"I wol yow telle a myrie tale in prose":

A Contrastive Study of Word Order Patterns in *The Tale of Melibee*, *The Parson's Tale* and *A Treatise on the Astrolabe*.

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Spring 2008

Acknowledgements

I wish to express my gratitude to my supervisor Kari Anne Rand for her advise and encouragement.

I also wish to thank my family and friends for their support.

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List of Abbreviations

A   – Adverbial

Astr   – *A Treatise on the Astrolabe*

dO   – Direct Object

iO   – Indirect Object

ME   – Middle English

Mel   – *The Tale of Melibee*

ModE – Modern English

MSS   – Manuscripts

Pars   – *The Parson's Tale*

S   – Subject

V   – Verb

X   – All word contstituents other than the subject and the verb

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Chapter 1 Introduction

The starting point for this thesis was an interest in Middle English word order. I was interested in seeing whether there would be any differences in word order patterns between different genres of Middle English texts. As Middle English was a language in transition between Old English and Early Modern English I also wanted to see whether the texts have a dominant SOV order, as in Old English, or an SVO order, as in Modern English. Trips (2001: 1-2) says:

> It would have to be assumed then that there are two grammars side by side, one where the feature is still strong and the object moves leftward (the OV grammar), and one where the feature has become weak and object movement is not possible (the VO grammar). The crucial fact here is that the notion of grammars in competition requires that Early Middle English was a mixed system no matter how the underlying orders are derived (by leftward movement of the object or not).

When comparing genres, it is ideal to be able to compare texts by the same author. Chaucer's writings give us this opportunity. His authorship is extensive and his texts range over many different genres.

I shall concentrate on prose texts since these are not subject to the formal constraints of verse, i.e. not dependent on rhyme and metre which may influence and alter the word order. Rand Schmidt (1993: 47) says that Chaucer's prose is not homogenous in respect of its syntax, although literary scholars have seen it as uniform. She says that 'to the extent that a consensus exist, it seems to be that Chaucer's prose in general is characterised by a strong adherence to his sources and a lack of internal variety'. It would seem that because Chaucer's prose works have been considered as literary uniform, it has been assumed that they are also linguistically uniform.

Having made this decision, four of Chaucer's texts may be relevant for this study. These are *The Tale of Melibee* and *The Parson's Tale* from *The Canterbury Tales*, *A Treatise on the Astrolabe* and *Boece*. *Boece* is a translation of *De Consolatione Philosphiae* (*Conslation of Philosophy*) by Boethius (Rudd 2001: 83). He may also have used a version of Jean de Meun's French translation and a Latin commentary (Rand Schmidt 1993: 51). The original text by Boethius was written in both prose and verse, but Chaucer translated it into

prose. Following MacLeish (1969: 13) I have decided not to include this text in my analysis. He says:

> The choices in Chaucerian prose are limited, and the *Boethius* was rejected because of the fact that Chaucer used, in his translation, a heavily glossed French text alongside the Latin original. Thus, the style is loose and the language somewhat diffuse. Further, the fact that literal accuracy was recognized as the 14th century ideal of translation make this work unfit material for a study of this kind.

I feel that using the three other texts would be more useful for my analyses and will present them briefly here.

1.1 *The Canterbury Tales*

The Canterbury Tales has always been the most popular of all of Chaucer's works. It was never finished. It is assumed that Chaucer started working on the text c. 1387 and carried on until he died in 1400. Many readers would be in agreement with Derek Brewer (1973: 104) when he says that several tales needed a revision which they never received. The short tale was the most characteristic form of fourteenth-century literature, and clearly one which Chaucer was comfortable with. The form of a collection of short tales within a frame story must have been familiar to Chaucer, through i.e. the *Decameron* by Boccacio and the *Confessio Amantis* by Gower, which were widely known.

There are eighty-four full manuscripts or fragments and six early printed editions of *The Canterbury Tales*. Rudd (2001: 102) says 'Eighty-four manuscripts survive, no two alike, only fifty-five of which seem to have been 'complete' at any point and even amongst those the sequence of tales varies. This has given rise to much debate about the order and overall idea of the collection'. In modern times the Ellesmere and the Hengwrt manuscripts have been considered to be the "best manuscripts". Both are from the London area. The Hengwrt manuscript is the manuscript which is considered to be closest to Chaucer original, and may have been written down in the year of Chaucer's death, 1400 (Rudd 2001: 106). The *Tales* has survived in ten fragments with no special links between. The ten fragments are editorial units

and the different prologues and tales have been placed there because editors have felt that they belong together. Different editions of Chaucer's works are based on different decisions in respect of how the many tales are placed in the different fragments (Benson 1987: 5).

All the *Tales* except *The Tale of Melibee* and *The Parson's Tale* are written in verse.

1.2 *The Tale of Melibee*

The Tale of Melibee is a translation of a French text called *Livre de Mellibee et Prudence* by Renaud de Louen, which again is a translation of a Latin work called *Liber consolationis et consilii* written by Albertanus of Brescia (Phillips 2005: 308). The text also has some additions from *De amore et dilectione Dei* by Albertanus of Brescia (Rand Schmidt 1993: 51). Rudd (2001: 139) calls the original a treatise of political advice against war and thinks Chaucer probably translated it for Richard II before he included it in *The Canterbury Tales*. This may explain why the text is written in prose, and not in verse. *The Tale of Melibee* is also considerable longer than many of the other texts in *The Canterbury Tales*.

Horobin (2007: 142) says that the style of the French *Livre de Mellibee et Prudence* can be classified as curial prose, and that Chaucer's *The Tale of Melibee* show many of the same features. The curial prose style was known from legal and diplomatic documents, and Chaucer was familiar with it from parliamentary and Chancery documents. What characterizes it is the use of legal phrases and linking devices, as well as an extensive use of Latin expressions. Whether *The Tale of Melibee* like its French source is also written in the curial prose style has been the subject of debate. Horobin (2007: 143) says that even though Chaucer makes use of many of its characteristics, such as set phrases and doublets, the curial prose style cannot be said to be prominent in the text.

1.3 *The Parson's Tale*

The Parson's Tale is partly a translation from a Latin text called *Summa de poenitentia* which was written by Raymund of Pennaforte (Horobin 2007: 108), and (apparently) partly Chaucer's original writing. The last chapter of *Summa de poenitentia* has been used as a source in addition to *Summa vitiorum* by William Peraldus. The text is a piece of didactic prose. The Parson himself tells the readers that his tale will not be in verse:

> But trusteth wel, I am a Southren man;
> I kan nat geeste 'rum, ram, ruf', by lettre,
> Ne, Good woot, rym holde I but litel bettre;
> And therfore, if yow list – I wol nat glose –
> I wol yow telle a myrie tale in prose
> To knytte up al this feeste and make an ende.
> (*Pars*. 42-46)[1]

The Parson's Tale is placed at the end of *The Canterbury Tales*. Rigby (2005: 37) notes that in medieval rhetoric the ending was often considered to be the part of the work which the author was most eager to convey. Chaucer appears to end his work with a Christian view on how to achieve salvation in the next world.

Data from both the prologue and the main text are included in the analysis which follows in 4.2. below.

1.4 *A Treatise on the Astrolabe*

A Treatise on the Astrolabe is partly a translation of a Latin text called *Composito et operatio astrolabii*, but Chaucer apparently wrote the prologue himself as no sources have been found (Rand Schmidt 1993: 51). He also made use of *De sphaera* by Sacrobosco.

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[1] All line references are to *The Riverside Chaucer*

In the prologue we learn that the text is written for his ten-year-old son Lewis, and that Chaucer translated the text because the boy was not yet fluent in Latin[2]. Rudd (2001: 86) suggests that it was probably written in 1391 because this year is referred to the in the text. Sigmund Eisner says in his edition of the text (Chaucer 2002: 40) that today the text is extant in 32 manuscripts, but some of these are only fragments.

Horobin (2007: 143) suggests that the *Astrolabe* is written in the curial prose style. The text is a guide to how to use an astrolabe, which is an instrument for measuring the height and the position of the stars. Tasioulas (2005: 176) says that 'the astrolabe (from the Greek for "star-catcher") was invaluable to medieval astronomers, allowing them to do everything from telling the time at night to calculating the position of the sun and stars for any required date'. The astrolabe also made it possible to calculate latitude, time and astrological information. The curial prose style was an effective method to explain to uninitiated people how to use an astrolabe.

A Treatise on the Astrolabe consists of only two books, even though Chaucer promises five. Other writers appear to have added sections at the end of the text where they explain the use of the astrolabe further. In my analysis I have therefore included data from the prologue and from the main text, but no data from the Supplementary Propositions (i.e. the additions) are included in my analysis.

1.5 Aim and hypothesis

The aim of this study is to investigate the word order patterns in the three prose texts *The Tale of Melibee*, *The Parson's Tale* and *A Treatise on the Astrolabe* by Geoffrey Chaucer, to see whether there are differences between these texts.

My hypothesis was that there would be more imperatives in *A Treatise on the Astrolabe* than in the two other texts because of its didactic prose style. I was not sure whether the word order patterns of *The Parson's Tale* would be more similar to those of the *The Tale of Melibee* or those of *A Treatise on the Astrolabe*. *The Parson's Tale* is a literary prose text

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[2] It is not known whether Chaucer actually had a son named Lewis. He may simply have invented him as a kind of frame for his text. This was an accepted convention in the 14th century.

just as *The Tale of Melibee*, but it is a sermon and it is written in a didactic style and may therefore have much of the same word order patterns as *A Treatise on the Astrolabe*.

1.6   Structure

The structure of the thesis will be as follows: Chapter 2 will give an overview of the history of word order in English. In Chapter 3 I will present the theory, method and data I have chosen to work with. The analysis will be presented in Chapter 4, and the conclusion in Chapter 5.

Chapter 2 Word order

When speaking of word order, it is the constituent order which really is of interest. The term 'word order' might therefore be considered misleading. I have, however, chosen to make use of it, because this is the term which is most often used in investigations of clause constituents.

Word order is one of the principal means of signalling syntactic structure in English. It can also be used to mark given vs. new information, to produce a desired distribution of weight in a clause, and to achieve special stylistic effects. The clause constituents mainly used for these purposes are subject, verb, indirect and direct object, and adverbial.

Most languages have a predominant order of the major clause elements. Germanic languages, such as German and Norwegian, generally have an SVO order. Although English is also a part of the Germanic language group, when one compares Modern English and Old English one can see that English has undergone great changes in word order. The most important is the change from OV order in Old English to VO order in Modern English. In this chapter I will give an outline of the word order in the history of English by offering a general description based on Old English (OE) and Middle English (ME), and Modern English (ModE). My focus in this description will be on the position of the main constituents, subject, verb, direct and indirect object, and adverbial.

2.1 Old English

The word order in Old English was relatively free, at least compared to that of ModE. However Quirk and Wrenn (1996: 87) say that 'it is easy to exaggerate this freedom and to overlook two important facts: first, that there are in OE considerable areas of conformity to describable patterns; secondly, that these patterns to a great extent coincide with present-day usage'. So even though the word order pattern may have been freer in OE than it is in ModE, it could still be systematized into patterns.

Numerous books and articles have been published on the word order of OE. What they all seem to agree on is that the main pattern in OE must have been SOV. This is not to say that all clauses in OE had an SOV order, but this was the most common order of constituents. Many clauses also had an SVO order, just as in Modern English. The word order differed with

different clause types. An example of this is that while the word order of OE main clauses with one finite verb corresponds to the word order of such clauses in Modern English, subordinate clauses in OE were strongly marked by the order of the constituents within the clause. These subordinate clauses do not always correspond to Modern English subordinate clauses.

2.1.1 The Subject

Clauses which started with a subject were the single most frequent clauses in OE. The referent of the subject of a clause is typically an agent, somebody who performs the action. The subjects were nominal, pronominal, or clausal. A nominal subject has a noun as the head, a pronominal subject has a pronoun as the head, and a clausal subject is a subject which is realized as a clause. Nouns may be defined by demonstratives and adjectives which then become part of the phrase. In OE the noun could precede the adjective. The noun could also precede the demonstrative when the demonstrative preceded an adjective.

> 2.1. Mīne brōþro   þā   lēōfan[3]
>   My   brothers   the   dear ones
>   'My dear brothers'

Where a noun was accompanied by two adjectives, one could precede and one could come after the noun.

> 2.2. Swīðe micle meras fersce[4]
>   Very   big   lakes   fresh
>   'Very big fresh-water lakes'

When the subject included a genitive complement, the complement usually preceded the word it was linked to. When the subject was the first constituent in a main clause it was often

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[3] Example from Quirk and Wrenn (1996: 88)
[4] Example from Quirk and Wrenn (1996: 88)

followed by a finite verb. The nominal subject in embedded clauses always preceded the finite verb.

2.1.2 The Verb

OE has been classified as a V2 language in numerous books and articles. Bech (2001: 4) says that 'OE is usually classified as a V2 language, though everyone who has worked with OE has noticed that it is not consistently so. There are numerous instances of OE clauses which do not have V2 order'. That OE is a V2 language means that the finite verb is found to be the second constituent of very many main clauses, regardless of the rest of the word order in the clause. This has led many scholars to say that OE was a language with a V2 constraint. In addition to the subject, objects and adverbials could precede the finite verb. The position of the finite verb in OE differed substantially between main and embedded clauses.

When the initial constituent of the clause was an adverbial or object and the finite verb followed this element, this is referred to as subject-verb inversion. In clauses like these the finite verb preceded the subject.

> 2.3. Ne sceal he   naht   unaliefedes don[5]
>   Not shall he   nothing   unlawful   do
>   'He shall not do anything unlawful'

Fronting of the finite verb led to a change from OV to VO in some OE clauses. It was most common in clauses with only one finite verb, which most frequently occurs in main clauses. In clauses which are subject-initial, the fronted finite verb follows the subject. This results in an SVO order, which is common in Modern English main clauses. Movement of the finite verb is much more restricted in embedded clauses than in main clauses, and consequently verb fronting is much more common in main clauses than in embedded clauses (Fischer et al. 2000: 108). There are clauses where the finite verb always comes first in the clause, as for example with imperatives, which are verb-first contexts, and some types of questions.

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[5] Example from Fischer et al. (2000: 106)

There were verb-particle combinations in OE just as is the case in Modern English, but these combinations occurred less frequently than they do today. When the verb consisted of a finite verb plus a participle or an infinitive, the two parts were either close together or the non-finite part appeared at the end of the clause (Quirk et al. 1996: 92).

2.4. Hē wolde   æfter ūhtsange oftost   hine gebiddan[6]
     He would after Matins   usually   pray
     'After Matins, he would usually pray'

In embedded clauses the particles almost always precede the verb, and particles after the non-finite verb are rare (Fischer et al. 2000: 187)

2.1.3 The Object

Objects are most commonly realized as nouns or pronouns. As I have already mentioned, the most common word order in OE was OV, especially in subordinate clauses and when the object was a pronoun. When a 'heavy' object was involved the order could change to VO (Koopman and van der Wurff 2000: 268). The so-called 'heavy' object was most often a noun phrase. Towards the end of the OE period VO order became increasingly available also for 'light' objects.

In their article from 2000 Willem Koopman and Wim van der Wurff note that in OE texts there are clauses where the iO precedes the dO when the clauses contain ditransitive verbs[7]. One can also find sentences where the dO precedes the iO.

2.5. Gif se   sacred ne mæg ðam læwedum mannum larspel   secgan[8]
    If   the priest not can the lay   people   homily   say
    'If the priest cannot say a homily to the lay people'

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[6] Example from Quirk and Wrenn (1996:92)
[7] Ditransitive verbs are verbs which take two objects
[8] Example from Koopman and van der Wurrf (2000: 259)

2.6. Đonne he nyle   ða bisne   oðrum eowian ða   he mid ryhte
      When   he not-wants the example   others   show   that   he properly
      eowian sceal[9]
      show   should
      'When he does not want to set the example to others that he properly
      outght to set'

In sentence 5 the iO (mannum) precedes the dO (larspel), while in sentence 6 the dO (bisne) precedes the iO (oðrum). In Modern English the iO never follows the dO in a sentence. In OE just as in Modern English there were four possible orders for objects of ditransitive verbs. The first order is noun-noun where both the objects are nouns, the second is pronoun-noun where the first object is a pronoun and the second is a noun, the third order is pronoun-pronoun where both the objects are pronouns, and the fourth order is the 'to'-construction. In the OE period both dO-iO and iO-dO order are found in the noun-noun order, while the dO comes before the iO in the pronoun-pronoun order. During the OE period many of the ditransitive verbs were lost (Koopman and van der Wurrf 2000: 264).

Pronouns do not have the same positional freedom as nouns in OE. They usually occur before nominal objects. Koopman and van der Wurff say that there are very few examples of the 'to'-construction in the OE texts they have studied (2000: 262). The freedom for objects to occur in either order in OE has been linked to nominal inflexions, which occurred very frequently.

2.1.4 The Adverbial

Many subordinate clauses function as adverbials. These are most often clauses of time, purpose and place. Many adverbials are also initiated by a preposition. Fischer et al. note that 'a particularly distinctive feature of Old English adverbial clauses is the use of 'compound' conjunctions, which disappear from English later on' (2000: 64). These 'compound' conjunctions are initiated by a preposition and followed by a form of *se* and the relative particle *þe*.

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[9] Example from Koopman and van der Wurff (2000: 259)

2.7. Gif nu eall þises middaneardes wela come to anum men[10]
     If now all of-this of-earth   wealth came to one man
     'If now all the wealth of this earth came to one man'

Prepositions in OE usually preceded the element to which they were grammatically linked. They also preceded the modifiers which in their turn preceded the element they were grammatically linked to. Adverbs generally preceded the items which they were connected to.

2.2 Middle English

Middle English is generally considered to be the English language spoken and written between 1200 and 1500. Where OE texts may be very difficult to understand for readers of today, ME texts are more accessible. One reason why it is easier to understand ME is the changes which took place in the grammar between the OE and ME period. OE had an elaborate system of inflexional endings, but most of these disappeared in the course of the ME period. The surviving ME texts show more regional, stylistic and social variation than the OE texts. Many of the OE syntax phenomena continued into the ME period, but ME syntax is characterised by greater variation; the absence of a standard also applies here (Fischer et al. 2000: 68).

Written OE and ME were both closer to the spoken language of the time than written Modern English is to spoken Modern English. The change took place at the end of the ME period. The written language then began to use more complex forms and structures under the influence of Latin and French. Formally it is usually not difficult to distinguish between main and subordinate clauses in ME. Subordinate clauses were not marked by the order of the constituents of the clause as it was in OE, but the word order of all subordinate clauses in ME developed towards a SVO order.

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[10] Example from Fischer et al. (2000: 64)

2.2.1 The Subject

As in OE, clauses initiated by a subject was the single most frequent type in ME, and the subject could be a noun, noun phrase, pronoun, pronoun phrase or it could be a clausal subject. In ME there was a discrepancy between nominal and pronominal subjects with respect to the finite verb in negative-initial and topical-initial clauses.

> 2.8. Ðis   ne   habbe ic nauht ofearned[11]
>   This not   have I not   earned
>   'This I have not earned'

> 2.9. Forþi   ne   schal nouȝt þe wicked arise in jugement[12]
>   Therefore not shall not   the wicked arise in judgement
>   'Therefore, the wicked shall not rise in judgement'

This discrepancy is especially evident in clauses with multiple negations as in 2.8 and 2.9. Example 2.8 has a pronominal subject, while example 2.9 has a nominal subject. Fischer et al. (2000: 132) say that during the 14th and 15th centuries SV order with nominal subjects was lost. The inversion of nominal subjects declined during the course of the 15th century.

2.2.2 The Verb

The OV order which was very common in OE became gradually less common during the ME period. As the OV order became less frequent, it also lost its correlation with clause type. This is to say that where the OV order had previously been connected to special clause types, this was no longer the case. Fischer et al. (2000: 82) note that 'in Chaucer's language it was still reasonably well represented, but by 1450, object-verb order was found in no more than 1 per cent (in prose) to 6 per cent (in verse) of all possible cases'. The change from OV order in OE to VO order in ME was not an sudden one. There are examples of OE texts with VO order and ME texts with VO order. In the view of Fischer et al. (2000: 162) 'it is only after 1300

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[11] Example from Fischer et al. (2000: 130)
[12] Example from Fischer et al. (2000: 130)

that clauses with VO order begin to vastly outnumber those with OV order, also with pronominal objects'. By the end of the 15th century OV order was very infrequent. After this the OV order became limited to a small number of syntactic patterns, especially clauses with an invisible subject and clauses containing an auxiliary and a negative or quantified object. With these exceptions OV order was lost from all other contexts.

Another change which occurred during the ME period was the loss of the verb as the second constituent in clauses. The V2 pattern was preserved in the transition from OE to ME, but in the course of the ME period this order was lost. This had nothing to do with the loss of the OV order, since the order of the object and the verb is independent, at least in principle. We can see that these losses were independent from the fact that the loss of V2 occurred later than the loss of the OV order.

During the ME period particles relative to the verb which in the OE period often occurred in preverbal position, gradually became more restricted to postverbal position.

2.10.   Þat he neuer mare sculde cuman ut[13]
That he never more should come out
'That he should not come out anymore'

The OE order with particles in preverbal position could still be found in some instances until the end of the ME period.

2.11.   Þat nan godes   word upp ne mai springen[14]
That none of-god   word up not can spring
'That no word of God can spring up'

Inversions in declarative clauses were largely lost during the late ME period. In the late ME and early ModE period inversions in questions and negative-initial clauses became restricted to auxiliaries.

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[13] Example from Fischer et al. (2000: 203)
[14] Example from Fischer et al. (2000: 202)

2.2.3 The Object

The object can follow both the finite and the non-finite verb in ME. Both a VO order (where the object follows the verb) and an OV order (where the verb follows the object) are possible. A subject usually preceded the verb or the object, but an adverbial could also be found in this position.

In the ME period the dO usually preceded the iO when both objects were pronouns. Koopman and van der Wurff (2000: 266) say that the iO-dO pattern with two pronouns is infrequent in ME texts and has been so throughout the history of English. dO-iO patterns with two nouns became less frequent during the ME period, but in early ME texts one could find examples of clauses with nominal objects in both dO-iO and iO-dO order.

