A GRAMMAR OF THE WESSEX DIALECT
IN THE WORKS OF THOMAS HARDY

BY

Eiichi Sawamura

PREFACE

The object of my present studies is to discuss the grammar of the “Wessex dialect” in the works of Thomas Hardy.

“Wessex” is originally the name of a kingdom established in the latter half of the fifth century by one of the Saxon tribes called West Seaxe (=the West Saxons), which flourished later in the ninth century under the reign of King Alfred the Great, who made valuable contributions in making the Wessex dialect the nearest approach to a standard literary language in the Old English period. In the preface to the new edition of *Far from the Madding Crowd*, Hardy tells us when, where, and why he adopted this ancient name for the scene of his novels:

In reprinting this story for a new edition I am reminded that it was in the chapters of *Far from the Madding Crowd*, as they appeared month by month in a popular magazine, that I first ventured to adopt the word “Wessex” from the pages of early English history, and give it a fictitious significance as the existing name of the district once included in that extinct kingdom. The series of novels I projected being mainly of the kind called local, they seemed to require a territorial definition of some sort to lend unity to their scene. Finding that the area of a single county did not afford a canvas large enough for this purpose, and that there were objections to an invented name, I disinterred the old one. —Macmillan’s Pocket Hardy Vol. II (Reprinted 1919), p. v.

Hardy’s Wessex is divided into six counties, i.e. North, Mid, Upper, Outer, Lower, and South Wessex, corresponding respectively to Berkshire, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Somerset, Devon, and Dorset, and the dialects spoken in this area almost correspond to what Wright calls the “south-western dialects.” It is of little value, however, to try to define exact linguistic and geographical boundaries within his Wessex, for a novel is not a phonograph any more than it is a photograph. For our present purposes, his Wessex may be considered as equivalent to the County of Dorset, where he was born, and where he has rarely left throughout fifteen books.

In the following chapters I have collected the morphological and syntactical data peculiar to the dialect and tried, as far as I am able, to trace their origin back to the Old or Middle English period.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

Articles .................................................................................................................. 31
I. Indefinite Article ............................................................................................... 31
II. Definite Article ................................................................................................. 31

CHAPTER II

Nouns ..................................................................................................................... 31

CHAPTER III

Pronouns ............................................................................................................... 32
I. Personal Pronouns ............................................................................................. 32
II. Reflexive Pronouns ......................................................................................... 37
III. Demonstrative Pronouns ................................................................................ 37
IV. Indefinite Pronouns ......................................................................................... 38
V. Interrogative Pronouns .................................................................................... 38
VI. Relative Pronouns .......................................................................................... 39

CHAPTER IV

Adjectives .............................................................................................................. 39

CHAPTER V

Numerals ............................................................................................................... 40

CHAPTER VI

Adverbs ............................................................................................................... 41

CHAPTER VII

Conjunctions ........................................................................................................ 43

CHAPTER VIII

Prepositions .......................................................................................................... 43

CHAPTER IX

Verbs ..................................................................................................................... 44
I. Verbal Endings .................................................................................................. 44
II. Conjugation of Verbs ....................................................................................... 45
III. Participles ........................................................................................................ 48
IV. Anomalous Verbs ........................................................................................... 48
LIST OF TEXTS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. M.</td>
<td>A Changed Man.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. H.</td>
<td>The Grave by the Handpost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. I.</td>
<td>A Mere Interlude.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. S.</td>
<td>The Waiting Supper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.</td>
<td>The Dynasts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. R.</td>
<td>Desperate Remedies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. C. C.</td>
<td>A Few Crusted Characters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. M. C.</td>
<td>Far from the Madding Crowd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. N. D.</td>
<td>A Group of Noble Dames.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. D. I.</td>
<td>Dame the First.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. E.</td>
<td>The Hand of Ethelberta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. O.</td>
<td>Jude the Obscure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L.</td>
<td>A Laodician.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. L. I.</td>
<td>Life's Little Ironies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. R.</td>
<td>The Fiddler of the Reels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. V.</td>
<td>The Son's Veto.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. T-1804</td>
<td>A Tradition of Eighteen Hundred and Four.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. H. W.</td>
<td>To Please His Wife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. T. T. A.</td>
<td>A Tragedy of Two Ambitions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. C.</td>
<td>The Mayor of Casterbridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. B. E.</td>
<td>A Pair of Blue Eyes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. P. P.</td>
<td>Poems of the Past and the Present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. N.</td>
<td>The Return of the Native.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. T.</td>
<td>Two on a Tower.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. G. T.</td>
<td>Under the Greenwood Tree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.</td>
<td>The Woodlanders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. B.</td>
<td>The Well-Beloved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. P.</td>
<td>Wessex Poems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. F. T. S.</td>
<td>The Fire at Tranter Sweatley's.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. T.</td>
<td>Wessex Tales.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. D. P.</td>
<td>The Distracted Preacher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. F. T.</td>
<td>Fellow Townsmen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. i. K.</td>
<td>Interlopers at the Knap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. T. S.</td>
<td>The Three Strangers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. W. A.</td>
<td>The Withered Arm.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>accusative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adj.</td>
<td>adjectival.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adv.</td>
<td>adverb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brks.</td>
<td>Berkshire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>century.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conj.</td>
<td>conjunction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cor.</td>
<td>Cornwall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cy.</td>
<td>county.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>dative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dem.</td>
<td>demonstrative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dev.</td>
<td>Devon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dor.</td>
<td>Dorset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eng.</td>
<td>English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>generally, genitive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>indic.</td>
<td>indicative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lit.</td>
<td>literary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m.</td>
<td>mid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>masc.</td>
<td>masculine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME.</td>
<td>Middle English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me.</td>
<td>mid-east.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midl.</td>
<td>Midland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mod.</td>
<td>Modern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.</td>
<td>north.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ne.</td>
<td>north-east.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
pres. .......... present. WS. .......... Wessex.

PRINCIPAL WORKS CONSULTED

(WITH ABBREVIATIONS)

Hirooka, H. 「方言に現われた人称代名詞の弱い形式」The Rising Generation, Vol. 100, No. 7. 研究社 (代名詞)
Nakajima, F. 「英語発達史」岩波書店, 1952.
CHAPTER I
ARTICLES

I. Indefinite Article

§ 1. (a' or a before vowel) Against the usage of standard English a' (also written a) is used before a vowel sound instead of an. This practice is also found in other dialects and low colloquialism.

A good time for one ... a' excellent time. F. M. C., XXXIII, 255.
Hearing a' illegal noise I went down the street, M. C., XXVIII, 240.
Hullo, that's a' ugly blow for we, U. G. T., 1-V, 38.
Mis'ess is a old lady, and blind, T. D., IX, 70.

II. Definite Article

§ 2. (t in t'other) The ending of the OE. neuter form of the definite article survives in t'other (= the other, OE. þæt Ȝþþ). In ME. the final t of the þæt was often regarded as the beginning of the next word, and the a was weakened to e so as to make the curtained þæt into the definite article þe; þæt Ȝþþ being written þë toþþ. In early Mod. E. the tother and the other were blended into t'other. (Sweet: N. E. G., 1125.)

Faith, I don't see much difference: be you one, or be you t'other. L., 1-VI, 42.
She first went to live in a garrison-town t'other side of Wessex, F. M. C., XLI, 325.

According to E. D. G. 312, the definite article has had the same development as in the lit. Eng., viz. /si/ or /&a/, in the sw. Cy., though it has become /t/ and /d/ in several other counties. It may, therefore, not be right to regard the /t/ in question as the elision of the.

§ 3. (Omission of the definite article) The definite article is often suppressed after the preposition.

I was just going out to gate to hark for ye, U. G. T., I-II, 11.
I think I hear the 'bus coming in from station, W. T.-F. T., IX, 161.
Come into house, W. T.-W. A., VIII, 98.
Well, as to the winds, there idden much danger in them at this time o' year, W. B., II-I, 133.

CHAPTER II
NOUNS

§ 4. (Classification of nouns) According to Barnes, nouns fall under the following two heads in the Dorsetshire dialect: ...

1. Personal Class (Formed individual things.) Man, tool, tree, &c.
2. Impersonal Class (Unformed quantities of things.) Hair, water, wood, &c.

