

MORPHO-SYNTACTICS OF THE VERB IN CHAUCERIAN PROSE

by

BEVERLY ANN SLATTERY HUNTSMAN

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Major Professor

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Table of contents

Chapter 1	1
1.0.0. Introduction.....	1
1.1.0. Statement of the problem.....	1
1.2.0. Review of the literature.....	3
1.3.0. Procedure.....	5
Chapter 2	7
2.0.0. Contrastive morphology of the verb.....	7
2.1.0. Relevance to this paper.....	7
2.2.0. Classifying verbs in Middle English.....	7
2.2.1. Weak verbs in Middle English.....	7
2.2.2. Strong verbs in Middle English.....	9
2.2.3. Preteritive-present verbs in Middle English.....	9
2.2.4. Anomalous verbs in Middle English.....	10
2.3.0. ME weak verbs vs. M ⁿ E regular verbs.....	10
2.4.0. ME strong verbs vs. M ⁿ E irregular verbs.....	11
2.5.0. ME preteritive-present verbs vs. M ⁿ E modals.....	12
2.6.0. ME anomalous verbs vs. M ⁿ E <u>be</u> and <u>will</u>	12
2.7.0. Relations of nominals to the verb.....	13
Chapter 3	14
3.0.0. Personal pronouns.....	14
3.1.0. Pronominal case in Middle English.....	14
3.2.0. Pronominal case in Modern English.....	15
3.3.0. Contrast of functional differentiation of the pronoun in Middle English and Modern English.....	15

3.4.0. Exceptions to 3.3.0. in Middle English.....	16
3.4.1. <u>Oghte</u>	17
3.4.2. <u>List(e)</u>	17
Chapter 4	18
4.0.0. Types of sentences.....	18
4.1.0. Types of sentences in Modern English.....	18
4.2.0. Types of sentences in Middle English.....	18
4.3.0. Type I.....	18
4.3.1. Type Ia.....	18
4.3.2. Type Ib.....	18
4.3.3. Type Ic.....	18
4.3.4. Type Id.....	19
4.3.5. Type Ie.....	19
4.3.6. Type If.....	19
4.4.0. Type II.....	19
4.5.0. Type III.....	20
4.5.1. Type IIIa.....	20
4.5.2. Type IIIb.....	20
4.5.3. Type IIIc.....	20
4.5.4. Type IIIId.....	20
4.5.5. Type IIIe.....	21
4.6.0. Type IV.....	21
4.6.1. Type IVa.....	21
4.6.2. Type IVb.....	21
4.7.0. Type V.....	21
4.8.0. Summary.....	21

Chapter 5	23
5.0.0. Verbal expansions.....	23
5.1.0. Parallel expansions in Middle English and Modern English.....	23
5.1.1. Expansion 1.....	23
5.1.2. Expansion 4.....	23
5.1.3. Expansion 6.....	23
5.1.4. Expansion 8.....	24
5.2.0. M ⁿ E Concepts expressed in nonequivalent M ^E constructions.....	23
5.2.1. M ⁿ E expansion 2.....	24
5.2.2. M ⁿ E expansion 10.....	25
5.2.3. M ⁿ E expansions 11 and 12.....	26
5.3.0. M ^E mutative verbs.....	26
5.4.0. Summary.....	26
Chapter 6	28
6.0.0. Contrast of utterance orders.....	28
6.1.0. Order in Middle English.....	28
6.2.0. Order of sentences with nonexpanded verbs.....	28
6.2.1. Order of nonexpanded type IIIc.....	30
6.2.2. Order of nonexpanded type IV.....	31
6.2.3. Order of nonexpanded type V.....	31
6.3.0. Order of sentences with expanded verbs.....	31
6.3.1. Order of expanded type III.....	32
Chapter 7	33
7.0.0. Conclusions.....	33

7.1.0. Implications of structural patterns in Middle English.....	33
Table 1: ME weak and MnE regular verbs.....	35
Table 2: ME strong and MnE irregular verbs.....	36
Table 3: Modals.....	37
Table 4: Anomalous verbs.....	38
Table 5: Personal pronouns.....	39
Table 6: Impersonal verbs and <u>oghte</u>	40
Table 7: Sentence types.....	41
Table 8: Verbal expansions.....	46
Table 9: Order in unexpanded verbal constructions.....	50
Table 10: Order in expanded verbal constructions.....	53
Notes.....	56
Cited references.....	60
Bibliography for further study.....	62

Chapter 1

1.0.0. Introduction.

1.1.0. Statement of the problem. In relation to a linguistic classification of grammar, languages may be categorized generally as synthetic or analytic. A synthetic language is one which is relatively heavily inflected, that is, dependent on certain morphological markers (e.g. Latin 'word endings') for case, number, tense, and the like. An analytic language, conversely, has little or no inflection, but is primarily dependent for meaning upon the order of its elements. Modern English is considered analytic. Some recent analyses have even described English syntax almost exclusively according to word order with little use of traditional terms such as 'noun', 'adverb', or 'object'.

An earlier form of English, Old English (ca. A. D. 700-1100), was definitely synthetic. With some homophony, the OE noun was marked with different inflectional suffixes for number (singular and plural), gender (masculine, feminine, and neuter), and case (nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, and instrumental). The allomorphs of the definite and indefinite articles were distributed in a similar manner. It is possible to have OE gesceop sē sunu 'the son made', whereas the same morphological order in Modern English, made the son, means something quite different. Old English signals the grammatical meaning of the noun by a morphological suffix on sunu, in this case, -u. Adjectives were also declined. For example, because of the inflectional

suffixes, OE sumra wunda 'of some wounds', would not be misunderstood if it were wunda sumra. (Normal prose order in Old English was adjective-noun, but inversions like the latter example occur in poetry with no change in meaning.) This agreement of adjective and noun is called concord. The morphological forms marking the concord need not be similar, although the occurrence of one form predicts the occurrence of the other, as MnE -s occurs with a third person singular verb, in concord with its subject, e.g. 'he says'.¹

In the 400 years between Old English and Early Modern English, the language changed from primary dependence on inflection to primary dependence on word-order. While scholarship in the history of English has concentrated on sound changes, and on broad morphological and syntactical changes, little attention has been paid to the progression from inflection to word-order. Chaucerian Middle English (ca. 1380-1400) is of special interest because one would expect a rather precarious balance between the two systems. The preeminence of one system over the other has not been studied to any large extent.

The verbal slot with its various manifestations² is a very important element of the sentence in both Modern English and Chaucerian Middle English prose (henceforth the term Middle English will refer only to Chaucerian Middle English prose). However, the structural differences between Middle English and Modern English have not yet been adequately described. The recent development of structural linguistics has provided a new, and in some ways, radically different, set of tools which the philologist did not have at his disposal. At

the base of this new approach is a technique called contrastive analysis, by which the significant features of two languages may be compared and contrasted so as to arrive at the essential points of difference between the two languages. The application of contrastive analysis should discover similarities and differences between the Chaucerian verb and the Modern English verb, by an analysis of possible arrangements of elements and inflectional markers within the verbal slot. Such a description is undertaken in this paper and should be of value in understanding an important facet of the development of the English language, indicating more clearly how English worked 600 years ago, and showing the structural changes that have resulted in Modern English verbal syntax.

1.2.0. Review of the literature. One of the first persons to discuss the historical development of the verbal slot in English was Otto Jespersen in his Growth and structure of the English language (1905:210-223). He discusses the changes and losses of certain morphological markers of the verb and specifically treats the 'building up of a rich system of tenses' through the addition of auxiliary verbs. However, he gives little consideration to the possible syntactic arrangements at any given time.

Tauno F. Mustanoja's treatment of the syntax of Middle English (1960) is the most useful for its specific examples of verbal constructions compiled from Middle English literature. He is not primarily concerned with the verb, but with the overall syntax of the language.

Particularly important is F. Th. Visser's An historical syntax of the English language (1963-1966). Visser arranges and exhaustively documents the history of the English language by verb types taken from literature. Only two volumes of a proposed multi-volumed work have been published. Unfortunately, they deal only with sentences containing one verb, limiting their usefulness for the present study.

Charles C. Fries' The structure of English (1952) describes an early modern attempt at a fairly complete structural analysis of Modern English. Using an item and arrangement methodology, Fries (1940) traces the pattern of 'Actor-Action-Goal' from Old English to Modern English. He is particularly concerned with the varying patterns of the absolute order positions of the syntactic slots filled by the dative-object and the accusative-object. He discusses the relative positions of the two objects and the verb. His results show a definite trend towards a stable location of both objects after the verb, as Old English develops into Modern English.

Winfred P. Lehmann (1962) approaches English historical development through structural analysis. About the problem of this paper he says:

'Relationship in English ... is largely indicated by order, to a much smaller degree by inflection, and to an even lesser degree by concord ... In Old English ... on the other hand, an inflectional ending would have indicated the relationship, making the index of inflection higher than it is in Modern English.' (1962:51)

Charles Carlton's application of structural methodology (1963) indicates that, although the language was highly inflected, there is a rudimentary dependence on word-order in Old English.

Morton W. Bloomfield and Leonard Newmark (1963) have perfunctorily

applied structural linguistic theory to the history of English. Although their treatment is superficial, it indicates that a rigorous application of this methodology could eventually result in a fairly complete and economical statement of the development of the English language.

Jacek Fisiak (1965) attempts a modified tagmemic approach to Chaucerian morphemics. His concentration, however, is on the poetry, and certain of his methodological criteria are suspect (see 2.1.1. below), which limit his usefulness for this study.

The particular system of verbal classification employed here is proposed in an unpublished paper by Leo F. Engler and Elaine Hamah (1966). The system allows the succinct classification of the ME verb and has been adapted for use with the Chaucerian verb.

1.3.0. Procedure. A common limitation in working with materials from the ME period is that original manuscripts are seldom available, and subsequent manuscripts characteristically include scribal errors and emendations including crossdialect changes. Fortunately, there has been an extensive amount of excellent work done in restoring and arranging Chaucer's manuscripts. F. N. Robinson's edition of The complete works of Chaucer (1961) is recognized as highly authoritative, and for this reason was chosen as the text for this study.

The data for the study were drawn from Chaucer's prose works; A treatise on the astrolabe; 'The Parson's tale' and 'The tale of Melibee' from The Canterbury tales; and his translation of Boethius' De consolatione Philosophiae. The corpus was found by classifying all possible

clause types according to the modified Engler-Hannah system.³ The verbal morpheme arrangements were then tabulated according to contrasting expansion types.

