英語における女ことば

吉田孝夫

Women’s Language

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略称

BH  Bleak House
C  The Chimes
CH  The Cricket on the Hearth
DC  David Copperfield
DS  Dombey and Son
LD  Little Dorrit
MC  Martin Chuzzlewit
NN  Nicholas Nickleby
OCS  The Old Curiosity Shop
OMF  Our Mutual Friend
OT  Oliver Twist
SB  Sketches by Boz

以上の C. Dickens (1812-70) のテキストは
The New Oxford Illustrated Dickensに掲載される。

ND  New Dresses
RPD  Mr. Reginald Peacock’s Day
S  The Stranger
SL  The Singing Lesson
TA  A Truthful Adventure
TR  The Tiredness of Rosabel
V  The Voyage
WB  The Wind Blows
WH  The Wrong House

以上の K. Mansfield (1888-1923) のテキストは
The Short Stories of Katherine Mansfield
(Alfred A. Knope, 1961) に掲載される。

女性はしばしばその場の状況でそれとなく分
かるのは相手の想像にゆだねたり、相手に暗示
させて文を中断することがある。女性特有的控
え目な性質や恥じらいからくるものであるうか。

Be nice to her. Be frightfully nice to her.
Look after her. I don’t know how. We haven’t
talked yet. But show her — treat her — make
her feel — (ダッシュの部分には順次に ‘your
kindness’, ‘kindly’, ‘comfortable’ のようなこと
ばが考えられる) (Rosemary, CT)! I do hope
it’s nothing very serious. (Miss Wyatt) Oh
no, thank you, Miss Wyatt. It’s nothing bad
at all. It’s — it’s from my fiancé (原文, イタリック) saying that... saying that — (Miss
Meadows) I see (原文, イタリック). (Miss
Wyatt, SL) Which do you prefer, Con? (Jo-
sephine) I think it might be nice to have it
fried. On the other hand, of course, boiled fish
is very nice. I think I prefer both equally well...
Unless you... In that case — (Constantia)

I shall fry it. (Kate (=servant girl), DLC, 10)

Rose is perfect with the child — but Helen... (Mrs. Carsfield, ND)

単刀直入の表現をさけた婉曲的な言い回しは
女性の好むところである。

I can’t bear it. I shall do away with myself (=kill myself). (Miss Smith, CT) I Bless her, she’s going off (=faint)! (Charlotte, OT, 6) a likely subject for the tender passion (=love)

ninny, noddy は ‘fool’ に比せて当たりがや
わらくか感情的である。

I shan’t be shocked like those other ninnies.
(Mrs. Kember, ATB, 5) I To think that I shou be such a noddy! (Mrs. Squeers, NN, 7)

ある陳述に I think, I wonder, Do you think [feel] (...?) を前置きすることによって断音を
緩和する。

I think I’ll go to bed. (Mrs. Carsfield’s
mother, ND) I think I’ll follow mother. Bed’s
the place for me. (Mrs. Carsfield, Ibid.) I Which
do you prefer, Con? (Josephine) I think it
might be nice to have it fried. On the other
hand, of course, boiled fish is very nice. I
think I prefer both equally well... Unless you...
In that case — (Constantia, DLC, 10) I
wonder if you’d mind, stewardess, laying down
my umbrella. (Mrs. Crane, V) I wonder if Miss
Fulton has forgotten? (Bertha, B) I Do you
think we could ask Kate for two cups of hot
water? (Josephine, DLC, 7) I Do you feel that
you really know me now? (Fanny, H)

sort of, or something は表現をぼかす働きをする。

Why do you keep stopping and sort of staring at the wall? (Kezia, ATB, 7) You’re always saying or looking or hinting that I’ve changed. Just because I’ve got to know really congenial people, and go about more, and am frightfully keen on — on everything, you behave as though I’d — killed our love or something. (Isabel, MM)

you know をはきることによりことば全体を
やわらくする。口語的な話し方では、ときに
はむだなものを入れることによって、話しの内
容を聞きやすくする。well についても同様の
ことが言えるよう。

You know Bruges is simply packed with
treasures and churches and pictures. (Betty,
TA) I We’re frightfully keen on the Suffrage,
you know. (Ibid.) I Guy and I aren’t a honey-
moon couple, you know. (Ibid.) I Well, you
didn’t see Helen’s clothes when I took off to-
night. (Mrs. Carsfield, ND) I Well, it really is
(原文,  Indie) Rose’s colour. Her com-
plexion is so much more vivid than Helen’s.
(Ibid.)

