Lecture 4

OE Morphology

Typological classification (19th)

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  deals with grammatical structure of the languages

- Languages are divided into:
  - Isolative
  - Agglutinating
  - Inflecting

isolating

- Chinese and Vietnamese
- each lexical or grammatical unit of information is carried by an <u>individual morph</u>, <u>without affixation</u> or <u>modification</u>.

- Eg.: Georgian: Miq'varkhan. – I love you.

agglutinating

- Turkish

- morphs are 'stuck' together to form words. Each <u>morph has a particular function</u>.

{HOUSE}	{plural}	{possessive}		
ev	*ler*		*evler*	*Houses*
ev		*im*	*evim*	*My house*
ev	*ler*	*im*	*evlerim*	*My houses*

All IE languages are **Inflecting**

Synthetic & Analytical

- **Synthetic** structure of the language presupposes that both _semantic and grammatical meaning_ of the word is expressed _within one word_
- **synthetic means**:
grammatical suffixes,
grammatical prefixes,
vowel interchange,
suppletive formation

Eg.: _Ukr: Коти їдять мишей._
Мишей їдять коти.

- **Analytical** structure of the language presupposes that _lexical and grammatical meanings are expressed by 2 or 3 grammatical units_.

analytical means:
articles,
conversion,
auxiliary verbs,
conjunctions,
pronouns,
word order.
Eng: Cats eat mice.
~~_Mice eat cats_~~.

Modern English has both analytic characteristics and synthetic ones

Eg.:

1. *I will see you tomorrow;*
2. *He is sleeping*
3. *More beautiful – uglier*
4. *Good – better – the best*

- **OE morphology** is different from that of Modern English, predominantly by being much more **highly inflected**

- Among living languages, OE morphology most closely resembles that of <u>modern Icelandic</u> and to a lesser extent that of <u>modern High German</u>

2. **Grammatical Categories of the Noun in OE**

- What are the grammatical categories of the NOUN in Modern English??????

- In OE:
  - ☐ Gender (masculine, feminine, neuter)
  - ☐ Number (singular and plural);
  - ☐ Case (Nominative, Genetive, Dative, Accusative, Instrumental)

- It has to be noted that Gender is a lexico-grammatical category, while the other two are purely grammatical. Gender is not associated with ending nor with lexical meaning.

OE declensions

- STRONG :
  - -a-stem
  - -o-stem
  - -u-stem
  - -i-stem)
- WEAK
  - (-(e)n- consonantal)
- ROOT

- By the 9th century, the original vowels or consonants in the noun-stems had disappeared (so that PG *a*-stem *skipa* 'ship', for example, appears in OE as *scip*). The declension type has to be checked up in a dictionary!!!

a-stems	Sg				PL			
	N	G	D	A	N	G	D	A
M					as			as
N short	-	es	e	-	u	a	**um**	u
N long					-			-

Eg. amber, scip, sceap

STRONG

0-stems	Sg				Pl			
	N	G	D	A	N	G	D	A
F short	u					a/ena		
F long	-	e			a/e	a	**um**	a/e

Eg. caru, hēōrd

U-stems	Sg				Pl			
	N	G	D	A	N	G	D	A
M short	u/o			u/o				a/u/o
M long	-			-				a/u/o
F short	u/o	a		u/o	a/u/o	a	**um**	a/u/o
F long	-			-				a/u

Eg. sunu, fēld, hānd

i-stems	Sg				Pl			
	N	*G*	*D*	*A*	*N*	*G*	*D*	*A*
M short	e			e	e/as			e/as
M long	-			-	as			as
N short	e	es	e	e	u	a	==um==	u
N long	-			-	-			-
F	-	e		-	e/a			e/a

Eg. bite, flȳht, spere, flǣsc, cwen

WEAK

N-stems	Sg				PL			
	N	G	D	A	N	G	D	A
M	a	an			an	ena	==um==	an
F	e							
N	e			e				

Eg. hopa, midde, eare

Those substantives which never had any stem-forming suffix belonged to the ROOT declension, so the case endings were added immediately to the root.

Root	Sg			Pl		
	N=A	G	D	N=A	G	D
M	-	es	e(X)	(X)		
N	-		(X)	(X)		
F short	u	e	e(X)	e(X)	a	um
F long	-		(X)	(X)		

Eg. fōt, hnute, bōc, scrud

(X) – vowel interchange as a result of i-Umlaut.

3. OE Adjective

Weak forms were used when the noun being modified referred to a definite or specific entity, signaled, for example, by the structure *definite article/ demonstrative/ personal pronoun + adjective + noun* (as in *the stupid cat, this great book, my lovely house*).

WEAK	m	f	n	Pl
N	a	e	e	an
G				ra
D				um
A	an		e	an
Instr				

Strong forms were used when no such specific reference was meant (as in *lovely houses* or *a lovely house is easy to find*).

