WELSH PARTICLES.

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Parts of speech are advantageously classified into Words, Presentive and Symbolical (Earle's *Philology of the English Tongue*, p. 220). Presentive words are vocables which denote objective realities, whether as existences, attributes, or actions. Symbolical words are vocables which denote relations of the same, as subjectively conceived by the mind. Presentive words are the matter of language, and symbolical the form. The former are conveniently treated in the dictionary; the latter in the grammar. Inflections are nearly related to symbolical words.

One of the excellences of language is an abundance of Verbs, Nouns, and Adjectives, to express outward objects; but its highest excellence is the perfection of its formal element, so as to express the conceptions and emotions of the mind. The Welsh language, like the Greek, is rich in that class of symbolical words called Particles. These particles were noticed by Dr. Davies and even by Edeyrn Dafod Aur, but it was Arfonwyson who first proposed to raise them to the rank of a part of speech. They are peculiar to the Cymric branch of the Celtic languages, and are very delicate in their functions, being used to point out the exact relation to one another of the phrases or parts of the sentence, while conjunctions denote the relations of complete sentences, and prepositions connect words. This may not be a strictly accurate definition of their functions, but it may provisionally serve to give the student an idea of the mutual relations of these allied parts of speech.

The Welsh language has several contrivances for indicating the emphatic words of a sentence. The copula, or verb *bod*, possesses in the present tense four different forms, the use of which depends mostly on the place of the emphasis. In like manner the particles above enumerated serve to denote the different members of the sentence when they have been disturbed by emphasis out of their natural order of verb, subject, object (Zeuss, 924). I shall endeavour to illustrate this function of the particles in the present paper.

The particle *yn* is used to form phrases having the nature of adverbs. Under this general idea, we have three particular cases:—1. *Yn* changes the adjective following it into a simple adverb. 2. It points out the predicate, whether a noun or an adjective, when joined to the subject by the copula. 3. It is used with verbs requiring two objects, such as verbs of calling, appointing, making, etc., to distinguish the secondary from the direct object. That the vocable is really the same in all these three capacities is indicated by its governing always the same initial mutation, and that mutation being the middle sound proves that *yn* originally ended in a corresponding consonant, which was dropped after these mutations were developed in the language. On the other hand, the cognate forms, as well as the government of *yn* preposition, show that it has always ended in a nasal, while the government of the *yn* before the infinitive points to a third different root, and proves that it ended in an *s* sound. This third *yn*, however, may have been only a variation of the preposition (like *traws* and *tra*, or *os* and *o, nas* and *na, nis* and *ni*; as, ' *os* cefais yn awr ffafr'—Gen. xviii, 3. ' *O* chefais yn awr ffafr —1 Samuel xxvii, 5. ' Ac *ni* chefais neb'—Psalm lxix, 20. ' Ceisiais ef, ac *nis* cefais'—Song of Sol. iii, 1).

The following examples will illustrate the use of this particle in modifying adjectives into adverbs:—' a bod ei ddig yn rhwygo *yn wastadol*, a'i fod yn cadw ei lid *yn dragywy-*

ddol—Amos i, 11. 'Wedi imi ddilyn pob peth *yn ddyfal* o'r dechreuad'—Luke i, 3. 'O na chawn i fwynhau'r bwyst-filod a barottowyd i mi, y rhai y chwenychwn i eu cael *yn gyflym*, y rhai a lithiaf i'm traflyngcu' *n fuan ;* ac nad arbed-ont fi, megis yr ofnasant rai eraill, mi a'u cymhellaf hwynt oni's gwnant *yn rhwydd'*—Ch. Edwards' Y Ffydd Ddiffuant, t. 62, arg. 1856. '*In tywill* heb canvill'—Four An. Books, p. 11. ' Ban diholer taguistil *inhir* o tir guinet'—*ib.*, p. 23. 'Guledic deduit an gunel *inrit* erbin dit braud'—*ib.*, 14. 'Ac ar hyny y disgynnawd or nef post o dan y ryngthunt ell deu yn *gynaruthret* ac y deifyawd eu taryaneu'—Greal, p. 114. ' Ynteu ae hannoges wy y bechu *yn varwawl* drwy chwant' —*ib.*, p. 127.

