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## DENOMINAL ADJECTIVES IN *-LIKE* AND *-LY* IN SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS

This paper is a part of a major study concerned with adjectival suffixation in the language of Shakespeare. The linguistic material subjected to analysis here is drawn from ten Shakespearian plays representative of the major literary types, i.e., comedies, historical plays and tragedies. All the quotations are based on W.J. Craig's 1971 edition of *Shakespeare Complete Works*, London–New York–Toronto: OUP. The results of the present statistical investigation seem to show that there are no major differences in the functioning of the two adjective-forming suffixes as they occur in the sample material. The differences are rather quantitative in nature: *-like* is used to a much less extent in the relational function than *-ly* and the number of occurrences of *-ly* is twice as large as that of *-like*.

The linguistic material collected for this study comes from the following plays<sup>1</sup>:

*Measure for Measure* (Mes.)  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream* (MND.)  
*The First Part of King Henry IV* (1H4)  
*The Second Part of King Henry IV* (2H4)  
*The Life of King Henry V* (H5)  
*Macbeth* (Mac.)  
*King Lear* (Lr.)

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<sup>1</sup> For the plays referred to in Onions and the OED the following abbreviations are adopted: AYL. = As You Like It, Err. = The Comedy of Errors, Gent. = The Two Gentlemen of Verona, 1H6 = The First Part of King Henry VI, 2H6 = The Second Part of King Henry VI, 3H6 = The Third Part of King Henry VI, H8 = The Famous History of the Life of King Henry VIII, Ham. = Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, Mer. = The Merchant of Venice, Per. = Pericles, Prince of Tyre, R2 = The Tragedy of King Richard II, Rom. = Romeo and Juliet, Tp. = The Tempest, Troil. = Troilus and Cressida, Wint. = The Winter's Tale, Wiv. = The Merry Wives of Windsor.

*Othello* (Oth.)

*Antony and Cleopatra* (Ant.)

*Cymbeline* (Cym.)

We also make use of relevant data recorded in C.T. Onions' *A Shakespeare Glossary* and *The Oxford English Dictionary*.

### ***Denominal adjectives in -like***

The sample contains 22 types in **-like** and further 6 types are cited in Onions and the OED. Out of the 28 types 8 are used as adverbs only: **clerk-like** (Wint. I.2.293), **goddess-like** (Cym. III.2.7), **monster-like** (Ant. IV.10.49), **rebel-like** (Lr. IV.3.16), **sea-like** (Ant. III.11.171), **serpent-like** (Lr. II.4.163), **squire-like** (Lr. II.4.217), **villain-like** (Cym. V.5.219). (In the line-references the entry is by the act, scene and line).

Consider the examples:

- (1) *Camillo*, –  
*As you are certainly a gentleman, thereto*  
**Clerk-like** experienced –  
*I beseech you,*
- (2) *She hath abated me of half my train;*  
*Look'd black upon me; struck me with her tongue,*  
*Most **serpent-like**, upon the very heart.*  
(**serpent-like** 'with serpentine motion; treacherously')

Only two formations, **god-like** and **wife-like**, occur in a double function, i.e., as an adjective and an adverb:

- (3) *You have a noble and a true conceit*  
*Of **god-like** amity; (Mer. III.4.3)*  
(**god-like** 'of qualities appropriate to God')
- (4) *but tell me now*  
*My drown'd queene's name, as in the rest you said*  
*Thou hast been **god-like** perfect; (Per. V.1.208)*  
(**god-like** 'divinely')
- (5) *If thy rare qualities, sweet gentleness'*  
*Thy meekness saint-like, **wife-like** government,*  
*Obeying in commanding... (H8 II.4.138)*  
(**wife-like** 'resembling, or having the character of, a wife; first recorded in Shakespeare)
- (6) *She's punished for her truth, and undergoes*  
*More goddess-like than **wife-like**, such assaults*

*As would take in some virtue.* (Cym. III.2.7)  
**(wife-like** 'in the manner of a wife')

The remaining formations are employed as adjectives only:

**child-like** (Lr. II.1.107, Gent. II.1.75), **church-like** (2H6 I.1.248), **death-like** (Per. I.1.29), **dolphin-like** (Ant. V.2.89), **gentleman-like** (MND. I.2.91), **giant-like** (MND. III.1.200), **justice-like** (2H4 V.1.78), **man-like** (Ant. I.4.5), **nurse-like** (Cym. V.5.88), **prince-like** (Cym. V.5.293), **saint-like** (H8 II.4.138), **soldier-like** (2H4 III.2.74), **sun-like** (1H4 III.2.79), **tinder-like** (Cor. II.1.56), **unking-like** (Cym. III.5.5), **virgin-like** (Cym. III.2.22), **war-like** (Cym. III.3.40, Ham. IV.6.15, 1H6 III.2.118), **wench-like** (Cym. IV.2.230).