2.12.   ne   scaw þu nan mon þi   wlite[15]
         not show you no   man your face
         'do not show your face to anyone'

2.13.   deð   hearm moni ancre[16]
         does harm many anchoress
         'does harm to many an anchoress'

In example 12 the pattern is iO-dO, while the pattern is dO-iO in example 13. When the dO was a pronoun and the iO a noun the dO-iO pattern was still used, but by the end of the 15th century this order of objects was no longer an option (Koopman and van der Wurff 2000: 263). The 'to'-construction became more frequent in the ME period than it had been in the OE period. The loss of dO-iO patterns in the ME period has been linked to the loss of nominal inflexions and case endings and an increased use of prepositions in the late OE and early ME periods. It was a change which took several centuries.

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[15] Example from Koopman and van der Wurff (2000: 263)
[16] Example from Koopman and van der Wurff (2000: 263)

2.2.4 The Adverbial

Just as in OE many ME clauses could function as adverbials. These clauses were often introduced by a preposition. As the syntax moved increasingly in the direction of VO, the preferred position for preposition phrases was after the object. This was why the 'to'-phrase started to compete with dO-iO patterns. Koopman and van der Wurff (2000: 264) say that initially the 'to' phrase was restricted to certain verbs, but in late OE texts, incidental examples are found with other verbs as well. By the time we have substantial Middle English texts, the *'to'-phrase* is common with a great number of verbs.

2.3 Modern English

Modern English is considered to start about 1500 and is spoken to this day. In ModE word order has a grammatical function in marking the subject and the object in a sentence. The word order also has the function of marking given and new information. Information in a clause is often presented in accordance with what is called the information principle (Hasselgård et al. 2001: 300). It is common to start the clause with given information. This may be information which has been introduced earlier in the text or it may be information which is regarded as common knowledge. The elements which present new information are placed at the end of the clause, and this is called the principle of end focus. The information principle may work together with grammatical principles in a clause. If the order of constituents is changed, the meaning of the clause may also change.

ModE has regular SVO order in declarative clauses, regardless of whether the verb is finite or not. One can find clauses with SOV order in ModE, but these are generally exceptions from the normal SVO order. I will comment on these exceptions in chapter 2.3.2 with reference to the position of the verb in ModE.

2.3.1 The Subject

In most clauses the subject comes before the verb, and it is most often a noun phrase, a single pronoun or a pronominal phrase. Interrogative clauses will typically be initiated by an auxiliary which is followed by a subject and a verb, as in example 2.14 below. Imperative clauses are typically initiated by a verb and the subject will not be present.

When the auxiliary precedes the subject, it is reffered to as 'subject-auxiliary' inversion. This happens mostly in interrogative clauses, but may also be found in some declarative clauses. If there is no auxiliary in the interrogative clause, 'do' is inserted instead, as in example 2.14.

2.14.   Do you have any money[17]

Declarative clauses which have 'subject-auxiliary' inversion are opened with a negative or a restrictive element. Inversion only occurs if the negation affects the whole clause as in example 15.

2.15.   Never had I seen such a terrible sight[18]

In complex clauses, the subject may be realized as a finite or non-finite subordinate clause.

2.3.2 The Verb

ModE is a verb-medial language. The most common position is for the verb to occur after the subject in the clause, but there are of course exceptions from this. I have already mentioned one of the exceptions, 'subject auxiliary' inversion. In ModE the main word order pattern is VO, but under certain restricted circumstances OV order may be found. The ModE use of OV order is predominantly restricted to poetry and recitation of older texts, but is also found in traditional rhyme, proverbs and fixed sayings. It often occurs in translations of OE and ME

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[17] Example from Hasselgård et al. (2001: 303)
[18] Example from Hasselgård et al. (2001: 303)

texts. In Koopman and van der Wurff's view (2000: 278) the OV order remained a productive option in verse until c. 1900.

2.16.   Peter bought a new car[19]

2.17   One swallow doth not a summer make[20]

2.16 is an example of SVO order, while example 2.17 shows SOV order in a ModE saying. Verb phrases are generally short, often consisting of one or two words.

Another inversion which may occur is subject-verb inversion. This happens most often when the initial constituent is an adverbial, as in example 18. In these instances the subject is often heavier than the verb.

2.18.   Here comes the winner of the game[21]

Verb-particle combinations are common in ModE. These combinations are regarded as semantic units, because the meaning of such a combination cannot be derived from either the verb or the particle. The particle is placed after the verb as in example 2.19.

2.19.   Things are looking up[22]

2.3.3 The Object

The dO is most often realized as a noun phrase, but it may also be a single pronoun or a pronominal phrase. The dO normally comes after the verb, and this results in a VO order which is the most common word order pattern in ModE. The dO may, however, at times be fronted. Fronting of the dO is more common in other Germanic languages, such as Norwegian, but it does occur in ModE as in example 2.20.

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[19] Example from Bækken (2006: 25)
[20] Example from Koopman and van der Wurff (2000: 275)
[21] Example from Hasselgår et al. (2001: 305)
[22] Example from Bækken (2006: 339)

2.20 The name of the firm he was looking for was not immediately visible[23]

While the dO is affected by the action, the iO benefits from the action denoted in the clause. Just as the dO, the iO may be realized by a noun phrase or a pronoun or a pronominal phrase. In ModE the order dO-iO is not possible. The iO always precedes the dO as it does in example 21.

2.21   I'll send Susan a birthday card[24]

In this example the dO is *a birthday card* while the iO is *Susan*. The presence of an iO usually presupposes the presence of a dO, because the iO is the recipient of the dO. It is unusual that an iO is found without a dO in a clause. An iO is often realized as a prepositional phrase.

2.3.4 The Adverbial

A clause may contain more than one adverbial, and is the only clause constituent which functions like this. They can be either optional or obligatory. An obligatory adverb is needed for the clause to function grammatically, as in example 2.22.

2.22.   Peter and Margaret are on holiday[25]

The adverbial *on holiday* is obligatory because the clause would be ungrammatical and would make no sense if it was omitted. Optional adverbs are adverbs which are not required in order

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[23] Example from Hasselgård et al. (2001: 310)
[24] Example from Bækken (2006: 26)
[25] Example from Hasselgård et al. (2001: 252)

for a clause to convey meaning or be grammatically correct. Adverbial clauses most often occur at the beginning or at the end of a clause. Adverbials are often realized as prepositional phrases.

Chapter 3 Theory and Method

In the first part of this chapter I will review the theories of some selected scholars who have studied Middle English word order and whose work is particularly relevant to mine. I will then give an outline of the method I have chosen to make use of in my investigation.

3.1 Theory

3.1.1 Swieczkowski

Walerian Swieczkowski's book from 1962 is called *Word Order Patterning in Middle English*. He says that even though word order in Middle English was relatively free, this does not mean that there were no rules for word order patterning. The aim of his study is to establish the typical word order patterns in this period. The data on which he bases his analysis is *Piers Plowman* and texts from *Middle English Sermons* (ed. Woodburn O. Ross) (Swieczkowski 1962: 9). He says that 'although it is granted that poetry can distort "normal" word order, and the differences between *Pier Plowman* and the *Middle English Sermons*, as will be seen, are considerable, the texts have nevertheless striking features in common, which permit some generalizations'. The study is quantitative because it is strictly based on numerical data. The limitations of his study are that the influence of metre on the word order in *Piers Plowman* has not been taken into account, and that all considerations of genre have been excluded.

The study has three focal points. Swieczkowski focuses on the position of the subject and predicate in relation to one another, and only considers clauses which have an expressed subject. Secondly he focuses on the relation of the predicate to other elements in the clause and finds that the predicate can occupy three main positions; initial, medial and final. His final focal point is the position of the object, and the study only includes objects which are a part of the subject-predicate construction.

What Swieczkowski found was that in both texts the subject-predicate sequence was more common than the predicate-subject sequence. He also found that the juxtaposition of

elements of unequal semantic load is very strong in both the subject-predicate and the predicate-subject sequences. He further found that the position of the predicate was most commonly after the subject, and that medial and final positions were more frequent in *Piers Plowman* than in the *Middle English Sermons*. The position of the object in relation to the subject and the predicate differed in the two texts, but the subject-predicate-object order was the most frequent in both of them.

3.1.2 MacLeish

Andrew MacLeish published his book on *The Middle English Subject-Verb Cluster* in 1969. He presents four different goals he wants to achieve with this study. First, he wants to describe the word order norm in the prose subject-verb cluster. Secondly, he wants to describe how prose and verse word order norms differ. Thirdly, he wants to say something specific about a stage in the development of grammatical order in this cluster, and finally his fourth goal is to present detailed statistics for each of the texts in the corpus as well as for the total prose and verse corpus (MacLeish 1969:11).

As the title shows MacLeish's main focus was the subject-verb cluster. Because the Middle English subject-verb cluster differed from that of Modern English, MacLeish gives a definition of it. He says it consists of two constituents which make up structures of predication (1969:10). The subject in the cluster is often a noun or a structure which has a noun as its head word, and the verb may stand on its own or be the head of a structure. MacLeish also describes pre-verb position, accusative objects, dative and periphrastic indirect objects and adverbial elements, because they are sometimes contained within the subject-verb cluster. He includes these elements in his study because he wishes to describe their position in the sentence in relationship to the verb.

In this study MacLeish distinguishes between what he calls common and uncommon order. He says that there are two different clusters in common order, analytic and synthetic. When the verb or an auxiliary immediately follows the subject, there is an analytic order, and when an accusative object, dative or periphrastic indirect objects and an adverbial element occurs in pre-verb position within the cluster, there is a synthetic order (MacLeish 1969:10-11). MacLeish also divides the uncommon clusters into different categories. These categories

are inversion, transpositions and inverted-transposed sequences. In inverted order the verb or auxiliary comes before the subject, transposed order has an accusative object, a subjective compliment or a participle before the verb, and inverted-transposed order has the verb and auxiliary or participle before the verb in inverted order before the subject (1969:11).

His study of the Middle English subject-verb cluster is very thorough and MacLeish includes common order with the subclasses analytic and synthetic and uncommon order with the subclasses inversion, transposition and inverted-transposed sequences in independent and dependent clauses. He also includes interrogative subject-verb clusters which he says occur both in common and inverted order (1969:35).

MacLeish's study covers a period of 25-30 years from 1369 until after 1394 (1969:13). He gives two reasons tfor his choice (1969:12).

> The period covered by this study is the late 14th century from 1369 until after 1394. Aside from the fact that a large number of written records are available in the last half of the 14th century, this period is important in linguistic history for two reasons. First, it is a time when the grammatical changes in the language which had been going on since the tenth century are beginning to show resolution in the development of an analytic word-order. Second, a generalized written English first came into prominence during this period in the emergence of a single spoken dialect of the language.

The corpus of his study is chosen from a variety of texts and from different parts of the country. The reason for this is that written London dialect differed from the dialect-based written language of the South, the Central Midlands, the West Midlands and the North, and he wanted his study to be representative. He says that 'the use of any kind of written material for the purpose of investigating living language habits is always a compromise. For the historical linguist this compromise is unavoidable and the problem is thus one of determining the best type of written specimens for the purpose at hand'.

He ended up with a mixed corpus consisting of both literary and non-literary material. The non-literary material included wills, appeals, recipes and governmental documents, which also in the 14th century had been normalized into recurring word order patterns (1969: 13). MacLeish initially wanted to include the Paston Letters in his corpus because this is the only large corpus of informal correspondence in late Middle English. However, he says that 'these letters are written in the middle of the 15th century at a time when the order of words in the Subject-Verb cluster had presumably become grammatical. Thus, they exist at a time which

no longer illustrates the degree of uncommon and synthetic order patterning that is evident in the last half of the 14th century'. Many texts in the material are from Late East Midland prose and poetry. Among the material he included was *Of Feigned Contemplative Life* which is a critical sermon written by Wycliffe, and the *Appeal* of Thomas Usk which was held before the Coroner of London (1969:13). MacLeish also included three works by Chaucer in his corpus as he felt that Chaucer was the obvious choice when studying literature from the 14th century. He chose *The Tale of Melibee* and *The Parson's Tale* from *The Canterbury Tales* and *The Treatise on the Astrolabe* (1969:13).

3.1.3 Bech

Kristin Bech's dissertation is called *Word Order Patterns in Old and Middle English. A Syntactic and Pragmatic Study* (2001). It has two aims. The first is to describe the word order of Old and Middle English declarative main clauses and see if Old English word order could be systematized into patterns. Bech is also interested in seeing how these patterns developed over time. The second aim is to look at word order in Old and Middle English from a pragmatic perspective and discover whether pragmatic factors could have played a role in the typological change which the language underwent from a verb-second to a verb-medial language in this period (Bech 2001:1).

As noted, Bech has limited her study to main clause word order only. She suggests that word order typology on the clause level means that languages are classified according to the main element's position in the clause (2001: 2). The main elements are subject, verb, direct object, indirect object and adverbial. In her description of word order patterns Bech refers to any element other than the subject and the verb as X (2001:2).

Bech works with 10 different word order patterns. These are SVX, where the subject is followed by a verb and one or more X elements; XVS, where there is only one initial element which is followed by a verb which in turn is usually immediately followed by a subject; XSV, where there is only one initial element which is followed by a subject which is usually immediately followed by a verb; SXV, where the finite verb occupies the final position; SXVX, where the verb and the subject are separated but the verb is not in the final position;

SV_1XV_2, where the finite and the non-finite verb are separated by one or more element; verb-initial where the finite verb is always in the initial position; XXVS, where there are two initial elements and the finite verb follows the second element; XXSV, where there are two initial elements and the subject follows the second element, and finally miscellaneous, which is a category for clauses that do not fit into any of the other categories (2001:51-67). Some recurring patterns are found in the miscellaneous category, but it is not a homogenous one.

The corpus of Bech's study consists of 5000 main clauses. These come from modern editions of 19 different texts with four from early Old English[26] (870-950), five from late Old English[27] (950-1150), five from early Middle English[28] (1150-1350) and five from late Middle English[29] (1350-1500). She included 1250 clauses from each period (Bech 2001: 6). She says:

> The extant material is relatively scarce; it represents written language, which we know to be more conservative than spoken language, and it is in many cases translated from Latin. Thus, the question arises whether a study based on this material will provide us with knowledge about the actual language usage of these periods, or whether the insights gained will be skewed due to the limitations of the material. However, since the surviving manuscripts are all we have, we are left with no choice but to accept them as the basis of our studies.

Bech chose to use only prose texts because in her view the syntactic structure of verse is often influenced by the requirements of rhyme and metre.

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[26] Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, King Alfred's West-Saxon version of Gregory's *Pastoral Care,* The Old English *Orosius* and King Alfred's Old English version of *Boethius*.
[27] *The Blickling Homilies*, Ælfric's *Lives of Saints*, The Old English *Apollonius of Tyre*, *The Homilies of Wulfstan* and *The Peterborough Chronicle*
[28] *The Peterborough Chronicle, Old English Homilies* (ed. Richard Morris*), Vices and Virtues, Sawles Warde* and Dan Michel's *Ayenbite of Inwyt*
[29] *The English works of Wyclif* (ed. F.D. Matthew)*, Middle English Sermons* (ed. Woodburn O. Ross)*, The Bodley version of *Mandeville's Travels, The Works of Sir Thomas Malory: TheTtale of King Arthur* and Caxton's *Mirrour of the World*

3.2 Method

3.2.1 General approach

Having decided that I wanted to investigate Chaucer's word order, and which texts it would be appropriate to examine, I had to decide how to extract my data. To analyse the entire texts would be far too demanding for such a thesis and out of the question.

When studying the language and works of Chaucer it is important to remember that there are no extant manuscripts written in Chaucer's own hand. The texts have been copied down by various scribes, and will therefore have changed somewhat over the years. A popular text would probably be copied many times by a variety of different scribes. In an article from 1981, Michael Benskin and Margaret Laing discuss the different ways in which scribes worked. They say:

> Of the surviving output of writing in Middle English most by far consists not of texts as their authors first produced them, but of copies made by scribes working at sometimes many removes from the original versions of their texts. It has in general been assumed that for linguistic purposes most M.E. MSS. are therefore untrustworthy witnesses: because a MS. is a copy, and perhaps a copy of a copy … of a copy, it has been taken to represent not the language of some one scribe or of some one place, but a conglomeration of the individual usages of all those scribes whose copies of a text stand between this present MS. and the original. (Benskin and Laing 1981: 55)

Different scribes had different ways of dealing with a text and they were influenced by such factors as their geographical and dialectal origin, and their education and background as well as the style, genre and content of the text. Some scribes translated texts into their own dialect. In cases like that the scribe might have changed the orthography, the vocabulary and the morphology. Other scribes might copy the text exactly as it was in the original, and yet others might choose an approach somewhere between copying the text down exactly as it was in the original and changing it so that it became closer to their own dialect (Benskin and Laing 1981: 56).

Brewer (1973: 105) says that 'copyists made every conceivable error – missing out letters, words, pages; misunderstanding, miswriting; often they wrote in different dialects; sometimes they altered passages which for some reason seemed wrong to them, or of which

they disapproved'.

As I have mentioned previously I have chosen to work with the three prose texts *The Tale of Melibee*, *The Parson's Tale* and *A Treatise on the Astrolabe*. All of these works exist in several manuscripts and may have been changed both by scribes and editors over the years. When choosing my data I had two alternatives, to analyse sentences from an extant manuscript or to analyse sentences from an edition of Chaucer's works. I have chosen to work with the texts from *The Riverside Chaucer*. As far as the Canterbury Tales are concerned, the Riverside edition is largely based on the Ellesmere MS, and for the Astrolabe on Bodleian Library, MS Bodley 619, but with readings supplied from a large number of other MSS as well (Riverside 1987: 1194). The use of punctuation marks has changed from the 14th century until today, and I realise that by choosing to work with an edition it is the editor who has decided on the sentence boundaries. However, I assume that the criteria for placing the punctuation marks are the same in all three texts and that my data will therefore be consistent in this respect.

In the end I decided to extract 20 sentences from the beginning, the middle and the end of each text so that the amount of data (60 sentences) was the same from all the texts.

When I began my analysis, I found that there were several different clause types contained within the sentences. I therefore decided to group the data into three different categories of clauses, i.e. main clauses, subordinate clauses and conjunct clauses. What I did for each text was therefore to go through all the sentences and find out which clauses belonged to the three different clause categories and how many there were of each.

I then analysed the word order patterns of each of the clauses in the three different categories in all the texts. When I had completed the analysis I divided the different clauses into categories according to the positions of the sentence constituents. As the classes of word order patterns would be far too many if all the sentence constituents were to be separately included, I decided to focus on the position of the subject and the verb in each clause. All other elements, such as direct and indirect object, adverbials and predicates, are therefore placed in a category which I have chosen to call X. In several of the clauses there were more than one such X element preceding, separating or ending the clauses, but as there would then be too many word order patterns to handle I chose to incorporate all the sentence constituents which were not a subject or a verb into one X in the notation. My word order patterns are therefore adaptations of the patterns which are found in Bech's study.

3.2.2 Limitations

The aim of this study is not to draw general conclusions about word order in the Late Middle English period, nor do I attempt to say something about the word order in Chaucer's works in general. What this study does do, however, is to compare three of Chaucer's texts to find indications of what Chaucer's word order patterns were like in different genres of text.

Chapter 4 The Investigation

The data in this study has been divided into three different clause types, that is main clauses, conjunct clauses and subordinate clauses. The majority of the main clauses are clauses which contain an overt subject. The remainding clauses in this category (which do not contain an overt subject) are imperative and interrogative clauses. Conjunct clauses are clauses which are introduced by the conjunction *and* and may or may not contain an overt subject. Subordinate clauses may be adjectival subordinate clauses, adverbial subordinate clauses or that-clauses. I have chosen to separate the conjunct clauses from the subordinate clauses because there are almost as many of the former as there are of all the other types of subordinate clauses together.

I will first give an overview of the word order in the three texts, *The Tale of Melibee*, *The Parson's Tale*, and *A Treatise on the Astrolabe*. For each text I will give separate outlines of the word order in the main clauses, in the subordinate clauses and in the conjunct clauses to make comparison easier. I will give both the number of occurrences and the percentage of the clauses which I found, because this will make it easier to compare the word order in the different texts.

4.1 *The Tale of Melibee*

My investigation of *The Tale of Melibee* (hereafter *Mel)* is based on 20 sentences from the beginning of the text, 20 sentences from the middle part of the text and the 20 final sentences. The section containing the middle part of the text starts in line 1419 and end in line 1459[30]. I have not included French or Latin, so when I found such sentences, I skipped to the next English one.

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[30] All line references are to *The Riverside Chaucer*

4.1.1 Main clauses

In the 60 sentences in my data from *Mel* I found 70 main clauses. In some sentences there were no main clauses at all, such as in example 4.1

> 4.1. And in the same manere oure Lord Crist hath woold and suffred that thy three enemys been entred into thyn house by the wyndowes, and han ywounded thy doghter in the forseyde manere.
> (*Mel*. 1424)

In this sentence there are two conjunct clauses, *And in the same manere oure Lord Crist hath woold and suffred* and *and han ywounded thy doghter in the forseyde manere*, and one subordinate clause introduced by *that*, *that thy three enemys been entred into thyn house by the wyndowes*. Other sentences had more than one main clause, typically those which contained direct speech, such as in example 4.2

> 4.2. This Melibeus answerde anon and seyde, "What man," quod he, "sholde of his wepyng stente that hath so greet a cause for to wepe?"
> (*Mel*. 986)

Here the two main clauses are *This Melibeus answerde anon and seyde* and *"What man sholde of his wepyng stente that hath so greet a cause for to wepe?" Quod he* is an example of a subordinate clause which I classify as a reporting clause. I will come back to these below. In some sentences I found more than two main clauses:

> 4.3. For which resoun this noble wyf Prudence suffred hir housbonde for to wepe and crie as for a certein space; and whan she saugh hir tyme, she seyde hym in this wise: "Allas, my lord," quod she, "why make ye youreself for to be lyk a fool?"
> (*Mel*. 980)

In this sentence there are three main clauses. The first is *For which resound this noble wyf Prudence suffred hir husbonde for to wepe and crie as for a certein space*; the second is *she seyde hym in this wise* and the third one is *allas, my lord, why make ye youreself for to be lyk a fool?*

Some of the main clauses contain embedded clauses. I have chosen to treat these as they stand, and thus separate them from the main clause which they are surrounded by. The embedded clauses were all main clauses and will be treated as such.

