

## Conjunctive Formations in Old English and Modern English A Comparative Study

Rashwan Ramadan Salih  
College of Languages  
Salahaddin University, Erbil  
[rashwan.salih@su.edu.krd](mailto:rashwan.salih@su.edu.krd)

Basima Othman Mahmood  
College of Education  
Salahaddin University, Erbil  
[basima.mahmood@su.edu.krd](mailto:basima.mahmood@su.edu.krd)

Received date: ١٥/١٠/٢٠٢٣ Acceptance date: ١١/١٢/٢٠٢٣ Published date: 15/3/2024

Doi: <https://doi.org/10.36473/tnm5mp03>



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

### Abstract:

This paper aims to explore the formation and ordering principles of constituents in conjunctive formations in both Old English (OE) and Modern English (ME). We seek to identify the main similarities and differences between the two eras. While Haeberli (2002) and Baker (2012) argue that conjunctive relations in OE affect sentence word order, Ringe and Taylor (2015) propose similarities between OE and ME in the formation of conjunctive relations. To shed light on this topic, the paper examines corresponding OE prose (with translations into ME). The study draws upon the extensive statistical research of Cichosz (2021) for OE data and collects sample translation in ME from prominent online translated data. Preliminary findings suggest that linguistic factors significantly influence conjunctive formations in both OE and ME. As such OE and ME differ in various aspects such as vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, orthography, and word order. Despite these differences, there are notable similarities between the two languages, and ME has evolved from OE. Thus, most of the conjunctive cues are changed and reshaped orthographically and structurally. However, the function and usage of conjunctive formations to connect ideas and indicate clause relationships were similar.

**Keywords:** *Conjunctive Relations, Old English Word Order, Comparative Linguistics*

## تكوينات العلاقات المتصلة في الإنجليزية القديمة والإنجليزية الحديثة: دراسة مقارنة

باسمة عثمان محمود

كلية التربية

جامعة صلاح الدين، أربيل

basima.mahmood@su.edu.krd

رشوان رمضان صالح

كلية اللغات

جامعة صلاح الدين، أربيل

[rashwan.salih@su.edu.krd](mailto:rashwan.salih@su.edu.krd)

### الملخص:

تهدف هذه الورقة إلى استكشاف مبادئ تكوين وترتيب تشكيلات اقترانية في كل من اللغة الإنجليزية القديمة والإنجليزية الحديثة. ومن خلال مقارنة تشكيلات اقترانية في هذين العصرين اللغويين، نسعى إلى تحديد أوجه التشابه والاختلاف الرئيسية. تمت ملاحظة أنماط مختلفة من تشكيلات اقترانية في كل من اللغة الإنجليزية القديمة والإنجليزية الحديثة. بينما يجادل هيبيرلي (٢٠٠٢) وبيكر (٢٠١٢) بأن تشكيلات اقترانية في اللغة الإنجليزية القديمة تؤثر على ترتيب كلمات الجملة، يقترح رينج وتايلور (٢٠١٥) أوجه التشابه بين اللغة الإنجليزية القديمة والإنجليزية الحديثة في تشكيلات اقترانية. لتسليط الضوء على هذا الموضوع، تتناول الورقة النثر الإنجليزي القديم (مع الترجمات إلى اللغة الإنجليزية الحديثة) وعينات من النصوص الإنجليزية الحديثة المعاصرة. تعتمد الدراسة على البحث الإحصائي المكثف الذي أجراه (Cichosz, 2021) لبيانات اللغة الإنجليزية القديمة وتجمع المقالات الإخبارية من الصحف الإنجليزية البارزة على الإنترنت للحصول على بيانات اللغة الإنجليزية الحديثة. تشير النتائج الأولية إلى أن العوامل الثقافية والاجتماعية واللغوية تؤثر بشكل كبير على تشكيلات اقترانية في كل من اللغة الإنجليزية القديمة والإنجليزية الحديثة.

**الكلمات الرئيسية:** تشكيلات اقترانية، ترتيب الكلمات في الإنجليزية القديمة، اللغويات المقارنة

### Introduction:

This paper examines linguistic characteristics of English texts in Old English (OE) and Modern English (ME). Old English and Modern English are separated by more than a millennium of language evolution, so their conjunctive words have significant differences. Here are a few examples (Cichosz, 2021: 178):

**And:** In OE, "and" was often spelled "ond," and it was used in the same way as it is in ME to connect two ideas or items. However, in OE, "ond" could also mean "also" or "even."

**Ac:** In OE, "ac" was the equivalent of the ME word "but." It was used to show the contrast between two ideas or items. For example, "I am tired, *but* I will keep working" would be "Ic eom ðearle þurstig, *ac* ic wylle wyrcean" in OE (Van Gelderen, 2017: 28).

**Þæt:** This word in OE was equivalent to the ME word "that." It was used to introduce a subordinate clause, such as "I know that you are hungry." In ME, we use "that" in the same way.

**Forþam:** In OE, "forþam" was a conjunction that meant "therefore" or "because". It was used to introduce a reason for something. For example, "I am tired,

**therefore** I will go to bed" would be "Ic eom þeawes gepuhtig, **forþam** ic wylle gangan to minum restan." (Van Gelderen, 2017: 29)

While, ME has a wide range of conjuncts, connectives, and discourse markers. The most comprehensive list of conjunctive relations in ME is presented by Halliday and Hasan (1976). In which the conjunctive relations are divided into four main relation sets: Additive, Adversative, Causal/conditional, and Temporal (Halliday and Hasan, 1976: 12). Each of these relations are signalled by several connectives. Overall, OE had fewer conjunctive words than ME, but they were used in similar ways to connect ideas and show relationships between clauses. Additionally, some words had multiple meanings, depending on the context in which they were used.

