Activity 17.7 - John Milton *Areopagitica* - style

Diagrammatic representation of the balanced syntax - *as...when, so...when; methinks I see...methinks I see; not only to...but to; not...nor;* and the abundance of conjoined words and phrases, *pure and vigorous, old and wrincl'd, purging and unscaling etc.*

FOR

[MCl 1] AS in a body,

fi [AdvCl 1] WHEN the blood is fresh,

the spirits

pure &

vigorous

not only to vital,

but to rationall faculties

and those in

the acutest,

the pertest

operations

of

wit &

suttlety

[MCl 1] it argues in what good

plight &

constitution

the body is,

[MCl 2] SO fi

fi [AdvCl 2] WHEN the cherfulnesse of the people is so sprightly up,

as that it has, but

to spare &

to bestow

upon the

solidest &

sublimest

points

of

controversie &

new invention

[MCl 2] it betok'ns us

not degenerated

nor drooping

to a fatall decay,

but casting off the

old &

wrcincl'd

skin of corruption
to outlive these pangs &
wax young again

to outlive these pangs &
wax young again

Truth &
prosperous vertue

destin'd to became

great &
honourable

in these latter ages.

[MCl 3] Methinks I see in my mind a
noble &
puissant Nation

rousing herself like a strong man after sleep &
shaking her invincible locks:

[MCl 4] Methinks I see her as an Eagle

muing her mighty youth &
kindling her undazl'd eyes

purring &
unscaling

at the full midday beam;

her long abused sight at the fountain it self of
heav'nly radiance;

[MCl 4] Methinks I see her as an Eagle

muing her mighty youth &
kindling her undazl'd eyes

purring &
unscaling

at the full midday beam;

her long abused sight at the fountain it self of heav'nly radiance;

fi [AdvCl 3] WHILE the whole noise of
timorous &
flocking birds,

with those also that love the twilight,

flutter about,

amaz'd at what she means,

fi [AdvCl 4] & in their envious gabble would prognosticate

a year of
sects &
schisms.
If we omit subordinate non-finite clauses marked by past and present participles and infinitives, eg: *to spare, to bestow, degenerated, drooping, entring, destin'd, rousing, shaking, muing, kindling, purging, unscaling, amaz'd*, and other ‘right-branching’ phrases and clauses which develop the metaphorical argument, the essential structure of the text is made clearer:

As in a body, when the blood is fresh, it argues in what good plight and constitution the body is, so when the cherfulness of the people is so sprightly up, it betok'ns us to outlive these pangs and wax young again. Methinks I see in my mind a noble and puissant Nation; Methinks I see her as an Eagle, while the whole noise of timorous and flocking birds, flutter about, and in their envious gabble would prognosticate a year of sects and schisms.

*Choice of vocabulary*

The vocabulary of Text 133 is printed in full in the *Word Book* and shows the distribution of core vocabulary and later loan-words from French and Latin. 86.0% of Milton’s vocabulary in this text had been assimilated by the end of the 14th C, and 14.0% introduced from the 15th to 17th C, including French loan-words *invincible, puissant, timorous*, and Latin loan-words *prognosticate, degenerated, sublimest* and *radiance*. 