2. This classification explains the peculiar use of the demonstrative pronouns thik, theás, &c. of the Dorset dialect. For more detailed explanations see Chap. III. III.

§ 5. (Unchanged plurals) Nouns expressive of time, space, weight, measure, and
number when immediately preceded by a cardinal number gen. remain unchanged in the plural. (E. D. G. 382.)

She's been dead these five-and-twenty year at least, F. C. C. p. 274. Well, here we be seven mile from home, W., XLVIII, 455. I'll take a thousand pound, T. D., VII, 59. There's the door, forty foot above ground, M. C., XXXVIII, 329. We've five ton of timber on these wheels, W., XIII, 119.

In OE. a group of neuter nouns of one syllable which has either a long vowel, or two consonants at the end took no suffix in the nom. and acc. pl. These invariables survived to some extent in ME., and while many passed into the common -es pl. type, there were some additions, some of which were collective nouns, and others expressive of measure, or number, &c. (Wyld: S. H. E. 320.)

§ 6. (Tautological compounds) The redundant use of fellow, folk, man, woman, &c. as the second component of a compound noun seems to enjoy a general currency among the WS people.

That huntsman-fellow little thought how wrong he was about her, W., XXII, 196. Cf. parson-feller, L. L. I.-T. A., II. 64. There be no men-folk at home, J. O., I-viii, 59. Being a bachelor-man he've only lodgings, W., VI, 57. Cf. surveyor man, H. E., Sequel, 474; trumpet-major man, T. M., XXXVI, 337; veteran man, F. C. C., p. 238. Just as you was a widow-woman, I was a widow-man, C. M.-M. I., VII, 303. Cf. M. C., V, 40, XLIII, 374. (widow-man)

Also compare 'a big mansion-place,' H. E., XIV, 117.

CHAPTER III

PRONOUNS

I. Personal Pronouns

1. First Person

§ 7. ('a, a weak form of sing. nom.) 'a is used mostly in unstressed positions in a stock phrase 'a b'lieve.

Well, his family is no better than my own, 'a b'lieve, P. B. E., II, 6. Well, I suppose I must say pretty fair. But she'll be worse before she's better, 'a b'lieve, U. G. T., I-II, 12. Cf. P. B. E., II, 8, IV, 31, XXIII, 265; F. M. C., VI, 53, &c.

Note that the phrase has no force of the original meaning of the words. Compare it with I suppose in the latter example from U. G. T. (Hirooka: 「代名詞」)

§ 8. ('ch, a descendant of ic, OE. sing. nom.) The forms for the first pers. sing. nom., ich, utch, utchy from OE. ic were formerly used in Wexford. Dor., Som., and Dev. These forms, along with the contracted form ch as /tsam/ (= I am), are still used by old people in a small district of Som. close to Yeovil on the boarders of Dorset. (E. D. G. 403.) Hardy puts the contracted form 'ch in the mouth of Grammer Oliver in The Woodlanders.
'Ch will not have him! W., XVII, 151.
'Ch have been going to ask him again to let me off, *ibid.*

OE. *ic* split up into the two forms *ich* and *i*. In S.E. the latter — which was originally the weak form—gradually supplanted the fuller form. In ME., however, we find the former agglutinated to a verb as,

Ichile = *Ich+wille* (I will);
Ichabbe = *Ich+habbe* (I have), &c. (*Sweet*: N.E.G. 1065; *Morris*: H.O.E.A., p. 177.) Later these forms were shortened into *chill*, &c. through aphesis. Cf. the following passages from Shakespeare.

'Chill not let go, *Lear*, IV, vi, 239.
An 'chad' (I would) ha' bin zwaggered out of my life, *ibid.*, IV, vi, 243.

§ 9. (*me* and *mee*, unstressed forms of sing. gen.) We now and then meet with *me* and *mee*, the unstressed forms of sing. gen. *my*.

Hullo! *me* dear — what's the matter? W., XLV, 424.
I hope ye be well, *mee* dear? C.M.-M.I., IV, 284.

2. Second Person

§ 10. (*Sing. forms*) In present-day standard English, the 2nd pers. sing. forms *thou*, *thee*, and *th* are never used except in addressing the Deity, whereas in nearly all the dialects of England they are still in use to express familiarity or contempt, and also in times of strong emotion. See the following passage from *Under the Greenwood Tree*, V-II, 267.

Fancy — had strictly charged her father and the tranter to carefully avoid saying *'thee'* and *'thou'* in their conversation, on the plea that *those ancient words sounded so very humiliating to persons of newer taste*; (italics not in the original) ...

According to *E.D.G.* 404, these forms are only used to children or in recriminatory language in e. Dor.

Below are given some examples of these forms from the WS novels. (Also cf. the instances given in the following section.)

I said *thou* wast one o' the devil's brood, D.R. Sequel, 470.
I've lived with *thee* a couple of years, and had nothing but temper! M.C., I, 13.
But *th*’ hast *thy* work cut out. I can tell *thee*, T-M, XXXIX, 361.

§ 11. (*Unstressed form of sing. nom.*, *th’*) *th’* is preferred to *thou* in most cases.

Ah, *th’s* think *th*’ beest everybody, dostn't, because *th*’ beest first favourite with He just now! T.D., X, 83.
Cf. R.N., I-III, 20; T-M, XX, 179, &c.

It is possible that *th’* is a weak form for *thee*, since nominative and objective are often used indiscriminately in the dialects. (See § 17.) Also in Quaker English the form *thee* is used for the nom. as well as obj. (*Sweet*: N.E.G. 1087.)

§ 12. (*ye*, *you*, and *'ee*) The WS dialect does not discriminate between *you* and *ye*.

Now, will *you* help me in this, and draw up an explanation to her of all I've told *ye*, breaking it as gently as *you can*? M.C., XII, 95.
*You* can wipe and wipe, and say, "a fine hot day," can *ye*! M.C., XXVI, 226.
I see things be bad with 'ee, and ye wer kind-like to my mother if ye were rough to me, and I would fain be kind to you, M.C., XLV, 403.

Well, sir, good night 'ye, and ye, sir, and you, miss. I'm sure, P.B.E., IX, 91.

The confusion between these two forms did not exist in OE. ye is historically the nom., and you the dat. or acc.; you as a nom. usurped the place of ye. As to the cause of the usurpation, Sweet asserts that the phonetic similarity between thee and ye led to the frequent use of ye as an objective, especially in the weak form /ji/, which was used indifferently as an objective or a nominative, being often further weakened by dropping the consonant, as in hark'ee, harkee, lookee, thankee. (N.E.G. 1074.) Morris, however, in his Historical Outlines of English Accidence (p. 179), says that he is inclined to look upon the origin of ye for you in the rapid and careless pronunciation of the latter word, and that ye or you may have been changed into ee. It is noticeable that ye and 'ee in the WS novels always occur in the stressless positions; hence Mr. Hirooka is of opinion that these two forms may not be the survivors of the archaic ye but be the weakened forms of you (Hirooka, op. cit., p. 386.).

3. Third Person

§ 13. ('a, a weak form of nom. sing.) 'a is used for sing. nom. regardless of gender.

(1) Masculine. In literary English this form scarcely survives at present except in archaic quotha (Wyld: M.C.E. p. 330.), whereas it is still in general use in the sw. Cy.

'He is the very man, ma'am.' 'Ay, that 'a is.' F.M.C., VII, 55.

And as for he ... well, there ... 'tis said 'a was a poor parish 'prentice, M.C., XIII, 100.

That 'a did, didn't he, John? P.B.E., X, 104.

According to Wright (E.M.E.G. 373.), this form is a descendant of ME. unaccented form a<ha<hê<OE. hê.

(2) Feminine. Wright explains this form as a survivor of ME. weak form ha<hê <OE. hêo (E.M.E.G. 375.). In Middle English OE. masculine hê and feminine hio (or hêo) had regularly fallen together in hê in the South Midland and southern dialects, especially the south-western, and later at the middle of the fifteenth century the form was gradually supplanted by schê in literary records.

'A was always a lonely maid, W., XLVIII, 458.

My wife ... went with the rest of the maidens, for 'a was a good runner afore she got so heavy, R.N., I-V, 56 f.

'A looked very bad, poor lady, P.B.E., XXVI, 294.