What follows is an overview of the different word order patterns I found in the main clauses in *Mel*. I have focused on the positions of the subject and the verb. The other elements of the clause such as direct and indirect objects, adverbials, negatives, subject and object predicatives, prepositions and conjuncts are placed in the category which I have called X.

4.1.1.1 SV(V)X

In this word order pattern the subject is the first constituent of the clause and is followed by the finite verb. A non-finite verb may follow the finite one. One or more X elements follow the verb.

I found 20 examples of the SV(V)X pattern in *Mel*. In most cases there was only one element following the verb, and this was most often a direct object as in example 4.4.

     4.4 Ye moste yeven moore esy sentences and juggementz
       (*Mel*. 1855)

In this example the non-finite verb *yeven* follows the finite verb *moste*. The direct object *moore esy sentences and juggementz* comes after the non-finite verb. I also found examples where the element which follows the verb is an adverbial, such as in 4.5.

     4.5. Mesure of wepyng sholde be considered, after the loore that techeth us Senek
       (*Mel*. 999)

In this example the non-finite *considered* follows the finite verbs *sholde be*. The X element of this clause is the adverbial *after the loore that techeth us Senek*. There were also examples of clauses with more than one X element following the finite verb.

     4.6. Ther is no thyng so comendable in a greet lord
       (*Mel*. 1859)

In 4.6. there are three elements following the finite verb, *no thyng* (a direct object), *so comendable* and *in a greet lord* (both adverbials).

4.1.1.2 XSV(V)(X)

In this word order pattern there may be one or more X elements preceding the subject. The finite verb follows immediately after the subject, and there may be a non-finite verb following the finite one. One or more X elements may follow the finite verb.

In the 70 main clauses from *Mel* I found 15 examples of the XSV(V)(X) word order. The most common X element which precedes the subject in these clauses is an adverbial, such as in example 4.7.

> 4.7. For certes thou hast suffred hem entre in to thyn herte wilfully by the wyndowes of thy body
> (*Mel*. 1421)

Here the adverbial *for certes* precedes the subject *thou* and the finite verb *hast* precedes the non-finite verb *suffred*. There are five X elements following the non-finite verb in this clause. The clause constituents which follow the non-finite verb are an indirect object (*hem*), a direct object (*entre*) and three adverbials (*in to thyn herte*, *wilfully* and *by the wyndowes of thy body*).

Some of the clauses had more than one X element preceding the subject, such as in example 4.8.

> 4.8. But nat forthy he gan to crie and wepen evere lenger the moore
> (*Mel*. 975)

There are three X elements preceding the subject in this clause. These are the conjunction *but*, the negative *nat* and the adverbial *forthy*. Only one X element follows the non-finite verb *(wepen)* here, and that is the adverbial phrase *ever lenger the moore*.

4.1.1.3 SV$_1$XV$_2$(X)

Just as in the SVX word order pattern, the subject is the first constituent of the SV$_1$XV$_2$(X) pattern. In this pattern the finite verb follows the subject, but it is separated from the non-finite verb by one or more X elements and there may also be one or more X elements following the non-finite verb.

In *Mel* I found 10 examples of the SV$_1$XV$_2$(X) construction. Some clauses had only one element between the finite and the non-finite verb and no X elements following the non-finite verb, such as 4.9.

> 4.9. Thre of his olde foes han it espied
>   (*Mel*. 970)

There were also examples of clauses where more than one X element separated the finite and the non-finite verb, such as in 4.10.

> 4.10. He overcometh in an yvel manere that repenteth hym of his victorie
>   (*Mel*. 1866)

Some of the clauses in the SV$_1$XV$_2$(X) construction had X elements following the non-finite verb, as shown in example 4.10. Here the indirect object (*hym)* and the adverbial phrase (*of his victorie*) follow the finite verb (*repenteth*).

4.1.1.4 Verb-initial

In this word order pattern the finite verb is the first constituent of the clause. If there is a non-finite verb in the clause, this verb need not immediately follow the finite verb, but may come later in the clause. Imperatives and interrogatives are often verb-initial, and such clauses need not include a subject.

I found 7 examples of verb-initial main clauses in *Mel.* Most of these were

imperatives, such as example 4.11.

4.11. Lat nat thyne eyen to moyste been of teeris, ne to muche drye
(*Mel*. 992)

In this clause there is no subject. The non-finite verb *been* is separated from the finite verb *lat* by two X elements. In 4.12. we see an example of verb-initial clause with an ellipsis of the subject.

4.12. Leveth the vengeance to me
(*Mel*. 1459)

Here the clause is introduced by the finite verb *leveth*, and is followed by a direct object (*the vengeance*) and an adverbial phrase (*to me*).

4.1.1.5 SXV(V)(X)

The subject and the finite verb are separated by one or more X elements in the SVX pattern. In some of the clauses in this category, the finite verb is the final element, while in others there may be one or more X elements following the finite verb.

Five of the 70 main clauses had this word order pattern. Some of the clauses had the finite verb in the final position, as in example 4.13.

4.13. Youre doghter, with the grace of God, shal warisshe and escape
(*Mel*. 982)

Others had one or more X elements following the finite verb, as in example 4.14.

4.14. A man that is joyous and glad in herte
(*Mel*. 994)

Here the two adverbial phrases *joyous and glad* and *in herte* follow the finite verb (*is*).

4.1.1.6 XSV₁XV₂(X)

This word order pattern is initiated by one X element. After this comes the subject and then the finite verb. One or more X elements follow and are in turn followed by a non-finite verb. Finally one or more X elements may follow the non-finite verb.

I found 4 examples of this word order pattern in the text.

4.15. For which resoun this noble wyf Prudence suffred hir housbonde for to wepe and crie as for a certein space
(*Mel*. 979)

Here an adverbial phrase (*for which resoun*) precedes the subject (*this noble wyf Prudence*). A direct object (*hir housbonde)* and an adverbial (*for*) separate the finite verb (*suffred*) from the non-finite verb phrase (*to wepe and crie*). The clause is ended by a single X element, which is the adverbial phrase *as for a certein space*.

4.16. For sothe it aperteneth nat to a wys man to maken swich a sorwe.
(*Mel*. 981)

The adverbial phrase *for sothe* precedes the subject *it* in this clause. Two X elements separate the finite verb (*aperteneth*) from the non-finite verb (*to maken*). These two X elements are the negative *nat* and the adverbial phrase *to a wys man*. The adverbial phrase *swich a sorwe* is the final X element in the clause.

4.1.1.7 Miscellaneous

This category contains the clauses which do not fit into any of the patterns listed above.

9 of the 70 main clauses in the text belong here. These are clauses which have more than two verb phrases, such as example 4.17.

4.17. Now wol I assayen hire, trowynge, with Goddes help
(*Mel*. 1445)

This clause is introduced by the adverbial *now* which precedes the finite verb *wol*. The subject (*I*) separates the finite from the non-finite verb (*assayen*). Another verb (*trowynge*) follows the direct object (*hire*). The adverbial phrase *with Goddes help* is the final element of the clause.

Table 4.1. Distribution of word order patterns in main clauses in *Mel*.

		Number of clauses		Percentage
SV(V)X		20		28.6
XSV(V)(X)		15		21.4
$SV_1XV_2(X)$		10		14.3
Verb-inital		7		10.0
SXV(V)(X)		5		7.1
$XSV_1XV_2(X)$		4		5.7
Miscellaneous		9		12.9
Total		70		100.0

4.1.2 Subordinate clauses

In my material of 60 sentences from *Mel* I found 114 subordinate clauses. I will here give an overview of the different word order patterns into which these clauses can be divided. As with the main clauses I have focused on the position of the subject and the verb. The other elements of the subordinate clauses will be classified as X elements. Several of the word order

patterns are the same for subordinate clauses and main clauses.

4.1.2.1 XSV(V)(X)

52 of the 114 subordinate clauses in *Mel* belong to the XSV(V)(X) pattern. One or more X elements may precede the subject, and there may also be more than one X element following the verb. Both finite and non-finite verbs may occur in this word order pattern. The X element which most commonly precedes the subject in these clauses is an adverbial, as shown in 4.18, which is an adverbial subordinate clause.

> 4.18. Whan Melibeus returned was into his hous
> (*Mel*. 973)

In several of the clauses the X element is the conjunct *that* as in example 4.19. (a that-clause).

> 4.19. That thy three enemys been entred into thyn house by the wyndowes
> (*Me*l. 1425)

4.1.2.2 Verb-initial

I found 12 examples of verb-initial subordinate clauses in the text. In verb-initial clauses there is only one verb. This initiates the sentence and is finite. Several of these verb-initial clauses are reporting clauses as in example 4.20.

> 4.20. Quod Melibee
> (*Mel*. 1427)

Here the finite verb (*quod*) is followed by a subject (*Melibee*). Most of the verb-initial

subordinate clauses in *Mel* do not include a subject, as in 4.21.

      4.21. Restreyne hir wikked purpos, whan they seen the punyssynge and chastisynge of
           the trespassours
           (*Mel*. 1432)

The finite verb (*restreyne*) initiates the subordinate clause and is followed by the direct object *hir wikked purpose*. What follows after the direct object is an adverbial subordinate clause.

4.1.2.3 SV(V)(X)

Of the 114 subordinate clauses in *Mel*, 13 had the SV(V)(X) word order pattern. There may be more than one element following the verb, and there may be more than one verb in the clause. The most common X element to follow the subject is an adverbial, as in example 4.22.

      4.22. Ye moste deemen moore curteisly
         (*Mel*. 1854)

The subject (*ye*) is here followed by the verb phrase *moste deemen*. The clause has one X element, and this is the adverbial phrase *moore curteisly*. The X element following the verb may also be a direct object or an indirect object. In example 4.23 the X elements are an indirect object (*hem*), a direct object (*that peyne*) and an adverbial (*by right and by lawe*).

      4.23. Ye myghte enjoyne hem that peyne by right and by lawe
         (Mel. 1850)

Clauses in this pattern may also consist only of a subject and a verb. All the subordinate clauses which consist only of these clause elements are reporting clauses, as shown in 4.24.

      4.24. Prudence answerde
         (*Mel*. 988)

4.1.2.4 $XSV_1XV_2(X)$

10 of the 114 subordinate clauses in *Mel* have the $XSV_1XV_2(X)$ word order pattern. There may be one or more X elements which separate the finite and the non-finite verb in the subordinate clause. In several of the clauses the initial X element is the conjunct *that* as in example 4.25.

> 4.25. That she shal helpe me my shame for to venge
> (*Mel*. 1445)

The subject (*she*) is placed immediately after the initial conjunct and is followed by the verb phrase *shal helpe*. Three X elements separate the two verb phrases. These are the indirect object *me*, the direct object *my shame* and the adverbial *for*. The final verb phrase in the clause is *to venge*. There may be more than one initial X element in these clauses, as in example 4.26.

> 4.26. That of youre pride and heigh presumpcioun and folie, and of youre necligence
> and unkonnynge, ye have mysborn yow and trespassed unto me
> (*Mel*. 1876)

Here there are four initial X elements, the conjunct *that* and the adverbial phrase *of youre pride and heigh presumpcioun and folie*, the conjunct *and* and a second adverbial phrase, *of youre negligence and unkonnynge*. The subject (*ye*) is placed after the second adverbial phrase. The two verb phrases *have mysborn* and *trespassed* are separated by the indirect object *yow* and the conjunct *and*. The clause is ended by the adverbial phrase *unto me*.

4.1.2.5 SXV(V)X

The clauses which belong to this word order pattern are all initiated by a subject. One or more

X elements separate the subject from the verb, and there may be more than one verb in the clause. The verb phrase may be followed by one or more X elements.

In my data from *Mel* I found 7 subordinate clauses with this word order pattern. All of the clauses in my data have one or more X element following the verb phrase.

4.27. The myght and the power that is yeven hym
(*Mel*. 1850)

Here there is only one final X element, the indirect object *hym*. The non-finite verb *yeven* is preceded by the finite verb *is*, the conjunct *that* and the subject *the myght and the power*.

4.28. It hym conserveth florissynge in his age
(*Mel*. 994)

The subject (*it*) is here followed by an indirect object (*hym*) which in turn is followed by a finite verb (*conserveth*). This clause has two final X elements, a direct object (*florissynge*) and an adverbial (*in his age*).

4.1.2.6 XV(V)S(X)

The clauses in this word order pattern are introduced by one or more X elements. After the initial X element(s), one or more verbs follow. The subject follows the verb, and there may be one or more X elements following the subject.

In the 114 subordinate clauses in my material from *Mel* I found 4 clauses with the XV(V)S(X) word order pattern. Three of the clauses had an adverbial as the single initial X element, as in example 4.29.

4.29. Right so synneth the juge
(*Mel*. 1436)

Here the adverbial phrase *right so* initiates the clause, and is followed by the finite verb

synneth. The subject (*the juge*) is the final element. One of the clauses had two initial X elements. This clause is shown in 4.30.

> 4.30. But for to have youre recours unto the sovereyn juge
> (*Mel*. 1447)

The conjunction *but* and the adverbial *for* are the two initial elements of this clause. The non-finite verb phrase *to have* and the subject *youre recours* follow immediately after the second X element. The last element of the clause is the adverb phrase *unto the soveryn juge.*

4.1.2.7 XSXV$_1$XV$_2$(X)

Clauses with this pattern are introduced by one or more X elements, which in turn are followed by the subject. One or more X elements separate the subject from the finite verb, and there is also one or more X elements between the finite and the non-finite verbs. One or more X elements may follow the non-finite verb.

In my data from *Mel*, 4 of the 114 subordinate clauses had this word order pattern. These are clauses which had one or more X elements after the second verb, as in 4.31, or clauses which had the second verb as the final element, as shown in 4.32.

> 4.31. That God of his endelees mercy wole at the tyme of oure diynge foryeven us oure giltes
> (*Mel*. 1882-1883)

Here the conjunction *that* initiates the clause and is immediately followed by the subject (*God*). The adverbial phrase *of his endeless mercy* separates the subject from the finite verb, *wole*. The finite and the non-finite (*foryeven*) verbs are separated by the adverbial phrase *at the tyme of oure diynge*. The clause has two final X elements. These are an indirect object (*us*) and a direct object (*oure giltes*).

4.32. For thynges that been folily doon
      (*Mel*. 1448)

The initial X element of this clause is the adverbial *for*. This is followed by the subject (*thynges*) and a conjunction (*that*). The two verbs (*been* and *doon*) are separated by the adverbial *folily*.

4.1.2.8 XV(V)(X)

All the clauses in this pattern are introduced by one or more X elements and are followed by a finite verb. There are no overt subjects in the clauses which belong to this pattern. There may be more than one verb in the clause, and one or more X elements following the verbs.

I found 3 subordinate clauses with the XV(V)(X) pattern in the 114 clauses in my data from *Mel*. Some of the clauses ended with a verb, as shown in 4.33, while others had X elements after the verb, as in example 4.34.

4.33. Of hem that it han disserved
      (*Mel*. 1436)

Here the adverbial phrase *of hem* initiates the clause and is followed by the conjunct *that*. What follows is a direct object (*it*) and finally a verb phrase (*han disserved*).

4.34. Unto the sovereyn juge that vengeth alle vileynyes and wronges
      (*Mel*. 1457)

The adverbial phrase *unto the sovereyn juge* and the conjunct *that* are the initial X elements in this clause. The finite verb (*vengeth*) precedes the direct object (*alle vileynyes and wronges*).

4.1.2.9 SV$_1$XV$_2$(X)

A subject is the initial clause element of all the clauses which belong to this word order pattern. The clauses contain two verb phrases which are separated by one or more X elements. The second verb phrase may be the final element of the clause, but there are also clauses with one or more X element following this verb phrase.

Of the 114 subordinate clauses in *Mel*, 4 have the SV$_1$XV$_2$(X) word order pattern.

4.35. Attempree wepyng is no thyng deffended to hym that sorweful is, amonges folk
in sorwe
(*Mel*. 988)

Here the subject (*attempree wepyng*) initiates the clause and is followed by a finite verb (*is*). One X element separates the two verbs of the clause (*is* and *deffended*), and this is the direct object *no thyng*. An adverbial phrase, *to hym that sorweful is, amonges folk in sorwe*, is the final X element of the clause.

4.1.2.10 Miscellaneous

The subordinate clauses which do not belong to any of the word order patterns I have mentioned above are classified as miscellaneous.

5 of the 114 subordinate clauses from *Mel* are placed in this category. These have word order patterns which only occurred once or twice in my data.

4.36. That he that moost curteisly comandeth
(*Mel.* 1856)

This clause is introduced by the conjunction *that*. The subject (*he*) follows immediately after, and is followed by another occurrence of the conjunction *that*. The subject and the verb (*comandeth*) are separated by the adverbial phrase *moost curteisly*. The word order pattern of this clause is therefore XSXV.

4.37. A man that is joyous and glad in herte
   (*Mel*. 1873)

Here the subject (*a man*) initiates the clause and is followed by the conjunction *that*. The
finite verb *is* is followed by two X elements, the adverbial phrases *joyous and glad* and *in
herte*, producing a SXVX word order pattern.

Table 4.2. Distribution of word order patterns in subordinate clauses in *Mel*.

		Number of clauses		Percentage
XSV(V)(X)		52		45.6
SV(V)(X)		13		11.4
Verb-initial		12		10.5
$XSV_1XV_2(X)$		10		8.8
SXV(V)(X)		7		6.2
XV(V)S(X)		4		3.5
$XSXV_1XV_2(X)$		4		3.5
$SV_1XV_2(X)$		4		3.5
XV(V)(X)		3		2.6
Miscellaneous		5		4.4
Total		114		100 .0

4.1.3 Conjunct clauses

In the 60 sentences which was my material from *Mel* I found 56 clauses which are introduced
by the conjunct *and*. Some of these clauses include an overt subject, while others have no
subject. In the following chapters I will give an overview of the word order patterns found
here. As with the main and subordinate clauses, I will focus on the position of the subject and
the verb. The other constituents of the clause are subsumed under the element X.

4.1.3.1 XSV

In this category too the initial X element of all the clauses is the conjunct *and*. All conjunct clauses which have this word order pattern have an overt subject which follows immediately after the initial conjunct. The subject is immediately followed by the finite verb which may be followed by a non-finite verb. The verb may in turn be followed by one or more X elements.

23 of the conjunct clauses in my data from *Mel* have this word order pattern. In most of the clauses a direct object or an adverbial follows the verb, as in examples 4.38 and 4.39.

> 4.38. And that were harm
> (*Mel*. 1430)

The subject in this clause is *that*, and the finite verb, *were*, follows. The clause is ended by the adverbial *harm*.

> 4.39. And this is moore wysdom than for to wepe for thy freend which that thou hast
> lorn, for therinne is no boote
> (*Mel*. 992)

Here the subject *this* is followed by the finite verb *is*. What follows after the finite verb is a direct object which is a subordinate clause. This subordinate clause is included in the analysis of subordinate clauses above. Some of the conjunct clauses did not have an X element following the verb, as shown in example 4.40.

> 4.40. And Tullius seith 'Ther is no thyng so comendable in a greet lord as when he is
> debonaire and meeke, and appeseth him lightly.'
> (*Mel*. 1859)

The subject (*Tullius*) is followed by the finite verb (*seith*). What follows the finite verb here is a main clause, which has been included in the analysis of main clauses above and is therefore not dealt with here.

4.1.3.2 XV(V)(X)

The conjunct clauses which belong to this word order pattern have no overt subject. They are initiated by one X element, the conjunct *and*. The finite verb follows after this initial element. If there is more than one verb in the clause, the finite verb precedes the non-finite one. One or more X elements may follow after the verb.

Of the 56 conjunct clauses in my data, 16 belong to the XV(V)(X) word order pattern. What most commonly follows the verb is the direct object, as in example 4.41.

> 4.41. And betten his wyf
> (*Mel.* 971)

As in all the conjunct clauses, this clause is introduced by the conjunct *and*, and the finite verb *betten* follows immediately after the initial element. The final element is, as I have already mentioned, the direct object *his wyf*. Some of the conjunct clauses which belong to this pattern may have more than one sentence element following the verb. This is shown in example 4.42.

> 4.42. And foryeve yow outrely alle the offenses, injuries, and wronges that ye have
> doon agayn me and myne
> (*Mel.* 1882)

In this clause the finite verb is followed by an indirect object, *yow*, and an adverbial, *outrely*, and the rest of the clause is a direct object. Other clauses may have more than one verb after *and*, as in example 4.43.

> 4.43. And han ywounded thy doghter in the forseyde manere
> (*Mel.* 1426)

Here the two verbs are *han* and *ywounded*. A direct object (*thy doghter*) and an adverbial phrase (*in the forseyde manere*) are the two final elements of the clause.

4.1.3.3 $XV_1XV_2(X)$

None of the clauses which belong in this category have an overt subject. They are all introduced by the conjunct *and*. The finite verb follows immediately after the conjunct. The finite and the non-finite verb are separated by one or more X elements. There may also be one or more X elements following the non-finite verb.

5 of the 56 conjunct clauses in my data from *Mel* had this word order pattern. Example 4.44 shows a clause which has no X elements after the non-finite verb, whereas in 4.45 several X elements follow.

> 4.44. And preyen hire of hir wepyng for to stynte
> (*Mel*. 978)

In this clause three X elements separate the finite (*preyen*) and the non-finite (*to stynte*) verbs. These are the indirect object *hire*, the adverb phrase *of hir wepyng* and the adverbial *for*.

> 4.45. And hast nat defended thyself suffisantly agayns hire assautes and hire
> temptaciouns
> (*Mel*. 1423)

Here there is only one X element separating the finite (*hast*) from non-finite (*defended*) verbs, this is the negative *nat*. Three X elements follow the non-finite verb, the indirect object *thyself*, the adverb *suffisantly* and the adverb phrase *hire assautes and hire temptaciouns*.

4.1.3.4 Miscellaneous

The conjunct clauses which do not belong to any of the word order patterns I have mentioned belong in the miscellaneous pattern.

12 of the clauses in my data from *Mel* belong in this category. These are word order patterns which occurred only once or twice altogether.

