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dare, need について

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今日の英語において助動詞としての用法と、動詞としての用法が共に見られるものの一つに“dare”, “need”がある。Quirk & Greenbaumによると、法助動詞としての構文は主として否定文と疑問文に限られる一方、語彙的動詞としての構文はどのような場合にも用いることが可能であり、事実その方が普通であるとされているが⁽¹⁾、この小論ではこれら“dare”, “need”の用いられ方の実際を現代の小説、戯曲より集めた文例によって検討したい。

1. “dare”の文例

- 1) 'I doubt if Richard will be back in time to run you home. Naughty boy, *I daren't think* what he gets up to.' (M. Spark ; *A Member of the Family*)
- 2) How *dare those two old fools practise* their mediumistic tricks on him? (D. du Maurier ; *Don't Look Now*)
- 3) '*I daren't go on* without you. The wretched alley branches in two directions.' (*ibid*)
- 4) *How dare you! How dare you interfere* with me! (W. S. Maugham ; *Smith*)
- 5) I liked the problems in my school arithmetic, and I deeply admired Father's account books. *I didn't dare tell* him this, somehow. He never offered to let me examine those big, handsome books. (C. Day ; *Life with Father*)
- 6) But he couldn't open his eyes. *He didn't dare.* Because now he knew. (R. Bloch ; *Psycho*)
- 7) How far *dared they go* today? (F. G. Patton ; *Good Morning, Miss Dove*)
- 8) When you're rotting somewhere beside the railroad tracks, remember, and *don't you dare blame* it on me! (A. Miller ; *Death of a Salesman*)
- 9) "Well, *I don't dare think* what Evey will say, but I, for one, thank dear God you had the brains to get out of it. — (J. Updike ; *Ace in the Hole*)
- 10) JAMES : Half sister, and half — mentally defective, she can't even keep herself

clean. It's not pleasant to see her about all the time.

KATE : *Do you dare?* Complain of what you can see?

(W. Gibson ; *The Miracle Worker*)

11) TOM House, house! Who pays rent on it, who makes a slave of himself to...

AMANDA (Fairly screeching) *Don't you DARE to* —

TOM No, no, I mustn't say things! I've got to just —

(T. Williams ; *Glass Menagerie*)

12) *She and LAURA don't dare to face* each other. (*ibid*)

13) I wanted to tell her how nice-looking they were but *I did not dare to*.

(E. Caldwell, *The Strawberry Season*)

14) and at last, the child becoming always more restive, said that she must go — into what merciless arena *one dared not imagine*...but hoped, with a despairing smile which clearly indicated the improbability of such happiness, that she would be able to see them later.

(J. Baldwin ; *The Outing*)

15) During his testimony Johnnie and Roy and David had stood quietly beside the door, *not daring to enter* while he spoke. (*ibid*)

16) OPERATOR. I cannot hear you, madam. Please speak louder.

MRS. STEVENSON. (*still whispering*) *I didn't dare*.— there's someone listening. can you hear me now? (L. Fletcher ; *Sorry Wrong Number*)

17) He was afraid to turn. *He dared not lift* his rifle. Whoever called had a bead on him.

(H. Downey ; *The Hunters*)

18) Only he and I laughed. *The others didn't dare laugh*.

(W. Saroyan ; *My Name is Aram*)

19) How *dare you say* a thing like that? (F. H. Herbert ; *The Moon is Blue*)

以上, anomalous finite として用いられたのは 9 例であり do などを用いる non-anomalous として使われたのは 10 例であり, 殆ど差がなかった。イギリスの作品よりとられたのは 1, 2, 3, 4 のみであとはすべてアメリカの作品である。daren't の形について言えば, M. Bryant はこれはイギリスでは標準的の語法であるがアメリカではまれと云っているが⁽²⁾ 1~4 をのぞく文例を見ると "don't dare" 型 10 例に対し "daren't" 型 5 例である。決して多くはないが, 必ずしもまれと云えないであろう。又, 5, 8, 9, 18 の文は bare infinitive を伴っているが, これについてはリズム或は pause によるとの説も見られる⁽³⁾。しかし主な原因はやはり dare が助動詞性と動詞性の二重性格を持っていることに求められるべきでないだろうか。

