

A Study of the Verb in Malory's *Le Morte Darthur* (II)

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E. Governing Verb — Subjunctive Form

I. Verb in the governed clause — Past form

In the two examples the subjunctive is required by the main clause *I woll that* ... (cf. K.) and the subjunctive does not seem to affect the verb form in the clause it governs.

And I woll that all the worlde *wyte* that I, sir Gawayne, knyght of the Table
Rounde, *soughte* my dethe, and nat thorow thy deservynge, but myne owne sekynge.
1231/15-7

I woll that ye all *wyte* that as yet I *founde* never no maner of knyght but that I
was over harde for hym and I had done myne utteraunce, ... 1198/11-4

In the first of the above quotations the time-sphere is past and in the second, perfect. The next one has the governing verb in periphrastic subjunctive form, and the time-sphere of the clause is simple past.

Yet I woll nat say that hit shall be so, but rather I *wolde sey* : * here in thys
worlde he *chaunged* hys lyff. 1242/25-7 (r. s.)

II. Verb in the governed clause — Perfect form

Only one example is found. The sentence structure is the same as in the first two examples of the type I. The time-sphere is present perfect.

now I woll that ye *wyte* that my deth-dayes *be com!* 1230/18-9

III. Verb in the governed clause — Subjunctive form

The subjunctive form in the noun clause is required by the governing verb (modally marked) or the governing main clause, which is often of the formulaic character, expressing the wish or desire of the speaker: *Jesu defende, I wolde (that)*, etc.

The time-sphere of the noun clause is present when the verb takes the subjunctive past form (modally marked), as in,

For now I *wolde know* whych *were* my frendis fro my foes, 1170/6-7 (i. q.)

'... But wolde to God,' seyde he, 'that I *wyste* now where *were* that traytoure sir Mordred...' 1236/19-20 (r. s.)

and future when it takes the present form²² as in,

'Jesu *deffende* me,' seyde sir Gawayne, 'that I never *se* hit nor *know* hit.' 1175/25-6

[1219/14-6] ²³

The verb may be periphrastic 'aux. (modally marked) + inf.', as in,

And God *deffende* but that I *shulde forsake* the worlde as ye have done! 1253/11-3

I *wolde counceyle* you nat to be over hasty, but that ye *wolde put* hit in respite,...
1174/31-2

The time-sphere in the above two is future. The next one with modally marked subjunctive forms in both the governing and the governed clauses expresses the present time-sphere.

Who *wolde wene* that thou that hast bene to me so leve and dere, and also named so noble a knyght, that thou *wolde betray* me for the ryches of thys swerde? 1239/28-31

F. Governing Verb — Imperative Form

Whether the governing verb is imperative or not does not seem to affect the verb form of the dependent clause.

I. Verb in the governed clause — Present form

The time-sphere of the clause is present or future.

Now *thynke* what ye *ar* and what men we *ar*, ... 1214/4-5 (i. q.)

... than, I pray you, *counceile* me what *ys* beste for me to do, 1172/11-2 (i. q.)

and whan thou commyste there, I charge the throw my swerde in the water, and com agayne and *telle* me what thou *syeste* there, 1238/34-1239/2 (r. s.)

In the last two quotations *I pray you*, *I charge the* are used parenthetically to add deference or dignity to a request or order respectively.

22. *Se* and *know* are regarded as modally non-marked subjunctive present, judging from the verb forms of the similar examples in MED *dēfenden* 11.(a) & 7.(c).

23. The next *that*-clause may be classified as this sentence type, but considering *kepe and save* ... comes in-between, the better interpretation would be to regard it as semi-independent clause of wish.

'Now *Jesu deffende* me from shame,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'and kepe and save my lady the queene from vylany and shameful dethe, and *that she never be destroyed in my defaute!* ... 1172/1-4

II. Verb in the governed clause — Past form

The time-sphere is always past.

And, [good lord, *remembre* ye of your nyghtes dreme and] what the spyryte of sir Gawayne *tolde* you tonyght, ... 1236/30-2

And also *remembir* you, sir Gawayne, * he *slew* two sunnes of youres, ... 1175/31-2 ²⁴

III. Verb in the governed clause — Future (aux. + inf.) form

The time-sphere is always future. Only one example is found.

