

現代アメリカ口語英語に見られる発話の不一致の諸相

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発話の不一致の諸相は、現在でも庶民の日常会話の中によく見聞きされる言語事象である。歴史的経緯を探ると、アメリカ英語の原点、ひいては現在のアメリカ英語方言の先駆けとなったのは17世紀に遡る。母国イギリスから新大陸のアメリカ各地に、信仰の自由を求めて、特に南部の人里遠く離れた奥深い辺鄙な山間部などに移り住んだ人々の話し言葉の中には、移住者達がかつて住んでいた16、17世紀の頃のイギリス各地の地方方言が現在でもアメリカの俗語・方言の中に多数残存していて、庶民の会話の中に垣間見ることが出来る。現代アメリカ口語英語（俗語・方言を含む話し言葉）に見られる語形変化の不一致の多くは、当時教育も不十分な庶民の日常生活の会話の中で早合点や早飲み込みからくる思い込みや類推によって生じた言葉の不一致の言語事象が日々積み重ねられてきたものであったとはいえ、そこに見られる基本的な人々の発話の原形は文字通り母国を旅立つまでそれぞれが暮らしていたイギリス各地の彼等の生まれ育った地域の話し言葉がアメリカに移植されて限られた入植地域の中で幾世代にもわたって代々傳承されてきたところに今日のアメリカ英語及びアメリカ英語方言誕生の礎があるように思われる。それが新大陸のアメリカに根付き、教育の不十分さから起こる聞き違いや不注意や怠慢からくる受けとめかたの相違とあいまって、アメリカ各地域において生じた言葉のずれが、本稿で取り上げた俗語・方言が現在の庶民の話し言葉の中にしばしば見受けられる。これらの言語事象は *OED (The Oxford English Dictionary)* が “most of the Southern dialects and the vulgar speech both in England and America retain the ear-lier usage” と説明している如くで、本稿では散見される発話の不一致に関する古い時代の残存物である言語事象を英米の文学作品から、特にイギリスでは主として William Shakespeare (1564-1616) を中心に、Charles Dickens (1812-70), George Eliot (1819-80), Thomas Hardy (1840-1928), や John Galsworthy (1867-1933) 等の作品から、アメリカでは Mark Twain (1835-1910) を初め、Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953), Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961), William Faulkner (1897-1962), John Steinbeck (1902-68) や Erskine Caldwell (1903-87) 等の作品から幅広く用例を挙げて実証的に検証し、ささやかながらも資料の上から現代アメリカ口語英語の一端を探究することにする。

はじめに

統一し、確立した十分な教育制度が全国的にまだ未整備であった16、17世紀の頃のイギリスでは、専ら各地域の村の教会が読み書きを中心に聖書の普及を兼ねて、教育もまちまちの牧師達によって Sunday School (日曜学校) と称して、教会でおこなわれていたことが後に地域、地域によって微妙に異なった話し言葉が生じるもととなったと思われる。その頃の教育は専ら家庭では子供達にとって祖父母や両親の話し言葉がお手本となっていたことは言うまでもない。先ず初めに、アメリカに入植した開拓者について歴史的に概観すると、英国国教会に不満を抱き1620年9月6日、信仰の自由を求めて子供34人を含む102人と乗組員30人を乗せた全長わずか90フィートの帆船メイフラワー号 (The Mayflower) で母国のプリマス (Plymouth) 港を9月6日に出航して、66日間の艱難辛苦の船旅の末、1620年12月21日に現在の Massachusetts 州南東部に上陸し、この地を母国の出航地名に因んで Plymouth と命名した。以後17世紀の前半までにイギリス各地から、多くの人々が新大陸を目指して渡来して、彼等のイギリスでの話し言葉がアメリカ大陸に移植されたことが、今日アメリカ英語と呼ばれることになったのが言語の出発点である。勿論、その当時の言語は、彼等の生まれ育った土地の話し言葉であり、それが移住者と共にその当時のままの姿でアメリカ各地の彼等の入植地に移植されたのであった。従って移住者達のイギリスでの出身地の違いから他と微妙に異なった言葉がそれぞれの移住地に移植されたことが、今日のアメリカ英語方言、(大別して、北部、中部、南部、西部) の原点となったと言っても過言ではない。

People from the cities are often struck with certain archaic words and phrases used by a hillfolk, and a great deal has been written about the Elizabethan character of the Ozark dialect. Enthusiasts have talked a little wildly about "Shakespeare's America" and "our contemporary ancestors" and "seedbeds of Anglo-Saxonism." British tourists have told reporters that Ozarkers speak English rather than American. "The early Missourian," says President Williams of the University of Missouri, "brought his English speech from the south of England, the speech of Cambridge and Oxford and Stratford-on-Avon. Expressions which seem odd to the over-cultured may be and often are survivals of English used three centuries ago."

— Vance Randolph and George P. Wilson, *Down in the Holler*, p. 70.

しかし時代が経過しても、イギリスの言語と比べて、アメリカの言語にはイギリスの古い言葉づかいが依然として、色濃く残っていた。それは言うまでもなく、両国間に横たわる大

西洋が災いして、長期間外界との接触はおろか人の往来はもとより文物の流入も容易ならず、そのため、長期間閉鎖され、孤立した状態で幾世代にわたって移住地の中で代々世代交代が繰り返されてきたことが古い時代のイギリス英語の多くがアメリカに残存する要因となったと思われる。

Many of the dialectal peculiarities of the southern mountain folk were common to all the American colonies in the early eighteenth century, and some of their most striking words and phrases are survivals of still older usages in England. — *Ibid.*

他方イギリスでは、研究社『新英和大辞典』によると、1760年頃から19世紀にかけて機械動力などの発明を契機として起こった産業革命で、資本主義社会が確立するもとなった。これによりこれまでの経済体制のみならず社会組織上にも一大変革が起こり、市民の政治、経済、社会、文化は言うにおよばず、凡そ全ての面で一大変革が起こり、それに伴って両国の間に言葉の面でも発音、文法、語彙、語法に際立った違いが目立つようになった。このイギリスの大きな社会変革による著しい変化が際立つ母国イギリスに対してアメリカでは全ての面でこれといった変化も乏しく、旧態依然のまま長く推移していた。そこで時代の経過と共に両国間に生じた特有の語句・発音・語義・文法・表現形態などの顕著な違いから、それぞれ一方を Britishism (Briticism イギリス特有の英語)、他方を Americanism (アメリカ特有の英語) と区別して言われるようになった。今日アメリカ英語及びアメリカ英語方言と呼ばれるのにいささかなりとも関係があると思われるものとして、移住者達のイギリスでの出身地や言語事情及び動向を地理的にも調べてみる必要がある。先ず、初期の頃に、即ち、1620年9月6日に母港プリマス港を出港して66日間の船旅の末にやっとアメリカ北東部のニュー・イングランド (New England) に最初に移住してきたのは、Calvinism (カルヴァンの教義信奉) 系プロテスタントの一派のピューリタン (清教徒) 達で、彼等はイギリス南部と南東部地方出身者達で東アンゲリア方言を話し、クエーカー (Quaker) 教徒はイギリス中部地方の方言を話し、1720年以降の移住者達は専らスコット・アイリッシュでアルスター語を話していた。このあたりの説明を Stuart Berg Flexner の *I Hear America Talking*, p. 7 から少し引用すると、

