

Transitivity Analysis on Shakespeare's Sonnets

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Abstract: *Applying transitivity on the sonnet is what this research does; it is different from other previous researches which applying transitivity on other kinds of text. This research occupies the descriptive analysis method, in order to cultivate the sonnet to find out the type of process in transitivity. After analyzing the data from three Shakespeare's sonnets, this research finally is able to posit that there are four process types of six types appearing; they are material process, mental process, relational process and existential process. Due to identify which type of process more often appears in these three sonnets, the researcher calculates and makes the table. This research finds that material process appeared more often than others; after that, mental process, relational process and existential process. On the other hand, the researcher as well identified some archaic words; such as 'hath', 'mayst', 'see'st', 'fadeth', 'doth', 'perceivest', 'ere', 'thou', 'thy', and 'writ'.*

Key words: *Clause, circumstance, sonnet, type of process, participant*

I. Introduction

Language is a means of expressing and transferring ideas or experiences among people. To indicate what the one is doing something; something happening; or how someone does something in the text, people can know it by concerning on the clause. It is because a clause consists of at least a subject (the agent or the doer) and a finite verb. Relating to ideas or experiences, thus, verb shows ideas of what the clause focuses on. For instances;

[Jimmy called 911 for emergency last night] (1)

[I wish I could turn back the time] (2)

[She was the best ice skater ever] (3)

Take a look on the verbs (called, wish and was); each of these verbs has its own sense. Just like the verb in the first clause "called", it shows that the subject was doing calling. Then, the verb in the second clause "wish" posits that the subject was thinking and it happens mentally, while another verb in the third clause "was" shows a relation between the subject and the complement. Those instances elaborate that verb as well has function to show and to reflect the situational atmosphere. As argued by Bloor and Bloor (2004) that people, on the one hand, have experiences and, on the other hand, language symbolically represents it. What the researcher meant by "situational atmosphere" is the experience, therefore language as the representation of experiences which can be poured into a text. It is the same as the spoken form; text as well is as an alternative means of expressing ideas. Furthermore, Halliday (2004: 170) stated that the transitivity system construes the world of experiences into a manageable set of process types. It means that it is possible to analyze text in order to find out the process types representing the experiences.

Being in line with the description above, here, this research would cultivate text by concerning on the transitivity system. Then, the researcher found out two previous researchers that discussed the transitivity system on the texts. They are Nguyen (2012) investigating the transitivity system on a novel and proving that employing this system supports both interpretation and identification of the characteristic of the main character; and another one is Sujatna (2013), she elaborated the types of mood and as well process of transitivity applied in the flight department of national and regional airlines. In short, they tried to analyze the text in order to find out the process types applied in the text, and from those researches, honestly the present researcher got inspiration to do a research investigating the transitivity system on a certain text. What makes this present research differs from those three researches is that the text being going to be analyzed is poetry. It is a common thing when there is a discussion of poetry, a genre of literature, it will be in frame of literary study and it seems that there are still a few researches discussing poetry based on the linguistic point of view; thus, this research did occupying linguistics on analyzing poetry, especially systemic functional grammar i.e. transitivity system.

Concerning on the transitivity system, this research focuses on which types of process usually appearing in the poetry then capture them in the percentage. Furthermore, this research directs the analysis on a kind of poetry i.e. sonnet, it is in order to specify the data and to get poetries with the same portion of line since every sonnet will consist of fourteen lines. Searching sonnet for the data, finally the researcher decided to

choose Shakespeare's sonnets, since the researcher assumed that Shakespeare is a very famous English poet, so that everybody will be familiar with him, on the other hand, the researcher as well assumed that it will be ear-catching for the readers.

Another thing that the researcher did in this research was identifying the archaic words used by Shakespeare in composing sonnets; for instances 'thy' means your; 'thou' means you; 'shalt' means shall and so on. Conducting this research, the researcher argued that it can be a new point of view to analyze the literary works, especially poetry, since commonly the discussion of poetry will be in the compass of literary criticism.