Let the following examples illustrate the use of *yn* in the predicate :—1. With nouns ; and 2. With adjectives. 1. With nouns, 'Yna y byddant *yn fywyd* i'th enaid, ac *yn ras* i'th wddf'—Prov. iii, 22. 'Bydded eu bord hwy *yn rhwyd*, ac *yn fagl* ac *yn dramgwydd*, ac *yn daledigaeth* iddynt'—Rom. xi, 9. ' Ac a'u gwnaeth ni *yn frenhinoedd* ac *yn offeiriaid* i Dduw a'i Dad ef'—Rev. i, 6. 'Dyn *yn Dduw*, a Duw *yn ddyn'*—Ann Griff. Hymn. ' Gvnaeth duv trvgar gardaud, *in evr* coeth. kyvoeth y trindawd'—Four An. Books, p. 15. 'A dyuawd yny yttoed *yn brenn* mawr tec'—Greal, p. 128. 2. With adjectives: 'Sydd oll *yn ogoneddus'*—Psalm xlv, 13. ' Gan ei fod *yn gyfiawn'*—Math. i, 19. ' Duu y env *in deu*, duyuaul y kyffreu, Duu y env *in tri* duyuuawl y inni, Duu y env *in vn*, Duu paulac annhun'—Four An. Books, p. 13. ' Eissyoes y dyrnawt adisgynnawd ar y march yny vyd y march *yn deu dryll'*—Greal, p. 117.

The predicate is also indicated by the middle mutation without *yn ;* as, 'Elias oedd *ddyn'*—James v, 17. This form cannot be used with the copula *mae, oes,* or *yw,* but it often follows *sydd.* With other tenses than the present of the verb *Bod* both forms may be used indifferently ; or perhaps

with a shade of difference in the emphasis rather than in the meaning. In the above example, the subject, Elias, is emphatic; but if *yn* be placed before the predicate—*yn ddyn*—the latter receives the emphasis. However, this change requires another, namely, that the verb precede the subject, so that the order becomes 'yr oedd Elias yn ddyn'.

Verbs signifying 'to appear' have the same construction as *bod*, *e.g.*, 'Ac yna hi a ymddangoses *yn* Widdones'—Iolo MSS., p. 177. Other examples of verbs of naming, installing, etc., will be found further on, illustrating the use of the particle *y*.

The particles *a* and *yr* are joined with the verb, when the verb is preceded by any other word or part of the sentence.[1] When the preceding word or phrase is the subject or object of the verb, or when both precede it, then *a* is joined to the verb, as 'a Duw *a* ddywedodd'—Gen. i, 3. 'A Iob *a* attebodd, ac *a* ddywedodd'—Job xxxiii, 1. 'A'r Iesu *a* safodd, ac *a* archodd ei alw ef'—Mark x, 49. 'Periw new *a* peris idi'—Four An. Books, p. 15. 'A gwedy eu mynet y gysgu ef *a* doeth y drws morwyn ieuanc yr honn *a*elwis ar galaath'— Greal, p. 118. (Observe that the former part of this example is at least doubtful, as the phrase preceding the verb is neither the subject nor the object of it, the *a* being inserted by the influence of the preceding particle *fe*.) 'A Phaul *a* adwaen' —Acts xix, 15. When both nominative and objective precede the verb the language is mostly rhetorical, but the verb is still attended by *a*, as, 'Gofyn im', a mi it *a*'i rhydd'— Psalter, ii, 8. 'Y Benywaid mi *a*'u cadwaf yn ddefaid mammogion'—Iolo MSS., p. 181. 'Pan gwr, ei ffrynd yn ganmlwydd wr *a* gladd'—(Messiah) Y Golygydd (1850), p. 38. It seems to me that the *a* of interrogation is, in modern

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[1] *Yn* relates the verb to the words following it, and *a* and *y* relate it to the words preceding. The order of the words depends upon the emphasis, the emphatic words being placed first in the sentence, as stated above.

Welsh at least, a different word, although it governs the same
mutation; as, ' A gymmeri di, O Caisar, dy lwfrhau gan wag
ymffrost barbariaid ?'—Drych y Prif Oesoedd, p. 49. ' Eto,
bernwch chwi *a* fu achos gan wyr Rhufain fostio mai hwy a
gawsant y trechaf yn y diwedd ?'—*ib.*, p. 49. '*A* ddwg da
drwg gynghor ?'—Myv. Arch., 838. But the following ex-
ample seems decisive, the particle being used with the
present of bod, ' *a* ydym ni fwy rhagorol ?'—Rom. iii, 9.