The ME types were contrasted with MnE types to discover correspondences and divergences, which are described in structural terms. In the chapters that follow, the ME types are examined and discussed in relation to their grammatical and/or semantic counterparts in Modern English.

Chapter 2

2.0.0. Contrastive morphology of the verb.

2.1.0. Relevance to this paper. Since there has been extensive research on the morphology of both the ME verb and the MnE verb,⁴ it is unnecessary to present more than a brief outline of these systems in this paper. This investigation is concerned with the contrasting inflections only insofar as they differentiate between the morphs which may fill syntactical slots.

2.2.0. Classifying verbs in Middle English. ME verbs are divided into two main types: strong and weak, based on their inflections. Moore and Marckwardt state:

'Weak verbs form their preterite by means of a suffix containing d or t. Strong verbs do not form their preterit by means of a suffix containing d or t but by a change in the vowel of the stem of the verb ... Weak verbs may be recognized from the fact that their preterit indicative first and third persons singular end in -ede, -ed, -de, or -te and from the fact that their past participles end in -ed, -d, or -t. Strong verbs may be recognized from the fact that their preterit indicative first and third persons singular are without ending, and from the fact that their past participles end in -en or -e.' (1963:54)

Two minor classes of verbs--the preteritive-present verbs and the anomalous verbs (tables 3 and 4)--do not fully correspond to either of the two main categories, but contain elements of both or new elements. They will be discussed further in sections 2.2.3. and 2.3.0.

2.2.1. Weak verbs in Middle English. The weak verbs of Middle English are divided into two smaller categories: 1) those that take the inflectional suffixes -ede or -ed in the preterite and -ed for the past participle, and 2) those that take the preterite inflections -de or -te,

and past participle inflections -ed, -d, or -t. They are called, respectively, weak I and weak II. It should be noted, however, that these inflections are the only differences in the two types. Jacek Fisiak (1965:86-87) has argued that these markers of the preterite must be considered as three separate morphemes, [-t], [-d], and [-ed], because they do not occur in phonologically conditioned complementary distribution. This seems a rather uneconomical decision, and seems to complicate needlessly the identification of the preterite in Middle English.⁵ A simpler, more concise system would be to identify a preterite morpheme for the weak verbs, [-d], and note its morphologically conditioned allomorphs, [-t] and [-ed]. This would account for the distinctive differences in this form of the verb without needlessly confusing them with etic (i.e. nondistinctive) variations.⁶ Viewed in this way, the final -e in the preterite is etic, in free variation with \emptyset (or perhaps only stylistically conditioned—a consideration beyond the scope of this paper), and the over-all system is simpler.

The weak verbs mark the person of the singular present and preterite indicative with the forms -e, -est, and -eth. All persons in the present and preterite plural indicative and subjunctive, however, are marked by -n or \emptyset , resulting in ambiguity. For example, ME love could have up to fourteen person/number concords. (See table 1.) However, in this case, as in nearly all natural languages, there are generally a sufficient number of redundant grammatical or semantic elements to preclude the misunderstanding of a given form in context. Redundancy will be discussed further in 2.7.0. and Chapter 3.

The subjunctive may be determined morphologically only when it occurs

with the third and second persons singular, otherwise it is identical with the indicative (tables 1 and 2).

The order of morphemes for the weak verbs is: stem + ({-d}) + inflectional suffix + (-n).

2.2.2. Strong verbs in Middle English. The strong verbs of Middle English differ from the weak verbs in that they characteristically form their preterites by a vowel change in the stem (table 3). Unlike the weak verbs, the inflections of the preterite differ from those of the present (the inflections and their uses are shown in table 2). The formation of the characteristic preterite morpheme may be considered a replacive function (Nida 1948:262-263). We have, for example, {-oo-} ← {-i-} in rood ← ride, or {-a-} ← {-e-} in bar ← bere with a simultaneous loss of final -e. It is beyond the scope of this paper to discuss at length the individual changes of all the strong verbs, as the analytic procedures require only the recognition of the major distinctive verb forms (see Moore and Marckwardt 1963:53-58). Other than the overt differences mentioned above, the strong and weak verbs of Middle English are morphologically equivalent. Morpheme order for the strong verbs is: stem + inflectional suffix/preterite + (-n).

2.2.3. Preteritive-present verbs in Middle English. A small number of verbs (table 3) do not fall within either of the categories of the strong-weak opposition of verbs. Instead, they

'... have present indicatives which are like the preterite indicatives of strong verbs in that they have no ending in the first and third persons singular. The preterites of these verbs are weak. For the most part, these verbs are employed as modal auxiliaries, but on occasions they assume independent meaning.' (Moore and Marckwardt 1963:57)

2.2.4. Anomalous verbs in Middle English. Two important ME anomalous verbs, bee(n) and wille(n), occur in the corpus (table 4). They will be discussed further in relation to Modern English in 2.6.0.

2.3.0. ME weak verbs vs. MnE regular verbs. The weak verbs of Middle English correspond to what are often called regular verbs in Modern English. The MnE regular verb forms its preterite by means of a morpheme suffix commonly designated $\{-D_1\}$ (Gleason 1961:74), whose phonologically conditioned allomorphs are /-d, -t, -id/. Even though Modern English does not ordinarily differentiate graphemically between the /-d/ and the /-t/, phonologically the pattern is equivalent to that of Middle English (Moore and Marckwardt 1963:158-161).

Modern English inflects only the third person singular present indicative morpheme with the morpheme $\{-Z_3\}$, whose allomorphs are /-s, -z, -iz/ (Gleason 1961:101), while Middle English inflects extensively throughout the preterite and present. Three person markers, -e, -est, and -eth, are used variously for both present and preterite singular indicative, and one plural marker, -e(n), for all persons of the present and preterite indicative and subjunctive. Modern English compensates for the loss of the ME morphological markers by a reliance on syntactic order. Fries says, 'In general, "position" markers in any particular sentence supersede morphological or form markers.' (1952:41) To what degree this is also true for Middle English is one of the problems considered in this paper. There is a numerical morphological correspondence between Middle English and Modern English of 4:1 for person markers, 1:1 for preterite markers, and 1:1 for participle markers. There is also a 2:0 ratio for subjunctive inflectional markers. In Modern English sub-

junctive is not marked morphologically except in the third person singular and with the verb to be, but is inferred from the occurrence of a preceding conditional function-word, from particular sequences of tenses in complex sentences, or from lexical content. The unique subjunctive behavior of MnE to be will be discussed in 5.1.1. For contrastive ME and MnE constructions, see tables 1, 2, and 3.

2.4.0. ME strong verbs vs. MnE irregular verbs. The ME strong verbs correspond to the MnE irregular verbs, in that both characteristically form their preterite by means of a vowel change in the stem, sometimes accompanied by a following consonantal change. The nature of this process in Modern English has been the subject of much discussion. Bernard Bloch (1947:246ff) proposes setting up morpheme bases for these verbs, and then the substitution of complete 'morpheme alternants' for the preterite and/or participle, e.g. the base /siŋ/ with its alternates /sæŋ/ and /sɛŋ/. Nida (1948:263), in refutation, posits a replacive morpheme for this type of verb. For example, /æ ← i/ in /siŋ/ > /sæŋ/. In such cases as MnE /liyv/ > /left/, the addition of /-t/ is treated as a regular past-tense suffix, and the /f ← v/ as a submorphemic change, that is, the latter does not constitute a meaningful change. He says:

'But if English past-tense formations are considered as structurally related, the pressure of the pattern would seem to be sufficient to permit the classification of changes by types: (1) the replacement of syllabics as morphemic, and (2) the replacement of consonants as sub-morphemic.' (1948:263)

For the purposes of this paper, Nida's system seems more economical. Equivalent replacive morphemes are posited for the ME strong verb preterite formatives. (A list of these changes may be found in Moore and Marckwardt 1948:56).

In the preterite of the strong verbs, Middle English marks only for number (except for the variant second person singular); therefore, the ratio of morphological markers of ME strong verbs to MⁿE irregular verbs is smaller than that of the weak/regular verbs. The ME subjunctive pattern for strong verbs is identical to that for weak verbs so its correspondence to MⁿE subjunctive is also identical.

2.5.0. ME preteritive-present verbs vs. MⁿE modals. Person-number markers in Middle English are less frequent in these verbs than in the strong and weak verbs. In the present indicative, Middle English marks distinctively only the second person singular, while the other persons, are, in isolation, ambiguous (table 4). Modern English marks no person or number, but ambiguity seldom results as these forms are considered modals, and are generally not used by themselves.

While the other preteritive-present verbs of Middle English are normally used as both finite verbs and modals, witan is used only as a finite verb, similar to the Modern English know.

2.6.0. ME anomalous verbs vs. MⁿE be and will. While MⁿE will acts exactly like the modals discussed in 2.5.0., ME wille(n) is different from any of the other verbs. It is often a modal, like the preteritive present verbs, but is inflected differently. It forms its preterite similarly to the ME strong verbs, with a replacive morpheme, but marks the second person singular indicative preterite, which neither the strong verbs nor the anomalous verbs do (table 3).

In both stages of the language, the verb bee(n)/to be is unique (table 3). The ME verb, however, has a more complex morphology, morphemically differentiating more explicitly than Modern English does. Be-

cause of a considerable homophony of forms, a strictly morphological identification of ME subjunctive constructions is even more difficult than in Modern English (table 3).

The preterite morphs are identical in the two systems.

2.7.0. Relations of nominals to the verb. Because of the extensive inflections of Middle English, to a large degree, the person and number of the subject may be ascertained by looking at the verb. For most MnE verbs this may be done only in the third person singular present. For example, if a ME verb has either an -est or an -st suffix, its subject must be second person singular. In Modern English the nominal subject may be identified only by the order of elements. In MnE you see the cats, you must be the subject because of its position. In MnE the cats see you, however, only the order has changed--all the morphemes are still the same--but the native speaker knows that the cats is now the subject because of arrangement. Both Middle English and Modern English have a system of redundancy, however, to help alleviate ambiguity. One occurrence of redundancy is in the pronominal system.

Chapter 3

3.0.0. Personal pronouns.

3.1.0. Pronominal case in Middle English. The ME personal pronoun changes form according to its function (table 5). Each person may be realized as at least eight different morphemes, four singular and four plural, some of which may have submorphemic, nondistinctive allomorphs. The occurrence of suffixed -e in no way changes the meaning of a morpheme and should not be considered inflectional. The forms our, your, hir, her, take -e unpredictably, with no change in meaning. The pairs of forms hit/it and ich/I are in free variation.