II. Methodology

Conducting this research, the researcher applied descriptive analysis method; it is in order to elaborate the appearing process types of transitivity in sonnets and to describe the percentage of process types. Regarding the analyzed point, the researcher applied two treatments to the data; the first is line scanning, this step would identify each line of sonnets whether or not it is a clause, since transitivity analysis occurs and requires clause. Then, the next step will be clause forming i.e. combining a line, not a clause, to the next line in order to make the first line become a clause, for instance;

The cuckoo then, on every tree,
Mocks married men; for thus sings he,
(Shakespeare, *Spring*, the first stanza-5th and 6th line)

Take a look on both lines; it seems that the first line is not a clause consequently it should be combined with the next line. It will become [**T**he cuckoo then, on every tree, **m**ocks married men;], while [for thus sings he,] does not need being combined since it has been a clause. In order to make readers easy to identify each line which has been combined, the researcher gave a sign by making the first letter, the beginning of each line bold. Take a look on the following instance;

[**T**he cuckoo then, on every tree, **m**ocks married men;] (a)
[for thus sings he,] (b)

The letters 'T' and 'm' in clause (a) become the sign of the beginning of the line, while in clause (b) there is no bold letter meaning that it is a part of previous line. Therefore, when these two clauses are parted to be the original line in the sonnet, it will be easier to do.

Sonnets, composed by Shakespeare, which were going to be analyzed are *That time of year*, *Let me not to the marriage of true minds* and *My mistress' eyes*. Definitely, there are more than a hundred sonnets created by Shakespeare, thus, randomly this research analyzed those three sonnets. Furthermore, in order to check the archaic word, the researcher occupied two digital dictionaries; Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary - 3rd Edition (CALD 3) and Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD).

III. Theoretical Frame Work

What the transitivity more concerns from a clause is on the process, the verb engaged in a clause, since the process itself becomes the determiner to classify the process types and the information about the activity or event that the subject does. It means that the process is the core element of any clause, as posited by Sujatna (2013) that "processes are the important part in English". According to Deterding and Poedjosoedarmo (2001) process is defined as the events occurring or stating that exists, then participant and circumstance are as well engaged in the process occurred. In short, besides process, transitivity covers two other elements; they are participant, and circumstance. For instance;

[A good manager should control all staffs wisely] (4)
[John drinks coffee everyday] (5)

Looking at both clauses above, it can be identified that 'A good manager', 'all staffs', and 'John' are the participants; while 'wisely' and 'everyday' are the circumstances. From those two clauses, there are two processes which are indicated with two verbs 'should control' and 'drinks'. Thus, Bloor and Bloor (2004) argued that process as the central part in a clause is linguistically expressed by verb or verbal group while participant is expressed with noun or noun group, on another hand circumstance is expressed with adverbial including adverbs, adverbial group and prepositional phrase.

Talking about process types, Halliday (2004) proposed six types of process; they are material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal, and existential processes. This argumentation is as well supported by Gerot and Wignels (1995), Deterding and Poedjosoedarmo (2001), Lock (2004), Bloor and Bloor (2004), Eggins (2004),

and Sujatna (2013). Simply, Gerot and Wignell (1995) defined each of process as follow; material process is process of material doing, mental process is process involving feeling, thinking, perceiving and having emotional reaction to things, relational process involve states of being (including having), behavioral process is process of physiological and psychological behavior, verbal process is process of saying, or more accurately, of symbolically signaling, and existential process is process of existence.

IV. Finding And Discussion

4.1 Process Types of Transitivity

This part of the article elaborated each selected sonnet partly, and then the researcher identified each process type appearing. The discussion was begun from the sonnet 'My mistress' eyes' then it would be followed with, 'That time of year' and 'Let me not to the marriage of true mind'.