**Grammar:** According to Cichosz, old English had a complex grammar system with noun declensions, adjective declensions, and verb conjugations (2021: 168). Modern English, on the other hand, has a much simpler grammar system with only a few noun declensions and verb conjugations

**Orthography:** The spelling of Old English was not standardized and varied depending on the dialect and the scribe. Modern English, in contrast, has a standardized spelling system.

**Word Order:** Old English had a flexible word order, with the subject, verb, and object being arranged in various orders. Modern English, in contrast, has a fixed word order, with the subject typically preceding the verb and the object following the verb. So, ME has a fixed SVO structure, with certain additions such as: "SVOO, SVOC, SVOA, SVC, SVA" (Burton-Roberts, 2011: 79).

**Vocabulary size:** Old English had a much smaller vocabulary compared to Modern English. This is partly due to the fact that Old English was a language spoken in a relatively small area of the world, and so it did not need to incorporate as many loanwords from other languages as Modern English has.

The following sections elaborate on the above-mentioned aspects of OE and provide equivalences in ME, to map out the main similarities and differences in terms of these elements.

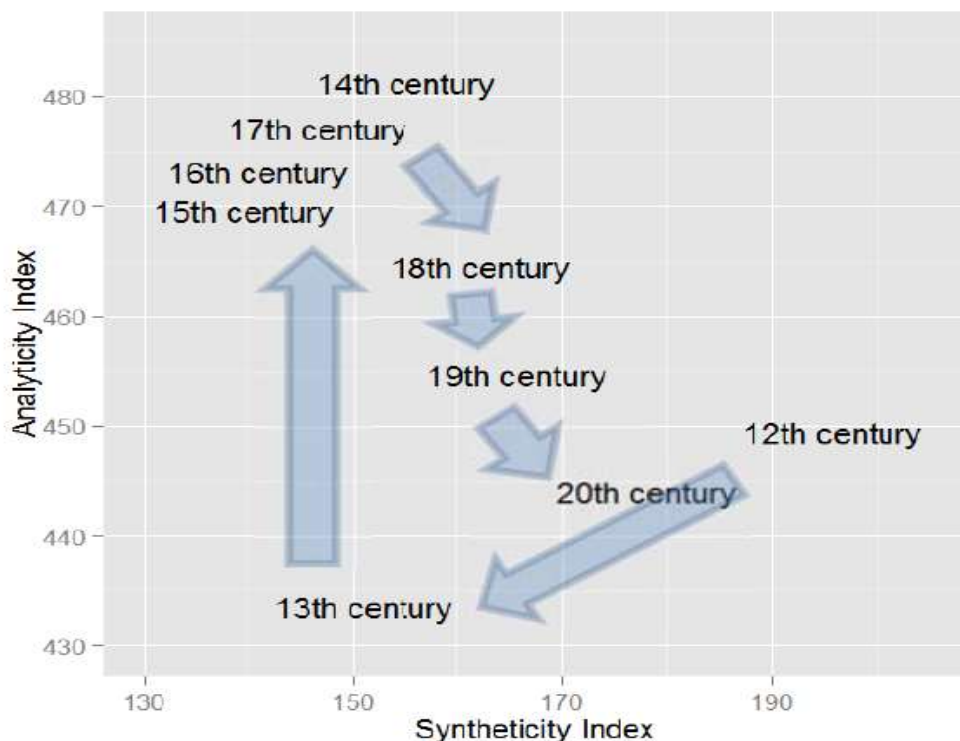
### 1- Analytic Vs Synthetic features:

Old English is categorized as a synthetic language due to its reliance on inflectional markings for nouns, adjectives, and verbs, while still allowing flexible word order. However, as time passed, English gradually transitioned into an analytic language, placing more emphasis on prepositions, auxiliaries, articles (known as grammatical words), and word order, rather than relying heavily on case markings for nouns and verb agreement. This shift from synthetic to analytic language structure can be attributed to a combination of external influences from Celtic, Scandinavian, and other languages, as well as internal language factors. Table 1 provides a summary of the key distinctions between synthetic and analytic languages (Van Gelderen, 2017: 13):

Analytic	Synthetic
use of prepositions <i>the leg of the table</i>	use of endings e.g. <i>the table's leg</i>
use of word order to indicate subject e.g. <i>The man saw his friend.</i>	use of case to indicate subject, e.g. <i>De-r Mann sah sein-en Freund</i> (German) [the-NOM man saw his-ACC friend]
auxiliaries mark aspect, <i>am going</i> marks progressive aspect	verbs are marked for tense and aspect  e.g. <i>ge-</i> on the verb marks perfective.
no markings on the verb to indicate subject but frequent pronouns, e.g. <i>They leave tomorrow.</i>	verb is marked for subject, and pronoun is optional  e.g. <i>priowa me onsaec-est.</i> (Old English) [thrice me deny-2S] e.g. 'You will deny me three times'.

**Table 1: Characteristics of analytic and synthetic languages**

The transition from synthetic English to analytic English was a gradual and protracted evolution spanning over a millennium. Figure 1, sourced from Szmrecsanyi (2016: 102), offers a condensed overview of this transformation, drawing upon written texts as evidence. The visualization depicts the fact that texts from the 12th century exhibit a predominantly synthetic structure, while a significant shift towards reduced synthetic elements occurs in the 13th century, followed by a further progression towards increased analytic features in the 14th



century.

