に検証していくことにする。

先ず、本稿を進めるにあたって、アメリカ英語（俗語・方言を含む）の成り立ち、即ち、今日までの歴史的な経緯を少しさかのぼって概略する。1620年9月6日、子供34人を含む102人の清教徒（Pilgrim Fathers）と乗組員30人を乗せてイングランドのDevon州の港市、Plymouth港を出航したものの、彼らが乗船した小さな帆船は荒れ狂う真冬の大西洋の荒波にさながら藻屑のように翻弄されながらも、強い精神力と揺るぎない信仰心に支えられて艱難辛苦の末に何とか無事に大西洋を横断した。高まる希望に胸をふくらませ、新大陸に到着したのは、丁度母国イギリスではエリザベス朝期（1558-1603）に当たり、世界的大文豪、シェークスピア（William Shakespeare 1564-1616）が本国イギリスのロンドンで華々しく活躍し、1616年4月23日に52年の生涯を閉じるまでに幾多の不朽の名作をこの世に発表して、文学の面で絢爛豪華に花開く黄金期を謳歌していた時代であった。彼が作品中で用いた人口に膾炙し引用される名言桂句は数限りなくあり、市民の日常生活に潤いを与え、イギリスの社会全体に、市民生活はもとより、広く文壇に計り知れない大きな影響を与えたことで、今日世界最大の劇作家と称されている。彼の演劇は今なお毎年のように、世界各地の大都市で上演されているのを見ても彼の偉大さと作品の素晴らしさがよくわかる。更には、全土で統一規範の無かったイギリス国民の国語力の統一推進に大きな力があつたものとして、この時期に忘れてはならないものは、精神的に市民の日常生活に深く関わり、大きな影響を及ぼしたものとして、1611年に英国王James 1世のもとで発行された欽定英訳聖書（*The Authorized Version of the Bible*）があつた。市民は常に日々の生活からくる雑多な雑念を払拭し、心の迷いや精神的な安寧と拠り所を求めて、神様（Jesus Christ）に深く帰依し、精神的、道徳的な心の迷いからくる呵責の念からひたすら逃れようとして日夜聖書を熟読したり、一服の清涼剤として、心の安らぎを追い求めてシェークスピアの作品を愛読したり、芝居を鑑賞したりなどすることで、日々の煩わしい生活に何かしらの潤いと憩いと慰めを得ていた。それ故、庶民のコミュニケーションのお手本のようなものとして、特にシェークスピアの作品に表れた書き言葉（話し言葉も含む）が間違いなくこの当時のイギリスのロンドン市民の日常の話言葉（Spoken Language）であり、書き言葉（Written Language）の主流でもあつた。特に当時イギリス全土で統一した国語の教科書がなかつたこの時代には、シェークスピアの作品は、人間を取り巻く人情の機微、愛と憎悪と悲哀を織り込んだ軽

妙な語り口で綴る物語の展開に思想的にも市民から深い共感を呼び、広く受け入れられて大評判となり、作品を通して彼の語り口は広くロンドン市民の間で言葉のお手本となり規範となったことは想像に難くない。これら2つの要素が必然的に一般イギリス庶民の国語、特に日常の話し言葉に大きな影響を与えたことは紛れもない事実であると容易に推察される。従って、ここにその当時の一般ロンドン市民が使う(話す)英語の全体像を幾分かでも解き明かす鍵と今日に至るアメリカ英語方言の流れを推し量り理解する上で、17世紀に母国イギリスからアメリカにはるばる持ち込んだ彼らの言葉が、当時イギリスで如何なる物であったかということを示す鍵がひょっとして潜んでいるのではないかと思われる。

そのためにもシェークスピアのみならず彼と同時代の頃のイギリスの主要作家の作品からも可能な限り広く適宜使用例を挙げて、また現代の英米の作家の作品からも幅広く用例を挙げ、理解に幾分なりとも寄与したいと思う。そのためにも、本稿では裏付けとなる資料として沢山の用例を提示しているが、これも一にも二にも問題の本質に迫る欠くことの出来ない王道であると筆者は常々考えているからである。先ずは本題である動詞の語形変化から文法的に詳しく分類すると、語形変化には規則、不規則の2種類がある。

1. 不規則変化活用 (Irregular Conjugation) 動詞

動詞の活用変化が不規則活用をする動詞のことを言い、不規則変化活用動詞は過去・過去分詞を作る際に語尾に“-ed”の添加によらず、その上、活用変化も多種多様で、語幹の母音を変化するものもあれば、語尾に“-d, -t”を添加させたり、また無変化であったりするものもある。動詞の多くは、昔(OE)の強変化活用動詞に由来する。その実態を文法的な観点から手短かに要領よく分類する。

1-1 現在形で過去形を代用する例

先ずは William Shakespeare の作品及び聖書から用例を挙げると、

They are as children but one step below,
Even of your mettle, of your very blood —
Of all one pain, save for a night of groans
Endured of her for whom you **bid** (= bade) like sorrow.

—— William Shakespeare, *Richard III*, IV. iv. 301-304.

And unbound the rest, and then **come** (= came) in the other.

—— Id., *Henry IV, Part I*, II. iv. 201.