My mistress' eyes

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun; (1)

Participant	Process: Relational	Attribute	Circumstance
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Coral is far more red than her lips' red: (2)

Participant	Process: Relational	Attribute
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If snow be white, (3)

Participant	Process: Relational	Attribute
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why then her breasts are dun; (4)

Participant	Process: Relational	Attribute
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If hairs be wires, (5)

Participant	Process: Relational	Attribute
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black wires grow on her head. (6)

Participant	Process: Material	Circumstance
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I have seen roses damasked, red and white, (7)

Participant	Process: Mental	Phenomenon
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But not such roses see I in her cheeks; (8)

Phenomenon	Process: Mental	Participant	Circumstance
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And in some perfumes is there more delight (9)

Circumstance	Process: Existential	Existent
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Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks. (10)

Circumstance	Participant	Process: Mental
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I love to hear her speak, (11)

Participant	Process: Mental	Phenomenon
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yet well I know (12)

Circumstance	Participant	Process: Mental
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That music hath a far more pleasing sound: (13)

Participant	Process: Relational	Attribute
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I grant (14)

Participant	Process: Material
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I never saw a goddess go, - (15) - (16)

Participant	Circumstance	Process: Mental	Participant	Process: Material
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My mistress, treads on the ground. (17)

Participant	Process: Material	Circumstance
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when she walks (18)

Participant	Process: Material
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And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare (19)

Circumstance	Participant	Process: Mental	Phenomenon	Circumstance
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As any she belied with false compare. (20)

Participant	Process: Mental	Circumstance
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Transitivity covers three elements, one of them is participant. Talking about the participant, basically each process type has the different item of participant one to another. For instances; in material process, the participant is called actor; in mental process it is called *senser*; in verbal process, it is called *sayer*; in relational process, it is able to be called *carrier* or *token*.

As well, the researcher identified the position of circumstance in clauses. It seems that it is not only at the end as in clause (1), (17), (19) & (20), but also found in the middle of clause as in clause (15) and at the beginning as in clause (9), (10), & (12). On the other hand, it is able to be calculated that from twenty clauses identified, there are six relational processes, eight mental processes, five material processes and only one existential process. Especially existential process, according to Deterding and Poedjosoedarmo (2001) it has an introductory subject or it is called dummy, while the real subject which is called *existent* follow the process as in clause (19); [And in some perfumes is there more delight], the word 'there' is what is meant by dummy subject.

Fortunately, the researcher as well identified a strange word '*hath*', it is not found in the CALD 3, while in the OALD, this word means 'has' and it is defined as the old use; therefore the word '*hath*' can be classified as the archaic word and it as well is hardly found people use it in daily communication both spoken or written forms.

That time of year

That time of year thou mayst in me behold (21)

Circumstance	Participant		Circumstance	Process: Material
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When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang (22)

Participant	Process: Material
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Upon those boughs which shake against the cold, (23)

Participant	Process: Material	Circumstance
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Bare ruined choir (24)

Participant	Process: Material	Goal
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where late the sweet birds sang. (25)

Circumstance	Participant	Process: Material
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In me thou see'st the twilight of such day (26)

Circumstance	Participant	Process: Mental	Phenomenon
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As after sunset fadeth in the west, (27)

Circumstance	Participant	Process: Material	Circumstance
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Which by and by black night doth take away, (28)

Circumstance	Participant	Process: Material	Range
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Death's second self, that seals up all in rest. (29)

Participant	Process: Material	Goal	Circumstance
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In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire, (30)

Circumstance	Participant	Process: Mental	Phenomenon
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That on the ashes of his youth doth lie (31)

Participant	Circumstance	Process: Material
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as the deathbed whereon it must expire, (32)

Circumstance	Participant	Process: Material
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Consumed with that which it was nourished by. (33) - (34)

Process: Material	Circumstance	Participant	Process: Mental
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thou perceivest (35)

Participant	Process: Mental
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This which makes thy love more strong, (36)

Participant	Process: Material	Goal	Circumstance
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To love that well (37)

Process: Mental	Goal	Circumstance
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which thou must leave ere long. (38)

Participant	Process: Material	Circumstance
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Analyzing the sonnet 'That time of year', the researcher identified some uncommon words, such as 'mayst' (clause 31), 'see'st' (clause 36, 40), 'fadeth' (clause 37), 'doth' (clause 41, 38), 'perceivest' (clause 45), 'ere' (clause 48), 'thou' (clause 36, 40, 45,48) and 'thy' (clause 46). Consulting to the CALD 3, the researcher just found the word 'ere', 'thou' and 'thy', there are defined as the old use or in this case old word and right now these words are hardly to be found in present texts; the word 'ere' means 'before'; the word 'thou' means you; and the word 'thy' means 'your'.

