PARALLEL GRAMMAR SERIES. A WELSH GRAMMAR FOR SCHOOLS: BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE GRAMMATICAL SOSIETY. PART II - SYNTAX, PP. 81-187

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Parallel Grammar Series

A WELSH GRAMMAR FOR SCHOOLS

BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE GRAMMATICAL SOCIETY

BY

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PART II—SYNTAX

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PREFACE

THE need has long been felt for a Welsh Syntax which would exhibit, in a lucid and systematic manner, the characteristic features of the language, without doing violence to its history on the one hand, or, on the other, ignoring the present state of its development. With this in view, the Author of this work has endeavoured throughout to distinguish clearly between the probable constructions of the parent Celtic speech and the actual constructions of modern Welsh, as shown, for example, in the difference between the extinct and the living uses of such words as *mai, pe,* and the pre-verbal particles *a* and *yr* (*y*). In Welsh philology a clearer distinction between the probable origin of forms and their present uses is urgently needed. To obscure divergences between earlier and later meanings of forms, in the case of any language, is to lose sight of the principles which have governed its whole history.

The Author wishes to express his best thanks to the General Editor of this series, Prof. Sonnenschein, for invaluable assistance in the preparation of this book; to those previous Welsh grammarians, without whose diligent and faithful care in preserving the tradition of the literary language this work would not have been possible; to Principal Rhys and Professors Powel and John Morris Jones, whose conversations with the Author on these matters have always afforded him many valuable suggestions, which he has carefully treasured in his memory; to Dr. J. A. H. Murray, of Oxford, whose clear exposition of some of the principles of language has been a help in many difficulties; and to his brother, the Rev. J. Bodvan Anwyl, for valuable help in the preparation of the Index.

ABERYSTWYTH, 1899. E. ANWYL.

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INTRODUCTION TO SYNTAX.

Syntax is the part of grammar which treats of the construction of sentences.

For the classification of sentences see §§ 339–345.

ANALYSIS OF SENTENCES.

Subject and Predicate.

301 The sentence usually consists of two main parts, the Subject and the Predicate. The Subject is the word or group of words denoting that about which something is said in the Predicate; the Predicate is what is said about that which is denoted by the Subject, and it includes not only the Verb, but also any Predicate-adjective or Predicate-noun or Object or Adjunct (or combination of these) with which it may be joined. Such additions to the Verb will be spoken of as the Remainder of the Predicate. Note that in all cases the Predicate includes the *whole* of what is said about that which is denoted by the Subject.

302 These two parts of the sentence may be contained in a single word: *e.g.* canant, *they sing*.

303 The **Normal Order** of the Welsh sentence is Verb—Subject—Remainder of Predicate.

304 The Predicate may assume any of the following five forms:—

FORMS OF THE PREDICATE.

	VERB.	SUBJECT.	REMAINDER OF PREDICATE.	
I	cān	y dŷn		
II	māe	y dŷn	**Predicate Noun or Adjective.** yn* frenin or yn* ddā	
III	gwelodd †	y dŷn	**Object.** y bachgen	
IV	rhoddodd †	y dŷn	**Two Objects.** lyfr i'r bachgen	
V	galwodd †	y dŷn	**Object.** ef	**Pred. Noun or Adjective.** yn* frenin *or* yn* ddā

* The word 'yn' which usually precedes the Predicate-noun or Predicate-adjective is probably a remnant of one of the forms of the Brythonic definite article. A *Predicate*-noun or adjective is a noun or adjective *predicated* of the Subject or the Object.

† Verbs which generally take an Object are called **transitive.** Verbs which generally take no Object are called **intransitive.**

Inverted Order. (See Appendix.)

305 The normal order of the sentence is frequently changed for the sake of emphasis, the emphatic word or group of words being put at the beginning of the sentence.—Thus the Subject or the Object or the Predicate-adjective or the Predicate-noun or the Adjunct may be put before the Verb. In such cases the word a or yr (y) is put immediately before the verb as shewn in the following examples.* (Cf. Accidence, § 194, 2nd ed.)

With Predicate of Form I :—

y dŷn a gān, 'the *man* sings'; 'it is the man who sings.'

y dŷn sydd yma, 'the *man* is here'; 'it is the man who is here.'

With Predicate of Form II :—

brenin yw y dŷn, 'the man is a *king*'; 'it is a king that the man is.'

dā yw y dŷn, 'the man is *good*': 'it is good that the man is.'

Similarly with a Predicate-pronoun :

myfi yw, 'it is I'; pŵy yw? 'who is it?'

With Predicate of Form III :

y bachgen a welodd y dŷn,† 'the man saw *the boy*'; 'it was the boy that the man saw.'

With Predicate of Form IV :—

(*a*) llyfr a roddodd y dŷn i'r bachgen, 'the man gave the boy a *book*'; 'it was a book that the man gave the boy.'

(*b*) i'r bachgen y rhoddodd y dŷn lyfr, 'the man gave *the boy* a book'; 'it was to the boy that the man gave a book.'

With Predicate of Form V :—

(*a*) ēf a alwodd y dŷn yn frenin, 'the man called *him* king'; 'it was he whom the man called king.'

(*b*) yn frenin y galwodd y dŷn ef, 'the man called him *king*'; 'it was a king that the man called him.'

Similarly where an Adjunct is emphasised : *e.g.* yno yr aeth, 'he went *there*'; 'it was there that he went.'

---

* When the Subject or the Object is put first, a is employed, in other cases yr or y; yr before vowels and h; y before consonants. The forms from wyf etc., oeddwn etc. and sŷdd, do not take a.

† Observe the possible ambiguity between Subject and Object in sentences of this type.

Attributes.

306 Any noun (whether standing in the Subject or in the Predicate) may be **qualified** by an adjective (or adjective-equivalent, § 310); *e.g.* gŵr dŏeth, *a wise man*; cyfeillion hŏff, *dear friends.* Such a qualifying part of the sentence is called an **Attribute.**

Adjuncts.

307 Any verb, adjective or adverb in the sentence may be **qualified** by an adverb (or adverb-equivalent, § 311):

e.g. ymladdodd y dŷn **yn ddewr**, *the man fought bravely.*

mae yn weithiwr **trā** diwyd, *he is an exceedingly diligent workman.*

cerddodd **yn būr gyflym**, *he walked rather rapidly.*

Such a qualifying part of the sentence is called an **Adjunct.**

Equivalents.

308 The noun, the adjective and the adverb may be replaced by other parts of speech doing the same work in the sentence, or by a group of words doing the work of a single part of speech. A word or group of words which replaces a noun, an adjective or an adverb is called an **Equivalent** (Noun-equivalent, Adjective-equivalent or Adverb-equivalent).

A group of words forming an Equivalent and not having a Subject and Predicate of its own is called a **Phrase.**

A group of words forming an Equivalent and having a Subject and Predicate of its own is called a **Subordinate Clause** (cf. § 312).

For a list of noun-, adjective-, and adverb-equivalents see §§ 309–311.

Noun-, Adjective-, and Adverb-Equivalents.

NOUN-EQUIVALENTS.

309 A **noun-equivalent** may be—

(*a*) A pronoun: *e.g.* buost **ti** yno, *thou hast been there.*

(*b*) An adjective, with or without the article: *e.g.* **cyfoethogion**, *rich men*; **y cyfoethogion**, *the rich*; **y gwir**, *the true.*