The weak declension does not differ from that of nouns, except in the G Pl of all genders, which often takes the ending ra, taken over from the strong declension.

STRONG	Sg			Pl		
	m	f	n	m	f	N
N	-	-	-	e	a/e	-
G	es	re	es		ra	
D	um	re		um		
A	(n)e	e	-	e	a/e	-
Instr	e	-	e			

Degrees of Comparison

The comparatives are declined as **strong** adjectives; the superlatives mostly follow the **weak** declension.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
earm	earm**ra**	earm**ost**
grǻm	grǻm**ra**	grǻm**ost**

Suppletive forms:

Eald – ieldra – ieldest (old)

heah – hierra – hiehst (high)

lǻnʒ - lenʒra - lenʒest (long)

ʒōd – betera – betst (good)

yfel – wiersa – wierst (bad)

lytel – læssa – læst (little)

4. OE Pronoun

PERSONAL

1st person	Sg	DUAL	Pl
N	ic	wit	wē
G	min	uncer	ūre, user
D	mē	unc	ūs
A	mec, mē	unc	ūsic, ūs

2nd person	Sg	DUAL	Pl
N	þu	ʒit	ʒē
G	þin	incer	eōwer
D	þē	inc	eōw
A	Þec, þe	inc,incit	eōw, eōwic

3rd person	m	f	n	All genders
N	hē	hēo, hio	hit	hiē, hī, hȳ, heō
G	his	hire, hiere	his	hire, heora, hiera, hyra
D	him	hire, hiere	him	him, heom
A	hine	hiē, hī, hȳ	hit	hiē, hī, hȳ, heō

DEMONSTRATIVE

	m	n	f	Pl
N	se, sē	þæt	sēo	þā
G	þæs	þæs	þǣre	þāra, þǣra
D	þǣm	þǣm	þǣre	þǣm, þām
A	þone	þæt	þā	þā
Instr	þȳ, þon	þȳ, þon	þǣre	þǣm, þām

SE was used for far objects. The meaning of this pronoun is often weakened so that it approaches the status of an **article**. **þES** was used for near objects.

	m	n	f	Pl
N	þes	þis	þēos	þās
G	þises	þises	þisse	þissa
D	þisum	þisum	þisse	þisum
A	þisne	þis	þās	þās
Inst	þisse	þisse	þisse	þisum

INTERROGATIVE: hwa? hwæt? – were only singular.

N	hwā	hwæt
G	hwæs	hwæs
D	hwǣm	hwǣm
A	hwone	hwæt
In	-	Hwy

hwilc? Is declined as a strong adjective

- DEFINITE: ʒehwa (every); ʒehwilc (each); ǣʒþer (either); ælc (each); swilc (such) – all these pronouns were declined as strong adjectives.

  Sē ilca (the same) was declined as a weak adjective.

- INDEFINITE: Sum (some), ǣniʒ (any) were declined as strong adjectives.

- NEGATIVE: Nān, nǣniʒ were declined as strong adjectives.

- RELATIVE: þe, sēþe > sē is inflected according to gender, number, case, whereas þe remains unchanged.

5. OE Verbal Grammatical Categories

- **Number** (Sg, Pl)
- **Person** (1st, 2nd, 3rd with no person distinctions in PL)
- **Tense** (Present, Past, the future is expressed by lexical means)
- **Mood** (Indicative to state an action as real, Imperative expresses order, request and wish, Subjunctive to express an action that is merely supposed)
- NO grammatical category of **voice**. Passive meaning is rendered by free word combinations.

(A) STRONG VERBS

- divided into 7 classes according to vowel gradation (**ablaut**)
- now are called irregular

	Infinitive	Past Sg	Past PL	Participle II		
I	**ī** writ**an**	**ā** wrat	**i** writ**on**	**i** gewrit**en**		write
II	ēō ceosan	ēā ceas	u curon	o gecoren		
IIIa	**i** drinkan	**a** dranc	**u** druncon	**u** gedruncen	Before nasal + consonant	drink
IIIb	**e** helpan	**ea** healp	**u** hulpon	**o** geholpen	Before l + consonant	help
IIIc	eo feohtan	ea feaht	u fuhton	o gefohten	Before r/h + consonant	
IV	**e** stelan	**æ** stæl	**ǣ** stǣlon	**o** gestolen	Before l/r	steal
V	**e** sprecan	**æ** spræc	**æ** spræcon	**e** gesprecen		speak
VI	**a** faran	**ō** fōr	**ō** fōron	**a** gefaren		go
VII	**a(eo)** cnāwan feollan hatan	**e(ea)** cnēāw feal hēht	**e(ea)** cnēāwan fealon heton	**a(eo)** gecnawen gefeolen gehaten		know fall call

(B) WEAK VERBS

- While there were 4 classes of Weak Verbs in Gothic, in OE there were 3
- Every weak verb is characterized by 3 forms: infinitive, past tense and Participle II
- the Past Plural can be derived from the Past Singular by replacing the **e** ending of the Singular by the **on** ending of the Plural
- The stem of the Participle II is always identical with that of the Past tense.