(3) Neuter. 'a is often used of inanimate objects, when it represents he applied to things as well as persons. (See § 14 below.) This practice is chiefly in the sw. Cy. (E.D.D. s.v. A)

John put his hand upon the top o' the pile to give en a pull, and see if 'a were firm in the ground, P.B.E., IX, 91.

We've killed the pig this morning for ye, ... And 'a won't be cut up till to-night, ibid., XXIII, 266.

'I suppose the moon was terrible full when you were born?' 'Well, 'a was not new,' R.N., I-III, 30.
er in the following examples and 'a mentioned above seem to have been employed by Hardy to represent the one and same sound /a/.

"Where's the tranter?" said men and boys: "where can er be?" W. P. - F. T. S.

"Yours is such a fine brain, Grammer," er said, "that science couldn't afford to lose you," W., XVII, 151.

Had it anything to do with father's making such a mommet of himself in thik carriage this afternoon? Why did 'er? T. D., III, 22.

§ 14. (he, neut. sing. nom.) In Dorsetshire things are taken as of two classes: (1) the personal class and (2) the impersonal class. (See Chap. II. § 4.) he is the personal pronoun for the former, and it for the latter. (E. D. D. s. v. HE.)

*Her mind* can no more be heaved from that one place where it do bide than a *stood waggon* from the hole he's in. T. D., XLVII, 422.

*The front door* is got stuck wi' the wet, as he will do sometimes; and the Turk can't open en, P. B. E., II, 9 f.

..., and *the clock* striking as he'd never been heard to strik, F. C. C., p. 262.

The distinction between *he* and *it*, however, is not necessarily maintained by Hardy: ------

*That fire* is not much less than a mile and a half off, for all that 'a seems so near, R. N., I-III, 33.

'Number seventy-eight (a hymn) was always a teaser... always. I can mind him ever since...'

'*But he is a good tune, ...' U. G. T., I-III, 20.

§ 15. ('en, un, 'n, weak forms of masc. & neut. sing. dat. & acc.) 'en, un and their shortened form 'n, which are said to be the survivors of OE. masc. sing. acc. hine, are also used of impersonal objects.

*Poor Mr. Boldwood*, it will be hard upon *en*, F. M. C., LIII, 438.

"Aay," I said, ..., "that's the lad, for I know en by his grandfather's walk. P. B. E., XXIII, 271.

Well, if you don't mind, we'll have the beaker, and pass 'en round, R. N., I-V, 54.

A hop-frog have jumped into the pond. Yes, I heard 'en! *ibid.*, I-VI, 70.

Now whatever you do, don't stick *un* (a pig) too deep, J. O., I-x, 75.

*Mr. Henchard* has never cussed me unfairly ever since I've worked for'n, M. C., V, 41.

*It* (i.e. the fire) was lighted before ours was, and yet every one in the country round is out afore'n, R. N., I-V, 58.

Wyld, in his *Short History of English* (P. 230), remarks:------

Seeing how common the modern descendant of *hine /an/* is in the rural dialect chiefly of the South and S.-West (cf. Wright, *Dial. Gr.*, § 405 b), it is surprising that it is not to be found oftener in M. E. literature, where it survives only till the early fourteenth century (Shoreham), and only in scattered examples. The form /an/* is always unstressed and used chiefly of inanimate objects, so far as my experience goes (in Oxfordshire and Berks.), and though sometimes applied to men, it is never used of women.

Even in *Ancrene Riwle* (c. 1210), which is said to have been written in pure Dorset Dialect, the frequency of *hine* is 31, while that of *him* amounts to 131, showing that the former was already dying out. (Hirooka, *op. cit.*, p. 387.) Hence, it will be seen that there is a considerable doubt regarding the origin of these unstressed forms. Mr. Hirooka in his treatise cited above ascribes them to modern *him*.

§ 16. ('em, a weak form of pl. obj.) 'em, a descendant of ME. hem from OE. *heom* (dat.), lost its initial *h* due to the unstressed position. Down to and during the 18th century, this form was a recognized form even in serious, if somewhat colloquial writing. In good colloquial Spoken English /əm/* is frequent, though perhaps becoming obsolete among some classes of society. (Wyld: S. H. E. 307.)
4. Substitution of Cases

§ 17. (Objective for nominative) The substitution of the objective form for the nominative is common in the dialects as in colloquial and vulgar English. It, however, is not so noticeable in the WS dialect except for case (1) given below.

Such substitution occurs:
(1) When a pronoun (especially 2nd pers. sing. or 3rd pers. pl.) is used as the subject of an interrogative sentence.

Where beest thee, Joe, under or top? M.G., XXXVI, 310.
What can 'em do otherwise? J.O., I-ix, 60.
Lord, why can't 'em turn their plates bottom upward for pudding, W., X, 90 f.

The following is the only instance where 'em is used for nom. in the assertive sentence.

'Em lives on a lofty level; there's no gainsaying it. J.O., I-iii, 24.

It is possible that th' used for nom. is a weak form of thee as well as that of thou. See § 11.

(2) When a pronoun is separated from a noun by a conjunction 'and.'

She wishes the baby and her too were in the churchyard, T.D., XIV, 116.

(3) When the first pers. pl. is preceded by auxiliary verbs (especially by shall).

Let's look into Warren's, shall us, neighbours? F.M.C., LIII, 438.

Instances of the case-shifting in this construction are found in literary English since the 15th century onward, but they appear only in vulgar speech and dialects after the 18th century.

§ 18. (Nominative for objective) The substitution of the nominative form for the objective is more noticeable than the reverse case. We may summarize it under the following heads:

(1) It occurs when a pronoun is the object of a preposition.

'Tis nothing to I, T.M., VI, 48.
And you was here afore I, M.C., XXXIX, 340.
He don't seem one o' we, W.B., I-iii, 24.
'Tis she that's a stooping to he, M.C., XLIII, 374.
You can try your hand upon she, T.D., XVII, 142.

It seems that some emphasis is laid on these pronouns. I shall cite the following two examples where Hardy uses the capital letter as the device of showing the emphasis.

Ah, th'st think th' beest everybody, dostn't, because th' beest first favourite with He just now! T.D., X, 83.
Still, I don't deny I'am afeard some things don't go well with He and his, W., X, 96.

(2) It occurs when a pronoun is followed by the noun in apposition.

The new style of pr'sons wear moustache ..., and make we fokes in the congregation feel all over like the children of Israel, F.M.C., XXXIII, 261.
(3) It occurs when a pronoun is used as the sense-subject.

Says I, please God I'll lose a quarter to see he.burned, D., Pt. III, V, vi, 449.

(4) It occurs when a pronoun takes an emphatic front-order.

She we used to call Toadskin, because her face were so yaller and freckled, do ye mind? M.C., XIII, 101.

II. Reflexive Pronouns

§ 19. (hisself and theirselves) When the personal pronouns were used reflexively in OE. the word self declining strong and weak was often added to emphasize them, as ic self beside ic selfa, acc. mec selfne, gen. mën selves, dat. më selfum; or with the dative of the personal pronoun prefixed to the nominative self, as ic më self, pl. wë ùs selves, and similarly in early ME. From the early part of the 13th century new forms began to appear. In the 1st and 2nd persons singular the form self came to be regarded as a noun and then the possessive pronoun was substituted for the dative of the pers. pron., as më self, ùt self beside older më self, he self, and then in the early part of the 14th century this new formation was extended to the pl. also. And then toward the end of the 15th century the present-s plurals ourselves, yourselves came into existence and eventually became the standard forms. This change in the formation of the reflexive pronouns did not take place in the 3rd pers. so early as the 1st and 2nd persons. his selve(n), heir(e) selve(n), pair(e) selve(n) did not begin to appear until the first half of the 14th century. All these new formations of the 3rd person disappeared in the standard language about the end of the 15th century, but have remained in the dialects down to the present day (Wright: E. M. E. G. 377.).

They go theirselves, D. R., V, 71.

The sheep have blasted theirselves, F. M. C., XXI, 157.

He drove his ikkipage hisself, L., I-V, 54.

He's stooped to make hisself useful like any common man, W., VI, 57.

