

On Reporting Expressions of *Oroonoko*

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I. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to describe the reporting expressions of Aphra Behn's¹⁾ *Oroonoko, or The Royal Slave*, which was written in 1688. At the same time, it is one of "On Reporting Expressions of English Prose after the 17th Century" series that the present author has been stating. (He has already published five of them.)²⁾

Oroonoko is one of the most remarkable works in the 17th century in that it is regarded as a realistic prose fiction—"novel." Aphra Behn, who also produced fifteen plays and several poems, wrote her novel *Oroonoko* in dramatic style; which is often found in the reporting clauses, as it will be noted later. To know what kinds of reporting expressions are used in *Oroonoko*, the types of relations between reporting clause and reported speech will be classified, and illustrated by a table and with examples.

II. Classification

Type 1. NP-RV, RS.

- Type 1-1. NP-RV, RS.
- Type 1-2. ADV-NP-RV, RS.
- Type 1-3. NP-ADV-RV, RS.
- Type 1-4. PP-NP-RV, RS.
- Type 1-5. NP-RV-PP, RS.
- Type 1-6. ADVC-NP-RV, RS.
- Type 1-7. PC-NP-RV, RS.
- Type 1-8. PC-NP-RV, ADV, RS.

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1) Aphra Behn (1640?-1689), later known as "the Incomparable Astrea," British dramatist and novelist and the first English woman to earn her living as a writer. (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 1962) Between 1671 and 1689 she produced fifteen plays, of which the most popular was 'The Rover' (in two parts, 1677-81), dealing with the amorous adventures in Naples and Madrid of a band of English cavaliers during the exile of Charles II. 'The City Heiress', 1682, is one of her typical coarse comedies of contemporary London life. She also wrote poems (including the beautiful 'Love in fantastic triumph sat'), and novels, of which her 'Oroonoko, or the History of the Royal Slave' is the best known. It is the first English philosophical novel containing dissertations on abstract subjects, such as the religion of humanity. (Sir Paul Harvey, *The Oxford Companion to English Literature*, 4th ed. Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1967)

2) 1. Tadashi Tsujiya, *On Reporting Clauses and Verbs of The Pilgrim's Progress (Part I)*, Research Bulletin of the Hiroshima Institute of Technology, Vol. 13, No. 17 (1979), pp. 33-46. (In Japanese)
2. _____, *On Reporting Expressions of The Authorized Version I*, Research Bulletin of the Hiroshima Institute of Technology, Vol. 15, No. 19 (1981), pp. 19-40.
3. _____, *On Reporting Expressions of The Authorized Version II*, Research Bulletin of the Hiroshima Institute of Technology, Vol. 16, No. 20 (1982), pp. 23-49.
4. _____, *On Reporting Expressions of The Authorized Version III*, Research Bulletin of the Hiroshima Institute of Technology, Vol. 19, No. 23 (1985), pp. 27-50.
5. _____, *On Reporting Expressions of The Authorized Version IV*, Research Bulletin of the Hiroshima Institute of Technology, Vol. 20, No. 24 (1986), pp. 27-50.

- Type 1-9. *ADV-NP-RV, PC, RS.*
 Type 1-10. *NP-VP, CONJ RV, RS.*
 Type 1-11. *NP-VP, CONJ RV-PP, RS.*
 Type 1-12. *NP-VP, CONJ ADV-RV, RS.*
 Type 1-13. *NP-RV-ing, RS.*

Type 2. NP-VP, RV-ing, RS.

- Type 2-1. *NP-VP, RV-ing, RS.*
 Type 2-2. *NP-VP, RV-ing, PP, RS.*
 Type 2-3. *NP-VP₁, CONJ VP₂, RV-ing, RS.*

Type 3. RS (RV-NP) RS.

- Type 3-1. *RS (RV-NP) RS.*
 Type 3-2. *RS (RV-NP, V-ing) RS.*

Abbreviation

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>RC</i> =Reporting Clause | <i>RS</i> =Reported Speech |
| <i>RV</i> =Reporting Verb | <i>NP</i> =Noun Phrase |
| <i>VP</i> =Verb Phrase | <i>PP</i> =Prepositional Phrase |
| <i>ADV</i> =Adverb | <i>PC</i> =Participle Clause |
| <i>ADVC</i> =Adverb Clause | <i>CONJ</i> =Conjunction |

III. Distribution of Reporting Verbs

The following table shows how the reporting verbs are distributed among the types. It is clear from the table that the types are small in number, and the reporting verbs are limited to certain ones.

As to the number of types, *The Authorized Version* (1611) is 62; *The Pilgrim's Progress (Part 1, 1678)* is 42; whereas *Oroonoko* is 18 as shown in the table.

In addition to the small number of types, it must be noted that all the reporting clauses (except one) put between two reported speeches are enclosed with parentheses.

