

A Study of the Inflections of verbs in *Physiologus*

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The purpose of this thesis is to investigate the inflectional system in the verbs. The ME *Physiologus*, which can be dated around the early thirteenth century, is composed of thirteen creatures: lion, eagle, adder, ant, stag, fox, spider, whale, mermaid, elephant, turtledove, panther, and dove.

The ME *Physiologus* is used in the east Midland dialects which have *-e* in the first pers. sig., *-est*, *-es* in the second pers. sig., *-eð*, *-es* in the third pers. sig. The Midland plural ending *-en* of the pres. indicative was a new formation from the OE subj. pl. ending. The plural ending in *-en* has been preserved in the ME *Physiologus*. In the plural of the imperative the east Midland dialects have the endings *-e*, *-en*, *-eð*. The infinitive ends in *-en*. The present participle regularly ends in *-ande*. The weak verbs: the ME normal endings of the preterite are *-ede*, *-de*, *-te*. In ME the strong verbs are divided into seven classes. The past participle of weak verbs ends in *-ed*. The past participle of strong verbs ends in *-en*.

Citation is by line. e.g. (123) denoting '1.123.'

1. Pres. Indic. Sing.

1.1 1st Person Sing.

- | | |
|--|--------|
| (1) Also Ic it o boke <u>rede</u> | (28). |
| (2) On stalle, I <u>seie</u> , ðer he er stod, | (499). |
| (3) For ðe swetnesse ðe Ic ·u <u>haue</u> told | (558). |
| (4) Wið swetnesse, Ic ·u <u>seie</u> , | (550). |

The East Midland dialects retain the old endings in the sing. The general OE ending of the 1st person sing. had been *-e* and this like *-e* survived in the *Physiologus* in most parts.

1.2 2nd Person Sing.

- | | |
|---|--------|
| (1) If ðu <u>hauest</u> is broken, al ðu <u>forbredes</u> | (122). |
| <u>Forwurðes</u> & <u>for·elues</u> eche lif to wolden | (123). |

In early ME the endings with *-t* gradually disappeared, so that the whole of the

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singular ended in *-es*.

1.3. *3rd Person Sing.*

- | | |
|---|--------|
| (1) De corn ðat ze to caue <u>bered</u> , al zet <u>bit</u> otwinne | (170). |
| (2) Ligtlike ze <u>leped</u> up & <u>letteð</u> hem sone | (277). |
| (3) Til ðat he ðe heuene <u>seð</u> | (39). |
| (4) & he <u>drinkeð</u> his blod wane he him <u>dreued</u> | (333). |
| (5) He <u>remeð</u> & helpe <u>calleð</u> | (470). |
| (6) Zeð him ðat biforn teð <u>bilimpes</u> for to tirzen | (242). |
| (7) It <u>quenchet</u> ilc sinizing | (225). |
| (8) <u>Forsaket</u> ðore Satanas | (70). |
| (9) De leun <u>stant</u> on hille | (1). |
- sekeð(36), selleð(332),

The sg. ending *-eð* is the same as in OE. The Old Northumbrian form *-es* lasted on in the North and spread into the North Midland. This example is No.(6).

2. Pres. Indic. Pl.

- | | |
|--|--------|
| (1) Til he <u>noten</u> of a gres | (431). |
| (2) ðus we it <u>leuen</u> | (314). |
| (3) <u>Hatien</u> & <u>hulen</u> boðe men & fules | (267). |
| (4) In summer & in softe weder, so we ofte sen <u>hauen</u> | (154). |
| (5) Til ðat ðer flezes <u>faren</u> & <u>fallen</u> ðerinne | (322). |
| (6) Vre firste fader, ðat <u>fele</u> we | (494). |
| (7) Herof <u>haue</u> we mikel ned, ðat we ðarwið ne <u>dillen</u> | (260). |

The Midland plural ending *-en* of the present indicative was a new formation from the endings of the present subjunctive.

3. Pres. Subj. Sing.

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|--|--------|
| (1) Litel him is of hise limes, bute he lif <u>holde</u> | (117). |
| (2) Caue ze <u>haued</u> to crepen in, ðat winter hire ne <u>derie</u> | (162). |
| (3) On ðat dai ðat dom sal ben, ðat it ne us harde <u>rewe</u> | (177). |

4. Pres. Subj. Pl.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| (1) Ðat we ne <u>gon</u> to helle | (222). |
|-----------------------------------|--------|

5. Imperative. Sing.

- (1) Feste ðe of stedefastnesse & ful of ðewes
& helpe ðe poure men ðe gangen abuten (126-127).
 (2) List ilk lefful man herto & herof ofte reche (523).
 (3) Let ðin filðe fro ðe, so ðe wirm his fel doð (137).
 (4) Go ðu ðan to Godes hus ðe godspel to heren (138).