4.46. And thanne shal man doon his diligence with amyable wordes hire to reconforte
(*Mel*. 978)

The conjunct *and* is here followed by the adverbial *thanne*. There are two verb phrases in this clause, *shal doon* and *to reconforte*. The two verbs *shal* and *doon* are separated by the subject (*man*). There are three X elements between the two verb phrases. These are the direct object *his diligence,* the adverbial *with amyable wordes* and the indirect object *hire*. The word order pattern of this clause is $XV_1SV_2XV_3$.

4.47. And thanne were it likly to retourne to the werre as it was biforn
(*Mel*. 1853)

Here the adverbial *thanne* precedes the finite verb *were*. The finite *were* and the non-finite *to retourne* are separated by the subject *it* and an adverbial (*likely*). The final element of the clause is the adverbial phrase *to the werre as it was biforn*.

Table 4.3. Distribution of word order patterns in conjunct clauses in *Mel*.

		Number of clauses		Percentage
XSV(V)(X)		23		41.1
XV(V)(X)		16		28.6
XV_1XV_2(X)		5		8.9
Miscellaneous		12		21.4
Total		56		100 .0

4.2 *The Parson's Tale*

My data from the *The Parson's Tale* (hereafter *Pars*) is based on the 20 first sentences from the Prologue, 20 sentences from the middle and the 20 final sentences of the text. The section containing the middle part of the text begins with line 499 and ends with line 519. I have only included English sentences, so no French or Latin is analysed. Where I have discussed the

word order patterns above, I will only give an outline of the results from *Pars*.

4.2.1 Main clauses

There are 79 main clauses in my data from *Pars*. While some of the clauses contained several main clauses, as in 4.48, others had no main clauses at all, as shown in 4.49.

> 4.48. Thanne shal men understonde what is the fruyt of penaunce; and, after the word of Jhesu Crist, it is the endelees blisse of hevene, ther joye hath no contrarioustee of wo ne grevaunce; ther alle harmes been passed of this present lyf; ther as is the sikernesse fro the peyne of helle; ther as is the blisful compaignye that rejoysen hem everemo, everich of otheres joye; ther as the body of man, that whilom was foul and derk, is moore cleer than the sonne; ther as the body, that whilom was syk, freele, and fieble, and mortal, is inmortal, and so strong and so hool that ther may no thyng apeyren it; ther as ne is neither hunger, thurst, ne coold, but every soule replenyssed with the sighte of the parfit knowynge of God.
> (*Pars*. 1076-1079)

There are eleven main clauses in this sentence. The first is *thanne shal men understonde what is the fruyt of penaunce*, the second is *it is the endelees blisse of hevene*, the third is *ther joye hath no contrarioustee of wo ne grevaunce*, the fourth is *ther alle harmes been passed of this present lyf*, the fifth is *ther as is the sikernesse fro the peyne of helle*, the sixth is *ther as is the blisful compaignye that rejoysen hem evermo, everich of otheres joye*, the seventh is *ther as the body of man is moore cleer than the sonne*, the eighth is the embedded clause *that whilom was foul and derk*, the ninth is *ther as the body is immortal*, the tenth is the embedded clause *that whilom was syk, freele, and fieble, and mortal* and the eleventh and last one is *ther as ne is neither hunger, thurst, ne coold*.

> 4.49. And alle thise thynges sholde man suffre paciently, for they comen by the rightful juggement and ordinaunce of God
> (*Pars*. 500)

This sentence is made up of the conjunct clause *And alle thise thynges shole man suffre paciently* and the subordinate clause *for they comen by the rightful juggement and ordinaunce of God*.

Five of the main clauses in my data are embedded clauses. I have separated these from the surrounding ones, and their analysis is therefore included in the analysis of the main clauses in the text.

4.2.1.1 SV(V)X

17 of the main clauses in my data from *Pars* had this word order pattern. The clauses show differences when it comes to the number of verbs and X elements following the verb phrase.

4.50. I meene Libra
(*Pars*. 11)

This is an embedded main clause. The clause is initiated by a subject (*I*) which is followed by a single finite verb (*meene*). There is only one X element, and this is the direct object *Libra*.

4.51. That is to seyn, Adam and Eve
(*Pars*. 515)

Here there are both a finite and a non-finite verb following the subject (*that*), i.e. the finite verb *is* and the non-finite verb *to seyn*. This embedded clause has one final X element, the predicate *Adam and Eve*. The clauses with this word order pattern may also have an adverbial as the final X element, as in example 4.52.

4.52. Wanhope is in two maneres
(*Pars*. 1069)

There is only one verb in this clause, and the finite *is* which follows the subject (*wanhope*).

The adverbial final X element is the adverb phrase (*in two maneres*).

4.2.1.2 XSV(V)(X)

15 of the main clauses in my data from *Pars* have this word order pattern. Some of the clauses
have only one initial X element, as in 4.53, while others have more than one initial X element,
as in example 4.54.

> 4.53. Foure of the clokke, it was tho, as I gesse
> (*Pars*. 5)

The initial element here is the adverbial phrase *foure of the clokke* which precedes the subject
(*it*) and the finite verb (*was*). The two final X elements in the clause are the adverbial *tho* and
the adverbial clause *as I gesse*, which is included in the analysis of subordinate clauses below.

> 4.54. Now again the shame that a man hath to shryven hym
> (*Pars*. 1059)

Here there are three initial X elements, the adverbials *now* and *again the shame* and the
conjunct *that*. The subject (*a man*) is placed after the subject. There are both a finite (*hath*)
and a non-finite (*to shryven*) verb before the final X element, which is the indirect object *hym*.

4.2.1.3 XV(V)S(X)

All the clauses in this word order pattern have only one X element preceding the verb phrase.
There may be more than one verb, and no X elements separate the verb phrase from the
subject. One or more X elements may follow the subject.

Of the 79 main clauses from *Pars*, 14 have this word order pattern. Some of the
clauses are initiated by an adverbial, as example 4.55.

4.55. Almost fulfild is al myn ordinaunce
(*Pars*. 19)

The initial adverbial element here is *almost fulfild*. There is only one verb in the clause, and that is the finite *is*. The clause ends with the subject (*al myn ordinaunce*), and contains no final X element.

4.56. "Sire preest," quod he, "artow a vicary?"
(*Pars*. 22)

Here the main clause is *"Sire preest, artow a vicary?"*. *Quod he* is a reporting clause, which will be analysed with subordinate clauses below. The initial X element is here a vocative (*sire preest*). The verb and the subject are contained in the same word, *artow*, the verb first and the subject second, so the clause belongs with this word order pattern. The final X element of the clause is the direct object *a vicary*.

4.57. Thanne is discipline eek in knokkynge of thy brest, in scourgynge with yerdes, in knelynges, in tribulaciouns, in suffrynge paciently wronges that been doon to thee
(*Pars*. 1054)

The initial X element here is the adverbial *thanne*, which is followed by the finite verb *is* and the subject *discipline*. There are five final X elements after the subject which are all adverbials and initiated by the preposition *in*. They are *in knokkynge of thy brest*, *in scourgynge with yerdes*, *in knelynges*, *in tribulaciouns* and *in suffrynge paciently wronges that been doon to thee*.

4.2.1.4 SV_1XV_2X

There are 9 occurrences of this word order pattern in my data from *Pars*. All the clauses had one or more X element after the second verb phrase.

4.58. Thou getest fable noon ytoold for me
        (*Pars*. 31)

The clause is here initiated by the subject *thou*, and the two verb phrases *getest* and *ytoold* are separated by a direct object (*fable noon*). There is only one final X element after the second verb phrase, and this is the adverbial phrase *for me*.

4.59. The mercy of Crist is alwey redy to receiven hym to mercy
        (*Pars*. 1073)

The mercy of Crist is the initial subject of the clause. The finite verb (*is*) is separated from the non-finite (*to receiven*) by the adverbial phrase *alwey redy*. The indirect object *hym* and the adverbial phrase *to mercy* follow the second verb phrase.

4.2.1.5 XV$_1$SV$_2$(X)

The clauses which belong to this pattern are all introduced by one or more X elements and they all include more than one verb phrase. The subject separates the two verb phrases, and there may be more than one X element after the second verb phrase.

8 of the 79 main clauses in *Pars* belong to this word order pattern. Example 4.58 shows a clause with only one initial X element, while in 4.59 there are two X elements preceding the first verb phrase.

4.60. This blisful regne may men purchace by poverte espiritueel
        (*Pars*. 1080)

The direct object *this blisful regne* is the initial element here. The subject (*men*) separates the finite *may* from the non-finite verb (*purchace*). The adverb phrase *by poverte espiritueel* is the final X element of this clause.

4.61. Certes, agayns that cursed wanhope sholde he thynke that the passion of Jhesu

Crist is moore strong for to unbynde than synne is strong for to bynde
(*Pars*. 1071)

The two initial X elements here are the adverbial *certes* and the adverbial phrase *agayns that cursed wanhope*. The finite (*sholde*) and the non-finite (*thynke*) verbs are separated by the subject (*he*). What follows the non-finite verb is a that-clause which functions as a direct object in the main clause. The clause is included in the analysis of subordinate clauses below.

4.2.1.6 Verb-initial

Of the 78 main clauses in my data from *Pars*, 6 are verb-initial. Some of these clauses are imperatives, as example 4.62.

4.62. Sey sooth, by thy fey!
(*Pars*. 23)

This imperative clause is initiated by the finite verb *sey* and has two final X elements, the adverbial *sooth* and the adverbial phrase *by thy fey*. There is an ellipsis of the subject here, but some of the verb-initial clauses do have a subject, as shown in 4.63.

4.63. Be what thou be
(*Pars*. 24)

The non-finite *be* initiates this clause, and is followed by the adverbial *what*. The subject of the clause is *thou* and it is followed by another occurrence of the non-finite verb *be*.

4.2.1.7 SXV(V)X

4 clauses in my data from *Pars* have this word order pattern. Some of them have more than

one verb. There are also differences in the number of X elements which follow after the verb phrase, but all the clauses have at least one final X element.

> 4.64.   The sonne fro the south lyne was descended so lowe that he nas nat, to my sighte, degrees nyne and twenty as in highte
> (*Pars*. 2-4)

The subject (*the sonne*) and the verb phrase (*was descended*) are here separated by the adverbial phrase *fro the south lyne*. There are two final X elements following the verb phrase in this clause, the adverbial phrase *so lowe* and a that-clause which functions as a direct object in the main clause. The that-clause will be analysed as a subordinate clause below.

> 4.65. That whilom was syk, freele, and fieble, and mortal
> (*Pars*. 1078)

The subject here is *that*, and it is followed by the adverbial *whilom*. This clause only has one finite verb (*was*). The final X element is an adverbial phrase (*syk, freele, and fieble, and mortal*).

4.2.1.8 Miscellaneous

6 of the 79 main clauses in *Pars* belong with the miscellaneous pattern. Their structures may be quite different, as shown in examples 4.66 and 4.67.

> 4.66. Thanne cometh discord that unbyndeth alle manere of freendshipe
> (*Pars*. 510)

Here the initial element is the adverb *thanne*, which is followed by the finite verb *cometh*. The subject of the clause is *discord*, which is followed by the conjunct *that*. Another finite verb (*unbyndeth*) comes after the conjunct, and is followed by a direct object (*alle manere of freendshipe*). The word order pattern of this clause is therefore XV_1SXV_2X.

4.67. Thanne cometh eek bitternesse of herte
(*Pars*. 509)

The initial element of this clause is the adverb *thanne*, and what follows is the finite verb *cometh*. The final elements of the clause are the adverbial *eek* and the subject *bitternesse ofherte*. The word order pattern of this clause is XVXS.

Table 4.4. Distribution of word order patterns in main clauses in *Pars*.

		Number of clauses		Percentage
SV(V)X		17		21.5
XSV(V)(X)		15		19.0
XV(V)S(X)		14		17.7
SV$_1$XV$_2$X		9		11.4
XV$_1$SV$_2$(X)		8		10.1
Verb-initial		6		7.6
SXV(V)X		4		5.1
Miscellaneous		6		7.6
Total		79		100.0

4.2.2 Subordinate clauses

I found 125 subordinate clauses in the 60 sentences which constitute my data from *Pars*. My focus is on the subject and the verb, and the remaining constituents are therefore labelled X. As with the main clauses above, I will not give a definition of the word order pattern if I have already done this.

4.2.2.1 XSV(V)(X)

56 of the subordinate clauses have this word order pattern. Some have only one verb, as in 4.69, while others have more than one, as in 4.68. In most of the clauses more than one X elements follow the verb phrase, but there are also clauses which end at that point.

> 4.68. That it lasteth withouten ende
>   (*Pars*. 1058)

Here the initial element is the conjunct *that* and the subject is *it*. The single verb in this clause is the finite *lasteth*. The final element of the clause is the adverb phrase *withouten ende*.

> 4.69. Whan I may sowen whete, if that me lest?
>   (*Pars*. 36)

The initial X element in 4.68, is the adverbial *whan*, which is followed by the subject (*I*). There are both a finite (*may*) and a non-finite (*sowen*) verb in the clause. The two final X elements are the direct object *whete* and the subordinate clause *if that me lest*, which is analysed as part of the XSXV(V)(X) pattern below.

4.2.2.2 XV(V)(X)

Of the 125 subordinate clauses in the text, 21 have the XV(V)(X) word order pattern. All of these have one or more X elements after the verb phrase. While some only have one initial X element, as 4.70, others have more, as shown in 4.71.

> 4.70. So yeve hym right good chaunce
>   (*Pars*. 20)

Here there is one initial element before the finite verb (*yeve*); this is the adverb *so*. There are

two X elements following the verb, the indirect object *hym* and the adverb phrase *right good chaunce*.

4.71. If hym list
(*Pars*. 1075)

The two initial elements are the conjunction *if* and the indirect object *hym*. The finite verb (*list*) is the final constituent of the clause.

4.2.2.3 XX

The clauses which belong to this word order pattern do not include a subject or a verb. They are made up solely of X elements.

7 of the clauses in my data from *Pars* have this word order pattern. One of the clauses is shown in example 4.72.

4.72. By entissyng of wikked ensample
(*Pars*. 519)

This clause consists of the two adverbial phrases *by entissyng* and *wikked ensample*.

4.2.2.4 XSV$_1$XV$_2$(X)

6 of the 125 subordinate clauses in *Pars* have this word order pattern. Some of the clauses have no X elements following the second verb phrase, as in example 4.73, while others have one or more X elements in this position, as in 4.74.

4.73. That he shal nat be saved
   (*Pars*. 1070)

Here the initial X element is the conjunction *that*, and it is followed by the subject *he*. The two verb phrases *shal* and *be saved* are separated by the negative *nat*.

4.74. Whan hir sovereyns bidden hem doon leveful thynges
   (*Pars*. 505)

The initial X element here is the adverb *whan*, which is followed immediately by the subject (*hir sovereyns*). The two verbs (*bidden* and *doon*) are separated by the indirect object *hem*. The clause has one final X element, the direct object *leveful thynges*.

4.2.2.5 SV(V)X

Of the 124 subordinate clauses in *Pars*, 5 have the SV(V)X word order pattern. While some of the clauses only have one single verb between the subject and the following X elements, as in 4.75, others have two verbs in this position, as in example 4.76.

4.75. That telleth this tale to us lustily
   (*Pars*. 21)

The subject of the clause (*that*) is followed by the finite verb *telleth*. There are three final X elements here, the direct object *this tale*, the adverb phrase *to us* and the adverb *lustily*.

4.76. Thou sholdest knytte up wel a greet mateere
   (*Pars*. 28)

Here the subject (*thou*) is followed immediately by a verb phrase consisting of three words (*sholdes knytte up*). The clause has two final X elements, the adverb *wel* and the direct object *a greet mateere*.

4.2.2.6 XV₁XV₂X

5 of the 125 subordinate clauses in *Pars* belong with this word order pattern. All have one or more X elements following the second verb phrase.

> 4.77. That waiteth bothe nyght and day to accusen us alle
>   (*Pars*. 511)

The clause is introduced by the conjunction *that*. The finite (*waiteth*) and the non-finite (*to accusen*) verbs are separated by the adverbial phrase *bothe nyght and day*. The final X element of the clause is the indirect object *us alle*.

> 4.78. That been necligent and slowe to shryven hem
>   (*Pars*. 1064)

Like the previous clause, this is introduced by the conjunction *that*. The finite (*been*) and the non-finite (*to shryven*) verbs are separated by the adverb phrase *necligent and slowe*. The final X element in this clause is an indirect object (*hem*).

4.2.2.7 XSXV(V)(X)

The clauses which belong to this word order pattern are initiated by one or more X elements. The subject follows immediately, and the subject and the verb phrase are separated by one or more X elements. There may be more than one verb in the clause, and one or more X elements may follow after the verb phrase.

Of the 125 subordinate clauses in *Pars*, 5 belong to this pattern.

> 4.79. If that me lest
>   (*Pars*. 36)

Here the initial X element is the conjunction *if*. It is followed immediately by the subject

(*that*). An indirect object (*me*) separates the subject from the verb (*lest*). There are no final X elements in this clause.

4.80. As they that been chosen of God
(*Pars*. 1053)

The initial X element in this embedded clause is the conjunction *as*. The conjunct *that* separates the subject (*they*) from the verb phrase (*been chosen*). The adverbial phrase *of God* is the final X element of the clause.

4.2.2.8 XSXV$_1$XV$_2$(X)

4 of the 125 subordinate clauses in *Pars* belong to this pattern. All these clauses have a single initial X element, and some have one or more final X elements. The X elements which separate the subject from the first verb phrase is the negative *ne* in three of the clauses, and the X element which separates the first from the second verb phrase in the same three clauses is the negative *nat*, as in 4.81. The clause which did not have negatives as the middle X elements, is shown in 4.82.

4.81. That they ne myghte nat longe persevere in goodnesse
(*Pars*. 1069)

The initial X element is here the conjunction *that*, and it is immediately followed by the subject *they*. The two verb phrases are *myghte* and *persevere*. There is one X element following the second verb phrase, and this is the adverbial phrase *in goodnesse*.

4.82. That the feblesse of the devel may nothyng doon
(*Pars*. 1074)

Here the initial X element of the clause is the conjunction *that*. The subject (*the feblesse*) is followed by the adverbial phrase *of the devel*. The first (*may*) and the second verb phrase

(*doon*) is separated by the adverbial *nothyng*.

4.2.2.9 Verb-initial

4 of the subordinate clauses in *Pars* have this word order pattern. All these clauses include a subject.

4.83. Shul they han perpetueel peyne
     (*Pars*. 1068)

The finite verb *shul* introduces this clause and the subject *they* separates it from the other verb in the sentence, *han*. The final element of the clause is the direct object *perpetueel peyne*.

4.84. Repreveth hem that weyven soothfastnesse
     (*Pars*. 33)

The finite verb *repreveth* introduces the clause and is immediately followed by the subject *hem*. Then the conjunction *that* and the non-finite verb (*weyven*) follow. The final element of the clause is the adverb *soothfastnesse*.

4.2.2.10 XVSX

In my data from *Pars*, 4 subordinate clauses have this word order pattern. All clauses have one or more X elements following the subject. All the clauses have only a single verb, and this is finite.

4.85. Al do he never so weel
     (*Pars*. 510)

Here there is a single initial X element, and that is the adverbial *al*. The finite verb *do* follows immediately after. The subject of the clause is the pronoun *he*, and there are two final X elements in the clause, the adverbials *never* and *so weel*.

> 4.86. Or arte a person?
> (*Pars*. 23)

This clause is initiated by the conjunction *or*. The verb and the subject are contracted into one word, but since the verb is the first part of the word, I analyse this as a XVSX-clause. The final X element of the clause is the direct object *a person*.

4.2.2.11 Miscellaneous

6 of the 125 subordinate clauses in *Pars* are placed in the miscellaneous category. Two of them are shown in examples 4.87 and 4.88.

> 4.87. Yet wol they seyn harm
> (*Pars*. 506)

In this clause there is one initial X element, the adverbial *yet*. There are two verb phrases (*wol* and *seyn*), and these are separated by the subject *they*. There is one final X element after the second verb phrase, the direct object *harm*. The word order pattern is therefore XV_1SV_2X.

> 4.88. Certes hym oghte nat been ashamed to do faire thynges
> (*Pars*. 1060)

Here there are two initial X elements, the adverbial *certes* and the indirect object *hym*. There are three verb phrases in this clause. The first is *oghte*, the second is *been* and the third is *to do*. The first two verb phrases are separated by the negative *nat*, and the last two are separated

by the adverbial *ashamed*. There is one final X element in the clause, the direct object *faire thynges*.

Table 4.5. Distribution of word order patterns in subordinate clauses in *Pars*.

		Number of clauses		Percentage
XSV(V)(X)		56		44.8
XV(V)(X)		21		16.8
XX		7		5.6
$XSV_1XV_2(X)$		6		4.8
SV(V)(X)		5		4.0
XV_1XV_2X		5		4.0
XSXV(V)(X)		4		3.2
$XSXV_1XV_2(X)$		4		3.2
Verb-initial		4		3.2
XVSX		4		3.2
Miscellaneous		9		7.2
Total		125		100.0

4.2.3 Conjunct clauses

In the 60 sentences in my data from *Pars*, there are 45 clauses which are introduced by *and*. These are both clauses which include an overt subject, and clauses with no subject. As before all the sentence constituents which are not a verb or a subject are subsumed under the category X.

4.2.3.1 XSV(V)(X)

12 of the 45 conjunct clauses in *Pars* have this word order pattern. Some of the clauses have only one verb following the subject, as in 4.89, while others have two verbs, as example 4.90.

The initial X element of all the clauses is the word *and*, but some clauses may have one or more X elements preceding the subject.

4.89. And somtyme grucchyng sourdeth of Envye
(*Pars*. 504)

Here the adverbial *somtyme* follows the initial *and*. The single verb in this sentence is the finite *sourdeth*. It separates the subject (*grucchyng*) from the final X element, which is the adverbial phrase *of Envye*.

4.90. And thanne that ye wol yeve me audience
(*Pars*. 39)

There are three initial X elements in this conjunction clause. The first is *and*, the second is the adverbial *thanne* and the third is the conjunction *that*. The subject (*ye*) comes after the three initial X elements, and is followed by the verb phrase (*wol yeve*). There are two final X elements in this clause, the indirect object *me* and the direct object *audience*.