This well-defined case system, in conjunction with the inflectional suffixes of the verb, greatly reduces the possibility of ambiguity. Distinguishing any one of the fourteen possible meanings for the form love mentioned in 2.2.1. is simplified when love occurs with one or more pronouns. In ME I love yow the form of the pronoun I designates it as the subject (actor) and by elimination designates yow as the object (goal) of the sentence. This process of inflectional relationships is called government. The only times when ambiguity may still be present are in constructions using hit or ye, your, yow. The subject of the brid loveth hit could be either the brid or hit, since both govern the third person singular inflectional morpheme, and the nominative and objective case forms of the neuter third person pronoun are the same.

The use of the second person plural pronoun may also be ambiguous because 'all forms of the second person plural were used with singular meaning in certain social situations' (Moore and Marckwardt 1963:53).

Thus there could be constructions in which the verb is inflected for second person singular, but the subject morpheme is plural. In ye rood hit it is not possible to tell morphologically which pronoun is the actor and which the goal.

3.2.0. Pronominal case in Modern English. Gleason says concerning the pronouns in Modern English:

'In English, case is restricted to pronouns. The difference between I and me or he and him is one of case. Thus in I saw him., the forms I and him rather than me and he assist in marking the structure. However, in English, word-order alone is used for this purpose with most nominals ... most Americans rely very little on the case forms, even when they are available. If a group of Americans are instructed to correct such sentences as *Me saw Paul. or *Mary saw he., a majority will make them I saw Paul. and Mary saw him., rather than Paul saw me. and He saw Mary. This may be taken to indicate that, when the facts of word-order and case form are in conflict, native speakers of English will consider word-order as the more significant. Case is a very marginal feature in English syntax.' (1961:162)

While Gleason notes accurately the tendency towards a precedence for order over case, it should be noted that, given the lack of verbal inflectional morphemes, these cases provide a very useful redundancy. The identification of the subject of a construction by its location is strengthened by the presence of a personal pronoun. For example, if an English speaker were given the items him, I, saw, and asked to put them into grammatical English, a grammatical arrangement could be based on purely morphological criteria. It could not be done with a series such as the man, the boy, saw.

3.3.0. Contrast of functional differentiation of the pronoun in Middle English and Modern English. The functional differentiation of pronouns in Middle English is particularly important for the verb forms which have been cited as being potentially ambiguous (section 3.1.0.).

Ostensibly, a combination of morphological forms in Middle English signals function while in Modern English there is a combination of morphology and syntax. A given construction in Middle English characteristically depends on at least two morphological forms for functional meaning--the verbal inflection and the case of the pronoun. Thus a set order may not be necessary to signal the function of a form. In ME thou me conservest, the two morphs me and -est allow the grammatical classification of all of the morphs which therefore indicates the meaning of the construction. As Gleason demonstrates, Modern English depends on the interrelations of morphology and syntax.

3.4.0. Exceptions to 3.3.0. in Middle English. There seems to be one class of exceptions to the discussion above. Four verbs, when they occur with the suffix -eth, often have no expressed subject (excluding the imperative usage), but are preceded by a pronoun in the objective case form of any person (table 6). These verbs, seemeth, remembreth, liketh, and thynketh, point up the problem of precedence of morphology over order in Middle English. The morpheme -eth signals a third person singular subject, which, however, is often missing. In somewhat similar constructions, such as it liketh me and it remembreth me, the pronouns in the objective case form act as goals of an action, i.e. as objects. But to posit an absent subject it in all constructions like me remembreth is unsatisfactory. In the first place, when only the objective pronoun and the verb occur, the pronoun quite regularly comes before the verb; when a subject (either a pronoun in the nominative case--usually it, or something other than a pronoun) occurs, the objective pronoun always follows the verb. It would seem that if the 'subjectless'

construction were to be understood to have an 'absent subject', the rearrangement of order would hardly be necessary. (This view is supported by the fact that in an imperative construction the order rarely changes.) (See table 6.) This seems to illustrate a transition from a preference for morphological signals to one for syntactical signals. Mustanoja agrees: 'In the course of the ME period these impersonal constructions become personal, i.e., the word in the dative or accusative comes to be taken as the subject of the verb and consequently understood as a nominative.'⁷ (1960:435)

3.4.1. Oghte. A parallel case to that cited in 3.4.0. is the verb oghte. Only in two cases is the construction $\text{Pron}_{\text{nom case}} + \text{V}_{\text{oghte}} + \text{O}_{\text{pron obj case}}$. Otherwise, the construction is either $\text{Pron}_{\text{obj case}} + \text{V}_{\text{oghte}} + \text{O}$, $\text{Pron}_{\text{nom case}} + \text{V}_{\text{oghte}} + \text{O}$, or $\text{O} + \text{Pron}_{\text{obj case}} + \text{V}_{\text{oghte}}$. Oghte is never inflected (except that plurality may occasionally be shown by the optional -n), so the subject of the construction cannot be ascertained from an inflectional ending. In view of the large number of occurrences and the tendency of languages towards analogy, it would seem that the identification of the subject should be based on order.

3.4.2. List(e). Parallel to oghte is list. All occurrences of this uninflected morpheme in the corpus were preceded by a pronoun in the objective form optionally followed by an object. Again, it seems the pronoun is the subject of the construction. Such a description as in sections 3.4.0. and 3.4.1. gives a clearer view of the exact nature of this transitional phenomenon in Middle English.

Chapter 4

4.0.0. Types of sentences.

4.1.0. Types of sentences in Modern English. Leo F. Engler devised a system whereby MnE syntax could be described with a finite number of patterns, based on the verb (Engler and Hannah 1966). This system, presented in table 7, was adapted to allow a similar classification of Middle English, and a comparison between the two languages.

4.2.0. Types of sentences in Middle English. The distinctive ME sentence types were divided into two categories: those which are syntactically parallel to Modern English and those with no MnE syntactical counterpart. The ME types syntactically contrastive with MnE types are discussed below in the order they occur in the Engler system for Modern English.

4.3.0. Type I.

4.3.1. Type Ia. The subtype Ia in Middle English is exactly parallel to MnE Ia (table 7). Note that this type includes the subjunctive, since the formula does not indicate in what inflectional form the verb must be realized--it may be a simple finite form, an expanded form, or a subjunctive form. The use of the subjunctive is considered a possible expansion of the verb rather than a sentence type, since it does not create a different pattern. Therefore, it will be discussed with the other expansions.

4.3.2. Type Ib. No verb in Middle English patterns like the unique get of Modern English.

4.3.3. Type Ic. The verb waxen is used in the same sense as MnE

become with either an adjectival or nominal complement (table 7). It should not be confused with the homophonous intransitive waxen, e.g. 'Some of hem waxen in feeldis' (Bo.3.p.11.1000-5).

4.3.4. Type Id. One of the impersonal verbs discussed in section 3.4.0., semen, may be used as a copulative with either an adjectival or nominal complement if the subject is a nominal or a pronoun in the nominative form. Other uses of the verb fall within other sentence types. Semen is the only verb in the corpus manifesting the subtype Id.

4.3.5. Type Ie. ME subtype Ie parallels MnE Ie. Unlike Modern English, however, no ME verbs of the senses fit this pattern. Verbs of the senses are very rare in the corpus--only ten occurrences were recorded--and they are either used intransitively with an adverb (table 7, ex. II.D.), transitively with an object (table 7, ex. IIIa.D.), or as described in section 4.3.6. An ordinarily intransitive verb, stant, fits this pattern as well. It occurs only with adverbials in an intransitive construction, or with adjectivals in a copulative construction.

4.3.6. Type If. No ME verb in the corpus patterns exactly like MnE If. However, instances of two verbs with the pattern SUBJECT + VERB_{hight} + NOMINAL were found. Interestingly, a single occurrence of sowmeth, a verb of the senses, occurs with a nominal complement, and fits this pattern. Hight occurs only with a nominal, usually a proper name. Therefore, ME If has a more limited class of fillers than MnE If, and Middle English has no verb that will function exactly like those which fit the If pattern of Modern English.

4.4.0. Type II. The intransitive construction is rendered very much

the same in both Middle English and Modern English (table 7). One different construction was found which corresponds to a MnE type V, passive, (table 7, ex.II.E.). Although this idea, normally expressed in Middle English as type II, is expressed in Modern English type V, there are few such exceptions.

4.5.0. Type III.

4.5.1. Type IIIa. This type is similar to that of Modern English and the majority of instances reveal no differences. Those that are rendered differently in the two systems are usually done so because of the particular lexical items involved rather than because of their syntactical relations. For example, in the one instance where ME IIIa types would be rendered as MnE type IVb (table 7, ex.IIIa.F.), there is nothing syntactically preventing either the Modern English from being structured as a IIIa or the Middle English as a IV, since both systems have similar examples of all these types. It is, rather, the particular morphemes which are chosen which restrict the type of sentence which may be made.

4.5.2. Type IIIb. There is no equivalent in the corpus to MnE type IIIb.

4.5.3. Type IIIc. The second most common construction in Middle English is the transitive with a direct and an indirect object. As with type IIIa, the formation in the two systems is exactly parallel, but the choice of particular lexical items in each language may require a somewhat different construction in translation (table 7).

4.5.4. Type IIId. The type IIId sentence, parallel to MnE IIId, is extremely rare in Middle English; only five instances occurred in the

corpus.

4.5.5. Type IIIe. This type, parallel to MnE IIIe, is also rare in Middle English. The ME construction preferred to express the same idea is type IV.

4.6.0. Type IV.

4.6.1. Type IVa. There are only a limited number of occurrences of this sentence type with the verb in either the -ing form or the base form.⁸ The kind of idea usually expressed in Modern English by type IVa is expressed in Middle English by type III, e.g. using a clause construction rather than a phrase (cf. section 4.5.1.). Modern English equivalents of this phrase with the base form may be either IVb or IIIc--- depending on the particular lexical item used.

4.6.2. Type IVb. In the corpus, the infinitive form of a verb occurs as to or for to followed by the base form. The ME type IVb are similar to those of Modern English.

