Latin Influence on Old English Partitive *of*

1. Introduction

This paper discusses an aspect of the development of the so-called *of*-genitive. This usage gained ground in Middle English, possibly under the French influence (more specifically, the influence of the French preposition *de*).

　　Already in Old English, however, there are many instances of the construction, as illustrated in a number of studies and dictionaries. As those instances appear mainly in texts translated from Latin as renderings of prepositions such as *de* and *ex*, the question as to their origin has sometimes been posed: i.e. whether they are native or Latinism. The present paper considers this question, focusing on a particular type of use, namely, the partitive use (e.g. *twegen of him* "two of them").

　　Here I will show data suggesting that the partitive use of *of* in Old English was Latinism, based on the examination of two 10th-century Gospel glosses, the *Lindisfarne Gloss* and the *Rushworth Gloss*.

2. Partitive construction in Old English

<<Two types of partitive construction in Old English>>
(1) an hyra "one of them"
(2) an of him "one of them"
(3) *c*900 tr. *Bæda's Hist.* III. xix. 240 Wæron þær in þa tiid monige of Ongelþeode [*multi de gente Anglorum*]. (*OED2*, s.v. *of* prep. 42a, first citation)

<<Partitive use of *of*: Native usage or Latinism?>>
(4) … are these constructions [i.e. partitive use of *of*] native or due to Latin influence?
(Mitchell 1985:§1201)
(5) … we may safely say that the development took place independent of Latin. … Nothing could be more natural than '(taken) out of' developing into a partitive use.
(Bodtker 1908: 17-18)

3. Characteristics of the texts examined

Texts examined:
(i) the *Lindisfarne Gloss* (Skeat ed. 1871-87: hereafter *Li*)
(ii) the *Rushworth Gloss* (Skeat ed. 1871-87: hereafter *Ru*)

(6) Mt 6:9
(a)
Ru: fæder ure   þu þe in heofunum earð   beo gehalgad   þin noma
Latin: pater noster   qui es in caelis   sanctificetur   nomen tuum

(b)
Li: fader urer   ðu arð ł ðu bist in heofnu*m* ł in heofnas sie gehalgad   noma ðin
Latin: pater noster   qui es in caelis   sanctificetur nomen tuum
Cf. *NRSV*: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

(7) Mk 5:9
Ru: here   noma   me is   forðon monige we sindun
Latin: legio nomen mihi est   quia   multi   sumus
Cf. *Li*: here to noma me is f*o*rðon monig we sindon
    NRSV: My name is Legion; for we are many.

Figure 1: Characteristics of *Li* and *Ru* (based on Morrell 1965, Ross 1979)

	Lindisfarne Gloss	*Rushworth Gloss*	
		Ru1 (Mt, Mk 1-2:15, Jn 18:1-3)	*Ru2* (the remainder)
glossator	Aldred	Farman	Owun
date of glossing	mid-10th c.	late-10th c.	late-10th c.
dialect	Northumbrian	Mercian	Northumbrian

style	word-for-word	marked by a freedom of translation (except Mk 1-2:15, which depends on *Li*.)	word-for-word (basically a copy of *Li*)

4. Translation of Latin partitive phrases in *Li* and *Ru*

Latin partitive constructions considered:
(i) quantifier+genitive plural noun or pronoun (e.g. example (8))
(ii) quantifier+*ex* (or *de*)+ablative plural noun or pronoun (e.g. examples (9) and (10))

(8) Mt 26:21
Latin: <u>unus uestrum</u> me traditurus est
NRSV: <u>one of you</u> will betray me

(9) Jn 13:21
Latin: <u>unus ex uobis</u> tradet me
NRSV: <u>one of you</u> will betray me

(10) Mk 12:28
Latin: Et accessit <u>unus de scribis</u>
NRSV: <u>One of the scribes</u> came near

Table 1: Glosses for Latin Partitive Genitive Phrases in *Li* and *Ru*

	Ru1	*Ru2*	*Li*
genitive	7	22	36
others	3	2	3
Total	10	24	39

Table 2: Glosses for Latin Prepositional Partitive Phrases in *Li* and *Ru*

	Ru1	*Ru2*	*Li*
genitive	19 (*de* 9/ *ex* 10)		2 (*de* 2/ *ex* 0)
of-phrase	9 (*de* 6/ *ex* 3)	71 (*de* 14/ *ex* 57)	77 (*de* 26/ *ex* 51)
from-phrase		10 (*de* 2/ *ex* 8)	36 (*de* 8/ *ex* 28)
others	3 (*de* 2/ *ex* 1)	2 (*de* 0/ *ex* 2)	3 (*de* 1/ *ex* 2)
Total	31	83	118

N.B.1 The difference in the total number of examples between *Li* and *Ru* is due to the following facts: (i) some leaves of the *Ru* manuscript are missing and (ii) Latin texts in *Li* and *Ru* are partly different.

N.B.2 Double glosses (e.g. Lk (*Li*) 24:13 tuoege of ðæm ł fro*m* hi*m* [Latin: duo ex illis]) are included in "others" .

<<Examples from *Li* and *Ru2*>>

(11) Lk 20:39 (Latin gen.→*Li* gen. / *Ru2* gen.)
Latin: respondentes autem quidam scribarum dixerunt magister bene dixisti
Li: ondsuaredon ða sumo ðara uduutana cuoedon laruu wel ðu cuoede
Ru2: onsworade sum ðara uðwutuna cwæð wel ðu cwede
NRSV: Then some of the scribes answered, 'Teacher, you have spoken well.'