And than *sey* ye to my moste redouted kyng that I *woll sey* largely for the quene, that I *shall* none *excepte* for drede nother for feare but the kyng hymself and my lorde sir Gawayne; 1195/34-1196/3 (r. s.)

IV. Verb in the governed clause — Perfect form

Only one present perfect example is found. The time-sphere is the present-perfect.

I pray you *remembir* what I *have done* in many placis, and now am I evyll rewarded. 1192/25-7 ²⁵

V. Verb in the governed clause — Subjunctive form ²⁶

Three examples collected express the event in the future time-sphere. *Sende* is the modally marked form.

praye for me whyle I am on lyve that God *sende* me good delyveraunce. 1260/22-3
loke that ye *com* on fyersely and so *sle* all... 1235/13-4 ²⁷ [1235/10-1 conj. omitted]

G. Governing Verb — Infinitive

24. Note from the two quotations the fluctuation of the case of the pronouns *ye* and *you* as nominative.

25. Note the contrast of the perfect (*have done*) and the present (*am rewarded*).

26. 'Predicative clause 1. *completive sub-clauses* often followed an imperative with a zero subordinant, or with *to pan pat* 'so that' and required the subjunctive.' Mossé, *Handbook of ME*, § 160.

27. *Com* and *sle* cannot be definitely labeled as subjunctive since the subject is *ye*, but judging from the examples found in OED, these can be safely said to be modally non-marked subjunctives in the clause after *loke ye*.

So far the governing verb itself has the finite form²⁸: present (past) form indicative and subjunctive, and imperative. But the following examples are those in which the infinitive, either dependent on or independent of the verb (mostly auxiliary) in the main clause, governs the noun clause. In the second case the infinitive has *to* before it. The verb form of the noun clause does not seem to be determined by the infinitive but, here too, by the finite verb (form /meaning) of the main clause.

G-1 Governing Verb — Infinitive after the auxiliary verb

Examples collected are those in which the auxiliary verb is present, but this is only accidental.

I. Verb in the governed clause — Indicative present form (cf. A. I. 1.)

The time-sphere is present.

'Now lat se whatsomever he be in thys place that *dare sey* * the quene *ys* nat trew unto my lorde Arthur, lat se who woll speke and he dare speke.' 1202/19-21

In the above example the governing verb is not in the independent clause but in the adjectival (relative) clause.

II. Verb in the governed clause — Indicative past form (cf. A. II.)

The time-sphere is past.

And therefore I *may* never *belyeve* that sir Launcelot *slew* my brethern. 1185/5-6

III. Verb in the governed clause — Aux. (modally non-marked) + inf. (cf. A. IV.)

The time-sphere is future.

... But I *may* never *beleve* you,' seyde the quene, 'but that ye *woll turne* to the worlde agayne.' 1253/8-9

G-2 The verb in the main clause is imperative with an infinitive which governs the subordinate clause. In the next quotation verb in the noun clause and the time-sphere it represents is present.

28. except when the aux. is *will* or *shall*, which examples have been treated in D. (pp.72~73 *Studies in Humanities*, No.6, Faculty of Arts, Shinshu Univ., March 1972)

'Now go thou, sir Lucan,' seyde the kyng, 'and do me *to wyte* what *betokyns* that noyse in the fylde.' 1237/30-1 (i. q.)²⁹

G-3 Here follow the examples in which, though the infinitive governs the noun clause, it is not so closely connected with the main verb as in G-1. The infinitive takes *to* before it.

In the following two quotations the *to*-infinitive is functioning as a kind of object of the main verb and so it is not so independent as in the I, II, III below. The time-sphere is future-in-the-past (first) and past (second).

they *promysed* sir Launcelot *to do* what he *wolde*. 1170/25-6

And now I *have forborne* you and *suffirde* you halff a yere, and sir Gawayne, *to do* what ye *wolde do*. 1215/35-1216/1

I. Governing clause — Subjunctive (present) Form + *to*-inf. // Governed clause — Indicative present form (cf. E. I.)

The time-sphere is present.

I mervayle that we all *be* nat *ashamed* bothe *to se* and *to know* how sir Launcelot *lyeth* dayly and nyghtly by the quene. 1161/19-20

The infinitive expresses the cause of being ashamed.