On the other hand, the words 'mayst', 'see'st', 'fadeth', 'doth' and 'perceivest' are not found in CALD 3rd edition. Consulting to OALD and seeing the context where those words are used in clauses, the researcher assumed that the word 'mayst' can be replaced with 'may', the word 'see'st' is the same as 'see', the word 'fadeth' is the same as 'fade', the word 'doth' is the same as 'do', and the word 'perceivest' is the same as 'perceive'.

Taking a look on the circumstances found in this sonnet, it can be differentiated based on the criteria of them; circumstance of time is in the clause (21), (25), (27), (31) & (38); circumstance of manner is in clause (28), (36), & (37); circumstance of place is in clause (26), (27), (30), & (32); circumstance of cause in clause (23); and circumstance of accompaniment is in clause (33). Further, the researcher identified that there are only two types of process appearing in this third sonnet, they are material and mental processes. It seems that material process appears more often than mental process, there are thirteen material processes from eighteen clauses then the rest, five clauses are mental process.

Let me not to the marriage of true minds

Let me not to the marriage of true minds admit impediment. (39)

(In order to make the easy analysis, the researcher reconstructed the clause into the following clause;

Let me not admit impediment to the marriage of true mind

Process: Material	Circumstance
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The researcher took an attention on the word 'me', according to the traditional grammar, especially syntactic function, the word 'me' is classified as object, however in systemic functional grammar it is classified as the agent, since here, 'me' is the one doing an activity that is admit. Therefore it is called as agent or actor.

Love is not love (40)

Participant	Process: Relational	value
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Which alters when it alteration finds, (41) - (42)

Process: Material	Participant	Goal	Process: Material
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Or bends with the remover to remove. (43)

Process: Material	Circumstance	
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O no! it is an ever-fixed mark (44)

Participant	Process: Relational	Attribute
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That looks in tempests and is never shaken; (45) - (46)

Process: Mental	Circumstance	Process: Material
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It is the star to every wandering bark, (47)

Participant	Process: Relational	Value	Circumstance
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whose worth 's unknown, (48)

Participant	Process: Relational	Attribute
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although his height be taken. (49)

Goal	Process: Material
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Love 's not Time 's fool, (50) - (51)

Participant	Process: Relational	Participant	Process: Relational	Attribute
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though rosy lips and cheeks within his bending sickle's compass come; (52)

Participant	Process: Material
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Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks, (53)

Participant	Process: Material	Circumstance
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But bears it out even to the edge of doom. (54)

Process: Material	Goal	Circumstance
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If this be error and upon me proved, (55) - (56)

Participant	Process: Relational	Attribute	Participant	Process: Material
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I never writ, nor no man ever loved. (57) - (58)

Participant	Circumstance	Process: Material	Participant	Circ	Process: Mental
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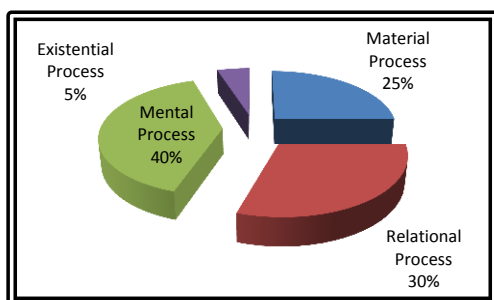
Looking at the relational process, the researcher thought that it needs to explain that there are two kinds of participant appearing in this sonnet. Participants called as 'carrier' are in clause (44), (48), (50), (51) & (55), while participants called as 'token' are in clause (40) & (47). So 'token' will be with 'value' while 'carrier' will be with 'attribute'. Besides participants, the researcher as well wanted to discuss the circumstance, since there are some criteria of it. Circumstances of time exist in clause (53), (57), & (58), circumstance of manner is in clause (45), circumstances of place are in clause (39) & (54), circumstance of accompaniment is in clause (43), and circumstance of cause is in clause (47).

