

Agrégation interne d'anglais
Session 2018
Épreuve ESP
Explication d'un texte extrait du programme

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Explication de texte

Defoe, Daniel, *Roxana. The Fortunate Mistress* (1724). Oxford: Oxford World's Classics, OUP, pp. 169 – 171.

Explication de faits de langue

Le candidat proposera une analyse linguistique des segments soulignés dans le texte.

5 However, Sir *Robert* came seriously to me one Day, and told me, he
had an Offer of Matrimony to make to me, that was beyond all that he had
heard had offer'd themselves, and this was a Merchant; Sir *Robert* and I
agreed exactly in our Notions of a Merchant; Sir *Robert* said, and I found
10 it to be true, that a true-bred Merchant is the best Gentleman in the
Nation; that in Knowledge, in Manners, in Judgment of things, the
Merchant out-did many of the Nobility; that having once master'd the
World, and being above the Demand of Business, tho' no real Estate, they
were then superiour to most Gentlemen, even in Estate; that a Merchant
15 in flush Business, and a capital Stock, is able to spend more Money than a
Gentleman of 5000 *l.* a Year Estate; that while a Merchant spent, he only
spent what he got, and not that; and that he laid up great Sums every
Year.

15 That an Estate is a Pond; but that a Trade was a Spring; that if the
first is once mortgag'd, it seldom gets clear, but embarrass'd the Person
for ever; but the Merchant had his Estate continually flowing; and upon
this, he nam'd me Merchants who liv'd in more real Splendor, and spent
more Money than most of the Noblemen in *England* cou'd singly expend,
and that they still grew immensely rich.

20 He went on to tell me, that even the Tradesmen in *London*, speaking
of the better sort of Trades, cou'd spend more Money in their Families,
and yet give better Fortunes to their Children, than, generally speaking,
the Gentry of *England* from 1000 *l.* a Year downward, cou'd do, and yet
grow rich too.

25 The Upshot of all this was, to recommend to me, rather the
bestowing my Fortune upon some eminent Merchant, who liv'd already in
the first Figure of a Merchant, and who not being in Want or Scarcity of
Money, but having a flourishing Business, and a flowing Cash, wou'd at
the first word, settle all my Fortune on myself and Children, and maintain
30 me like a Queen.

This was certainly right; and had I taken his Advice, I had been really
happy; but my Heart was bent upon an Independency of Fortune; and I
told him, I knew no State of Matrimony, but what was, at best, a State of
Inferiority, if not of Bondage; that I had no Notion of it; that I liv'd a Life
35 of absolute Liberty now; was free as I was born, and having a plentiful
Fortune, I did not understand what Coherence the Words *Honour* and
Obey had with the Liberty of a *Free Woman*; that I knew no Reason the
Men had to engross the whole Liberty of the Race, and make the Women,
notwithstanding any disparity of Fortune, be subject to the Laws of
40 Marriage, of their own making; that it was my Misfortune to be a Woman,
but I was resolv'd it shou'd not be made worse by the Sex; and seeing
Liberty seem'd to be the Men's Property, I wou'd be a *Man-Woman*; for as
I was born free, I wou'd die so.