II. Governing clause — Past Form + *to*-inf. // Governed clause — Indicative past form (cf. B. II.)

The past form of the verb in the noun clause is the result of the sequence of tenses. The infinitive expresses the purpose 'in order to do...'. The time-sphere is future-in-the-past.

and there they *abode* styll *to wyte* what the kynge *wold do*. 1173/30-1

And so with thys sir Lucan *lad* the damesell *to the* kynge, where he sate with syr Gawayne, *for to hyre* what she *wolde say*. 1213/8-10 (r. s.)

III. Governed clause — Subjunctive (present) Form + *to*-inf. // Governed clause — Indicative perfect form (cf. E. III.)

The time-sphere is present perfect.

And where hit *please* you *to say* that I *have holdyn* my lady, youre puene, yerys and wynters, unto that I shall ever make a large answe, ... 1188/10-2

29. Cf. *dōn* 4(c) ~(*to, til*) *understonden* (*kenmen, knouen, witen*), to give (sb.) to understand (sth.), cause (sb.) to know, let (sb.) know, inform, show. [MED]

H. Governing Verb — Present Participle

Only two examples are found in which the noun clause is governed by the present participle. The main clause which contains the participle is in the past time-sphere, and the (modally marked) subjunctive form of the verb in the noun clause is required by the meaning of the verb in the participle (*charge*, *wene*) which usually takes the subjunctive in its object clause.

and the Pope gaff [hym bulles] undir leade, and *sente* hem unto the kynge, *chargyng* hym uppon payne of entirdyng of all Inglonde that he *take* hys quene agayne and *accorde* with sir Launcelot. 1194/16-9

And peraventure my lady the quene *sente* for hym to that entente, that sir Launcelot sholde a com prevaly to her, *wenyng* that hyt *had be* beste in eschewing [and dredyng] of slaundir; 1175/9-12

The subjunctive perfect in the second quotation indicates that the quene Guinevere's 'wenyng' did not succeed and what she had dreaded and wanted to avoid did occur. In the first the noun clause is the reported indirect speech of a command that may or may not be done by king Arthur.

I. When the governed clause is complex sentence

So far the verb is followed by a simple noun clause but in the following quotations, the main verb governs the complex sentence, subordinate clauses being mostly the subjunctive *if*, *an[d]*(=if) clauses.

the kynge tolde hem of hys avision : that sir Gawayne *had tolde* hym and *warned* hym that and he *fought* on the morne, he *sholde be slayne*. 1234/23-6 (r. s)

Judging from the corresponding part in the direct narration (see below) which is uttered by Gawayne, *fought* and *sholde be slayne* are not subjunctives but the past forms resulting from the sequence of tenses.

and ye *fyght* as to-morne with sir Mordred, as ye bothe have assygned, doute ye nat ye *shall be slayne*, and the moste party of youre people on bothe partyes. 1234/7-10

The governing verb may take the present (past, future or perfect) form as the case may be, but does not affect the form of the verb in the noun clause if either or both of the principal and the subordinate clauses of the complex noun clause take the modally marked subjunctive forms (*be*, *were*, etc. in the following quotations).

And, my lorde, *mesemyth* * I *had loste* a grete parte of my worshyp in my knyghthod and I *had suffird* my lady, youre quene, to have ben brente, 1188/28-30 ³⁰

And also I *woll counceyle* you, my lorde, that my lady quene Gwenyver, and she *be* in ony distres, insomuch as she ys in payne for youre sake, that ye knyghtly *rescow* her; 1171/25-8

In the second quotation the governing verb is in the future form, but the time-sphere is present and it is almost the same as 'I counceyle you' with a slight force of 'will' on the part of the speaker.

In the next quotation the principal clause of the complex sentence is originally the verb in the indicative future form and is put into the past form, affected by the governing verb in the past form, the result of the sequence of tenses. The last two *were*'s are the modally marked subjunctives and retain their forms.

But so, to make shorte tale, they *were* all *condiscended* that, for bettir othir for wars, if so *were* that the quene *were brought* on that monne to the fyre, shortly they all *wolde rescow* here. 1173/26-9

There are two examples in which, though the noun clause is complex and so should be quoted here, the direct narration is only half put into the indirect narration. These two will be mentioned when some peculiar features of the sentence structures are treated.