The widespread use of English dialect words was also natural: most of the Puritans came from England's southern and southeastern counties and spoke the Est Anglia dialect, most of the Quakers spoke the midland dialect, and after 1720 many new colonists were Scots-Irish, speaking the Ulster dialect. The continuing use of words

that had become obsolete in England, and of unusual usage, pronunciations, grammar, and syntax, was also natural for colonists isolated from the niceties of current English speech and English education. Thus, naturally, a hundred years after the Pilgrims landed, English as spoken in America differed from that spoken in England.

— *Ibid.*

このような移住者達の出身地の歴史的背景から、19世紀にアメリカを訪れた英国人達は本国の英語と比べて旧態依然のままの古くさい、遠い昔のイギリス英語を話す人達に接した。その時の驚き、呆れて、嘆き悲しむ様を同書の記述から引用すると、

It wasn't only our words that the English disliked, but our pronunciation and grammar as well. They jeered when we said "missionary" instead of "mission'ry," "shew" for "show," and "whare" and "bhar" for "where" and "bear." In 1822 visitor Charles Dickens said that outside of New York and Boston all Americans had a nasal drawl and used "doubtful" grammar. In 1832 Mrs Trollop said that during her visit in America she seldom heard a correctly pronounced sentence. And 1839 visitor Captain Frederick Marryat said it was remarkable how debased the English language had become in such a short time in America.

— *Ibid.*, 8-9.

また英、米語のこのような際立った違いからミシガン大学の恩師、Albert H. Marckwardt 教授は自著、*American English*, p. 6で取り上げ、アメリカ英語について書かれた本のタイトルからでも米語に対する言語学者の見解の相違を推し測ることが出来ると記述している。即ち、簡潔に言うと、アメリカ英語を American Language と言うか American English と言うかによって自ずと言語に対する見解にも根本的な違いが現れてくる。当時ジャーナリストであった Henry Louis Mencken (1880-1956) は、口語英語に重点をおいて、「英語のアメリカ的な形は明らかに英語の元の形から分かれて来ていて、アメリカ英語とイギリス英語の差は益々大きくなっていくように思われる」と主張して、その旨自著書、*The American Language* に次のように表記している。

Mencken at that time, with his attention fixed particularly on the spoken language, felt that the American form of the English language was plainly departing from the parent stem, and it seemed likely that the differences between American and English would go on increasing.

— Albert H. Marckwardt, *American English*.

これに対して、二巻からなる *The English Language in America* を著したコロンビア大学の George Philip Krapp (1872-1934) 教授は「書き言葉としての英語に関心を置き、米語の起源はあくまでもイギリスから来たイギリス英語を話す人達にあり、史的研究や比較研究をすれば、自ずとアメリカの英語は一般に考えられているよりも一層イギリス英語の主要な伝統に密接な関係にある」と主張した。

“Krapp, more concerned with the written, in fact the formal literary language, took the opposite point of view, insisting that ‘historical and comparative study brings American English in closer relation to the central tradition of the English language than is commonly supposed to exist.’ — *Ibid.*”

更に Albert H. Marckwardt 教授は、自著書を *American English* と呼んでいるのは「英語の主要な伝統を保持しつつも同時にアメリカ国民とその環境が産んだ特殊な文化の歴史や発達を反映していることと、English という語を使うことによって英語と同種の言語であるということを示唆している」との見解を著している。

“English in this country has maintained the central tradition of the English language, but at the same time it has reflected with great fidelity those facets of cultural history and development which are peculiar to our people and our milieu. American English suggests precisely this. The term *English* denies the implication of a separate language.” — *Ibid.*”

以上が簡単ではあるが、アメリカにおける言語、即ち、米語そのものに対する見解と表記についての著名な言語学者達の主張である。ところで、イギリスからアメリカに渡来した開拓者の中でも Missouri 州南部・Arkansas 州北部・Oklahoma 州北東部にまたがるオザーク (Ozark Mountains) 丘陵地帯や北東部の Quebec 州から米国 Alabama 州北部まで続くアパラチア山脈 (Appalachia) 山間部や、North Carolina と Tennessee の州境に沿うグレートスモーキ山脈 (the Great Smoky Mountains) 周辺に移り住んだ外界との接触が極めて希薄な人々の話し言葉には今なお古い17世紀の頃の、所謂エリザベス朝英語 (Shakespearean English) と言われる初期近代英語期 (Early Modern English, 1500-1650) の中心をなすエリザベス朝時代 (1558-1603) の英語が多数残存していると言われている。このことは今日に至るまでのアメリカ英語の推移、変遷過程を研究する学徒にとって、こうした地域に足を踏み入れて、今も残る古い時代の言語事情を詳しく調査・研究することは、いろいろな面で

またとない貴重な米語の生い立ちや変遷経緯を学び取るまたとない貴重な研究材料となり、勉強になる。

そこで温故知新よろしく、本稿では現代の英米の文学作品から文法的に発話の不一致と見られる主な言語事象について英米の文学作品から詳しく用例を挙げて、ささやかながらも資料の上から実証的に検証することにする。

1. 不一致の諸相

1.1 冠詞の不一致

歴史的にはもともと不定冠詞の“an”は“a”よりも年代的に古く、母音の前以外にも用いられていたが、やがて時代が経つと子音の前では“n”が脱落するようになり、方言では母音の前でも不定冠詞は“a”に統一されて使用され、“an”が使用されなくなってしまった。但し、“h”で始まる語の前では不定冠詞は“an”が用いられた。まずはイギリスの文学作品から使用例を挙げると、

There, there now, Will, it was a accident.

— John Masefield, *The Tragedy of Nan*.

“Tis a’ awkward gify for a man, poor soul,’said the maltster.

— Thomas Hardy, *Far From The Madding Crowd*.

For during the Space of eight Years, excepting in the public Exercises of the College, I scarce uttered the Quantity of an hundred Words; and indeed do not remember that I ever spoke three Sentences together in my whole Life.

— Joseph Addison, *The Spectator*.

. . .; for he is never over-bearing, though accustomed to command Men in the utmost Degree below him; nor ever too obsequious, from an Habit of obeying Men highly above him.

