

CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES	v
1. INTRODUCTION	
1.1. Preliminaries	1
1.2. Organization of the present study	2
1.3. Terminology: an overview	3
1.4. The progressive vs. other related constructions	5
1.4.1. 'Adjectival' character of the present participle	6
1.4.2. Other borderline cases	8
1.5. Aspect	11
1.5.1. Overview	11
1.5.2. English aspect	11
1.5.2.1. Definition	12
1.5.2.2. Aspect and 'aktionsart'	14
1.5.2.3. Ways of expressing aspect in English	15
1.5.2.4. Types of aspect in English	16
1.5.2.4.1. Perfective aspect	17
1.5.2.4.2. Imperfective aspect	18
2. THE SEMANTICS OF THE ENGLISH PROGRESSIVE	
2.1. Introduction	19
2.2. The meanings of the English progressive	21
2.2.1. Duration	22
2.2.1.1. Limited duration or temporariness	23
2.2.2. Imperfectivity or incompletion	25
2.2.3. Dynamism or action in progress	27
2.2.4. Frame-time	28
2.2.5. Description	29
2.2.6. Habituality	30
2.2.7. Futurity	31
2.2.8. 'Emotional' use of the progressive	35
2.3. Adverbial specification and the progressive	36
2.4. Verbs that resist the use of the progressive	38
2.5. Progressive vs. non-progressive forms	44
2.6. Summary	51

3. THE PROGRESSIVE IN THE OLD ENGLISH PERIOD

3.1. Form	53
3.1.1. Auxiliaries	54
3.1.1.1. <i>Beon/wesan</i>	54
3.1.1.2. <i>Weorðan</i>	55
3.1.2. Other verbs with <i>-ende</i>	57
3.2. Paradigm of Old English <i>beon/wesan</i> + <i>-ende</i>	60
3.3. Frequency and distribution of <i>beon/wesan</i> + <i>-ende</i> in Old English	62
3.3.1. Frequency of Old English <i>beon/wesan</i> + <i>-ende</i>	62
3.3.2. Distribution of Old English <i>beon/wesan</i> + <i>-ende</i>	63
3.3.2.1. Old English poetry	64
3.3.2.2. Old English prose	64
3.4. Verbs usually found in the expanded form in Old English	65
3.5. The expanded form vs. related constructions in Old English	68
3.5.1. Agent nouns in <i>-end(e)</i>	68
3.5.2. Adjectival participles in <i>-ende</i>	69
3.5.3. Appositive participles in <i>-ende</i>	72
3.6. The origin of Old English <i>beon/wesan</i> + <i>-ende</i>	73
3.6.1. Latin influence	74
3.6.2. 'Native' origin	76
3.6.3. 'Blending' theory	78
3.6.4. Celtic influence	80
3.6.5. 'Prepositional' theory	81
3.7. The semantics of Old English <i>beon/wesan</i> + <i>-ende</i>	83
3.7.1. Introduction	83
3.7.2. The functions of Old English <i>beon/wesan</i> + <i>-ende</i>	85
3.7.2.1. Durative function	85
3.7.2.2. Frame-time	87
3.7.2.3. 'Terminate' function	88
3.7.2.4. 'Inchoative' or 'ingressive' function	89
3.7.2.5. 'Intensive' function	90
3.7.2.6. Futurity	91
3.7.2.7. Other functions and meanings	92
3.7.3. Adverbial specification and the expanded form in Old English	93
3.7.4. Concluding remarks	94

4. THE PROGRESSIVE IN THE MIDDLE ENGLISH PERIOD

4.1. Introduction	97
4.2. Form	98
4.2.1. Auxiliaries	99
4.2.1.1. <i>Weorðan</i>	99
4.3. Frequency of the expanded form in Middle English	99
4.4. Distribution of the expanded form in Middle English	101
4.4.1. Dialectal distribution of the expanded form in Middle English	101
4.4.2. Genre distribution of the expanded form in Middle English	102
4.5. Paradigm of the expanded form in Middle English	103
4.5.1. The expression of the passive progressive in English	105
4.5.1.1. Patterns of the type <i>the house is building</i>	106
4.5.1.2. Prepositional patterns	108
4.5.1.3. Ordinary, non-progressive passives	108
4.6. Verbs usually found in the expanded form in Middle English	109
4.7. The expanded form vs. parallel constructions in Middle English	110
4.8. The origins of the expanded form in Middle English	111
4.8.1. The theory of 'continuation'	112
(OE <i>beon/wesan</i> + <i>-ende</i> > ME <i>be</i> + <i>-ing</i>)	
4.8.2. The 'prepositional' theory	113
(<i>be on/in/an hunting</i> > <i>be a hunting</i> > <i>be hunting</i>)	
4.8.3. The 'amalgamation' theory	117
(<i>be</i> + <i>-ing</i> < <i>beon/wesan</i> + <i>-ende</i> + <i>be</i> preposition verbal noun)	
4.8.4. Foreign influences	118
4.8.4.1. Latin influence	118
4.8.4.2. French influence	119
4.8.4.3. Celtic influence	120
4.9. The change from Old English <i>-end(e)</i> to Middle English <i>-ing(e)</i>	121
4.9.1. The development of the 'gerund' in Middle English	124
4.9.2. Complementation of <i>-ung/-ing</i> forms	128
4.10. The semantics of the expanded form in Middle English	130
4.10.1. Adverbial specification and the expanded form in Middle English	133
4.11. Final remarks	134

5. THE PROGRESSIVE IN THE EARLY MODERN ENGLISH PERIOD: DATA FROM THE *HELSINKI CORPUS*

5.1. Introduction	137
5.2. Problems of classification	142
5.2.1. <i>-Ing</i> participles vs. <i>-ing</i> adjectives	143
5.2.2. Other borderline cases	149
5.3. Analysis of the early Modern English section of the <i>Helsinki Corpus</i> : the data	150
5.3.1. Introduction	150
5.3.2. Related patterns	152
5.3.2.1. Introduction	152
5.3.2.2. Prepositional patterns	152
5.3.2.2.1. The type <i>be in hunting</i>	152
5.3.2.2.2. The type <i>be a hunting</i>	153
5.3.2.3. The type <i>he is building of a house</i>	157
5.3.2.4. Other types	158
5.3.2.4.1. 'Inverted' progressives	158
5.3.2.4.2. <i>There-</i> constructions	159
5.3.2.4.3. 'Elliptical' progressives	159
5.3.3. Progressives proper	160
5.3.3.1. Introduction	160
5.3.3.2. Increasing frequency	160
5.3.3.3. Paradigm	161
5.3.3.4. Verbs occurring in the progressive	164
5.3.3.5. Clausal distribution	167
5.3.3.5.1. Non-dependent clauses	167
5.3.3.5.2. Dependent clauses	168
5.3.3.6. Genre distribution	172
5.3.3.7. The semantics of the progressive	177
5.3.3.7.1. Adverbial specification	187
5.3.4. Summary	192
6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUDING REMARKS	195
REFERENCES	203