Madam, an hour before the worship sun
 Peered forth the golden window of the east,
 A troubled mind **drive** (= drove) me to walk abroad
 Where, underneath the grove of sycamore
 That westward rooteth from the city's side,
 So early walking did I see (= saw) your son. ——— Id., *Romeo and Juliet*, I. i. 127-130.

And took off their chariot wheels, that they **drive** (= drove) them heavily: so that the
 Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the Lord fighteth for them against
 the Egyptians. ——— *Exodus*, XIV. 25.

I see (= saw) him break Skogan's head at the court-gate,
 When a' was a rack not thus high: and the very same day did I
 fight with one Sampson Stockfish, a fruiterer, behind Gray's Inn.
 ——— William Shakespeare, *2 King Henry IV*, III. ii. 32-34.

Maria **writ** (= wrote)
 The letter at Sir Toby's great importance,
 In recompense whereof he hath married her. ——— Id., *Twelveth Knight*, V. i. 370-372.
 Good Captain, will you give me a copy
 of the sonnet you **writ** (= wrote) to Diana in behalf of
 the Count Rousillon? ——— Id., *All's Well That Ends Well*, IV. iii. 354-356.

次に英米の文学作品から用例を挙げると、

“The servant went to it, and **come** (= came) from it, and went to it again.”
 ——— Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield*.

“... You remember when first Mr Lammeter's father **come** (= came) into these parts,
 an took the Warrens?” ——— George Eliot, *Silas Marner*.

“For Mr Drumlow — poor old gentleman, I was fond on him, though he'd got a bit
 confused in his head, what wi' age and wi' taking a drop o' summat warm when the
 service **come** (= came) of a cold morning. . .” ——— *Ibid.*

“Why, old Mr Lammeter had a pretty fortin, didn't they say, when he **come** (= came)
 into these parts?” ——— *Ibid.*

“Yu see, 'e went away sudden one day, an' never **come** (= came) back. . .”
 ——— John Galsworthy, *The Apple Tree*.

“I remembers one day I said to ‘er: ‘What’s the matter, Megan?’—‘er name was Megan David, she **come** (= came) from Wales same as ‘er aunt, ol’ Missis Narracombe.”

—— *Ibid.*

“Yes, Rudolph told me about that when he **come** (= came) home, and I said it wasn’t right,” Mary put it in warmly.

—— Willa Cather, *Neighbour Rosicky*.

I **come** (= came) to hear Boss Finley talk.

—— Tennessee Williams, *Sweet Bird of Youth*.

Yes, Rudolph told me about when he **come** (= came) home, and I said it wasn’t right, “Mary put it in warmly home, and I said it wasn’t right,” Mary put it in warmly.

—— Willa Cather, *Neighbour Rosicky*.

Wheres the clothes she **come** (= came) in? Did I burn them or did your missus here?

—— Bernard Shaw, *Pygmalion*.

All he **come** (= came) here for was to touch you for some money to get drunk on.

—— *Ibid.*

She didn’t even expect when, almost as soon as she heard of the surrender and got Charles’ letter saying that the war was over and he was safe, one of the niggers **come** (= came) running into the house one morning sayin, ‘Missy. Missy.’

—— William Faulkner, *Evangeline*.

上例は現代の英語では言うまでもなく“came”と言うべきところであるが、当時のイギリス英語では“come”と言っていた。広岡英雄著『英文学の方言』、121ページによれば、「方言では come の過去形は現在形と同じ come か comed であった。OE の時代に南方英語では come は *cuman* (Inf.), *cōm* (Pret. sing.), *cōmon* (Pret. pl.), *cumen* (Past part.) であったので、現在用いている came は北方英語の cam から来たものである」と、また広岡氏の『英国民の言語』(I)、208ページによれば、「15世紀になって単数と複数の区別はなくなってしまった。今日用いられている過去形の came は OE. *cōm* から来たものではなくて、北方英語の cam から来たものである。これは Scandinavian *koma* の過去形 *kwam* の影響によるものであろう。それが Northern ME. *cam* を経て Midland ME. *cāme* [ka:m] > [ke:m] > ModE. [keim] となったものである」との記述がある。従って、この語形はその昔、イギリスの北部方言で“come”を現在及び過去の両方に用いられていたことの名残であると思われる。引き続き英米の作家の作品から使用例を挙げると、

How Jack’s tatters came into fashion in court and city; how he get upom a great horse,

and eat (= ate) custard.. ——— Jonathan Swift, *A Table of a Tub*.

. . . They killed bailiffs, kicked fiddlers down stairs, eat (= ate) at Locket's loitered at Will's: . . . ——— *Ibid.*

They all smoked and talked, and I eat (= ate) and talked.

———— Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

"No, sir. I never give (= gave) him no name."

———— Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield*.

Mr. Peggoty seemed to think it a deep idea, but answered: "No, sir. I never give (= gave) him no name." ——— *Ibid.*

"Ol man Hawkins give (= gave) yuh mah money yit?"

———— Richard Wright, *The Man Who Was Almost a Man*.

I give (= gave) her a turn with the paddle and brung her nose to shore; then I got my gun and slipped out and into the edge of the woods. ——— *Ibid.*

Jim he grumbled a little, but give (= gave) in.

———— Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

. . . Now where'd I buy that clip that I give (= gave) your mama?

———— Tennessee Williams, *Sweet Bird of Youth*.

"Name Exodus," Alice answered. "They was two of 'em. the other one was name Genesis, but meanness kilt (= killed) him 'fore he was ten years old."

