

ENG343 Masteremne i Engelsk lingvistikk III/English linguistics III

Autumn/fall 2018

Hærrig Pottere and þæs uðwitan stan: **Harry Potter as a portal to Old English**

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Course description

In this course we will use Peter S. Baker's (unpublished) translation into Old English of the first chapters of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* as a fun way to access the fundamentals of Old English, i.e. English language in the Anglo-Saxon period, before it was drastically altered by Romance influence from c. 1100 onwards.

Apart from more profound knowledge about the roots of the English language than that provided by the survey course at 200-level, the study of Old English will also offer increased awareness about general linguistics principles and mechanisms of linguistic change.

Parts of the *Hærrig Pottere* text will be studied more closely; others you will have to examine on your own or they will merely serve as sources for additional examples of specific grammatical or lexical phenomena.

An apparent drawback of using a translation of a modern text is that potentially, it may not always represent 'genuine', idiomatic Old English. However, from a pedagogical point of view, there may also be considerable advantages – also apart from the fact that with a Present-Day English version available, understanding the content should generally present few problems. For one thing, the sentence structure of the source text is far less complex than that found in many of the preserved Old English records. Also, it can be expected that the language of the translation is more standardised and consistent than what is typically the case for texts produced in Anglo-Saxon times, which typically exhibit a fair amount of variation in spelling, morphology and syntax.

The original Harry Potter books are well-known for their linguistic creativity, which poses a challenge for any translation. However, a translation into Old English faces the additional trial of rendering also familiar modern concepts that were not part of the Anglo-Saxon universe (*cars? traffic jam? telephone? chocolate frogs? or even tea?*). Baker's proposed translations here will serve to highlight the word formation processes of Old English – a stage when the language was more prone to exploit the resources of existing vocabulary than to adopt loans from other languages.

Though current translation theory will not be specifically addressed, the text should also provide abundant food for thought for those interested in translation and translation studies.

Students are expected to participate actively, both in class – including individual or group presentations – and by self-study of the primary text, using secondary sources as reference works.

Some prior knowledge of Old English, e.g. from the History of English component of ENG221/261 is a definite advantage, but not an absolutely necessary prerequisite. However, in the latter case you must be prepared to make an extra effort.

The assessment at the end of term will be in the form of a one-week paper (“take-home exam”) of 3,000 ord ($\pm 10\%$) words.

Reading list

For those who want to prepare in advance (and who wouldn't?), I suggest starting with the basic text book for the course, Baker 2012. You will probably find that it is rather too simple for you in terms of basic grammatical analysis (you can safely skip the sections with examples from Present-Day English, including the whole of chapter 3), but it is a very good basic introduction to Old English.

Most sources are available at the HF library. Sources prefixed by ^L will also be available electronically in the Literature Kiosk at *MittUiB*, and those prefixed by ^O can be downloaded via *oria.no*; sources marked with an asterisk will be made available under Files at *MittUiB*.

1. Obligatory reading

Primary text

**Hærrig Pottere and þæs uðwitan stan*, chs 1–9 (2nd, amended version), tr. by Peter S. Baker from J. K. Rowling (1997) *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, London: Bloomsbury. (U.S. edition published under the title *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.)

Please note: This is an unpublished work, made available for the use of the ENG343 course by the kind permission of the translator, who has the copyright. Thus no part of this text should be diffused outside the context of this course, electronically or otherwise, without the author's permission.

Electronic versions of the Present-Day English source text can be found online, e.g. at <http://www2.sdfi.edu.cn/netclass/jiaoan/englit/download/Harry%20Potter%20and%20the%20Sorcerer's%20Stone.pdf>

Basic text book

^OBaker, Peter S. 2012. *Introduction to Old English* (3rd ed.), chs 1–2, 4–12. Oxford: Blackwell. (Paperback ISBN 978-0-470-65984-7) [The book is also available online via *Oria.no*.]

We will only be using the phonology and grammar chapters of this book, but you may find other sections useful too, e.g. the glossary at the end of the Anthology. If you can only get hold of the second edition., that is OK – the main difference between that and the third edition is that the anthology is considerably expanded in the latter. This will not affect our course.

You may also want to acquire a password for access to the *Old English Aerobics* website, with texts and exercises: <http://www.oldenglishaerobics.net/anthology.html>.

