

## FUNCTIONS AND MEANINGS OF ERL

by WALTER SIMON

## IV

## A SYNOPSIS OF THE MAIN FUNCTIONS OF ERL

## A

The preceding three articles<sup>1</sup> and the first part of the introductory article on *erl* after *der* or *kee der*<sup>2</sup> were purposely limited to illustrate the resumptive (and thereby intensifying) and connective functions of *erl* in relation to one special group only. This consisted of single words, or groups of words, which, though of various kinds, may be subsumed as being all of *nominal, i.e. non-verbal character*. As will be recalled, *erl* was shown to resume (a) a word or phrase placed in an absolute position at the beginning of a sentence or clause, (b) the subject, (c) the (inverted) object and (d) an indication of time, place, or quantity. These cases formed a convenient start for the investigation because it did not seem possible to operate there with the traditional interpretation of *erl* as "and", or "but", or as "and yet", which latter meaning clearly constitutes a compromise between the former two. Though the above instances of the occurrence of *erl* do not exhaust the list of cases in which *erl* is found to resume words of nominal character, it may suffice to include further cases both of resuming and of signalling words or phrases of nominal or verbal character, and of *erl* effecting a link between clauses or sentences, in the present fourth (and last) of this series of articles. I should like to precede this "Synopsis of the Main Functions of *Erl*" by a few general remarks on the way the functions have been illustrated so far.

- (1) *Examples*.—It will be noted that the majority of the examples have been chosen from pre-Hann texts, and that the use of post-Hann texts has been quite exceptional. It would appear that post-Hann usage would require a further special study, which, however, I do not wish to undertake at present.
- (2) *Literal translations*.—To stress the resumptive function of *erl*, and in particular its intensifying character, *overtranslations* have been used through-

out, as, e.g. *such person(s)* or *such thing(s)*, *such time*, *such place*, *such quantity*, etc., which are often preceded by prepositions as, e.g. *of such persons*, *at or from such time or place*, etc.<sup>1</sup>

It is hoped that this kind of translation may have served the indicated purpose without obscuring a fact of equal importance, *viz.* that *erl* merely resumes the preceding words in question<sup>2</sup>, and neither such meanings as "person, things, place, time, quantity" nor the grammatical relations implied by the addition of prepositions are specially indicated or in any way differentiated by *erl*.

The second (connective) function of *erl* (which it is assumed goes back to *nae* being the second element of the contraction) has so far been accounted for by "then" or "if" in conditional sentences. Its function of referring to a word which occurs in an absolute position at the beginning of a sentence as being in such a position, and its function to mark a contrast have also been mentioned. Further functions like those of signalling a quantity, of indicating a sequence in time, or of pointing to a result or purpose will be discussed below.

## B

## A SYNOPSIS OF THE MAIN FUNCTIONS OF ERL

As will be seen, this Synopsis consists of two parts, of which the first deals with *erl* when effecting a link between parts of one and the same sentence or clause, while the second deals with *erl* when effecting a link between clauses and sentences. It must be borne in mind, however, that the connecting function of *erl* extends as a rule well beyond the functions listed in Part I. It may almost be said that the first element of *erl*, which is assumed to be pronominal, might account for most of these functions and that they must be considered *in conjunction with* the functions listed in Part II, for which the assumed second element of *erl, viz. nae* "then", would seem to be primarily responsible. In conditional sentences the occurrence of *erl* in the first clause has been accounted for by "if" ("*such person[s], thing[s], time, place, quantity if*"), and its occurrence in the second clause by "then" ("*such person[s], thing[s], time, place, quantity then*"). It must now be added that in any kind of complex sentence, over and above the functions described in Part I, some kind of subordinating function seems to be inherent in *erl* when it occurs in the first clause, and some kind of "then meaning" when it occurs in the second (in most cases the principal) clause. In a simple sentence this "then meaning" may either mark the contrast or be weakened to a continuative "then" or to a parenthetically inserted "then"

<sup>1</sup> Words like *thereat*, or *therefrom*, etc., have sometimes been introduced as they cover an indication of time and place, and even quantity.

<sup>2</sup> It may be noted that the resumptive function is not limited to referring to words which *immediately* precede *erl*. Failure to understand the resumption by *erl* of an "exposed" word, or of its function as "postponed" antecedent of a relative clause, was no doubt partly due to the remoteness of *erl* from the words resumed by it.

<sup>1</sup> *Asia Major*, N.S., Vol. II, pp. 179-202, and Vol. III, pp. 7-18, and pp. 117-131.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. II, pp. 46-67.

as if preceded by an (unexpressed) "if you want to know", or "if I come to think about it". Conversely, in co-ordinated clauses or sentences the pronominal element of *erl* seems to refer back to a preceding clause or sentence as a whole or to a particular part of it.

To give an example of a *complex* sentence, in the opening sentence of *Mencius* the Verb-Object phrase *btwu yuann chian lii* (not consider far [the distance of] a thousand miles) functions no doubt as a modifier of *lai* ("to have come ignoring a distance of a thousand miles"). But at the same time *erl* subordinates the clause while linking it to the principal clause (introduced by *yih*) which follows it and may in this latter function be rendered by a conjunction like "as" or "since", (*since* you have come ignoring . . . , etc.).<sup>1</sup>

As an example of *erl* in a *simple* sentence I should like to choose a quotation from *Luenyeu* (VI, 8). In the sentence *Sy ren yee erl yeou sy jyi yee*<sup>2</sup> the *nae* part of *erl* may well touch on the contrast between the excellence of the man and the cruelty of the fate that has befallen him. (Waley: But that such a man should have such an illness.)