§ 21. (Simple reflexive pronouns) As is stated above, OE. self did not make a pronoun reflexive, but simply emphasized one that was already so. Hence such a phrase as hë ofsticode hine meant either 'he stabbed him' (someone else), or 'he stabbed himself.' (Sweet: N. E. G. 1105.) The archaic use of the pers. pronouns as reflexive pronouns sporadically occurs in the WS dialect.

I'll get me home-along, and rest for a few hours, C. M.-W. S., p. 190.

III. Demonstrative Pronouns

§ 21. (theáis and thik) According to Barnes (Cf. E. D. D. s. v. THIK), the dem. pronouns for the nouns of the personal class (See Chap. II, § 4.) are theáis and thik, and those for the impersonal class this and that. This rule is observed in the instances given below, but it is not always carried through by Hardy.

Had it anything to do with father's making such a mommet of himself in thik carriage this afternoon, T. D., III, 22.

Supposing ... thik gr't stone is father sitting in the easy-chair, U. G. T., II-V, 116.

The following lines from *The Ruined Maid* shows that these are thought typical of the Dorset dialect.

At home in the barton you said 'thee' and 'thou,' And 'thik oon,' and 'theás oon,' and 't'other'; P. P. P., *The Ruined Maid*, p. 423.

*thik* is the descendant of ME. *þilke*, the contracted form of *þe ilke, þat ilke* (the same) from OE. *se ilca, þæt ilce, &c. theás* seems to have descended from ME. *þes* (*þis, þeos*) from OE. *þes, þes* (*þis, þeos*) (this).

§ 22. (*this here and that there*) The adverbs *here* and *there* are frequently appended to *this* and *that* respectively for the sake of emphasis, but there is no appreciable distinction in use or in sense between the simple pronoun and the forms combined with them. These forms are also in common use in vulgar speech.

'Tis five-and-twenty years since I had my settlement in *this here* town. M. C., XIII, 100.
A slice of *this here* ham. U. G. T. I-VIII, 77.
She's fond of *that there* child, T. D., XV, 116.
I'll up and see *that there* wedden, W. B., I-iii, 24.

Plural *these here* occurs in the following instance.

I should be afeard o' my life to tine my eyes among *these here* Kimberlines at night-times, W. B., II-v, 133.

§ 23. (*that, used to avoid repetition*) *that* is used emphatically to avoid the repetition of a foregoing clause or sentence.

'Is Mr. Swancourt at home?' *That 'a is, sir.' P. B. E., II, 9.
I will tell you all to-morrow, an *that* I will! W. B., II-xii, 203.
I was quite strook to hear you'd agreed to it, ma'am, *that* I was, R. N., I-IV, 41.

§ 24. (*they and them* for dem. pron.) The dem. pron. *those* is replaced by *they* and *them*.

And there's a sprinkling of *they* that grow down by the orchard-rails, U. G. T., I-II, 11.
I have been looking at *they* pigeons, and didn't see you, W. XIX, 180.
Do you see *they* three elms? H. E., XIII, 98.
There's *them* that would do that, M. C., I, 8.
Who may *them* two maids be? L. L. I. - P. H. W., I, 127.
In *them* days Commandments were mostly done in gilt letters on a black ground, J. O., V-vi, 379.

IV. Indefinite Pronouns

§ 25. (*som'at* for *something*) *som'at*, also written *some'at, sommat, sommit,* and *summat (= somewhat)*, is used in the place of *something*.

Move the fore hoss aside, Bobby; here's *som'at* coming, J. O., I iii, 23 f.
There is *sommit* wrong in my make, your worshipful! M. C., XV, 117.
Everybody used to wear *summat* white at Whitsuntide in them days, U. G. T., V-vi, 261.

V. Interrogative Pronouns

§ 26. (*who for whom* A special objective form (S. E. *whom*) does not exist in the WS dialect, *who* being used both in the nom. and obj. case.

Who did you try? F. M. C., XIII, 108.
Now, *who* mid ye think I've heard news o' this morning? T. D., XXIX, 222.
*Who* are you making them for? W., II, 10.
VI. Relative Pronouns

§ 27. (Omission of relatives) The relatives are often omitted not only in the objective case as in S.E., but also in the nominative, as:

There was a man dropped down dead yesterday, M. C., XIII, 102.
There was the spruce young bookseller would play the same tricks, P. B. E., XXXVI, 409.
Ah, here's a note was brought this morning for you by a boy, ibid., XXIII, 276.

It will be observed from these instances that such a suppression of the relatives occurs when the adnominal clause comes after a more or less superfluous or meaningless introductory phrase such as 'there is' or 'here is.' This tendency is more marked in the 'it ... that ...' construction, where the connective that is more struck out than otherwise.

What is it makes you cry so? F. M. C., XLIII, 343.
It was tear made my few poor hairs so thin! M. C., XXXI, 266.
'Tis I have sent them! L. L. I.-P. H. W., III, 143.

CHAPTER IV
ADJECTIVES

§ 28. (Adjectival suffixes.)

(1) -en In the dialects the practice of forming adjectives denoting material from the noun by means of the suffix -en is carried out to a much greater extent than in the lit. language, as *tinnen pots, glassen bottles*. This is especially the case in the s. and sw. dialects. (E. D. G. 394.)

'A first took to carving soldiers out o' bit o' stvone from the soft-bed of his father's quarries; and then 'a made a set o' stvomen chess-men, W-B., 1-iii, 24.

(2) -ish The suffix -ish is added to adjectives as a downtoner.

It is *goodish* mead, W. T.-T. S., p. 46.
This made Pa'son Billy ... rather *spitious*, F. C. C., p. 257.
'And how is yerself?' *Fairish,* T. M., VI, 52.

(3) -like Like is used as suffix to modify the force of nouns or adjectives, being placed after them. In some cases it implies the sense of 'as it were,' 'so to speak,' 'in a way,' &c.

She's *shy-like* and nervous about it, F. M. C., LVII, 471.
You see he was *kind-like* to mother, M. C., XLV, 403.
Your face is white and wet, and your head is *hanging-down-like*, R. N., IV-VI, 356.
Cf. *awful-like*, H. E., XII, 98; *lady-like*, R. N., I-III, 25; *odd-like*, F. M. C., Li. 418.

Adjectives (and adverbs) in -like are originally compounds with like, adj. (or adv.), as second component. The oldest forms quoted by N. E. D. date from the 15th century. Gradually -like came to be felt as an independent suffix which may now be added to any noun and is frequently added to adjectives. This like is very much used in colloquial and vulgar language. (Sweet: N. E. G. 23.1 and 23.12)

§ 29. (Tautological use of the adjectives.) In the WS dialect, as in many other dialects, two adjectives of kindred meaning are often combined to express intensity, as:
Nobody shall know her living in such a little small hut, H.E., XIV, 117.
'Twere a old ancient race that had all but perished off the earth, T.D., XVII, 141.
Though he belonged to the oldest, ancietest family in the county, W., VI, 57.

Also cf. the following instance, where the word certain is used as the intensifying adverb. (See Chap. VI.)
'Tis certain sure that Mr. Shiner's rale love for music of a particular kind isn't his reason, U.G.T., II-IV, 108.

§ 30. (Comparison)
(1) The comparative suffix -er and the superlative -est are added to practically all adjectives, polysyllabic as well as monosyllabic. The periphrastic comparison with more and most, which appeared in Early ME., are as a rule only used to supplement or intensify the inflectional comparison.

A little weaker in his knees, a little crookeder in his back, F.C.C. p. 293.
So he made her the beautifullest presents, P.B.E., LX, 452.
Now, here's a parcel of cap ribbons of the splendidest sort I could get, T.M., XV, 133.
I was always first in the most gallantest scrapes in my younger days! R.N., IV-VII, 368.
Mr. Clare is one of the most rebellest ruzums you ever knewed, T.D., XIX, 165.

(2) little, irregular in S.E., is compared regularly.

The littler the maid, the bigger the riddle, to my mind, U.G.T., II-V, 118.
He will not love me the littlest bit ever any more, T.D., LVI, 495.
These forms are in general use in the dialects of England and n. and n. e. Scotland.
(E.D.G. 398.)

(3) In toppermost, the OE. double superlative ending -most (-m+st), which has become -most by analogy, is added to the regular comparative, the force of the suffix being no longer felt. Cf. S.E. furthermost, innermost, uttermost, outermost, &c.

