

A Historical Investigation into the Use of Quantifiers: The Difference between *all the* and **every/*each the*

Abstract

This investigation aims to explain the use of some quantifiers on the historical aspect. Expressing quantity is basic function for language and the use of the quantifiers generally have regularity but there are partially some irregularities; on the point of co-occurrence around quantifiers and articles, for example, *all*, *many*, *few* can occur with an article depending on its context but *every*, *each*, *some* always can not. Such restriction of co-occurrence is explained practically but it is hard to explain what makes the difference with synchronic view to the present use. From the above, I try to give a simple explanation by the origin of the related words.

Some Handbooks give precise account of use of the quantifiers in present day English, for example, Quirk et al (1985: 253) says that the word order of determiners (quantifiers are included in determiners) are separated into three slots; pre-determiners, central determiners and post-determiners; thus the words that classified into same group cannot be co-occurred by syntactical reason. On that point of view, *all* is classified into pre-determiners, *many* and *few* are post-determiners and *every*, *each*, *some* and articles are central determiners; hence pre/post-determiners can occur with articles but central determiners can not.

Many quantifiers have been used since Old English period and there are some correspondences to present use and the relationship between them could add a new point of view to syntax of quantifiers. At first, assembled examples of some quantifiers from Old English materials; *eal* (*all*), *æghwylc/gehwylc* (*each/every*), *manig* (*many*), *fela* (*many*), *sum* (*some*); then examined whether they are in apposition with quantified word (similar to present use as determiners) or depending on partitive genitive (gradually changing to *of*phrase). According to the data, each word chose between those two types distinctly, in addition, each group is made up of same word class as a matter of course as follows.

adjectives; *eal*, *manig*, (in apposition with quantified word)

pronouns; *æghwylc/gehwylc*, *fela*, *sum* (depending on partitive genitive)

In the present use, most of quantifiers are used as both the determiner and the pronoun with *of* but they were separated by word class in the ancient period. This data shows another important fact that each of two groups corresponds to three above-mentioned classes. Adjectival use in Old English corresponds to pre/post-determiners and pronoun use corresponds to central determiners. Including the origin of articles, they also come from pronouns; the development of the quantifiers

can be illustrated as follows.

Old English > Present Day English

adjectives > pre-determiners/post-determiners

pronouns > central determiners

Accordingly, the present use of the quantifiers comes from the dichotomy between the original word classes, adjectives and pronouns; hence the central determiners are exclusive each other and the pre and post-determiners have a common characteristic of the original word class so that they are allowed to occur with articles.