As to the number of reporting verbs, there is a great difference among *The Authorized Version*, *The*

Table. Distribution of Reporting Verbs

Types	<i>RV</i>	continue	cry	cry out	reply	say	whisper	Total
1-1	<i>NP-RV, RS.</i>		3	2	1	1		7
1-2	<i>ADV-NP-RV, RS.</i>			1	1			2
1-3	<i>NP-ADV-RV, RS.</i>		1					1
1-4	<i>PP-NP-RV, RS.</i>				1			1
1-5	<i>NP-RV-PP, RS.</i>		1		2			3
1-6	<i>ADVC-NP-RV, RS.</i>			2				2
1-7	<i>PC-NP-RV, RS.</i>		5	1		1		7
1-8	<i>PC-NP-RV, ADV, RS.</i>						1	1
1-9	<i>ADV-NP-RV, PC, RS.</i>				1			1
1-10	<i>NP-VP, CONJ RV, RS.</i>		5			1		6
1-11	<i>NP-VP, CONJ RV-PP, RS.</i>		1	1		1		3
1-12	<i>NP-VP, CONJ ADV-RV, RS.</i>					1		1
1-13	<i>NP-RV-ing, RS.</i>		1					1
2-1	<i>NP-VP, RV-ing, RS.</i>		1					1
2-2	<i>NP-VP, RV-ing, PP, RS.</i>			1				1
2-3	<i>NP-VP₁, CONJ VP₂, RV-ing, RS.</i>			2				2
3-1	<i>RS (RV-NP) RS.</i>	2			4	11		17
3-2	<i>RS (RV-NP, V-ing) RS.</i>	1						1
Total		3	18	10	10	16	1	58

Pilgrim's Progress, and *Oroonoko*; that is,

The Authorized Version: (30 words)

answer, ask, call, charge, command, commune, cry, demand, deny, despise, make supplication, praise, proclaim, reason, remember, salute, say, send (a message), sing, speak, swear, tell, testify, think, there came a voice, uphraid, vow, write.

The Pilgrim's Progress: (11 words)

add, address, answer, ask, break out, call, condole, cry, salute, say, tell.

Oroonoko: (6 words)

continue, cry, cry out, reply, say, whisper.

Why does *Oroonoko* have only six reporting verbs? The reason is probably, as stated in the introduction, that Aphra Behn had little experienced in writing novels.

IV. Types and Illustration

Oroonoko has a characteristic feature in that the reporting verb "say" does not occur frequently, as compared with *The Authorized Version* and *The Pilgrim's Progress*: "say" predominates in *The Authorized Version*; it amounts to 84% even in *The Pilgrim's Progress*; however, in *Oroonoko* it gives the first place to "cry out", which appears for the first time with "continue," "reply," "whisper."

Of all the reporting verbs "cry" and "cry out" show 50%, whose expressions look like stage directions in a playbook.

Type 1. NP-RV, RS.

Type 1-1. NP-RV, RS.

Instance of RV=say:

...: but (to use his own Words) he said, 'Most happily, some new, and, till then, unknown Power instructed his Heart and Tongue in the Language of Love; and at the same Time, in Favour of him, inspire'd *Imoinda* with a Sense of his Passion.' (p. 138)

Instance of RV=cry:

And they cry'd, *Whip! no, you shall not escape so well.* (p. 207)

Other instances: p. 156; p. 205.

Instance of RV=cry out:

...; and he would cry out, 'No, since I have sacrific'd *Imoinda* to my Revenge, shall I lose that Glory which I have purchased so dear, as at the Price of the fairest, dearest, softest Creature that ever Nature made? No, No!' (p. 203)

Other instance: p. 194.

Instance of RV=reply:

They stood all silent, while *Cæsar* replied, *Fatal will be the Attempt of the first Adventure, let him assure himself, ...* (p. 205)

The frequency of Type 1-1 amounts to about 30% of the whole in *The Authorized Version*, but decreases to 10% in *The Pilgrim's Progress* and *Oroonoko*.

Type 1-2. ADV-NP-RV, RS.

Instance of RV=cry out:

Then they cry'd out, *Who will venture on this single Man? Will nobody?* (p. 205)

Instance of RV=reply:

Then one of 'em reply'd, *Governor, you are a Lyar, and guilty of that Infamy.* (p. 132)

Each "then" is the co-ordinating conjunctive adverb, which is often followed by RV-NP in *The Authoriz-*

ed Version and *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

Type 1-3. NP-ADV-RV, RS.

Instance of RV=cry:

..., and he would often cry, 'Oh, my Friends! were she in wall'd Cities, or...' (pp. 142-143)

The adverb here is the adverb of frequency, not of manner.

Type 1-4. PP-NP-RV, RS.