The back reference in co-ordinated sentences to the preceding sentence or clause as a whole (therewith then, thereagainst then [on the other hand], etc.) would not need any special example. But I think it possible that the pronominal element of *erl* may refer back also to a preceding noun, as for instance in the following frequent pattern in historical texts of a ruler summoning a person to advise him, *jau moou ren erl wenn iue*, He summoned X, thereafter asked him and said . . .

## I

*ERL effects a Link between Parts of One  
and the Same Sentence or Clause*

*A. Nouns or Pronouns or Phrases of Nominal (i.e. non-verbal) Character linked  
by ERL with the Predicate or with other Parts of the Sentence*

- (1) *Erl* resumes and thereby links with the Predicate
- (a) the Subject
    - (α) in a simple sentence,
    - (β) in the protasis of a conditional sentence,
    - (γ) in a sentence with a noun predicate (generally an indication of quantity).
  - (b) a word or phrase placed in an absolute position at the beginning of the sentence or clause.
  - (c) the (inverted) object.
  - (d) an indication of time, place or quantity.

<sup>1</sup> I feel unable to accept B. Karlgren's explanation of the passage (*The Chinese Language*, New York, 1949, p. 61): "You, old man, do not consider it far to come thousand-mile-wise".

<sup>2</sup> I adduce as a further example a quotation from *Gwoyueu*, J. 20 (*SBTK*, p. 4B<sup>4</sup>), "Who then can refuse to die for such a prince?": 孰是君也而可無死乎?

- (2) *Erl* signals and thereby links with the Predicate an indication of quantity following immediately after it
  - (a) as an adverb,
  - (b) as the object.
- (3) *Erl* resumes for the purpose of special emphasis the object of certain verbs of causing or allowing, thereby linking it with the immediately following verb as its subject.

*B. Verbs or Phrases of Verbal Character (such as Verb + Object or Adverb + Verb)  
linked by ERL with the Predicate*

*Erl* resumes a verb or verbal phrase, thereby linking it with its predicate

- (a) as its (inverted) object or complement,
- (b) as its modifier.

## II

*ERL effects a Link between Clauses or Sentences*

*A, by Co-ordination*

- (1) *Erl* introduces the second of two contrasted sentences or clauses, thereby emphasizing the contrast.
- (2) *Erl* links (particularly in narrative style) two clauses or strings of clauses which relate events in strict succession, thereby emphasizing the sequence in time. The latter can be further emphasized by the addition of *how* 後 after *erl*.
- (3) *Erl* links the clause *yü yü* to the preceding clause, thereby restricting the meaning of the sentence as a whole.
- (4) *Erl* introduces a new sentence linking it with the preceding by either referring back to it as a whole or to a particular part of it.

*B, by Subordination*

- (1) *Erl* introduces the second of two or more clauses (usually the principal clause), thereby turning the preceding clause into an adverb clause. Clauses other than those of condition may be differentiated by the addition of certain words (like *yü* 已, *wey* 未, *jih* 既, *day* 待, *swei* 雖, *yü* 以, *wey* 爲, *in* 因, etc.) as clauses of time, concession, cause, accompanying circumstance, etc. Some of these latter words, in particular *yü* 已, *jih* 既, *yü* 以, and *in* 因, may by themselves constitute an adverb clause to be followed by *erl*. In the same way *ran* 然, followed by *erl*, can form a clause of concession ("although that is so" = "nevertheless").
- (2) *Erl* links a preceding clause with the immediately following verb, thereby turning the clause into an object clause. The verbs concerned are verbs of saying, knowing, desiring, etc., or the verb *wei* 爲 in the function of emphasizing another verb ("proceeding" or "undertaking" to do something).
- (3) In a conditional sentence *erl* may introduce the clause following after a relative clause (or its equivalent), thereby either serving as or resuming its antecedent.



to shift it from this final position to a front position where it could be resumed by *erl*.

In Ex. 217 *erl* brings into relief the length of Mohtzyy's uninterrupted hurried journey of ten days and ten nights from the country of Luu: *Tzyh Luu chiu erl shyr ryh shyr yeh*. Failure to understand this function of *erl* induced Wang Niannsuen<sup>1</sup> to insert the character *woang* 往 after *erl*, in accordance with the *lectio facilior* to be found in the encyclopedias *Beeitarng-shuchau* and *Taypyng-yuhlaan*.

Mencius provides another example in which the preceding *erl* stresses the length of a period: *jong-shen* "one's whole life" (Ex. 218). It is possible to account for both the position of *erl* and the emphasis conveyed by its function as a signaller when translating it here by "what amounts to".