J. When the governed clause is preceeded by its anticipatory pronoun

The noun clause may not be directly governed by the principal verb but is put at the latter part of the whole sentence and the pronoun (anticipatory *it*, *this* or *that*) takes its position as formal object.³¹ Only four examples are col-

30. Cf. A. V. (pp. 66-7 *Studies in Humanities*, No. 6, Faculty of Arts, Shinshu Univ., March 1972)

31. More frequent are the use of the anticipatory *it* as formal subject.

hit ys beste *that* we *brynge* you to som towne. 1238/8-9 // therefore us semyth *hit* ys more youre worshyp *that* ye *rescow* the quene from thys quarell, 1172/19-21 // *hit* is shame *that* we *suffir* hem thus to ryde over oure londys. 1211/19-20 // And therefore, madam, and *hit* lyke you *that* I *may have* you with me, I shall save you frome all maner adventures daungers. 1168/27-9 // Than *hit* befelle uppon a day *that* sir Gawayne *cam* afore the gatis, 1215/7-8 [1187/15-7] // And *hit* woll be well done *that* ye *se* hys tumbre, and secundly *that* ye *revenge* my lorde Arthur and my lady quene Gwenyver. 1249/32-1250/2

In the next quotation of the similar context as the last quotation, the verb forms in *that*-clause are unsymmetrical with regard to tense, the former being the subjunctive past and the latter the (subjunctive) present. The time-sphere is future in both.

'*It* were wel done,' sayde the heremyte, '*that* ye *made* you redy and *that* ye *dyschobeye* not the avysyon.' 1255/23-4

403 In case the principal sentence takes the passive construction and the subordinated noun clause anticipated by *it* is the logical object of the main verb

lected and in two of them the formal *it* is used apparently because they have the verbal phrase *make...good*, and in other two, because of the stylistic reason:

in the active voice, the examples can be classified according to the way we have taken.

(A-II) yet may *hit* never be seyde on me and opynly preved *that* ever I be forecaste of treson *slew* no goode knyght as ye, my lorde sir Gawayne, have done. 1189/34-1190/3 [time-sphere : present perfect] (r.s.) // (B-III) also *hit* was tolde hym *how* sir Mordred *had leyde* a syge aboute the Towre of London, bycause the [quen]e would nat [wed]de hym 1249/7-10 [time-sphere : before past or pluperfect] (r.s.) // (D-II) my harte woll nat serve me for to se her dye, and *hit* shall never be seyde *that* ever I was of youre counceyle for her deth. 1176/20-2 [time-sphere : past in the future] (r.s.) // (A-V) *hit* ys sha [n]efully suffird of us all *that* we *shulde suffir* so noble a kynge as kynge Arthur ys to be shamed. 1161/21-3 [time-sphere : present]

In connection with the noun clause anticipated by the formal subject or object we may mention here what is usually termed 'content clause'. The noun clause is the explanatory clause of the preceding noun functioning as subject or as object of the sentence.

[SUBJECT]

<Verb form — past : past; time-sphere of the content clause — past>

for than *was the comyn voyce* amonge them *that* with kynge Arthur *was* never othir lyff but warre and stryff, and with sir Mordred *was* grete joy and blysse. 1228/35-1229/2 [1258/31-3]

<Verb form — past : past perfect & past; time-sphere — before past and past>

Than *cam* there *worde* unto sir Mordred *that* kynge Arthure *had areysed* the syge frome sir Launcelot and *was commynge* homewarde wyth a greate oste to be avenged uppon sir Mordred, 1228/30-3 [1211/15-8]

<Verb form — past : past (modally marked?); time-sphere — future in the past> And so *the covenaunte was made*, * there *sholde* no man *nyghe* hem nother *deale* them tylle... 1216/18-9

[OBJECT]

<Verb form — present : future; time-sphere — future>

Than I *put this case* unto you', seyde sir Launcelot, '*that* my lorde...by evyll counceile *woll* to-morne in his hete *put* my lady the quene unto the fyre...1172/8-10

<Verb form — past : past; time-sphere — past>

Than *had* sir Gawayne *suche a grace and gyffte*...*that* every day in the yere, frome undern tyll hyghe noone, hys myght *encrested* tho three owres as much as thryse hys strength. 1216/31-4

<Verb form — past : past (modally non-marked); time-sphere — future-in-the-past>

So on the morne kynge Arthure rode an-huntyng and *sente worde* to the quene *that* he *wolde be* oute all that nyght. 1164/6-8 [1217/1-4, 1257/29-31, 1204/14-6, 1194/26-31]