———— William Faulkner, *The Wishing Tree*.

"I guess you kilt (= killed) 'em dodgin' rollin' pins and flatirons," Alice said.

———— *Ibid.*

"We shot the bastud, Granny!" Ringo said. "We kilt (= killed) him!"

———— Id., *The Unvanquished*.

"This is where they run (= ran) to," the sergeant said.

———— Id., *The Unvanquished*.

"That father was drowned in?" said Em'ly. "No. Not that one, I never see (= saw) hat boat." ——— John Galsworthy, *The Apple Tree*.

"That father was drowned in?" said Em'ly. "No. Not that tone, I never see (= saw) that boat." ——— Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield*.

Then I see (= saw) another speck, and chased that; then another, and this time I was right. ——— Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

1-2 現在形で過去分詞形を代用する例

Don't you know all they wanted was a chance to get at me because they knew I had them **beat** (= beaten) . ——— William Faulkner, *Barn Burning*.

"Well, then, Master Marner," said Dolly, inwardly rejoiced, "I'll ask Mr Macey to speak to the parson about it; and you must fix on a name for it, because it must have a name **giv'** (= given) it when it's christened." ——— George Eliot, *Silas Marner*.

And we know wasn't Flem's, because that horse was **give** (= given) to Eck for nothing. ——— William Faulkner, *Spotted Horses*.

1-3 過去形で過去分詞形を代用する例

And thereupon these errors are **arose** (= arisen)
I have **broke** (= broken) your hest to say so!
———— William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, III. i. 36.

Most sacrilegio ! us murder hath **broke** (= broken) ope
The Lord's anointed temple, and stole thence
The life o' the building. ——— Id., *Macbeth*, II. iii. 72-74.

How now, my masters! have you **chose** (= chosen) this man ?
———— Id., *Coriolanus*, II. iii. 163.

And, in conclusion,
Nonsuits my mediators, for, "Certes," says he,
"I have already **chose** (= chosen) my officer." ——— Id., *Othello*, I. i. 15-17.

Was I for this nigh wrecked upon the sea,
And twice by awkward wind from England's bank
Drove (= driven) back again unto my native clime ? ——— Id., *2 Henry VI*, III. ii. 82-84.

But thou, most fine, most honored, most renowned,
Hast **eat** (= eaten) thy bearer up. ——— *Ibid.*, IV. v. 164-165.

Ten masts at each make not the altitude
Which thou hast perpendicularly **fell** (= fallen). ——— Id., *King Lear*, IV. vi. 53-54.

This letter is **mistook** (= mistaken), it importeth none here.
———— Id., *Love's Labor Lost*, IV. i. 57.

The King himself is **rode** (= ridden) to view their battle. ——— Id., *Henry V*, IV. iii. 2.

- Sir John, I am thy Pistol and thy friend,
 And helter-skelter have I **rode** (= ridden) to thee,
 And tidings do I bring and lucky joys
 And golden times and happy news of price. ——— Id., *Henry IV, Part II*, V. iii. 96-100.
 What you have **spoke** (= spoken), it may be so perchance.
 ——— Id., *Macbeth*, IV. iii. 11.
- I have **spoke** (= spoken) thus much to mitigate the justice of thy plea
 ——— Id., *Merchant of Venice*, IV. i. 202.
- I hope you will consider what is **spoke** (= spoken)
 Come from my love, but I do see you 're moved. ——— Id., *Othello*, III. iii. 215-216.
 I have inly wept,
 Or should have **spoke** (= spoken) ere this. ——— Id., *Tempest*, V. i. 200-201.
 It is **spoke** (= spoken) as a Christians ought to speak
 ——— Id., *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, I. i. 104.
- I have **spoke** (= spoken). ——— *Ibid*, I. iii. 14.
 Nor for yours neither. You've ungently, Brutus,
Stole (= stolen) from my bed. ——— Id., *Julius Caesar*, II. i. 238.
 Such instigations have been often dropped
 Which I have **took** (= taken) them up. ——— Id., *Ibid.*, II. i. 49-50.
 I dare pawn down my life for him that he hath
wrote (= written) this to feel my affection to your honor and to no further pretense of
 danger. ——— *King Lear*, I. ii. 93-95.
 And not resting here, accuses him of letters he had formerly **wrote** (= written) to
 Pompey, upon his own appeal, seize him. ——— Id., *Antony and Cleopatra*, III. v. 11.

次に英米の作家の作品からも使用例を挙げると、

- “...; it doesn't matter if he's childish — the business needn't be **broke** (= broken) up.”
 ——— George Eliot, *Silas Marner*.
- “Bymeby my ole mistis say she's **broke** (= broken), an' she got to sell all de niggers on
 de place.” ——— Mark Twain, *Sketches New and Old*.
- “This is a surprise to me which I wasn't looking for; and I'll acknowledge, candid and
 frank, I aint very well fixed to meet it and answer it; for my brother and me has had

misfortunes; he's **broke** (= broken) his arm and our baggage got put off at a town above here last night in the night by a mistake. . . ”

—— Id., *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

“Listen, Dick. Big Mike lay two days with his jaw **broke** (= broken) before anybody'd help him.

—— John Steinbeck, *The Long Valley*.

He'd been plowing that morning and he'd just **broke** (= broken) the plowshare on a rock that he could have sworn hadn't been there yesterday.