This latter translation may be particularly helpful in bringing out the meaning of *erl* in Ex. 219, a passage from *Harn Feitzyy* where *erl* signals the object. Again an alteration of the text has been suggested (by Wang Wey 王渭), viz. deleting *erl* and the word *gonq* that follows it. The meaning clearly is that to assemble the weak and weary to face *what amounts to twenty thousand chariots all told* would not be compatible with the plan of destroying Jaw.<sup>2</sup>

[217] 自魯趨而十日十夜。

[218] 良人者。所仰望而終身也。

[219] 則合羣苦弱以敵而共二萬乘。非所以亡種之心也。

The next examples (220-225), which are all taken from *Goantzyy*, are statements of an anticipated automatic rise in prices as a result of certain economic measures. At first sight it would seem that the function of *erl* in Ex. 220, which speaks of the price of corn rising automatically (*tzuoeh jaang*) ten times (*shyrbey*) would differ from the preceding example only in so far as the indication of quantity to be emphasized functions again as an adverb. And further confirmation might be derived from Ex. 221 where we find *tzuoeh jaang shyr bey* without *erl*. It must, however, be borne in mind that these multiples *shyrbey*, *elshyr-bet*, etc., may function as verbs, and in fact we find *baebey* as a verb at the beginning of Chapter XIX of the *Dawoderjing*.<sup>3</sup> So it is possible that *erl* before these words has the function of introducing a clause of result,<sup>4</sup> this clause consisting of the multiples in the verbal meaning of "to decuple, centuple", etc. This latter explanation would seem to apply in particular in the case of the last example of this group (Ex. 225) in which *baebey* is followed by *chyi been*<sup>5</sup> (hundred times more than the original price).

<sup>1</sup> See *Dwushu-tzarjyh*, *Hwainantzzy*, 19, entry *chiu erl* 趨而

<sup>2</sup> or Harn, according to another emendation.

<sup>3</sup> 絕聖棄智。民利百倍。(Waley: "Banish wisdom, discard knowledge, and the people will be benefited a hundredfold".)

<sup>4</sup> See below, pp. 31/2.

<sup>5</sup> In another passage in *Goantzzy* (J. 24, No. 83, *SBTK*, p. 12A<sup>11-12</sup>) we find *chyi jah* 其價 after *shyrbey* and *wushyrbey*.

[220] 隣縣四面橫殺。坐長而十倍。

[221] 據殺坐長十倍。

[222] 若此。則鹽必坐長而十倍。

[223] 金坐長而百倍。

[224] 徒予人而莫之取。牛馬之買必坐長而百倍。

[225] 若此則馬必坐長而百倍其本矣。

1 A (3): The function of *erl* of resuming, for the purpose of special emphasis, the object of certain verbs of causing or allowing (thereby linking it with the immediately following verb as its subject) must be distinguished from the function of *erl*, listed under II B (4), of introducing a clause of purpose or result.<sup>1</sup> The function to be discussed here can well be illustrated by the sentence *tsyy shuay show erl shyr ren yee* [226] as the same phrase occurs in three passages *with* and in one passage *without erl*. When comparing the four passages in question and examining other passages in Mencius in which *erl* is inserted after *shuay* [227<sup>2</sup>-229] there can be little doubt as to the strong emphasis conveyed by the insertion of *erl*. In Ex. 226 the emphasis might be rendered by "to lead on animals, I repeat animals, to eat men". Translators have generally ignored the presence of *erl* but for a recent attempt,<sup>3</sup> bound to result in a faulty translation, of giving *erl* the force of "but" in our Ex. 229.

We observe the same emphasis in Ex. 230 where *erl* occurs after *chiu* "to urge, impel" in a simile about impelling a flock of sheep<sup>4</sup> to attack ferocious tigers (*chiu chyun yang erl gong meeng huu*). In the next example [231] from the *Koongtzzy jaiyeu* the insertion of *erl* after the proper name Tzeng Shi makes it easier to understand that Tzeng Shi is the subject of two verbs (*wen* 聞 and *iy* 知), the verb of causation being *ling*. It may be useful to compare also a similar passage in *Luenyeu* (XVII, 19) though with a different story, where the verb of causation is *shyy* and the pronoun *iy* takes the place of the proper name followed by *erl* [232].

[226] 此率獸而食人。

[227] 是率天下而路也。

[228] 率天下之人而禍仁義者。必子之言夫。

[229] 此所謂率土地而食人肉。

[230] 且夫為從者無以異於驅群羊而攻猛虎。

[231] 援琴而歌。欲令曾皙而聞之。知其體康也。

[232] 取瑟而歌。使之聞之。

Indeed *shyy*, the most common verb of causation, with its object followed

<sup>1</sup> Gabelentz, *Chinesische Grammatik*, Leipzig, 1881, p. 258, §628, in fact exemplifies by our Ex. 226 his statement: "Verwandt sind Fälle, wo 而 hinter einem Verbum des Verursachens und dessen Objekte steht und FOLGZ oder ABSICHT auszudrücken scheint".

<sup>2</sup> Ex. 227: See the remarks by A. Waley in *Asia Major*, N.S., Vol. I, p. 102.

<sup>3</sup> Prof. J. Mullie, *Le Mot-Particule Tchê, T'oung Pao*, Vol. XXXVI (1942), p. 206 (=p. 26 of the separate edition): "Ceci est ce qu'on appelle mener le pays mais manger (=tout en mangeant) la chair des hommes".