— *Ibid.*

アメリカの作家の作品からも使用例を挙げると、

I was a orphan early an’ had t’ wuk fur others in other folks’ hums.

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

He had a operation.

— John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

I seen her beat the hell out of a tin peddler with a live chicken one time ‘cause he give her a argument.

— *Ibid.*

Like a ol' graveyard ghos' goin' to neighbors' houses in the night. — *Ibid.*
 Grampa cried, "Goddamn it, I'm a ol' man, but I can still take care a myself."
 — *Ibid.*
 Well, Uncle John, he's always been a easy-goin' fella, an' he takes it hard. — *Ibid.*
 An' kin we feed a extra mouth? — *Ibid.*
 Fat, sof fella with little mean eyes an' a mouth like a ass-hole. — *Ibid.*
 Thought it was a accident. — *Ibid.*
 "Lawd save us," Alice's husband shouted, "Here comes a eathquake!"
 — William Faulkner, *The Wishing Tree.*

1.2 “be”動詞や“do”助動詞の不一致の言語事象

口語英語 (特に俗語・方言) では“be”動詞や“do”助動詞はしばしば脱落することが多い。括弧内は脱落した語を表す。

If you don't hush, you know what I (am) going to do. I (am) going to eat that cake
 all up. — Id., *The Sound and the Fury.*
 “Oh . . . (is) that so?” — Francis Scott Fitzgerald, *The Rich Boy.*
 “Where (are) you going?” — John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath.*
 Ma asked timidly, “Where we goin', Tom?” — *Ibid.*
 Where we gonna go? — *Ibid.*
 Where (do) you all come from? — *Ibid.*
 What you doin' now, so early? — *Ibid.*
 “What you mean you ain't a-goin'?” — *Ibid.*
 What we going to do, Ma? Where we going to go? — *Ibid.*
 “How they treat you in McAlester?” Casy asked. — *Ibid.*
 What the hell you want to lead 'em someplace for? — *Ibid.*

1.3 主語と動詞の不一致

1.3a 人称形にかかわらず、複数形でも“be”動詞は単数現在形は“is”, 過去形は“was”で呼応することが多い。Joseph Wrightの*The English Dialect Dictionary*によれば, “Is used indiscriminately for all three persons.”と記されている。

“I don't know whether you've seen 'em, 'm,” continued Jane, after a pause, “but

there's (=is) folks making haste all one way, afore the front window. . . ”

— George Eliot, *Silas Marner*.

Well, heah I **is**.

— Eugene O'Neill, *The Emperor Jones*.

Cows **is** queer.

— *Ibid.*

They all **is** — t' their Maws.

— *Ibid.*

Horses is a hell of a lot more worth than men.

— *Ibid.*

Joints is the only place you can pull up, an' when you stop you got to buy somepin so you can sling the bull with the broad behind the counter.

— *Ibid.*

An' all them **things is** true, an' they're right in the place they happened.

— *Ibid.*

I went up an' I looked, an' the **houses is** all empty, an' this whole country is empty.

— *Ibid.*

“Seems to me there's **lots** wrong,” said Casy.

— *Ibid.*

Is they any girls in this here camp?

— *Ibid.*

Tom asked, “When **is they** gonna be work aroun' here?”

— *Ibid.*

Is they any part of it you might call a sin?

— *Ibid.*

“I wonder what **they is** for a fella so lonely.”

— *Ibid.*

Sure **these is** the clothes they give me when I come out.

— *Ibid.*

“. . . **Folks is** movin'” he said ashamedly.

— *Ibid.*

You was always too busy pullin' little girls' pigtails when I give you the Holy Sperit.

— *Ibid.*

You **was** all wropped up in yankin' that pigtail out by the roots.

— *Ibid.*

Lookin' for gold we says **we was**, but **we was** jus' diggin' caves like kids always **does**.

— *Ibid.*

They was two ways a thinkin'.

— *Ibid.*

Grampa said, “**They was** two ways a thinkin' Some folks use' ta figger that preacher was poison luck.”

— *Ibid.*

They was some folks figered it was a good respectable thing to have a preacher along.

— *Ibid.*

Me, I always said **they was** preachers an' preachers.

— *Ibid.*

“Thanks, buddy,” he said. “**My dogs was** pooped out.”

— *Ibid.*

They was a coyote squawkin' near by.

— *Ibid.*

1.3b 一般動詞でも複数形の主語に単数形の動詞で呼応することが多い。

これについてミシガン大学名誉教授, Charles Carpenter Fries (1887-1969) は *American English Grammar*, p. 58で “The gross violation of concord” と言っている。即ち, “the use in a verb of a number distinctive form which does not correspond with the number form of the subject when that number form is in harmony with the number meaning implied in the subject — occurs with moderate frequency only in Vulgar English.” 更に分かりやすく手短かに言えば, 俗語・方言では複数形の人称代名詞の後に来る動詞は単数形がくることが多い。

Them kids that **goes** to school, we seen ‘em. — *Ibid.*

“Folks kinda **likes** to hear ‘im, though.” — *Ibid.*

Tom said, “They **comes** a time when a man gets mad.” — *Ibid.*

Course now an’ again the sperit gets movin’ an’ I rip out a meetin’, or when folks **sets** out food I give ‘em a grace, but my heart ain’t in it. I on’y do it ‘cause they expect it. — *Ibid.*

1.4 自動詞と他動詞の混同

この混同の代表的な例は lie と lay, sit と set, git と get である。“lie と lay” について, *OED* は “In transitive uses, coinciding with or resembling those of *lie*” と述べて, dialect or illiterate だと記述している。因みに “lie” の活用変化 (lie-lay-lain) が “lay (lay-laid-lain)” と, sit (sat, sat) は set (set, set) と, get (got, got) は git とそれぞれ非常に似通ったところがあり, 俗語・方言ではしばしば混同されることがよくある。そのため用例は多岐にわたっている。

Bergen Evans and Cornelia Evans は *A Dictionary of Contemporary American Usage*, p. 269 に “The children could not say *lie* — beause that was not what their respected elders said—and they were afraid to say *lay*. The result was a kind of panic, in which they were sure that whatever they said would be wrong. In current English, *lie* is used more often than *lay* in these constructions where the object would be a reflexive pronoun, and many people consider *lay* undesirable here. But many other people still use *lay*. This may show that the speaker is depending on his grandmother more than on his teachers.” と解説している。

英米の文学作品から混同された用例をいくつか以下に挙げると,

Robyn commaunded his wyght yong men,

Under the grene wood tre,

They shall **lay** (=lie) in that same sorte

That the sheryf myght them se.