—— Stephen Vincent Benet, *The Devil and Daniel Webster*.

“I shouldn't of **did** (= have done),” he said.

—— John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

“Why, ha'n't you **drank** (= drunk) enough?” said the captain, becoming extremely impatient.

—— A. B. Longstreet, *Georgia Scenes*.

I'm no blanky orator, mates, but wot I say is **drove** (= driven) from me.

—— John Galsworthy, *Strife*.

Upon more closely examining the place, I surmised that for an indefinite period Bartleby must have **ate** (= eaten), dressed, and slept in my office, and that, too, without plate, mirror, or bed.

—— Herman Melville, *Bartleby*.

The shirt was sent in early, in a pie, and every time a rat bit Jim he would get up and write a line in his journal whilst the ink was fresh; the pens was made, the inscriptions and so on was all carved on the grindstone; the bed-leg was sawed in two, and we had et (= eaten) up the sawdust, and it give us a most amazing stomach-ache.

—— Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Lud Moseley said I had **rode** (= ridden) Mr. John's mare over there, turned her loose, and put the bridle on his Lightfoot and rode him off.

—— Earskine Caldwell, *Horse Thief*.

Jim was most ruined for a servant, because he got stuck up on account of having seen the devil and been **rode** (= ridden) by witches.

—— Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

“It's purty,” she said. “I wisht they could of **saw** (= have seen) it.”

—— John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

“They wouldn't of **saw** (= have seen) nothin' that's here. . . ”

—— *Ibid.*

I see I had **spoke** (= spoken) too sudden and said too much, and was in a close place.

—— Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

All I know is I ends up singin' the blues, I sings me some blues that night ain't never been **sang** (= sung) before, and while I'm singin' them blues I makes up my mind that I ain't nobody but myself and ain't nothin' I can do but let whatever is gonna happen, happen.
 —— Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*.

I knew I hadn't **stole** (= stolen) Lud Moseley's horse, and I wasn't scared a bit about it.
 —— Erskine Caldwell, *Horse Thief*.

Ah! but the winter my old man was **took** (= taken) was the proper winter.
 —— John Galsworthy, *Strife*

He couldn't know you'd been **took** (= taken) sick till I answered that and told him.
 —— Eugene O'Neill, *Beyond the Horizon*.

"The ol' man is **took** (= taken) bad for his supper."
 —— Stephen Crane, *The Black Dog*.

... , when a white man would have **took** (= taken) the day off out of pure respect no matter how he felt about his wife, when ... —— William Faulkner, *Pantaloons in Black*.

... — I can't certainly fix which, but it was long before I was **took** (= taken) away from the sheepkeeping to be bound prentice to a trade.

—— Thomas Hardy, *A Tradition of Eighteen Hundred and Four*.

"My goodness, and she so well only last week! Is she **took** (= taken) bad?"

—— Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

"Now," he pursued, "you remember what you've **undertook** (= undertaken) remember that young man, and you get home!"

—— Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*.

She's **wore** (= has worn) out. —— John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

And it was a common saying as the father wanted to ride the tailor out o' the land, and make a gentleman on him — not but what I'm a tailor myself, but in respect as God made me such, I'm proud on it, for 'Macey, tailor's been **wrote** (= written) up over our door since afore the Queen's heads went out on the shillings.

—— George Eliot, *Silas Marner*.

1-4 過去分詞形で過去形を代用する例

元来はOEにおける過去複数形の形から来たもので、古い頃に用いられていた過去分詞である。15世紀になってこの単数、複数の区別がなくなったが、古い頃に用いられた過去分詞が方言に今も残っており、普通に使われているようである。まずは William Shakespeare の

作品から例を挙げると、

He bears too great a mind. But this same day
Must end that work the ides of March **begun** (= began),
And whether we shall meet again I know not.

—— William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*, V. iii. 113-115.

The all-seeing sun Ne'er saw her match since first the world **begun** (= began).

—— Id., *Romeo and Juliet*, I. ii. 97-98.

But, orderly to end where I **begun** (= began).

Our wills and fates do so contrary run

That our devices still are overthrown,

Our thoughts are ours, their ends none of our own. —— Id., *Hamlet*, III. ii. 220-223.

I am sure thy

father **drunk** (= drank) wine. —— Id., *All's Well That Ends Well*, II. iii. 105.

Or when to the lute

She **sung** (= sang), and made the night bird mute,

That still records with moan; —— Id., *Pericles*, IV. Gower, 25-27.

特に俗語や方言では不規則動詞の過去形と過去分詞形が同形となることが多い。英米の作家の作品から例を挙げておく。

I went right up to dem gay people an' **begun** (= began) to beg dem: 'Fellow countrymen, for God's sake give me money enough to buy a goose!'

—— Willa Cather, *Neighbour Rosicky*.

. . . and he thought things had settled down for a while when all of a sudden he **begun** (= began) to hear the yelling, not howling.

—— William Faulkner, *Pantaloons in Black*.

The day I **come** (= came) home, I got out my car — but not in front of the house. . . on the corner.

—— Arthur Miller, *All my Sons*.

Well, I know'd a gal on Tar river **done** (= did) the same thing (puff, puff, puff).

—— A. B. Longstreet, *Georgia Scenes*.