4.2.3.2 XV(V)X

11 of the conjunct clauses in *Pars* belong to this word order pattern. Some of these clauses have only a single verb, as shown in 4.91, while others have two verbs, as in example 4.92. All the clauses have one or more X elements following the verb phrase.

4.91. And weep at his feet for hire synnes
(*Pars*. 503)

There is only a single initial X element here, the conjunction *and*, and the finite verb *weep* follows it. The clause has two final X elements; these are the adverbial phrases *at his feet* and *for hire synnes*.

4.92. And grucche, and murmure prively for verray despit
(*Pars*. 506)

Here there is only one initial X element, and the verb phrase consists of the two verbs *grucche* and *murmure* and the conjunction *and*. The final X element of the conjunct clause is the adverb phrase *for verray despit*.

4.2.3.3 XX

10 of the 45 conjunct clauses in *Pars* have the XX pattern. None of these have a subject or a verb phrase. Examples 4.93 and 4.94 are conjunct clauses with the XX word order pattern.

4.93. And of the proteccioun of aungels
(*Pars*. 1075)

There are three X elements in this clause, the conjunction *and* and the two adverb phrases *of preteccioun* and *of aungels*.

4.94. And in benigne amonestynge and chastisynge
(*Pars*. 517)

Here there are two X elements, the conjunction *and* and the adverbial phrase *in benigne amonestynge and chastisynge*.

4.2.3.4 XSXV(V)(X)

Of the 45 conjunct clauses in *Pars*, 6 have the XSXV(V)(X) word order pattern. While some of the clauses end with the verb phrase, as example 4.95, others are followed by one or more X elements, as 4.96. Some of these clauses have more than one verb.

4.95. And Jhesu, for his grace, wit me sende
          (*Pars*. 48)

Here there is only one initial element preceding the subject *Jhesu*, and this is the conjunction *and*. There are three X elements separating the subject from the verb; these are the adverbial phrase *for his grace*, the direct object *wit* and the indirect object *me*. The final element of the clause is the verb *sende*.

4.96. And that is confessiouns
          (*Pars*. 1060)

And is here followed by the subject *that* and the finite verb *is*. The final X element of the clause is a direct object (*confessiouns*).

4.2.3.5 XVS

3 of the conjunct clauses in *Pars* have this word order pattern. All have the subject as their final element, and there is only one verb in the clause. This verb is finite.

4.97. And therfore seith Seint Paul
          (*Pars*. 1053)

Here there are two initial X elements, the conjunction *and* and the adverbial *therfore*. There is only one verb, *seith*, which is finite. The subject (*Seint Paul*) is the final constituent of the clause.

4.2.3.6 Miscellaneous

Of the 45 conjunct clauses in my data from *Pars*, 3 belong to the miscellaneous category.

4.98. And alle thise thynges sholde man suffre paciently
       (*Pars*. 500)

There are two initial X elements in this clause, the conjunction *and* and the direct object *alle thise thynges*. The two verb phrases (*sholde* and *suffre*) are separated by the subject *man*. The final X element of the clause is the adverbial *paciently*. The word order pattern of this clause is therefore XV_1SV_2X.

4.99. And forasmuche as they dar nat openly withseye the comaundementz of hir
      sovereyns
      (*Pars*. 506)

Here there is one initial X element in addition to *and*, and this is the adverbial phrase *forasmuche as*. The subject of the clause is *they*. There are two verb phrases (*dar* and *withseye*) which are separated by the negative *nat* and the adverbial *openly*. The final X element of the clause is the direct object *the comaundementz of hir sovereyns*. The clause has the XSV_1XV_2X word order pattern.

Table 4.6. Distribution of conjunct clauses in *Pars*

		Number of clauses		Percentage
XSV(V)(X)		12		27.3
XV(V)(X)		11		25.0
XX		10		22.7
XSXV(V)X		6		13.6
XVS		3		6.8
Miscellaneous		2		4.6
Total		44		100 .0

4.3 *A Treatise on the Astrolabe*

As in the two other texts my data from *A Treatise on the Astrolabe* (hereafter *Astr*) consist of 20 sentences from the beginning of the text, 20 sentences from the middle part of the text, and the 20 final sentences of the text. The 20 sentences from the beginning of the text are taken from the Prologue. The section containing the middle part of the text begins with line 1 and ends with line 29 in Part II. I have not included material from the Supplementary propositions, as it is not clear that Chaucer wrote these himself. I have also excluded the headings, and have therefore only analysed the basic text. Sentences in other languages than English are not included.

4.3.1 Main clauses

In the 60 sentences from *Astr*, I found 68 main clauses. Some of the sentences in the text include more than one main clause, and others have no main clause at all. As with the other texts I will here focus on the position of the subject and the verb, and the other sentence constituents will therefore be grouped in the category which I have called X. One of the main clauses is an embedded clause.

4.3.1.1 SV(V)X

22 of the 68 main clauses in *Astr* have the SV(V)X word order pattern. Some of these clauses include only one verb, as in example 4.100, while others, like 4.101, have two.

> 4.100. I seye a certein nombre of conclusions, for thre causes
> (*Astr*. Prol. 13-14)

The subject (*I*) is followed by the finite verb *seye*. This clause has two final X elements, and these are the direct object *a certein nombre of conclusions* and the adverbial phrase *for thre causes*.

4.101. The thirde partie shal contene diverse tables of longitudes and latitudes of
sterres fixe for the Astrelabie
(*Astr*. Prol. 77-79)

Here there are two verbs in the verb phrase (*shal contene*). The subject of this clause is the initial constituent *the thirde partie*. There is one final X element in the clause, and this is the direct object *diverse tables of longitudes and latitudes of sterres fixe for the Astrelabie*.

4.3.1.2 XVSX

22 of the main clauses in my data from *Astr* have this word order pattern. All the clauses have only one verb separating the initial X element(s) from the subject, as in 4.102. In all the clauses one or more X elements follow the subject.

4.102. For wel woot every astrologien that smallist fraccions ne wol not be shewid in
so small an instrument as in subtile tables calculed for a cause
(*Astr*. Prol. 73-76)

Here the initial X elements are the the two adverbials *for* and *wel*. The verb is finite (*woot*), and is immediately followed by the subject (*every astrologien*). The rest of the clause is a direct object and a subordinate that-clause. This has been included in the analysis of subordinate clauses below.

4.3.1.3 Verb-initial

Of the 68 main clauses in my data from *Astr*, 10 are verb-initial. Some of the verb-initial clauses contain an overt subject, while others have no subject at all. 4.103 shows a verb-initial clause with a subject, while example 4.104 shows a clause without an overt subject.

4.103. Loke than how many degrees thy rule is areised fro the litel cros upon thin est lyne
(*Astr*. Part II, 2, lines 5-7)

Here the initial verb is the finite *loke*, which is followed by two X elements, the adverbial *than* and the adverbial phrase *how many degrees*. The subject of the clause is *thy rule*, and it is followed by another finite verb phrase (*is areised*). There are two final X elements here, the adverb phrases *fro the litel cros* and *upon this est lyne*.

4.104. Know by thin almenak the degre of the ecliptik of eny signe in which that the planete is rekned for to be
(*Astr*. Part II, 40, lines 1-3)

This clause is initiated by the finite verb *know*, which is followed by an adverb phrase (*by thin almenak*). There are two final X elements, the adverb phrases *of eny signe* and *in which that the planete is rekned for to be*. The last adverb phrase is an adverbial subordinate clause, and has been included in the analysis of subordinate clauses below.

4.3.1.4 XSV(V)(X)

9 of the main clauses in my data from *Astr* have this word order pattern. Some, like 4.105, have one or more X elements following the verb phrase, while others end with the verb, as shown in 4.106.

4.105. Lyte Lowys my sone, I aperceyve wel by certeyne evidences thyn abilite to lerne sciences touching nombres and proporciouns
(*Astr*. Prol. 1-3)

The initial X element in this clause is the vocative *lyte Lowys my sone*, which is immediately followed by the subject (*I*) and the verb (*aperceyve*). There are three final X elements in this clause, the adverbial *wel*, the adverbial phrase *by certeyne evidences* and the direct object *thyn abilite to lerne sciences touching nombres and proporciouns*. The direct object is a subordinate clause, which has been included in the analysis below.

4.106. Than for as moche as a philosofre saith
(*Astr*. Prol. 5-6)

Here the initial X elements are the adverb *than* and the adverb phrase *for as moche as*. The subject (*a philosofre*) and the verb (*saith*) are the two final constituents of the clause.

4.3.1.5 Miscellaneous

Of the 68 main clauses in my data from *Astr*, 5 have been placed in the miscellaneous category. These are clauses of which there are only one or two occurrences. Two of these clauses are shown in examples 4.107 and 4.108.

4.107. Therefore have I yeven the a suffisant Astrolabie as for oure orizonte, compowned after the latitude of Oxenforde
(*Astr*. Prol. 8-10)

There is one initial X element in this clause, the adverb *therefore*. The two verbs (*have* and *yeven*) are separated by the subject (*I*). There are three final X elements in the clause, the indirect object *the*, the direct object *a suffisant Astrolabie as for oure orizonte* and the adverb phrase *compowned after the latitude of Oxenforde*. The word order pattern of this clause is therefore XV_1SV_2X.

4.108. I n'am but a lewd compilator of the labour of olde astrologiens
(*Astr*. Prol. 61-62)

Here the first constituent of the clause is the subject (*I*). A negative *n'* separates the subject from the finite verb *am*. There are two final X elements in this clause, the conjunction *but* and the direct object *a lewd compilator of the labour of olde astrologiens*.

Table 4.7. Distribution of main clauses in *Astr*.

		Number of clauses		Percentage
SV(V)X		22		32.4
XVSX		22		32.4
Verb-initial		10		14.7
XSV(V)(X)		9		13.2
Miscellaneous		5		7.3
Total		68		100 .0

4.3.2 Subordinate clauses

In my 60 sentences of data from *Astr*, I found 62 subordinate clauses. These are adverbial and adjectival as well as that-clauses. My analysis below focuses on the positions of the subject and the verb; as before the other constituents are called X.

4.3.2.1 XSV(V)(X)

23 of the 62 subordinate clauses have this word order pattern. Some contain only one verb, as in 4.109, while others have two, as in example 4.110.

4.109. By cause that the latitude was south 2 degres
(*Astr*. Part II. 40. lines 57-58)

This clause is initiated by two X elements, the adverb phrase *by cause* and the conjunction *that*. The subject (*the latitude*) is immediately followed by a finite verb (*was*). The final element of the clause is the adverb phrase *south 2 degres*.

4.110. That sothly in any tretis of the Astrelabie that I have seyn
(*Astr*. Prol. 20-21)

Here there are five initial X elements. The clause is initiated by the conjunction *that*, which is followed by the adverb *sothly* and the two adverb phrases *in any tretis* and *of the Astrelabie*. There is another occurrence of the conjunction *that* preceding the subject (*I*). The verb phrase *have seyn* is the final element of the clause.

4.3.2.2 XV(V)(X)

Of the 62 subordinate clauses in *Astr*, 11 have the XV(V)(X) word order pattern. In this group the number of verbs found in the clauses differs, as shown in examples 4.111 and 4.112.

> 4.111. Which is the day of thy month
>   (*Astr*. Part II. 1. lines 1-2)

Here there is one initial element, the adverb *which*, and only one verb, the finite *is*. There is one final X element, the direct object *the day of thy month*.

> 4.112. Upon a capital lettre that is clepid an X
>   (*Astr*. Part II. 3. lines 28-29)

There are two initial X elements in this clause, the adverb phrase *upon a capital lettre* and the conjunction *that*. The two verbs (*is clepid*) separate the two initial X elements from the final X element, the direct object *an X*.

4.3.2.3 XSXV(V)(X)

6 of the subordinate clauses in *Astr*. have this word order pattern. While some end with the verb, as in 4.113, others have one or more X elements after the verb phrase, as in example 4.114.

4.113. As thow wel knowist
      (*Astr*. Part II. 40. line 80)

This clause is initiated by the preposition *as*, which is immediately followed by the subject (*thow*). An adverb (*wel*) separates the subject from the finite verb (*knowist*).

4.114. For she ne dwellith not in a degre of hir longitude but litel while
      (*Astr*. Part II. 40. lines 78-80)

Here the initial element is the adverbial *for*. The subject (*she*) and the finite verb (*dwellith*) are separated by the negative *ne*. There are four final X elements in this clause; these are the negative *not*, the adverb phrase *in a degree of hir longitude*, the conjunction *but* and the adverb phrase *litel while*.

4.3.2.4 Verb-initial

4 of the 62 subordinate clauses in my data from *Astr* are verb-initial. Some include more than one verb, as example 4.115, while others have no subject, as 4.116. None of the clauses in this word order pattern include an overt subject.

4.115. Konne me the more thank
      (*Astr*. Prol. 55)

Both the initial and the final constituent of this clause is a verb (*konne* and *thank*). What separates them are the indirect object *me* and the direct object *the more*.

4.116. To have my rude endityng for excusid
      (*Astr*. Prol. 42-43)

The initial element in this clause is the infinitive *to have*. The final X elements of this clause are the direct object *my rude endityng* and the adverb phrase *for excusid*.

4.3.2.5 XV₁SV₂(X)

3 of the subordinate clauses have the $XV_1SV_2(X)$ pattern.

> 4.117. As was the altitude of the sonne taken by thy rule
> (*Astr*. Part II. 3. lines 10-11)

The initial element of this clause is the preposition *as*. The first (*was*) and the second verb phrase (*taken*) are separated by the subject (*the altitude of the sonne*). The final element of the clause is the adverb phrase *by thy rule*.

> 4.118. That in alle these langages and in many moo han these conclusions ben
> suffisantly lerned and taught
> (*Astr*. prol. 36-38)

There are four initial X elements in this clause; these are the conjunction *that*, the adverb phrase *in alle these langages*, the conjunction *and* and the adverb phrase *in many moo*. The first verb phrase consists of a single verb (*han*) and is immediately followed by the subject *these conclusions*. The final verb phrase is also the final element of the clause (*ben suffisantly lerned and taught*).

4.3.2.6 XSXV₁XV2₂X

Of the 62 subordinate clauses from *Astr*, 3 have this word order pattern. All have one or more clauses following the final verb phrase. One of the clauses is shown in 4.119.

> 4.119. That smallist fraccions ne wol not be shewid in so small an instrument as in
> subtile tables calculed for a cause
> (*Astr*. Prol. 74-76)

Here the initial X element is the conjunction *that*, and the subject of the clause is *smallist fraccions*. The subject and the first verb phrase (*wol*) are separated by the negative *ne*. The

first and the second verb phrases (*be shewid*) are also separated by a negative (*not*). The three final elements of the clause are the adverb phrase *in so small an instrument*, the conjunction *as* and the adverb phrase *in subtile table calculed for a cause*.

4.3.2.7 Miscellaneous

I have grouped 12 of the 62 subordinate clauses in *Astr* in the miscellaneous category. These are clauses of which there are only one or two occurrences in my data. Two of the clauses are shown in examples 4.120 and 4.121.

> 4.120. Thyn abilite to lerne sciences touching nombres and proporciouns
> (*Astr*. Prol. 2-3)

The initial element here is the subject (*thyn abilite*) which is immediately followed by the verb (*to lerne*), which is an infinitive. The final element of the clause is the direct object *sciences touching nombres and proporciouns*. The word order pattern of this clause is therefore SVX.

> 4.121. That sothly me semith better to writen unto a child twyes a god sentence
> (*Astr*. prol. 47-49)

Here there are three initial X elements; the conjunction *that*, the adverb *sothly* and the indirect object *me*. There are two verb phrases here (*semith* and *to writen*) which are separated by the adverb *better*. There are three final X elements in this clause, the adverb phrase *unto a child*, the adverb *twyes* and the direct object *a god sentence*. The word order pattern of this clause is XV_1XV_2X.

Table 4.8. Distribution of subordinate clauses in *Astr*.

		Number of clauses		Percentage
XSV(V)(X)		23		37.1
XV(V)(X)		11		17.7
XSXV(V)(X)		6		9.7
Verb-initial		4		6.5
$XV_1SV_2(X)$		3		4.8
$XSXV_1XV_2X$		3		4.8
Miscellaneous		12		19.4
Total		62		100 .0

4.3.3 Conjunct clauses

In my 60 sentences of data from *Astr*, I found 65 conjunct clauses. All these are introduced by the conjunction *and*. Not all the clauses include an overt subject, which becomes clear from the analysis of the word order patterns below. As with the other clauses types, I have focused on the subject and the verb. All other constituents have been categorized as X elements.

4.3.3.1 XVX

28 of the 65 conjunct clauses in *Astr* have the XVX word order pattern. These have only one verb in the verb phrase, as in 4.122.

4.122. And ley thy rewle up that same day

(*Astr*. Part II. 1. line 2)

Here there is one initial X element, the conjunction *and*. This is immediately followed by the finite verb (*ley*). The clause has two final X elements; the direct object *thy rewle* and the adverb phrase *up that same day*.

4.3.3.2 XSV(V)X

Of the 65 conjunct clauses in my data from *Astr*, 11 have this word order pattern. While some of the clauses have only one verb, as in 4.123, others, like 4.124, have two verbs. All the clauses have at least one X element following the verb phrase.

> 4.123. And this was at midday in the 13 day of December
> (*Astr*. Part II. 1. lines 18-19)

The only initial X element in this clause is the conjunction *and*. It is followed by the subject (*this*) and the finite verb (*was*). There are two final X elements; the two adverb phrases *at midday* and *in the 13 day of December*.

> 4.124. And yif thou wilt pleye this craft with the arisyng of the mone
> (*Astr*. Part II. 40. lines 76-77)

Here there are two initial X elements, the conjunctions *and* and *yif*. The subject (*thou*) precedes the verb phrase *wilt pleye*. The two final X elements in the clause are the direct object *this craft* and the adverb phrase *with the arising of the mone*.

4.3.3.3 XX

7 of the conjunct clauses from *Astr* have this word order pattern. All the clauses are introduced by the conjunction *and*, which is followed by one or more X elements, as shown in 4.125.

> 4.125. And yit by diverse reules
> (*Astr*. Prol. 38-39)

This clause contains the conjunction *and*, the adverb *yit* and the adverb phrase *by diverse*

reules.

4.3.3.4 XV₁SV₂X

Of the 65 conjunct clauses in my *Astr* data, 5 have this word order pattern. While some of them have only one final X element, as example 4.126, others have two, as 4.127.

> 4.126. And with this swerd shal I sleen envie
> (*Astr*. Prol. 64)

There are two initial X elements here, the conjunction *and* and the adverb phrase *with this swerd*. The two verbs (*shal* and *sleen*) are separated by the subject (*I*). The final X element of the clause is the direct object *envie*.

> 4.127. And than wol the point of thi labell sitte in the bordure upon the verrey tyde of
> the day
> (*Astr*. Part II. 3. lines 12-14)

Here there are also two initial X elements, the conjunction *and* and the adverb *than*. The two verb phrases are *wol* and *sitte*, which are separated by the subject (*the point of thi labell*). The two final X elements of the clause are the adverb phrases *in the bordure* and *upon the verrey tyde of the day*.

4.3.3.5 XVSX

5 of the clauses from *Astr* have this pattern. Some of them have only one final X element following the subject, as 4.128, while others have two or more, as in example 4.129.

> 4.128. And thus knowe I this conclusioun
> (*Astr*. Part II. 1. lines 15-16)

The initial X elements are the conjunction *and* and the adverb *thus*. They are immediately followed by the finite verb (*knowe*), which in turn is followed by the subject (*I*). The final X element of this clause is the direct object *this conclusioun*.

> 4.129. And than sette I the point of F dounward in the same signe by cause that the
> latitude was south 2 degres
> (*Astr*. Part II. 40. lines 56-57)

Here the initial X elements are the conjunction *and* and the adverb *than*. The finite verb (*sette*) precedes the subject (*I*). There are four X elements following the subject, and these are the direct object *the point of F*, the adverb *dounward* and the two adverb phrases *in the same signe* and *by cause that the latitude was south 2 degres*. The last adverb phrase is a subordinate clause which has been included in the analysis above.

4.3.3.6 XS(X)

4 of the conjunct clauses in my *Astr* data have this word order pattern. While three of the clauses only consist of the conjunct *and* and a subject, as in example 4.130, one clause contains two final X elements after the subject. This clause is shown in 4.131.

> 4.130. And tables of the declinacions of the sonne
> (*Astr*. Prol. 79-80)

Here the noun phrase *tables of the declinacions of the sonne* is the subject.

> 4.131. And tables as well for the governaunce of a clokke
> (*Astr*. Prol. 81-82)

The subject (*tables*) is followed by the two adverb phrases *as well* and *for the governaunce of a clokke*.

4.3.3.7 Miscellaneous

Of the 65 conjunct clauses in my data from *Astr*, 5 have word order patterns which are found either once or twice. Examples are given in 4.132 and 4.133.

> 4.132. And as wel considre I thy besy praier in special to lerne the tretys of the
> Astrolabie
> (*Astr*. Prol. 3-5)

This clause has two initial X elements, the conjunct *and* and the adverb phrase *as wel*. There are two verb phrases here (*considre* and *to lerne*) which are separated by the subject *I*, the direct object *thy besy praier* and the adverb phrase *in special*. The clause has one final X element, the direct object *the tretys of the Astrolabie*. The word order pattern of this clause is XV_1SXV_2X.

> 4.133. And alle that him feith berith and obeieth, everich in his degre, the more and the
> lasse
> (*Astr*. Prol. 57-59)

Here there is only one initial X element, the conjunction *and*, which is immediately followed by the subject (*alle*). The subject and the verb phrase (*berith and obeieth*) are separated by three X elements, the conjunction *that*, the indirect object *him* and the direct object *feith*. The clause has two final X elements, the adverbial phrases *everich in his degree* and *the more and the lasse*.

Table 4.9. Distribution of conjunct clauses in *Astr*.

		Number of clauses		Percentage
XVX		28		42.4
XSV(V)X		13		19.6
XX		7		10.6
XV_1SV_2X		5		7.6
XVSX		5		7.6
XS(X)		4		6.1
Miscellaneous		4		6.1
Total		66		100 .0

Chapter 5 Conclusion

Table 5.1. Distribution of main clauses in *Mel*, *Pars* and *Astr*.

