

PLAYING BEATIE BOW

EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGE CHEAT SHEET

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>I am going speak about the trouble with marriage; So, friends, since I was twelve, Thanks be to God (who is alive), I have married five men in a church; and if I've married so many men, Then all were worthy men to some degree.</p> <p>When my fourth husband was being cremated, I cried and looked really sad, as wives must do at their husband's funeral, And with my hankie covered up my face ...</p> <p>Harvard's Geoffrey Chaucer Website – 3.1 The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale 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>HAMLET: I told you that I loved you once. OPHELIA: Yes, Hamlet, you did. HAMLET: Well, you shouldn't have believed me because all of us are rotten at the core, no matter how hard we try to be good. I didn't love you. OPHELIA: Well, I was tricked. HAMLET: Get to a convent, become a nun so that you cannot breed sinners like me.</p> <p>Folger Shakespeare Library – Act 3, Scene 1 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>	<p>Everyone knows that a single, rich man wants to marry.</p> <p>Even if little else is known about him it is assumed that he is available as a potential husband for their daughter.</p> <p>Wikisource – Pride and Prejudice, Volume I (1813), Chapter 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>'I don't know where your place is. I didn't mean to go there myself. It was the children calling my name. I honestly don't know how I did it. I never did it before I got sick.' As though to herself in a worried voice she said, 'One minute I was in the lane and the next there was a great wall there and the children were playing around. There were towers and castles and a bridge that went over the water with cars going across it. I was afraid and thought I'd gone crazy.'</p> <p>Wiktionary – Glossary of Scottish slang and jargon</p>