次のような持って回ったまわりくどい表現は
女性の好むところ。

Do you think we could ask Kate for two
cups of hot water? (Josephine) I really don’t
see why we shouldn’t. (Constantia, DLC, 7) It
isn’t that I’m not awfully fond of you. I am.
(Anne, D) I David Copperfield, I shall not
attempt to disguise the fact, that I formed an
unfavourable opinion of you in your childhood.
(Miss Murdstone, DC, 26)

What have you got in your hand? は少々ぶっ
きからぼうで不愛想に響くが、What のあとに is
that [it] を挿入してワンショッショをしばしば表現がおだやかでやわらかくなる。

What’s that you’ve got in your hand? (Linda,
ATB, 11) What is it exactly that I want,
Harry? (the girl, TR)

付加疑問、否定疑問についても同様のことが
言えよう。「否定」が表示されているため、相手に
反論の余地を与えるからである。

It is a nice style, isn’t it? (Mrs. Stubbs, ATB,
8) I This is better, isn’t it? (Matilda, WB) I
Won’t you take off your hat? Your pretty hair
is all wet. And one is so much more comfort-
able without a hat, isn’t one? (Rosemary, CT)
I My dear! aren’t they too like frogs for words?
(Kitty, GP) I Aren’t they charming? (Mrs.
Carsfield, ND) I I’m feverish and quite flushed.
Don’t I look flushed? (Elsa, AB) | Isn’t it extraordinary to think that here we are quite alone, away from everybody, with nobody to tell us to go home, or to — to order us about except ourselves? (Fanny, H) | Isn’t it an awful day! (Matilda, WB) | Oh, ain’t it lovely! (one of the girls, DH)

Fortunately I have to go home quite soon. (the heroine, TA) | After all — this is my room; I’ll have to ask you to go. (Elsa, AB) | What we’ve got to decide now, however, is whether we really do trust Kate or not. (Josephine, DLC, 10)

Don’t cry, poor little thing. Don’t cry. (Rosemary, C7) | Lucky little creature. (Mrs. Kember, ATB, 5) | Poor little motherless mite! (Edwardess, ET) It’s so lovely day. (Beryl, 471, 5) | Your lovely pear tree! (Miss Fulton, FA) | I’m a lovely young bud! (Dollicas, WH) | Aren’t they (= lilies) lovely? (Mrs. Sheridan, GP) | Oo, oo! Lovely, lovely! (referring to a little line of foam) (Pearl, HPBK) | Tell her to wear that sweet hat she had on last Sunday. (Nanny, 8) Oh, Harry, isn’t it (= the hat) adorable. I must have that! (the girl, TR) | We’ve got a few wine biscuits and Fenella has a very nice banana. (Mrs. Crane, V) | Be nice to him, my children! (Isabel, MM) | You’re nice — you’re very nice! (Bertha, B) | He was
always very nice to father. (Constantia, DLC, 1) | It’s much nicer to be weak than to be strong. (Id., 6) | It’s been so nice. (Mrs. Knight, B) | If I may venture to point out to madam, the flowers on the little lady’s bodice. (the shopman) Charming! (Rosemary, CT) | That’s (原文, イタリック) what I find so charming! (Mrs. Markleham, DC, 45) | I saw a fascinating little box to-day. (Rosemary, CT) | It would be so fascinating in twenty years’ time. (Isable, MM) | The flowers were too marvellous. (Miss Brittle, RPI) | I Listen, it’s too marvellous. A love-letter! (Isabel, MM) | Hasn’t it been a divine day! (Bertha, George) | The smell! The most divine . . . (Fanny, H) | Cf. The water was divine. (Bobby, MM) | There are some round things which really look too divine. (Ibid.) | It’s such a heavenly morning. (Miss Brittle, RPD) | I have never seen such exquisite sandwitches. (Jose, GP) | Oh, Mr. Warren, what happy (=suitable) socks! (Mrs. Knight, B) | 男性的纖細な気性がことごとくに反映し、驚き・驚愕の感情を示す形容語が多用される。