	Mel		Pars		Astr	
	Ocurrences	Percentage	Ocurrences	Percentage	Ocurrences	Percentage
SV(V)X	20	28.6	17	21.5	22	32.4
XSV(V)X	15	21.4	15	19.0	9	13.2
XV(V)S(X)			14	17.7	22	32.4
$SV_1XV_2(X)$	10	14.3	9	11.4		
Verb-initial	7	10.0	6	7.6	10	14.7
SXV(V)(X)	5	7.1	4	5.1		
$XSV_1XV_2(X)$	4	5.7				
$XV_1SV_2(X)$			8	10.1		
Miscellaneous	9	12.9	6	7.6	5	7.3
Total	70	100.0	79	100.0	68	100.0

As shown in table 5.1 above the most common word order pattern in the main clauses in all three texts is the SV(V)X pattern. The SXV(V)(X) pattern, on the other hand, is only represented by one clause in *Astr*[31] and by 7.1% and 5.1% respectively in *Mel* and *Pars*. There are a few more verb-initial main clauses in *Astr* than in the two other texts. *Pars* and *Astr* both have a high frequency of occurrences of main clauses in the XV(V)S(X) pattern. *Mel*, however, only has two main clauses which belong to this word order pattern, and these were therefore placed in the Miscellaneous category. The $XSV_1XV_2(X)$ pattern is represented by 5.7% of the main clauses in *Mel*. Only one of the main clauses in *Pars*[32] and none of the main clauses in *Astr* have this word order pattern. 10.1% of the main clauses in *Pars* have the $XV_1SV_2(X)$ pattern. Two of the main clauses in *Astr* have this pattern, so they are placed in the Miscellaneous category. None of the main clauses in *Mel* have this pattern.

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[31] It is placed in the Miscellaneous category
[32] It is placed in the Miscellaneous category

Table 5.2. Distribution of subordinate clauses in *Mel*, *Pars* and *Astr*.

	Mel		Pars		Astr	
	Ocurrences	Percentage	Ocurrences	Percentage	Ocurrences	Percentage
XSV(V)X	52	45.6	56	44.8	23	37.1
XV(V)(X)	3	2.6	21	16.8	11	17.7
SV(V)X	13	11.4	5	4.0		
Verb-initial	12	10.5	4	3.2	4	6.5
$XSV_1XV_2(X)$	10	8.8	6	4.8		
SXV(V)(X)	7	6.2				
XSXV(V)(X)			4	3.2	6	9.7
$XSXV_1XV_2(X)$	4	3.5	4	3.2	3	4.8
XV(V)S(X)	4	3.5	4	3.2		
XX			7	5.6		
XV_1XV_2X			5	4.0		
$XV_1SV_2(X)$					3	4.8
$SV_1XV_2(X)$	4	3.5				
Miscellaneous	5	4.4	9	7.2	12	19.4
Total	114	100.0	125	100.0	62	100.0

Mel and *Pars* have a much higher number of subordinate clauses than *Astr*. The most common word order pattern in the subordinate clauses in all three texts is the XSV(V)X pattern. In *Mel* and *Pars* the number of clauses in this pattern constitutes almost half of the total number of subordinate clauses. The number of clauses belonging to the XV(V)(X) pattern is high in *Pars* and *Astr*, but much lower in *Mel*. The number of verb-initial subordinate clauses is higher in *Mel* than in *Pars* and *Astr*. 8.8% of the subordinate clauses in *Mel* and 4.8% of these clauses in *Pars* have the $XSV_1XV_2(X)$ pattern. This was only true of one of the clauses in *Astr*, so this clause has been placed in the Miscellaneous category. While only two of the subordinate clauses in *Mel* have the XSXV(V)(X) pattern, 3.2% of the subordinate clauses in *Pars* and 9.75 of the clauses in *Astr* have this pattern.

Table 5.3. Distribution of conjunct clauses in *Mel*, *pars* and *Astr*.

	Mel		Pars		Astr	
	Ocurrences	Percentage	Ocurrences	Percentage	Ocurrences	Percentage
XSV(V)X	23	41.1	12	27.3	13	19.6
XV(V)(X)	16	28.6	11	25.0	28	42.4
XX			10	22.7	7	10.6
XV(V)S(X)			3	6.8	5	7.6
$XV_1XV_2(X)$	5	8.9				
XSXV(V)X			6	13.6		
XV_1SV_2X					5	7.6
XS(X)					4	6.1
Miscellaneous	12	21.4	2	4.6	4	6.1
Total	56	100.0	44	100.0	66	100.0

While the XSV(V)X pattern is the most common among the conjunct clauses in *Mel* and *Pars*, the XV(V)(X) pattern is the most common in *Astr*. This pattern is the second most common in *Mel* and *Pars*, while the XSV(V)X pattern is the second most common in *Astr*. Two of the subordinate clauses in *Mel* have the XX pattern[33], while it is represented in 22.7% of the clauses in *Pars* and in 10.6% in *Astr*. The XV(V)S(X) pattern is represented by 6.8% of the subordinate clauses in *Pars* and 7.6% in *Astr*. Only one of the clauses in *Mel* has this word order pattern and it is therefore placed in the Miscellaneous category.

What we can conclude from the findings is that the SOV pattern has a much lower number of occurrences in these texts than the SVO pattern. It can seem that the transition from an SOV to a SVO grammar was well underway in the 14th century. Horobin (2007: 35) note that 'the spoken dialect that was selected as the basis of the standard accent in this period was that of London, on account of its social and economic importance'. We know that Chaucer was closely connected to London all of his life, even though he also travelled extensively abroad. Benson (2005: 70) says 'despite royal service abroad and a period in Kent, he never seems to have gone far from London for long'. Chaucer's English was that of London and appears to reflect that the SVO grammar was dominant in the city in this period.

Pars shares similarities in the word order patterns both with *Mel* and *Astr*. Judging from the number of occurrences in the patterns, it seems as if *Pars* is more similar to *Astr* than to *Mel*. The fact that it contains didactic prose (as does *Astr*) seems therefore to weigh heavier than that it is literary prose (as is *Mel*).

When it comes to verb-initial clauses, *Astr* has a higher frequency in main clauses than the two other texts, probably reflecting a higher proportion of imperatives because of the

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[33] It is placed in the Miscellaneous category

many instructions on how to use the instrument. In the subordinate clauses *Mel* has a higher number of occurrences of verb-initial subordinate clauses than *Pars* and *Astr*. This reflects that *Mel* has a higher number of reporting clauses with a V – S pattern than the other texts.

Appendix A

The Tale of Melibee

1. A yong man called Melibeus, myghty and riche, bigat upon his wyf, that called was Prudence, a doghter which that called was Sophie.

   S (a…riche) – V (bigat) – A (upon…wyf) – conj (that) – V (called was) – object complement (Prudence) – dO (a…Sophie)

2. Upon a day bifel that he for his desport is went into the feeldes hym to pleye.

   A (upon…day) – V (bifel) – dO (that…pleye)
   Conj (that) – S (he) – A (for…desport) – V (is went) – A (into…feeldes) – dO (hym) – V (to pleye)

3. His wyf and eek his doghter hath he left inwith his hous, of which the dores weren faste yshette.

   dO (his…doghter) – V (hath) – S (he) – V (left) – A (inwith…hous) – A (of…yshette)
   A (of which) – S (the dores) – V (weren) – subject complement (faste yshette)

4. Thre of his olde foes han it espyed, and setten laddres to the walles of his hous, and by wyndowes been entred, and betten his wyf, and wounded his doghter with five mortal woundes in five sondry places – this is to seyn, in hir feet, in hire handes, in hire erys, in hir nose, and in hire mouth – and leften hire for deed, and wenten awey.

   S (thre…foes) – V (han) – dO (it) V (espyed)
   Conj (and) – V (setten) – dO (laddres) – A (to…hous)
   Conj (and) – A (by wyndowes) – V (been entred)
   Conj (and) – V (betten) – dO (his wyf)
   Conj (and) – V (wounded) – dO (his doghter) – A (with…woundes) – A (in…places)
   S (this) – V (is…seyn) – A (in…mouth)
   Conj (and) – V (leften) – dO (hire) – A (for deed) – conj (and) – V (wenten) – A (away)

5. Whan Melibeus retourned was into his hous, and saugh al this meschief, he, lyk a mad man rentynge his clothes, gan to wepe and crie.

   A (Whan) – S (Melibeus) – V (retourned was) – A (into his hous)
   Conj (and) – V (saugh) – dO (al this meschief)
   S (he) – A (lyk…man) – V (rentynge) – dO (his clothes) – V (gan…crie)

6. Prudence, his wyf, as ferforth as she dorste, bisoghte hym of his wepyng for to stynte, but nat forthy he gan to crie and wepen evere lenger the moore.

   S (Prudence, his wyf)

A (as ferforth as) – S (she) – V (dorste)
V (bisoghte) – iO (hym) – A (of his wepyng) – A (for) – V (to stynte)
Conj (but) – neg (nat) – A (forthy) – S (he) – V (gan…wepen) – A (evere…moore)

7. This noble wyf Prudence remembred hire upon the sentence of Ovide, in his book that cleped is the Remedie of Love, where as he seith, "He is a fool that destourbeth the mooder to wepen in the deeth of hire child, til she have wept hir fille as for a certein tyme, and thanne shal man doon his diligence with amyable wordes hire to reconforte, and preyen hire of hir wepyng for to stynte."

S (this…Prudence) – V (remembred) – iO (hire) – A (upon…Ovide)
A (in his book) – S (that) – V (cleped is) – dO (the Remedie of Love)
A (where as) – S (he) – V (seith) – dO (he is a fool…for to stynte)
S (he) – V (is) – dO (a fool) – conj (that) – V (destourbeth) – dO (the mooder) – V (to wepen) – A (in…child)
A (til) – S (she) – V (have wept) – dO (hire fille) – A (as…tyme)
Conj (and) – A (thanne) – V (shal) – S (man) – V (doon) – dO (his diligence) – A (with…reconforte)
Conj (and) – V (preyen) – iO (hire) – A (of hir wepyng) – A (for) – V (to stynte)

8. For which resoun this noble wyf Prudence suffred hir housbonde for to wepe and crie as for a certein space, and whan she saugh hir tyme, she seyde hym in this wise: "Allas, my lord," quod she, "why make ye youreself for to be lyk a fool?"

A (for…resoun) – S (this…Prudence) – V (suffred) – dO (hir housbonde) – A (for) – V (to…crie) – A (as…space)
Conj (and) – A (whan) – S (she) – V (saugh) – dO (hir tyme)
S (she) – V (seyde) – iO (hym) – A (in this wise)
Vocative (allas my lord) – V (quod) – S (she)
A (why) – V (make) – S (ye) – dO (youreself) – A (for…fool)

9. For sothe it aperteneth nat to a wys man to maken swich a sorwe.

A (for sothe) – S (it) – V (aperteneth) – neg (nat) – A (to a wys man) – V (to maken) – dO (swich a sorwe)

10. Youre doghter, with the grace of God, shal warisshe and escape.

S (youre doghter) – A (with…God) – V (shal…escape)

11. And, al were it so that she right now were deed, ye ne oughte nat, as for hir deeth, youreself to destroye.

Conj (and) – A (al) – V (were) – S (it) – A (so)
Conj (that) – S (she) – A (right now) – V (were deed)
S (ye) – neg (ne) – V (oughte) – neg (nat) – A (as…deeth) – iO (youreself) – V (to destroye)

12. Senek seith: "The wise man shal nat take to greet disconfort for the deeth of his

children, but, certes, he sholde suffren it in pacience as wel as he abideth the deeth of his owene propre persone."

S (Senek) – V (seith)
S (the wise man) – V (shal) – neg (nat) – V (take) – A (to…disconfort) – A (for…children)
Conj (but) – A (certes) – S (he) – V (sholde suffren) – dO (it) – A (in pacience)
A (as wel as) – S (he) – V (abideth) – dO (the…persone)

13. This Melibeus answerde anon and seyde, "What man," quod he, "sholde of his wepyng stente that hath so greet a cause for to wepe?

    S (this Melibeus) – V (answerde) – A (anon) – conj (and) – V (seyde)
    A (what) – S (man)
    V (quod) – S (he)
    V (sholde) – A (of…wepyng) – V (stente)
    S (that) – V (hath) – dO (so greet a cause) – A (for) – V (to wepe)

14. Jhesu Crist, oure Lord, hymself wepte for the deeth of Lazarus hys freend."

    S (Jhesu…hymself) – V (wepte) – A (for… freend)

15. Prudence answerde: "Certes, wel I woot attempree wepyng is no thyng deffended to hym that sorweful is, amonges folk in sorwe, but it is rather graunted hym to wepe.

    S (Prudence) – V (answerde)
    A (certes wel) – S (I) – V (woot) – dO (attempree...sorwe)
    S (attempree wepyng) – V (is) – neg (no) – dO (thyng) – V (deffended) – A (to…sorwe)
    Conj (but) – S (it) – V (is) – A (rather) – V (graunted) – iO (hym) – dO (to wepe)

16. The Apostle Paul unto the Romayns writeth, 'Man shal rejoyse with hem that maken joye, and wepen with swich folk as wepen'.

    S (the…Paul) – A (unto…Romayns) – V (writeth)
    S (man) – V (shal rejoyse) – A (with…joye)
    A (with hem) – S (that) – V (maken) – dO (joye)
    Conj (and) – V (wepen) – A (with…wepen)

17. But though attempree wepyng be ygraunted, outrageous wepyng certes is deffended.

    Conj (but) – A (though) – S (attempree wepyng) – V (be ygraunted)
    S (outrageous wepyng) – A (certes) – V (is deffended)

18. Mesure of wepyng sholde be considered, after the loore that techeth us Senek: 'Whan that thy frend is deed,' quod he, 'lat nat thyne eyen to moyste been of teeris, ne to muche drye; although the teeris come to thyne eyen, lat hem nat falle; and whan thou hast forgoon thy freend, do diligence to gete another freend; and this is moore wysdom than for to wepe for thy freend which that thou has lorn, for therinne is no boote.

S (mesure…wepyng) – V (sholde…considered) – A (after…Senek)
A (after…loore) – conj (that) – V (techeth) – iO (us) – S (Senek)
A (whan) – conj (that) – S (thy frend) – V (is deed)
V (quod) – S (he)
V (lat) – neg (nat) – dO (thyne eyen) – A (to moyste) – V (been) – A (of teeris) – neg (ne) – A (to muche drye)
A (although) – S (the teeris) – V (come) – A (to thyne eyen)
V (lat) – S (hem) – neg (nat) – V (falle)
Conj (and) – A (whan) – S (thou) – V (hast forgoon) – dO (thy freend)
V (do…gete) – dO (another freend)
Conj (and) – S (this) – V (is) – dO (moore wysdom…no boote)
S (moore wisdom) – A (than) – A (for) – V (to wepe) – A (for…boote)
Conj (for) – S (thy freend) – A (which) – conj (that) – dO (thou) – V (has lorn) – A (for therinne) – V (is) – neg (no) – dO (boote)

19. And therfore, if ye governe yow by sapience, put awey sorwe out of youre herte.

    Conj (and) – A (therfore) – conj (if) – S (ye) – V (governe) – iO (yow) – A (by sapience)
    V (put) – A (awey) – dO (sorwe) – A (out of youre herte)

20. Remembre yow that Jhesus Syrak seith, 'A man that is joyous and glad in herte, it hym conserveth florissynge in his age; but soothly sorweful herte maketh his bones drye'.

    V (remembre) – S (yow) – dO (that…seith)
    Conj (that) – S (Jhesus Syrak) – V (seith)
    S (a man) – conj (that) – V (is) –A (joyous and glad) – A (in herte)
    S (it) – iO (hym) – V (conserveth) – dO (florissynge) – A (in his age)
    Conj (but) – A (soothly) – S (sorweful herte) – V (maketh) – dO (his bones) – A (drye)

21. Thou hast doon synne agayn oure Lord Crist, for certes, the three enemys of mankynde – that is to seyn, the flessh, the feend, and the world – thou hast suffred hem entre in to thyn herte wilfully by the wyndowes of thy body, and hast nat defended thyself suffisantly agayns hire assautes and hire temptaciouns, so that they han wounded thy soule in fyve places; this is to seyn, the deedly synnes that been entred into thyn herte by thy fyve wittes.

    S (thou) – V (hast doon) – dO (synne) – A (again…Crist)
    A (for certes) – dO (the…mankynde)
    S (that) – V (is to seyn) – dO (the…world)
    S (thou) – V (hast suffred) – iO (hem) – dO (entre) – A (in…body)
    Conj (and) – V (has) – neg (nat) – V (defended) – iO (thyself) – A (suffisantly) – A (agayns…temptaciouns)
    A (so) – conj (that) – S (they) – V (han wounded) – dO (thy soule) – A (in…places)
    S (this) – V (is to seyn) – dO (the…wittes)
    S (the…synnes) – conj (that) – V (been entred) – A (into…wittes)

22. And in the same manere oure Lord Crist hath woold and suffred that thy three enemys

been entred into thyn house by the wyndowes and han ywounded thy doghter in the forseyde manere."

Conj (and) – A (in…manere) – S (oure…Crist) – V (hath…suffred)
Conj (that) – S (thy…enemys) – V (been entred) – A (into…house) – A (by…wyndowes)
Conj (and) – V (han ywounded) – dO (thy doghter) – A (in…manere)

23. "Certes," quod Melibee, "I se wel that ye enforce yow muchel by wordes to overcome me in swich manere that I shal nat venge me of myne enemys, shewynge me the perils and the yveles that myghten falle of this vengeance.

A (certes)
V (quod) – S (Melibee)
S (I) – V (se) – A (wel) - dO (that…enemys)
Conj (that) – S (ye) – V (enforce) – iO (yow) – A (muchel) – A (by wordes)
V (to overcome) – iO (me) – A (in…enemys)
A (in…manere) – conj (that) – S (I) – V (shal) – neg (nat) – V (venge) – iO (me) – A (of…enemys)
V (shewynge) – iO (me) – dO (the…vengeance)
S (the…yveles) – conj (that) – V (myghten falle) – A (of…vengeance)

24. But whoso wolde considere in alle vengeances the perils and yveles that myghte sewe of vengeance-takynge, a man wolde nevere take vengeance, and that were harm; for by the vengeance-takynge been the wikked men dissevered fro the goode men, and they that han wyl to do wikkednesse restreyne hir wikked purpos, whan they seen the punyssynge and chastisynge of the trespassours."

Conj (but) – S (whoso) – V (wolde considere) – A (in…vengeances) – dO (the…vengeance-takynge)
S (the…yveles) – conj (that) – V (myghte sewe) – A (of vengeance-takynge)
S (a man) – V (wolde) – A (nevere) – V (take vengeance)
Conj (and) – S (that) – V (were) – dO (harm)
Conj (for) – A (by…vengeance-takynge) – V (been) – dO (the…men)
S (the…men) – V (dissevered) – A (fro…men)
Conj (and) – S (they) – conj (that) – V (han…do) – dO (wikkednesse)
V (restreyne) – dO (hir…purpos) – A (whan…trespassours)
A (whan) – S (they) – V (seen) – dO (the…chastisynge) – A (of…trespassours)

25. And yet seye I moore, that right as singuler persone synneth in takynge vengeance of another man, right so synneth the juge if he do no vengeance of hem that it han disserved.

Conj (and) – A (yet) – V (seye) – S (I) – A (moore)
Conj (that) – A (right as) – S (singuler persone) – V (synneth) – A (in…man)
A (right so) – V (synneth) – S (the juge)
A (if) – S (he) – V (do) – dO (no vengeance) – A (of…disserved)
A (of hem) – conj (that) – dO (it) – V (han disserved)

26. For Senec seith thus: 'That maister,' he seith, 'is good that proveth shrewes.'

   Conj (for) – S (Senec) – V (seith) – A (thus)
   S (that maister)
   S (he) – V (seith)
   V (is) – subject compliment (good) – dO (that…shrewes)
   S (that) – V (proveth) – dO (shrewes)

27. And as Cassidore seith, 'A man dredeth to do outrages whan he woot and knoweth
    that it displeseth to the juges and the sovereyns.'

   Conj (and) – A (as) – S (Cassidore) – V (seith)
   S (a man) – V (dredeth…do) – dO (outrages)
   A (whan) – S (he) – V (woot and knoweth) – dO (that…sovereyns)
   Conj (that) – S (it) – V (displeseth) – A (to…sovereyns)

28. And another seith, 'The juge that dredeth to do right, maketh men shrewes.'

   Conj (and) – S (another) – V (seith)
   S (the juge) – conj (that) – V (dredeth…do) – A (right)
   V (maketh) – iO (men) – dO (shrewes)

29. And Seint Paul the Apostle seith in his Epistle, whan he writeth unto the Romayns,
    that 'the juges beren nat the spere withouten cause, but they beren it to punysse the
    shrewes and mysdoers, and for to defende the goode men.'

   Conj (and) – S (Seint…Apostle) – V (seith) – A (in…Epistle) – A (whan…Romayns)
   – dO (that…men)
   A (whan) – S (he) – V (writeth) – A (unto…Romayns)
   Conj (that) – S (the juges) – V (beren) – neg (nat) – dO (the spere) – A (withouten
   cause)
   Conj (but) – S (they) – V (beren) – iO (it) – V (to punysse) – dO (the…mysdoers)
   Conj (and) – A (for) – V (to defende) – dO (the…men)

30. If ye wol thanne take vengeance of youre enemys, ye shul retourne or have youre
    recours to the juge that hath the jurisdiccion upon hem, and he shal punysse hem as the
    lawe axeth and requireth."

   A (if) – S (ye) – V (wol) – A (thanne) – V (take) – dO (vengeance) – A (of…enemys)
   S (ye) – V (shul retourne) – conj (or) – V (have) – dO (youre recours) – A (to…hem)
   A (to the juge) – conj (that) – V (hath) – dO (the jurisdiccion) – A (upon hem)
   Conj (and) – S (he) – V (shal punysse) – iO (hem) – A (as…requireth)
   A (as) – S (the lawe) – V (axeth…requireth)

31. "A," quod Melibee, "this vengeance liketh me no thyng.

   A (a) – V (quod) – S (Melibee)
   S (this vengeance) – V (liketh) – iO (me) – dO (no thyng)

32. I bithenke me now and take heede how fortune hath norissed me fro my childhede, and hath holpen me to passe many a stroong paas.