<sup>4</sup> I have used italics to indicate the emphasis.

by *erl* conveys generally a hypothetical meaning and shares this peculiarity with *tzong* "to allow". Taking first this latter verb I wish to refer to and, at the same time, to correct my translation of Ex. 102 (*Jin tzong juun jia erl buw fenq gong tzer faa shiau* 今縱君家而不奉公則法削) which I translated as "Now (if) I were to exempt your Lordship's family so that they (lit.: *such persons* if) would not fulfil their public duties then the law would be infringed". Though I think I was right in considering *juun jia* and not Jaw Sheh, who is speaking, the subject of the verb *fenq gong* I did not realize at the time of translating the nature of *tzong*, which in this sentence does not mean "to exempt" but introduces the protasis of a conditional sentence much in the way as this could be done by the synonymous "let" (or "grant") in English<sup>1</sup>: Let your Lordship's family not fulfil their public duties then the law will be infringed". The emphasis, indicated by italics, is again well warranted, as the preceding sentence of the passage points to the great authority enjoyed by Pyngyuan Juun to whom the speech is directed. The meaning of *tzong* and the function of *erl*, which in this case have also been missed by the Japanese and Manchu translators of the passage,<sup>2</sup> can be further substantiated by the next example [233], "Granted even (even supposing) that I die a natural death (with my head on my shoulders) I fear that my children and grandchildren will fail to make for me the ancestral offering on account of the Fort of Liang". It can clearly be seen that the emphasis conveyed by *erl* brings out the contrast between the speaker (Luuyang Gong) and his children and grandchildren.

Before giving examples of *shyy* on the lines of the examples of *tzong*, I wish to substantiate the contention that *erl* is in fact resuming and thereby emphasizing the preceding object of the verb of causation by a passage from *Mohtzzy* [234] in which the object is inverted so as to precede *shyy*: *Tsyy pih you in-jee erl shyy wei shyngren, long-jee erl shyy wei yuehshy* (in Mei's translation: "This is like trying to make messengers of the dumb and musical directors of the deaf").

The next three examples show *shyy* conveying a hypothetical meaning. It will be observed that normal word order is preserved and that the object of the verb of causation is followed by *erl*, which emphasizes it in the same way as it emphasizes the object of *tzong* in Exs. 102 and 233: "Let *Chyn* wish to decide on an onslaught on Jaw . . . [235]; "If it were allowed to banish sons, the late ruler would have banished me" [236<sup>3</sup>]; "If the *courageous*<sup>4</sup> were to live (lit.: to hold this country) for ever . . . [237].

The same usage can also be observed in the case of *jea ling*: "If *Yanntzzy* were alive . . . [238].

<sup>1</sup> Comp. also German "Lass (meinetwegen)" . . . or Japanese . . . *mi mo seyo*.

<sup>2</sup> *Shyyjih*, J. 81, *Kambun-taisei*, p. 332: *kimi no ie wo yurushite KOO ni HOO-zsureba* or *Tongjiam-Gangmuh*, Jou Naan, 45th year (*Jenqbian*, J. 1, p. 84A<sup>7-8</sup>): "Te agu-i booi urse be cihai sindafi, siden-i jalin faitaraki oci, fafun eberemb".

<sup>3</sup> The Manchu translation (p. 17B) is: *Tere anggala jui be booci oci, nenehe ejen amban mimbe bosombihe kai*.

<sup>4</sup> The *courageous* are contrasted with the *worthies* in the preceding sentence.

Finally *ling . . . der* and *shyy . . . der* in the meaning of "to allow" must be mentioned. The object of the verb of causation is placed between the latter and *der*, and in the case of emphasis, *erl* follows after *der*: "Well, you (almost) purposely allow *others* to physiognomize you"<sup>1</sup> [239]; "Do not allow the *enemy* to use it (the wood)" [240<sup>2</sup>].

[233] 縱臣而得以其首領以沒。懼子孫之以梁之險而乏臣之祀也。

[234] 此警猶瘡者而使爲行人。憂者而使爲樂師。

[235] 使秦而欲屠趙。不顧一子以留計。

[236] 且使子而可逐。則先君其逐臣矣。

[237] 使有勇者而常守之。

[238] 假令晏子而在。余雖爲之執懷。所忻慕焉。

[239] 夫故使人得而相女。

[240] 無令客得而用之。

*I B (a)*: While it may suffice to refer to a previous example [59] (*woang min erl kee wei*) as an example of *erl* resuming a verbal phrase and linking it to the predicate as its object, the function of *erl* of resuming what may be called the "complement" of certain verbs may be illustrated by a few examples. Verbs in question include, e.g. *dang* "to be right in" [241], *jong* "to be loyal in" [242], *shinn* "to be sincere, truthful in" [243], *tzou* "to suffice to" [244], and *yann* "to be late in" [245].

[241] 故非我而當者吾師也。是我而當者吾友也。

[242/3] 爲人謀而不忠乎。與朋友交而不信乎。

[244] 凶年糞其田而不足。

[245] 楚莊王罷朝而晏。問其故

*I B (b)*: No illustration can be attempted in the present Synopsis of what is perhaps the most frequent function of *erl*. It is in any case the function to which Western grammarians have paid the greatest attention. The verbs or verbal phrases which, when resumed by *erl*, modify the predicate comprehend in this function an amazingly wide range of reference, including mode, manner, gesture, posture, location in space, condition, mental state, cause, reason, simultaneous occurrence, accompanying circumstance, means, agency, instrumentality, etc. etc. In translation the modifier is often rendered by a prepositional phrase with "with" or "by", or, when negated, with "without"<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> I have replaced Legge's translation, who understands *ren* as "this man".

<sup>2</sup> The passage reoccurs without *erl* and with *how* 寇 instead of *keh* in chapter 71 (*SBTk*, J. 15, p. 25B<sup>7</sup>).