It swore every boy to stick to the band, and never tell any of the secrets; and if anybody **done** (= did) anything to any boy in the band, whichever boy was ordered to

kill that person and his family must do it, and he mustn't eat and he mustn't sleep till he had killed them and hacked a cross in their breasts, which was the sign of the band.

—— Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

“I think it **done** (= did) him good.” —— Id., *The Gilded Age*.

“That's mighty nice of you, Martha,” he said, turning around and gazing at her wistfully, “and I sure do appreciate what you **done** (= did) for me. . . .”

—— Erskine Caldwell, *Uncle Ned's Short Stay*.

“Well, when I come to realize what I **done** (= did) , of course, I felt terrible.”

—— Willa Cather, *Neighbour Rosicky*.

Discreetly, like you handled that operation you **done** (= did) on my daughter, so discreetly that a hillbilly heckler is shouting me questions about it wherevetr I speak?

—— Tennessee Williams, *Sweet Bird of Youth*.

Only a right smart of the helping they **done** (= did) was stepping on my face and hands and feet.

—— William Faulkner, *A Bear Hunt*.

I don't care who **done** (= did) it. Just look at him there, grinnin' at us, waitin' a chance to rob and kill us all. She turned and glared at the little old man.

—— Id., *The Wishing Tree*.

“Beinst she was kin to us, we **gone** (= went) to see the body,” Mrs. Pritchard said. “Seen the little baby too.”

—— Flannery O'Connor, *A Circle in the Fire*.

There ain't a man in Texas ever **seen** (= saw) you without no gun.

—— Stephen Crane, *The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky*.

So he give me a sixpence, and that's the first bit o' money I **seen** (= saw) this week.

—— John Galsworthy, *Strife*.

“We **seen** (= saw) a water snake this morning and chased him. A whopper!”

—— Willa Cather, *A Lost Lady*.

“Harry, what the hell? You never even **seen** (= saw) him,” Ma says.

—— Joyce Carol Oates, *Four Summers*.

I **seen** (= saw) your camp fire burning and reckoned I'd bring it right over.

—— Eudine O'Neill, *A Wife for a Life*.

By Chance Wayne? Who the hell else do you reckon? I **seen** (= saw) them. He had them developed by some studio in Pass Christian that made more copies of them than Chance Wayne ordered and these photos were circulated. I **seen** (= saw) them.

—— Tennessee Williams, *Sweet Bird of Youth*.

There ain't a man in Texas ever **seen** (= saw) you without no gun.

—— Stephen Crane, *The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky*.

"He never had a chance to do anything to us. He never even **seen** (= saw) us."

—— Ernest Hemingway, *The Killers*.

I know a lady down the road a piece, has got the nicest garden you ever **seen** (= saw).

—— John Steinbeck, *The Long Valley*.

"I **seen** (= saw) him about three months ago. He had a operation. Cut somepin out, I forget what."

—— Id., *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Settin' at breakfast, I looked at you real hard, and I **seen** (= saw) you've got some grey hairs already.)

—— Willa Cather, *Neighbour Rosicky*.

"You, Dulciel!" Alice exclaimed, "Don't you go up there! That thing jes' jumped behind that tree: I **seen** (= saw) him!"

—— William Faulkner, *The Wishing Tree*.

"... I **seen** (= saw) your camp fire burning and reckoned I'd bring it right over,"

—— Eugene O'Neill, *A Wife for a Life*.

"... Of course," he said, "they never **shown** (= showed) me my papers."

—— Flannery O'Connor, *A Good Man is hard to Find*.

The tale went round; he **sung** (= sang) us old songs, and gave the children the story of the Buck of Beverland, with the history of Patient Grissel, the adventures of Catskin, and then Fair Rosamond's Bower.

—— Oliver Goldsmith, *The Vicar of Wakefield*.

Hit **taken** (= took) three or four of them to drag him offen me, with Major turned in his chair with a set of threes in his hand, a-hammering on the table and hollering cusses.

—— William Faulkner, *A Bear Hunt*.

"Yes'm," The Misfit said as if he agreed. "Jesus **thrown** (= threw) everything off balance..."

—— Flannery O'Connor, *A Good Man is hard to Find*.

"She's **wore** (= has worn = wore) out."

—— John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

1-5 語尾の“-en”が脱落したものが過去または過去分詞として使用されている。

(1) 過去形として

Wilhelm Franz の *Die Sprache Shakespeares in Vers und Prosa*, p. 236 によれば, 「南部の通俗英語では過去形としての come, drive のような語形はまだ多く用いられている」との記述がある。Frederic G. Cassidy の *Dictionary of American Regional English*, p. 732によれば, “Despite school insistence upon the distinction between *come* and *came*, a high proportion of all informants use *come* as a preterite instead of the prescribed *came*, some exclusively and

others as the conversational and informal alternate.” またこの語形の使用地域は Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, Arkansas, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, New England, New Hampshire, New York などとのことである。

先ずは Shakespeare の作品から使用例を挙げると、

Of all one pain, save for a night of groans
Endured of her for whom you **bid** (= bade) like sorrow.
———— Id., *Richard III*, IV. iv. 302.

And unbound the rest, and then **come** (= came) in the other
———— Id., *1 Henry IV*, II. iv. 202.

A troubled mind **drave** (= drove) me to walk abroad,
Where, underneath the grove of sycamore
That westward roote from the city's side,
So early walking did I see your son. ——— Id., *Romeo And Juliet*, I. i. 127-130.