And I talk to several toppermost carriage people... without saying ma'am or sir to 'em, P.B.E., X, 103.
Ay, the toppermost class nowadays have left off the use of wheels, H.E. I, 4.

(4) In the following instances, the superlative is used in comparing two persons. This solecism is also found in vulgar speech and occasionally in some standard authors.
He's the most understanding man 'o them two by long chalks, M.C., IX, 82.
Whichever of us (viz. Festus and Loveday) she likes best, he shall take her home, T.M., IX, 82.

(5) The superlative absolute is expressed by means of similes.
You used to bide as late as the latest, F.M.C., VIII, 75.
He and I were as bitter enemies once as any could be, P.B.E., XXVI, 296.

CHAPTER V
NUMERALS

§ 31. (one-and-twenty, &c.) In the dialects of the w. and sw. Cy. it is usual to place the lower digit before the higher, as one and twenty. (Cf. OE. ān and twentig,
German *ein und zwanzig*) Modern standard forms twenty-one, twenty-two, &c. are said to owe their origin to French *vingt et un, vingt-deux,* &c.

They'd see how clever they were at *five-and-twenty!* W., VI, 58.

I've stood in this fair ground, maid, wife, and widow, these *nine-and-thirty* year, M. C., III, 25.

My father used that joke regularly at pig-killings for more than *five and forty* years, P. B. E., XXIII, 273.

Cf. *three-and-twenty,* M. C., XLIV, 386; *four-and-twenty,* ibid., V., 40; P. B. E., XXIX, 341; W., XLVIII, 456; *five-and-twenty,* F. M. C., X, 90; W., XLVIII, 456; *eight-and-twenty,* F. M. C., V., 41; P. B. E., XXVI, 294. XXVIII, 325; *one and thirty,* P. B. E., XXVI, 294; *two and thirty,* P. B. E., XXIX, 346; M. C., V., 37, &c.

Also cf. *thirty-one,* R. N., I-III, 29; *fifty-nine,* F. M. C., XXI, 156; *seventy-one,* R. N., VI-IV, 498, &c.

Sweet says, "...we still say *five-and-twenty* as well as *twenty-five,* but only with the lower ty-numerals; thus we hardly ever say *he is five and fifty.*" (N. E. G. 1165.)

§ 32. (Omission of the description of place, weight, and quantity.) According to E. D. G. 399, the description of price, weight, and quantity is generally omitted after numerals in w. Som. In F. M. C., III (p. 20.), Hardy illustrates the practice as follows:

'A large farm?' she inquired. ... 'No; not large. About *a hundred.*' (In speaking of farms the word 'acres' is omitted by the natives, by analogy to such old expressions as 'a stag of ten."

CHAPTER VI

ADVERBS

§ 33. (Adverbial affixes)

(1) *a-* Adverbial prefix *a-* in the adverbs given below is representative of OE. preposition *on,* which is shortened to *a* being closely associated with the following word.(1)

For that he's all *afire* wi' love for her any eye can see, T. D., VII, 62.

They be coming, sir ... lots of 'em ... *a-foot* and *a-driving,* F. M. C., LI, 432.

The bull seed William, and took after him, horns aground, T. D., XVII, 144.

'Tis left open *a-purpose,* P. B. E., XXVII, 308.


(2) *-along* Adverbial suffix *-along,* which has the force of *-wards,* is one of the common as well as most expressive of the w. Cy. suffixes. (E. D. D. s.v. ALONG.)

But they started *back-along* as well as they could, F. C. C., p. 263.

I say that we all move *down-along* straight as a line to pa'son Maybe's, U. G. T., II-III, 97.

Don't ye think we'd better get *home-along,* neighbours? R. N., I-III, 34.

Also, *on-along,* H. E., XLVII, 470; *up-along,* U. G. T., I-II, 11.

(3) *-like* 'Like' is suffixed to the adjectives instead of *-ly* to form the adverb. It often has such implications as mentioned under § 28 (3).

But he laughed *cruel-like,* W., XVII, 151.

You should take it *careless-like,* F. M. C., VIII, 73.

She is off to foreign lands again at last ... hev made up her mind quite *sudden-like,* W., XXXIV, 311.

Cf. *foolish-like,* T-M, XII, 109; *nimble-like,* ibid., XXIII, 209; *wild-like,* F. M. C., LI, 429, &c.
This archaic idiom is often found in other dialects and low colloquialism.

1. Prepositions in and of were also thus shortened to a in rapid speech.
2. OE. adverbial ending -lican (-like) had become -liche (Southern) and -like (Midland) in ME. The latter was levelled by degrees under the adjective-ending -li=Southern -lich, and -li then became a regular adverb-ending. In late ME. it was introduced into the Standard dialect, where it supplanted the Early Southern -liche, as in deeply, hardly, openly. (Sweet: N.E.G. 1505.)

§ 34. (Adjectives for adverbs) In all the dialects, it is common to use the adjectival form for the adverb.

She was inoculated for the small-pox and had it beautiful fine, W., IV, 31.
'Tis so terrible far to get there, R.N., I-III, 23.
I took to going there regular, and found it a great comfort. J.O., V-vii, 394.

It was very common in OE. and equally in ME. to suffix -e to adjectives to form the adverb. The adverbs in -e, however, became indistinguishable from adjectives with the disappearance of unstressed -e in the 15th century. (Wyld: S.H.E. 332.)

§ 35. (Genitive adverbs) Some of the old adverbs in genitive case ending are still in common use in the dialects. (Cf. S.E. needs, now-a-days, always, &c.)

He drove her a good-ways towards the station, T.D., XLIII, 376.
Cf. go a bit of ways, R.N., I-VIII, 91.
What's right week days is right Sundays, F.M.C., XIII, 108.
Also Sunday mornings, J.O., VI, 81.

alway, the old form without -s, is used by the side of always. (See the note below.)

I can mind her mother. Alway a teuny, delicate piece. W., IV, 31.

-es in OE. was extended to fem. nouns as an adverb-ending: daeges and nihtes 'by day and by night,' sumeres and wintra ('wintra masc. gen.), nieses 'of necessity.' In ME. and Mod. E. this ending was dropped in some words as in Late ME. day and night; but it was more often extended, especially to adverbs which in OE. ended in a vowel or n, in order to make them more distinct, as in always=Early Mod. E. alwai, OE. alneweg. (Sweet: N.E.G. 1504.)

§ 36. (Adverbial use of that.) The dem. pron. that is used as an adverb in the sense of 'so,' 'to such a degree,' or 'very.' that in this sense was in S.E. until late in the 19th century, since then it has been considered colloquial and dialectal. In the WS novels it always appears in 'that...that...' (=so...that...') construction.

You walked that straight, and held yourself that steady, that one would have thought you were going 'prentice to a judge, J.O., VI-vii, 484.
Sue prick'd her that deep that the maid fainted away, R.N., III-II, 217.
I am that leery that I can feel my stomach rubbing against my backbone, F.C.C. p. 266.

§ 37. (howsomever=however) how has a compound with somever in the dialects. -som- owes its origin to sem, Scandinavian conj., rel. pron., and adv. (Cf. Icelandic sem, Danish, Swedish som.) (Hosoe: Midland Dialect, p. 235.)

Howsomever. 'twas I put her up to it! J.O., I-x, 78.
Howsomever, there's not much risk of it, W.T.-W.A., VIII, 99.

According to Poutsma (L.M.E., Pt. II. Sec. I.B. p. 1215.), this form may be traced to Middle English.
§ 38. (Double negative) Double negative, which is not tolerated in S.E., is still alive in the dialects.

But she couldn't find him nowhere at all, T. D., XXI, 174.
He scorns all tempting liquors; never touches nothing, M. C., V, 40.
Don't ye talk o't no more, R. N., I-III, 36.

The old pleonastic negatives are still kept also in vulgar speech.

CHAPTER VII

CONJUNCTIONS

§ 39. (an' or an=if)

We'll give 'em a song, an' it please the Lord, R. N., I-III, 31.
Cf. an it please ye, ibid., III-VII, 274.
Well, let her bonfire burn an't will, ibid., I-III, 33.

There are some views concerning the origin of this conj., but none of them is generally accepted.