### **Figure 1: Changes in the synthetic/analytic nature of English**

Figure 1 illustrates that the period following the sixteenth century represents a transitional phase in English, marked by notable changes in pronunciation and grammar. One significant transformation during this period is the incorporation of a substantial number of loanwords from Greek, Latin, and newly created terms. Due to their intricate morphology, these borrowed words contribute to an increase in syntheticism within the language. Consequently, dictionaries featuring complex vocabulary emerged, giving rise to concerns about language purity (Van Gelderen, 2017: 14). This led to the establishment of prescriptive rules governing spelling, pronunciation, and grammar, which are still upheld today.

Old English, also known as Anglo-Saxon, was spoken in England from the 5th to the 11th century. In OE, word order was primarily influenced by inflectional endings, allowing for greater flexibility in sentence structure. The most common word order in OE was subject-verb-object (SVO), similar to ME. However, depending on emphasis and context, alternative word orders such as object-subject-verb (OSV) and verb-object-subject (VOS) were also employed.

During the transition to Middle English, spanning the 11th to the 15th century, inflectional endings gradually diminished, leading to a more fixed word order. While Middle English still permitted some variation in word order, subject-verb-object (SVO) became the prevailing structure, as seen in Modern English. In Modern English, word order is relatively rigid, with subject-verb-object (SVO) being the most common. Although other word orders are possible, they are typically employed in specific contexts or for particular purposes, such as subject-verb inversion in questions or sentences beginning with negative adverbs, as in "Never have I seen such a beautiful sunset." (Van Gelderen, 2017: 18). Over the centuries, the word order in English has experienced significant shifts, with Old English (OE) and Middle English displaying distinct patterns.

## **2- Research Methodology**

In the following sections, manuscript images are included, primarily sourced from an online copy of a text fragment, accompanied by approximate transcriptions. To aid in understanding, word-by-word glosses and translations are provided. However, as we are not proficient in Old English (OE), translating the OE texts ourselves proves challenging. Hence, we have relied on the works of (Van Gelderen, 2017; Benson, 1987; Bethurum, 1957; Bjork & John, 1997; and Bosworth & Toller, 1898) to extract OE text samples and provide translations into Modern English (ME). A paradigm of correspondences is then constructed between OE and ME to highlight the differences and similarities in word order, conjunction relations, and sentence structures between the two languages.

Furthermore, an analysis of the texts and relevant background information on style and dialect variation is presented. Texts from various dialects and registers have

been selected to showcase a wide range of linguistic diversity. This paper aims to establish the historical context of major changes in the English language, introduce pertinent grammatical terms, provide a brief discussion on conjunctive formations, and offer sources and resources for further exploration. Sentences from edited versions that have not been personally verified against the original manuscripts have been used, with occasional inclusion of actual images when necessary. For longer texts requiring in-depth examination, visual aids are utilized for ease of reference.

### **3- Data**

#### **4-1 Data Collection**

Regarding Old English (OE) texts, this study focuses on manuscripts written before 1100, excluding runic inscriptions. ME texts encompass a range of data, including literary works, newspaper articles, and social media posts. The exclusion of Middle English from this study is due to the lack of a clear-cut transition between OE, ME, and Modern English, with various overlapping features during this period. However, the division between OE and ME provides a more distinct framework for conducting the investigation, as it aligns with the increased prominence of analytic forms and the decline of synthetic ones that occurred in the 12th and 13th centuries. Moreover, during the early modern age, the English language experienced stabilization and the development of more synthetic forms influenced by French and Latin vocabulary (Van Gelderen, 2017: 5).

In order to accurately describe a language, it is crucial to closely examine the original sources. For OE, this primarily involves studying manuscripts. Traditionally, this task posed challenges as researchers had to physically travel to specific libraries and obtain permission to access the manuscripts. While there are duplicate editions of some texts, they often present unclear copies. However, with advancements in modern technology, many manuscripts have now been digitized, enabling their study on a computer without the need for travel. It is essential to utilize manuscripts rather than edited texts because many editors, even in present times, add punctuation, spacing, hyphenation, capitalization, and insert missing letters when preparing manuscripts for publication. Therefore, relying on manuscripts is crucial for obtaining a more accurate representation of OE data. In contrast, accessing ME data is relatively easier with the availability of various online search engines. Consequently, it is important to examine a variety of text types in ME, considering the convenience of access to such texts.

#### **4-2 Old English Texts**

As of now, the manuscript being referenced is not available in an online format. Consequently, Figure 2 has been extracted from the facsimile edition by Campbell (1953). In the transcription presented in Table 3.1, certain letters have been replaced with their modern variants, such as using the symbols for "s" and "r." Determining accurate spacing between words can be challenging, but spaces have

been included where clarity permits, for instance, between "3e" and "timbred" in line 1. The thorn symbol with a slash through it represents the conjunction "þæt," while other shorthand symbols are employed, such as a line over a vowel to indicate a subsequent nasal sound. The symbol resembling the number 7 serves a dual purpose, representing both the conjunction "and" (as seen in lines 2, 4, and 5) and the prefix "ond" (as observed in "ondwyrdon" and "ondwyrde" in lines 9 and 12) (Bately, 1988: 28-31).

It is important to note that the manuscript itself, being inaccessible online, poses limitations to the level of detailed analysis that can be conducted. However, the facsimile edition and transcription provide valuable insights into the content and structure of the text. Despite the challenges in accurately determining spacing and interpreting shorthand symbols, efforts have been made to present the transcription as faithfully as possible, employing modern letter variants and following established conventions. By referencing the work of Bately (1980), who has extensively studied and deciphered similar shorthand symbols, additional understanding of specific notations has been gained.

As the manuscript becomes available online in the future, a more comprehensive analysis can be undertaken, drawing upon the original document and utilizing advanced digital tools for enhanced accuracy. Until then, the current transcription, based on the available facsimile edition, serves as a valuable resource for studying the content and linguistic features of the text.