2. “need” の文例

- 20) *You needn't have died* at all if you hadn't been idiotic enough to go out on the river with Guy Henderson and get soaked to the skin. (N. Coward ; *Blithe Spirit*)
- 21) *You needn't tell me*...I happen to know you adore Chopin.
(R. Dahl ; *Edward the Conqueror*)
- 22) *I don't need glasses* to eat cornflakes. (A. Ayckbourn ; *Table Manners*)
- 23) Oh no, Tom love, *you don't need to*. Honestly. (*ibid*)
- 24) Oh, all right. *Does she need it?* (*ibid*)
- 25) *You needn't think* you can turn me out now. (A. Christie ; *The Mousetrap*)
- 26) MOLLIE. What's your real name? CHRISTOPHER. *We needn't go into that*. I ran away whilst I was doing my Army service. (*ibid*)
- 27) her bubbling laugh reassuring him that all was well, *he needn't worry* any more, the evil hour had passed. (D. du Maurier ; *Don't Look Now*)
- 28) 'I hope *we need not take up* any more of your valuable time,' she said. (*ibid*)
- 29) However, *we don't need to* quibble. (T. Rattigan ; *The Winslow Boy*)
- 30) Dickie is, of course ; and Ronnie, though *he doesn't need to* be. (*ibid*)
- 31) *He didn't need to* be. It's a girl I know slightly. She'll make him a good wife. (*ibid*)
- 32) *Do you need my instructions*, Sir Robert? (*ibid*)
- 33) Still, *you needn't worry*. If there's ever a clash between what I believe and what I feel, there's not much doubt about which will win. (*ibid*)
- 34) Mr. Moore says I'm to tell you *I needn't come back* till Monday, if you like. (*ibid*)
- 35) But *you needn't go on*, John, dear. You've said quite enough. (*ibid*)
- 36) *I need hardly tell you*, madam, that I am not prepared to let the matter rest there. (*ibid*)
- 37) *I need hardly tell you* how grateful I am, Desmond. (*ibid*)
- 38) *You don't need to tell us* anything you don't want to ;
(T. Rattigan ; *The Deep Blue Sea*)
- 39) Oh, *you don't need to tell me*. (*ibid*)

- 40) *You don't need to remind me* of what a bad match I was. (*ibid*)
- 41) Oh, *you needn't be shocked*. (*ibid*)
- 42) COLLYER : Mr. Miller, I'm very grateful to you for all you did for my —— for Mrs. Page ——
MILLER : *You needn't be*, Sir William. I did very little for —— Mrs. Page. (*ibid*)
- 43) *You needn't worry* about him. He knows all about it. (*ibid*)
- 44) Then *why need you refuse?* (*ibid*)
- 45) 'A healthy girl like you —— *you hardly need glasses* at all.
(M. Spark ; *The Dark Glasses*)
- 46) CHERRY : (*lofty, shrewd*) : Er —— have you got my tobacco, Tom? (Tom *produces it, looking anxiously at his father.*) Thank you...and the change...? (*At this ISOBEL looks sharply and alarmed at Tom. Tom confusedly digs in his pockets,*) Oh, *d'you need it?* (R. Bolt ; *Flowering Cherry*)
- 47) *You don't need Carol*, Jude...Look, let's make up a foursome. (*ibid*)
- 48) The only thing a *dog need concern himself with* is the bill-of-fare.
(P. G. Wodehouse ; *The Mixer*)
- 49) *You don't need a pedigree* to do that. (*ibid*)
- 50) '*I don't need any time* at all to think of an answer, 'retorted Penbury.
(J. Jefferson Farjeon ; *Waiting for the Police*)
- 51) 'If they're dead, grandma, can I live with you? 'Aye, you can. But they're not, so *you needn't worry* your little eyes.' (A. Sillitoe ; *Enoch's Two Letters*)
- 52) *You don't need to smoke* yet awhile. (M. Spark ; *A Member of the Family*)
- 53) As things turned out *I needn't have got so worked up* after all.
(F. Knott ; *Dial M for Murder*)
- 54) Yeah...No, *I don't need anything*, sir... (P. Ustinov ; *Romanoff and Juliet*)
- 55) *You need not wait* if you don't want to. (W. S. Maugham ; *Smith*)
- 56) My dear, *you need not trouble* to explain. (*ibid*)
- 57) *You need not give yourself* the trouble of coming here again. (*ibid*)
- 58) *I don't need to go* to the other side of the world to do that. (*ibid*)
- 59) She tiptoed along the shining beige linoleum and opened the screening —— room door quietly. *She needn't have* ; the sound track was deafening.
(A. Laurents ; *The Way We Were*)