§ 40. The following idiom expressive of the unit of time, space, measure, weight, &c. is in common use in the WS dialect.

He was mounted on a good strong handsome animal, worth fifty guineas if worth a crown, F. C. C., P. 286.
'She was a little child then,' 'She was twelve if a day,' J. O., II-vi, 135.
I have said fifty times, if I have said once, T. D., XXI, 172.
We've five ton of timber on these wheels if we've an ounce, W., XIII, 119.

§ 41. (if=even if)

You'll have to go if it breaks all the horses' legs in the county, D. R., XIII, 283.
I--I should like some victuals, 'twould gie me courage if it is only a crust o' bread and a' onion, F. C. C., 266.
This afternoon we'll have something in our insides to make us warm, if it cost a king's ransom, ibid., 271.

§ 42. (if so be=if)

If so be 'tis like that I can't look her in face, F. M. C., VI, 48.
'A must soon be in the neighbourhood, too, if so be he's a-coming, P. B. E., XXIII, 265.
Certainly, mis'ess, if so be you please, T. M., XXXIV, 315.

CHAPTER VIII

PREPOSITIONS

§ 43. (on for of) The prepositions on and of have been confused in use owing to the dropping of final consonants.

You be ticketed Churchyard, my noble lady, although you don't dream on't, P. B. E., XXVI, 294.
You ought to have had her, Giles, and there's an end on't, W., XXXI, 286.
'O ... your name is not Jude, then?' 'Never heerd on it, J. O., V-iv, 351.
Cf. lots on 'em, L. L. I.-S. V., II, 16; truth on't, M. C., XXXVI, 314; P. B. E., II, 6; T. M., XVIII, 160, &c.; meaning on't, T. M., XVI, 151; some on 'em, J. O., I-iii, 24; beginning on't, D., Pt. III. V. vi. 449; &c.
§ 44. (Omission of in-in the compounds.) In dialects the preposition is sometimes omitted in formations like son-in-law, &c.

It was begun by my father and his, who were brother-laws, W. T.-D.P., V, 261.
I shouldn't say that to you as a daughter-law, M. C., XXXI, 266.
Cf. mother-law, T. D., XXI, 174; sister-law, ibid., LVIII, 512. &c.

CHAPTER IX

VERBS

I. Verbal Endings

§ 45. (The 3rd pers. sing. pres. indic. -s extended to other persons and number.) The verbs of the 1st and 2nd pers. sing. and the 3rd pers. pl. are now and then inflected with -s after the pattern of the 3rd pers. sing.

*I feels* she ought to give in for yours, C. M.-R. A. M., XII, 378.
*I wants* to be alone, H. E., XXVIII, 243.
Cf. *I gets*, H. E., XVIII, 152; *I kips*, T. D., XII, 103; *I opens*, H. E., XV, 123; *I says*, F. M. C., XLIX, 390; P. B. E., XII, 140, XXVI, 294; *I sorrows*, F. M. C., XV, 119; *I tries*, F. M. C., XXXIII, 177, &c.

Well then, Mr. Mayble, since death's to be, we'll die like men any day you names, U. G. T., II-IV, 109.
*They busts* out quarrelling like this, H. E., XVIII, 151.
I think it *does* it to save the expense of a Christian burial for their children, L., I-IV, 42.

§ 46. (Ending of the 2nd pers. sing., -st.) Anomalous verbs of the 2nd pers. sing. are inflected with -st both in the past and the present.

*Doestn't* wish th' *wast* three sixes again, R. N., I-III, 20.
Cf. C. M.-D. R., p. 258; M. C., XIII, 10, R. N., I-III, 20; T. D., I, 7, &c. (*dost*)
Cf. J. O., I-i, 14; R. N., I-III, 27, &c. (*didst*)
But *th hast* thy work cut out, T.-M., XXXIX, 361.
I thought *th hadst* more sense. T.-M., XX, 179.
*May'st* kiss me if *canst* catch me, Tim! *W.*, XX, 187.
But how *coudst* forget so? T.-M., XV, 131.
Cf. R. N., I-III, 26, &c.
*How darest* th' laugh at me, T. D., X, 83.
I'll find a way of arranging it ... if thou'lt promise to stay, T.-M., XX, 181.
Th' *wouldn't* go doing hard work for play, H. E., I, 5.
Cf. F. M. C., XXIII, 177.

As to the disappearance of *th'* following a verb ending in -st, Poutsma says, "The once common practice of throwing out the entire pronoun in question is now met with only archaically or dialectally (L. M. E., Pt. II, Sec. I. B. p. 708.)." Jespersen explains the phenomenon as follows:

The frequent absence of *thou* after a verb is clearly a consequence of the purely phonetic development: OE. *eart bu* > ME. *art te* > *art* (*art mad*? thus also *wilt* go? &c.) ... (M. E. G. Pt. I. 6. 36.)

§ 47. (Ending of the 3rd pers. sing. pres. indic., -th.) The 3rd pers. sing. in old
-th ending is sporadically found in the WS novels.

"liddy saith she've a new one, F.M.C., XV, 120.
Nobody seem' th to know what 'a did it for, C.M. G.H., 133.

In ME. the Southern dialects have universally -eð and -ið. The E. Midland has almost exclusively the ið, -th ending, except very occasionally, -es, -is, and then chiefly in rhymes. W. Midland has the -s ending far more frequently. In the fifteenth century the -th forms (-yth, -ith, -eth) very largely hold their own in the South, the E. Midlands, and in the London dialect, with occasional outcrops of sporadic -s forms. (Wyld: M. C.E., p. 332.)

§ 48. (says I, says he, &c.) says I, says he, &c. are used in the place of, or along with, said I, said he, &c. in appended and parenthetic sentences accompanying quotations.

"Ay," says I, "I feel it as if 'twas my own shay, ..." P.B.E., VII, 60.
"Joseph," I said, says I, "depend upon it, if so be you have them tooting clar'nets you'll spoil the whole set-out," U.G.T., I-IV, 31.
Cf. thinks I, U.G.T., V-I, 253; F.M.C., XXIX, 221; R.N., III-II, 217; T.T., II, 21, &c.
I thought, thinks I, U.G.T., II-VI, 128.
says you, P.B.E., IV, 31.
says she, M.C., XXVIII, 241, R.N., I-V, 57, &c.
they said, says they, M.C., XV, 120.
saith I, P.B.E., XXVI, 296.

II. Conjugation of Verbs

§ 49. Some of the conjugations of verbs in the WS dialect, which deviate from those of standard English, are here set forth (The forms, of which no mention is made in E.D.G., are marked with ?):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Preterite</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bend</td>
<td>bended</td>
<td>bended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Remained weak in the pret. and P.P.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blow</td>
<td>blowed</td>
<td>blowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Orig. strong. Acquired weak pret. and p.p.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>break</td>
<td>broked*</td>
<td>broke**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(* w. Som. &amp; w. Cor. ** Often used as a p.p. in the 17th &amp; 18th c.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>build</td>
<td>builded</td>
<td>builded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Orig. weak. Remained weak in the pret. and p.p.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bust</td>
<td>busted</td>
<td>busted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Orig. strong. Acquired weak pret. and p.p.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>catch</td>
<td>caught</td>
<td>caught</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Orig. weak. Remained weak.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>come</td>
<td>comed, cam</td>
<td>comed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Orig. strong. Acquired weak pret. and p.p., while preserving the old strong pret.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
<td>crope, cropped</td>
<td>cropped; creeped</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
draw    drewed          drewed  (Orig. strong. Acquired weak pret. and p.p.)
drown   drounded (?)  drounded (?)  (Though the double p. p. *drounded* occurs several times in the WS novels, no mention is made of it in E. D. G.)
et  eat*          eat  
   (* w. Som. Orig. strong. Preserved strong pret. and p.p.)
feel    feeled        feeled  (Orig. weak. Remained weak in the pret. and p.p.)
forget  forgot (?)   forgot  (Orig. strong. Remained strong.)
gie (=give)  gied   gied  (Orig. strong. Acquired weak pret. and p.p.)
grow    growed       growed  (Orig. strong. Acquired weak pret. and p.p.)
hurt    hurted       hurted  (Orig. weak. Remained weak in the pret. and p.p.)
know    knowed       knowed  (Orig. strong. Acquired weak pret. and p.p.)
run     runned       runned  (Orig. strong. Weak ending is added to the strong form in the pret. Acquired weak p. p.)
see, zee seed, zeed  seed, zeed  (Orig. strong. Acquired weak pret. and p.p.)
slink  slinked      slinked  (Orig. strong. Acquired weak pret. and p.p.)
sit, zit  sot, zot   sot, zot  (Orig. strong. Preserved the strong pret. and p.p.)
speak, spake  spaked, spoked  spoked  (Pret. *spaked*, Som.; spoked, w. Som. Orig. strong.)
steal  stoled*      stoled*  (* Brks., Dev., Cor. ** Dev., Cor. Orig. strong.)
stand  stooed (?)   stooed  (Orig. strong. Acquired weak p. p.)
strik' (=strike) strooked*  strooked**  (* & ** w. Som. Orig. strong. Weak ending is added to the strong form in the pret. Remained strong in p. p., while acquiring the weak form.)
sing, zing sung, zung  ?  (Orig. strong.)
sink, zink sunk, zunk  ?  (Orig. strong.)
teach    taught       taught  (Orig. weak. Remained weak in the pret. and p.p.)
take    tooked        tooked, took  (Orig. strong. The weak ending is added to the strong form in the pret. Acquired weak 'p. p., while preserving the archaic form without *en.*)
think    thoughted*   thoughted  (* Brks. Orig. weak. Remained weak in the pret. and p.p.)
throw    throwed      throwed  (Orig. strong. Acquired weak pret. and p.p.)
write
(Orig. strong. Remained strong')
write, wrote, writ

