Filologia del testo inglese medievale

CdL in Lingue e Letterature Europee e Americane

A.A. 2020/21

PROF. OMAR KHALAF

Pronouncing Old English

From *Beowulf*:

Bēowulf is min nāma!

Pronouncing Old English

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Þæt wæs gōd cyning.

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æ   **'ash'** character; it expresses the combination between /a/ and /e/ (a very open /e/) like in 'ash'

y   it is usually pronunced as /ü/. Nevertheless, *y* and *i* are interchangeable

Pronouncing Old English

From *Beowulf* – again:

Sweord wæs swātiġ.

Þæt wæs wundor miċel.

Pronouncing Old English

From *Beouwlf* – again:

Sweord wæs swāti**ġ**.

Þæt wæs wundor mi**ċ**el.

ġ   pronounced as a semi-vowel /j/ like in 'yield'

ċ   pronounced as an affricate /tʃ/ like in 'child'

Pronouncing Old English

From *The Battle of Maldon*:

Ġehyrst þū, sæ-lida, hwæt þis folc seġed?

Verbs

Refreshing your knowledge of the Germanic verb system…

➢ **Strong verbs**: seven classes, according to **apophony** (or ablaut, or vowel mutation); the root vowel changes in the infin., in the pret. sg., in the pret. pl. and in the past pret.

Verbs

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➢ **Strong verbs**: seven classes, according to **apophony** (or ablaut, or vowel mutation); the root vowel changes in the infin., in the pret. sg., in the pret. pl. and in the past pret.

➢ **Weak verbs**: they add a suffix in dental (*-(e)d*, *-(e)t*) in the pret.

Verbs

	Pres. 3 sg.	1st pret.	2nd pret.	Past part.
I ī ā i i				
scīnan 'shine'	scīneþ/scīnþ	scān	scinon	(ġe)scinen
þēon 'prosper'	þīehþ	þāh	þigon	(ġe)þigen
II ēo ēa u o				
cēosan 'choose'	cīest	cēas	curon	(ġe)coren
flēon 'flee'	flīehþ	flēah	flugon	(ġe)flogen
brūcan 'enjoy'	brȳcþ	brēac	brucon	(ġe)brocen

III

(a) **i a u u** (*inf. with* i + m/n + *cons.*)

bindan 'bind'	bindeþ/bint	band	bundon	(ġe)bunden

(b) **e/eo ea u o** (*inf. with* e/eo + h/l/r + *cons.*)

helpan 'help'	hilfþ	healp	hulpon	(ġe)holpen
weorþan 'become'	wierhþ	wearþ	wurdon	(ġe)worden

(c) **e æ u o** (*'irregular' verbs*)

berstan 'burst'	bi(e)rst	bærst	burston	(ġe)borsten
breġdan 'weave'	–	bræġd	bruġdon	(ġe)broġden

IV e æ ǣ o

beran 'bear'	bi(e)rþ	bær	bǣron	(ġe)boren
cuman 'come'	cymþ	cōm	cōmon	(ġe)cumen

V e æ ǣ e

cweþan 'say'	cwiþþ	cwæþ	cwǣdon	(ġe)cweden
ġiefan 'give'	ġiefþ	ġeaf	ġēafon	(ġe)ġiefen
þicgan 'receive'	þiġ(e)þ	þeah	þǣgon	(ġe)þeġen
sēon 'see'	si(e)hþ	seah	sāwon	(ġe)sewen
sittan 'sit'	sitt	sæt	sǣton	(ġe)seten

VI a ō ō a

standan 'stand'	standeþ/stent	stōd	stōdon	(ġe)standen
scieppan 'create'	sciepþ	scōp	scōpon	(ġe)scapen

VII ea ēo ēo ea

healdan 'hold'	hielt	hēold	hēoldon	(ġe)healden
hātan 'call'	hǣtt	hēt	hēton	(ġe)hāten
slǣpan 'sleep'	slǣpþ	slēp	slēpon	(ġe)slǣpen
fōn 'seize'	fēhþ	fēng	fēngon	(ġe')fangen

Verbs

1) Se cyng cōm mid his scipe.

2) Iċ cume to þē and bletsiġe þē.

3) Hē bletsode ðā his suna.

4) 'Iċ lufiġe God ælmihtigne', cwæð he.