(12) Mk 14:18 (Latin ex→*Li* of / *Ru2* of)
Latin: amen dico uobis quia unus ex uobis me tradet qui manducat mecum

Li: soðlice iuh ≠te an of iuh mec seleð seðe attæs mec m[ið]

Ru2: soð ic cweðo iow forðon an of iow mec seleð seðe eteð mec mið
NRSV: Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.

(13) Mk 14:10 (Latin de→*Li* from / *Ru2* of)
Latin: Et iudas scariotis unus de duodeci*m* abiit ad summos sacerdotes
Li: 7 ł æc iuðas scari*otis* an fro*m* ðæm tuoelfu*m* foerde to ðæm heh-sacerdum
Ru2: 7 iudas scarioth an of twelfu*m* feorde to ðæm heh-sacerdom
NRSV: Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests

<<Examples from *Ru1*>>

(14) Mt 26:21 (Latin gen.→*Ru1* gen. cf. *Li* gen.)
Latin: amen dico uobis quia unus uestrum me traditurus est

Ru1: soþ ic eow sæcge ≠ an eower me sellende bið

Cf. *Li*: soðlice ic cueðo iwh f*or*ðon ł ≠te an Iwer mec sellende bið

NRSV: Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.

(15) Mt 10:29 (Latin ex→*Ru1* gen. cf. *Li* of)
Latin: unus ex eis non cadit super terram sine patre uestro
Ru1: an þære ne falleþ on eorþan butan fæder eower

Cf. *Li*: enne ł an of ðæm ne fallæð of*er* eorðo buta fader iuerræ
   NRSV: Yet not <u>one of them</u> will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

(16) Mt 5:19 (Latin de→*Ru1* of   cf. *Li* of)
Latin: Qui ergo soluerit <u>unum de mandatis istis minimis</u>
Ru1: seþe forþon toleseþ <u>an of þisse beboda læsest</u>
Cf. *Li*: seðe of ðon ł forðo[n] untynes ł toslittes <u>enne of bobodum ðissum leasestu*m* ł lytlu*m*</u>
   NRSV: Therefore, whoever breaks <u>one of the least of these commandments</u>

(17) Mt 8:21 (Latin de→*Ru1* of   cf. *Li* from)
Latin: <u>alius</u> autem <u>de discipulis eius</u> ait illi
Ru1: <u>oþer</u> þa <u>of leornere his</u> cwæþ to him
Cf. *Li*: <u>oðer ł su*m* oðer</u> uutedlice <u>fro*m* ðegnum his</u> cueð to him
   NRSV: <u>Another of his disciples</u> said to him

(18) Mt 26:47 (Latin de→*Ru1* of   cf. *Li* gen.)
Latin: ecce iudas <u>unus de duodecim</u> uenit
Ru1: henu iudas <u>an of þære twelfe</u> cwom
Cf. *Li*: heono iudas <u>an ðara tuoelfa</u> cuom
   NRSV: Judas, <u>one of the twelve</u>, arrived

5. Clumsy handling of partitive *of*-phrase in *Ru1*

<<structure of the partitive *of*-phrase in *Ru1*>>
Mt, Jn18:1-3   8 instances (examples (19)-(26))
        →*of* + (clearly or possibly) genitive (cf. Ross 1976)

Mk 1-2:15   1 instance (example (27))
        →*of* + dative

 (19) Mt 5:19
   Latin: unum de mandatis istis minimis
   Ru1: an of þisse beboda læsest
   Cf. *Li*: enne of bobodum ðissum leasestu*m* ł lytlu*m*
      NRSV: one of the least of these commandments

 (20) Mt 8:21

Latin: alius autem de discipulis eius
Ru1: oþer þa of leornere his
Cf. *Li*: oðer ł sum oðer uutedlice from ðegnum his
    NRSV: another of his disciples

(21) Mt 16:28
Latin: quidam de hic stantibus
Ru1: sume of þæræ her stondendra
Cf. *Li*: sume oðera of her stondendum
    NRSV: some standing here

(22) Mt 18:12
Latin: una ex eis
Ru1: an of ðara
Cf. *Li*: án of ðæm
    NRSV: one of them

(23) Mt 18:14
Latin: unus de pussillis istis
Ru1: an of þisse lytra
Cf. *Li*: enne of lytlum ðissum
    NRSV: one of these little ones

(24) Mt 26:47
Latin: unus de duodecim
Ru1: an of þære twelfe
Cf. *Li*: an ðara tuoelfa
    NRSV: one of the twelve

(25) Mt 26:51
Latin: unus ex hiis
Ru1: an of þara
Cf. *Li*: an of ðæm
    NRSV: one of those

(26) Mt 27:48
Latin: unus ex eis
Ru1: an of heora
Cf. *Li*: an of hiora
    NRSV: one of them

(27) Mk 2:6
Latin: quidam de scribis
Ru1: sume of uþwutum
Cf. *Li*: sume of uðuutum
    NRSV: some of the scribes

(28) Mt 25:8 (cf. Ogura 2008)
Latin: date nobis de oleo uestro
Ru1: sellaþ us of oeles eowres
Cf. *Li*: seles ł seallas us of ole iuerre
    NRSV: Give us some of your oil

(29) Mt 12:37 (*of*+dative)
Latin: <u>ex uerbis</u> enim <u>tuis</u> iustificaberis et <u>ex uerbis tuis</u> condempnaberis
Ru1: <u>of wordum</u> *for*þon <u>þinum</u> þu bist gesoþfæsted 7 <u>of wordum þinum</u> þu bist niðrad
Cf. *NRSV*: for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

6. Conclusion

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