If we add to this list of derivatives the earlier mentioned two items, **god-like** and **wife-like** (which, as examples 3 and 5 above demonstrate, are also employed by Shakespeare as adjectives), that will make 20 types altogether, which, with the exception of **child-like** and **war-like**, are represented by one token each. Notice, incidentally, that out of the total 23 occurrences of the adjectives in **-like** as many as 7 come from *Cymbeline*, one of Shakespeare's latest plays.

The adjectival formations listed above are used either as similitudinal or relational adjectives, and only a few of them appear in both the functions.

Similitudinal adjectives are exponents of the relation of resemblance that holds between the derivational bases and the corresponding derivative. The concept of resemblance, however, should not be treated too narrowly, i.e., as being restricted to mere physical appearance of the relevant referents, but should be taken to incorporate also characteristic qualities of referents, their behaviour, etc. Besides, resemblance may be metaphorical in nature as, for instance, in case of similitudinal adjectival derivatives based on names of animals which are often used to characterize the physical appearance and characteristics of human nature and behaviour (cf. Szymanek 1989: 250).

Thus, as similitudinal function the following formations:

**church-like, dolphin-like, gentleman-like, giant-like, god-like, justice-like, nurse-like, prince-like, saint-like, sun-like, tinder-like, unking-like, virgin-like, wife-like.**

Consider some examples of this use of the derivatives in question:

- (7) *a proper man*  
*As one shall see in a summer's day;*  
*A most lovely, **gentleman-like** man;*  
**(gentleman-like** 'resembling a gentleman in appearance')
- (8) *Good Master Mastard-Seed, I know your patience well:*  
*That same cowardly, **giant-like** ox-beef hath devour'd*  
*Many a gentlemen of your house.*  
**(giant-like** 'resembling a giant in appearance')
- (9) *I am ...said to be... hasty and **tinder-like** upon too trivial motion;*  
**(tinder-like** 'of the nature of tinder, i.e., flaming up quickly, like tinder')

- (10) *If thy rare qualities, sweet gentleness  
Thy meekness **saint-like**, wife-like government'  
Obeying in commanding...*  
(**saint-like** 'characteristic of or having the nature of a saint')

As has been pointed out earlier, the other function with which adjectival derivatives in **-like** are employed by Shakespeare is the relational function. In the most general way, the meaning of relational adjectives can be formulated as 'pertaining to or connected with N', where N stands for the derivational base, Noun here (for more on the derivational sense of adjectives cf. Szymanek *ibid.*: 213ff.).

In the relational function occur the following items: **child-like**, **death-like**, **man-like**, **soldier-like**, **war-like**, **wench-like**. Consider:

- (11) *Emund, I hear that you have shown your father  
A **child-like** office,*  
(**child-like** 'pertaining to a child; filial')
- (12) *Before thee stands this fair Hesperides'  
With golden fruit, but dangerous to be touch'd;  
For **death-like** dragons here affright thee hard:*  
(**death-like** 'deadly, mortal')
- (13) *I know not the phrase, but I will maintain the word  
With my sword to be a **soldier-like** word.*  
(**soldier-like** 'appropriate to, worthy of, or becoming a soldier')
- (14) *We are beastly, subtle as the fox for prey,  
Like **war-like** as the wolf – for what we eat;*  
(**war-like** 'bellicose; valiant')

Cf. also example (3) above.

The derivative **death-like** does not seem to have been used in the similitudinal function in Shakespeare. For Onions, **death-like** in the relational function is synonymous with Shakespeare's **deathful**, **deathly**, and **deadly**. Onions provides the following entries for **deathful** and **deadly**:

- deathful**: deadly, mortal 2H6 III.ii.404 *a d. wound*; so death-like Per.I.i.29 *death-like dragons*.
- deadly**: death-like, deathly Err. IV.4.95 *their pale a d. looks*, Tw.N.I.v.286 *a deadly life*.

However, the OED cites one example of a similitudinal use of **death-like** dating from 1605, where the meaning of the form is given as 'resembling death'. Cf.:

- (15) *A deep and **death-like** Lethargy* (Sylvester Du Bartas, ii.iii. *Vocation*)

If this interpretation of **death-like** is correct, then (15) would be a counterexample to Szymanek's cognitive constraint stipulating that abstract nouns cannot serve as bases for the derivation of similitudinal adjectives (Szymanek, *ibid.*: 249).

Our statistical study shows that out of the 20 adjectival types in **-like** as many as 14 types occur in the similitudinal function, and only 6 types are used as relational adjectives.