Completely, there are twenty processes found in this sonnet, and process type more often appearing than others is material process. There are eleven material processes, seven relational processes and only two mental processes. As well, the researcher found an old word i.e. 'writ', according to CALD3 and OALD, this word means write and is defined as old use of write.

4.2 The percentage of types of process

Partly, this second point would describe the percentage of process type in each sonnet analyzed then it as well would be described the percentage of whole process type from all sonnets.

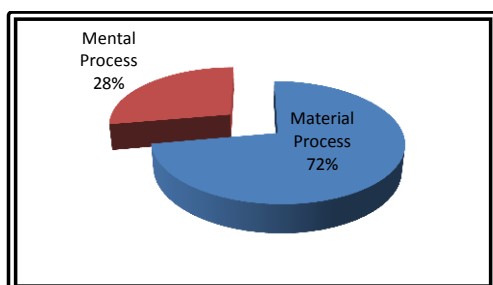
4.2.1 My Mistress' eyes



This sonnet consists of twenty processes; there are

1. Relational processes : 6
2. Mental processes : 8
3. Material processes : 5
4. Existential process : 1

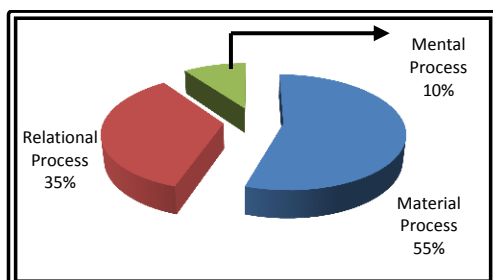
4.2.2 That time of year



This sonnet consists of eighteen processes; there are

1. Material processes : 13
2. Mental processes : 5

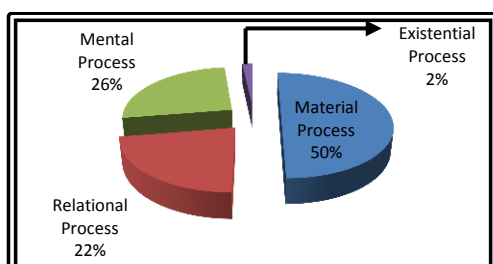
4.2.3 Let me not to the marriage of true mind



This sonnet consists of twenty processes; there are

1. Material processes : 11
2. Relational processes : 7
3. Mental process : 2

4.2.4 The whole calculation



This sonnet consists of twenty processes; there are

1. Material processes : 29
2. Relational processes : 13
3. Mental process : 15
4. Existential process : 1

In detail, the researcher has made a table of the calculation of each sonnet, including the calculation of all sonnets. Here is the table:

Table: The Calculation of Types of processes in each and all sonnets

No.	Types	My mistress' eyes		That time of year		Let me not to the marriage of true mind		All sonnets	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1	Material Process	5	25%	13	72%	11	55%	29	50%
2	Relational Process	6	30%	-	-	7	35%	13	22%
3	Mental Process	8	40%	5	28%	2	10%	15	26%
4	Existential Process	1	5%	-	-	-	-	1	2%

V. Conclusion

Concerning on the focus of this research and looking at the table of the calculation, it can be summed up that there are four types of process found from six types, they are material process, mental process, relational process and existential process. The material process appeared more often than others. On the second rank, mental process is, while relational process is on the third rank then existential process is the last one. The compass of this research is focusing on identifying the type of process in transitivity, however, the researcher assumed that there is such relationship between the type of process and the ideas that the poet delivered in composing sonnet. Therefore, it can be a new research for the researcher or other researchers. On the other hand, the researcher as well identified some words which are able to be classified as the archaic word based on CALD3 and OALD. Those words are 'hath' in the sonnet *My mistress's eyes*; 'mayst', 'see'st', 'fadeth', 'doth', 'perceivest', 'ere', 'thou', and 'thy' are found in the sonnet *That time of year*; then the last word 'writ' is found in the sonnet *Let me not to the marriage of true mind*.

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