<sup>3</sup> Only in rare cases does the negation relate to the modified predicate instead of negating the modifying phrase. I have noted the following passage in the *Luu Jonqian hehjuann* (*Shyyjih*, J. 83, *Bairhuah* Ed., line 52): 吾聞之。智者不倍時而弁利。勇士不怯死而滅名。忠臣不先生而後君，an echo of which may be found in Tsaur Jyr's "Chi-chai 七啓": 予聞。君子不避俗而遺名。智士不背世而滅勳。 It is interesting to compare also a similar sentence in Ban Gu's *Answer to Bin Shih* (*Chyanhamshu*, J. 100 *shang*, ed. Wang Shianchian, small ed., p. 43A<sup>12-14</sup>, [reprinted in J. 45 of the *Wensheuan*]): 夫德不得後身而特盛。功不得背時而獨羣。

About the syntactical implications<sup>1</sup> over and above the modification of the predicate, see above the preamble to Section B.<sup>1</sup>

**II A (1):** The first group of sentences or clauses to be linked by *erl* in its co-ordinating function consists of clearly contrasted sentences or clauses. The function of *erl*, then, is to emphasize this contrast, and the emphasis may be related to the contrasting force of its second element (*nae*).

Examples are of two types. In the first type the contrast is expressed by one of the two sentences (clauses), generally the second, being negated, and thereby resembling pattern **II B (1)**, when concessive. The second type often consists of two symmetrically built sentences or clauses. Most, if not all, words of the second sentence (clause) are then contrasted with the words of the first. The contrast as such is often slight so that the function of *erl* becomes reminiscent of that fulfilled in Greek by the particles  $\mu\epsilon\upsilon$  and  $\delta\epsilon$ . *Erl* may, in fact, be likened to a  $\mu\epsilon\upsilon\delta\epsilon$  written in one word and inserted right in the middle of the two contrasted sentences (clauses).

**II A (2):** This pattern of co-ordination occurs mainly in narrative style. Though *erl* then actually emphasizes the sequence in time (*thereupon then, thereafter then*), its function has sometimes been misunderstood by Western grammarians as being merely cumulative.<sup>2</sup> *Erl* has accordingly been rendered by "and".

An important subdivision of this type is formed by two transitive verbs, linked by *erl*, which share one and the same object. But for rare exceptions this object is the pronoun *ji* 之.

**II A (3):** See *Asia Major, N.S.*, Vol. III, p. 118.

**II A (4):** See, e.g. Exs. 44, 47, 48-52.

**II B (1):** The pattern may be compared with pattern **I B (b)**. Just as *erl* brings a verb or a verbal phrase into relation with the predicate so it brings a clause into relation with the following principal clause. The clause may, therefore, be called *adverb clause*. As has been pointed out in the Synopsis, it is as such not differentiated.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See above pp. 21-22.

<sup>2</sup> It is interesting to note that the position of *erl*, unlike that of "and" in English, somehow marks a break in the sequence of events. By no means does *erl* regularly link the last of a series of verbs to the preceding ones. The following three passages taken from the *Shyyjih* (*Bairhuah* Ed., J. 76, line 31; J. 52, lines 16-17; J. 109, lines 21-22) would seem to provide a good illustration. (1) 毛遂奉銅盤而跪進之楚王曰。

(2) 頃之。諸呂有一人醉。亡酒。章追拔劔斬之。而還報曰...

(3) 有白馬將出護其兵。李廣上馬與十餘騎犇。射殺胡白馬將。而復還至其騎中。解鞍。令士皆縱馬臥。

<sup>3</sup> The lack of differentiation, but for the addition of various words to that effect, is reminiscent of the rôle of *que* in French syntax. Cp. E. Levy, *Der Bau der europäischen Sprachen* (*Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, Vol. XLVIII, Section C, No. 2), Dublin, 1942, p. 37, § 62: "Que ist vielfach nur das Zeichen der Subordination, des Nebensatzes, dessen Charakter durch andere Elemente genauer bestimmt wird (*dien que, pour que*), und das, bei nötiger Wiederholung, auch *quand, comme, si* ersetzen kann". See also *ibid.* §§ 71-72, where reference is made to V. Brøndal, *Le Français, langue abstraite* (Copenhagen, 1936).

**II B (2):** See, e.g. Exs. 45-46.

**II B (3):** See, e.g. Exs. 61-63, 86, 88, 95, 96 and 97. I intend to deal more fully with this function on another occasion.

**II B (4):** As was mentioned in the Note to **I A (3)**, the function of *erl* dealt with there must be distinguished from its function of *introducing* a clause of purpose or result. No doubt clauses dependent on verbs of causation like *shuay* "to lead on", *chui* "to urge", etc., are clauses of purpose. But, as has been explained, *erl* there has the function of resuming the object of these verbs for the sake of emphasis whereas we are dealing here with clauses *introduced* by *erl* (without a preceding verb of causation).

Two cases must be distinguished. *Erl* links the clause it introduces either to the *preceding clause as a whole* or attaches it to a *particular word of that clause*. As is well known, clauses of purpose or result are introduced more frequently by *yii* 以. It would seem, however, that *yii* is less emphatic than *erl*.

