

# 英語における直喩について

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## On Simile in the English Language

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### はじめに

私たちは、ある叙述を行なう場合、比較・類比によって、即ち通例具体的に知覚されやすい対象を出して、描写を豊かにしようとする傾向はどここの国にも見られる。例えば、本学の教育目標の一つに「白菊の如く気高く、雑草の如く強い心を……」とあり、子供の頃「出た出た月が、丸い丸いまん丸い、盆のような月が……」と歌ったことを思い出すのである。こうした所謂、比喩の中には、(1)より適確な、またより豊かな描写を行なったり、新しい認識を提示したり、強意・誇張などという表現的意図を達成するもの（例えば、as hungry as a wolf; as slow as a snail など）と、(2)効果的用物を通して表現するもの（例えば、the curtain of night など）がある。前者を直喩 (simile)、後者を隠喩 (metaphor) という。この両者とも修辞学上大切なものであり、文に彩を添える効果があり、人々は、洋の東西を問わず好んで用いるところである。You are my sunshine. といえは隠喩となり、You make me happy like sunshine といえは直喩となる。

今回は 'as' を用いた直喩を中心に、英語に表われたものを考察することにする。

### 日常の Simile の実例

実例については、富山房発行：英米故事伝説辞典の Simile の項、及び C.O.D. の 'as' の項に多く示されているが、ここには、我が国発行の辞書によく表われているものを見ることにする。（※印は COD にあるもの）

bald as a coot*, as an egg, as a billiard ball	つるつるに禿げて
black as a pitch*, as coal, as ebony, as the devil	まつ黒の
blind as a bat*, as a beetle, as mole	まるでめくらで、ひどい近視で
brave as a lion*, as Alexander, as, Hercules	とても勇敢な
busy as a bee	とても忙しい
cheap as dirt	二束三文で
clear as day, as crystal	昼のように明るい
close as an oyster	口がかたい
cold as charity*, as (a) stone, as ice	とても冷い
cool as cucumber	冷静な、平気の平左で
cozy as a bug in a rug	いごこちがよい
crafty as a fox	とてもずるい

cross as two sticks*, as a bear, as the devil	気むずかしい
dark as night, as pitch	まっくら
dead as mutton*, as a door-nail*, as a herring	全く死んだ, 不活発な
drunk as a fiddler*, as a fish*, as a lord	酔っぱらって上きげんの
dry as a bone, as a chip, as tinder	干からびた
dull as ditch water*, as lead	渋滞しきって, 実にくだらな
dumb as an oyster	たいへん無口な
easy as ABC*, as lying*, as shelling peas	とてもやさしく
empty as air	からっぽの
fair as a lily	とても美しい
fit as a fiddle	元気でピンピン
fresh as a rose	元気はつらつとした
full as an egg	きっちりつまって
good as gold*, as play*, as one's word	とてもおとなしく, とても親切
grave as a judge	いかにもいかめしい
greedy as a wolf, as a pig	貪欲な
happy as a lark, as iron, as a prince, as a king	大へん幸福な
hard as nails*, as a flint	大へん堅い
hard as a stone	無情な
heavy as lead*	大へん重い
hungry as a hunter*, as a hawk	腹がペコペコで
keen as mustard*	熱中して
large as life*	実物大
leaky as a sieve	もれやすい, 何でもしゃべる
light as air*, as a feather	大へん軽い
light as day	とても明るい
like as two peas, as chalk and cheese	うり二つ
limp as a rag, as a doll, as a glove	すっかりくたびれて
mad as March Hare*, as a hare	狂気じみた
meek as a lamb, as Mose	おとなしい
mean as a miser	けちな
mild as milk	口ざわりのよい
neat as a new pin	きちんとした
old as the hills*, as Adam	きわめて古い
painted as a picture	厚化粧して
pale as ghost*, as death	まっさおな
plain as a pickstaff*, as the nose on one's face	きわめて明白な
pleased as punch*, as a turkey	大満足の
poor as a church mouse	大へん貧しい
proud as a peacock*, as Punch, as Lucifer*	大いばりで
punctual as the clock	時間をよく守る

