

On the particle *per*.

Original words to express the bearings of ideas one to another, seem wanting in almost all languages. The defect is supplied by borrowing words from other more ~~easy~~ sources, & making them serve either by extension of signification or by analogy or metaphor or by suggesting the idea wanted, without absolutely containing it themselves. In this latter case the word borrowed has an idea belonging to it that is very frequently associated with the idea to be suggested but which may be rigorously proved not to be that idea itself. For different languages borrow differently in the same case. Thus in English *if* (they say) is borrowed from *give*. In other languages (as in French, German, Latin &c.) particles having exactly the same meaning (in general usage) as *if* are borrowed from words signifying likeness. Again, among the people who use the word *if* with most accurate perception of its force how few are aware that it is connected with *give*. Yet that they must be, if the idea were the same. Again the abaters of this doctrine, viz. that *if* means *give*, & conjours all days even often dispute and profess themselves doubtful what might or may be the original meaning of such and such a word; yet they have no doubt as to the force and usage of the word. So Horne took the word *in* and says he suspects that *in* means *belly*. Does he in the mean time rise in without a meaning? Sad! Sad! Suppose there had existed in the heavens three conspicuous bodies, near each other, & in a straight line, and that the middle

middle one was very remarkable for its color, shape &c. That middle body would have had a name for itself. It would also have been a notable instance of interlocation. The idea of between would have been connected with it; and its name might have been borrowed to express the idea of between, not that the name so used would have signified that body for it would be used in cases where the middle body were totally unlike that supposed heavenly body ^{body} either ^{with} absolutely & relatively to the outer ones. For example the heavenly middle body might be a large black square; & the two outer heavenly bodies small white globes; while in some case where the name were borrowed for between the middle body might be a small white globe & the outer ones large black squares. &c. The idea of between is independent of any particular thing. The same observations apply to backward, ahead & to all such words & particles of relation. The wit, acuteness, irony & focus-pocus of Horne Tooke have misled many. He has shown great ingenuity in his etymologies. But there is more deep sense and knowledge of the nature of the enquiry into the meanings of particles in a passage of Locke than H. T. has quoted & ridiculed than in any thing he has ever advanced himself.

But though the meanings of the words borrowed be in themselves different from the meanings of the same words when used as particles, still for investigating the force of such particles there is no method comparable to that of Locke.

of Etymology. Nor is this to be wondered at. The original borrowers and extenders followed a natural course: by tracing that course we in some measure put ourselves in their place, & what they meant arises in our minds. Now this is what we want. The relations are too subtil to be easily apprehended otherwise: we have nothing else in language to lay hold of in these cases & by trying to explain a particle absolutely the idea dissolves & slips away under a multitude of ill-appropriated words. An Etymology, even when feigned & unfounded yet if it be happily chosen may serve as a nucleus to wind on it the successive and connected ideas that have been associated with a word & may better shew the dependencies of these ideas, and the true force of the various usages a word has undergone, than any attempt to explain them independently of each other without a common clue.

The particular object of this essay is to shew that in all the usages of the pur as a particle there may be traced a connexion with the idea of purity; & to shew how it is that directly or indirectly this idea lurks in every locution in which pur occurs, & lurks in the minds of the framers of the Italian Language & step by step led them to use this word pur in the manner they have done.

To facilitate this object I shall first make some observations on the English particle still; and shall endeavour to shew that its use as a particle is much better derived from its obvious & natural meaning still, quiet, than from stolen to put.

It frequently happens that an event takes place (whether it be one independant of man's will or whether it be a determination of the human mind) in the face of circumstances that would seem naturally calculated to preclude that event; or, at least, to present such an obstacle as would induce one to believe (unless assured of the contrary) that the event does not take place. We perceive the opposition - we perceive the opposition - we perceive that it is not effectual; that it is overcome; and this opposition together with its ineffectiveness forms a relation between the events and circumstances, that we wish to express. For example: I have the idea of taking a walk: at the same time it rains. naturally the rain should hinder me. For some reason or other it does not; I determine to walk out. I say, "It rains; still I shall take my walk." My purpose remains fixt, unmoved, by the rain. ~~The purpose~~ it is not shaken i.e. is still. Instead of still we may say all the same, all the same for that: and in French toujours, toutefois, pourtant; now the connexion between these and fixedness is obvious. We may also bring in the idea of unity, & say, all one for that. Again: "I have drank several glasses of water; still I am dry". i.e. the water has not removed my thirst; what is not removed remains still as it was. When still is used as an adverb, its etymology is still the same. still the same - even as it was not moved from what it was. Moreover it can be generally rendered in French by toujours. Am. "Are you still friend?" "Etes vous toujours ami?"