The *a* as relative is still nearer in force to the particle, if
not identical with it. '*A* gyfodes *a* golles ei le'—Myv. Arch.,
p. 839. '*A* gatwer *a* geir wrth raid'—*ib*. ' A'r son a ddaeth
i ben yr Arglwydd hynny, am *a* glywyd ar lafar ysprydol
megis o'r nef'—Iolo MSS., p. 180.

When the part of the sentence preceding[1] the verb is an
adverb, an adverbial phrase, or any other assemblage of words
qualifying or affecting the verb, the particle *yr* or (before a
consonant) *y* is used. Adverbial phrases are generally formed
by means of a noun and preposition, and therefore the par-
ticiple is in this respect treated as an adverb, since it consists
of the infinitive (equivalent to a noun) and the preposition
yn expressed or understood. Some conjunctions also, having
the force of adverbs, are included; as, fel, hyd, gan, megis, tra.

The following are illustrations of *yr* dependent on a simple
adverb: 'Heddyw *y* daeth iechydwriaeth i'r ty hwn'—Luke
xix, 9. 'Yna *y* cyfododd Dafydd a'i wyr'—1 Samuel xxiii,
13. 'Yma *y* canlyn rhyw ychydigyn o honi'—Drych y Prif
Oesoedd (1863), t. 119. ' Ac yna *y* dyallawd peredur panyw
y llew oed y porthawr'—Mab., i, 263. ' Megys *y* bydynt wy
yn ymdidan uelly nachaf pump marchawc urdawl y wreic yn
dyuot'—Greal, p. 206. 'Ena *e* deueyt e kefreith'—Laws of
H. Dda, 2, 1, 33 (Zeuss, 420).

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[1] To precede the verb in Welsh means also to be emphatic, so that
when adverbial phrases are placed before the verb, but are not emphatic,
they lose their influence upon the particle.

Adverbial phrases, or phrases equivalent in function to adverbs, are variously formed. The most usual construction is a noun with a preposition, with or without adjuncts, of which the following sentences are examples: 'Yn y dechreuad *y* creodd Duw y nefoedd a'r ddaear'—Gen. i, 1. 'Gan dystiolaethu, *y* tystiolaetha iddynt'—1 Sam. viii, 9. 'Canys nid i'r cyssegr o waith llaw, portreaid y gwir gyssegr, *yr* aeth Crist i mewn'—Heb. ix, 24. 'Kanys oth achaws di *yd* ymroessum i yn y perigyl hwnn'— Greal, 113. 'Ac ym mynwes y coet *y* gwelei tei duon mawr anuanawl eu gweith' —Mab., i, 262. 'Dec inlinet (mlinet?) adev ugein iny gein anetwon *it* vif inymteith gan willeith agwillon'—Four An. Books, i, 20.

Adverbial phrases (or sentences rather) are also formed by means of a finite verb with a conjunction or adverb; as 'Pan ddychwelo'r Arglwydd gaethiwed ei bobl, *yr* ymhyfryda Jacob, ac *y* llawenha Israel'—Psalm xiv, 7. 'Pan adeilado'r Arglwydd Sion, *y* gwelir ef yn ei ogoniant'—*ib.*, cii, 16. 'Gwalchmei heb ef, hyspys yw gennyfi *y* deuy di ac ef herwyd y avwyneu'—Mab. i, 259.

Perhaps this is the proper place to mention the peculiarity of verbs of naming, appointing, and deeming, the office or title being considered as an adverbial phrase. The following may serve as examples: 'A Chyfaill Duw *y* galwyd ef'— James ii, 23. 'Peredur uab efrawc *ym* gelwir i heb ef a thitheu pwy wyt. Gwalchmei *ym* gelwir i heb ynteu'—Mab., i, 261 (Zeuss, 421). 'Yn llai na dim, ac na gwagedd *y* cyfrifwyd hwynt ganddo'—Isaiah xl, 17. 'Dauyd Sant y gelwir' —Cambro. Brit. Saints, p. 110.