    S (I) – V (bithenke) – iO (me) – A (now)
    Conj (and) – V (take) – dO (heede) – A (how…paas)
    A (how) – S (fortune) – V (hath norissed) – iO (me) – A (fro…childhede)
    Conj (and) – V (hath holpen) – iO (me) – V (to passe) – dO (many…paas)

33. Now wol I assayen hire, trowynge, with Goddes help, that she shal helpe me my shame for to venge."

    A (now) – V (wol) – S (I) – V (assayen) – dO (hire) – V (trowynge) – A (with…help)
    Conj (that) – S (she) – V (shal helpe) – iO (me) – dO (my shame) – A (for) – V (to venge)

34. "Certes," quod Prudence, "if ye wol werke by my conseil, ye shul nat assaye Fortune by no wey, ne ye shul nat lene or bowe unto hire, after the word of Senec; for 'thynges that been folily doon, and that been in hope of Fortune, shullen nevere come to good ende.'

    A (certes) – V (quod) – S (Prudence)
    A (if) – S (ye) – V (wol werke) – A (by…conseil)
    S (ye) – V (shul) – neg (nat) – V (assaye) – dO (Fortune) – A (by…wey)
    Neg (ne) – S (ye) – V (shul) – neg (nat) – V (lene…bowe) – A (unto hire) – A (after…Senec)
    A (for) – S (thynges) – conj (that) – V (been) – A (folily) – V (doon)
    Conj (and) – conj (that) – V (been) – A (in…Fortune) – V (shullen) – A (nevere) – V (come) – A (to…ende)

35. And, as the same Senec seith, 'The moore cleer and the moore shynyng that Fortune is, the moore brotil and the sonner broken she is.'

    Conj (and) – A (as…seith)
    A (as) – S (the…Senec) – V (seith)
    A (the…shynyng) – conj (that) – S (Fortune) – V (is)
    A (the…broken) – S (she) – V (is)

36. Trusteth nat in hire, for she nys nat stidefast ne stable, for whan thow trowest to be moost seur or siker of hire help, she wol faille thee and deceyve thee.

    V (trusteth) – neg (nat) – A (in hire)
    A (for) – S (she) – V (nys) – neg (nat) – subject complement (stidefast…stable)
    A (for) – A (whan) – S (thow) – V (trowest…be) – A (moost…siker) – A (of…help)
    S (she) – V (wol faille) – iO (thee) – conj (and) – V (deceyve) – iO (thee)

37. And where as ye seyn that Fortune hath norissed yow fro youre childhede, I seye that in so muchel shul ye the lasse truste in hire and in hir wit.

    Conj (and) – A (where as) – S (ye) – V (seyn) – dO (that…childhede)

Conj (that) – S (Fortune) – V (hath norissed) – dO (yow) – A (from…childhede)
S (I) – V (seye) – dO (that…wit)
Conj (that) – A (in…muchel) – V (shul) – S (ye) – A (the lasse) – V (truste) – A (in…wit)

38. For Senec seith, 'What man that is norissed by Fortune, she maketh hym a greet fool.'

    A (for) – S (Senec) – V (seith)
    A (what) – S (man) – conj (that) – V (is norissed) – A (by Fortune)
    S (she) – V (maketh) – iO (hym) – dO (a…fool)

39. Now thanne, syn ye desire and axe vengeance, and the vengeance that is doon after the lawe and bifore the juge ne liketh yow nat, and the vengeance that is doon in hope of Fortune is perilous and uncertein, thanne have ye noon oother remedie but for to have youre recours unto the sovereyn Juge that vengeth alle vileynyes and wronges.

    A (now thanne) – A (syn) – S (ye) – V (desire…axe) – dO (vengeance)
    Conj (and) – S (the vengeance) – conj (that) – V (is doon) – A (after…juge) – neg (ne) – V (liketh) – iO (yow) – neg (nat)
    Conj (and) – S (the vengeance) – conj (that) – V (is doon) – A (in…Fortune) – V (is) – subject complement (perilous…uncertein)
    A (thanne) – V (have) – S (ye) – dO (noon…remedie)
    Conj (but) – A (for) – V (to have) – S (youre recours) – A (unto…wronges)
    A (unto…juge) – conj (that) – V (vengeth) – dO (alle…wronges)

40. And he shal venge yow after that hymself witnesseth, where as he seith, 'Leveth the vengeance to me, and I shal do it.'"

    Conj (and) – S (he) – V (shal venge) – iO (yow) – A (after…witnesseth)
    A (after that) – S (hymself) – V (witnesseth)
    A (where as) – S (he) – V (seith)
    V (leveth) – S (the vengeance) – A (to me)
    Conj (and) – S (I) – V (shal do) – dO (it)

41. And everi man oghte to doon his diligence and his bisynesse to geten hym a good name.

    Conj (and) – S (everi man) – V (oghte to doon) – dO (his…bisynesse)
    V (to geten) – iO (hym) – dO (a good name)

42. And yet shal he nat oonly bisie hym in kepynge of his good name, but he shal also enforcen hym alwey to do somthyng by which he may renovelle his good name.

    Conj (and) – A (yet) – V (shal) – S (he) – neg (nat) – A (not oonly) – V (bisie) – iO (hym) – A (in kepynge…good name)
    Conj (but) – S (he) – V (shal) – A (also) – V (enforcen) – iO (hym) – A (alwey) – V (to do) – dO (somthyng) – A (by…name)
    A (by which) – S (he) – V (may renovelle) – dO (his good name)

43. For it is writen that 'the olde good loos or good name of a man is soone goon and passed, whan it is nat newed ne renovelled.'

A (for) – S (it) – V (is written) – dO (that…renovelled)
Conj (that) – S (the…man) – V (is) – A (soone) – V (goon…passed) – A (whan…renovelled)
A (whan) – S (it) – V (is) – neg (nat) – V (newed… renovelled)

44. And as touchynge that ye seyn ye wole exile youre adversaries, that thynketh me muchel agayn resoun and out of mesure, considered the power that they han yeve yow upon hemself.

Conj (and) – A (as touchynge) – Conj (that) – S (ye) – V (seyn) – iO (ye) – V (wole exile) – dO (youre adversaries)
Conj (that) – V (thynketh) – iO (me) – A (muchel) – A (agyn… mesure)
A (considered the power) – conj (that) – S (they) – V (han yeve) – iO (yow) – A (upon hemself)

45. And it is writen that 'he is worthy to lesen his privilege that mysuseth the myght and the power that is yeven hym'.

Conj (and) – S (it) – V (is writen) – dO (that…him)
Conj (that) – S (he) – V (is) – A (worthy) – V (to lesen) – dO (his privilege)
S (that) – V (mysuseth) – dO (the…hym)
S (the…power) – conj (that) – V (is yeven) – iO (hym)

46. And I sette cas ye myghte enjoyne hem that peyne by right and by lawe, which I trowe ye mowe nat do; I seye ye mighte nat putten it to execucioun peraventure, and thanne were it likly to retourne to the werre as it was biforn.

Conj (and) – S (I) – V (sette) – dO (cas)
S (ye) – V (myghte enjoyne) – iO (hem) – dO (thay peyne) – A (by…lawe)
A (which) – S (I) – V (trowe) – dO (ye…do)
S (ye) – V (mowe) – neg (nat) – V (do)
S (I) – V (seye) – dO (ye mighte…peraventure)
S (ye) – V (mighte) – neg (nat) – V (putten) – dO (it) – A (to execucioun) – A (peraventure)
Conj (and) – A (thanne) – V (were) – S (it) – A (likly) – V (to retourne) – A (to…biforn)
A (to…were) – A (as) – S (it) – V (was biforn)

47. And therfore, if ye wole that men do yow obeisance, ye moste deemen moore curteisly; this is to seyn, ye moste yeven moore esy sentences and juggementz.

Conj (and) – A (therfore) – A (if) – S (ye) – V (wole) – dO (that…obeisance)
Conj (that) – S (men) – V (do) – iO (yow) – dO (obeisance)
S (ye) – V (moste deemen) – A (moore curteisly)
S (this) – V (is to seyn)
S (ye) – V (moste yeven) – dO (moore…juggementz)

48. For it is writen that 'he that moost curteisly comandeth, to hym men moost obeyen'.

A (for) – S (it) – V (is writen) – dO (that…obeyen)
Conj (that) – S (he) – conj (that) – A (moost curteisly) – V (comandeth) – A (to…obeyen)
A (to hym) – S (men) – V (moost obeyen)

49. And therfore I prey yow that in this necessitee and in this nede ye caste yow to overcome youre herte.

Conj (and) – A (therfore) – S (I) – V (prey) – iO (yow) – dO (that…herte)
Conj (that) – A (in…nede) – S (ye) – V (caste) – dO (yow) – V (to overcome) – dO (youre herte)

50. For Senec seith that 'he that overcometh his herte overcometh twies'.

A (for) – S (Senec) – V (seith) – dO (that…twies)
Conj (that) – S (he) – conj (that) – V (overcometh) – dO (his herte) – V (overcometh) – A (twies)

51. And Tullius seith, 'Ther is no thyng so comendable in a greet lord as whan he is debonaire and meeke, and appeseth him lightly'.

Conj (and) – S (Tullius) – V (seith)
S (ther) – V (is) – dO (no thyng) – A (so comendable) – A (in…lord)
A (as whan) – S (he) – V (is) – A (debonaire and meeke)
Conj (and) – V (appeseth) – iO (him) – A (lightly)

52. And I prey yow that ye wole forbere now to do vengeance, in swich a manere that youre goode name may be kept and conserved, and that men mowe have cause and mateere to preyse yow of pitee and of mercy, and that ye have no cause to repente yow of thyng that ye doon.

Conj (and) – S (I) – V (prey) – iO (yow) – dO (that…conserved)
Conj (that) – S (ye) – V (wole forbere) – A (now) – V (to do) – dO (vengeance) – A (in…conserved)
A (in…manere) – conj (that) – S (youre goode name) – V (may …conserved)
Conj (and) – conj (that) – S (men) – V (mowe have) – dO (cause and mateere) – V (to preyse) – iO (yow) – A (of…mercy)
Conj (and) – conj (that) – S (ye) – V (have) – dO (no…doon)
S (no cause) – V (to repente) – iO (yow) – A (of…doon)
A (of thyng) – conj (that) – S (ye) – V (doon)

53. For Senec seith, 'He overcometh in an yvel manere that repenteth hym of his victorie'.

A (for) – S (Senec) – V (seith)
S (he) – V (overcometh) – A (in…manere) – conj (that) – V (repenteth) – iO (hym) – A (of his victorie)

54. Wherfore I pray yow, lat mercy been in youre herte, to th' effect and entente that God Almighty have mercy on yow in his laste juggement.

A (wherfore) – S (I) – V (pray) – iO (yow)
V (lat) – dO (mercy) – V (been) – A (in youre herte)
A (to…entente) – conj (that) – S (God Almighty) – V (have) – dO (mercy) – A (on yow) – A (in…juggement)

55. For Seint Jame seith in his Epistle: 'Juggement withouten mercy shal be doon to hym that hath no mercy of another wight'."

A (for) – S (Seint Jame) – V (seith) – A (in his Epistle)
S (Juggement…mercy) – V (shal be doon) – A (to hym) – conj (that) – V (hath) – dO (no…wight)

56. Whanne Melibee hadde herd the grete skiles and resouns of dame Prudence, and hire wise informaciouns and techynges, his herte gan enclyne to the wil of his wif, considerynge hir trewe entente, and conformed hym anon, and assented fully to werken after hir conseil, and thonked God, of whom procedeth al vertu and alle goodnesse, that hym sente a wyf of so greet discrecioun.

A (whanne) – S (Melibee) – V (hadde herd) – dO (the…resouns) – A (of…Prudence)
Conj (and) – dO (hire…techynges)
S (his herte) – V (gan enclyne) – A (to… wif) – V (considerynge) – dO (hir…entente)
Conj (and) – V (conformed) – dO (hym) – A (anon)
Conj (and) – V (assented) – A (fully) – V (to werken) – A (after…conseil)
Conj (and) – V (thonked) – dO (God) – A (of…goodnesse)
A (of) – S (whom) – V (procedeth) – dO (al…goodnesse)
S (that) – iO (hym) – V (sente) – dO (a… discrecioun)

57. And whan the day cam that his adversaries sholde appieren in his presence, he spak unto hem ful goodly, and seyde in this wyse:

Conj (and) – A (whan) – S (the day) – V (cam)
Conj (that) – S (his adversaries) – V (sholde appieren) – A (in his presence)
S (he) – V (spak) – A (unto hem) – A (ful goodly)
Conj (and) – V (seyde) – A (in this wyse)

58. Al be it so that of youre pride and heigh presumpcioun and folie, and of youre necligence and unkonnynge, ye have mysborn yow and trespassed unto me, yet for as muche as I see and biholde youre grete humylitee and that ye been sory and repentant of youre giltes, it constreyneth me to doon yow Grace and mercy.

A (al) – V (be) – S (it) – A (so) – dO (that…me)
Conj (that) – A (of…folie) – conj (and) – A (of…unkonnynge) – S (ye) – V (have mysborn) – iO (yow) – conj (and) – V (trespassed) – A (unto me)
A (yet) – A (for…as) – S (I) – V (see…biholde) – dO (youre…humylitee)
Conj (and) – conj (that) – S (ye) – V (been) – A (sory…repentant) – A (of…giltes)

S (it) – V (constreyneth) – iO (me) – V (to doon) – iO (yow) – dO (Grace…mercy)

59. Wherfore I receyve yow to my grace and foryeve yow outrely alle the offenses, injuries, and wronges that ye have doon agayn me and myne, to this effect and to this ende, that God of his endelees mercy wole at the tyme of oure diynge foryeven us oure giltes that we han trespassed to hym in this wrecched world.

A (wherfore) – S (I) – V (receyve) – dO (yow) – A (to my grace)
Conj (and) – V (foryeve) – iO (yow) – A (outrely) – dO (alle…wronges)
Conj (that) – S (ye) – V (have doon) – A (agayn… mine)
A (to… ende) – conj (that) – S (God) – A (of …mercy) – V (wole) – A (at…diynge) – V (foryeven) – iO (us) – dO (oure giltes)
conj (that) – S (we) – V (han trespassed) – A (to hym) – A (in…world)

60. For doutelees, if we be sory and repentant of the synnes and giltes which we han trespassed in the sighte of oure Lord God, he is so free and so merciable that he wole foryeven us oure giltes and bryngen us to the blisse that nevere hath ende.

A (for doutelees) – A (if) – S (we) – V (be) – A (sory…God)
A (sory…repenant) – A (of…giltes) – conj (which) – S (we) – V (han trespassed) – A (in… God)
S (he) – V (is) – A (so…merciable)
Conj (that) – S (he) – V (wole foryeven) – iO (us) – dO (oure giltes)
Conj (and) – V (bryngen) – iO (us) – A (to…ende)

Appendix B

The Parson's Tale

1. By that the Maunciple hadde his tale al ended, the sonne fro the south lyne was descended so lowe that he nas nat, to my sighte, degrees nyne and twenty as in highte.

   A (by) - conj (that) - S (the Maunciple) – V (hadde) – dO (his tale) – A (al) – V (ended)
   S (the sonne) – A (fro…lyne) – V (was descended) – A (so lowe)
   Conj (that) – S (he) – V (nas) – negative (not) – A (to my sighte) – dO (degrees…twenty) – A (as in highte)

2. Foure of the clokke, it was tho, as I gesse, for ellevene foot, or litel moore or lesse, my shadwe was at thilke tyme, as there of swiche feet as my lengthe parted were in six feet equal of proporcioun.

   A (foure…clokke) – S (it) – V (was) – A (tho) – A (as I gesse)
   A (as) – S (I) – V (gesse)
   A (for…lesse) – S (my shadwe) – V (was) – A (at thilke tyme)
   A (as…as) – S (my lengthe) – V (parted were) – A (in…feet) – A (equal…proporcioun)

3. Therwith the moones exaltacioun – I meene Libra – alwey gan ascende as we were entryng at a thropes ende; for which oure Hoost, as he was wont to gye, as in this caas, oure joly compaignye, seyde in this wise:

   A (therwith) – S (the…exaltacioun)
   S (I) – V (meene) – dO (Libra)
   A (alwey) – V (gan ascende) – A (as…ende)
   A (as) – S (we) – V (were entryng) – A (at…ende)
   A (for which) – S (oure Hoost) – A (as…gye)
   A (as) – S (he) – V (was…gye)
   A (as…caas) – iO (oure…compaignye) – V (seyde) – A (in this wise)

4. "Lordynges everichoon, now lakketh us no tales mo than oon.

   Vocative (lordynges everichoon) – A (now) – V (lakketh) – iO (us) – dO (no…oon)

5. Fulfilled is my sentence and my decree; I trowe that we han herd of ech decree; almost fulfild is al myn ordinaunce.

   V (fulfilled is) – S (my…decree)
   S (I) – V (trowe) – dO (that…decree)
   Conjunction (that) – S (we) – V (han herd) – A (of ech decree)
   A (almost fulfild) – V (is) – S (al…ordinaunce)

6. I pray to God, so yeve hym right good chaunce, that telleth this tale to us lustily.

    S (I) – V (pray) – A (to God) – A (so…chaunce)
    A (so) – V (yeve) – iO (hym) – dO (right good chaunce)
    S (that) – V (telleth) – dO (this tale) – A (to us) – A (lustily)

7. "Sire preest," quod he, "artow a vicary?

    Vocative (sire preest)
    V (quod) – S (he)
    V+S (artow) – dO (a vicary)

8. Or arte a person?

    A (or) – V+S (arte) – dO (a person)

9. Sey sooth, by thy fey!

    V (sey) – A (sooth) – A (by thy fey)

10. Be what thou be, ne breke thou nat oure pley; for every man, save thou, hath toold his tale.

    V (be) – A (what) – S (thou) – V (be)
    Neg (ne) – V (breke) – S (thou) – neg (nat) – dO (oure pley)
    A (for) – S (every man) – A (save thou) – V (hath toold) – dO (his tale)

11. Unbokele, and shewe us what is in thy male; for trewely, me thynketh by thy cheere thou sholdest knytte up wel a greet mateere.

    V (unbokele and shewe) – iO (us) – A (what…male)
    A (for trewely) – iO (me) – V (thynketh) – A (by thy cheere) – dO (thou…mateere)
    S (thou) – V (sholdest knytte up) – A (wel) – dO (a greet mateere)

12. Telle us a fable anon, for cokkes bones!"

    V (telle) – iO (us) – dO (a fable) – A (anon) – A (for cokkes bones)

13. This persoun answerde, al atones, "Thou getest fable noon ytoold for me; for Paul, that writeth unto Thymothee, repreveth hem that weyven soothfastnesse and tellen fables and swich wrecchednesse.

    S (this persoun) – V (answerde) – A (al atones)
    S (thou) – V (getest) – dO (fable noon) – V (ytoold) – A (for me)
    A (for) – S (Paul) – conj (that) – V (writeth) – A (unto Thymothee)
    V (repreveth) – S (hem) – conj (that) – V (weyven) – dO (soothfastnesse)
    conj (and) – V (tellen) – dO (fables…wrecchednesse)

14. Why sholde I sowen draf out of my fest, whan I may sowen whete, if that me lest?

A (why) – V (sholde) – S (I) – V (sowen) – dO (draf) – A (out…fest)
A (whan) – S (I) – V (may sowen) – dO (whete) – A (if…lest)
Conj (if) – S (that) – iO (me) – V (lest)

15. For which I seye, if that yow list to heere moralitee and vertuous mateere, and thanne
that ye wol yeve me audience, I wol ful fayn, at Cristes reverence, do yow plesaunce
leefful, as I kan.

A (for which) – S (I) – V (seye)
A (if) – conj (that) – S (yow) – V (list to heere) – dO (moralitee…mateere)
Conj (and) – A (thanne) – conj (that) – S (ye) – V (wol yeve) – iO (me) – dO
(audience)
S (I) – V (wol) – A (ful fayn) – A (at Cristes reverence) – V (do) – iO (yow) – dO
(plesaunce leefful) – A (as I kan)
A (as) – S (I) – V (kan)

16. But trusteth wel, I am a Southren man; I kan nat geeste 'rum, ram, ruf,' by lettre, ne,
God woot, rym holde I but litel bettre; and therfor, if yow list – I wol nat glose – I
wol yow telle a myrie tale in prose to knytte up al this feeste, and make an ende.

Conj (but) – V (trusteth) – A (wel)
S (I) – V (am) – dO (a Southren man)
S (I) – V (kan) – neg (ne) – V (geeste) – dO (rum, ram, ruf) – A (by lettre)
Neg (ne) – S (God) – V (woot)
dO (rym) – V (holde) – S (I) – conj (but) – A (litel bettre)
Conj (and) – A (therfore) – A (if) – S (yow) – V (list)
S (I) – V (wol) – neg (nat) – V (glose)
S (I) – V (wol) – iO (yow) – V (telle) – dO (a…prose) – V (to knytte) – A (up…feeste)
Conj (and) – V (make) – dO (an ende)

17. And Jhesu, for his grace, wit me sende to shewe yow the wey, in this viage, of thilke
parfit glorious pilgrymage that highte Jerusalem celestial.

Conj (and) – S (Jhesu) – A (for his grace) – dO (wit) – iO (me) – V (sende)
V (to shewe) – iO (yow) – dO (the wey) – A (in this viage) – A (of…pilgrymage)
S (that) – V (highte) – dO (Jerusalem celestial)

18. And if ye vouche sauf, anon I shal bigynne upon my tale, for which I preye telle youre
avys; I kan no bettre seye.

Conj (and) – A (if) – S (ye) – V (vouche sauf)
A (anon) – S (I) – V (shal bigynne) – A (upon my tale)
A (for which) – S (I) – V (preye telle) – dO (youre avys)
S (I) – V (kan) –A (no bettre) – V (seye)

19. "But nathelees, this meditacioun I putte it ay under correccioun of clerkes, for I am nat
textueel; I take but the sentence, trusteth weel.