- 60) *You needn't tell me unless you want to.* (F. Hugh Herbert ; *The Moon is Blue*)
- 61) Look, *you needn't worry.* (*ibid*)
- 62) Apart from moral barriers — which *we needn't go into* — nothing if the man's in love. (*ibid*)
- 63) The status to which I presume you're referring *needn't be permanent.* (*ibid*)
- 64) Oh, *you don't need a list.* (*ibid*)
- 65) Sure *you don't need any help?* (*ibid*)
- 66) LAURA. I'm sorry. Tom. *you needn't be.* (R. Anderson ; *Tea and Sympathy*)
- 67) I guess *I don't need to* ask you what's the matter? (*ibid*)
- 68) *I don't need to* ask anyone. (*ibid*)
- 69) *I don't need any money.* (W. Saroyan ; *My Name is Aram*)
- 70) They understand one another and *don't need to* open their mouths. (*ibid*)
- 71) *you needn't worry* about Aram here, Jim said. (*ibid*)
- 72) *I didn't need to* have “okay” defined ; I merely wished to know what of my few and circumspect actions had earned for me that cherished epithet. (E. Segal ; *Love Story*)
- 73) “I don't want Paris. *I don't need Paris.* I just want you…” (*ibid*)
- 74) *I don't need money.* I live alone. I got two nice suits, I don't have a pussycat, I'm very happy. (N. Simon ; *The Sunshine Boys*)
- 75) *I don't need you.* I never needed you. You were nothing when I found you, and that's what you are today. (*ibid*)
- 76) *I don't need a doctor.* Don't get a doctor, I don't trust them. (*ibid*)
- 77) Oh, props. Certainly. *What do you need?* I'll tell them. (*ibid*)
- 78) “I told them all I could pay my own way all the way, and *I don't need any screwing around.*— (J. C. Oates ; *Stray Children*)
- 79) “You, *I don't need you!* I don't love you! (*ibid*)
- 80) “*We needn't worry* about her, “Johnnie said. (J. Baldwin ; *The Outing*)
- 81) *I don't need you.* I'll talk to Sophie myself. (N. Simon ; *The Star-Spangled Girl*)
- 82) He began to think that enough people had visited him, that *he did not need people* any more. (S. Anderson ; *Loneliness*)

- 83) "But *we don't need an extra man* here." (J. Steinbeck ; *The Red Pony*)
- 84) "*I don't need an old man*. This isn't a big ranch. I can't afford food and doctor bills for an old man. (*ibid*)
- 85) I don't think *we need say* again. (W. Gibson ; *The Miracle Worker*)
- 86) But I don't think *you need send* Helen there. (*ibid*)
- 87) ...but I don't see that *we need send* her from the table, after all, she's the guest of honor. (*ibid*)
- 88) *Needn't keep holding up* that porch, we have wooden posts for that. (*ibid*)
- 89) *I needn't remind* you that all the Kellers are cousins to General Robert E. Lee. (*ibid*)
- 90) *Doesn't she need* affection too, Miss Annie? (*ibid*)
- 91) *They don't need me* in New York. I'm the New England man. I'm vital in New England. (A. Miller ; *Death of a Salesman*)
- 92) I tell ya, Howard. The kids are all grown up, y'know. *I don't need much* any more. (*ibid*)
- 93) Here...here's some more. *I don't need it* any more. (*ibid*)
- 94) *What do you need* a whole bottle of champagne for? (N. Simon ; *Plaza Suite*)
- 95) *You don't need me*. You need a rhinoceros with a blowtorch... (*ibid*)
- 96) I like you see him. *You need not be frightened*. (J. V. Druten ; *I remember Mama*)
- 97) To know if someone is good cook, *you do not need to* eat a whole dinner. (*ibid*)
- 98) The best thing to do under the circumstances, the only thing to do, was to get rid of her. *He needn't feel guilty* about it. (R. Bloch ; *Psycho*)
- 99) Oh, now ; *you needn't say that*. (E. Albee ; *The Zoo Story*)
- 100) *I didn't need anything* like that when I got older. (*ibid*)
- 101) Oh, boy, listen to you ; well, *you don't need this bench*. That's for sure. (*ibid*)
- 102) "*You needn't get so excited*, Clare," (C. Day ; *Life with Father*)
- 103) Only *she didn't need to say* that because Ringo was already answering that before she spoke : W. Faulkner ; *The Unvanquished*)
- 104) "Knows?" Ringo said. "Knows what?" But *he didn't need to ask that* either ; (*ibid*)

純然たる否定文、疑問文に用いられた need を見ると 20 から 58 までのイギリス英語の場合、動詞対助動詞は、17 対 18 で殆ど差がない。しかしアメリカ英語 (59 から 104) を見ると 29 対 14 で約 2 倍の数で本動詞として使われている。Quirk & Greenbaum が助動詞としての need はアメリカ英語の方がまれであると思われると述べたのは当たっている⁴⁾。

なお 36, 37, 45 の例を見ると 36, 37 は need+hardly であるのに対し 45 は hardly+need となっている。助動詞は一般的に hardly の前にくることを考えれば 36, 37 では、need の助動詞性が意識されていると云えよう。

又、48, 85, 86, 87 の例は need のあとに動詞の原形が続いていて need の助動詞性をはっきり示している。

以上、現代英語での dare, need の用法の一端を実例を通して見てきたが dare, need 共に助動詞性を多分に残しているとは云え、今後はアメリカ英語に見られる通り、本動詞として使われる場合がますます多くなっていくのではないかと思われる。

注

- 1) R. Quirk & S. Greenbaum : *A University Grammar of English* Longman 1973 p. 37.
- 2) Margaret M. Bryant : *Current American Usage* Funk & Wagnalls Company, Inc. 1962, p. 66.
- 3) 大塚高信 英文法論考 研究社 1952 p. 292~p. 293.
- 4) R. Quirk & S. Greenbaum ; *op. cit.* p. 37.

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