It is quite a story for twilight. How very shocking! Dead? (Lady Dedlock, BH, 12) | Oh, Dombey, Dombey! this is very shocking. (Miss Blimber, DS, 12) | O-oh, how awful! (Isabel, DH) | Isn’t it an awful day! (Matilda, WB) | But how dreadful! (Bertha, B) | It is all so dreadful. (Josephine, DLC, 5) | Stop! Stop! This is awful. This is dreadful. What’s the matter with you all? Think, girls, think of what you’re singing. Use your imaginations. . . . (Miss Meadows, SL) | The food altogether was too appalling. (Marion, IF) | Because I feel so horrid about it. (Anne, D) | Come along, your horrid old train is late. (Isabel, MM) | What a horrible combination it sounds. (Mrs. Sheridan, GP) | How extraordinary! (Rosemary, CT) | What (原文, イタリック) is that extraordinary smell? (Marie’s mother, WB) | Don’t be so extravagant. (Jose, GP) | Really monstrous! (Mrs. Bowley, C, 2) | Cf. Who is the monster, child? (Mrs. Blimber, DS, 12) | I am sure I am ashamed to see Mr. Clennam, I am a mere fright, I know he’ll find me fearfully changed, . . . (Flora, LD, I, 13) | Have I lived to this day to be called a fright! (Miss Knag, NN, 18) | 恥しい感情の露見にまかせて思いつくかぎりの形容詞を羅列してくるのも女性語の特徴であろう。

Your’re a scolding, unjust, abusive, aggraviating, bad old creature! (Bella, OMF, III, 15) | A nasty, ungrateful, pig-headed, brutish, obstinate, sneaking dog. What does he mean by that? (Mrs. Squeers, NN, 13) | 次は副詞の例。

Those ridiculous points would have been smoothed away by the money, for I love money, and want money — want it dreadfully. I hate to be poor, and we are degradingly poor, offensively poor, miserably poor, beastly poor. (Bella, OMF, I, 4) | 日本語で「大変、非常に」の意味合いに「スゴクおとなしい」、「オソロシク可愛い」のような感情的色彩の漠い表現がある。英語における女性語にはこの種の表現にことかかえない。

Be nice to her. Be frightfully nice to her. (Rosemary, CT) | He was frightfully boring. (Elsa, AB) | Oh, but I do want to be a bee frightfully. (Kezia, ATB, 9) | The way mother harps (原文, イタリック) on things — it gets frightfully on my nerves. (Mrs. Carsfield, ND) | Mother, isn’t it really terribly heartless of us? (Laura, GP) | Darling, I want to ask you something fearfully important. (Fanny, H) | Why do you mind so fearfully? (Anne, D) | Even at this moment, when one would think one really would be solemn, your tie reminds me fearfully of the bow-tie that cats wear in pictures! (Ibid.)
and its so madden-

It makes me feel so silly. It makes me want

to laugh. I do look so absurd. (Miss Brittle,

strong emphasis on femininity and generi-

It's so exceedingly absurd. I believe this does happen very,

very rarely between women. (Bertha, B) ! Mr.

Copperfield was very kind to me, and took a
great deal of notice of me, and paid me a good
deal of attention, and at last proposed to me.

(Clara, DC, 1) ! I really must conquer

it, it's too absurd. (Anne, D) ! I really shall

have to see Dr. Malcolm about her stuttering, if

only to give her a good fright. (Mrs. Carsfield,

ND) ! What we've got to decide now, however,
is whether we really do trust Kate or not.

(Josephine, DLC, 10) ! Really, it's a sin for you
to wear clothes, my dear. (Mrs. Kember, ATB,

5) ! I picked her up in Curzon Street. Really.