	Infinitive	Past	Participle II
I class **Regular** always have mutation of their root vowel due to an original **i**-element in the suffix	**an, ian** deman styrian cēpan	**ede** demede styrede cepte	**ed/d/t** demed styred cept
Irregular	brinʒan tecan sēcan bincan sellan	brohte tohte sohte þohte seolde	broht toht soht þoht seold

Irregular verbs had the **i** which produced mutation in the infinitive only. In other forms there had not been any **i**, and so these forms have no mutation. As a result the vowel of the past and the participle II differs from that of the infinitive.

- II Class

- These originally had the suffix ***-ōja** in the infinitive and **-ō-** in other forms
- In OE **o** has been preserved in the past tense and PII and has been changed into **a** in some forms of the present tense
- The infinitive suffix ***-ōja** has been reduced to **i**, the Infinitive of these verbs ends in **ian**.

- (The absence of mutation in the Infinitive is due to the fact that the **i** (from ***-ōja** appeared at the time when the process of mutation was over)

Infinitive	Past	Participle II
ian	**ode**	**od**
smocian	smocode	smocod
macian	macode	macod
lufian	lufode	lufod

- III Class

- the suffix of the past and the PII is joined on to the root

Infinitive	Past	Participle II
an	**de**	**d**
habban	hæfde	hæfd
cecʒan	sæʒde	sæʒd
libban	lifde	lifd

(C) Preterite-Present Verbs

- Historically, Preterite-Present Verbs are strong
- PP Verbs are verbs in which Past Sg is reconsidered as Present and the new Past form is built with the help of the dental suffix

	Infinitive	Past Sg	Present Pl	Past	PII	Existing forms
1	witan	wat	witon	wise, wisste	(ȝe)witen	to wit
2	āȝan	āȝ, ah	aȝon	ahte	-	-
3	duȝan	deaȝ	duȝon	dohte	-	-
4	cunnon	cann	cunnon	cuðe	cunnen	can/could
5	unnan	ann	unnon	ūðe	ȝeunnen	-
6	þurfan	þearf	þurfon	þorfte	-	-
7	-	dearr	durron	dorste	-	dare
8	sculan	sceall	sculon	sceolde, scolde	-	shall/ should
9	munan	mon, man	munon	munde	ȝemunen	-
10	*mōtan	mōt, most	mōton	mōste	-	must
11	maȝan	mæȝ	maȝon	meahte, mihte	-	may/ might
12	-	ȝeneah	ȝenuȝon	ȝenohte	-	enough

(D) Anomalous Verbs

Infinitive	Present		Past	
	Sg	Pl	Sg	Pl
Willan	1. Wille		Wolde	
	2. Wilt	Willað	Woldest	Woldon
	3. Wille		Wolde	
	PI Willende			
ȝan	1. ȝa		Eōde	
	2. ȝæst	ȝað	Eōdest	Eōdon
	3. ȝæ		Eōde	
	PI ȝanȝende		PII (ȝe)ȝan	
Don	1. Do		Dude	
	2. Dest	Doþ	Dydes	Dyden
	3. Deþ		Dyde	
	PI dōnde		PII (ȝe)don	

+ *bēon* 'to be' suppletive paradigm

- The modern forms of this verb – both past and present – seem to follow no discernible pattern whatsoever, because they derive from four historically unrelated verbs

	Present	Preterite
ic	eom *or* bēo 'am'	wæs 'was'
ðū	eart *or* bist 'are'	wǣre 'were'
hē, hēo, hit	is *or* bið 'is'	wæs 'was'
wē, gē, hī	sindon, sind, sint *or* bēoð 'are'	wǣron 'were'

- *ic* ... a PIE root *es-* (with the forms *esmi, *esti, *senti*)
- *Eart* comes from another PIE root *er-*, meaning 'arise'
- *Bēo/ bist/ bið/ bēoð* from *bheu-* which meant 'become'
- The preterite forms are derived from OE *wesan.*

6. Syncretism & Its Impact on Language Development

- **syncretism** is the identity of form of distinct morphological forms of a word. Can arise through either phonological or morphological change

- phonological change: forms that were originally distinct come to be pronounced identically, so that their distinctness is lost.

- morphological change: one form simply stops being used and is replaced by the other

- This fact eventually lead to gradual disappearance of those forms which were different

- due to the specificity of the **stress**, which was falling on the 1st syllable of the root, thus making the endings often misheard and 'swallowed'

- By the end of the OE period the complex system of inflections started to get simplified

- With the arrival of Danes and Normans to Britain, OE started to get influenced by their languages

- These factors combined resulted in the **end of the OE Period of 'Full Endings'** and the **beginning of the Middle English (ME) Period of so-called 'Leveled Endings'**