<Verb form — future : future ; time-sphere — future>

now I *shall make* you *a promyse* whyche I shall holde be my knyghthode, *that* frome thys day forewarde I *shall* never *fayle* sir Launcelot untyll that one of us have salyne that othir. 1186/2-5 [1163/28-30]

<Subordinated to an infinitive suggesting the future action>

and lat hym *have knowlecchyng that* the same day eyght dayes, by the grace of God, I myself *shall bryng* the quene unto hym. 1195/32-4 // God hath sente me to you of Hys speciall grace to gyff you *warnyng that* in no wyse ye *do* batayle as to-morne, but *that* ye *take* a trefte for a moneth-day. 1234/13-5

In the next content clause *was smytten* is the event that occurred in the past both at the time of Gawayn's speaking and at the time when Launcelot will *have the knowlecche*, but *am*

here, the pronoun takes the emphatic pre-position.

I here myselff, sir Launcelot du Lake, woll make *hit* good uppon hys body *that* she *ys* trew lady unto you. 1197/9-10 [1188/9-11 & 11-5]

'*That* may I nat beleve,'..., '*that* ever he *slew* my good brother sir Gareth,... 1184 /34-1185/1

But *th[ys]*, my fayre newew, I wolde that ye ded, in all haste that ye may, [or] hit ys far dayes paste: *that* ye *woll loke* in their lodgyng that ben lodged nyghe here aboute the kynge, whych woll holde with me and whych woll nat. 1170/3-6

The use of formal object does not affect the verb form and the time-sphere in the governed clauses. The time-sphere in the first quotation: future — present+future³²; in the second: present — past; in the third: present — future (*that*-clause takes the subjunctive form *ded*, the usual form after *I woulde*³³, and the second paraphrastic *that*-clause takes the future form, apparently because the second clause is not put immediately after *I would* clause.).

K. Type 'I will (or would) that ...'

'I am sure that ...'

Type 'I will (that)...' and 'I would (that)...'³⁴ express a strong desire on the part of the speaker that something should be done, and this is especially

come is not the past event at the time of speaking, though it is so when Launcelot *has the knowlecche*.

lattyng the to have **knowlecche** *that* the tenth day of May I *was smytten* uppon the olde wounde that thou gaff me afore the cité of Benwyke, and thorow that wounde I am com to my dethe-day. 1231/11-4

In the next, *shulde bryng* is the subjunctive (modally marked) and the time-sphere is present.

God hath gyvyn hem **that grace** at their grete prayer,..., *that* they *shulde bryng* me hydder unto yoy. 1234/4-6

The expression *make mention that ...* is a kind of a noun plus the content-clause type, but unlike the examples given above, *make mention* is always used as one unit, as the governing verbal phrase of the following clause. When *make* is in the present form, the governed clause may take any tense form.

And somme Englysshe bookes **maken mencyon** *that* they *wente* never oute of Englonde after the deth of syr Launcelot — 1260/5-6 [1260/7-10]

cf. And *whether* they *were* abed other at other maner of disportis, me lyst nat thereof **make no mencion**, 1165/11-3

When the verb is the past, the occurrence of the present and future form is very rare in the clause.

The next one is a variation of this type.

whan they sawe syr Launcelot endure suche penaunce in prayers and fastynges they *toke no force* what payne they *endured*, 1255/10-2

The conjunction introducing the noun clause is not omitted.

32. Cf. D.I. (p.72 *Studies in Humanities*, No.6, Faculty of Arts, Shinshu Univ., March. 1972)

33. Cf. K. Type 'I will (or would) that...'

34. Cf. Visser, *ibid.* § 814.

true with the *I would* construction, which usually is followed by the subjunctive past form (modally marked) in the *that*-clause. In the *I would* sentence, the time-sphere of the noun clause is future when the verb takes the past form, and past when it takes the past perfect form.

And *I wolde* that ye *leffte* [all thys,] and make you nat so bysy,... 1161/32-3³⁵

Therefore, and hit be sothe as ye say, *I wolde* that he *were takyn* with the dede. 1163/18-9 [1213/6-7]

For all thys worlde *I wolde* nat that they *were slayne*,... 1184/28-9

In the next quotation, *that*-clause immediately after *I wolde* takes the subjunctive *ded* but in the following paraphrastic *that*-clause the verb has the present indicative form *woll*, probably because the second clause is not governed directly by the *I would* clause.