She's a real pick-up. (Rosemary, CT) ! Do you
think we could ask Kate for two cups of hot

strong emphasis on femininity and generi-

It's so awfully absurd — and it's so madden-

ing, William. (Isabel, MM) ! Please! Please don't be

so dreadfully stuffy and — tragic. (Ibid.) ! You

look so dreadfully cold. (Rosemary, CT) ! We are so
dreadfully artificial. (Mrs. Skewton, DS, 21) ! I always had the idea you were so

frightfully keen on the future of women. (Betty, TA) ! . . . Why! Why! Why is the

middle-class so stodgy — so utterly without a
sense of humour! (Mrs. Knight, B) ! But I've

always heard they (=eggs) are considered so

very expensive. (Constantia, DLC, 10) ! They're such awfully nice men. (Laura, GP)

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very expensive. (Constantia, DLC, 10) ! They're such awfully nice men. (Laura, GP)
water? (Josephine) I really don’t see why we shouldn’t. (Constantia, DLC, 7) | My dear Ethel, if father prefers to tire himself out, I really don’t see what business of ours it is to interfere. (Marion, IF) | The passion-fruit ices really are rather special. (Laura, GP) | Oh, please, you mustn’t be frightened, you mustn’t, really. (Rosemary, CT) | Oh, please do let me. I want to, really. (Isabel, MM) | Surely you must see that, it’s so simple. (Anne, D) | Where is Harold? (Charlotte) He’s certainly not here, mother. (Ethel, IF) | Father certainly doesn’t want any cooking now whatever else — (Constantia, DLC, 10) | It’s her fu-fur which is so funny. It’s exactly like a fried whiting. (the girl, MB) | What is it exactly that I want, Harry? (the girl, TR) | That is perfectly true. (Constantia, DLC, 10) | Let’s send that poor creature some of this perfectly good food. (Mrs. Sheridan, GP) | I’ll take a taxi and come along as quickly as I can, but get dinner put back ten minutes — will you? All right? (Harry) Yes, perfectly. Oh, Harry! (Bertha, B) | Cf. Let us stay here — where we are — at this little table. It’s perfect, and the sea is perfect. (Fanny, H) | A perfect idiot! Imagine leaving anything on the line in weather like this. (Marie’s mother, WB) | I don’t think it’s absolutely necessary. (Josephine, DLC, 1)

mu yami to quite, just, simply, too (=very), indeed, possibly のような副詞を多用するのも女性語の特徴であろう。

You are quite wrong about her. (Bertha, B) | It’s quite all right. (Rosemary, CT) | It was quite a gaiyme. (Nurse Andrews, DLC, 2) | I’m so sorry to be laughing like this. I don’t know why I do. It’s just a bad ha-habit. (Anne, D) | What if I just won’t? (Kezia, ATB, 7) | I thought I should just say this afternoon... (Josephine, DLC, 2) | I’m every bit as sorry about it as you. I feel just as sympathetic. (Jose, GP) | I haven’t the slightest idea. I never have — just let things occur. (Elsa, AB) | It was simply marvellous. (Laura, GP) | Oh, what a bore! Simply everything is running down the steep cliffs into the sea, beginning with the butter. (Isabel, MM) | I simply took her home with me. (Rosemary, CT) | Now my best little Teneriffe work teacloth is simply in ribbons. (Marie’s mother, WB) | I’m too happy — too happy! (Bertha, B) | I really must conquer it (= the habit of laughing), it’s too absurd. (Anne, D) | Listen, it’s too marvellous. A love-letter! (Isabel, MM) | My dear! aren’t they too like frogs for words? (Kitty, GP) | The flowers were too marvellous. (Miss Brittle, RP) | I declare it’s a very hard case indeed, and I am a most unfortunate girl. (Bella, OMF, I, 4) | I couldn’t possibly marry a man I laughed at. (Anne, D) | But we can’t possibly have a garden party with a man dead just outside the front gate. (Laura, GP)

女性らしさを強調した副詞にようなものがある。

It is a nice style, isn’t it? (Mrs. Stubbs) Sweetly. (Alice, ATB, 8) | My Lady is looking charmingly well. (Mrs. Rouncewell, BH, 12) | My dear Dombey, how charmingly these people have carried out every idea that we hinted. (Mrs. Skewton, DS, 35) | Your little child will thrive charmingly with your sister Jemima, Richards. (Mrs. Chick, DS, 2) | Cf. You came through them charmingly, sir! (Dr. Chillip, DC, 59) | She is so charmingly ugly. (Maldon, DC, 36) | It suits you beautifully. (Rosabel, TR) | And it’ll fit beautifully. (Mrs. Chick, DS, 2) | They look beautifully light and feathery, I must say. (Jose, GP) | I love him because his eyes are so big and his hair waves and he dances divinely. (Lisette) (S. Maugham, Appearance and Reality) | You’re marvellously unshefish and... and kind and simple. (Anne, D)