So also adjectives, when used descriptively, and when preceding the verb, take *y* to join them to the verb, as, 'Noeth *y* daethum o groth fy mam, a noeth *y* dychwelaf yno'—Job i, 20. 'Ystyrwch mor astud *y* dylech fod'—Ordination Service. And generally, when any word or phrase approaching the

nature of an adverb introduces the sentence, the same particle is used; thus an infinitive with its preposition: 'Ag o'i glywed *y* bu mawr ei dristwch'—Iolo MSS., p. 180.

Certain interrogative particles are also treated similarly, as if the nouns joined to them were preceded by prepositions,[1] as 'Paham *y* tyni yn ei hol dy law, sef dy ddeheulaw'—Psalm lxxiv, 11. 'Paham *y* terfysga'r cenhedloedd, ac *y* myfyria'r bobloedd beth ofer'—Psalm ii, 1.

But in other cognate cases the presence of the particle is explained by transposition; as 'Pa beth *yr* aethoch allan i'w weled'—Math. xi, 7. This construction may be explained by transposing the infinitive: 'I weled pa beth *yr* aethoch allan'.

When the verb of an adjective sentence is followed by its object, and the object qualified by a possessive pronoun, the verb is preceded by *y*,[2] as, câr i'r hwn *y* torrasai Pedr ei glust'—John xviii, 26. So also when the object is an infinitive instead of a noun, as, 'A'r neb *y* mynno'r Mab ei ddatguddio iddo'—Luke x, 22. But the following is evidently irregular, 'Y rhai *a* dorwyd eu pennau am dystiolaeth Iesu' —Rev. xx, 4.

If a nominative or an objective, accompanied by an adverb, precede the verb, the adverb loses its force, as, 'Oed Crist, 840, *y* bu farw Escob Mynyw...Oed Crist 843, Rhodri Mawr ab Merfryn Frych *a* ddechreuwys wladychu ar y Cymry'— Myv. Arch., p. 687.

> 'A chyda'r dydd ehedydd hoywdon
> A gân yn drylwyn fwyn bennillion.'
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> Iolo MSS., p. 228.

When the sentence containing the verb is dependent, and

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[1] There are a few instances of an interjection being followed by *y*, as: 'A chyn eu dyuod y'r gynulleitua, nachaf y, gwelynt yn dyuot yn eu herbyn gwreic gwedy maru y hun mab'.—Camb. Brit. Saints, p. 111.

[2] When *y* is joined to a personal or possessive pronoun it is often changed improperly into the simple possessive form, as, 'Eithr pan eich (*y*'c) rhoddant'.—Matth. x, 29 (Beibl. 1727).

the object of another verb or sentence, the governed verb is introduced by different particles and words. When the verb is in the preterite, or rather when the meaning is in the past time, the infinitive is used, either of the verb itself with the prepositional pronoun *ohonaf*, etc., or of the auxiliary *darfod* with *imi*, etc., and the infinitive. To express future time under similar circumstances the auxiliary *bod* with *imi* is used sometimes. But the most usual construction for the present, future, and conditional tenses is the use of the verb in its proper form, preceded by *y*.[1] The following are examples:—' Canys ysgrifenwyd *y* rhydd efe orchymyn i'w angylion am danat'— Math. iv, 6. 'Gan wybod hyn yn gyntaf, *y* daw yn y dyddiau diweddaf watwarwyr'—2 Peter iii, 3 (present). 'Ac wrth hyn y gwyddom *yr* adwaenom ef' —1 John ii, 3. 'A'r modd yr ysgrifenwyd am Fab y dyn *y* dioddefai lawer o bethau, ac *y* dirmygid ef'—Mark ix, 12. The imperative mood takes no particle before it, as ' Brysia, diangc yno '—Gen. xix, 22.