The quotation from *Mencius* [246] *Bar yih mau erl lih tianshiah buh wei yee* "He would not (undertake to) pluck out one single hair so as thereby to benefit the empire" illustrates the first alternative, as does the following proverbial saying quoted by *Shyuntzyy*: *wei ren erl tzyh an, hay ren erl tzyh lih* "to endanger others so as to be safe oneself, to harm others so as to profit oneself" [247]. Further examples are [248] *An shyh sy y maa erl jiuan wuubae jin* "How can you pay tribute to a dead horse to the extent of paying five hundred pieces of gold for it?"; [249] *Ay woo erl wang chy kooowey* "He loves me to the extent of disregarding (what is pleasant to) his own palate"; [250] *wey bian chwei jy yan erl buh gaan jiann chy fuh* "to fear the severity of the whip to the extent of not daring to remonstrate with his father"; [251] *Yu bie yann shen iuan erl jiow gan-chean guh der yu diaw-woang* "it is because fish and turtles get tired of the deep waters to the extent of going to dry and shallow spots that they get caught by the hook or the net"; [252] *bwu shyh tzer bay tuo erl buh kee shy* "If it (the salt) is not appropriate then it spoils the main dish so that one cannot eat it".

[246] 拔一毛而利天下。不爲也。

[247] 傳曰。危人而自安。害人而自利。此之謂也。

[248] 安事死馬而捐五百金。

[249] 愛我而忘其口味。

[250] 畏鞭箠之嚴而不敢諫其父。非孝子也。

[251] 魚籠厭深瀟而就乾淺。故得於釣網。禽獸厭深山而下於都澤。故得於田獵。

[252] 不適則敗託而不可食。

The following subgroup of examples of the first alternative show *erl* after the object of a verb which is resumed by *ji* in the purpose clause which follows *erl*. In *Luenyeu* XIII, 2, [253] *ian jy shyen tsair erl jeu jy*, *erl* is correctly rendered by Legge as *so that* (or for that matter as "in order to" by Waley):

"How shall I know the men of virtue and talent so that I raise them to office?" The syntactical situation is the same in the sentence from *Mencius* [254] *Guujee yih tzyy erl jiau jy* "The ancients exchanged their sons for the purpose of teaching them" where Legge has, however, "and<sup>1</sup> one taught the son of another". In the *Gongyangjuann* [255] mention is made of the exchange of sons for the purpose of eating them (in the story of a siege). In the same way we have in the *Jannngwo* [256] the story of the tiger in quest of animals for the purpose of eating them: *Huu chyau bae show erl shyj jy*. Similarly we find in the *Shyyjih* the story of the "Father of the Ruler" (*juufuh*) who, besieged in his palace, *tann jyuekow erl shyj jy* "nests young sparrows for the purpose of<sup>2</sup> eating them" [257].

I conclude this discussion of the first alternative with a few examples which I shall leave untranslated as the function of *erl* has been rendered correctly in existing translations. Examples 258 and 259 have been taken from *Juangtzyy*, where Legge uses "to" in his translation, Ex. 260, from the *Harn Shy Wayjuann*, where Hightower uses "so as to" in his translation, and Ex. 261<sup>3</sup> from the *Shyyjih*, where Chavannes uses "pour" in his translation.

- [253] 焉知賢才而舉之。  
 [254] 易子而教之。  
 [255] 易子而食之。  
 [256] 虎求百獸而食之。得狐。  
 [257] 探爵殿而食之。  
 [258] 君豈有斗升之水而活我哉。  
 [259] 激西江之水而迎子。  
 [260] 以道覆君而化之。是謂大忠也。  
       以德調君而輔之。是謂次忠也。  
       以諫非君而怨之。是謂下忠也。  
 [261] 王必厚割趙而贖平都。

The second alternative, where *erl* links the clause it introduces to a particular word of the preceding clause, is less common than the first. The clauses introduced by *erl* are apparently all clauses of result (degree), not clauses of purpose. The occurrence of *erl* in questions [262-266] seems to be of comparatively greater frequency. It will be noticed that Ex. 267 with its two negatives has its parallel in Western languages in both form and content.<sup>4</sup> The

<sup>1</sup> The italics are mine.

<sup>2</sup> Chavannes, like Legge in Ex. 254, understands *erl* in the meaning of "and": "Il dénicha des jeunes moineaux et s'en nourrit".

<sup>3</sup> Cf. also *Shyyjih*, J. 48, *Bairhuah* Ed., line 96: 於是從散約敗。爭割地而賂秦。

<sup>4</sup> Cf., e.g., English "Nought so secret but at length is spied" (Burton Stevenson's *Book of Proverbs, Maxims and Familiar Sayings*, London, 1949, p. 2052, No. 11) and the German proverb "Es ist nichts so fein gesponnen, es kommt doch an der Sonnen".

English<sup>1</sup> translations of Exs. 268-270 have failed to do justice to the function of *erl*.