— *Old English Ballads.*

We are going to **lay** (= lie) in as close as we can to those two heaps of stuff —
you see them? — under the rock. — H. G. Wells, *Tono-Bungay.*

“Now you **lay** down and try to get a little sleep, Hatty,” Lonnie told her.

— Erskine Caldwell, *Kneel to the Rising Sun.*

What are we going to do? — **lay** around (=lie about) around there till he lets the
cat out of the bag? — Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.*

I’ll **lay** (=lie in wait) for you, my smarty; and if I catch you about that school I’ll tan
you good. — *Ibid.*

By and by I was close enough to have a look, and there **laid** a man on the
ground. — *Ibid.*

“Yes, he’s got a father, but you can’t never find him these days. He used to **lay**
(=lie) drunk with the hogs in the tanyard, but he hain’t been seen in these parts for
a year or more.” — *Ibid.*

I’ll **lay** (= lie in wait) for you, my smarty; and if I catch you about tht school I’ll tan
you good. — *Ibid.*

No, you feel like you are **laying** (= lying very still) dead still on the . . . ; but
sometimes not that way, because they’ve left dead fish **laying** (=lying) around, gars
and such, and they do get pretty rank; and . . . — *Ibid.*

. . . and help set up with the ashes of the diseased; and says if his poor brother
laying (= lying) yonder could speak he knows who he would name, for they was
names that wa very dear to him, and, . . . — *Ibid.*

次に“set”, “sit”について検証すると,

“A guard! Well, that is good. So somebody’s got to **set** (=sit) up all night and never
get any sleep, just so as to watch them. . . .” — *Ibid.*

“Don’t scrunch up like that, Huckleberry — **set** (=sit) up straight”; — *Ibid.*

“They don’t do nothing! Why, how you talk! They just **set** (=sit) around.”

— *Ibid.*

Well, nobody could think of anything to do — everybody was stumped, and **set** (= sat) still. — *Ibid.*

“They don’t do nothing! Why, how you talked! They just **set** (=sat) around.”

— *Ibid.*

Then I **set** (=sat) down in a chair by the window and tried to think of something cheerful, but it warn’t no use. — *Ibid.*

When I got to it Jim was **setting** (=sitting) there with his head down between his knees, asleep, with his right arm hanging over the steering-oar. — *Ibid.*

‘Git in, now, and **set** (=sit) still until your maw come.’

— William Faulkner, *The Sound the Fury*.

更に“git”, “get”について

OED は “The form *git* 19th century dialect, U.S. colloquial or slang, often in form *git*” と説明している。

All your skill was used up ages ago in Palestine, and you must lie fallow for a thousand years to **git** (=get) strength for more deeds!

— Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*.

And de Emperor better **git** (=get) his feet smokin’ op de trail.

— Eugene O’Neill, *The Emperor Jones*

“**Git** aboard (=get on board),” says the king.

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

1.5 主語の人称形と動詞の時制の不一致

OED が “*Say*”, *v.3.b.* に “Used in parenthetic clause indicating the author of a quoted saying” と説明して, “In this use, the 3rd sing. pres. is often substituted *colloq.* for the *pat. said*. Hence in vulgar speech or jocular imitations of it, *says I*, *says you*= ‘said I,’ ‘said you’” と記述している。

イギリスの文学作品から用例を挙げると,

...; for I couldn’t stop the parson, I couldn’t take upon me to do that; and yet I said to myserlf, **I says** (= I said), Suppose they shouldn’t be fast married, ‘cause the

words are contrary? — George Eliot, *Silas Marner*.

I was allays uncommon for turning things over and seeing all round 'em; and **I says** to myself, 'Is't the meanin' or the words as makes folks fast i' wedlock?' — *Ibid.*

And, **says I**, I am sure he is a very fine gentleman of?

— Henry Fielding, *The History of Tom Jones*.

'... I told my lady, **says I**, madam, your la'ship is encouraging idleness' — *Ibid.*

"A clam for supper? A cold clam, is that what you mean, Mrs. Hussey?" **says I**.

— *Ibid.*

"What am I about?" **says I**.

— *Ibid.*

アメリカの文学作品からも用例を挙げると、

Thinks I (= I thought), I'll wait awhile, he must be dropping in before long.

— Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*

Lord save me, **thinks I**, that must be the harpooner, the infernal head-pedlar.

— *Ibid.*

It's ominous, **thinks I**

— *Ibid.*

"Why," **thinks I**, "what's the row? ..."

— *Ibid.*

And I looks at her serious as I could, "Ma'm," **says I**, "I couldn't rightly answer that question."

— Eugene O' Neill, *Beyond the Horizon*.

An' **I says**, I'll blow his brains t' the top o' them elums — an' she says no, that hain't sense, who'll ye git t' help ye on the farm in his place — an' then she says yew'n me ought t' have a son — I know we kin, she says — an' **I says**, if we do, ye kin have anythin' I've got ye've a mind t'.

— Id., *Desire Under the Elms*.

I got pretty jealous **I says** to myself who is this Quentin anyway I must see what this animal looks like because I was hit pretty hard see soon as I saw the little girl I don't mind telling you it never occurred to me it was her brother she kept talking about she couldn't have talked about you any more if you'd been the only man in the world husband wouldn't have been in it you won't change your mind and have a smoke.

— William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*.

"Call me when we gitting nigh to Hawkhurst," he said, "so I can commence to look out for that railroad **you tells** about."

— Id., *The Unvanquished*.

"Yessum," the woman said. "They's all there."

— *Ibid.*

Reason **I says** buy her is she was a pop'lar car.

— John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

I hearn (=heard) what **you says**.

— *Ibid.*

I remember some girls come by and **you says**. . . you say. . .

— Id., *Of Mice and Men*.

An' maybe two-three thousan' **folks gets** movin' account a this here han'bill.

— *Ibid*

Some fellas says one thing, an' **some says** another thing.

— *Ibid.*

An' **they says** that means he can't go outside the State, or if he goes, an' they catch him, they send 'im back for three years.

— *Ibid.*

Almost **she don't** want to go to California, fear she'll never see you no more.

— *Ibid.*

Just walks aroun' like **he don't** see nothin' an' he prays some.

— *Ibid.*

Tom asked, "When **is they** gonna be work aroun' here?"

— *Ibid.*

"Thanks, buddy," he said. "**My dogs was** pooped out."

— Id., *The Grapes of Wrath*.

You was always too busy pillin' little girls' pigtails when I give you the Holy Spirit.

You was all wropped up in yankin' that pigtail out by the roots.

— *Ibid.*

An' Granma says **you was** just lousy with the spirit.

— *Ibid.*

Grampa said, "**They was** two ways a thinkin'. Some folks use' ta figger that a preacher was poison luck."