As shown below, the noun bases with which the suffix **-like** goes into construction are predominantly plus personal. Thus, we have:

(a) [+ personal ] base

gentleman-like  
giant-like  
justice-like  
man-like  
nurse-like  
prince-like  
saint-like  
unking-like  
virgin-like  
wench-like  
wife-like

(b) [- personal ] base

church-like  
dolphin-like  
god-like  
monster-like  
sun-like  
tinder-like

© [+ abstract ] base

death-like  
war-like

With the exception of **gentleman-like**, all the adjectives derived from personal nouns involve simplex bases. Of some interest is the derivative **unking-like** which, according to the OED, is first recorded in Shakespeare. The suffix **-like** could not have been attached by Shakespeare to **unking**, since such a noun is not attested in Elizabethan English. The only possibility then is that the prefix **un-** was added to the preexisting adjectival form **king-like**. In the OED we find the following example dating 1561: T. Norton *Calvin's Inst.* iv. xix (1634) 726 marg. *Rasure of the crowne [is] ministred in token of spiritual **Kinglike** dignities*. The OED glosses its meaning as 'resembling a king, befitting a king'.

Most of the formations under scrutiny here are distributionally restricted to pre-head position, and only in a few cases they occupy posthead position. Cf. the relevant examples above and the following:

- (16) *Prithee, have done,  
And don't play in wench-like words with that  
Which is so serious.*
- (17) *he fishes, drinks and wastes  
the lamps of night in ravel: is not more man-like  
Than Cleopatra, nor the queen of Ptolemy  
More womanly than he.*

### *Denominal adjectives in -ly*

There are 20 types and 39 tokens of denominal adjectives in *-ly* in the sample:

**bastardly** (2H4 II.1.46), **beastly** (Cym. III.3.40, Mes. II.1.229), **beggarly** (H5 V.1.6), **bodily** (2H4 II.2.112), **courtly** (Cym. III.5.71), **cowardly** (H5 IV.7.6), **cullionly** (Lr. II.2.36), **earthly** (Ant. II.7.74, Cym. III.5.44), **friendly** (MND. III.2.217, Ant. III.6.47), **ghostly** (Mes. IV.3.53), **heavenly** (Oth. II.3.36, V.2.21, V.2.277, Mac. IV.3.187, Cym. II.2.50), **homely** (Mac. IV.2.68), **maidenly** (MND. III.2.217, 2H4 II.2.83), **manly** (MND. III.2.157, H5 II.3.3, Mac. II.3.140), **princely** (1H4 III.2.17, III.2.86, 2H4 IV.2.66, H5 V.2.3, Cym. III.3.92, III.4.93), **rascally** (1H4 I.2.88, 2H4 II.2.83, II.4.121, H5 V.1.5), **timely** (Mac. III.1.128), **winterly** (Cym. III.4.13), **womanly** (Ant. I.4.6), **worldly** (2H4 IV.5.229, Mes. III.1.128, Oth. I.3.301).

Additional denominal adjectives in *-ly* are listed in Onions and the OED:

**butcherly** (3H6 II.5.89), **clerkly** (Wiv. IV.5.58), **cuckoldly** (Wiv. II.2.286), **fellowly** (Tp. V.1.64), **fleshly** (John IV.2.245), **mannerly** (Gent. II.7.58, Wint. II.1.85, 1H6 II.4.19, Rom. I.5.102), **masterly** (Ham. IV.7.96), **steely** (3H6 II.3.160), **whoremasterly** (Troil. V.4.59).

The adjectival formations collected here combine with the following semantic types of bases:

- (a) [+ personal] base

bastardly  
beggarly  
butcherly  
clerkly  
cowardly  
cullionly  
cuckoldly  
fellowly  
friendly  
maidenly  
manly  
masterly  
princely

rascally  
 whoremasterly  
 womanly

## (b) [- personal] base

beastly  
 bodily  
 courtly  
 earthly  
 fleshly  
 ghostly  
 homely  
 steely  
 winterly  
 worldly

## © [+ abstract] base

heavenly  
 timely

Except for **bastardly** and **princely**, which occur in both the senses, all the other types derived from personal nouns occur only in the similitudinal sense. Thus, as similitudinal must be interpreted, among others, the adjectival derivatives in the following passages:

- (18) *cowardly rascals that ran from the battle  
 have done this slaughter:*  
 (**cowardly** 'behaving like a coward')
- (19) *Draw, you whoreson, cullionly, barber-monger, draw.*  
 (**cullionly** 'like a cullion, i.e., a wretch'; first recorded in Shakespeare, obsolete now)
- (20) *And will you rent our ancient love asunder  
 To join with men in scorning your poor friend?  
 It is not friendly, 'tis not maidenly.*  
 (**friendly** 'befitting a friend or friends', **maidenly** 'resembling a maiden in behaviour')
- (21) *Hang him, poor cuckoldly knave!*  
 (**cuckoldly** 'having the character or qualities of a cuckold')
- (22) *Such barren pleasures, rude society,  
 As thou art match'd withal and grafted to,  
 Accompany the greatness of thy blood  
 And hold their level with thy princely heart?*  
 (**princely** 'of the qualities of a prince')
- (23) *that Greekish whoremasterly villain*  
 (**whoremasterly** 'having the character of a whoremaster, i.e. lecherous'; first recorded in Shakespeare, last recorded in 1706)

