

Contents

Preface	v
Introduction <i>Irma Taavitsainen, Terttu Nevalainen, Päivi Pahta and Matti Rissanen</i>	1
Chronological and social context	
Language periodization and the concept “middle” <i>Roger Lass</i>	7
Language and society in twelfth-century England <i>Tim William Machan</i>	43
Syntactic constraints on code-switching in medieval texts <i>Herbert Schendl</i>	67
Dialect, normalization and corpus-linguistic methodology	
Introduction <i>Norman F. Blake</i>	89
<i>Never the twain shall meet</i> Early Middle English – The East-West divide <i>Margaret Laing</i>	97
Standard language in Early Middle English? <i>Jeremy Smith</i>	125

Changing spaces: Linguistic relationships and the dialect continuum

Keith Williamson 141

Normalizing the word forms in the *Ayenbite of Inwyt*

Manfred Markus 181

Chaucer's spelling and the manuscripts of the *Canterbury Tales*

Simon Horobin 199

WHICH and THE WHICH in Late Middle English: Free variants?

Helena Raumolin-Brunberg 209

Lexical semantics

Introduction

Hans-Jürgen Diller 229

Robbares and reuares þat ryche men despoilen:
Some competing forms

Jane Roberts 235

Here comes the judge: A small contribution to the study of French
input into the vocabulary of the law in Middle English

Janet Bately 255

Naming and avoiding naming objects of terror: A case study

Louise Sylvester 277

An application of the Natural Semantic Metalanguage to
diachronic semantics

Malgorzata Fabiszak 293

Patterns of semantic change in abstract nouns: The case of *wit*

Päivi Koivisto-Alanko 313

The spatial and temporal meanings of *before* in Middle English
Ruta Nagucka 329

The adjective *weary* in Middle English structures:
 A syntactic-semantic study
Saara Nevanlinna 339

Utterance and discourse meaning

Introduction
Laurel Brinton 361

Slanders, slurs and insults on the road to Canterbury:
 Forms of verbal aggression in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*
Andreas H. Jucker 369

Hir not lettyrd: The use of interjections, pragmatic markers and
whan-clauses in *The Book of Margery Kempe*
Liliana Sikorska 391

Whoso thorgh presumpcion ... mysdeme hyt:
 Chaucer's poetic adaptation of the medieval "book curse"
Leslie Arnovick 411

Sounds, prosody and metre

Introduction
Nikolaus Ritt 427

Middle English prosodic innovations and their testability in verse
Donka Minkova 431

Old English (non)-palatalised */k/: Competing forces of change at
 work in the "seek"-verbs
Marcin Krygier 461

Some remarks on the nonprimary contexts for Homorganic
Lengthening

Jerzy Welna 475

On the phonetic and phonological interpretation of the reflexes of
the Old English diphthongs in the *Ayenbite of Inwyt*

Albertas Steponavičius 489

Author index 505

Subject index 509