quiet as a mouse*	実に静かな
rich as a Jew*	お金持の
safe as a house*, as houses	全く安全で
secret as the grave; silent as the grave*	全く沈黙した
sick as a dog	ひどく具合が悪い
simple as a child	純真な
snug as a bug in a rug	ぬくぬくおさまって
sober as a judge	大まじめに
stiff as a poker*, as a ramrod	かたくるしい
straight as a die*, as a nail	ピントまつすぐ
sure as fate*, as death, as a gun	たしかな
timid as a rabbit, as a hare	気の小さい
true as a steel*	非常に忠実な
weak as a rat*, as water*	全く力を失って
welcome as snow in harvest	歓迎されない
wet as a drowned rat	ぬれねずみになって
white as snow, as a sheet*, as milk	真白な
wise as a serpent, as Solomon	大へん賢い

### 直喩の分類

直喩はいろいろな標準によって分類することが出来るが、as の次に用いられる名詞の意味内容によって分類を試みてみよう。この分類の結果から、直喩の創作者たちが自然・人生のどのような方面に向けられていたかを知り、従って彼らの生活状態の一端を伺い知ることが出来るであろう。

1. 宗教……一般大衆の日常生活においては、善よりも悪の方が一層重大であるようである。  
damp as the grave; cold as death; wicked as witch
2. 歴史……ギリシヤ、ローマ史に現われるものに限られる。  
stupid as Alexander's ass; solitary as Robinson; crooked as Robin Hood's bow
3. 職業……悪口的なものが多く、中産階級は現われていない。  
polite as a lawyer; loud as a tinker; false as a barber's news
4. 人間……男性より女性が多い。  
changerable as a girl; mild as mother's milk; blushing as a maid
5. 学問……学問とは比較的縁がうすかったように見える。  
crooked as Z; motionless as a statue; fast as electricity
6. 家屋……豪壮な邸宅でなく、地味なものが多い。  
safe as houses; steep as a penthouse (ひさし); tall as a chimney
7. 鉱物……宝石・貴金属に関するものが多い。  
hard as adamant; white as ivory; clear as crystal
8. 動物 (1)家畜……“dog” “cat” “horse” の多いことが目につく  
faithful as a dog; cold as a dog's nose; surly as a butcher's dog jealous; sleepy as a cat;  
mild as a ketler; hungry, sick, silly as a horse, nimble as a colt

(2)家畜以外……まづ目につくのは鼠・もぐらなどである。

drunk, silent, small as a mouse ; cold, lean, red as a rat

9. 植物……花に関する直喩の中には中世紀のロマンスや古典詩から伝承された詩的のものが少ない。

modest as a violet ; welcome as flowers in May ; innocent as a lily.

10. 天文……大ていの国語に共通だと思われるものが多い

broad as the sky ; plain as the sun ; fresh as morning dew ; splendid as rainbow

また、形式上注意すべきことは、alliteration (頭韻) で “as weak as water,” “as drunk as David’s sow,” “as mad as a March hare,” “as dead as a door-nail” などである。concise Oxford Dictionary (as<sup>1</sup> 5) に可なり多く例が出ている。End-rime (脚韻) の方は “as snug as a bug in a rug” などがある。

### 故事・諺の中の Simile

英語の故事・諺の中にも、simile を含むものは少なく、日本語のそれと比較対照しながら人口に膾炙されているものを挙げてみよう。

当るものは風ばかり

To roar like a bull.

馬鹿の馬鹿太り

Fat as a fool.

美人に年なし

Man is as old as he feels, and a woman as old as she looks.

木石に非ず

Not to be senseless as a block.

盆と正月が一度に来たよう。

To be as busy as a bee.

痴人夢を説く

As senseless as a block of wood.

血も涙もない

As hard-hearted as a Scot of Scotland.

蝶よ花よ

He kept him as the apple of his eye.

忠ならんとすれば孝ならず

Like two buckets of a well, if one go up the other must go down.

泥酔

To be drunk as a fish.

毒にも薬にもならぬ

Like a chip in pottage pot, does neither good nor harm.

吹けばとぶよう

To be as light as a feather.

刎頸の交わり

To be as great as cup and can.

粉骨碎身

To work like a galley-slave.

学者むしゃくしゃ

It is as hard a thing to please a learned man as a knight.

眼中人なし

She holds up her head like a hen drinking.

下種も三食, 上臈も三食

A jade eats as much as a good horse.

呉下の阿蒙

To remain as wise as a man of Gotham.