In (24) and (25) the derivatives **bastardly** and **princely** are employed in their relational senses:

- (24) *Throw me in the channel?*  
*I' ll throw thee in the channel.*  
*Wilt thou, wilt thou, thou **bastardly** rogue?*  
**(bastardly** 'bastard sort, i.e., base born; now obsolete in this use)
- (25) *To our most fair and **princely** cousin, Katherine*  
**(princely** 'of princely descent')

Of the [-personal] base formations the following items are used as relational adjectives only: **bodily**, **fleshly**, **ghostly**, **homely**, **mannerly**, and **worldly**:

- (26) *Poins. And how doth the Martlemas, your master?*  
*Bard. In **bodily** health.*  
**(bodily** 'pertaining to the body'; here in physical health)
- (27) *Look you, sir; here comes your **ghostly** father.*  
**(ghostly** 'pertaining to the spirit or soul; here with reference to what is rendered by a priest to a penitent or one near death')

As similitudinal and relational adjectives are used the remaining [-personal] base formations:

- (28) *I love and hate her; for she's fair and royal*  
*And that she hath all **courtly** parts*  
*more exquisite*  
*Than lady, ladies, woman;*  
**(courtly** 'befitting the court, i.e. elegant, refined')
- (29) *the dead man's **earthly** cheeks*  
**(earthly** 'pale or lifeless as earth')
- (30) *Yet these fix'd evils so fit in him*  
*That they take place, when virtue's **steely** bones*  
*Look bleak in the cold wind:*  
**(steely** 'resembling steel in appearance, colour, hardness or some other quality')
- (31) *I...sent him forth*  
*From **courtly** friends, with camping foes to live,*  
**(courtly** belonging to or connected with the court')
- (32) *Thou art, if dar'st be, the **earthly** Jove:*  
**(earthly** 'pertaining to the earth, i.e., terrestrial')
- (33) *Thy brother's blood the thirsty earth hath drunk,*  
*Broach'd with the **steely** point of Clifford's lance;*  
**(steely** 'made of steel')

The sample contains two formations derived from [+abstract] bases, **heavenly** and **timely**, both used as relational adjectives:

- (34) *He hath a **heavenly** gift of prophecy...*  
**(heavenly** 'connected with heaven/God, i.e. divine')



- (35) *Now spurs the lated traveller apace  
To gain the **timely** inn;  
(timely 'occurring at a suitable time; well-timed')*

In the relational function **heavenly** appears also in *Oth.* II.3.361, V.2.21, V.2.227, *Cym.* II.2.50.

Three of our formations in **-ly** (**beastly**, **clerkly**, **heavenly**) occur also in the adverbial function. Consider:

- (36) *Or are we Romans, and will give you that  
Like beasts which you shun **beastly**, and may save,  
But to look back in frown: stand! Stand! (*Cym.* V.2.27)*
- (37) *Hath he not only twit our sovereign lady here  
With ignominious words, though **clerkly** couch'd  
As if she had suborned some to swear  
False allegations to o'erthrow his state? (*2H6* III.1. 179)*
- (38) *Thou art rash as fire to say  
That she was false:  
O! She was **heavenly** true. (*Oth.* V.2.133)*

As was the case with the adjectival formations in **-like**, with only one exception, viz., **whoremasterly**, derived from a nominal compound base, **whoremaster-**, the adjectives in **-ly** are attached to simplex bases, all ending in a consonant. In only two cases (*Cym.* III.3.40, *3H6* II.5.89) the **-ly** adjectives occur in post-position.

To conclude, the present analysis shows that: (a) there are no major differences in the functioning of the two adjective-forming suffixes as they appear in our linguistic material; (b) they are both used in the similitudinal and relational functions; (c) they both combine with the same semantic types of bases; (d) in the few cases where they combine with abstract nouns they allow only for a relational interpretation; (e) their application does not seem to be etymologically restricted, as they are found with native as well as foreign (specifically French) bases (cf.e.g., **virgin-like**, **cullionly**, etc.); (f) they differ, however, with respect to their frequency of occurrence, the formations in **-ly** appear to be twice as numerous as those in **-like**, and the similitudinal uses of **-like** formations markedly outnumber those in **-ly**; and finally, (g) as has also been shown, some of the formations have not survived into our times, while some others are no longer used in their original Shakespearian senses.

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