4.7.0. Type V. Identification of the passive construction in Middle English involves the same problems as in Modern English (see footnote to table 7). Listed as type V are only those which are unquestionably passive, occurring with either agent or means. The subjunctive in this type is more easily discernible since the verb bee(n) is basic to the construction. The difference between ME example IVa.E. and its MnE translation is discussed in Chapter 5.

4.8.0. Summary. Middle English has essentially the same sentence types as Modern English. None were found that did not have Modern English equivalents, although the reverse was noted in two instances. The order of the occurrence of elements within these types was not dis-

cussed, since neither Engler's system nor the ME equivalent indicated order. However, this is a factor on a different level and will be discussed in Chapter 6. Evidently the sentence types alone do not account for the differences in the two language systems. Whether the differences lie in the simple verbs alone or their expansions will be discussed in the following chapter.

Chapter 5

5.0.0. Verbal expansions.

5.1.0. Parallel expansions in Middle English and Modern English.

Compared with Modern English's twelve verbal expansions (table 8), Middle English has only four, which correspond to the M_nE expansion numbers 1, 4, 6, and 8.

5.1.1. Expansion 1. This expansion is exactly parallel in the two stages of the language and includes the subjunctive usage (sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.4.). Each verb occurs alone in the slot and is marked for person and tense (table 8).

5.1.2. Expansion 4. The expansions in the two systems are identical (table 8).

5.1.3. Expansion 6. The modals in Middle English are morphologically parallel to those of Modern English, with the addition of one which has no M_nE counterpart. This modal, gan, is more commonly accompanied by to, and was found in the corpus without to in only one instance (table 8, ex.M.). As shown on the table, the base form of the verb in these ME expansions randomly occurs with the optional -n suffix (especially examples C, G, and L.).

5.1.4. Expansion 8. The ME expansion is parallel to the M_nE expansion, except that in this corpus only the modals sholde, wolde, and oghte were found in the constructions.

5.2.0. M_nE concepts expressed in nonequivalent ME constructions.

Most of the M_nE expansions not found in Middle English are those employing the -ing form of the verb. While Middle English uses the -ing form

as a present participle, in the corpus it never appeared unless functioning syntactically as a noun or adjective. It was not used in the verbal slot. Mustanoja says:

'In the course of the 13th century the ending of the participle, -inde, -ende, becomes -ing in the southern and central parts of the country ... with the result that the participial ending becomes identical in form with the ending of the verbal noun ... The first unambiguous instances of the perfect are recorded in Chaucer ... but it is not until the 1st decades of the 15th century that the ing-perfect becomes somewhat more frequent ... No instance of shall with the be periphrasis occurs in Chaucer ... For the future-in-the-past, the use of the periphrastic form with should parallels that with shall ... ' (1961:586-591)

The recorded instance for Chaucer is in the poetry, however, not in the prose. In the present corpus no examples of the -inde, -ende, or -ing forms were found in verbal slots. Where Middle English uses expansion 6 or expansion 1, Modern English may use either of these or expansion 5, expansion 7, or expansion 9. For example, ME 'I apercyve wel by certeyne evydenes' (TA.intro.1.) might be in Modern English 'I notice by certain evidence' or 'I have been noticing by certain evidence'. ME 'that whan I wolde doon or seyn any thyng' (Bo.1.p.4.212.) might be either MnE 'that when I would do or say anything', or 'that when I would be doing or saying anything'.

5.2.1. MnE expansion 2. Middle English does not use do as an auxiliary verb, although it may occur as a finite verb in a number of sentence types, especially in type III (Mustanoja 1960:603, 607). For the instances where Modern English uses do--in questions, negatives, and for emphasis in statements, Middle English uses other constructions.⁹ For questions, Middle English simply puts the verb before the subject, as with MnE to be (MnE 'Isn't he here?', ME 'Knowestow me nat?'), or

uses a question word (ME 'what or whereto avaunted ye me to be weleful?' Bo.l.m.i.30.). Negation is formed in Middle English by the addition of an adverb, ne, which may fall together proclitically with the following word, as in ne + oon > noon. An allomorph of this form of negation, not (or nat), is used with many of the modals and occasionally in other expansions. A combination of these adverbs may occur in the order ne + nevere or ne + nat, where the second adverb acts merely as an intensifier, (see Mustanoja 1960:339-341).

5.2.2. MnE expansion 10. In Middle English, constructions which would at first seem to be quasiauxiliaries are found to occur invariably with to + base-formV. These are sometimes called infinitive objects.

Engler calls the type of verb in Modern English which may stand either without the base form of the verb but with the to (e.g. MnE 'I don't want to', or 'he was made to') or with to + base-form of the verb, quasiauxiliaries. These may also add to one another, such as 'I want to try to go', or they may occur in the various basic sentence types, such as 'I want to try to do it' (type III) or 'He wants to go tomorrow' (type II).¹⁰ In the corpus, however, the finite verb never occurs with only the to. In addition, since there is no evidence for the stress in ME prose (see footnote 10), and since the unit to + base-formV is more readily movable than in Modern English, there is no reason to treat suspicious constructions in Middle English as anything other than a finite transitive verb plus an object which is an infinitive.

The idea expressed by MnE expansion 10 may be expressed variously by ME expansions 1, 4, 6, or 8, or a type III sentence, taking the to + base-formV as direct object. ME expansions employing bee(n) (e.g. 'thou

art went to do as in knowyng' TA.II.32.7.) which would be translated as MnE 10 are of type Ia with a following adverbial (table 8, ex.1.L.).

5.2.3. MnE expansions 11 and 12. Since Middle English does not have parallel expansions to MnE 10, it cannot have parallels to 11 and 12, as they are further expansions of 10. Instead, Middle English uses a type II sentence with FinMod + base-formV + adv clause _{manner}, or a type III sentence with a dependent clause (table 7, examples II.F. and III.E.).

5.3.0. ME mutative verbs. There are three verbs found in Modern English expansion 4 which rarely occur in Middle English expansion 4, but rather in either expansions 1 or 6, or in a type Ia sentence. Comen occurs once in the corpus with hast (table 8, ex.4.G.), returned occurs only with was or alone, and gon occurs with either was or have. Mustanoja says:

'A mutative verb is a verb indicating transition from one place or condition to another ... ' (1960:500)

'By early ME practically all transitive verbs use have for the formation of their perfect and pluperfect tenses. Strikingly enough, occasional instances are recorded all through the period where the compound tenses of transitive verbs are formed by means of be ... mutatives ... are construed with be ... ' (1960:501)

These may possibly be called copulative constructions and structurally in present and preterite constructions they fit within the category. However, they may not occur as 'pluperfect' constructions with had. Special note should be taken of these verbs (even if they are not given a separate category), and the point made of their occurrence.

5.4.0. Summary. The verb of Middle English is limited in the number of expansions which it may make. The ratio of ME 4:MnE 12 is strik-

ing. The missing ME expansions are handled by 'complex' sentences or by additional phrases. The ME verbal expansion system is thus relatively less complex than that of Modern English. The implications of this difference and how it affects the rendering of a given idea may best be demonstrated by contrasting sentence order in the two stages of the language.

Chapter 6

6.0.0. Contrast of utterance orders.

6.1.0. Order in Middle English. The orders of the main slots of the ME sentence have been discussed only briefly, and only in their relations to particular morphological problems (Chapter 2). Since the nature of the verbal slot has been described and the identity of the subject slot and the object or complement slots established, the relative order of the elements deserves more attention. Mossé says:

'Despite the progressive impoverishment of flexion the order in ME in which the principal elements of the sentence, subject (S), verb (V), object (O), and adjuncts (A) were placed was still very flexible--a trait, it might be added, that makes ME initially very difficult for speakers and readers of ModE ... But in a general way even if the order of the elements was free, their positions were not always a matter of indifference. There were tendencies, not strict rules, and it must not be forgotten that a great part of surviving ME texts are poetry where rhythm commands everything. It will be noticed that in 14th century prose ... the order of the elements is a great deal more "regular" and already conforms to modern usage.' (1952:122)

While there seems to be a preference for the SVO order in Chaucer's prose (table 9), there is still a great deal of variance, more than Mossé seems to indicate. It is also precisely in these variations where we may be faced with the problem of precedence of morphology over syntax. Redundancy should again be emphasized, since a functional view of language must include all contributing factors taken together, rather than as isolated events.

6.2.0. Order of sentences with nonexpanded verbs. ME order varies the most with the type III sentences. Of the examples where the verb precedes the noun, two are questions. This type of construction does not

occur in Modern English, except with type I sentences with to be, as in MnE 'Is he here?'. While Middle English changes word order for a question, in Modern English an expansion of the verb is made with the auxiliary do.

In other cases where the verb precedes the subject, delineation of the grammatical relations must be based at this point on morphological grounds.¹¹ If a pronoun is present the task is easier. In examples K and I (table 9), pronouns help to ascertain the function of all the words. In examples K and I the nominative case form of certain pronouns suggests that they function as the subjects, even though they occur after the verb. In neither one does the verbal inflectional suffix show which pronoun might be the subject, since both of these verb forms may take either first or third person subjects. However, the pronouns present are in the nominal form of the first or third person and are, therefore, probably the subjects. The other elements (in one instance a dependent clause, in the other, a noun phrase) would be then the objects.¹² This is an example of the precedence of morphology over order--with particular reference to concord of the forms involved.

Conversely, in example M, the function of the elements cannot be decided on morphology alone. The form it may be either objective or nominative case; the inflectional suffix of the verb requires a subject in the third person, but both it and the noun phrase are third person. The decision must be based on the remaining factor, order. Order indicates that it is the subject and the first moveable is the object. As the majority of sentences pattern in this order, by analogy, this decision seems reasonable.

A further complication occurs in example S. Since the verb is not one of those which appears to take an objective form pronominal subject (section 3.4.0.), hym may be discounted as the subject of the sentence. Two items remain of which either, judging by the verbal inflection, may be the subject. With no further structural clues, the decision must rest on meaning. (For a similar example, see Elson and Pickett, 1965:72.) God must be the subject, since in analogous situations, God gives mercy to others. Based on a further appeal to meaning, hym is posited as the indirect object and upon his mercy as the direct object.

In examples N and O, the verb occurs first. In O there is a pronoun in the nominative case, apparently the subject (as in K and S), leaving the infinitive clause as object. In N, a decision is based on meaning again, and the function of subject is assigned to the sonne.