But th[y]s, my fayre newew, *I wolde* taht ye *ded*, in all haste that ye may, or it ys far dayes paste : that ye *woll loke* in their lodgyng that ben lodged nyghe here aboute the kyng, whyche *woll* holde with me and whych *woll* nat. 1170/3-6

Two variant expressions of this type are,

...But *wolde to God*, seyde he, 'that *I wyste* now where were that traytour sir Mordred that hath caused all thys myschyff.' 1236/19-21

'Sir, *God wold* * they *had ben armed*,' 1199/11

The clause-introducing *that* can be done without, as in,

'hit ys beste that we bryngye you to som towne.' — '*I wolde* * hit *were* so,' 1238/8-10

The future time-sphere may also be expressed by aux. (modally marked) + inf., as in,

'and hit myght please God, *I wolde* that they *wolde take* me and *sle* me and *suffir* you to ascape.' 1167/1-3

wolde ye that I *shuld turne* agayne unto my contrey and thereto wedde a lady ? 1252/30-1253/1

Among the four *I will that* sentences, three take *wyte* as the verb in the *that*-clause;

now *I will* that ye *wyte* that my deth-dayes be come ! 1230/18-9[1198/11-2, 1231/15-7]

But sythhyn I am com so far uppon thys journey, *I will* that ye *gyff* the damesell her answe, 1213/20-2

The time-sphere is immediate future.

35. Judging from the verb form (*make*, not *made*) the latter half of this quotation is not the part of the *that*-clause, but the independent imperative clause. But from the meaning it also is the content of the wish of the speaker. Cf. non-use of the subjunctive form in the second clause in the third example of J. (1170/3-6) and the example (1255/23-4) quoted in the second paragraph of Note 32.

Type 'I am sure that ...' ³⁶ When the verb in the governing clause is present, the verb form of the *that*-clause can be anything except the past perfect form. The conjunction can be done without.

<time-sphere — present> Wyte you well *I am* ryght *hev* for youre sake that ye thus *sewe* uppon me. 1215/31-2

<time-sphere — future> for *I am sure* that whan sir Gawayne knowyth hereoff that sir Gareth ys slayne, I *shall* never *have* reste of hym tyll ... 1183/28-30 ³⁷ // *I am sure* * there *nys* but warre unto me and to myne. 1170/9-10

For well *I am assured* that sir Bors, my nevewe, and all the remenaunte of my kynne, with sir Lavayne and sir Urré, that they *woll* nat *fayle* you to rescow you from the fyer. 1166/18-20

<time-sphere — present perfect> for now *I am sure* * the noble felyshyp of the Rounde Table *ys brokyn* for ever, 1174/14-5

'*I am glad* that thys *ys done*' 1235/7

<time-sphere — past>

In the next sir Launcelot was lamenting what he had done. The subjunctive *shulde do thus* belongs, together with *ever*, to the past time-sphere.

Now, alas, I may sey *I am unhappy* th[at] ever I *shulde do* thus. 1249/27-8 ³⁸

In the next quotation *knew* implies that sir Launcelot regarded the glorious deeds which he and his men had done as the events happening in the days far removed, though actually it was not so, from the moment of speaking.

And well *I am sure* * I *knew* many rebellyons in my dayes that by me and myne were peased; 1204/5-7

When the verb in the governing clause is past, the verb form of the *that*-clause can be anything except the future form. The time-sphere is 'past : past (modally marked subjunctive form)' (first quotation) and 'past : future-in-the-past' (second) and 'past : perfect' (third).

the kyng *was* full *lothe* that such a noyse *shulde be* uppon sir Launcelot and his quene; 1163/20-2

And thys day was assygned on Monday aftir Trynyté Sunday, whereof kyng Arthur *was* passyng *glad* that he *myght be avenged* uppon sir Mordred. 1233/2-4

Now wyte you well the quene *was glad* that she *was* at that tyme *ascaped* frome the dethe, ... 1178/10-2

36. In 'I am adj. that...' some grammarians take *that*-clause as adverbial.

37. Cf. I. (p. 56)

38. The use of *shulde do* instead of *did* may be compared with 'alas that ... ever should...' construction.

cf. 'And in an unhappy owre was I born *that ever* I *shulde have* that myssehappe to sle firste sir Gawayne, sir Gaherys, ... and myne owne frynde sir Gareth...' 1249/23-6

- L. Type 'I dare say ...' and 'wete you well ...' and other clauses not to be taken as the type 'governing verb + object clause'.