鼻に反りを打つ

To be as proud as a lord.

箸の転んだもおかしい

As merry as the maids.

蛇が蛙をのんだよう

To be as ugly as sin.

引越三両

Three moves are as bad as a fire.

火水の争い  
火の消えたよう  
生馬の目をぬく  
命の洗濯  
石に謎  
人色なし  
南瓜に目鼻  
烏の行水  
借りてきた猫

結構毛だらけ  
狐を馬に乗せたよう  
真綿で首をしめる  
目から鼻へぬける  
味方見苦し  
三日坊主  
水の垂るよう  
むじなほど眠る  
猫の目のよう  
猫の手も借りたい  
ねずみごっこ、いたちごっこ  
ぬれ手で粟  
お茶の子さいさい  
- 老いの一徹  
女のくさったよう  
押すに押されぬ  
ラッコの毛にさわる如し  
ルリか玉か  
猿知恵  
青天白日  
雪駄の土用干し  
しわん坊の柿の種  
鷓鴣深林に巣くうも一枝に過ぎず  
水火の争い  
墨と雪  
鮓を押したよう  
誰か烏の雌雄を知らんや  
梃子でも動かぬ  
手飯で力持ち  
  
手に取るよう

To agree like cats and dogs.  
As dull as ditchwater.  
To be as sharp as a razor.  
To be as happy as a lark.  
As senseless as a block.  
As pale as ashes.  
As ugly as sin.  
Short and sweet, like a donkey's gallop.  
As coy as a croker's mare. = To be as gentle as a  
lamb.  
To be as good as gold. To be as fit as a fiddle.  
To be like a weather-cock in the wind.  
To talk to one like a Dutch uncle.  
To be as sharp as a needle.  
Partiality is as ugly as sin.  
He is as fickle as a weathercock.  
To be as fresh as flowers in May.  
To sleep like a top.  
As changeable as a chameleon.  
To be as busy as a bee.  
Like the horse in a mill.  
To make money like hay.  
It is as easy as kissing my hand.  
As obstinate as a mule.  
He is as wavering as the wind.  
As firm as a rock.  
To be as mild as a lamb.  
As good as gold.  
As wise as a man of Gotham.  
To feel as innocent as a new-born babe.  
He struts like a crow in a gutter.  
As close as cockles.  
Enough is as good as a feast.  
To agree like cats and dogs.  
As like as chalk and cheese.  
To be as close as red herring in a barrel.  
As like as eggs. As like as two peas.  
As wilful as a pig, he'll neither lead nor drive.  
Like the tailor that sewed for nothing, and found  
thread himself.  
To be as clear as the sun. As clear as day

天竺からふんどし  
手を反す  
虎の威をかる狐  
塗炭の苦しみ  
浮き世渡らば豆腐で渡れ  
魚の釜中に遊ぶが如し  
魚の水を離れたよう  
瓜を二つに割ったよう  
やだをひく

焼石に水  
夜郎自大  
やせ坊主が齋に逢ったよう  
やせ馬の声嚇し

夜目遠目笠の内  
義経の向うずね

雪とすみ

As long as a Welsh pedigree.  
As easy as kiss my hand. As easy as lying.  
To act like an ass in a lion's skin.  
To fret like a frog under a harrow.  
Be as just as a square and as mild as a lamb.  
To sit like a frog on a chopping block.  
Like a fish out of water.  
As like as two peas.  
As lazy as Ludlam's dog that leaned his head  
against a wall to bark.  
As lost as a drop of water in the sea.  
He looks as big as if he had eaten bull beef.  
To feed like a farmer.  
He bellows like a bull but is as weak as a  
bulrush.  
Joan is as good as my lady in the dark.  
They agree like the clocks of London. To agree  
like harp and harrow.  
As like as chalk and charcoal.

#### お わ り に

英語の慣用的直喩を日本語のそれと比較することによって、英国民の考え方や感じ方の特質を明らかにすることができよう。“as changeable as April days”……これは日本ではさしずめ「秋の空」となる。こうしたことを少し探求を深めることは興味深いことである。

また、直喩には起源の明らかなものが大半といわれるが、起源の探求も同じように英国民性を理解する一端となることは必定である。これらを今後の研究のテーマにしてゆく所存である。

#### 文 献

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