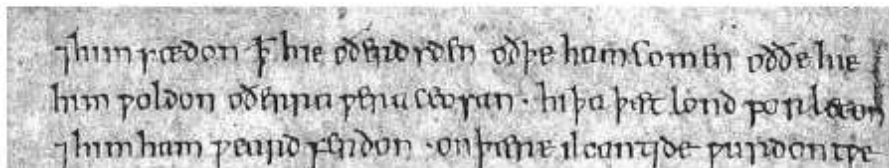
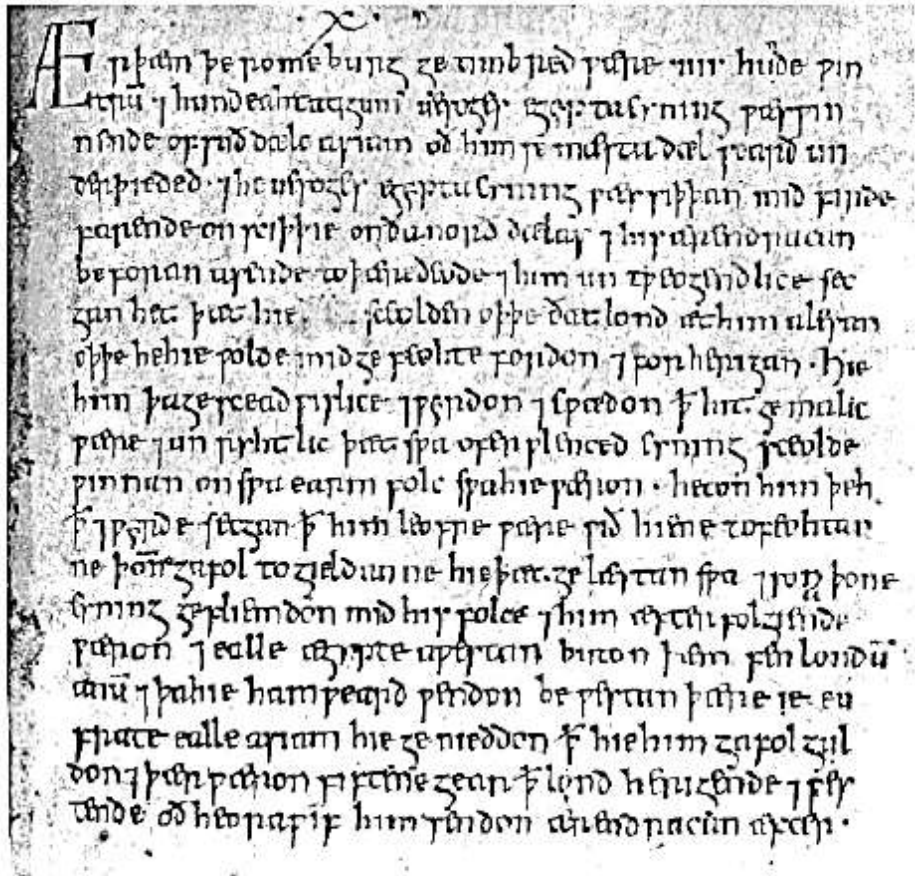


Figure 2: Orosius (Tollemache Orosius, from Campbell, 1953, folio 30 and 31)

Ærþæm þe romebur3 Ze timbred pære iiii hunde pin	
trū 7 hundeahtatizum uestozes e3yptacynin3 pæspin	
nende of suð dæle asiam oð him se mæsta dæl pearð un	3
derpieded. 7 he uestozes e3yptacynin3 pæs sibban mid firde	
farende on scipþie on ða norð dælas 7 his ærendracan	
beforan asende to þære ðeode 7 him un tpeozendlice sec	6
Zan het þæt hie ---- sceolden oþþe ðæt lond æt him alesan	
oþþe hehie polde mid Ze feohte fordon 7 forheriZan. Hie	



him þa 3esceadpislice 7 pyrdon 7 cpædon þ hit 3e malic pære 7 un ryhtlic þæt spa oferplenced cynin3 sceolde pinnan on spa earm folc spahie pæron. heton him þeh þ 7 pyrde sec3an þ him leofre pære pið hiene to feohtan	9 12
ne þoñ 3afol to 3ieldanne hie þæt 3elæstan spa 7 sona þone cynin3 3efliemdon mid his folce 7 him æfterfol3iende pæron 7 ealle æ3ypte apestan buton þæm fenlondū anū 7 þahie hampeard pendon be pestan þære ie eu frate ealle asiam hie 3e nieddon þ hiehim 3afol 3ul don 7 þær pæron fiftene 3ear þ lond heri3ende 7 pes tende oð heora pif him sendon ærendracan æfter.	15 18
7him sædon þ hie oðerdyden oðþe ham comen oððe hie him poldon oðerra pera ceosan. hi þa þæt lond forleton 7him ham peard ferdon.	21
<i>Table 1: Orosius transcription</i>	

Table 2 showcases the Old English version of the text, sourced from Bately (1980: 28-31; Ix), along with word-by-word glosses and a translation into Modern English. Bately's edition is widely utilized in scholarly work due to its facilitation of text comprehension. The numbering in the table corresponds to the sentences discussed in the analysis section, allowing for clear cross-referencing and analysis of specific linguistic features.

Bately's edition offers valuable insights and aids in parsing the text, making it more accessible for researchers and readers. By utilizing Bately's edition as a reliable source, this paper ensures consistency and promotes a shared understanding among scholars working on similar linguistic investigations.