— *Ibid.*

They was some folks figgered it was a good respectable thing to have a preacher along.

— *Ibid.*

"**We was** lucky," he said.

— *Ibid.*

An' **all them things is** true, an' they're right in the place they happened.

— *Ibid.*

Sure **these is** the clothes they give me when I come out.

— *Ibid.*

There **was** the hills, an' there was me, an' **we wasn't** separate no more. **We was** one thing.

— *Ibid.*

2. 不定詞の“to”の脱落で出来た不一致の語法

2.1 “be”動詞+原形不定詞

William Shakespeare から使用例を挙げると、

My life **is run** his compass. Sirrah, what news?

— William Shakespeare, *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*, V. iii. 25.

アメリカの文学作品から用例を挙げると、

All I must do **is (to) keep** the head clear.

— Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*.

What we got to do 'fore we go **is get** them pigs slaughtered an' in salt, an' pack our stuff an' go.

— John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

On'y way I can go wrong **is think about** her.

— *Ibid.*

"On'y way you gonna get me to go **is whup** me."

— *Ibid.*

All we got to do **is give** a yell an' they's two hunderd men out.

— *Ibid.*

What we got to do 'fore we go **is get** them pigs slaughtered an' in salt, an' pack our stuff an' go.

— *Ibid.*

2.2 動詞+原形不定詞

アメリカの口語英語では以下の動詞に“to”の脱落が見られる。これについて岡村弘著『口語英語の研究』, 60-62ページに、「文語では come, go の後にくる不定詞は to-infinitive が普通であるけれども、口語では Let's go eat. のように bare infinitive を用いることがある。これは OE で対格の不定詞が運動の動詞の後で副詞的に用いられたことの名残であり、Shakespeare や聖書の英語は専らこの形を使っている」と詳しい説明が記載されている。また同様の説明は Otto Jespersen, *A Modern English Grammar*, V.14.3 にも記載されている。

2.2.a come

シェイクスピアの作品から例を挙げると、

Come weep with me—past hope, past cure, past help!

— William Shakespeare, *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*, IV. i. 45.

The Hyrcanian deserts and the vasty wilds

Of wide Arabia are as throughfares now

For princes to **come view** fair Portia. — Id., *The Merchant of Venice*, II. vii. 41-43.

アメリカの文学作品から使用例を挙げると、

You folks **come** (to) **grab** lunch with me. — Harry Sinclair Lewis, *Dodsworth*.
 “Would you like to **come be** my wife?”

— Flannery O'Connor, *A Good Man Is Hard to Find*.

Come set down. It wasn't nothin'. It won' hurt.”

— John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

We ain't et today,”he said to Floyd. “I'll **come give** you a han' when I eat.” — *Ibid.*

Pull down a little jigger an' the water comes right in the toilet, an' they ain't no
 cops let to **come look** in your tent any time they want, an' the fella runs the camp is
 so polite, come a-visitin' an' talks an' ain't high an' mighty. — *Ibid.*

Now who tol' you to **come bus'** up our dance? — *Ibid.*

She says **come git** it. — *Ibid.*

Alex, beside me, said, “**Come have** a drink.” — Id., *The Long Valley*.

He looked at me, hollering, “**Come see**—”

— William Faulkner, *The Unvanquished*.

2.2.b get (git)

Ma cried. “You git up an' **git** your face **washed**. An' comb your hair.”

— John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Git your hair **combed**. — *Ibid.*

2.2.c go

先ずシェイクスピアの作品から例を挙げると、

Let's **go dress** him like the witch of Brentford

— William Shakespeare, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, IV. ii. 100.

I'll **go watch**. — *Ibid.*, I. iv. 7.

Shall we **go prove** what's to be done? — Id., *Much Ado About Nothing*, I. ii. 57.

I will presently **go learn** their day of marriage. — *Ibid.* II. ii. 57.

What, John! Robert! John! **Go take up** these clothes here quickly

— *Ibid.* III. iii. 154-156.

Will you laugh me asleep, for I am very heavy? **Go sleep**, and hear us

— Id., *The Tempest*, II. i. 188-190.

I will **go tell** him of fair Hermia's flight:

— Id., *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, I. i. 246.

I must **go seek** some dewdrops here

And hang a pearl in every cowslip's ear.

— *Ibid.*, II. i. 14-5.

Decius, **go tell** them Caesar will not come.

— Id., *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*, II. ii. 68.

アメリカの文学作品から用例を挙げると、

Waal, let's **go help** Eben a spell an' git waked up.

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

Roskus said, 'They ain't no luck **going** (to) **be** on no place where one of they own chillens' name ain't never spoke.'

— William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*.

I'll **go smash** my fist in her face!

— *Ibid.*

'I told you to **go put** it away. Now I reckon you want me to get you 'Come on.' T. P. said. 'Let's **go play** with Quentin and Luster. Come on.' another one from Frony.'

— *Ibid.*

Lud Moseley thinks if I go to see her more than once a week that maybe we'll take it into our heads to **go get married** without giving him a chance to catch on.

— Erskine Caldwell, *Horse Thief*.

"How'm I **goin'** tell her that when she ain't home?"

— Francis Scott Fitzgerald, *The Last of the Belles*.

". . . **Go see** your friend, or maybe it's your mother."

— Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*.

"All right, then. I'll **go get** up a couple of horses."

— John Steinbeck, *The Chrysanthemums*.

Then you an' Lennie could **go get** her started an' I'd get a job an' make up the res', an' you could sell eggs an' stuff like that.

— Id., *Of Mice and Men*.

"One of you **go get** some bale wire outa the barn . . ."

— Id., *The Grapes of Wrath*.

I'll **go look** for Uncle John.

— *Ibid.*

"Too late for him — he's et. **Go git** the preacher."

— *Ibid.*

Go git him.