6.2.1. Order of nonexpanded type IIIc. For ME sentences of type IIIc, the problem is further complicated since the direct object must be distinguished from the indirect object. There is, of course, no difficulty when the morph to is present, but often it is not. In Modern English the indirect object in emic (distinctive) order precedes the direct object when to is not present. While Middle English usually follows this order, occasionally there is a stylistic inversion such as that discussed in 6.3.0.

The object may precede the verb, as in example P. Hym cannot be the subject of the sentence for three reasons--that is a perfectly acceptable subject, it is in concord with the inflectional subject of the verb, -en, which signals a plural subject (that refers to devels), and the form hym does not ordinarily function as a subject. Morphologically, it appears

that hym is the object of the construction.

It is often necessary to rely upon meaning for verification, but after the function of each element has been ascertained, it appears that the indirect object precedes the direct object in every case except the stylistic inversion of 6.3.0.

While the O_2O_1 order is constant, with the restriction noted, the two objects do not necessarily occur contiguously, nor do they necessarily follow the verb as they do in Modern English. Middle English may have the order SO_2O_1V , as in example T (table 9), or VO_2SO_1 , as in example S. These orders are meaningless in standard Modern English.

6.2.2. Order of nonexpanded type IV. The sentences of type IV show less variation in the position of the verbs, but even here, the objects may occupy several different positions (see table 9).

6.2.3. Order of nonexpanded type V. Type V sentences show variations similar to those of the other types with the agent and/or means the most movable element. Examples of the construction, however, are generally less ambiguous than others, since the agent/means is preceded by with or by.

6.3.0. Order of sentences with expanded verbs. Understanding is only somewhat further complicated when the verb is expanded. The SV order remains quite constant in these types, although the modals, auxiliaries, and object/complements do move. The order Mod/Aux + S + $V_{\text{base-form/past part}}$ does occur in Modern English in certain types of questions (e.g. 'Have you seen it?' and 'May I go?'). Middle English may also form questions in this manner, although such constructions need

not necessarily be questions (table 10, examples F and H). Mossé's generalization, 'In the compound and periphrastic tenses the object or the adjunct was generally found between the inflected auxiliary verb and the participle or infinitive ...' (1952:129), is not necessarily true for Chaucer. In the majority of occurrences in the corpus, the preferred order was S + Mod/Aux + V_{base-form/past part} + O/C.

6.3.1. Order of expanded type III. As in the nonexpanded constructions, the most variance was found in the type III sentences. We find the O_2O_1 order without the to is still constant except for one example (table 10, ex.0). The differentiation of direct and indirect object cannot be made on a structural basis, either syntactically or morphologically; therefore, meaning based on analogous situations must be used. In cases where the direct and indirect objects are in question, the test frame S + V + O + to + O may be used. Elements which may be objects are put into one of the O slots. That element which by meaning seems to fit each slot best is assigned as the appropriate object. The decision made for example 0 is one of the more difficult and is centered on the item treteis. In the final analysis, example 0 seems to be a stylistic inversion similar to the MⁿE construction occasionally used for special emphasis (e.g. 'That sentence I read him.').¹³

ME adverbs often interrupt the expanded verbs, seemingly at random (table 9, ex.K). Although these freely moving elements do not cause any alteration in the overall patterning of Middle English, they do occur somewhat differently than in Modern English where they rarely interrupt the string of morphemes making up an expanded verb.

Chapter 7

7.0.0. Conclusions.

7.1.0. Implications of structural patterns in Middle English. An advantage of a synchronic study of language is that, if there are enough language materials for the given period, the conclusions reached should resemble or even duplicate the structure of the language as it was spoken. Acknowledging that most speakers of a language are linguistically naive, that is, they have no conscious awareness of the ways in which their language patterns, we know in fact that there must be a finite number of patterns for the language in order for consistent generalized communication to take place. The language code particular to each culture is generally, but not exclusively, learned in childhood. Regardless of the particular language system involved, every natural language is fully adequate to satisfy the communication needs of its culture. Language is constantly changing and this change mirrors changes in the communication needs of that culture. It would be foolish, therefore, to consider Middle English primitive or underdeveloped, as it obviously served its speakers, be they pig farmers or earls.

The conclusions of this paper are somewhat different from those presented in histories of English. The alternation of various structural devices to signal grammatical meaning is much greater for Chaucer than has heretofore been indicated. The overall grammatical patterns of Middle English are quite similar to Modern English, although in some particulars differences do, of course, occur. Grammatical conceptualization of time was different in that the Chaucerian verb was expanded only in

one third as many ways as the MnE verb. There is considerably more freedom of movement within the constructions but, because of the atrophy of the extensive OE inflectional system, less freedom than in Old English.

As language is a living continuum of unique events, it is continually changing. A static analysis can only be a useful approximation of language reality. In Chaucer's Middle English, an important characteristic of English syntax (which at some time changed from synthetic Old English to analytic Modern English) was taken from the flux and fixed in writing. This preservation provides excellent evidence of the process of change in morphosyntactics with which this paper is concerned. In certain examples drawn from the Chaucerian prose, grammatical functions are signalled completely by means of morphological markers, other examples show functions differentiated by word order, by meaning, or by varying combinations of morphological markers, word order, and meaning.

To understand fully the historical development of a language, the earliest form must be established in as coherent and natural a form as source information will allow. Only when several comprehensive synchronic studies for similarly seminal periods are compared, may the language be adequately understood.

Table 1

	ME (weak)	MnE (reg.)	ME (weak)	MnE (reg.)
Pres.ind.sg.	here	hear	love	love
	herest hereth	hear hears	lovest loveth	love loves
pl.	here(n)	hear	love(n)	love
Pres.sub.sg.	here	hear	love	love
pl.	here(n)	hear	loven	love
Pret.ind.sg.	herde	heard	lovede, loved	loved
	herdest herde	heard heard	lovedest lovede, loved	loved loved
pl.	herden	heard	lovede(n) loved	loved
Pret.sub.sg.	herde	heard	lovede, loved	loved
pl.	herden	heard	lovede(n) loved	loved
Imperat.sg.	her	hear	love	love
pl.	hereth, here	hear	loveth, love	love
Infinitive	here(n)	(to) hear	love(n)	(to) love
Gerund	to here(n)	hearing	to love(n)	loving
Pres.part.	hering(e)	hearing	loving(e)	loving
Past part.	herd	heard	loved	loved

Adapted from Moore and Marckwardt (1963:55).

Table 2

Pres.ind.sg.	ME (strong)	lnE (irreg.)	ME (strong)	MnE (irreg.)
	ride	ride	bere	bear
	ridest	ride	berest	bear
	rideth, rit	rides	bereth	bears
pl.	ride(n)	ride	bere(n)	bear
Pres.sub.sg.	ride	ride	bere	bear
pl.	ride(n)	ride	bere(n)	bear
Pret.ind.sg.	rood	rode	bar	bore
	ride, rood	rode	bere, bar	bore
	rood	rode	bar	bore
pl.	ride(n)	rode	bere(n)	bore
Pret.sub.sg.	ride	rode	bere	bore
pl.	ride(n)	rode	bere(n)	bore
Imperat.sg.	rid	ride	ber	bear
	pl.	rideth, ride	ride	bereth, bere
Gerund	to ride(n)	riding	to bere(n)	bearing
Pres.part.	riding(e)	riding	bering(e)	bearing
Past part.	ride(n)	ridden	bore(n)	borne
Infinitive	ride(n)	(to) ride	bere(n)	(to) bear

Adapted from Moore and Marchwardt (1963:56-57).

Table 3

	ME		MnE
		CAN	
Pres.ind.sg.	can canst can		can can can
pl.	conne(n), can		can
Pret.ind.	couthe		could
		MAY	
Pres.ind.sg.	may mayst may		may may may
pl.	mowe(n), may		may
Pret.ind.	mighte		might
		SHALL	
Pres.ind.sg.	shal shalt shal		shall shall shall
pl.	shulle(n), shul, shal		shall
Pret.ind.	sholde, shulde		should

Adapted from Moore and Marchwardt (1963:57).

Table 4

	ME	WILL	MnE
Pres.ind.sg.	wil wilt, wolt wil, wol		will will will
pl.	wille(n), wolle(n), wil, wol		will
Pret.ind.sg.	wolde woldest wolde		would would would
pl.	wolde(n)		would
		BE	
Pres.ind.sg.	am art is		am are is
pl.	bee(n), be		are
Pres.sub.sg.	be		be
pl.	bee(n), be		be
Pret.ind.sg.	was were was		was were was
pl.	were(n)		were
Pret.sub.sg.	were		were
pl.	were(n)		were
Imperat.sg.	be		be
pl.	beeth, be		be
Infinitive	bee(n), be		(to) be
Gerund	to bee(n), to be		being
Pres.part.	being		being
Past part.	bee(n), be		been

Adapted from Moore and Marckwardt (1963:57-58).

Table 5

	ME	MnE
First Person		
Singular	nominative genitive objective	I (Ich) my, myn me
		I my, mine me
Plural	nominative genitive objective	we our us
		we our, ours us
Second Person		
Singular	nominative genitive objective	thou (thow) thy, thyn the
		you your, yours you
Plural	nominative genitive objective	ye you, your(e), yours you (yow)
		you you, yours you
Third Person		
Singular	nominative genitive objective	he she hit, it his hir(e), her(e), her(e)s his hym hir(e), her(e) hit, it
		he she it his her, hers its him her it
Plural	nominative genitive objective	they hir(e), her(e) hem
		they their, theirs them

Table 6.

Impersonal verbs and oghte.Seemeth.

- 'hym seemeth that it is ... to him' (CT.I.Pars.122)
 'everé me seemeth that the trompe someth' (CT.I.Pars.159)
 'certes me seemeth that I se' (Bo.1.p.4.306)
 'that the semeth to longe atarieng' (TA.II.25.30)
 'as you semeth best' (CT.B.Mel.2325)

Remembreth.

- 'the remembreth that thilke dignyte' (Bo.2.p.6.10)
 'every tyme that me remembreth of the day' (CT.I.Pars.159)
 'remembreth yow fro whennes that ye been falle' (CT.I.Pars.136)

Liketh.

- 'as yow liketh' (CT.B.Mel.1524)
 'that hem liketh' (Bo.4.p.2.260)

Thynketh.

- 'hym thynketh his synnes' (CT.B.Mel.1498)
 'me thynketh that pacience is good' (CT.B.Mel.1536)
 'myh thynketh it is so greet' (CT.I.Pars.690)
 'hem thynketh they been free' (CT.I.Pars.897)

Oghte.