I see (= saw) him break Skogan's head at the court gate when a' was a crack not thus
high. ——— Id., *2 Henry IV*, III. ii. 32-34.

Maria **writ** (= wrote)
The letter at Sir Toby's great importance,
In recompense whereof he hath married her. ——— Id., *Twelfth Night*, V. i. 370-372.

Meantime I **writ** (= wrote) to Romeo
That he should hither come as this dire night,
To help to take her from her borrowed grave,
Being the time the potion's force should cease.
———— Id., *Romeo and Juliet*, V. iii. 246-249.

(2) 過去分詞形として

“chose” について言えば、*Dictionary of American Regional English*, p. 648によると主として New England や South で使用されることが多いとのことである。

He hath **bid** (= bidden) me to a calf's head and a capon,
the which if I do not carve most curiously, say my knife's naught.
Shall I not find a woodcock too? ——— Id., *Much Ado About Nothing*, V. i. 154-158.

You urged me as a judge, but I had rather

You would have **bid** (= bidden) me argue like a father.

—— Id., *Richard II*, I. iii. 238-239.

And in conclusion,

Nonsuits my mediators, for, “Certes,” says he,

“I have already **chose** (= chosen) my officer.”

—— Id., *Othello*, I. i. 15-17.

Sir, he hath never fed of the dainties that are bred in a book;
he hath not **eat** (= eaten) paper, as it were; ha hath not drunk ink.

—— Id., *Love’s Labor’s Lost*, IV. ii. 24-26.

The ivy which had **hid** (= hidden) my princely trunk,
And sucked my verdure out on’t.

—— Id., *The Tempest*, I. ii. 86-87.

I haved **trod** (= trodden) a measure.

—— Id., *As You Like It*, V. iv.45.

I have **writ** (= written) me here a letter to her; and
here another to Page’s wife, who even now gave me
good eyes too; examined my parts with most judicious oeillades.

—— Id., *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, I. iii. 65-68.

Our father he hath **writ** (= written) so hath our sister,
Of differences, which I least thought it fit

To answer from our home.

—— Id., *King Lear*, II. i. 124-126.

英米の文学作品から幾つか例を挙げると、

Yerra, will this divil’s own watch nivcir end? Me back is **broke** (= broken). I’m
destroyed entirely.

—— Eugene O’Neill, *The Hairy Ape*.

“Listen, Dick. Big Mike lay two days with his jaw **broke** (= broken) before anybody’d
help him.”

—— John Steinbeck, *The Long Valley*.

He’d been plowing that morning and he’d just **broke** (= broken) the plowshare on a
rock that he could have sworn hadn’t been there yesterday.

—— Stephen Vincent Benet, *The Devil and Daniel Webster*.

I’m no blanky orator, mates, but wot I say is **drove** (= driven) from me.

—— John Galsworthy, *Strife*.

I’d **fergot** (= forgotten).

—— Eugene O’Neill, *Desire Under the Elms*.

I reckon they ain’t **forgot** (= forgotten) him.

—— William Faulkner, *The Unvanquished*.

Lud Moseley said I had **rode** (= ridden) Mr. John's mare over there, turned her loose, and put the bridle on his Lightfoot and rode him off.

———— Erskine Caldwell, *Horse Thief*.

“And it's my belief,” she went on, as the poor little creature has never been christened, and it's nothing but rights the parson should be **spoke** (= spoken) to: and if you was noways unwilling, I'd talk to Mr Macey about it this very day. . .

———— George Eliot, *Silas Marner*.

細江逸紀氏によれば、『英国中部地方方言の研究』, 641ページに「元来 speak の過去分詞は古代英語においては gesprecen, gespeken であったが, 語頭の ge はやがて y, i に変じ, 1300年代に至って isproken が現れる。而して語尾 -n の脱落した形は1200年代以後に見られるのであるが, それが更に i, y を失って方言の中に今尚残存して居るのである。」と記述している。

I knew I had **stole** (= stolen) Mr. John's mare over there, turned her loose, and put the bridle on his Lightfoot and rode him off.

———— Erskine Caldwell, *Horse Thief*.

I knew I hadn't **stole** (= stolen) Lud Moseley's horse and I wasn't scared a bit about it.)

———— *Ibid.*

Ah! but the winter my old man was **took** (= taken) was the proper winter.

———— John Galsworthy, *Strife*.

. . . — I can't certainly fix which, but it was long before I was **took** (= taken) away from the sheepkeeping to be bound prentice to a trade.

———— Thomas Hardy, *A Tradition of Eighteen Hundred and Four*.

. . . , when a white man would have **took** (= taken) the day off out of pure respect no matter how he felt about his wife, when . . .

———— William Faulkner, *Pantaloons in Black*.

I only wish during the war they'd a **took** (= would have taken) me in the Army.

———— Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*.

'Now,' he pursued, 'you remember what you've **undertook** (= undertaken), and you remember that young man, and you get home!'

———— Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*.

I've had it **writ** (= written) ut an' ready in case ye'd ever go.

———— Eugene O'Neill, *Desire Under the Elms*.

She's **wore** (= has worn) out.