— *Ibid.*

- “Now you **go git** water—right down there?” Ask nice. — *Ibid.*
- You **go steal** that tire an’ you’re a thief, but he tried to steal your fourdollars for a busted tire. — *Ibid.*
- “Jus’ he’p yourself to water, and **go use** the toilet if you want.” — *Ibid.*
- Won’t you **go take** a look at him? — *Ibid.*
- “Well, don’t take my word. **Go see** for yourself.” — *Ibid.*
- Ma said, “Rosasharn, like a good girl **go lay** down with Granma. She needs somebody now. She’s knowin’, now.” — *Ibid.*
- I’ll **go look** for Uncle John. He’d of went to the store ‘crost the road. — *Ibid.*
- Wilson turned to Casy. “Sairy want you should **go see** her.” — *Ibid.*
- You **go steal** that tire an’ you’re a thief, but he tried to steal your four dollars for a busted tire. — *Ibid.*
- “Lets **go look**,” Winfield said. — *Ibid.*
- “You better **go take** a good long sleep,” he said. — *Ibid.*
- Wilson turned to Casy. “Sairy want you should **go see** her.” — *Ibid.*
- “Well, don’t take my word. **Go see** for yourself.” — *Ibid.*
- Now you **go git** water—right down there. — *Ibid.*
- One of you **go get** some bale wire outa the barn. — *Ibid.*

2.2.d hear

俗語・方言では“hear tell, hear say”などのように一般の人を表す不定詞の主語を省略することが多い。シェイクスピアの作品の中にもこの語の使用例が見られる。

- She cannot endure to **hear tell** of a husband.
— William Shakespeare, *Much Ado About Nothing*, II. i. 362.
- Is your man secret? Did you ne’er **hear say**
Two may keep counsel, putting one way? — Id., *Romeo and Juliet*, IV. iv. 208-209.
- I **hear say** you are of honourable parts and are the Governor of this place.
— Id., *Pericles*, IV. vi. 86-87.
- “I’ve **heard tell** in my younger days that that will cause it. Why, Crick—that maid we had years ago, do ye mind, and how the butter didn’t come then—”
— Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*.
- We **heared tell** as he ‘d sold his own land to come and take the Warrens, and that

seemed odd for a man as had land of his own, to come and rent a farm in a strange place. — George Eliot, *Silas Marner*.

Waal, while they's life they's allus hope, I've **heard tell**.

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

That's the way I figure it all out, because everybody in this part of the country who ever **heard tell** of me knows I'm not a horse thief.

— Erskine Caldwell, *Horse Thief*.

. . . , an' I never **heard tell** of no Joads or no Hazletts, neither, ever refusin' food an' shelter or a lift on the road to anybody that asked.

— John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

2.2.e help

“Too bad,” he said. “Will some of you **help get** her back to her tent?” — *Ibid.*

You said yourself, you can't let **help go** unwanted. — *Ibid.*

He could hear Nancy scratching fleas under the house, but he knew she was in no condition to **help look for** Mark. — Erskine Caldwell, *Kneel to the Rising Sun*.

2.2.f manage

Would be awfully glad if you could **manage meet** me.

— Sinclair Lewis, *Dodsworth*.

2.2.g say

“say”の後に来る動詞の前の“to”の脱落によって出来る“say + 原形不定詞”は俗語・方言によく見られる表現語法である。George O. Curmeも *Syntax*, p. 419 で, “In American English it is common to say also: The teacher says (= tells us) to come early.” また *OED* も “this use of say for tell is marked obsolete. It was once literary usage in England.” と述べている。しかし時には“to”が現れることがある。先ずその例を2～3挙げると,

Caddy uncaught me and we crawled through. Uncle Maury **said not to let** (= told me not to let) anybody see us, so we better stoop over, Caddy said. Stoop over, Benjy. — William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*.

A man sitting in a chair tilted in the broad low door, where a dark cool breeze of ammonia blew among the ranked stalls, **said to look at** the post office. — *Ibid.*

He **said to slay** (= told me to slay) him there, since it would be dark and he would not have to see the face when it came. — *Id., Red Leaves.*

以下に“to”が脱落した例を挙げると、

“Granny **say come** here!” Ringo hollered. — *Id., The Unvanquished.*

Reason I **say buy** her is she was a pop’lar car. — *Sinclare Lewis, Dodsworth.*

“Al, Ma’s dishin’ up stew. She **says come** git it.” — *Ibid.*

“He **said tell** you — “She paused again and looked to see that Winfield appreciated her position. — *Ibid.*

“Al, Ma’s dishin’ up stew. She **says come** git it.” — *Ibid.*

George yelled again, ‘I **said get** him.’ — *John Steinbeck, Of Mice and Men.*

2.2.h try

“No, Tom. Don’t **try fool** me. I’m all alone here. You ain’t been here.”

— *Sinclare Lewis, Dodsworth.*

3. 完了の助動詞“have”の脱落

完了形の“have”は俗語・方言では脱落することが多い。

George O. Curme, *Syntax*, p. 474には, “This suppression of *have* has become a characteristic feature of our popular speech: と述べて次のような用例を挙げている。括弧内の語は脱落することが多い。‘If Smoky could only (have) knowed, there’d (have) been a lot of suffering which he wouldn’t (have) had to’ve went through.’

— *Will James, Smoky the Cowhorse.*

イギリスの文学作品から使用例を挙げると、

‘Pretty, lass! I never **seed** (=have never seen) such a bonny bit anywhere.’

— *Mrs. Gaskell, Mary Barton.*

But as I was saying, she did not cry, though the tears was often in her eyes; and I

seen her looking after me down the tears was often in her eyes; and I **seen** her looking after me down the lane as long as I were in sight, with her hand shading her eyes — and that were the last look I ever had on her. — *Ibid.*

また Otto Jespersen, *A Modern English Grammar*, IV, p. 150 に、より踏み込んだ説明が記載されている。

“Are the following American examples due to Scotland, or may they be independent recent developments as in the frequent American *I got to see I’ve got to see*, etc?”

G. キルヒナー著『アメリカ語事典』p. 558では、「俗語の一特徴だとして、could, would, ought など仮定法過去形の次で、また動詞 like, you’d better などの次でよく用いられる」と述べている。

Looky here! Ye’d **oughtn’t t’ said** (= had ought not to have said) that, Eben.

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

I’ll have to take your mother on and I thought about saying, Yes you ought to (**have**) brought two bottles instead of just one only I thought about where we were so I let them go on. — William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*.

“You (**have**) done the best you could!” he cried. — Id., *Barn Burning*.

“Come see what they (**have**) done to the railroad!” — Id., *The Unvanquished*.

‘You and him ought to (**have**) thought of that before he started barbering white men without using no later frast.’ — Id., *Pantaloon in Black*.

“Oh, I **been** to it lots of times, I used to go to it every day almost, when I was your age. But I ain’t been in several years, now.” — Id., *The Wishing Trree*.

“Ever’body says words different,” said Ivy. “Arkansas folks says ‘em different, and Oklahomy folks ‘ say ‘em different. And we (**have**) seen a lady from Massachusetts, an’ she said ‘em differentest of all. Couldn’t hardly make out what she was sayin’.”

— John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Ma said, “I **seen** them before. When you finish, you push that.” — *Ibid.*

“I (**have**) **seen** him about three months ago. He had a operation. Cut somepin out. I forget what.” — *Ibid.*

I **been** layin' at night a-burnin' my brains up. Now we can talk her out, anyways.

— *Ibid.*

And used to get an irrigation ditch so squirmin' full of repented sinners half of 'em like to (have) **drowned**.

— *Ibid.*

Got a lot of sinful idears—but they seem kinda sensible.