5) Þā āhsode hē hine, 'Hwæt is þīn nama'?

6) Maria cōm on morgen ær lēoht wæs.

7) Sēoc hē biþ þe tō seldan eteð.

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Verbs

1) Se cyng **cōm** mid his scipe.   cuman *str. iv*

2) Iċ **cume** to þē and **bletsiġe** þē.   cuman *str. iv*   bletsian *wk.*

3) Hē **bletsode** ðā his suna.   bletsian *wk.*

4) 'Iċ **lufiġe** God ælmihtigne', **cwæð** he.   lufian *wk.*   cweðan, *str. v*

5) Þā **āhsode** hē hine, 'Hwæt **is** þīn nama'?   ahsian *wk.*   beon/wesan *irr.*

6) Maria **cōm** on morgen ær lēoht **wæs**.   cuman *str. iv*   beon *irr.*

7) Sēoc hē **biþ** þe tō seldan **eteð**.   beon/wesan *irr.*   etan *str. v*

Verbs

singan 'to sing'

Present	Preterite
iċ singe	iċ sang
þū sing(e)st	þū sunge
hē, hit, hēo sing(e)ð, sing(e)þ	hē, hit, hēo sang
wē singað, singaþ	wē sungon
þē singaþ	þē sungon
wē singaþ	wē sungon
Pres. part. singende	

Compound verbs

1) þin nama **is ġebletsod** on worulde.

2) We **wyllaþ ġesēon** þone hælend.

3) Þæt ċild cwæð, 'Se dumba hund ne **mæġ beorcan**'.

4) Lazarus **wæs** swīþe **ġewundod** and þā hundas cōmon to him and liccedon his wunda.

5) Hwæt **sceolan** we **drincan**?

6) We ne **magon drincan** þis wæter for his biternysse.

7) Swa **wearð** þæt scip **ġefylled** mid cristenum mannum.

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Nouns

OE is much more inflectional than PDE. However, the possible combinations are limited in number and the context often makes the meaning and the syntactic function of the word obvious.

1) Hēr is ān **cnapa** þe hæfþ fīf **hlāfas** and twēġen **fiscas**.

2) Þā on middre **nihte** wearð mycel **eorð-styrung**.

3) Þā cwæð he, 'Iċ eom **hēah-engel heofon-cyninges**'.

4) Ðrēo hund **fæþma** bið se arc on **lenġe**.

5) Hē ġeseah twā **scipu** standende wið þone **mere**.

6) Hit wæs sōðliċe swā ġedon þæt God worhte **sunnan** and **mōnan**.

Nouns – masculine

	Sg.	Pl.
Nom.	stān	stānas
Acc.	stān	stānas
Gen.	stānes	stāna
Dat.	stāne	stānum

Nouns – masculine

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Nom.	stān	stānas
Acc.	stān	stānas
Gen.	stānes	stāna
Dat.	stāne	stānum

	Sg.	Pl.
Nom.	engel	englas
Acc.	engel	englas
Gen.	engles	engla
Dat.	engle	englum

Nouns – masculine

	Sg.	Pl.
Nom.	stān	stānas
Acc.	stān	stānas
Gen.	stānes	stāna
Dat.	stāne	stānum

	Sg.	Pl.
Nom.	engel	englas
Acc.	engel	englas
Gen.	engles	engla
Dat.	engle	englum

	Sg.	Pl.
Nom.	dæġ	dagas
Acc.	dæġ	dagas
Gen.	dæġes	daga
Dat.	dæġe	dagum

Nouns – neuter

	Sg.	Pl.
Nom.	scip	scipu
Acc.	scip	scipu
Gen.	scipes	scipa
Dat.	scipe	scipum

Nouns – neuter

	Sg.	Pl.
Nom.	scip	scipu
Acc.	scip	scipu
Gen.	scipes	scipa
Dat.	scipe	scipum

	Sg.	Pl.
Nom.	word	word
Acc.	word	word
Gen.	wordes	worda
Dat.	worde	wordum

Nouns – feminine

	Sg.	Pl.
Nom.	ġiefu	ġiefa,-e
Acc.	ġiefe	ġiefa,-e
Gen.	ġiefe	ġiefa,-ena
Dat.	ġiefe	ġiefum

Nouns wih *i*-mutation

Masculine	Sg.	Pl.
Nom.	mann	menn
Acc.	mann	menn
Gen.	mannes	manna
Dat.	menn	mannum

Nouns with weak declension

Masculine	Sg.	Pl.
Nom.	mōna	mōnan
Acc.	mōnan	mōnan
Gen.	mōnan	mōnena
Dat.	mōnan	mōnan

Feminine	Sg.	Pl.
Nom.	sunna	sunnan
Acc.	sunnan	sunnan
Gen.	sunnan	sunena
Dat.	sunnan	sunnan

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         masc. nom. sg.   masc. acc. pl.   masc. acc. pl.