The inclusion of word-by-word glosses and the translation into Modern English further enhance the accessibility and comprehension of the Old English text. The glosses provide explanations and interpretations of individual words, enabling a deeper understanding of their meaning and grammatical functions. The Modern English translation bridges the gap between the Old English text and contemporary readers, facilitating the appreciation of the linguistic and cultural nuances conveyed in the original language.

By presenting the Old English text alongside glosses and a Modern English translation from Bately's edition, this study aligns with established scholarly

practices, promoting clarity and facilitating the analysis and interpretation of the text.

Old English Text	Word-by-word glosses	Translation
(1) Ær þam þe Romeburg getimbred wære iiii hunde wintrum 7 hundeahtatigum, Uesoges, Egypta cyning, wæs winnende of suðdæle Asiam, oð him se mæsta dæl wearð underþieded.	(1) Before that Rome. city built was four hundred winters and eighty, Vesoges, Egypt's king, was conquering of south.part Asia, till him the most part became subjugated.	(1) 480 years before Rome was built Vesoges, Egypt's king, was fighting in the southern part of Asia, until he had subjugated most of it.
(2) 7 he Uesoges, Egypta cyning, wæs siþþan mid firde farende on Scipþie on ða norðdælas, 7 his ærendracan beforan asende to þære ðeode, 7 him untweogendlice secgan het þæt hie [oðer] sceolden, oþþe ðæt lond æt him alesan, oþþe he hie wolde mid gefeohte fordon 7 forherigan.	(2) And he Vesoges, Egypt's king, was then with army going to Scythia in the north.parts, and his messengers before sent to that people, and them undoubtingly say commanded that they either should, or that land for him pick or he them wanted with fighting destroy and ravage.	(2) And Vesoges, Egypt's king, then went with his army to the northern parts of Scythia, and sent his messengers before him to the people, and commanded them to say in no uncertain terms that they either should pay him for that land or that he would destroy them through war.
(3) Hie him þa gesceadwislice ondwyrdon, 7 cwædon þæt hit gemalic wære 7 unryhtlic þæt swa oferwlcenced cyning sceolde winnan on swa earm folc	(3) They him then wisely answered and said that it was greedy and unjust that such rich king should wage. war on such poor people as they were.	(3) They then wisely answered him and said that it was greedy and unjust that such a rich king should wage war on such a poor people as they were.

swa hie wæron.		
(4) Heton him þeh þæt ondwyrd secgan, þæt him leofre wære wið hiene to feohtanne þonne gafol to gieldanne.	(4) (They) told them though that answer give, that them better was against him (the king) to fight than taxes to yield.	(4) They told the messengers to answer the king that they would rather fight to pay taxes.
(5) Hie þæt gelæstan swa, 7 sona þone cyning gefliemdon mid his folce, 7 him æfterfolgiende wæron, 7 ealle ægypte awestan buton þæm fenlondum anum.	(5) They that did so, soon that king drove. away with his people, and him chasing were, and all Egypt waste. lay except the fenlands only.	(5) They that did and soon drove the king away with his people, and they were chasing him and destroyed all of Egypt except the fenlands only.
<i>Table 2: A fragment from Orosius in Old English, word-by-word in Modern English, and in a Translation</i>		

#### 4- Conjunct Formations in OE

Some of the data for this study were collected from the York-Toronto-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Old English Prose (Taylor et al., 2003), accessed through the Corpus Search 2 application (Randall et al., 2005–2013). The corpus search enabled the retrieval of specific linguistic structures and patterns necessary for the analysis.

To evaluate the proportion of V-final clauses among all Old English (OE) conjunct clauses, the first step involved extracting all conjunct clauses from the corpus. A conjunct clause was defined as a main clause featuring a coordinating conjunction (CONJ) in the clause-initial position and an indicative verb (Cichosz, 2021: 177). This initial extraction provided the foundation for further analysis and comparison. V-final clauses were then defined in three distinct ways, as outlined by Cichosz (2021: 177). These definitions were established to capture different instances and variations of V-final word order in OE. The specific criteria and parameters used for each definition were carefully determined to ensure accuracy and consistency in identifying V-final clauses within the corpus.

By utilizing the resources of the York-Toronto-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Old English Prose and the Corpus Search 2 application, this study leverages

comprehensive linguistic data and advanced search functionalities. These tools enable researchers to perform targeted searches and extract relevant linguistic patterns and structures for analysis, contributing to a more nuanced understanding of the distribution and characteristics of V-final clauses in OE:

### **Broad V-final**

As stated by the Cichosz (2021) the category of "Broad V-final" refers to conjunct clauses in Old English (OE) where the verb appears in the clause-final position, irrespective of the other elements within the clause. This encompasses a range of clause structures, including short clauses composed solely of a conjunction and a verb, clauses with null subjects, and clauses with light intervening phrases.

In the context of this study, "Broad V-final" clauses are considered as a subset of conjunct clauses that exhibit a specific word order pattern. By focusing on the placement of the verb within the clause, researchers can identify instances where the verb is positioned at the end of the clause, regardless of the presence or arrangement of other clause elements. This definition of "Broad V-final" clauses allows for the inclusion of various clause types, such as simple and concise clauses consisting only of the conjunction and verb, as well as clauses with omitted or null subjects. Additionally, clauses with minimal intervening phrases that do not disrupt the verb's final position are also encompassed within this category (Cichosz, 2021). By adopting a broad perspective on V-final clauses in OE, this study acknowledges the flexibility and variation in clause structures and considers the diverse range of conjunct clauses where the verb assumes the clause-final position. This inclusive approach enables a comprehensive analysis of the distribution and characteristics of V-final word order in OE conjunct clauses.