See the following instances from the WS novels.

When, lo and behold; down went the bull on his bended knees, T.D., XVII, 145.
When I'm gone, and my last breath's blowed, look in the top drawer o' the chest, M.C., XVIII, 143.

 Cf. Ibid., IV, 35; F.M.C., VIII, 60, &c.

Sheep have broke fence, F.M.C., XXI, 156.

 Cf. J.O., I-iv., 63; T-M., VI, 47; R.N., I-IV, 41; W., II, 12, &c.

'A was born before our Great Weir was builded, W.T.-W.A., 66.

 Cf. M.C., I, 4; T.D., XXXIV, 280, &c.


It was Mrs. Newberry who comed in to you just by now, W.T.-D.P., I, 223.

I don't know how ever I cam' into such a family, U.G.T., I-VII, 57.

 Cf. Ibid., III, 21, IV, 31, VIII, 69, II-II., 89, &c.

When they were over the brow, we crope out, L.L.-T.: 1804, p. 215.

Well, father wouldn't have coughed and creeped about as he does, T.D., IV, 35.

As evening drawed on they sent for some more themselves, J.O., V-vii., 379.

Perhaps he's drownded! U.G.T., I-V, 41.

 Cf. C.M.-I., V, 292; J.O., III-iii., 176; W., XXIX, 269, &c.

Either the moss and mildew have eat away the words, W.T.-I.K., p. 179.

 Cf. P.B.E., XXIII, 270.

I feel'd for all the world like some bold soldier after I had some once, R.N., I-IV, 54.

 Cf. Ibid., 56; H.E., I, 6; T.D., XVIII, 157, &c.

I'm sure when I heard they'd been forbid I felt as glad as if anybody had gied me sixpence, R.N., I-III, 24.

Bless my soul, I'd quite forgot! W., VIII, 76.

 Cf. Ibid., VI, 50, VII, 66; T.D., I, 8.

'A gie'd 'em a house to live in, P.B.E., XXVI, 298.

 Cf. R.N., I-III, 24, 36; F.M.C., VIII, 61; J.O., VI-v., 460, &c.

'Tis that growed out that ye could a'most call it malt, M.C., V, 41.

 Cf. Ibid., IV, 34; F.M.C., VIII, 71; P.B.E., XXIII, 270, &c.

Is he hurted very bad? W., XXXV, 325.

Thought I knew the man's face as I seed him on the rick! F.M.C., VIII, 60.

 Cf. J.O., IV-iii., 261; M.C., III, 25, V, 40; P.B.E., XXIII, 271 &c.

This is a' old cask, and the wood's rotted away about the tap-hole, U.G.T., I-II, 13.

William runned his best, T.D., XVII, 144.

I seed her, poor soul, P.B.E., XXVI, 294.

 Cf. Ibid., IV, 31; F.M.C., VI, 53; M.C. ' XLV, 403, &c.

Ah, ah; I seed ye! ... I shouldn't have seed ye, T-M., VIII, 62.


Depend upon it they have slinked off 'cause they be shy, T-M., XV, 129.

And down father zot, U.G.T., II-V, 117.

It may be I've spoke roughly to you, M.C., XXI, 173.

 Cf. F.M.C., II, 427; R.N., I-III, 22, &c. Also outspoke, F.M.C., II, 432.

They should be stole away by Boney or Festus, T-M., XIV, 123.

 Cf. F.M.C., XXIII, 181, XXXIII, 250, &c.

Her mind can no more be heaved from that one place where it do bide than a stooded waggon from the hole he's in, T.D., XLVII, 422.

The bells hain't strook out yet, T.D., XLIV, 387.


John's wife sung songs at the Pure Drop till past eleven o'clock, T.D., XXXVIII, 329.

Thou ... looked so frightened when the chair-bottom zunk in, U.G.T., II-V, 117.

Her uncle was took bad, F.M.C., VIII, 67.

 Cf. Ibid., XV, 125; J.O., I-ii., 8, 9; M.C., 'XIII, 101, &c. Also overtook, M.C., V, 40;
III. Participles

§ 50. (Present participle.) The present participle takes the prefix *a-* in the WS dialect.

I'm *a-coming*, sir; I'm *a-coming*, W., IX, 81.
Just now he's *a-scaring* of birds for Farmer Troutham, J.O., I.ii, 9.
I began to feel quite *a-sinking*, *ibid.*, V.ii, 390.
I've come *a-borrowing*, Mrs. Yeobright, R.N., III-II, 218.
He's down in the vault there, *a-looking* at the departed coffins, P.B.E., XXVII, 307.
I used to go to his house *a-courting* my first wife, F.M.C., VIII, 67.

This prefix *a-* is the corrupt form of the OE. preposition *on* and the following *-ing* form was originally a verbal substantive.

The ending of the present participle, *-ing*, has lost the final */ŋ/ in the WS dialect.

*doen* (=*doing*, W.-B., I.iii, 24.)
*oilën* (=*oiling*, U.G.T., I-II, 14.)

§ 51. (Past participle.) Past participle also takes the prefix *a-*. This prefix, however, is not the weak form of OE. *on*, but the descendant of the older prefixes *i-*, *y-* from OE. *ge-*. (Cf. German *ge-*) According to Wright (E.M.E.G. 392.), *i-* and *y-* disappeared early in the northern dialects, and mostly also in the Midland dialects. But they have been preserved in many of the modern South Midland and South-Western dialects.

It do make my heart ache to see such pretty open-work as that *a-burned* by the flame, J.O., VI-v, 460.
And there's four ounce pennies, the heaviest I could find, *a-tied* up in bits of linen, for weights, M.C., XVIII, 143.
I was *a-forced* to go to Lower Mistover to-night, R.N., V-VII, 438.

IV. Anomalous Verbs

1. *Be*

§ 52. (Present indicative forms.) Given below are the tables of the various forms of 'to be' (pres. indic.) in the ancient and modern Wessex dialects. It will be seen from the table that the modern Wessex forms *I be*, *you be*, &c. are the lineal descendants of the OE. *be* type.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old English</th>
<th>Modern WS Dialect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ic</td>
<td>A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beo</td>
<td>B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eom</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be</td>
<td>A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>am</td>
<td>B.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Grammar of the Wessex Dialect in the Works of Thomas Hardy (E. Sawamura) 49

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A.</th>
<th>B.</th>
<th></th>
<th>A.</th>
<th>B.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>þù</td>
<td>bist</td>
<td>eart</td>
<td>thou</td>
<td>ye, you</td>
<td>beest, beest, art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>he</td>
<td>biþ</td>
<td>is</td>
<td>he</td>
<td>be</td>
<td>is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>we</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>we</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gè</td>
<td>beóþ</td>
<td>sindon, sint</td>
<td>ye, you</td>
<td></td>
<td>are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hte</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>they</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(A. ... 'be' type from *bheu.  B. ... 'am' type from *es-, er-.)