- 'to whiche hym oghte to be obeisaunt' (CT.Pars.675)

Table 7

Sentence types: Equivalent Chaucerian Middle English and Modern English constructions compared.

Type I.

SUBJECT + VERB copulative + COMPLEMENT

a. SUB + VERB be + COMPLEMENT
 nominal
 adverbial
 adjectival

a. SUB + VERB be + COMPLEMENT
 nominal
 adverbial
 adjectival

ex. A. 'this is oure sentence' (CT.B.Mel.1025)

this is our sentence

ex. B. 'these signes ... ben fro the heved'
 (TA.II.28.31)

these signs are from the beginning

ex. C. 'thow were yong' (Bo.2.p.2.73)

you were young

b. NONE

b. SUB + VERB get + COMPLEMENT
 adverbial
 adjectival

he gets angry

he gets here

c. SUB + VERB waxen + COMPLEMENT
 nominal
 adjectival

c. SUB + VERB become + COMPLEMENT
 nominal
 adjectival

ex.A. 'thou wexe poure' (CT.B.Mel.1558)

you become poor

ex.B. 'ther waxen othere doutes' (Bo.4.p.6.18)

you become a professor

Table 7 (continued)

Type I (continued)

d. SUB + VERB *semen* + COMPLEMENT nominal
adjectival

ex. A. 'his feyned freendes that semeden
reconciled' (CT.B.Mel.1016)

ex. B. 'he semeth aungel of light' (CT.I.Pars.
895)

e. SUB + VERB intransitive + COMP adjectival

ex. A. 'the firmament stant dirked' (Bo.l.m.
3.8)

f. SUB + VERB *someth* + COMPLEMENT nominal
hight

ex. A. '"Zodia" someth "bestes"' (TA.I.21.52)

ex. B. 'in Latyn it hight centesimus fructus'

d. SUB + VERB complement taking + COMP nominal
adjectival

his feigned friends that seemed reconciled

he looks a fright

e. SUB + VERB senses (intrans) + COMP adjectival

the firmament stands darkened

sugar tastes sweet

f. SUB + VERB middle + COMPLEMENT nominal
adjectival

'Zodiac' means 'beasts'

time weighs heavy

Type II.

SUBJECT + VERB intransitive

ex. A. 'the trompe someth in myn ere' (CT.I.
Pars.160)

the trumpet sounds in my ear

ex. B. 'that hath nat folwed' (CT.B.Mel.1196)

that hasn't followed

ex. C. 'this ryng renneth in a maner' (TA.I.2.1.)

this ring runs in such a way

Table 7 (continued)

Type II (continued)

- | | | |
|--------|---|---|
| ex. D. | 'they feelen in hir herte wikkedly'
(CT.B.Mel.1196) | (they feel wicked in their hearts -- Ie) |
| ex. E. | 'the dissension bigynneth by another man'
(CT.B.Mel.1690) | (the dissention is begun by another man -- V) |
| ex. F. | 'I shal nat gretly travaillen to don the
rembren on these thynges' (Bo.2.p.1.25) | (I shall not try hard to make you remember
these things -- IVc expansion 10) |

Type III.

SUBJECT + VERB object taking + OBJECT(S)

a. SUB + VERB transitive + OBJECT

a. SUB + VERB transitive + OBJECT

- | | | |
|--------|--|--|
| ex. A. | 'she foon his adversaries full
repentant' (CT.B.Mel.1769) | she found his adversaries fully repentant |
| ex. B. | 'axed he hire conseil' (CT.B.Mel.1009) | he asked their council |
| ex. C. | 'men moste have greet conseil' (CT.B.Mel.
1039) | men must have great council |
| ex. D. | 'may they fele no cold on hir lymes in
winter' (Bo.3.p.3.84) | couldn't they feel cold on their limbs in
winter |
| ex. E. | 'ye wolde eschewe to be called an
avaricious man' (CT.B.Mel.1617) | you would avoid being called an avaricious man |
| ex. F. | 'wol ye thanne that I go and make miselfe
to hem' (CT.B.Mel.1689) | (do you want me to go and humble myself to
them -- IVb expansion 2) |

b. NONE

b. SUB + VERB gerundive + -ing formV

I enjoy reading

Table 7 (continued)

Type III (continued)

<p>c.(1) SUB + VERB indir obj + OBJS O_1 + to + O_2 for</p>	<p>c.(1) SUB + VERB indir obj + OBJS O_1 + to + O_2 for.</p>
<p>ex. A. 'the brennyng ... shal God yeven in helle to hem' (CT.I.Pars.220)</p>	<p>God shall give the burning in hell to them</p>
<p>ex. B. 'Muses ... enditen to me thynges to ben writen' (Bo.1.m.1.4)</p>	<p>Muses dictate things to be written to me</p>
<p>(2) SUB + VERB indir obj + OBJS O_2 + O_1</p>	<p>(2) SUB + VERB indir obj + OBJS O_2 + O_1</p>
<p>ex. A. 'oure Lord hath yeve it me' (CT.B.Mel. 998)</p>	<p>our Lord has given me it</p>
<p>ex. B. 'that ... beren the greet reverence' (CT.B.Mel.1189)</p>	<p>that bear you great reverence</p>
<p>ex. C. 'that hem feith berith' (TA.57)</p>	<p>that bear them faith</p>
<p>d. SUB + VERB factitive + OBJS O_x + O_y</p>	<p>d. SUB + VERB factitive + OBJS O_x + O_y</p>
<p>ex. A. 'Job clepeth helle the lond of dariness' (CT.I.Pars.180)</p>	<p>Job calls hell the land of darkness</p>
<p>ex. B. 'thou sholdest wene thiself a wrecche' (Bo.2.p.3.76)</p>	<p>you should imagine yourself a wretch</p>
<p>e. SUB + VERB causitive + OBJ + PAST PART</p>	<p>e. SUB + VERB causitive + OBJ + PAST PART</p>
<p>ex. A. 'Melibeus leet callen a greet congregacion' (CT.B.Mel.1003)</p>	<p>Melibee had a great congregation called</p>

Table 7. (continued)

Type IV.		SUBJECT + VERB concatenating + OBJECT + VERB	
a.	SUB + VERB transitive + OBJ + VERB base form -ing form	a.	SUB + VERB transitive + OBJ + VERB senses base form -ing form
ex. A.	'Prudence hadde herd hir housbond ... dispreisyng the pouer' (CT.B.Mel.1550)		Prudence had heard her husband dispraising the poor
ex. B.	'she foond his adversaries ... knowe- leching ... hir synne' (CT.B.Mel.1769)		she found his adversaries acknowledging their sin
ex. C.	'whan she saugh these poetical Muses aprochen abouth my bed' (Do.1.p.1.43-44)		when she saw these poetical Muses approach his bed
ex. D.	'the secunde partie shal techen the worken the verray practik' (TA.I.41)		(the second part shall teach you to work the exact practice -- IVb)
b. SUB + VERB object infinitive + NOM + INF		b. SUB + VERB object infinitive + NOM + INF	
ex. A.	'I noot what to doon' (CT.B.Mel.1000)		I don't know what to do
ex. B.	'thoghts maken a man to have shame' (CT.I.Pars.139)		(thoughts make a man have shame -- IVa)
ex. C.	'the justice ... hadde ... demed hem both to gon into exil' (Do.1.p.4.118)		the judge had sentenced them both to go into exile
Type V.		SUBJECT + VERB be + past part + BY + AGENT/WITH + MEANS	
ex. A.	'my ascendent ... may be taken by so smal an instrument' (TA.II.3.62)		my ascendent may be taken by so small an instrument
ex. B.	'it be destourbed by penitence' (CT.Pars.89)		it be disturbed by penitence
ex. C.	'the wombe syde ... is also divided with a long croys' (TA.I.15.2)		the wombs side is also divided with a long cross

Table 8

Verbal expansions: Equivalent Chaucerian Middle English and Modern English constructions compared.

	-te (M) (have + pp)	-te (M) (have + pp) (be + ing)
1. FinV		1. FinV
ex. A.	'tragedye is to seyn a dite' (Bo.2.p.2.70)	tragedy is to say a ditty
ex. B.	'that cometh descending' (TA.I.4.2)	that comes descending
ex. C.	'it departith the first moveable' (TA.I.17.42)	it departs from the first moveable
ex. D.	'the nadir ... shewith me the entring' (TA.II.12.39)	the nadir shows me the entering
ex. E.	'he clepeth it "lond"' (CT.I.Pars.181)	he calls it 'land'
ex. F.	'it hym conserveth florissynge in his age' (CT.B.Mel.994)	it conserves him flourishing in his age
ex. G.	'he conseiled hym to do penitence' (CT.I.Pars.125)	he advised him to do penance
ex. H.	'by that same proporcioun is every quarter of thin Astrolabe divided' (TA.I.7.4)	every quarter of your astrolabe is divided by that same proportion
ex. I.	'it were better dwelle in desert' (CT.B.Mel.1086)	(it would be better to dwell in the desert --- expansion 6)
ex. J.	'what nedeth man than to be despaired' (CT.I.Pars.704)	(why does a man need to be dispaired --- expansions 2 and 10)
ex. K.	'than beginneth the sonne to passen from us-ward' (TA.I.17.13)	(then the sun begins to pass from us --- expansion 10)
ex. L.	'he was holden to wirche' (CT.I.Pars.681)	(he was beholden to work --- expansion 10)

Table 8 (continued)

2. NONE

2. FinAux _{do} + base-formV

he did go/he does go

3. NONE

3. FinAux _{be} + -ing formV

he is going/he was going

4. FinAux _{have} + past participleV

4. FinAux _{have} + past participleV

ex. A. 'that hath be doon' (CT.B.Mel.1023)

that has been done

ex. B. 'that hath not folwed' (CT.B.Mel.1196)

that has not followed

ex. C. 'I have toold yow' (CT.B.Mel.1171)

I have told you

ex. D. 'therefore have I yeven the a suffi-
saunt Astrolabe' (TA.I.22.8)

therefore I have given you a sufficient
astrolabe

ex. E. 'whanne Prudence hadde herd hir housbound
dispreisyng the poure' (CT.B.Mel.1550)

when Prudence had heard her husband dispraising
the poor

ex. F. 'who hath suffre aprochen to this sike
man this comune strompet' (Bo.1.p.1.47)

who has let this common strumpet approach this
sick man

ex. G. 'thou ... ne hast nat comen to fleten
with delices' (Bo.4.p.7.90)

you haven't come to abound with delights

5. NONE

5. FinAux _{have} + BEEN + -ing formV

I have been going/I had been going

Table 8 (continued)