All words signifying conformity, likeness, sameness, continuity, perpetuality or, have a connexion & can frequently be used one for the other. So even can be used for just.

even now. just now. (just now). So even for same. As, "Is it 6 o'clock? No not even 5" was same 5. So for but, when but means simply only. Ex. "It is even too true" It is but too true (just traps vero) And as this kind of usage of but, even, was as is frequently for the purpose of assuring the hearer, so there may be frequently substituted words of assurance. As, "It is indeed too true."

I will briefly state a few words, whose connexion is evident upon a little consideration

one. single. simple. always the same. still. undisturbed. pure. simply only. merely. purely. entirely. by all means. nothing more nor less than. just.

Adverbs that indicate something in the mind of the speaker, rather than modify any word in the sentence, have an apparent variety of significations owing to the various directions of the mind with the same idea, also owing to various Ellipses. Also such variation is often indicated by tone and Emphasis. For example this sentence "Indeed he is very well able to take care of himself" has two different meanings, according to the context, and to its pronunciation. Suppose it the following speech

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speech to take place. "There is no occasion to send
any body home with the child. do not be under any anxiety
indeed he is very well able to take care of himself". Here
tis as much as to say "Be assured that he is" Joyen & tranquille
Joyen sur quear. And an emphasis is in this case laid on
indeed. But suppose, 2^{ly}, the following speech.

"James will be quite sufficient to take care of him; he
does not want anybody else to accompany him. indeed
he is very well able to". Here tis as much as to say
"In fact to speak the truth he is so" or, "In fact I may
go further than that & say that he is very so" or "In
fact, if we consider the matter strictly, he is very so". &c
In French Effectivement en effet. Here the first part
of the sentence, & particularly the word "indeed", is
passed over very lightly by the voice.

Where pur may be translated by still, tis more
common to employ yet; but in every such case ^{where yet} still may
be employed; still may be substituted for yet. There are
other employments of yet, where still cannot be substituted
for it. The Etymology of yet is get, I believe. Its double
usage seems to require for its Etymology a word that should
mean both get & keep. I am aware of the connexion
between get & keep; as, for example that we can say get on
and go on for avancer, where go on is keep moving on.
The usages of yet are curious, and all to be explained
from the idea of attachment and continuity - arriving to,
& not being detached from - if getting on to & getting on with.

It is connected with gia, another curious particle, for which we have not always an equivalent in English; but which we are forced to express sometimes by emphasis, & by other shifts. I rather think that gia is not fully & properly understood by the English in general, for want of a radical explanation. As for what is said in the grammars & dictionaries that I have seen, it does not touch upon the difficulty I allude to. For brevity sake I shall here forego any analysis of yet egia; but in explaining pur shall be free to use yet, whenever it can be replaced by still.

A few examples where the French and English use the words pur & purely in the sense of mere, merely, nothing but or may serve to confirm the idea that pur in Italian is always etymologically derived from purus.

From pure malice. par pure malice. En pure perte. (pur per mea pena. Pet.) Selon des Cartes les bêtes sont de pur machines nothing but machines. only mal. simply mal. mere machines & Les anges sont de pur esprit - entirely spiritual or pure substance. C'est une pure calomnie &c. C'est un pur motif de générosité qui le fait parler &c.

There is a curious usage of simply, analogous to that of pur, of which I recollect one instance in Shakespeare. "And I think I have the back-trick, simply as strong as any man in Illyria" [12th night]. C'esprit pur. c'est à dire l'esprit considère sans égard à son union avec la matière. Vid. Dic.

When in spite of discordances, real or supposed, an idea remains unimpaired pure and entire, the assurance of such integrity is often expressed by pur; and in English by however,
at

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at any rate. I'm sure. assuredly. after all. even. come what
will. & sometimes by still.

[Pur beats]? Is this an assurance that the good luck has
nothing to trouble it; that there is nothing wanting to beat.
Does it mean "who could have hoped it"? yet tis so still; still
beats, though dr. or does it mean mere luck?

Ne pur per ombra, affe. not even. nor yet even dr.
L'erba non pur, non pur la mieve calca. not even

The grass & the snow are ranked in the same place as other
things. they are ranked even with the rest. Therefore tis,
"the grass even with and the same as other things, was not
imprinted". To explain it by "simply the grass is now simply
so slight & yielding things as they, were not imprinted - I might
as they were still dr. does not seem to me to be reaching
to the full force of pur here?"

Andate pure. go; I say nothing against your going. Go
and welcome. pray go, if you like it. Go; why not? Go certainly,
if you like it. nay, go. You are purely welcome. you are simply
welcome, without any more words. go, simply. aller toujours.