6. Imperative. Pl.

- (1) He is ure soule spuse, luue we him wið migte (525).
 (2) & wende we neure fro him ward, be dai ne be nizte (526).
 (3) Bimene we us: we hauen don wrong (598).
 (4) Do we ðe bodi in ðe bale & berzen ðe soule (151).
 (5) Ilc robbinge do we of hac (592).
 (6) Muned, wimmen, hire lif, Ic it wile zu redder (516).

7. Infinitive

- (1) Hise loðe men sullen to helle faren, (532).
 (2) Ðus is ure Louerdes laze luuelike to fillen (259).
 (3) For it wile ðerunder gon (195).
 (4) Ðe smale he wile ðus biswiken (351).
 (5) He lat he ne wile us nozt biswike (286).
 (6) Oc wise men & warre azen cunen chare (403).

Here the usual tendency to simplify is to be seen in the *Physiologus*. The OE ending was -an or -ian. Here the endings -en or -e were preserved.

8. Present Participle

- (1) He crepeð cripelande forð (99).
 (2) Rennande cumeð a zungling (486).

The present participle ends in -ande.

9. Past Participle

(*Weak verbs*)

- (1) O ðe wise ðat Ic haue zu seid (492).
 (2) So ze hauen nu lered her (209).
 (3) If he cloðed man se, cof he waxeð (110).

bred(105), cristned(119), elded(124), eried(270), ikindled(8), told(558),
The past participle of weak verbs ends in -ed.

(Strong Verbs)

- (1) In boke is ðe turtres lif writen o rime (513).
 (2) De sipes ðat arn on se fordriuen (363).
 (3) Ðanne he is forbroken & forbroiden & in is elde al forwurden (96).
 (4) Ðat was fallen to helle dim (512).
 (5) Mið wite spottes sapen al (536).
 bunden(393), doluen(20), forloren(59), sen(154), sinen(10), waxen(395)
 The OE ending -en was preserved.

10. Pret. Indic. Sing.

(Weak verbs)

- (1) Vp he ros & remede in wis (573).
 (2) Hu he dun come, ne wu he dennede him in ðat defte neiden (18).
 (3) Ðo him likede to ligten her on erðe (16).
 (4) His fader him filstnede swo ðat he ros fro dede ðo (22).

There are no examples of the first and second persons singular. From (1) to (4) all third person singular. The ending -eden can be seen in the plural: remeden (503), suggeden, etc.

(Strong verbs)

There are divided into seven classes, according to the vowel series represented in the forms.

Class I.

OE. ī — ā — i — i

ME. ī — ō — i — i

- (1) His fader him filstnede swo ðat he ros fro dede ðo (22).
 (2) Vp he ros & remede in wis (573).

Two examples can be seen: ros (inf. risen).

Class II.

OE. ēo(ū) — ēa — u — o

ME. ē — ē — ō — ō

(1) Vre sowle atte kirke·dure ches hire Crist to meche (524).

(2) 3ef ðu it so3e wan it flet (338).

In ME the conjugation of ches (see 1) is as follows: chesen — ches — chos — shosen.
Flet has the same conjugation, too.

Class III.

OE. i — a — u — u

ME. i — a — u — u

(1) Wan he ður3 holi spel him wan (568).

No other examples can be seen. Only Wan (inf. winnen) can be seen in this work.

Class IV.

OE. e — æ — æ — o

ME. ē — a — ē — ō

(1) Marie bi name, ðe him bar to manne frame (19).

(2) Ðo Crist kam into ðis middel·erd (310).

(3) Hem cam to Crist, heuen·king (506).

In ME bar's conjugation is as follows: bere(n) — bar — bere(n) — boren, ibore.
Cam or kam (inf. cumen) is pret. sg.

Class V.

OE. e — æ — æ(ē) — e

ME. ē — a — ē — ē

(1) & longe he lai her in an hole (569).

(2) In a ston stille he lai til it kam ðe ðridde dai (21).

Class VI.

OE. a — ō — ō — æ

ME. ā — ō — ō — ā

(1) Seftes sop ure Seppande (313).

(2) On stalle, I seie, ðer he er stod (499).

Class VII.

(Reduplicating Verbs)

- (1) Dre daies slep he al onon (571).
 (2) Dus fel Adam ðurz a tre (493).

The ME *Physiologus* was written in the Midland dialects. After investigating the personal endings of the conjugational system, it is clear that this work has a lot of characteristics of the Midland dialects. I will illustrate the personal endings of conjugations as follows:

Inf.	·(e)n	Ind. Pa. Sg. 1	·e
Ind. Pr. Sg. 1	·e	2	·e, ·est
2	·es, ·est	3	·e
3	·es, ·(e)ð	Imper. Sg.	·e, ·∅
Pl.	·en	Pl.	·e, ·en, ·eð
Sub. Pr. Sg.	·e	Prp.	·ande
Pl.	·en	Pp.	·ed

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