6. FinModal + base-formV

- ex. A. 'revernce shal be doon there' (CT.I.
Pars.187)
- ex. B. 'fruytes ... owen to be to the
nouryssynge' (Bo.2.p.5.74)
- ex. C. 'they ne may neither wel do nor wel
thynk' (CT.I.Pars.685)
- ex. D. 'I kan nat declare' (CT.I.Pars.390)
- ex. E. 'as evene as I koude gesse' (TA.II.40.31)
- ex. F. 'ye woulde eschewe to be called an
avaricious man' (CT.B.Mel.1617)
- ex. G. 'they dar not openly wittesey the com-
maundments' (CT.I.Pars.506)
- ex. H. 'thou most eschue the conseillynge'
(CT.B.Mel.1189)
- ex. I. 'that moot bilmowen his synne' (CT.I.
Pars.412)
- ex. J. 'thow sholdest wene thiself a wrecche'
(Bo.2.p.3.76)
- ex. K. 'his herte gan enclyne to the will of
his wif' (CT.B.Mel.1171)
- ex. L. 'they wol perverten it' (CT.B.Mel.1188)
- ex. M. 'I meene Libra, alwey gan ascende'
(CT.I.Pars.11)

6. FinModal + base-formV

- reverence shall be done there
- fruits ought to be nourishing to you
- they may neither do well nor think
- I can not say
- as even as I could guess
- you would avoid being called an avaricious man
- they dare not openly renounce the commandments
- you must avoid the advice
- that might know his sin
- you should believe yourself a wretch
- (his heart began to encline to the will of
his wife -- expansion 10)
- they will pervert it
- (I mean Libra, always beings to ascend --
expansion 10)

Table 8 (continued)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7. NONE | 7. FinModal + BE + -ing formV
I will be going/I would be going |
| 8. FinModal + HAVE + past participleV

ex. A. 'the woman ... sholde han been slayn'
(CT.I.Pars.888)

ex. B. 'oure lorde Jehsu Crist woulde never
han descended to be born' (CT.B.Me1.1074)

ex. C. 'yit oughte sche han had schame'
(Bo.1.p.4.135) | 8. FinModal + HAVE + past participleV
the woman should have been slain

our Lord Jesus Christ would never have descended
to be born

yet she ought to have had shame. |
| 9. NONE | 9. FinModal + HAVE BEEN + -ing formV
I will have been going/I would have been going |
| 10. NONE | 10. FinAux <i>quasiauxiliary</i> + base-formV
I have got to go/I am about to go |
| 11. NONE | 11. FinModal + base-formQuasiaux + base-formV
I will be able to go/I should attempt to go |
| 12. NONE | 12. FinModal + base-formQuasiaux + base-formQuasiaux
+ base-formV
I will be in a position to be able to go |

Table 9

Order in unexpanded verbal constructions: Middle English compared with equivalent Modern English.

Middle English			Modern English			
Type	Order	Example	Type	Exp.	Order	Example
Ia	SVC _{nom}	A. 'it is a wonder' (Bo.1. p.8.3)	Ia	1	SVC	it is a wonder
Ia	SVC _{adj}	B. 'alle thy wordys ... been sohte' (CT.B.Mel. 1000)	Ia	1	SVC	all your words are true
Ia	SVC _{adv}	C. 'these signes ... fro the heved' (TA.II.28.31)	Ia	1	SVC	these signs are from the beginning
Ia	VSC _{adj}	D. 'now is my sonne gon to rest' (TA.II.12.29)	II	4	SV(adv)	now has my sun gone to rest
Ia	S(adv)C _{adj} V	E. 'thise folk togidre assembled were' (CT.B. Mel.1007)	Ia	1	SVC	these people were assembled together
Ia	SCV	F. 'Melibee retourned was' (CT.B.Mel.973)	II	4	SV	Melibee had returned
II	SV(adv)	G. 'this ryng renneth in a maner' (TA.I.2.1.)	II	1	SV(adv)	this ring runs in a manner
IIIa	SVO(adv)	H. 'ye herde her biforn' (CT.B.Mel.1134)	IIIa	1	SVO(adv)	you heard her before
IIIa	VSO	I. 'axed he hire conseil' (CT.B.Mel.1009)	IIIa	1	SVC	he asked their advice
IIIa	VSO	J. 'wol ye thann that I go and meke me to hem' (CT.B.Mel.1689)	IVb	2/10	SAuxVOV _{inf}	do you want me to go and humble myself to them

Table 9 (continued)

IIIa	(adv)VS(adv)O	K.	'now wolde I fayn that ye wolde condescend' (CT.B.Mel.1234)	Ia	1	SVC	now I am eager for you to condescend
IIIa	OSV	L.	'that the liketh' (TA.II.7.14)	IIIa	1	OSV	that you like
IIIa	SVO	M.	'it depertith the first moveable' (TA.I.21.50)	IIIa	1	SVO	it divides the first movable
IIIa	(adv)VSO(adv)	N.	'than beginneth the sonne to passen from us-ward' (TA.I.17.13)	II	10	SV(adv)	then the sun begins to pass from us
IIIa	VSO	O.	'bigonne they to rise' (CT.B.Mel.1040)	II	10	SV	they began to rise
IIIa	SOV	P.	'devels that hym tormenten' (CT.I.Pars.183)	IIIa	1	SVO	devils that torment him
IIIc(1)	SVtoO ₂ O ₁	Q.	'Muses ... enditen to me thynges' (Bo.1.m.1.4)	IIIc(1)	1	SVO ₁ toO ₂	Muses indite things to me
IIIc(2)	SVO ₂ O ₁	R.	'this neighbors diden hym reverence' (CT.B.Mel.1005)	IIIc(2)	1	SVO ₂ O ₁	his neighbors gave him reverence
IIIc(2)	VO ₂ S(adv)O ₁	S.	'yeveth hym God pleynely his mercy' (CT.I.Pars.303)	IIIc(2)	1	SVO ₂ O ₁	God plainly gave him his mercy
IIIc(2)	SO ₂ O ₁ V	T.	'that hem feith berith' (TA.intro.57)	IIIc(2)	1	SVO ₂ O ₁	that bear him faith
IIIc(2)	O ₁ VO ₂	U.	'and no thyng yeve hem' (CT.I.Pars.741)	IIIc(2)	1	VO ₂ O ₁	and give them nothing
IIIId	SVO _x O _y	V.	'men clepe the latitude of a contry the arch meridian' (TA.II.39.33)	IIIId	1	SVO _x O _y	men call the latitude of a country the arch meridian

Table 9 (continued)

IIIc	SV _{caus} ^V _{pp} ^O	W. 'Melibeus leet callen a greet congregacioun' (CT.B.Mel.1003)	IIIc	1	SV _{caus} ^{OV} _{pp}	Melibee had a great congregation called
IVa	SVOV _{ing}	X. 'she foond his adversaries ... knoweleching ... hir synne' (CT.B.Mel.1769)	IVa	1	SVOV _{ing}	she found his adversaries acknowledging their sin
IVa	SVOV _{base}	Y. 'that leten hir shepe wittingly go renne to the wolf' (CT.I.Pars.720)	IVb	1	SVOV _{base}	that wittingly let their sheep go running to the wolf
IVa	SOV _{trans} ^V _{ing}	Z. 'it hym conserveth florissyng in his age' (CT.B.Mel.994)	IVa	1	SVOV _{ing}	it conserves him flourishing in his age
IVb	SVOV _{inf}	A. 'thilke science ... maketh a man to waymenten in his herte' (CT.I.Pars.720)	IVa	1	SVOV _{base}	this science makes a man lament in his heart
V	SVAg	B. 'it be destourbed by penitence' (CT.I.Pars.890)	V	1	SVAg	it is disturbed by penance
V	AgSV	C. 'that same proportion is every quarter of thin Astrolabe divided' (TA.I.7.4)	V	1	SVAg	every quarter of your astrolabe is divided by that same proportion

Table 10

Order in expanded verbal constructions: Middle English compared with equivalent Modern English.

Middle English			Modern English				
Type	Ex.	Order	Example	Type	Ex.	Order	Example
Ia	4	SAVC	A. 'if ther hadde be nosynne' (CT.I.Pars.412)	Ia	4	SAVC	if there had been no sin
Ia	4	ASVC	D. 'had those conclusions ben suffisently lerned' (TA.intro.69)	Ia	4	SAVC	those conclusions have been learned sufficiently
Ia	6	SMVC	C. 'what solde be doon' (CT.B.Me1/1033)	Ia	6	SMVC	what should be done
Ia	8	SM HAVE V _{PP} C	D. 'the womman ... sholde han been slayn' (CT.I.Pars.888)	Ia	8	SM HAVE V _{PP} C	the woman should have been slain
IIIa	4	SAVO	E. 'I have toold yow' (CT.B.Me1.1171)	IIIa	4	SAVO	I have told you
IIIa	4	ASVO	F. 'now have I told the twys' (TA.II.16.18)	IIIa	4	SAVO	now I have told you twice
IIIa	6	SMVO	G. 'every ... turmentor dar doon alle felonye' (Bo.1.p.4.3.2)	IIIa	10	SQauxVO	every tormentor dares to do any kind of felony
IIIa	6	(adv)MSVO	H. 'than shal the remenant ... parfome the houre inequal' (TA.II.10.14)	IIIa	6	(adv)SMVO	then the remenant shall perform the unequal hour
IIIa	6	SOMV	I. 'that no man wole perisse' (CT.I.Pars.74)	IVb	1	SVOV _{inf}	that wants no man to perish

Table 10 (continued)