———— John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

(3) 過去分詞形の類推から派生して出来た語形

Wilhelm Franz の *Die Sprache Shakespeares in Vers und Prosa*, p. 1058によれば, 「17世紀の中世英語で複数として用いられた過去形が単数形と並んで用いられていた。それに属するのは begun, drunk, run, sung, sprung, wrung などである。」との記述がある。*Dictionay of American Regional English*, p. 207によれば, 主として南部, 取りわけ中南部がこれらの語の使用頻度が最も高いようである。

先ずは, William Shakespeare の作品から例を挙げる。

But this same day
Must end that work the ides of March **begun** (= began),
And whether we shall meet I know not. ——— Id., *Julius Caesar*, V. i. 113-115.
The all-seeing sun
Ne'er saw her match since first the world **begun** (= began).
———— Id., *Romeo and Juliet*, I. ii. 97-98.

元来は OE における過去複数形 “-gunnon” の形から来たもので, 古い時代に用いられた過去分詞の名残で, 方言には今なお普通に使われているようである。

O, what a time have you **chose** (= chosen) out, brave Caius, To wear a kerchief!
———— Id., *Julius Caesar*, II. i. 314.
There's one grape yet;
I am sure thy father **drunk** (= drank) wine.
———— Id., *All's Well That Ends Well*, II. iii. 105-106.
Then, Brutus, I have much **mistook** (= mistaken) your passion,
By means whereof this breast of mine hath buried
Thoughts of great value, worthy cogitations. ——— Id., *Julius Caesar*, I. ii. 48-50.
But yet I **run** (= ran) before my horse to market. ——— Id., *Richard III*, I. i. 160.
What other bond
Than secret Romans that have **spoke** (= spoken) the word,
And will not palter? ——— Id., *Ibid.* II. i. 124-126.
My only love **sprung** (= sprang) from only hate! ——— Id., *Romeo and Juliet*, I. v. 140.
Most sacrilegious murder hath broke ope
The Lord's anointed temple, and **stole** (= stolen) thence

The life o' the building. ——— Id., *Macbeth*, II. iii. 73-735.

He is more patient

Than when you left him; even now he **sung** (= sang)

———— Id., *King John*, V. Vii. 12-13.

And with affection wondrous sensible

He **wrung** (= wrang) Bassanio's hand, and so they parted.

———— Id., *Merchant of Venice*, II. viii. 48-49.

英米の文学作品から用例を挙げると、

Day, when my crown'd estate **begun** (= began)

To pine in that reverse of doom, Which sicken'd every living bloom,

And blurr'd the splendour of the sun;

———— Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *In Memoriam*, LXXII. ii.

You remember when first Mr Lammeter's father **come** (= came) into these parts, and took the Warrens? ——— George Eliot, *Silas Marner*

For Mr. Drumlow — poor old gentleman, I was fond on him, though he'd got a bit confused in his head, what wi' taking a drop o' summat warm when the service **come** (= came) of a cold morning. ——— *Ibid.*

"Why, old Mr Lammeter had a pretty fortin, didn't they say, when he **come** (= came) into these parts?" ——— *Ibid.*

"... You remember when first Mr Lammeter's father **come** (= came) into these parts, and took the Warrens?" ——— *Ibid.*

Then echo-like our voices rang;

We **sung** (= sang), tho' every eye was dim,

A merry song we sang with him

Last year: impetuously we sang:

———— Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *In Memoriam*, XXX. iv.

2. 規則活用変化 (regular conjugation) 動詞

動詞の活用変化が規則的に変化する型で、過去・過去分詞の語尾がOEの“-ed (e)”に由来する弱変化動詞から発達したもので、動詞のほぼ大部分がこれに属する。但し、現代英

語では不規則変化活用動詞であるが、Shakespeare 時代には規則変化活用動詞として用いられたものがある。

A good rebuke,
Which might have well **becomed** (= became) the best of men,
To taught at slackness.

—— William Shekespeare, *Antony and Cleopatra*, III. vii. 27-29.

I met the youthful lord at Laurence' cell,
And gave him what **becomed** (= became) love I might,
Not stepping o'er the bounds of modesty. —— Id., *Romeo and Juliet*, IV. ii. 25-27.

For out o' doors he went without their helps,
And, to the ast, **bended** (= bent) their light on me. —— Id., *Hamlet*, II. i. 99-100.

I would have **blowed** (= blown) up the town,
so Chrish save me, La! in an hour. —— Id., *Henry V*, III. ii. 97-98.

Most noble Antony,
Let not the piece of virtue which is set
Betwixt us as the cement of our love,
To keep it **builded** (= built), be the ram to batter
The fortress of it. —— Id., *Antony and Cleopatra*, III. ii. 27-31.

I saw him run after a gilded butterfly,
and when he caught it, he let it go again;
and after it again, and over and over he comes,
and up again; **catched** (= caught) it again. —— Id., *Coriolanus*, I. iii. 65-68.

What, pale again?
My fear hath **catch'd** (= caught) your fondness.
—— Id., *All's Well That Ends Well*, I. iii. 176-177.

Ah, poor heart!
He is so **shaked** (= shaken; shook) of a burning quotidian tertian that it is most
lamentable to behold. Sweet men, come to him. —— Id., *Henry V*, II. i. 124-126.

And still as he refused it the
rabblement hooted and clapped their chopped
hands and threw up their sweaty nightcaps and uttered
such a deal of stinking breath because Caesar

refused the crown that it had almost choked Ceaser;
for he **swounded** (= swooned) and fell down at it.