All the following constructions, though in meaning they can be regarded as governing the clause which comes immediately after, are better to be taken as independent clauses of assertion, order or request, emphatic questions, etc. Their common feature is that they are more or less parenthetical and stereotypical and that there is rarely any connecting conjunction between the following clauses. E. Vinaver, the editor of the book, usually puts a comma before and after this clause when it is not separated by such phrases as 'sayd syr so and so' or 'my lord, sir so and so'.

Type 'I dare say...'

for *I dare say* my brothir loved hym bettir than me and all hys brethirn and the kynge bothe. 1185/1-3 [1175/15-8] // Also *I dare say*, an sir Launcelot had desyred my brothir sir Gareth with hym, he wolde have ben with hym ayenste the kynge and us all. 1185/3-5

... And now *I dare sey*, seyde sir Launcelot, 'I mette never wyth so stronge a knyght nor so well-fyghtyng as was sir Carados and sir Tarquyn,... 1198/31-3 [1259/10, 1184/5-7] / For *I dare sey*, as for sir Gareth, he loved sir Launcelot of all men earthly. 1183/20-1

Type 'wete you (or thou) well ...'

The *wete* here is imperative and the clause means 'be assured', 'you may be certain', 'you must know', 'let me tell you', etc.

My lordis bothe, *wyte you well* all thys ys in vayne that ye make at thys syge, 1187/18-9 [1168/26-7, 1220/32, 1161/26-7, 1163/24-5, 1164/35-1165/1, 1166/6-7, 1176/25-6 & 31-2, 1186/6-7, 1190/28-9 & 34-1191/2, 1195/23, 1201/31-3, 1203/17-9, 1212/18-20, 1215/31-2, 1218/12-3, 1219/11-2, 1220/23-4, 1249/21-2, 1251/12-4 & 24, 1252/11-3, 1253/2-3, 1257/21-7] / As for my lady the quene, *wyte thou well*, I woll never say [of] her shame. 1189/9-11

... for *wyte thou well*, seyde sir Gawayne, 'thou arte bothe false to the kynge and to me.' 1200/18-20 [1176/19-20]

But *wyte thou well*, sir Gawayne, I woll never smyte a felde knyght'. 1218/5-6 [1167/33-4, 1189/23-5, 1191/17, 1201/23-4, 1213/18-9, 1221/11]

The parenthetical character is well seen in the next quotations in which this clause comes between the adverbial clauses and the main clauses.

syth hit ys so that the day ys com that oure love muste departe, *wyte you well* I shall selle my lyff as dere as I may. 1166/29-31 / 'Gyff hit be so,' seyde the kyng, '*wyte you well*, he ys non othir. 1163/12-3 [1166/29-31, 1190/11-4, 1201/34-6, 1219/35-6]

The next quotation is the only one eample which supports that the type 'wyte thou well...' can be taken as the governing clause of the *that*-clause.

Wyte thou well that I woll <nat> lyve longe aftir thy dayes. 1166/25-6

A variation of this clause is seen in,

for *wyte thou well and truste hit*, I am thy mortall foo and ever woll to my deth-day; 1187/29-30

Here follow other clauses not to be taken as the governing clauses :

For *ye wote well*, sir Gawayne, I know youre myght and all that ye may do, and *well ye wote*, sir Gawayne, ye may nat greatly hurte me.' 1219/6-9

and *doute ye nat*, sir Launcelot woll nat go wyth you. 1163/27-8 [1234/7-10]

And *ye shall undirstonde*, suche lyvelode as I am borne unto I shall departe with you in thys maner of wyse : 1203/21-3 // and yet my londis *I undirstonde* be full bare for to sustayne any oste awhyle for the myghty warris ... 1212/19-21

for *I warne you*, ye shall fynde hym wyght. 1164/3-4

'Make you redy, *I pray you*, in youre beste armour,... 1176/13 // Brothir, sir Aggravayne, *I pray you and charge you*, meve no such matters no more afore me,... 1161/25-6

Loke ye take no discomforte! // And to thy kyngedom *loke thou* turne agayne, and kepe well the realme frome warre and wrake,... 1252/21-3

(to be continued)