### **S...V**

The query is a modified version of Bech's (2001) "query" for V-final conjunct clauses. It is a clause with a coordinating conjunction in the clause-initial position, an overt subject, a finite verb form in the clause-final position and another constituent (*adverb, adjective, prepositional phrase, non-finite verb or a noun phrase in the accusative or dative case*) placed between the subject and the verb. Negative particles are not taken into account in the calculations some clauses rendered by Bech's (2001) query had only "the negative particle *ne* placed between the subject and the verb" (Cichosz, 2021: 178).

### **Strict V-final (lexical verb – auxiliary verb)**

Through the different queries the proportion and characteristics of V-final clauses in Old English (OE) texts were investigated. The strictest definition of V-final clauses focuses specifically on clauses with complex verb phrases. To calculate the proportion of V-final clauses, Query 5 is used, which requires the finite verb form to immediately follow the non-finite form within the clause. To facilitate comparison, similar calculations were performed for non-conjunct main clauses and subordinate clauses. Queries 6-10 were used for non-conjunct main clauses,

while Queries 11-15 were employed for subordinate clauses. These calculations enable a comprehensive analysis of V-final clauses in relation to other clause types, providing insights into the distribution and usage patterns of different clause structures in OE.

The reliance on the queries lays in the fact that the calculations were conducted on the entire York-Toronto-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Old English Prose (YCOE) corpus, as well as on individual texts, with a particular focus on the longest texts. For the study of intertextual variation, texts with at least 500 conjunct clauses were considered. In this context, the E manuscript of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle was selected due to its large number of conjunct clauses, while only the C version of Gregory's Dialogues was included as it contains more conjunct clauses compared to the H version.

Regarding the analysis of the relations between the source and target texts of Bede, comprehensive parallel corpora of OE translations and their source texts are not available. Therefore, the analysis of these relations relied on the work of Cichosz (2021: 178). The source clauses for the OE S...V clauses were manually identified in the Latin text and aligned with their OE equivalents. The Latin clauses were then analyzed and categorized as V-final or non-V-final. It should be noted that the specific Latin manuscript used as the source for the anonymous OE translator is unknown, and it is likely that it has not survived. Therefore, the Latin edition was chosen based on its availability in electronic form (Plummer 1896) for the purposes of this analysis.

#### 7.4. Old English Word Order

Hladký suggests that the presence of formal markers such as "gender, case, number, and person" in Old English allowed for greater flexibility in word order compared to Modern English, resulting in all possible variations of the three main elements (S-V-O) occurring in OE texts (Hladký, 2003: 79). Bean, on the other hand, identifies ten possible word orders in main clauses, consisting of five major orders and five minor orders. The major orders are as follows:

**VSX:** The verb appears in the initial position, followed immediately by the subject and potentially other complements. The VSX order contains the clauses in which the verb occupies the initial position followed immediately by the subject and then possibly some complements. This pattern also includes negative versions.

- *& feng Ælfric Wiltunscire bisceop to Pam arcebisceprice and succeeded Ælfric, Wiltshire's bishop, to the bishopric* (Bean, 1983: 59)
- X'VS:** Clauses begin with an adverbial element (often time or place), followed by the verb and then the subject. This pattern also includes sentences with the order X'V1SXV2.
- *Py geare gefuhton Mierce & Cantware at Otanforda (in) that year fought (the) Mercians and (the) Kent-dwellers at Ortford* (Bean, 1983: 60)

**SVX:** This order includes sentences beginning with the subject followed by the verb. If there is a compound verb the order is V1V2, no elements can intervene but those which would take such a position in Modern English.

- & *wunderleca nærdan wæron gesewene on Suþseaxna londe*  
and wonderful adders were seen in (the) South Saxon land (Bean 1983, 61)

**X'SV:** The X' in the X'SV order stands for an adverbial element. It is immediately followed by the subject. The verb appears in the third position in such a clause. Clauses of this type are very similar to Modern English.

- *Her Cyneheard ofslog Cynewulf cynig.*  
In-this-year Cyneheard slew Cynewulf king (Bean, 1983: 62)

**SXV:** The verb in the SXV order occupies the final position in the clause. When a compound verb appears the order of the elements of the verb is V1V2.

- & *te king it besæt*  
and the king it beseiget (Bean, 1983: 62)

The minor orders are as follows:

**OSV:** Clauses begin with an indirect object, followed by the subject and then the verb. Not many clauses of this type appear in Old English texts.

- & *hine bebyrigle se biscop of Ceastre.*  
and him buried the bishop of Chester. (Bean, 1983: 63)

**SXVX:** The subject is separated from the verb by another element, but the verb does not occupy the final position in such clauses. This pattern also includes sentences with the X'SXVX order.

- *Her Eleutherius on Rome onfeng bisc dom.*  
in-this-year Eleutherius in Rome received bishopdom (Bean, 1983: 63)

**SV1XV2:** Clauses begin with the subject, followed by the first part of a compound verb, with the second part of the compound verb in the final position. This is a very minor word order pattern in Old English.

- & *eac se micla here wæs Ða Ðær to cumen*  
and also the great (enemy) army was then there to come (Bean, 1983: 64)

**Miscellaneous:** This category includes all the clauses that do not fit into any of the mentioned word order patterns and do not constitute a word order pattern of their own.

- & *he hem it wolde tyÐian*  
And he them it wished to-grant (Bean, 1983: 64)

The word order VSO is obligatory in Old English questions and also in imperative clauses which include an expressed subject.

- *Hæfst ðu hafocas?*  
Have you hawks?

➤ *Ne sleh Ðū, Abraham, Ðīn āgen bearn*

*Not slay you, Abraham, your own son* (Millward, 1996: 110)

According to Bean (1983: 59), these variations in word order demonstrate the flexibility and diversity of word ordering in Old English.