— *Ibid.*

"I never **been** to bed. I was up all night."

— *Ibid.*

I **seen** him in meetin' sometimes when the sperit got into him just a little, an' I **seen** him take ten-twelve foot jumps. — *Ibid.* "I liked to **starved**," said Al. "What we gonna do now, go on to the camp?" — *Ibid.* I **seen** forty-two cars a you fellas go by yesterday.

— *Ibid.*

An' the fella says, I **done** it, an' ever' time since then when I hear a business man talkin' about service, I wonder who's gettin' screwed.

— *Ibid.*

"I **seen** it three times before."

— *Ibid.*

"I **done** it," said Tom.

— *Ibid.*

"Gopher snake," said Tom. "You oughtn't to **done** that."

— *Ibid.*

"We never **done** it," Pa said.

— *Ibid.*

"I **been** secret all my days," he said. "I **done** things I never tol' about."

— *Ibid.*

"I never **been** to bed. I was up all night."

— *Ibid.*

"I **been** a long time without a girl," he said.

— *Ibid.*

4. have が省略して出来た語形

俗語・方言では所有や義務を表す "have got" の "have" が脱落することが多い。

I **got to** think what happens to me.

— *Ibid.*

We **got to** get a tire, but, Jesus, they want a lot for a ol' tire.

— *Ibid.*

They want he **got to** go on.

— *Ibid.*

Well, that's somepin you **got to** think about.

— *Ibid.*

Pa said, "We **got to** figger what to do. They's laws. You **got to** report a death, an' when you do that, they either take forty dollars for the undertaker or they take him for a pauper."

— *Ibid.*

"Go set in the door," Ma said. "I **got to** have that box to break up anyways."

— *Ibid.*

5. “a-prefix” のついた現在分詞

OED は Archaic or dialect と表示して, “most of the southern dialects, and the vulgar speech both in England and America, retain the earlier usage.” と記述していて, 話し手は主に教育のレベルの低い田舎の住民の言葉の特徴だと述べている。また Frederic G. Cassidy, Chief Editor, *Dictionary of American Regional English* によれば, “through US, must especially frequent in Middle, SW; Less frequent South, New England; chiefly among less educated and rural speakers; some what old-fashion” と似通った説明がされている。元来この “a-” は OE. の前置詞 ‘an’ (=on) が崩れたもので, on とか away の意である。*C.O.D.* (a2) によれば, prep. *an* (=on) の名残であると述べている。

先ずは, エリザベス朝の世界最大の劇作家, William Shakespeare (1564-1616) の作品にも “a-~ing” の使用例が見られる。

You do not give the cheer; the feast is sold
That is not often vouch'd, while 'tis **a-making**,
'Tis given with welcome: to feed were best at home;

— William Shakespeare, *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, III. iv. 33-35.

This beauteous combat, wilful and unwilling,
Show'd like two silver doves that sit **a-billing**, — Id., *Venus and Anthonis*.

He did not come there **a-courting** (=on courting) to her; he came there **a-hunting**
(=on hunting) with me.

— Joseph Thomas, *The Fish-Wife's Tale*.

次にイギリスの作家, George Eliot (1819-80) や Charles Dickens (1812-70), その他の作家の作品にも使用例が見られる。いくつか用例を挙げると,

“Ah,” said she, “you are come **a seeking** your little mistress! don't be frightened.
She's here safe: but I'm glad it isn't the master.”

— Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*.

But ride he would, as if Old Harry had been **a-driving** him; and he'd a son, a lad o'
six-teen; and nothing would his father have him do, but he must ride — and ride
though the lad was frightened, they said. — George Eliot, *Silas Marner*.

That wasn't my way, when I went **a-coorting**. — *Ibid.*

“. . . You'll let me bring my Aaron one o' thes days, and he'll show her his little cart as his father's made for him, and the black-and-white pup as he's got **a-rearing**.”

— *Ibid.*

“Why, Eppie, have you been **a-thinking** on it?” — *Ibid.*

“He said he should like to be married, because he was **a-going** in four-and-twenty, and had got a deal of gardening work, now Mr. Mott's given up; and he goes twice a-week regular to Mr Cass's, and once to Mr Osgood's, and they're going to take him on at the Rectory.” — *Ibid.*

“Ask for Lantern Yard, father — ask this gentleman with the tassels on his shoulders **a-standing** at the shop door; . . .” — *Ibid.*

Thirty pounds and twenty-five guineas a year, made fifty-six pounds five shillings English money, all which was in a manner going **a-begging**, and might easily be secured in the family. — Oliver Goldsmith, *The Vicar of Wakefield*.

One comfort is, they will all be known where he is **a-going** now.

— Henry Fielding, *The History of Tom Jones*.

“I'm sure, Mr. Bumble, that I was only **a telling** one or two of the dear children as is so fond of you, that it was you **a coming**,” replied Mrs. Mann with great humility.

— Charles Dickens, *The Adventures of Oliver Twist*.

“Can't I be supposed to feel — I as brought him up porochially — when I see him **a-setting** (=sitting) here among ladies and gentlemen of the very affablest description! . . .” — *Ibid.*

In every bough **a building**,

So early in the May-time,

At the break o' the day! — Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D'urbervilles*.

Didn't I tell ye, he was **a peddlin'** heads around town? — *Ibid.*

Ay, to-night we should be **a-setting** in the tap of the “Adam and Eve” — lifting up the tune of “The Light o' the Moon.” — *Id.*, *The Dynasts*.

“What's this as Mr. Councillor Povey is **a-telling** me?”

— Arnold Bennett, *The Old Wives' Tale*.

“E's got the evil be'ind 'im now, **a ridin'** on 'is back,” said my aunt, to the grave discomfort of the eldest girl, who sat beside me. — H. G. Wells, *Tono-Bungay*.

アメリカの作家の作品からも用例を挙げると、

“Of a tuth, friend, that matter remaineth a riddle; and the Daniel who shall expound it is yet **a-wanting**,” answered the townsman.

— Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*.

Old people did not know enough once, perchance, to fetch fuel to keep the fire **a-going**; new people put a little dry wood under a pot, and are whirled round the globe with the speed of birds, in a way to kill old people, as the phrase is.

— Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*.

The doubloon goes **a-begging**!

— Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*.

The turtle doves and sma’ birds

I was just **a-biling** with curiosity; and I says to myself, . . .

— *Ibid.*

“But what takes thee **a-whaling**? I want to know that before I think of shipping ye.”

— *Ibid.*

“You don’t mean to go **a-begging** to him!” said a sailor.

— *Ibid.*

Sun’s **a-rizin**’.

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

Kept on **a-popping** it several times until she made him quit.