The following sentences are anomalous: 1. *Y* after the object, ' Serch *y* rhoddais '—Iolo MSS., p. 232. 2. *A* after an adverbial phrase, 'A'r modd *a*'i gwnaethum '—*ib.*, p. 183. 3. *Y* after an infinitive, ' A llywygu gan ei ofn *y* gwnaeth hi' —*ib.*, p. 179. 4. *Y* after an adjective as predicate, 'A mawr iawn *y* bu'r llawenydd '—*ib.*, p. 179. 5. *Y* without an adverb preceding, ' Ac *y*d anuones Dewi yr eil ran o'r bara y vran '—Camb. Brit. Saints, p. 109. Ac *y* dechreuawd hi wediaw, ac y dywawt val hyn '—*ib.*, p. 229. 6. *A* in a relative sentence before an adverbial phrase, ' Y mae efe yn rhoddi adref yr hyn *a* lafuriodd am dano '—Job xx, 18.

The remaining particles, mi, fe (e), fo (o), may be disposed of in a few paragraphs. When the verb begins the sentence, which is a common and idiomatic construction in Welsh

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[1] This construction requires the verb to be emphatic. When any other element of the dependent sentence is emphatic, it is introduced by the conjunction *mai*.

(Zeuss, 924), it requires no particle to determine its relations; as ' *Dywedodd* yr ynfyd...*ymlygrasant,* a gwnaethant ffiaidd anwiredd...*Edrychodd* Duw i lawr o'r nefoedd...*Ciliasai* pob un o honynt '—Psalm liii, 1-3. ' *Canasom* bibau i chwi, ac ni ddawnsiasoch; *cwynfanasom* i chwi; ac nid wylasoch. Canys *daeth* Ioan Fedyddiwr heb na bwytta bara, nac yfed gwin...*Daeth* Mab y dyn yn bwytta ac yn yfed '—Luke vii, 32-34. However, in these and similar cases, we often find the verb preceded by the above particles. That they are particles and not pronouns may appear from the following considerations. They are never used with negatives; they have no antecedents; they are used with impersonal verbs; and, to a certain extent, they may be indifferently joined with all persons and numbers of the verb.

Several eminent grammarians have treated them as auxiliary affirmative pronouns, and it is not worth discussing by what term they should be denoted, but it is important that their true nature and function should be clearly understood. This, like all other grammatical questions, must be decided by the true interpretation of authoritative examples; the choosing of the examples and the interpretation of them depending on the judgment of the writer and appealing to the judgment of the reader. The practice of laying down a rule, and making patterns to correspond, is quite useless in a doubtful case like the present, and in all cases, indeed, it is but a slovenly way of producing examples.

As my first proposition is generally admitted, and as, being negative, it is impossible to present examples to illustrate it, I shall consider it as proved until the opposite is affirmed.

The same remarks must serve in regard to my second proposition, that these particles have no antecedents, as all pronouns of the third person have. With regard to the third proposition, that these particles are used with impersonal

verbs, I have not as yet succeeded in finding more than one
or two good examples, although the construction is familiar
enough, as—' *Fe* genir ac *fe* genir, yn nhragwyddoldeb maith '
—Llyfr Hymnau a Thonau Cynulleidfaol Stephens a Jones,
Hymn 308, verse 2; ' Fe'm ganwyd i lawenydd '—Llyfr
Hymnau y Meth. Calf., Hymn 600.

The following examples will serve to prove and illustrate
my fourth proposition, that these particles are joined to verbs
of all persons and numbers indiscriminately:

> ' *Fe'i* rhof yn bwn i orphwys
>   Ar ysgwydd Brenin nen;
> *Fe'i* gwela'n crynu danynt
>   Wrth farw ar y pren.'
>   Aberth Moliant, Hymn 432.

> ' *Fe'm* siomwyd gan y ddaear
> *Fe'm* siomwyd gan y byd
> *Fe'm* siomwyd gan fy nghalon.'
>   Llyfr S. R. Hymn 613.

' *Fe* garaf bellach tra fwyf byw.'—Llyfr y Meth. Calf., Hymn 162.

' *Fe'm* boddwyd mewn syndod yn lan.'—*Ib.*, Hymn 338.

' *Fe'm* golchir yn fy nghystudd trwm.'—*Ib.*, Hymn 812.

' *Fe'm* llyncwyd i fynu.'—*Ib.*, Hymn 332.

' *Fe* a'm poenir.'—Luke xvi, 24.

' Ond *fo'm* lluddiwyd i hyd yn hyn.'—Rom. i, 13.

' *Fe*' a'n ceir hefyd yn gau-dystion i Dduw.'—1 Cor. xv, 15.