## 7. Complex sentences

The argument put forth is that previously unnoticed distributional properties of adverbs indicate that the finite verb remains within the extended verbal projection (vP/VP) in embedded clauses of Old English. This implies that variations in the placement of the finite verb in these contexts can be attributed to competing grammars with differing parameter settings associated with the functional head *v*. This argument challenges the Double Base Hypothesis proposed by Pintzuk in 1999.

Furthermore, this analysis offers a principled explanation for the absence of a specific serialization pattern (S-V-O-V<sub>fin</sub>) among the various ordering possibilities found in Old English. It is suggested that this analysis provides a new perspective on syntactic factors that have a statistically significant influence on the position of the finite verb in embedded clauses.

Overall, this argument highlights the importance of considering the distributional properties of adverbs and their impact on the positioning of the finite verb in Old English embedded clauses. By examining these factors, the proposed analysis aims to shed light on the variation observed in the placement of the finite verb and contribute to our understanding of the grammatical structures and constraints operating in Old English.

## 8. Conjunct clauses and the verb-final order

Old English conjunct clauses, specifically main declarative clauses introduced by coordinating conjunctions, mainly *and* and *ac* ‘but’, are often claimed to be verb-final (Traugott 1992: 277; Fischer et al. 2000: 53; Ringe & Taylor 2015: 419), as in example (1):

(1) *And þær Nænig Mann For Wintres cyle on sumera heg ne mawep*

*And there no man for winter's cold on summer hay not mows*

‘And there no one mows hay in the summer against winter's cold’

(Cobede, Bede, 1:1.28.32.219)

Nonetheless, the tendency for conjunct clauses to follow the V-final order is usually presented in a rather imprecise way. In Fischer et al. (2000), the authors say:

Although a small number of main clauses have no Verb-Second (Koopman 1995), the number of coordinate main clauses lacking it is far greater (even ones starting with a topic) and they often have the verb-final orders usually associated with subordinate clauses. (Fischer et al. 2000: 53)

According to Fischer et al. “failure to recognize it [conjunct clauses] as a separate category yields a very misleading picture of main clause word order” (2000: 53). In

numerous other studies these claims are formulated in the same way. For instance, Traugott (1972), Mitchell (1985), and Kemenade (1987) claim that it is a traditional observation that conjunct clauses in Old English behave more like subordinate clauses than main clauses concerning word order. Fuß & Trips state that “second conjuncts of conjoined main clauses are more frequently verb-final than other main clauses” (2002: 209). Haeberli is also in line with this claim and refers to conjunct clauses as having “often been observed in the literature that conjoined main clauses seem to favour subordinate clause word order in OE” (2002: 224). And, in terms of the use of conjunctive particles, Baker states that “the Subject... Verb word-order is commonly found in subordinate clauses and clauses introduced by *and/ond* and *ac*” (2012: 118).

On the other hand, Bech (2017) shows that the claim of conjunct clauses adhering to the V-final order is not confirmed by corpus data because “conjunct clauses are more frequently verb-final than main clauses are, but that is different from saying that they are frequently verb-final” (Bech 2017: 5). This analysis is based on the York-Toronto-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Old English Prose (YCOE) (Taylor et al. 2003), which reveals that only 11% of OE conjunct clauses are V-final. That is, they have the finite verb in the absolute clause-final position, with some element(s) intervening between the subject and the verb. So, one can conclude that the higher frequency of the V-final order in conjunct clauses is a by-product of their function in OE discourse and not a special structural feature of this clause type.

This feature can also occur in ME due to the S ... V order existing in ME as well. According to Mitchell, the S...V order, also called ‘subordinate’ – ‘is common in clauses introduced by *ond*, *ac*, or conj. *ne* ... and in subordinate clauses”, and for examples of this pattern the intervening element placed between “the subject and the verb must be a nominal object, a nominal or adjectival complement or a participle or infinitive which is a part of a complex verb phrase” (1985: 3911), as in (2) and (4).

(2)

And hi his fet cystun  
*And they his feet kissed*  
 ‘And they kissed his feet’

(coelive,ÆLS\_[Vincent]:222.7942)

(3)

ond his clæennes swiðe mære wæs  
*and his purity very great was*  
 ‘And his purity was great’

(comart3, Mart\_5\_[Kotzor]:Ja24, A.11.239)

(4)

and se deað siððan us derian ne mæg  
*and the death later us hurt not may*



‘And then death cannot hurt us’

(cocathom2,ÆCHom\_II,\_12.2:122.434.2686)

It is important to note that S...V automatically excludes clauses without an overt subject and since in conjunct clauses subjects are often unexpressed. So, focusing on clauses “with overt subjects only may influence the results of a quantitative study” (Cichosz, 2021: 179).

### 9- Conclusion:

In conclusion, while Old English had a smaller inventory of conjunctive words compared to Modern English, the function and usage of these words to connect ideas and indicate clause relationships were similar. It is important to note that some words had multiple meanings depending on the context. Old English and Modern English differ in various aspects such as vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, orthography, word order, and vocabulary size. Despite these differences, there are still notable similarities between the two languages, and Modern English has evolved from Old English.

One significant change over time is the evolution of word order in English. Old English had a more flexible word order due to the presence of inflectional endings, allowing for variations in subject-verb-object (SVO) order. However, Middle English and Modern English adopted a more fixed word order, with SVO becoming the predominant pattern. Overall, the study of Old English provides insights into the historical development of the English language and helps us understand the linguistic changes that have shaped Modern English.