—— Id., *Julius Caesar*, I. ii. 244-249.

この語は swoon (< ME. swoun) に無用の d がついて出来た語であり, 今日の方言で droun を dround とする類いである。

英米の文学作品から例を挙げると,

When a girl is **bringed** (= brought) up d' way I **bringed** up Mahow kin she go teh d' devil ?
—— Stephen Crane, *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*.

Whoever built the house, he **builded** (= built) better than he knew; or else Orion in the zenith flashed down his Damocles' sword tohim some starry night, and said "Build there."
—— Harman Melville, *The Piazza Tales*.

His pudgy form, **builded** (= built) like a peared, bustled to and fro, while he swore infishwife fashion.
—— Stephen Crane, *An Experiment in Misery*.

"Why, we — why, we — now — Willie Dalzel said I dassent go right up to him, and I did; and then he did; and then — the other boys were 'fraid; and then — you comed (= came)."
—— Id., *The Monster*.

Wait till ye've **growed** (= grown) his age!

—— Eugene O'Neill, *Desire Under the Elms*.

Now, I never **heered** (= heard) o' them bein' good fer anythin', but I reckon the doctor knows what he's talkin' about.
—— Theodore Dreiser, *The Country Doctor*.

He **ketched** (= caught = caught) a frog one day, and took him home and said he cal'lated to educate him; and so he never done nothing for three months but set in his back yard and learn that frog to jump.
—— Mark Twain, *The Celebrated Jumping Frog*.

If so be a time comes when yeh have to be **kilt** (= killed) or do a mean thing why, Henry, don't think of anything 'cept what's right, because there's many a woman has to bear up 'ginst sech things these times, and the Lord 'll take keer of us all.

—— Stephen Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage*.

"We shot the bastud, Granny!" Ringo said. "We **kilt** him (= killed) !"

—— William Faulkner, *The Unvanquished*.

"You see," John went on, "I **kil't** (= killed) her. An' sence them I tried to make it up — mos'ly to kids. An' I tried to be good, an' I can't. I get drunk, an' I go wild."

—— John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

All I **knowed** (= knew), when the whole thing started, was what I thought I was aiming to do — to maybe help sho enough, or . . .

—— William Faulkner, *A Bear Hunt*.

“I didn’t know. I cant read. All I knew, it was to New Orleans because I **knowed** (= knew) what New Orleans looked like wrote out because I used to mail the letters she wrote to Charles Bon before the war, before they was married.”

—— Id. *Evangeline*.

Jist before me anf my old man was married, there was a gal name Nancy Mountcastle (puf, puf), and she was a mighty likely gal (puff); I **know’d** (= knew) her mighty well; . . .

—— A. B. Longstreet, *Georgia Scenes*.

But that ain’t strange, for I don’t think he **know’d** (= knew) it himself, when he come to London, did he ?

—— Charles Dickens, *The Drunkard’s Death*.

She was wicked t’ d’ heart an’ we never **know’d** (= knew) it himself, when he come to London, did he ?

—— Stephen Crane, *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*.

Before the cops **knowed** (= knew) what hit ’em Ras is right in the middle of ’em and one cop grabbed for that spear, and ole Ras swung ’round and bust him across the head and the cop goes down and his hoss rears up, and ole Ras rears his and tries to spear him another cop, and the other hosses is plunging around and ole Ras tries to spear him till another cop, only he’s too close and . . .

—— Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*.

“ . . . They think I’m blind; but I’m noan: nowt ut t’ soart!— I **seed** (= saw) young Linton boath coming and going, and I **seed** (= saw) yah” (directing his discourse to me), “yah gooid fur nowt, slattenly witch! nip up and bolt into th’ house, t’ minute yah” (directing his discourse to me), “yah gooid fur nowt, slatenly witch! nip up and bolt into th’ house t’ minute yah heard t’ maister’s horse-fit clatter up t’ road.”

—— Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*.

God A’mighty! I heard ’em comin’ after me, and I run in the room opposite, an’ I **seed** (= saw) Ezra’s ghost dressed like a judge comin’ through the wall — and, by God, I run!

—— Eugene O’Neill, *Morning Becomes Electra*.

I **seed** (= saw) you settin’ out here on the steps when I got up at five this mornin’ — and every mornin’ sionce Orin — Ain’t you been gittin’ no sleep ?

—— *Ibid.*

“Maybe if they just **seed** (= saw) the end of hit they mought think hit was the whole gun,” he said.

—— William Faulkner, *The Unvanquished*.

I seed (= saw) him gwine to'ds de garden a while back, but I ain't seed (= saw) him since. ——— Id., *Soldier's Pay*.

No, he wasn't jokin': for I looked at him, and he was just as much in yearnest as anybody I ever seed (= saw); and besides, no Christian man would tell such a story in that solemn way. ——— A. B. Longstreet, *Georgia Scenes*.

Dialect Notes, III. v. p. 367には“seed”を過去、過去分詞に使う用法は“very common among the illiterate in East Alabama,”また同書 p. 122にはインディアナ州南部でも very common と記されている。

“Now when you get up there, just grab tight with your knees and keep your hands away from the saddle, and if you get **throwed** (= thrown), don't let that stop you.”

——— John Steinbeck, *The Red Pony*.

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