Instance of RV=reply:

To this Cæsar reply'd, 'That Honour was the first Principle in Nature, that was to be obey'd; ...' (pp. 191-192)

The prepositional phrase "To this" is placed at the beginning of the sentence for the sake of emphasis. In ordinary circumstances, it should be "*Cæsar reply'd to this*, ..."

Type 1-5. NP-RV-PP, RS.

Instance of RV=cry:

..., he only cry'd in passing over the Side of the Ship; *Farewel, Sir, 'tis worth my Sufferings to gain so true a knowledge, both of you, and of your Gods, by whom you swear.* (p. 166)

The preposition "in" means "in the process of, in the act of; in case of: often equivalent in sense to a temporal clause introduced by *when, while, if, in the event of.*" (OED)

Instances of RV=reply:

Oroonoko reply'd, with a deep Sigh, and a languishing Voice, —*I am armed against their worst Efforts—For I knew they will tell me, Imoinda is no more—And after that, you may spare the rest.* (p. 156)

They all reply'd with one Accord, 'No, No, No; Cæsar has spoke like a great Captain, like a great King.' (p. 191)

The prepositional phrases such as "with a deep Sigh, and a languishing Voice" and "with one Accord" are not found in *The Authorized Version* and *The Pilgrim's Progress*. The use of new phrases is one of the most interesting phenomena in the development of reporting expressions.

Type 1-6. ADV-C-NP-RV, RS.

Instances of RV=cry out:

..., as if he had reviv'd from a Fainting, or a Dream, he cried out, 'No, Gentlemen, you are deceived; ...' (p. 205)

But when they saw him tottering, they cry'd out, *Will none venture on him?* (p. 205)

The first adverbial clause "as if he had reviv'd from a Fainting, or Dream" is the subordinate clause of manner. Curiously enough, this type occurs only when the reporting verb is "cry out."

Type 1-7. PC-NP-RV, RS. (or, NP-PC-RV, RS.)

Instance of RV=say:

And turning to the Men that had bound him, he said, *My Friends, am I to die, or to be whipt?* (p. 207)

Instances of RV=cry:

And pressing his Hand, she cry'd *This Night you shall be happy. Come to the Gate of the Orange-Grove, behind the Olan, and I will be ready about midnight to receive you.* (p. 150)

He pointing to the dead Body, sighing, cry'd *Behold her there.* (pp. 204-205)

Other instances: pp. 166-167; p. 191; p. 205.

Instance of RV=cry out:

Tuscan seeing that, cry'd out, *I love thee, O Cæsar! and therefore will not let thee die, if possible.* (p. 206)

All the participle clauses above are equivalent to an adverbial clause of attendant circumstances, not of time or reason.

Type 1-8. PC-NP-RV, ADV, RS.

Instance of *RV*=whisper:

But forcing the Pearls into his Hand, she whisper'd softly to him; *Oh! do not fear a Woman's Invention, when Love sets her a thinking.*(pp. 149-150)

The participle clause is indicative of attendant circumstances, and the adverb is of manner.

Type 1-9. *ADV-NP-RV, PC, RS.*

Instance of *RV*=reply:

And then he reply'd, smiling, *A Blessing on thee.* (p. 207)

The adverb "then" is the co-ordinating conjunctive adverb, and the participle clause "smiling" is an adverbial clause of attendant circumstances.

Type 1-10. *NP-VP, CONJ RV, RS.*

Instance of *RV*=say:

..., he wished to live to take a dire Revenge of him; and said, *It had been well for him, if he had sacrificed me, instead of giving me the contemptible Whip.* (p. 199)

Instances of *RV*=cry:

This he spoke with a Voice so resolv'd and assur'd, that they soon retired from the Door; but cry'd "Tis by King's Command we are come; ..." (p. 153)

...: and now he perceived his Fault, yet cry'd, *That for such another Moment he would be content to die.* (p. 151)

..., but *Trefry* caught her by the Hand, and cry'd *Clemene, however you fly a Lover, you ought to pay some Respect to this Stranger,* (pointing to *Cæsar*.)

Other instances: p. 158; pp. 185-186.

In *The Authorized Version*, "say" and "say unto" are used as the reporting verbs of this type; "ask," "cry," "salute" and "say" in *The Pilgrim's Progress*. The kinds of the conjunctions used in these works are "and" only; however, in *Oroonoko* "but" and "yet" besides "and."

Type 1-11. *NP-VP, CONJ RV-PP, RS.*

Instance of *RV*=say:

...; so that he remarking all the Places where she was shot, fancy'd still he should overcome her, by giving her another Sort of a Wound than any had yet done; and one Day said (at the Table), 'What Trophies and Garlands, Ladies, will you make me, if I bring you home the Heart of this revenous Beast, that eats up all your Lambs and Pigs?' (p. 181)

The prepositional phrase is "at the table." It must be noted that "he" is omitted after "one Day," though there is a long distance of time between *VP* ("fancy'd") and *RV* ("said").