to love [hate] + 不定詞または動名詞, would love to は女性の好む表現。

We love to have other people with us sometimes. (Betty, TA) | Cf. Good heavens, Anne, I
love to hear you laughing! (Reggie, D) I’ll come with you into the hall. I loved having you. (Bertha, B) They’ll hate missing you. (Isabel, MM) I would! I would love to tear her, limb from limb. (Mademoiselle Hortense, BH, 54)

The idea of ~ing! Fancy~! も女性の好む感嘆文。

The idea of a girl with a really fine head of hair, having to do it by one flat candle and a few inches of looking-glass! (Bella, OMF, 1, 4) But the idea, Amy, of you (原文、イタリック) coming behind! (Fanny, LD, I, 20) Oh, papa, fancy being married to Stanley Burnell! (Linda, ATB, 6) Fancy that! May I take it (green cashmere) out, Doctor? (Mrs. Carsfield’s mother, ND) Good heavens, how thoughtless I am! (Rosemary, CT) Gracious, father! What a fright you gave me! (Lola, IF) Oh, what a fright you gave me! (Mrs. Sheridan, GP) Why, what a Santa Claus! (Elsa, AB) Oh, what a bore! (Isabel, MM) Oh, what a bother! (Josephine, DLC, 2) Oh, what nonsense, Con! (Id., 1) What a weight! Let me carry it! To the gate. (Isabel, MM) What a perfect morning! (Old Mrs. Fairfield, ATB, 3) Ah, May! Dear, dear, what changes! To talk of those merry school-days makes one young again. (Mrs. Peerybingle, CH, 2) Why, Caleb! what a question! (Id., 1) What a mind! (Mrs. Markleham, DC, 45)

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Why *the dickens* didn’t the fellow stick to his part of the sea? (Stanley, *ATB*, 2)


(Pl Ways) | Doctor Malcolm, do you really like my dress? (Helen) | Of course I do, my lady. Don’t you? (Malcolm) Oh yes, I’d like to be born and *die* in it. But it was such a fuss — tryings on, you know, and pullings, and ‘don’ts.’ I believe mother would *kill me* if it got hurt. I even knelt on my petticoat all through church because of dust on the hassock. (Helen, *ND*)

Show me into the drawing-room. (Doctor Malcolm, *ND*) | Bring my tea into the smoking-room. (Kezia’s father, *LG*) | Cf. Mother, if you’ve finished that frock, would you go into the kitchen and heat up some coffee, and perhaps cut a plate of ham? (Mrs. Carsfield, *ND*)

一般に女性が標準語を用いるのに対して、男性は粗野な言い回しや新奇な俗語・口語表現を好む。

I’ve had the *hell* of a day. (Burnell, *ATB*, 11) | *Dashed annoying?* (Hammond, *S*) | You’ve got such a *damned* pretty little figure. (Harry, *TR*) | *Damned* elegant the way she manages her sleigh! (Victor, *AB*) | *Those damned* green dresses. (Doctor Malcolm, *ND*) | You make me *so infernally* proud — dearest, that I . . . I tell you! (Victor, *AB*) | You’re rotten to the core and so am I. But you’re *heathenishly* beautiful. (Max, *Id.*) | *My word*, Laura! You do look *stunning* (=splendid). What an absolutely *topping* (=excellent) hat! (Laurie, *GP*) | Topping villa. (George, *H*) | I say, it is *ripping* (=splendid). (Ibid.) | They are looking *top-notchers*9 to-day — the two young ladies. (Doctor Malcolm, *ND*) | Well, *have a go at* (=try) opening this one. (Ibid.)

注

1) 南和子, 『女性の英語』（光文社, 1978）, p.38.
2) 小西孝夫, 『時事英語法文』（新日本文書大学社, 1968）, p.81
4) 小西孝夫, 『時事英語法文』, p.6.
5) Cf. top-notch, *adj.* Colloq. first-rate (*The American College Dictionary*)