Brief overview

^LCrystal, David. 1995. *The Cambridge encyclopedia of the English language*, pp. 6–29. Cambridge: CUP.

Grammar (for reference)

Quirk, Randolph & C[hristopher] L. Wrenn. 1957. *An Old English grammar*, 2nd ed. London: Methuen. (Or later reprint.)

Phonology

In addition to chapter 2 in Baker 2012 (see *Basic text book* above):

*Haugland, Kari E. 2014. The pronunciation of Old English: a summary. Hand-out. Department of foreign languages, University of Bergen.

*Rydland, Kurt. 1994. English historical phonology, pp. 1–8. Compendium, Engelsk institutt, Universitetet i Bergen.

Vocabulary and word formation

^LKastovsky, Dieter. 2006. Vocabulary; section 4.2 Old English. In Richard Hogg & David Denison (eds), *A history of the English language*, pp. 216–46. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Syntax/word order

^OBech, Kristin. 2000. *Word order patterns in Old and Middle English: a syntactic and pragmatic study*, pp. 1–7, 26–29, 39–42, 47–50, 71–72, 79–100, 199–203. Dr.art. dissertation, Department of English, University of Bergen. [Available via Oria.no: https://bora.uib.no/bitstream/handle/1956/3850/Dr.thesis_Kristin_Bech.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y]

^LFischer, Olga; Ans van Kemenade, Willem Koopman & Wim van der Wurff. 2000. *The syntax of early English*. Cambridge syntax guides, pp. 26–35, ch. 2 (in particular pp. 49–64), pp. 110–29. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

^OHeggelund, Øystein. 2015. On the use of data in historical linguistics: word order in early English subordinate clauses. *English Language and Linguistics* 19(1), 83–106. doi:10.1017/S1360674314000343 [Available via Oria.no.]

^LLos, Bettelou. 2015. *A historical syntax of English*, pp. 184–203. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

2. Suggested reference works

Dictionaries

Bosworth, Joseph & T. Northcote Toller. 1898. *An Anglo-Saxon dictionary*. London: OUP. (Repr. 1954.) Searchable version available at: <http://bosworth.ff.cuni.cz>.

Cameron, Angus; Ashley Crandell Amos, Antonette diPaolo Healey et al. (eds). 2016. *The dictionary of Old English: A to H* online. Toronto: Dictionary of Old English Project. <http://tapor.library.utoronto.ca/doe/>. [Use UiB library subscription]

Clark Hall, John R. & Herbert D. Meritt. 1960. *A concise Anglo-Saxon dictionary*. Cambridge: The University Press. [Briefer version, without examples.] Also available at: http://www.ling.upenn.edu/~kurisuto/germanic/oe_clarkhall_about.html

General

Hogg, Richard M. (ed.). 1992. *The Cambridge history of the English language*. Vol. 1. Cambridge: CUP. [advanced]

- Hogg, Richard M. & Rhona Alcorn. 2012. *An introduction to Old English*. Oxford: OUP. [introductory work]
- Mitchell, Bruce & Fred C. Robinson 2011. *A guide to Old English*. 8th ed. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. [introductory work]
- Smith, Jeremy J. 2009. *Old English: a linguistic introduction*. Cambridge: CUP.

Grammar/syntax

- Campbell, A[listair]. 1959. *Old English grammar*. London: OUP. (Repr. 1964, Oxford: Clarendon Press.) [intermediate]
- ^oHeggelund, Øystein. 2010. *Word order in Old English and Middle English subordinate clauses*. PhD diss., University of Bergen. [Available via Oria.no:
https://bora.uib.no/bitstream/handle/1956/4002/Dr.thesis_Oystein%20Imerslund%20Heggelund.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y]
- Mitchell, Bruce. 1985. *Old English syntax*. Vols 1–2. Oxford: Clarendon. [advanced]
- Wright, Joseph & Elizabeth Mary Wright. 1925. *Old English grammar*. 3rd ed. London: OUP. (3rd ed. repr. 1950; 1st ed. 1908.) [intermediate; very useful]

Morphology

- Hogg, Richard M. & R. D. Fulk. 2011. *A grammar of Old English*. Vol. 2: Morphology. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. [advanced]

Phonology

- Hogg, Richard M. 1992. *A grammar of Old English*. Vol. 1: Phonology. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. [advanced]