E pur caritatevole questo Dottore. Il Raggiatore Act 3. Sc. 5.

pur here is not quite a consolation of Goddoni?

Sara ella pur... Sara ella pur consolata... are enough to?

Pur vero. true enough.

* the proper meaning of to trouble is, to render impure.

So troubled water. dr.

Disperato dolor ch' il cor me preme
Già pur pensando pria ch' i ne favelli
ie. la pure pensée avant qu' de ar.

Ma il Saracin, che con mal gusto nacque,
non pur la sapori, che gli dispiaceque.
did but taste it, when ar. In simply testing it, & hardly that ar.
The taste was enough. even the taste. the mere taste.
fiso guardando pur. still watching. ever watching
fixement regardant toujours. ne faisant que regarder ar. regard
sant purement.

Io son morto, che ecco il morito mio ora si pure avvedrà
quali qual sia la cagione della nostra domestic herria. (91, n 3)
il est tout simple que maintenant il s'appercvra ar.

Ma pur che l'ora un poco
Fior bianchi e gialli per le piazze mora } that is still ar
Torna alla mente il loco ar (Petrarch) } ever ar. soon ar
Tator m'arresto, & pur nel primo sasso } still ar I meet with
Disegno con la mente il suo bel viso. (Pet.) } ever ar. soon ar

{ I pur fui vostro, e si di voi son vivo
Vra mend'ogni sventura altra mi dole. }

Io ci
pur verro tante volte, che io non vi troverò così impacciato
come voi siete paruto stannare. (c. peniant?)

Alli quali Pampinea ridendo disse. Oggi vi pure abbiam
non ingannati at any rate. you must allow. however. if before
still today not. nothing to disturb the idea.

Ma percioche il bisogno mi strigne, ed ho ferma speranza
di tosto di tosto rendergli, io gli pur prenderò. It even take it
at any rate ar. still simply not mixing up other thoughts.

Madonna, io non so come piacerebbe Reina noi avrem di
 voi, ma bella pure avrem noi. However other things maybe
 yet bella is a simple truth there is nothing to say against that,
 nothing to trouble that idea. Votre beauté est une pure vérité.
 but we shall have a handsome one, though (This manner of
 using thought is familiar in England, & very common. Example
 Mr A. is not quite well today; he is coming, though. If we
 pick up the ellipse saying "though not well, it seems to change the
 feeling & give too much emphasis, & particularization.
 Nevertheless may often be substituted for this final thought, but
 not always, without changing the shade of the feeling.

Indica pure - date pure. dite pur quel che vi piaccia.
 This is not exactly "say just what you please". For pure does
 not qualify quel? but contains a further idea "do it exclusively,
 by all means. 'tis more like "just as you please! say what you
 like!" pronounced with a certain tone.
 So perhaps if just now exactly expresses pur ora, 'tis because
 the mind feels in just now the sensation of but just now
 pur innanzi ora.

Dialogue

A. Gli Spagnuoli lo stimano Spagnuoli; e l'Inglese, Inglese
 e no.
 B. E pur difficile l'esper pratico in tante lingue così differ-
 ente! I apprehend the Italians do not here feel
 the sensation of yet, cependant, tuttavia. 'tis more like
 "Well? 'tis difficult di". or "That maybe true; but still we
 must say 'tis difficult di" or "For all that 'tis difficult di" & so on
 after all
 - che serrate stavan pur presso - that stood purely close together.
 [good English]

- E pur la Cena manca, Anesth (even?)
- Se non siete più sicuro nella vostra religione che l'osteo-
asino non è nella barba, dovrete pur tremare come fa egli
il est très simple que vous devriez se
when pur means perciemment, it's elliptical for pure modesti-
mente; just in the same manner.

Sta pure a ~~ver~~ udire? [clean contrary] [very]
The very children sat at ~~those~~ public tables. i.e. Even the chil-
dren ~~in~~. other examples must be added.

When doubts may take place whether a thing has
already actually happened or not, whether such a thing
may already be predicated of another, whether the thing
is so or is not so, we confirm that it is that it may
by gia. That it is not, by non gia.

When doubts may take place whether a thing may
be simply & truly & decidedly predicated or not, or whether
there be any impediment, any thought, any ex adverso
to mix up with it, that may impair its clearness, & pre-
vent its being simply true in all respects and, we
confirm its simplicity and freedom from extraneous
matters by pur. The confirmation may be ex animo,
or pretended or ironical and. If under certain circum-
stances I say to another andate, he may observe "yes; but
you do not say that unreservedly and explicitly. That's not all;
you are not truly & simply willing that I should go; and"
To confirm that simplicity I say "Andate pure"