> ' Colofnau'r ty ddatodir
> *Fe'u* cwympir oll i lawr.'
>   Aberth Moliant, Hymn 421.

> ' *Fe* rwygwyd murian cedyrn
> *Fe* ddrylliwyd dorau pres.'
>   *Ib.*, Hymn 400.

' *Fe* gân tifeddion gras.'—Llyfr Meth. Calf., Hymn 267.

' *Fe* gân, Y gwaredigion fawr a mân.'—*Ib.*, Hymn 381.

I am aware that the examples with passive verbs may be
objected to, but not without asserting the impersonal con-
struction of such verbs. Originally the Welsh language had
a true passive inflection, but now it has entirely disappeared,

and the genius of the language treats these forms rather as impersonal verbs, whether they be transitive or intransitive. However the matter may be decided, the examples will be of value. This is why I have been careful not to substitute patterns for examples, as is too often the custom of grammarians. Examples are facts, while patterns are at best only theories embodied in a sentence manufactured for the purpose.

In the old pamphlet 'Seren tan Gwmwl', p. 45 (cover), there is an instance of *mi* used with a third person of the verb. ' Mi fydd yr awdwr yn llwyr ddiolchgar'—Edward Charles.

The popular phrase, ' Cadw *mi* gei', is an instance of *mi* with the second person singular (*vide* the programme of Wrexham Eisteddvod, p. 22, where it is grammaticised into ' Cadw ti a gai ').

The fact is, that *fe* is the favourite particle in South Wales, and *mi* in North Wales. Both, however, have been much tampered with by grammarians and translators (*vide* Dr. Pughe's Dictionary, *sub voc. fe, mi*). The influence of theories and of foreign languages is sooner felt by the literary than by the popular language of a country; and it is now admitted that the spoken dialects are the only real existence, while the written language is only a sham. The one is a growth; the other a manufacture. We cannot study geology in railway embankments, and we should not study language from grammars and dictionaries, except as models of nature.

The verb *Bod* takes *yr* instead of *fe* in the present and imperfect tenses, as ' Y mae'r Iuddewon er ys talm yn achwyn' —Drych y Prif Oesoedd, p. 33 ; ' Yr oedd yr ysbryd ymddial hwn yn fwy anesgusodol '—*ib.*, p. 55.

These particles (*mi, fe*) are related to the personal pronouns, however, in the following particulars :

1. They are used with the other particle *a*, as ' *Fe a* faddeuir iddo '—Math. xii, 32 ; ' Wedi hynny *fo a* weles Pawl afon fawr greulon '—Iolo MSS., p. 191 ; ' Ac ar vrig y prenn

hwnnw *ef a* wrthtyfawd kaingc hyt y llawr'—Camb. Brit. Saints, p. 14. When *fe, fo,* or *mi* thus precedes the verb with its particle, it always requires *a* to follow rather than *y*.

2. They are usually distinguished as to persons, *mi* being oftener used with the first person, and *fe* with the third.

3. They are undoubtedly etymologically derived from the pronouns.

However, it is misleading to call them auxiliary pronouns, as Richards and others have done. The only connection in which the term auxiliary is customarily used, is to denote verbs which help to form the different inflections of other verbs. But these particles do not help the inflection of the pronouns at all; therefore, analogy is against their being called auxiliary. It is also difficult to conceive how these, or any of the other particles, can be called expletives by grammarians who at the same time have undertaken to explain their functions. Moreover, that such meaningless vocables as are denoted by expletives can exist in any language is perfectly incredible.

It has been already stated that no particles are admissible with the true[1] imperative mood. It must also be noted that they cannot accompany verbs when qualified by negatives. In negative phrases, the place of *a* is supplied by *na* (nad, nas), and the place of *y* by *ni* (nid, nis). For examples, see Zeuss, p. 421.

In conclusion, I would plead with all Welsh writers on behalf of our beautiful little particles, that they be henceforth neither neglected nor abused. When properly handled, they add much to the precision, lucidity, and beauty of our language.

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[1] The Welsh has two forms for the third person singular of the imperative, which are both well illustrated in the following example: 'Duw *a* drugarhao wrthym, ac *a'n* bendithio; a thywyned ei wyneb arnom.'—Psalm lxvii, 1. One precedes, and the other follows, its subject.