

PLAYING BEATIE BOW

EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGE

Text 1: 'The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale', *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer (Middle English, 14th century)

Original text	Your translation
<p>To speke of wo that is in mariage; For, lordynges, sith I twelve yeer was of age, Thonked be God that is eterne on lyve, Housbondes at chirche dore I have had fyve -- If I so ofte myghte have ywedded bee -- And alle were worthy men in hir degree. (ll. 3–8)</p> <p>Whan that my fourthe housbonde was on beere, I weep algate, and made sory cheere, As wyves mooten, for it is usage, And with my coverchief covered my visage ... (ll. 587–590)</p>	<p>Harvard's Geoffrey Chaucer Website – Glossary</p>

Text 2: *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare (Elizabethan/Shakespearean English, 16th/17th century)

Original text	Your translation
<p>HAMLET: I did love you once. OPHELIA: Indeed, my lord, you made me believe so. HAMLET: You should not have believed me, for virtue / cannot so inoculate our old stock but we shall / relish of it. I loved you not. OPHELIA: I was the more deceived. HAMLET: Get thee to a nunnery. Why wouldst thou be / a breeder of sinners? (Act 3, Scene 1, ll. 125–132)</p>	<p>Shakespeare's Words – Glossary</p>

Text 3: *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (early 19th century)

Original text	Your translation
<p>It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.</p> <p>However little known the feelings or views of such a man may be on his first entering a neighbourhood, this truth is so well fixed in the minds of the surrounding families, that he is considered as the rightful property of some one or other of their daughters.</p> <p>(p. 1)</p>	

Text 4: *Playing Beatie Bow* by Ruth Park (19th/20th century English/Scottish dialect)

Original text	Your translation
<p>'I dunna ken where your ain place is', protested Beatie. I didna mean to go there myself. It were the bairnies calling my name. I dunna ken how I did it, honest. I never did it afore I had the fever' As though to herself in a puzzled worried voice she said, 'One minute I was in the lane, and the next there was a wall there, and the bairnies skittering about, and all those places like towers and castles and that...that great road that goes over the water, and strange carriages on it with never a horse amongst them, and I was afeared out of my wits, thinking the fever had turned my brain.'</p> <p>(p. 46)</p>	<p>Wiktionary – Glossary of Scottish slang and jargon</p>