

occurring in the same clause, as is frequently the case in old writers, are considered as mutually destroying each other. So, at least grammarians said, and so custom declared, reversing in this case, the ordinary rule that custom makes grammar. This frequent occurrence of the double negative, was perhaps a remnant of the older form of the negative sentence. In A. S. the common negative is *ne*, which precedes the verb, as "Min tima ne com,"—"My time is not yet come." This 'ne' was often supplemented by some negative word after the verb. The usual one was *nawiht*, *naught*=not=*ne* a whit. As inflections diminished, 'do' was used to avoid ambiguity. In this case 'ne' preceded 'do,' and 'not' came between 'do' and the verb. This resembles the French *ne—pas*="not a step," and *ne—point*="not a jot," and the Latin *non—ne unum*=not one and *nonne*, where *ne* occurs twice over. This 'ne' in English was dropped, leaving us our present form of the negative, with 'do' first. Sometimes, however, 'do' also was omitted, giving us such expressions as "I beseech you that you *not* delay."

In questions, 'do' is used in all those cases where no other auxiliary is used. Its use thus probably arose from the desire to avoid ambiguity that might arise from placing a noun after a verb when case endings had been dropped, and punctuation was not generally used.

The accidents, or peculiar properties of verbs, are generally voice, mood, tense, number and person. Let us take a rapid view of the peculiarities of each of these. Nothing in grammar is more important than a knowledge of the true forms of the verb. This is peculiarly difficult in English; we must know the history of the word before we can speak with authority as to its construction.

With regard to voice, it may be said that the form called passive, has, in all

languages grown out of the reflexive form of the verb, this latter form being used in inflected languages as often in a passive sense as in a reflexive one. Reflexive verbs arose from the coalescence of the verb and the reflexive pronoun. In English we have no reflexive form for the verb, but the nature of a reflexive verb may be shown by an analysis of the two borrowed reflexives which we have, viz., *busk* and *bask*. These are Scandinavian.

Busk=*bu*a (prepare) *sik*=self

Bask=*ba*d (bathe) *sik*

Having no reflexive form, we consequently have no passive form, and are forced to periphrasis to supply it, using the substantative verb as an auxiliary, in association with the passive participle. It may not be out of place here to remark that this combination of verb and participle does not always constitute a passive tense, the participle being sometimes used as a mere adjective, as :

Every house is built by some man
=a tense

The house is *built* of stone=*an* adjective.

This distinction is marked in German by the use of different verbs.

Personal endings are mere pronouns, that, being spoken rapidly after the verb, became coalesced with it. The only remnants of these left in English are *m* in *am*, *st* in the 2nd singular, and *s* and *th* in the 3rd singular. In derivation *m*=*mei*, *me*, *st*=*su*=*tu* (*t* being only euphonic), *s* is for *t* or *th*=*the*. Even these endings are omitted in the subjunctive mood. The loss of these endings arose from their inutility, as we always express the pronoun before the verb. The coalescence of verbs with pronouns is seen in such forms as *nelt*=*ne* wilt; *me* not=*me* *ne* wot, meaning one knows not, since the word *me* here is an old indefinite pronoun, meaning one. "It shall not be, *so theech*"=as I thrive.