The first example [262] is a quotation from *Luenyeu* XV, 23: *Yeou yih yan erl kee yii jong-shen shyng jy jee hu?* (Waley: "Is there a single saying that [lit.: of such kind that . . .] one can act upon all day and every day?"); [263] *Jih Buh her dah tsuey erl shanq chyau jy jyi yee* "What big crime has Jih Buh committed so that the Emperor (causes people to) search for him so urgently?"; [264] *yih yeou her leh erl shyj suey shyng ge hu?* "What joy have you so as to sing while gleaning?"; [265] *pyn her shyj erl feir ruoh shyh* "What does a poor man (like you) eat so as to become so fat?"; [266] *Chyi duo jyh erl<sup>3</sup> jiee tsyy hwan buh?* "Chyi surely is clever enough to disentangle these rings?"; [267] *Guh sheng wu sheau erl buh wen, shing wu yiin erl buh shyng*. Dubs: "For there is no sound so small that it is not heard; there is no action so secret that it does not leave traces"; [268] *Chyn chyang erl tzeir ruh Wey fwo guei buh kee* "Chyn is so strong that Wey cannot but extradite a criminal who has taken refuge (from Chyn) in Wey"; [269] *Yii chyj shyj how erl woo sy yan* "It is that his meal is so generous that he thereby [*yan*] thinks of me"; [270] *Yih yii wei nan erl buh kee wei ye?* "Well, do they consider it (=jian ay) so difficult that it cannot be done?"

- [262] 有一言而可以終身用之者乎。  
 [263] 季布何大罪而上求之急也。  
 [264] 亦有何樂而拾穗行歌乎。  
 [265] 貧何食而肥若是。  
 [266] 齊多智而解此環不。  
 [267] 故幾無小而不可聞。行無隱而不形。  
 [268] 秦彊而賊入魏歸不可。  
 [269] 吾非以饌具之爲厚。以其食厚而我思焉。  
 [270] 意以爲難而不可爲邪?  
 [271] 無言而不讐。無德而不報。

II B (5): See Exs. 89-94, which are rhetorical questions. I limit myself here to one example of a negative clause after which *erl* introduces a relative clause. This relative clause is also negated. The fact that Ex. 271 is a quotation from the *Shyyjing* into which *erl* has been introduced in the *Mohtzyy* text leads us to suspect that this constitutes a comparatively later usage: *Wu yan erl buh chour, wu der erl bwu baw* (Waley, *Book of Songs*, p. 301: "There can be nothing said that has not its answer, no deed of Power that has not its reward").

<sup>1</sup> Forke, however, has translated correctly Ex. 270 as "Halten sie dieselbe (die Einigung) etwa für so schwierig, dass sie undurchführbar ist?"

<sup>2</sup> Compare also the quotation from the *Shyyjih* (J. 73, *Bairhuah* Ed., lines 56-57) 我何罪于天而至此哉。 "What have I sinned against Heaven so as to come to this pass?"

<sup>3</sup> There would be no necessity for substituting *neng* for *erl* as suggested by Wang Niannsuen (see his *Dwushu-tzaryjy*, *Hwainantzyy*, J. 18, entry *erl buh* 而不



## D

## CONCLUSION

The present "Synopsis of the Main Functions of *Erl*" implies in its title that it does not aim at completeness. On the other hand, it is hoped that no major function has been overlooked, and furthermore that these main functions have been interpreted correctly. Varied though they are they would not appear to be more so than those of certain English grammatical words of similar frequency, as, e.g. "as", or "so". The admirable analysis of the functions of such words in the "New English Dictionary" has served as an unattained—and in view of our present unsatisfactory knowledge of classical Chinese grammar—also unattainable model.

Two features deserve special attention as they seem to prevail throughout the amazing variety of functions and meanings of *erl*:—One, the simultaneous backward and forward reference, though with varying emphasis on either reference in accordance with the respective function or meaning. Two, the indifference of either reference (a) to the length of the unit in question (word[s], phrase, clause or sentence), (b) to the character of the word(s) or phrase (nominal or verbal), (c) to the specific syntactical function fulfilled by the word(s), phrases, clauses or sentences. Finally it will be observed that frequently one or more seemingly competing functions or meanings can be eliminated in the specific context on the ground that they are mutually exclusive.