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         fem. dat. sg.   fem. nom. sg.

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   - *masc. nom. sg.* — **cnapa**
   - *masc. acc. pl.* — **hlāfas**
   - *masc. acc. pl.* — **fiscas**

2) Þā on middre **nihte** wearð mycel **eorð-styrung**.
   - *fem. dat. sg.* — **nihte**
   - *fem. nom. sg.* — **eorð-styrung**

3) Þā cwæð he, 'Iċ eom **hēah-engel**   **heofon-cyninges**'.
   - *masc. nom. sg.* — **hēah-engel**
   - *masc. gen. sg.* — **heofon-cyninges**

4) Ðrēo hund **fæþma** bið se arc on **lenġe**.
   - *masc. gen. pl.* — **fæþma**
   - *fem. dat. sg.* — **lenġe**

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      fem. dat. sg.   fem. nom. sg.

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      neut. acc. sg.   masc. dat. sg.

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        fem. acc. sg.   *masc. acc. sg.*

Pronouns - demonstratives

In Old English the demonstratives are also (and mainly) used as **determinative articles**.

	Singular			Plural
	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.	All genders
Nom.	se	þæt	seo	þā
Acc.	þone	þæt	þā	þā
Gen.	þæs	þæs	þære	þarā, þæra
Dat.	þæm, þām	þæm, þām	þære	þæm, þām

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Gen.	þæs	þæs	þære	þarā, þæra
Dat.	þæm, þām	þæm, þām	þære	þæm, þām

NB. As in PDE the article is not required if the noun is preceded by another specifier (e.g., a name)

Pronouns - demonstratives

1) 'of the man' (masc. gen. sg.) mann   >

2) 'in the earth' (neut. dat. sg.) eord   >

3) 'the woman' (fem. nom. sg.) wyf   >

4) 'God's angels' (masc. nom. pl) engla   >

5) 'on the ships' (masc. dat. pl.) scip   >

Pronouns - demonstratives

1) 'of the man' (masc. gen. sg.)   mann   >   þæs mannes

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Pronouns - personal

	Singular	Plural
1st pers.	iċ (nom.) mē (acc. dat.)	wē (nom.) ūs (acc., dat.)
2nd pers.	þū (nom.) þē (acc., dat.)	ġē (nom.) ēow (acc., dat.)
3rd pers.	hē (nom. **masc.**) hit (nom., acc. **neut.**) hēo (nom. **fem.**) hine (acc. **masc.**) his (acc. **masc.**, **neut.**) hire (gen., dat. **fem**) him (dat. **masc.**, **neut.**)	hī, hiġ (nom.) him (acc., dat.)

Pronouns - relative

þe

is indeclinable and expresses all genders, persons, numbers and cases

Progress Test

Read aloud, analyse and translate the following sentences:

1) Tōmorgen etað wē fiscas and hlāfas.   *hlaf*, 'bread'

2) Hē āhsode mē, 'Hwī dydest þū þæt?'

3) Saga mē, hwæt is þæs prēostes nama?

4) Þæt dumbe ċild ne mæġ sprecan.

5) Þā cōm ān cnapa þe wæs swiðe ġewundod.   *swiðe*, 'much, seriously'

6) Iċ ġehyrde þæt se hælend hēr cōm.

7) Hēo cumeþ tō þē and bletsiaþ þē and þā lytlingas.

8) Þæt micle scip wearð ġefylled mið hundum and mannum.   *wearð*, used for the passive

9) Þā wīf cwædon, 'Wē wyllaþ hine ġesēon.'

10) Þā andswarodon hiġ hyre and cwædon, 'Sōþ wē þē segcaþ.'   *sōþ* 'truth'