— Flannery O’Connor, *A Good Man Is Hard to Find*.

I’m **a-standing** about all I can stand now — so don’t gimme no sass.

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

I see a light **a-comin**’ round de p’int bymeby, so I wade’ in en shove’ a log ahead o’ me en swum more’n half-way acrost de river, en got in ‘mongst de driftwood, en kep’ my head down low, en kinder swum agin de current tell de raff come along.

— *Ibid.*

I’d made up my mind ‘bout what I’s **a-gwyne** (= a-going) to do.

— *Ibid.*

“You hain’t seen no towhead? Looky here, didn’t de line pull loose en de raf go **a-hummin**’ down de river, en leave you en de canoe behine in de fog?”

— *Ibid.*

. . . ; but she got well, en one day she was **a-stannin**’ (= a-standing) aroun’, en I says to her, I says:

— *Ibid.*

Then he turns around, bubbering, and makes a lot of idiotic signs to the duke on his hands, and blamed if he didn’t drop a carpet-bag and bust out **a-crying**.

— *Ibid.*

“What is this country **a-coming** to?”

— *Ibid.*

I'm **a-laying** (=laying) up sin and suffering for us both, I know.

— Id., *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

"Didn't you want to go in **a-swimming**, Tom?"

— *Ibid.*

I'd made sure you'd played hookey and been **a-swimming**.

— *Ibid.*

"Now, Huck, where we're **a-standing** you could touch that hole I got out of a fishing-pole. See if you can find it."

— *Ibid.*

Here I've sot, and sot, and sot, **a-bust'n'** (=bursting) muskeeters and wonderin' what was aillin' ye.

— Id., *Roughing It*.

Texas boy got his hair in his eyes, mouth's wide open, can't get air, but he pats four times for eve' darn step, an' he'll keep **a-goin'** with the Cherokee girl.

— John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

We ain't **a-goin'** to burden.

— *Ibid.*

Sairy said, "If I get sick again, you got to go on an' get there. So the afternoon 'fore we're gonna start, Will an' Aunt Minnie go **a-practicin'**."

— *Ibid.*

He's so damn mad he won't come along with us, jus' set there **a-cussin'** an **a-cussin'**.

— *Ibid.*

I'm **a-eatin'** your food an' **a-takin'** up room.

— *Ibid.*

The circle of children shifted nervously and looked ain't no cops let to come look in your tent any time they want, an' the fella runs the camp is so polite, comes **a-visitin'** an' talks an' ain't high an' mighty.

— *Ibid.*

"Ma gets tough," Tom said. "I seen her **a-gettin'** mad quite a piece now. She jus' boils up. I been layin' at night **a-burnin'** my brains up. Now we can talk her out, anyways."

— *Ibid.*

"I'm **a-gonna** miss them dances," Tom said.

— *Ibid.*

We ain't **a-buyin'** it, we're **a-sellin'** it.

— *Ibid.*

I kept **a-telling** you tostay away from there, Luster said.

— William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*.

次に下記の用例に見られるようにまれに“a”の後にハイフンのない例も英米ともに見られる。

I'm as ready as a mawkin can be — there's nothing **awanting** to frighten the crows, now I've got my ear-droppers in.

— George Eliot, *Silas Marner*.

'E's got the evil one be'ind 'im now, **a ridin'** on 'is back,' said my aun to the grave

discomfort of the eldest girl, who sat beside me. — H. G. Wells, *Tono-Bungay*.

You don't mean to go a **begging** to him! said a sailor."

— Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*.

"Maybe not," taking out a stick and whittling a tooth-pick, "but I rather guess you'll be done brown if that ere harpooner hears you a **sladerin'** his head." — *Ibid.*

Didn't I tell ye, he was a **peddlin'** heads around town? — *Ibid.*

"Maybe not," taking out a stick and whittling a toothpick, "but I rather guess you'll be done brown if that ere harpooner hears you a **slanderin'** his head." — *Ibid.*

You shuddered as you gazed, and wondered what monstrous cannibal and savage could ever have gone a **death-harvesting** with such a hacking, horrifying implement.

— *Ibid.*

6. "a-prefix" のついた過去分詞

廣岡英雄著『英文学の方言』62頁に「"a-"はOE.ge->ME.y->aで過去分詞を示す接頭辞」と記述されている。即ち動詞の過去分詞につく接頭辞なのである。また同書41頁には「OEのP.P.についたge [je] がy > aとして残ったものである。」との説明書きが記載されている。また同著者の『英国の言語 I』, 251, 252頁にも「ge-は動作の完了や結果を示したもので、Infinitiveや名詞にも冠せられることがあって、過去分詞専有のものではなかったが、専ら過去分詞に付されていた。…今日の西南方言においては、このy-がさらにくずれてa-として残っている」との説明が記載されている。

英国の英詩の父と称される中世の大詩人、Geoffrey Chaucer (1340? -1400) の作品『カンタベリー物語』の中にこの使用例が見られる。

Ful riche he was **astored** (=stored) prively,
His lord wel coude he plesen subtilly,
To yeve and lene him of his owne good,
And have a thank, and yet a cote and hood.

— Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, 609-612.

When wintry weather's all **a-done** (=done),
An' brooks do sparkle in the zun,
An' naisy-builden rooks do vlee
Wi' sticks toward their elem tree;

— William Barnes, *Poems of Rural Life in the Dorset*.

If we 'd **a-known** (= had known) that before, we 'd not **a-started** (= would not have started) out with you so early one bright morning!

— John Galsworthy, *The Silver Box, Strife and Justice*.

If I'd **a-been** listened to, that poor woman — *Ibid.*

She'd **a-found** a little bit of apple-blossom left over somewheres.

— Id., *The Apple Tree*.

I've **a-been** (=have been) in the quire man and boy ever since I was a chiel of eleven. — Thomas Hardy, *Under the Greenwood Tree*.

この“a-prefix”のついた過去分詞はOE.の過去分詞に付けられた“ge”に由来する。Frederic G. Cassidy の *Dictionary of American Regional English*, によれば, “Specially separately, hyphened, or joined solid now chiefly South, Midland, especially among old and less educated speakers”と説明が記載されている。

アメリカの文学作品から用例を挙げると,

“Maybe I oughtn’ to **a-talked** like that,” he said.

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

“Look at it, gentleman and ladies all; take **a-hold** of it; shake it. . . .” — *Ibid.*

I made up my mind I wouldn’t every take **a holt** (=hold) of a snake-skin again with my hands, now that I see what had come of it. — *Ibid.*

They hate you ‘bause they’r **a-scairt** (=a-scairt=scared).

— John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Well, I’m **a-scairt** about it. — *Ibid.*

I wisht you could **a-heerd** (=have heard) me sing. — *Ibid.*

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