Only the 'be' type is used in the pure Dorsetshire dialect (Cf. E. D. D. s. v. BE), though both 'be' and 'am' types are used by Hardy.

Examples:

(1) First Person

Ay, I be a poor wambling man, P. B. E., XXIII, 269.
Mr. Henchard has never cussed me... seeing I be but a small man, M. C., V, 41.
Well, I bain't set against marrying as your great-aunt was, J. O., V-iv, 353.
I bain't afeard at all, R. N., I-V, 57.
We be truly sorry to hear it, M. C., VIII, 64.
Why, where be we? T. D., XI, 89.
We bain't Sidlinch folk, thank God; we be Newton choir, C. M. - G. H., p. 137.
We work harder, but we bain't made afeard now, M. C., XXXI, 266.

(2) Second Person

So thou beest, child, T. T., II, 17.
What art perusing, Bob, with such a long face? T. M., XXII, p. 189.
Thou'rt never happy now unless th'rt making thyself miserable about her in one way or another, U. G. T., II-VIII, 143.
Rest there where you be a little while, M. C., V, 39.
Mis'sess says you be to have whatever you want, R. N., V-IX, 466.
You bain't a particular man we see, F. M. C., VIII, 63.
Ye bain't bad-looking in the ground-work, though the finish is queer, R. N., I-III, 36.

Quite exceptional is the form you'm which occurs only once in the speech of Tess' little brother. But you be glad that you'm going to marry a gentleman? T. D., IV, 34.

(3) Third Person

Here they be, M. C., XXXIV, 295.
Who be they? P. B. E., XXXVI, 411.
Lord, lord! if they bain't come a'ready! W., IX, 86.
Beds be dear to fokes that don't keep geese, bain't they. Mister Fairway, R. N., VL-IV, 496.
Perhaps they beant at home, P. B. E., II, 9.

Instances of the 3rd pers. sing. be have not been found by the present writer, but it is in common use in the Dorset dialect. (Cf. E. D. D. s. v. BE.)

§ 53. (Past indicative forms.) The following tables show the various forms of 'to be' (past indic.) in Old English and the modern Wessex dialect. It will be observed that in the modern Wessex dialect the singular form was and the plural form were, were are used indiscriminately for all persons and numbers.
### Old English | Modern WS Dialect
--- | ---
ic | was | I | was, were
þæ | wære | thou | werst, wast
he | wæs | he | was, wer
wæron | ye, you | wer, were; was
hæ | they

**Examples:**

(1) **First Person**

I *were* only in the foot, ye know, and never had a clear understanding of horses, T.M., I, 7. By the time I got there I *were* as dry as a lime-basket, F.M.C., VIII, 68. But how *was* we to know, if you left no account of your doings, F.M.C., XXXII, 250. You see we *weren't* aware till this morning that you were going to move, M.C., XXIX, 250.

(2) **Second Person**

Dostn’t wish th’ * wast* three sixes again, Grandfer, as you *was* when you first learnt to sing it. R.N., I-III, 20.

I said thou * wast* one o’ the devil’s brood, D.R., Sequel, 470.

And ye *wer* kind-like to mother if ye *were* rough to me, M.C., XLV, 403.

You be the woman I thought wer my mother for a bit, till I found you *weren’t*, J.O., V-vii, 391. You *was* here then, as was all the rest, M.C., XXXIX, 470.

(3) **Third Person**

His grandfer *were* just such a nice unparticular man! F.M.C., VIII, 63.

And a clever man *a were*, T.D., XXI, 173.

She *was* brought up by her grandmother, and a pretty maid she *were*, P.B.E., XXVI, 299.

You see he was kind-like to mother when she *wer* her below, M.C., XLV, 403.

Her face *were* so yaller and freckled, Ibid., XIII, 101.

‘Twer not that exactly, J.O., V-iv, 354.

They *was* as fair a couple as you should see anywhere round about, P.B.E. XXVI, 298.

The best silver spoons *true* put down, T-M., XIX, 169.

### II. Do

§ 54. *d’* /do/ is frequently used as an expletive.

I *d’* fancy you *d’* know everything about everybody, D.R., VIII, 148.

Rail apples we *d’* call ‘em, U.G.T., I-II, 11.

You *d’* mind the sort, Michael? Ibid.

That’s the way the wind *d’* blow, is it? P.B.E., X, 103.

I wonder what a farmer-woman can want with a harpsichord, dulcimer, planier, or whatever *tis they *d’* call it? Ibid., XV, 120.

This expletive *d’* is also written *do* by Hardy, so cares should be taken to discriminate it from the emphatic *do* /du:/.

§ 55. *did* is used to express the iterative aspect. According to Barnes, the sentence ‘*He beat the child*’ means that the child was beaten only once, while ‘*He did beat the child*’ means that the child was beaten several times. (Cf. E.D.D., s.v. DO; Hosoe: ‘地方語’, p. 56 f.)
Yes, and I see it (i.e. the diamond ring)! and it did twinkle when he put his hand up to his mistarchers, T.D. VI, 54.

§ 56. *do* is used for the 3rd pers. sing. as well as other persons and number.

She went out again to see all was safe, as she usually do, F.M.C., VIII, 76.
Where do the sailor live? M.C., I, 14.
But he don't come courting much, P.B.E., LX, 452.

§ 57. In many dialects p.p. form is used for the past, and so it is in the WS dialect.

The first thing he done when he cam here was to be hot and strong about church business, U.G.T., II-II, 89.
True, that was the very first thing he done, *ibid.*, 90.

§ 58. *do* is used expletively with *ought*, when preceded by the subject of 2nd pers. sing., thou.

Thou'st ought to be able to onriddle such a little chiel as she, U.G.T., II-V, 118.
Nater d'seem to say thou'st ought to be a bachelor, *ibid.*, II-VIII, 148.

III. Have

§ 59. *have* is used for the 3rd pers. sing. as well as other persons and number.

Mr. Farfrae have bought the concern, M.C., XXXI, 266.
He've several acres of heth ground broke up here, R.N., I-IV, 41.
And now the maid have married him just the same, *ibid.*, I-III, 24.
She've bought all but everything new, F.M.C., XV, 120.
One of the neighbours have gone to get a man to measure him, M.C., XLV, 404.
Every state of society have its laws, P.B.E., XXVI, 297.

§ 60. The weak form *ha' /ə/ appears mostly in the auxiliary verb + ha + past participle combination.

I'd ha' done it myself, M.C., I, 14.
We should ha' been in bed in another ten minutes, P.B.E., X, 100.
You should ha' thought twice before you affronted to extremes a man who had nothing to lose, M.C., XXXVIII, 328.
Who'd ha' thought they'd ha' come so soon! W., IX, 88.

For *hath* and *hast*, see § § 46 & 47.

IV. Can

§ 61. See § 46 for *canst* and *couldst*.

V. Dare

§ 62. See § 46 for *darest*.

VI. May

§ 63. *mid* or *med=might*

You *mid* last ten years; you *mid* go off in ten months, or ten days, T.D., III, 23.
Well, Shepherd Oak, and how's lambing this year, if I *mid* say it? F.M.C., XV, 120.
'Is it meant for anybody particular?' 'Well ... it *mid* be,' M.C., XXXIX, 336.
But it *med'n* be true that he belonged to ye more than to me, J.O., V-iv, 354.
mi’t and m’t seldom occur in the WS novels.

You mi’t ha’ mouthed across to her, D.R., VIII, 148.
I thought you, m’t have altered your mind, P.B.E., II, 6.

VII. Will

§ 64. (woll) woll, the descendant of M.E. wol, sporadically occurs in the WS novels.

“A lonely person like you, Grammer,” er woll say, W., XVII, 152.
Shut up, woll ’ee! U.G.T., I-V, 38.

wol, which gave rise to the modern negative form won’t, was very common in the 14th century, and was still used by the side of will throughout the 15th and the 16th centuries.

See § 46 for wilt and wouldst.

(Received September 18, 1961)