## EXAMPLES 210-271 — FINDING LIST

- 210 *Goantzzy*, *SBTK*, J. 7, p. 6B<sup>8</sup>.  
 211 *Harnfeitzy*, *SBTK*, J. 1, p. 4A<sup>9-10</sup>;  
 Liao, pp. 14-15.  
 212 *Mohtzzy*, *SBTK*, J. 5, p. 14B<sup>2-4</sup>;  
 Forke, p. 287; Mei, p. 115.  
 213 *Mencius*, III B IX, 4; Legge, p. 156.  
 214 *Yantzzy Chuenchiou*, *SBTK* J.  
 1 p. 20A<sup>5-8</sup>.  
 215 *Luenyeu*, XIII, 21; Waley, p. 177;  
*Mencius*, VII B XXXVII, 2;  
 Legge, p. 374.  
 216 *Luenyeu*, XIX, 23; Waley, p. 229.  
 217 *Hwainantzzy*, *SBTK*, J. 19, p.  
 3B<sup>9-10</sup>.  
 218 *Mencius*, IV B XXXIII, 1; Legge,  
 p. 217.  
 219 *Harnfeitzy*, *SBTK*, J. 1, p.  
 4A<sup>9-10</sup>; Liao, pp. 14-15.  
 220 *Goantzzy*, J. 22, No. 74, *SBTK*,  
 p. 8A<sup>2</sup>.  
 221 *Goantzzy*, J. 22, No. 74, *SBTK*,  
 p. 8A<sup>2-4</sup>.  
 222 *Goantzzy*, J. 23, No. 80, *SBTK*,  
 p. 12B<sup>11-12</sup>.  
 223 *Goantzzy*, o. 80, J. 23, N *SBTK*,  
 p. 13A<sup>4</sup>.  
 224 *Goantzzy*, J. 23, No. 80, *SBTK*,  
 p. 10B<sup>10</sup>.  
 225 *Goantzzy*, J. 24, No. 81, *SBTK*,  
 p. 4B<sup>4</sup>.  
 226 *Mencius*, I A IV, 4 and III B IX, 9;  
 Legge, pp. 9 and 158.  
 227 *Mencius*, III A IV, 6; Legge, p. 125.  
 228 *Mencius*, VI A I, 2; Legge, p. 271.  
 229 *Mencius*, IV A XIV, 2; Legge, p.  
 181.  
 230 *Shyyjih*, J. 70, *Bairwen* Ed., lines  
 103-106.  
 231 *Koongtzzy Jiayeu*, J. 4, p. 5B<sup>2-4</sup>.  
 232 *Luenyeu*, XVII, 20; Waley, p. 214.  
 233 *Guoyeu*, J. 18, *SBTK*, p. 11B<sup>3-4</sup>.  
 234 *Mohtzzy*, *SBTK*, J. 2, p. 15A<sup>4-5</sup>;  
 Mei, p. 58; Forke, p. 208.  
 235 *Janngwotseh*, *SBTK*, J. 3, p.  
 76B<sup>2-3</sup>.  
 236 *Gongyangjuann*, Duke Yiin, 3rd  
 year, *SBTK*, J. 1, p. 10A<sup>10-11</sup>.  
 237 *Liehtzzy*, J. 6, *SBTK*, p. 5B<sup>10-11</sup>;  
 Wilhelm, p. 74.  
 238 *Shyyjih*, J. 62, *Bairhuah* Ed., line 38.  
 239 *Juangtzzy*, VII, 5; Legge, p. 263.  
 240 *Mohtzzy*, *SBTK*, J. 5, p. 20A<sup>6</sup>;  
 Forke, p. 626.  
 241 *Shyuntzzy*, *SBTK*, J. 1, pp.  
 16A<sup>8-16B</sup>.  
 242/3 *Luenyeu*, I, 4; Waley, p. 84.

- 244 *Mencius*, III A III, 7; Legge, p.  
 117.  
 245 *Shinshih*, J. 1, p. 2A<sup>6-9</sup>.  
 246 *Mencius*, VII A XXVI, 1; Legge,  
 p. 340.  
 247 *Shyuntzzy*, *SBTK*, J. 12, p.  
 18B<sup>2-3</sup>.  
 248 *Janngwotseh*, *SBTK*, J. 9, p. 17A<sup>9</sup>.  
 249 *Shuoyuann*, *SBTK*, J. 17, p. 4A<sup>4-6</sup>.  
 250 *Harn Shy Wayjuann*, J. 10, *SBTK*,  
 p. 14B<sup>4-6</sup>; Hightower, p. 341.  
 251 *Harn Shy Wayjuann*, J. 10, *SBTK*,  
 p. 14A<sup>1-3</sup>; Hightower, pp. 340-341.  
 252 *Leu Shyh Chuenchiou*, J. 19, *SBTK*,  
 11B<sup>4-7</sup>; Wilhelm, p. 331.  
 253 *Luenyeu*, XIII, 2; Waley, p. 171.  
 254 *Mencius*, IV A XVIII, 3; Legge,  
 p. 184.  
 255 *Gongyangjuann*, Duke Shiuann, 15th  
 year, *SBTK*, J. 7, p. 13B<sup>8</sup>.  
 256 *Janngwotseh*, *SBTK*, J. 5, p. 2B<sup>8</sup>.  
 257 *Shyyjih*, *Bairhuah* Ed., J. 43, line  
 331.  
 258/9 *Juangtzzy*, XXVI, 2; Legge, p.  
 133.  
 260 *Harn Shy Wayjuann*, *SBTK*, J. 4,  
 p. 1B<sup>2</sup>; Hightower, p. 126.  
 261 *Shyyjih*, *Bairhuah* Ed., J. 43,  
 line 443; Chavannes, Vol. V,  
 pp. 126-127.  
 262 *Luenyeu*, XV, 23; Waley, p. 198.  
 263 *Shyyjih*, *Bairhuah* Ed., J. 100,  
 line 6.  
 264 *Liehtzzy*, J. 1, p. 4B<sup>12-14</sup>. Wilhelm,  
 p. 6.  
 265 *Shyyjih*, *Bairhuah* Ed., J. 56, line 2.  
 266 *Janngwotseh*, *SBTK*, J. 4, p. 66B<sup>4</sup>.  
 267 *Shyuntzzy*, J. 1, p. 11A<sup>7-8</sup>.  
 268 *Shyyjih*, *Bairhuah* Ed., J. 68, line  
 88; Duyvendak, *The Book of Lord*  
*Shang*, London, 1928, p. 30.  
 269 *Koongtzzy Jiayeu*, *SBTK*, J. 2,  
 p. 2B<sup>8</sup>; Kramers, pp. 231 and 324.  
 270 *Mohtzzy*, *SBTK*, J. 4, p. 16A<sup>7-8</sup>;  
 Mei, p. 95; Forke, p. 263.  
 271 *Mohtzzy*, *SBTK*, J. 4, p. 16A<sup>4-5</sup>;  
 Forke, p. 263.