IIIa	8	SMAVO	J.	'that wolde have slayn hym' (CT.B.Mel. 1099)	IIIa	8	SMAVO	that would have slain him
IIIa	8	MAVO	K.	'shold have turned him to goodnesse' (CT.I. Pars.469)	IIIa	8	MAVO	should have turned him to goodness
IIIa	4	OSAV	L.	'that thou hast purposed' (TA.sup.44.22)	IIIa	4	OSAV	that you have planned
IIIc	4	ASVO ₂ O ₁	M.	'therefore have I yeven the a suffisaunt Astro-labe' (TA.intro.8)	IIIc	4	SAVO ₂ O ₁	therefore I have given you a sufficient astrolabe
IIIc	6	SMVO ₂ O ₁	N.	'that wole yeve him myght' (CT.I.Pars.737)	IIIc	6	SMVO ₂ O ₁	that will give him might
IIIc	6	O ₁ MSVO ₂	O.	'this tretis ... wol I shewe the' (TA.intro. 25)	IIIc	6	SMVO ₂ O ₁	I will show you this treatise
IVa	4	SAV _{base} ^{OV} ing	P.	'whan Prudence hadde herd hir housbond dispresynge the pouer' (CT.B.Mel.1550)	IVa	4	SAV _{base} ^{OV} ing	when Prudence had heard her husband dispraising the poor
IVa	6	SMVOV _{base}	Q.	'the secunde partie shal techen the worken the verray practik' (TA.I.41)	IVb	6	SMVOV _{inf}	the second part shall teach you to work the exact practice
IVb	4	SAVOV _{inf}	R.	'the justice ... hadde demed hem both to gon into exil' (Bo.l.p.5. 118)	IVb	4	SAVOV _{inf}	the justice had sentenced them both to go into exile

Table 10 (continued)

IVb	6	SMVOV _{inf}	S. 'thou wilt make the mene mote ... to be by Archiles tables' (TA. sup.451)	IIIc	6	SMVO	you will set the mean more by Archille's tables
IVb	6	MSVOV _{inf}	T. 'how darstow prayen any other wight thy conseil secretly to kepe' (CT. B.Mel.111:6)	IVb	6	MSVO _{inf}	how dare you ask any other person to keep your council secretly
IVb	6	MSVOV _{inf}	U. 'now wol I preie mekely every discreet persone ... to have my rude en- dityng for excused' (TA.I.41.43)	IVb	6	SMVO _{inf}	now I will humbly ask every discreet person to have my rude inditing excused
V	6	SMVAg	V. 'the houre ... may be taken by so smal an instrument' (TA.II.3. 62)	V	6	SMVAg	the hour may be taken by so small an instrument

Notes

¹ For a brief discussion of Old English inflection, see Moore and Marckwardt (1963:22-24).

² The term verb, as used here, means only that syntactic form which performs a predicative function in a clause, and does not include such verb based forms as gerunds, past participles used as adjectives, etc. A more precise definition would be of little value at this point but will emerge in the course of the investigation.

³ As a working definition, a sentence was considered to be that morpheme string containing a verb which is to be found between terminal punctuation in Robinson's edition.

⁴ See bibliography, in particular, Fisiak (1965), Moore and Marckwardt (1963), Hill (1958), Hockett (1960), Jespersen (1905), Joos (1964), Moore (1928), and Nida (1948).

⁵ ' ... two linguistic units are extensively employed, i.e. the morpheme and the word ... In the present work the investigations will be limited to proper morphemes ... which are ... the smallest form meaning composites, their meaning being either lexical or grammatical ... Allomorphs are grouped into one morpheme if they have the same meaning and are phonetically similar or appear in phonetically conditioned complementary distribution ... ' (Fisiak 1965:16-24)

⁶ For a discussion of morphemes of this type, see Nida, Principle 3 (1948:259).

⁷ A diachronic study of the language could account for the changes of these verbs in a different way, namely the falling together of the

two Old English verbs þyncan and þencan, and the continuation of the form methinks into Shakespearean English. A synchronic study, on the other hand, must account for occurrences as part of an overall pattern at a given time in a language, and so cannot explain the occurrences by their histories. It is a general principle of modern linguistics that overt patterns rather than covert differences be given precedence, all other considerations being equal. (See Nida 1948:256.) This principle influences the judgment of sections 3.4.0. through 3.4.2.

⁸ A stem is that form to which all inflections are affixed. The base form is the stem plus -e or -en.

⁹ The use of do in Modern English is as a marker for person and tense of a given utterance. The main verb remains in the base form, in the usual position of a finite verb in English. Do allows this order to remain so by carrying the syntactical load for concordance and tense, just as be or an auxiliary verb carries this load in other utterances, e.g. 'Is he here?', 'Has he come?', and 'Did he come?'.

Martin Joos says:

'Then if the question is a transformation of a statement using a one-word verb, such as "He asked her for his warm overcoat," there is no "first word of two or more" for the subject to follow and the rule for question-word order can't be applied immediately. The English solution is to expand the one-word verb asked into the two-word verb did ask with no other function than to make application of the question-word order possible ... The procedure is purely mechanical; therefore the inserted DO has no meaning whatever ... meaningless DO comes in, simply to make normal negation possible.' (1964:63)

Charles Fries agrees:

'The word does is the bearer of formal concordance characteristics of the Class 2 word ... This word do with its various forms does, did, in this use has no meaning apart from the fact that it fills the position of the Class 2 word in this contrastive pattern of

the question sentence. This does has no lexical meaning whatever.'
(1952:148-149)

Middle English, however, does not employ such a morpheme, but instead changes word order to achieve a parallel structure.

¹⁰ Martin Joos refers to the process by which 'I don't want to go' becomes 'I don't want to' as clipping (1964:16). He also discusses quasiauxiliaries:

'In just half of its occurrences ... the infinitive is the object or the complement of a verb, either finite or non-finite ... [in the corpus] 75 different verb-bases ... are used with following infinitives ... statistics suggest that perhaps a few hundred different verb-bases are freely used in this way, but certainly not over a thousand ... modals and quasi-auxiliaries have totally different grammars ... I exclude them from that system [of true auxiliaries] by the simple test that they can be used along with modal auxiliaries ... also by another test: the rule for negation. Thus ... "you don't really need to bother," with the usual DO ... but the auxiliary NEED ... is negated like other modals [need not, needn't]' (1964:20/30)

Archibald Hill, in addition to negation, discusses this type of verb in relation to its stress patterns and juncture. Thus in these kinds of verbs he points out minimal pairs between 'this is the pen I used to write with' and 'this is the pen I used to write with': /ðis-izðə-pen-əz-juwz-to-rayt-wið #/ and /ðis-izðə-pen-əz-juwstə-rayt-wið #/
(1958:198)

¹¹ The occurrence of an initial adverbial in a sentence in no way dictates the order of the following elements. While the order V S O/C seems always to be preceded by an initial adverbial, there are numerous occurrences of a 'normal' S V O/C after such adverbials. In addition, there are occurrences (see table 10, ex.IIIc) of O M S V that are not preceded by an adverbial, nor are they part of subordinate clauses, but may be main, independent clauses. Moreover, subordinate clauses

may have any of the orders mentioned in the text, and in no way do the possible orders of subordinate clauses differ from the possible orders of main clauses. However, there seems to be a preference for the order V S ... to be preceded by an adverbial, and that such an order (V S) rarely occurs as a main clause if not preceded by an adverbial. (One such example is found in Boethius 4.m.1.233. 'Ye; wolde God ... that they ne myghten don noon!'.) On the other hand, the order of a main clause may also be any of the orders mentioned, but there is a preference for S V This should be noted in contrast to German in which there is a strong tendency for the finite verb to be the second element in an utterance, even if this means that the subject follows the verb (Kufner 1962:9).

The presence of pronouns as objects of a sentence is not related to the order of the elements of the sentence. A pronoun occurs most frequently as an indirect object, but this is not necessarily related to the order of the elements--any more than in Modern English, e.g. 'I gave him it', 'I gave it to him', 'I gave him the book', 'I gave the book to him', 'I gave the dog the book', etc.

¹² There seldom is an occurrence of the ambiguous situation of two pronouns in the nominative form, of which one of them would have to function as an object. Such a situation might arise involving hit whose form is both nominative and objective.

¹³ For a discussion of this type of sentence, see Engler and Haden (1965:36).

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MORPHO-SYNTACTICS OF THE VERB IN CHAUCERIAN PROSE

by

BEVERLY ANN SLATTERY HUNTSMAN

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AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S THESIS

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this thesis was to outline the underlying structure of the verbal slot in Chaucerian prose, and to compare this structure with that of the verbal slot of Modern English in order to understand better the development of the English language. This problem was chosen because of the need of a synchronic study which would delineate concisely and economically the pattern of one stage of a language as compared to the pattern of another stage of the same language. Such an outline would make the earlier stage more easily accessible to the Modern English reader, enabling him to approach it with an awareness of its system and of how this differs from his own language system.

Procedure: The first step was to compare the morphological forms of the verbs for both stages of the language in order to find the basic differences and similarities. It was then necessary to make a linguistic analysis of all of the possible clause types in Chaucerian prose, and to contrast these with the types possible in Modern English. Next, an analysis of the verbal slot itself was made, by contrasting the possible expansions of this slot with those possible in Modern English. The final step was to outline the various order of elements in a Chaucerian clause, in an attempt to discover the degree of reliance on order for meaning, as opposed to reliance on morphology. Order was also compared to the system of Modern English.

Summary of the findings: The considerable morphological differences between the verbs of the two stages of the language are mainly in the number of inflections which each may take. Modern English inflects

only for the third person singular present, while Middle English inflects for all persons in the singular, both present and preterite, and adds one suffix (-n) to mark the plural for any number or tense. The formation of the preterite forms of the verbs for both stages is parallel.

It was found that all Chaucerian prose clause types correspond to those of Modern English except that Middle English lacks the following patterns found in Modern English:

- 1) Ib SUBJECT + VERB get + POST-VERB complement adjectival/adverbial;
- 2) If SUBJECT + VERB middle + POST-VERB complement adjectival/nominal' although Middle English does have two verbs, sowneth and hight, which occur in this pattern with nominals only;
- 3) IIIb SUBJECT + VERB gerundive + POST-VERB -ing formV + Q'

Middle English employs only four verbal expansions where Modern English has twelve. Chaucer does not use do as an auxiliary verb and does not expand the verbal slot with the -ing form of the verb. In addition, no quasiauxiliaries similar to those of Modern English were found. The four expansions which Chaucer uses are similar to Modern English expansions 1, 4, 6, and 8.

Although the most common order of Chaucerian clauses was S M/Aux V O/C, various combinations, such as O/C V S, V O/C S, and M S V O/C, were found. At times the system depends on morphology for grammatical meaning, at others, on syntactical order. The definite alternation between the grammatical importance of these two structural devices heightens the contrast to Modern English which has a high dependence

on order. This comparison provides an example of the possible differences in the systems of a language at two stages of its development and points out, as well, that at both times the system was complete and sufficient for the needs of its users.