### References

- Baker, P. (2012). *Introduction to Old English*. London: Blackwell.
- Bately, J. M. (1988). Old English prose before and during the reign of Alfred. *Anglo-Saxon England*, 17, 93-138. doi:10.1017/S026367510000404X
- Baugh, A. (1951). *A History of the English Language*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. pp. 60–83, 110–130 (Scandinavian influence).
- Bean, M. (1983). *The Development of Word Order Patterns in Old English*. London: Croom Helm.
- Bech, K. (2001). *Word order patterns in Old and Middle English: A syntactic and pragmatic study*. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Bergen.
- Bech, K. (2017). *Old truths, new corpora: Revisiting the word order of conjunct clauses in Old English*. *English Language and Linguistics*, 21(1), 1-25. doi:10.1017/S1360674315000465
- Bjork, R., & Niles, J. D. (1997). *A Beowulf Handbook*. University of Nebraska Press.
- Brown, W. H. (1969). *Method and style in the Old English "Pastoral Care"*. *The Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, 68(4), 666-684.
- Burton-Roberts, N. (2011) *Analysing Sentences: An introduction to English Syntax*. (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.). London: Longman Ltd.

- Cichosz, A. (2017). *Verb-initial main clauses in Bede: A translation effect?* In A. Kijak, J. Nykiel, & A. M. Łęcki (Eds.), *Current developments in English historical linguistics* (pp. 68-89). Katowice: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego.
- Cichosz, A. (2021). *Verb-final conjunct clauses in Old English prose: The role of Latin in translated texts.* NOWELE. *North-Western European Language Evolution*, 74(2), 172-198.
- Cichosz, A., Gaszewski, J., & Peżik, P. (2016). *Element order in Old English and Old High German translations.* Amsterdam: Benjamins. doi:10.1075/nss.28
- Devine, A. M., & Stephens, L.D. (2006). *Latin word order: Structured meaning and information.* New York: Oxford University Press.  
doi:10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195181685.001.0001
- Fischer, O., Kemenade, A. van, Koopman, W., & van der Wurff, W. (2000). *The Syntax of Early English.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Fuß, E., & Trips, C. (2002). *Variation and change in Old and Middle English: On the validity of the Double Base Hypothesis.* *Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics*, 4, 171-224. doi:10.1023/A:1016588502117
- Haeberli, E. (2002). *Observations on the loss of verb second in the history of English.* In C. J. W. Zwart & W. Abraham (Eds.), *Studies in comparative Germanic syntax* (pp. 245–272). Amsterdam: Benjamins. <https://doi.org/10.1075/la.53.15hae>
- Haeberli, E., & Pintzuk, S. (2012). *Revisiting verb (projection) raising in Old English.* In D. Jonas, J. Whitman & A. Garret (Eds.), *Grammatical change: Origins, nature, outcomes* (pp. 219–238). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Halliday, M. A. K., & Hasan, R. (1976). *Cohesion in English.* London: Longman.
- Hogg, R. (1992). *Introduction.* In R. Hogg (Ed.), *Cambridge History of English Volume I* (pp. 1-26). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kemenade, A. van (1987). *Syntactic case and morphological case in the history of English.* Dordrecht: Foris. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110882308>
- Koopman, W. (1995). *Verb-final main clauses in Old English prose.* *Studia Neophilologica*, 67(2), 129–144. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00393279508588156>
- Lemke, A. (2015). *The Old English translation of Bede's Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum in its historical and cultural context.* Göttingen: Georg-August-University. <https://doi.org/10.17875/gup2015-787>
- Mitchell, B. (1985). *Old English syntax.* Oxford: Clarendon.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780198119357.001.0001>
- Ohkado, M. (2000). *Verb first constructions in Old English, with special reference to Bede's Ecclesiastical history of the English people* (pp. 263–278). In M. Amano & H. Nakano (Eds.), *Synchronic and diachronic studies on language: A festschrift for Dr. Hirozo Nakano.* Nagoya: Nagoya University.
- Pintzuk, S. (1996). *Old English verb-complement word order and the change from OV to VO.* *York Papers in Linguistics*, 17, 241–264.
- Pintzuk, S. (1999). *Phrase structures in competition: Variation and change in Old*

- English word order. New York: Garland.
- Pintzuk, S. (2005). *Arguments against a universal base: evidence from Old English*. *English Language and Linguistics*, 9(1), 115–138.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1360674305001565>
- Pintzuk, S., & Haeberli, E. (2008). *Structural variation in Old English root clauses*. *Language Variation and Change*, 20(3), 367–407.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S095439450800015X>
- Plummer, Ch. (Ed.) (1896). *Venerabilis Bedae, Historiam Ecclesiasticam Gentis Anglorum*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Available online at <https://www.thelatinlibrary.com/bede.html>)
- Randall, B., Kroch, A., & Taylor, A. (2005–2013). *Corpus Search 2*. (Available online at [corpussearch.sourceforge.net/CS.html](http://corpussearch.sourceforge.net/CS.html)).
- Ringe, D., & Taylor, A. (2015). *The development of Old English*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Rowley, S. (2015). *The long ninth century and the prose of King Alfred's reign*. Oxford Handbooks Online. Retrieved April 9, 2020, from <https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199935338.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199935338-e-53>
- Taylor, A. (2008). *Contact effects of translation: Distinguishing two kinds of influence in Old English*. *Language Variation and Change*, 20(3), 341–365.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0954394508000100>
- Taylor, A., Warner, A., Pintzuk, S., & Beths, F. (2003). *The York-Toronto-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Old English Prose (YCOE)*. Department of Linguistics, University of York. Oxford Text Archive. Available online at [www-users.york.ac.uk/~lang22/YcoeHome1.htm](http://www-users.york.ac.uk/~lang22/YcoeHome1.htm)
- Van Gelderen, E. (2017). *Analyzing Syntax through Texts Old, Middle, and Early Modern English*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh Historical Linguistics.