Instance of *RV*=cry:

When they saw him therefore, they set up a new Joy, and cry'd in their language, *Oh, here's our Tigamy, and we shall know whether those Things can speak.* (p. 185)

The prepositional phrase "in their language" is indicative of manner.

Instance of *RV*=cry out:

...: which they did with so much Violence, that *Oroonoko* was not able to defend it; but was forced to cry out with a commanding Voice, 'Whoever ye are that have the Boldness to attempt to approach this Apartment thus rudely; know, that I, the Prince *Oroonoko*, will revenge it with the certain Death of him that first enters: ...' (p. 153)

It is interesting that the prepositional phrases of manner like the above are used with "cry" or "cry out", each of which has an emotional color.

Type 1-12. *NP-VP, CONJ ADV-RV, RS.*

Instance of *RS*=cry:

When she had him where she believed she could not be heard, she sigh'd to him, and softly cry'd 'Ah, *Aboan!* when will you be sensible of my Passion? ...' (p. 149)

The adverb "softly" is the adverb of manner.

Type 1-13. *NP-RV-ing, RS.*

Instance of *RV=cry*:

Cæsar had often said, he had a Mind to encounter this Monster, and spoke with several Gentlemen who had attempted her; one crying, I shot her with so many poison'd Arrows, another with his Gun in this Part of her, another in that. (p. 181)

This type occurs eleven times in *The Authorized Version*.

Type 2. *NP-VP, RV-ing, RS.*

This type occurs only four times in *Oroonoko*, but frequently in *The Authorized Version* and *The pilgrim's Progress*.

Type 2-1. *NP-VP, RV-ing, RS.*

Instance of *RV=cry*:

He would have refused 'em, crying, *Madam these are not the Proofs of our Love that I expect; 'tis Opportunity, 'tis a Love-Hour only, that can make me happy.* (p. 149)

Type 2-2. *NP-VP, RV-ing, RS.*

Instance of *RV=cry out*:

..., they all cast themselves at his Feet, crying out, in their Language, *Live, O King! Long live, O King!* (p. 170)

"In their Language" is the prepositional phrase of manner.

Type 2-3. *NP-VP₁, CONJ VP₂, RV-ing, RS.*

Instance of *RV=cry out*:

They put off the Flowers that cover'd with their Sticks, and found she was kill'd, and cry'd out. *Oh, Monster! that hast murder'd thy Wife.* (p. 205)

Other instance: p. 194.

Type 3. *RS (RV-NP) RS.*

It is characteristic of Type 3 that:

- A) as pointed out in II, all the reporting clauses (with a single exception) are enclosed with parentheses.
- B) it amounts to 31% of the whole.
- C) two reporting verbs "reply," "continue" are used for the first time.

Type 3-1. *RS (RV-NP) RS.*

Instance of *RV=say*:

But (says he) *I would not wish you to approach; for I am sure you will be in Love as soon as you behold her.* (p. 172)

Other instances: p. 141; *ibid.*; p. 148; p. 158; p. 172; p. 191; p. 199; p. 201; p. 205; p. 209.

Instance of *RV=reply*:

'I do not wonder (*reply'd the Prince*) that *Clemene* should refuse Slaves, being, as you say, so beautiful; but wonder how she escapes those that can entertain her as you can do: or why, being your Slave, you do not oblige her to yield?' (pp. 171-172)

Other instances: p. 141; p. 149; p. 164.

Instance of *RV=continue*:

'You may go back (*continued he*) and tell the faithless Governor, he may thank Fortune that I am

breathing my last; and that my Arm is too feeble to obey my Heart, in what it had design'd him.' (p. 205)

Type 3-2. *RS (RV-NP, V-ing) RS.*

Instance of *RV=continue*:

Go, (continued he, sighing) *and divide it amongst you, and reap with Joy what you so vainly prize, and leave me to my more welcome Destiny.* (p. 157)

This type is not found in *The Authorized Version* and *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

V. Synopsis

The reporting expressions of *Oroonoko* are summed up as follows.

1. The number of reporting clauses is 18.
2. The number of reporting verbs is 6.
3. The reporting verbs such as "continue," "cry," "reply" and "whisper" are used for the first time.
4. The reporting clauses which are placed between two reported speeches are enclosed with parentheses.
5. The reporting verb "cry" is used more frequently than "say."
6. When the co-ordinating conjunctive adverb "then" is placed at the beginning of a sentence, the inverted order "*RV-NP*" never occurs after it.
7. The prepositional phrases of manner such as "with a deep sigh, and a languish in Voice" are used for the first time.
8. The participle clauses of attendant circumstances are often used before or after *NP-RV*.

Tesxt

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