Conj (but) – A (natheless) – dO (this meditacioun) – S (I) – V (putte) – dO (it) – A (ay…clerkes)
A (for) – S (I) – V (am) – neg (nat) – A (textueel)
S (I) – V (take) – conj (but) – dO (the sentence)
V (trusteth) – A (weel)

20. Therfore I make protestacioun that I wol stonde to correccioun."

    A (therfore) – S (I) – V (make) – dO (protestacioun)
    Conj (that) – S (I) – V (wol stonde) – A (to correccioun)

21. Agayn God it is whan a man gruccheth agayn the peyne of helle, or agayns poverte, or los of catel, or agayn reyn or tempest; or elles gruccheth that shrewes han prosperitee, or elles for that goode men han adversitee.

    A (agayn God) – S (it) – V (is) – A (whan…tempes)
    A (whan) – S (a man) – V (gruccheth) – A (agayn…tempest)
    A (or elles – V (grucched) – dO (that…prosperitee)
    Conj (that) – S (shrewes) – V (han) – dO (prosperitee)
    A (or elles) – A (for…adversitee)
    A (or elles) – A (for) – conj (that) – S (goode men) – V (han) – dO (adversitee)

22. And alle thise thynges sholde man suffre paciently, for they comen by the rightful juggement and ordinaunce of God.

    Conj (and) – dO (alle…thynges) – V (sholde) – S (man) – V (suffre) – A (paciently)
    A (for) – S (they) – V (comen) – A (by…God)

23. Somtyme comth grucching of avarice; as Judas grucched agayns the Magdaleyne whan she enoynted the heved of oure Lord Jhesu Crist with hir precious oynement.

    A (somtyme) – V (comth) – S (grucching) – A (of avarice)
    A (as) – S (Judas) – V (grucched) – A (agayns…Magdaleyne) – A (whan…oynement)
    A (whan) – S (she) – V enoynted) – dO (the…Crist) – A (with…oynement)

24. This manere murmure is swich as wan man gruccheth of goodnesse that hymself dooth, or that oother folk doon of hir owene catel.

    S (this…murmure) – V (is) – A (swich)
    A (as whan) – S (man) – V (gruccheth) – A (of…goodnesse)
    Conj (that) – S (hymself) – V (dooth)
    Conj (or) – conj (that) – S (oother folk) – V (doon) – A (of…catel)

25. Somtyme comth murmure of Pride, as whan Simon the Pharisse gruchched agayn the Magdaleyne, whan she approched to Jhesu Crist, and weep at his feet for hire synnes.

    A (somtyme) – V (comth) – S (murmure) – A (of Pride)
    A (as whan) – S (Simon…Pharisse) – V (grucched) – A (agayn…Magdaleyne)
    A (whan) – S (she) – V (approched) – A (to…Crist)

Conj (and) – V (weep) – A (at…feet) – A (for…synnes)

26. And somtyme grucchyng sourdeth of Envye, whan men discovereth a mannes harm that was pryvee, or bereth hym on hond thyng that is fals.

Conj (and) – A (somtyme) – S (grucchyng) – V (sourdeth) – A (of Envye)
A (whan) – S (men) – V (discovereth) – dO (a…pryvee)
S (a…harm) – conj (that) – V (was) – dO (pryvee)
Conj (or) – V (bereth) – iO (hym) – A (on hond) – dO (thyng) – conj (that) – V (is) – A (fals)

27. Murmure eek is ofte amonges servauntz that grucchen whan hir sovereyns bidden hem doon leveful thynges; and forasmuche as they dar nat openly withseye the comaundementz of hir sovereyns, yet wol they seyn harm, and grucche, and murmure prively for verray despit; whiche wordes men clepen the develes *Pater noster*, though so be that the devel ne hadde nevere *Pater noster*, but that lewed folk yeven it swich a name.

S (murmure) – A (eek) – V (is) – A (ofte) – A (amonges servauntz)
Conj (that) – V (grucchen) – A (whan…thynges)
A (whan) – S (hir sovereyns) – V (bidden) – iO (hem) – V (doon) – dO (leveful thynges)
Conj (and) – A (forasmuche as) – S (they) – V (dar) – neg (nat) – A (openly) – V (withseye) – dO (the…sovereyns)
A (yet) – V (wol) – S (they) – V (seyn) – dO (harm)
Conj (and) – V (grucche) – A (prively) – A (for…despit)
dO (whiche wordes) – S (men) – V (clepen) – dO (the…*noster*)
Conj (though) – A (so) – V (be) – conj (that) – S (the devel) – neg (ne) – V (hadde) – A (nevere) – dO (*Pater noster*)
Conj (but) – conj (that) – S (lewed folk) – V (yeven) – iO (it) – dO (swich…name)

28. Somtyme it comth of Ire or prive hate, that norisseth rancour in herte, as afterward I shal declare.

A (somtyme) – S (it) – V (comth) – A (of…hate)
Conj (that) – V (norisseth) – dO (rancour) – A (in herte)
A (as afterward) – S (I) – V (shal declare)

29. Thanne cometh eek bitternesse of herte, thurgh which bitternesse every good dede of his neighebor semeth to hym bitter and unsavory.

A (thanne) – V (cometh) – A (eek) – S (bitternesse) – A (of herte)
A (thurgh…bitternesse) – S (every…neighebor) – V (semeth) – A (to hym) – pred (bitter…unsavoury)

30. Thanne cometh discord that unbyndeth alle manere of freendshipe.

A (thanne) – V (cometh) – S (discord) – dO (that…freendshipe)
Conj (that) – V (unbyndeth) – dO (allle…freendshipe)

31. Thanne comth scornynge of his neighebor, al do he never so weel.

   A (thanne) – V (comth) – S (scornynge) – A (of his neighebor)
   A (al) – V (do) – S (he) – A (never…weel)

32. Thanne comth accusynge, as whan man seketh occasioun to anoyen his neighebor, which that is lyk the craft of the devel, that waiteth bothe nyght and day to accusen us alle.

   A (thanne) – V (comth) – S (accusynge)
   A (as whan) – S (man) – V (seketh) – dO (occasioun) – V (to anoyen) – iO (his neighebor)
   A (which) – conj (that) – V (is) – A (lyk…devel)
   Conj (that) – V (waiteth) – A (bothe…day) – V (to accusen) – iO (us alle)

33. Thanne comth malignitee, thurgh which a man anoyeth his neighebor prively, if he may; and if he noght may, algate his wikked wil ne shal nat wante, as for to brennen his hous pryvely, or empoysone or sleen his beestes, and semblable thynges.

   A (thanne) – V (comth) – S (malignitee)
   A (thurgh which) – S (a man) – V (anoyeth) – dO (his neighebor) – A (prively)
   A (if) – S (she) – V (may)
   Conj (and) – A (if) – S (he) – neg (noght) – V (may)
   A (algate) – S (his…wil) – neg (ne) – V (shal) – neg (nat) – V (wante)
   A (as for) – V (to brennen) – dO (this hous) – A (pryvely)
   Conj (or) – V (empoysone) – conj (or) – V (sleen) – dO (this…thynges)

34. Now wol I speke of remedie agayns this foule synne of Envye.

   A (now) – V (wol) – S (I) – V (speke) – A (of remedie) – A (agayns…Envye)

35. First is the love of God principal and lovyng of his neighebor as himself, for soothly that oon ne may nat been withoute that oother.

   A (first) – V (is) – S (the….himself)
   A (for soothly) – S (that oon) – neg (ne) – V (may) – neg (nat) – V (been) – A (withoute…oother)

36. And truste wel that in the name of thy neighebor thou shalt understonde the name of thy brother; for certes alle we have o fader flesshly, and o mooder – that is to seyn, Adam and Eve – and eek o fader espiritueel, and that is God of hevene.

   Conj (and) – V (truste) – A (wel) – dO (that…brother)
   Conj (that) – A (in…neighebor) – S (thou) – V (shalt understonde) – dO (the…brother)
   A (for certes) – S (alle we) – V (have) – dO (o…mooder)
   S (that) – V (is…seyn) – pred (Adam…Eve)
   Conj (and) – A (eek) – dO (o…espiritueel)

Conj (and) – S (that) –V (is) – pred (God…hevene)

37. Thy neighebor artow holden for to love, and wilne hym alle goodnesse; and therfore seith God, "Love thy neighebor as thyselve" – that is to seyn, to salvacioun bothe of lyf and of soule.

    dO (thy neighebor) – V+S (artow) – V (holden) – A (for…love)
    Conj (and) – V (wilne) – iO (hym) – dO (alle goodnesse)
    Conj (and) – A (therfore) – V (seith) – S (God)
    V (love) – dO (thy neighebor) – A (as thyselve)
    S (that) – V (is…seyn) – A (to…soule)

38. And mooreover thou shalt love hym in word, and in benigne amonestynge and chastisynge, and conforten hym in his anoyes, and preye for hym with al thyn herte.

    Conj (and) – A (mooreover) – S (thou) – V (shalt love) – iO (hym) – A (in word)
    Conj (and) – A (in…chastisynge)
    Conj (and) – V (conforten) – iO (hym) – A (in…anoyes)
    Conj (and) – V (preye) – A (for hym) – A (with…herte)

39. And in dede thou shalt love hym in swich wise that thou shalt doon to hym in charitee as thou woldest that it were doon to thyn owene persone.

    Conj (and) – A (in dede) – S (thou) – V (shalt love) – iO (hym) – A (in…wise)
    Conj (that) – S (thou) – V (shalt doon) – A (to hym) – A (in charitee) – A (as…persone)
    A (as) – S (thou) – V (woldest) – dO (that…persone)
    Conj (that) – S (it) – V (were doon) – A (to…persone)

40. And therfore thou ne shalt doon hym no damage in wikked word, ne harm in his body, ne in his catel, ne in his soule, by entissyng of wikked ensample.

    Conj (and) – A (therefor) – S (thou) – neg (ne) – V (shalt doon) – iO (hym) – dO (no damage) – A (in…word)
    Neg (ne) – dO (harm) – A (in…body)
    Neg (ne) – A (in…catel)
    Neg (ne) – A (in..soule)
    A (by entissyng) – A (of…ensample)

41. And therfore seith Seint Paul, "Clothe yow, as they that been chosen of God, in herte of misericorde, debonairetee, suffraunce, and swich manere of clothynge," of whiche Jhesu Crist is moore apayed than of heyres, or haubergeouns, or hauberkes.

    Conj (and) – A (therfore) – V (seith) – S (Seint Paul)
    V (clothe) – dO (yow) – A (as…God)
    A (as) – S (they) – conj (that) – V (han…chosen) – A (of God) – A (in…suffraunce) – conj (and) – A (swich…clothynge)
    A (of whiche) – S (Jhesu Crist) – V (is) – A (moore) – A (apayed) – conj (than) – A (of…hauberkes)

42. Thanne is discipline eek in knokkynge of thy brest, in scourgynge with yerdes, in knelynges, in tribulaciouns, in suffrynge paciently wronges that been doon to thee, and eek in pacient suffraunce of maladies, or lesynge of worldly catel, or of wyf, or of child, or othere freendes.

A (thanne) – V (is) – S (discipline) – A (eek) – A (in…brest) – A (in…yerdes) – A (in knelynges) – A (in tribulaciouns) – A (in…thee)
A (in…wronges) – conj (that) – V (been doon) – A (to thee)
Conj (and) – A (eek) – A (in…maladies) – A (or…catel) – A (or..wyf) – A (or…child) – A (or…freendes)

43. Thanne shaltow understonde whiche thynges destourben penaunce; and this is in foure maneres: that is, drede, shame, hope, and wanhope, that is desperacion.

A (thanne) – V+S (shaltow) – V (understonde) – dO (whiche…penaunce)
A (whiche) – S (thynges) – V (destourben) – dO (penaunce)
Conj (and) – S (this) – V (is) – A (in…maneres)
S (that) – V (is) – A (drede…wanhope)
S (that) – V (is) – A (desperacion)

44. And for to speke first of drede, for which he weneth that he may suffre no penaunce; ther-agayns is remedie for to thynke that bodily penaunce is but short and litel at regard of the peyne of helle, that is so crueel and so long that it lasteth withouten ende.

Conj (and) – A (for) – V (to speke) – A (first) – A (of drede)
A (for which) – S (he) – V (weneth) – dO (that…penaunce)
Conj (that) – S (he) – V (may suffre) – dO (no penaunce)
A (ther-agayns) – V (is) – S (remedie)
A (for) – V (to thynke) – conj (that) – S (bodily penaunce) – V (is) – conj (but) – A (short…litel) – A (at…helle)
S (that) – V (is) – A (so…long)
Conj (that) – S (it) – V (lasteth) – A (withouten ende)

45. Now again the shame that a man hath to shryven hym, and namely thise ypocrites that wolden been holden so parfite that they han no nede to shryven hem; agayns that shame sholde a man thynke that, by wey of resoun, that he that hath nat been shamed to doon foule thinges, certes hym oghte nat been ashamed to do faire thynges, and that is confessiouns.

A (now) – A (again…shame) – conj (that) – S (a man) – V (hath…shryven) – iO (hym)
Conj (and) – A (namely) – S (thise ypocrites) – conj (that) – V (wolden…holden) – A (so parfite)
Conj (that) – S (they) – V (han) – dO (no nede) – V (to shryven) – iO (hem)
A (agayns…shame) – V (sholde) – S (a man) – V (thynke)
Conj (that) – A (by…resoun)
Conj (that) – S (he) – conj (that) – V (hath) – neg (nat) – V (been…doon) – dO (foule thinges)

A (certes) – iO (hym) – V (oghte) – neg (nat) – V (been) – A (ashamed) – V (to do) – dO (faire thynges)
Conj (and) – S (that) – V (is) – dO (confessiouns)

46. A man sholde eek thynke that God seeth and woot alle his thoghtes and alle his werkes, to hym may no thyng been hyd ne covered.

S (a man) – V (sholde) – A (eek) – V (thynke) – dO (that…werkes)
Conj (that) – S (God) – V (seeth…woot) – dO (alle…werkes)
A (to hym) – V (may) – S (no thyng) – V (been…covered)

47. Men sholden eek remembren hem of the shame that is to come at the day of doom to hem that been nat penitent and shryven in this present lyf.

S (men) – V (sholden) – A (eek) – V (remembren) – iO (hem) – A (of…shame)
Conj (that) – V (is…come) – A (at…doom) – A (to hem)
Conj (that) – V (been) – neg (nat) – dO (penitent…shryven) – A (in…lyf)

48. For alle the creatures in hevene, in erthe, and in helle shullen seen apertly al that they hyden in this world.

A (for) – S (alle…creatures) – A (in…helle) – V (shullen seen) – A (apertly) – dO (al…hyden) – A (in…world)
A (al) – conj (that) – S (they) – V (hyden) – A (in…world)

49. Now for to speken of the hope of hem that been necligent and slowe to shryven hem, that stant in two maneres.

A (now) – A (for) – V (to speken) – A (of…hope) – A (of hem)
Conj (that) – V (been) – A (necligent…slowe) – V (to shryven) – iO (hem)
Conj (that) – V (stant) – A (in…maneres)

50. That oon is that he hopeth for to lyve longe and for to purchasen muche richesse for his delit, and thanne he wol shryven hym; and as he seith, hym semeth thanne tymely ynough to come to shrifte.

S (that oon) – V (is) – dO (that…longe)
Conj (that) – S (he) – V (hopeth) – A (for) – V (to lyve) – A (longe)
Conj (and) – A (for) – V (to purchasen) – dO (muche richesse) – A (for…delit)
Conj (and) – A (thanne) – S (he) – V (wol shryven) – iO (hym)
Conj (and) – A (as) – S (he) – V (seith)
iO (hym) – V (semeth) – A (thanne) – A (tymely ynough) – V (to come) – A (to shrifte)

51. Another is of surquidrie that he hath in Cristes mercy.

A (another) – V (is) – A (of surquidrie)
Conj (that) – S (he) – V (hath) – A (in…mercy)

52. Agayns the firste vice, he shal thynke that oure lif is in no sikernesse, and eek that alle the richesses in this world ben in aventure, and passen as a shadwe on the wal; and, as seith Seint Gregorie, that it aperteneth to the grete righwisnesse of God that nevere shal the peyne stynte of hem that nevere wolde withdrawen hem fro synne, hir thankes, but ay continue in synne; for thilke perpetueel wil to do synne shul they han perpetueel peyne.

A (agayns…vice) – S (he) – V (shal thynke) – dO (that…sikernesse)
Conj (that) – S (oure lif) – V (is) – A (in…sikernesse)
Conj (and) – A (eek) – conj (that) – S (alle…richesses) – A (in…world) – V (ben) – A (in aventure)
Conj (and) – V (passen) – A (as…shadwe) – A (on…wal)
Conj (and) – A (as) – V (seith) – S (Seint Gregorie)
Conj (that) – S (it) – V (aperteneth) – A (to…God)
Conj (that) – A (nevere) – V (shal) – S (the peyne) – V (stynte) – A (of…thankes)
A (of) – S (hem) – conj (that) – A (nevere) – V (wolde withdrawen) – dO (hem) – A (fro…thankes)
Conj (but) – A (ay) – V (continue) – A (in synne)
A (for) – S (thilke…wil) – V (to do) – dO (synne)
V (shul) – S (they) – V (han) – dO (perpetueel peyne)

53. Wanhope is in two maneres: the firste wanhope is in the mercy of Crist; that oother is that they thynken that they ne myghte nat longe persevere in goodnesse.

S (wanhope) – V (is) – A (in…maneres)
S (the…wanhope) – V (is) – A (in…Crist)
S (that oother) – V (is) – A (that…goodnesse)
Conj (that) – S (they) – V (thynken) – dO (that…goodnesse)
Conj (that) – S (they) – neg (ne) – V (myghte) – neg (nat) – A (longe) – V (persevere) – A (in goodnesse)

54. The firste wanhope comth of that he demeth that he hath synned so greetly and so ofte, and so longe leyn in synne, that he shal nat be saved.

S (the…wanhope) – V (comth) – A (of…saved)
A (of) – conj (that) – S (he) – V (demeth) – dO (that…saved)
Conj (that) – S (he) – V (hath synned) – A (so…ofte)
Conj (and) – A (so longe) – V (leyn) – A (in synne)
Conj (that) – S (he) – V (shal) – neg (nat) – V (be saved)

55. Certes, agayns that cursed wanhope sholde he thynke that the passion of Jhesu Crist is moore strong for to unbynde than synne is strong for to bynde.

A (certes) – A (again…wanhope) – V (sholde) – S (he) – V (thynke) – dO (that…bynde)
Conj (that) – S (the…Crist) – V (is) – A (moore strong) – A (for…unbynde)
A (than) – S (synne) – V (is) – A (strong) – A (for…bynde)

56. Agayns the seconde wanhope he shal thynke that as ofte as he falleth he may arise

agayn by penitence.

A (agayns…wanhope) – S (he) – V (shal thynke) – dO (that…penitence)
Conj (that) – A (as…as) – S (he) – V (falleth)
S (he) – V (may arise) – A (agayn) – A (by penitence)

57. And though he never so longe have leyn in synne, the mercy of Crist is alwey redy to receiven hym to mercy.

Conj (and) – A (though) – S (he) – A (never) – A (so longe) – V (have leyn) – A (in synne)
S (the…Crist) – V (is) – A (alwey redy) – V (to receiven) – iO (hym) – A (to mercy)

58. Agayns the wanhope that he demeth that he sholde nat longe persevere in goodnesse, he shal thynke that the feblesse of the devel may nothyng doon, but if men wol suffren hym; and eek he shal han strengthe of the help of God, and of al hooly chirche, and of the proteccioun of aungels, if hym list.

A (agayns the wanhope) – conj (that) – S (he) – V (demeth) – dO (that…goodnesse)
Conj (that) – S (he) – V (sholde) – neg (nat) – A (longe) – V (persevere) – A (in goodnesse)
S (he) – V (shal thynke) – dO (that…doon)
Conj (that) – S (the feblesse) – A (of…devel) – V (may) – A (nothyng) – V (doon)
Conj (but) – A (if) – S (men) – V (wol suffren) – iO (hym)
Conj (and) – A (eek) – S (he) – V (shal han) – dO (strengthe) – A (of...aungels)
Conj (if) – iO (hym) – V (list)

59. Thanne shal men understonde what is the fruyt of penaunce; and, after the word of Jhesu Crist, it is the endelees blisse of hevene, ther joye hath no contrarioustee of wo ne grevaunce; ther alle harmes been passed of this present lyf; ther as is the sikernesse fro the peyne of helle; ther as is the blisful compaignye that rejoysen hem everemo, everich of otheres joye; ther as the body of man, that whilom was foul and derk, is moore cleer than the sonne; ther as the body, that whilom was syk, freele, and fieble, and mortal, is inmortal, and so strong and so hool that ther may no thyng apeyren it; ther as ne is neither hunger, thurst, ne coold, but every soule replenyssed with the sighte of the parfit knowynge of God.

A (thanne) – V (shal) – S (men) – V (understonde) – dO (what…penaunce)
S (what) – V (is) – dO (the…penaunce)
Conj (and) – A (after…Crist)
S (it) – V (is) – dO (the…hevene)
A (ther) – S (joye) – V (hath) – dO (no…grevaunce)
A (ther) – S (alle harmes) – V (been passed) – A (of…lyf)
A (ther as) – V (is) – S (the sikernesse) – A (fro…helle)
A (ther as) – V (is) – S (the blisful compaignye)
Conj (that) – V (rejoysen) – iO (hem) – A (everemo) – A (everich…joye)
A (ther as) – S (the body) – conj (that) – A (whilom) – V (was) – A (foul…derk) – V (is) – A (moore…sonne)
A (ther as) – S (the body) – conj (which) – A (whilom) – V (was) – A (syk…mortal) –

V (is) – A (inmortal) – conj (and) – A (so…it)
A (so…hool) – conj (that) – A (ther) – V (may) – S (no thyng) – V (apeyren) – dO (it)
A (ther as) – neg (ne) – V (is) – neg (neither) – S (hunger…coold)
Conj (but) – S (every soule) – V (replenyssed) – A (with…God)

60. This blisful regne may men purchace by poverte espiritueel, and the glorie by
lowenesse, the plentee of joye by hunger and thurst, and the reste by travaille, and the
lyf by deeth and mortificacion of synne.

dO (this…regne) – V (may) – S (men) – V (purchace) – A (by…espiritueel)
Conj (and) – dO (the glorie) – A (by lowenesse)
dO (the…joy) – A (by…thurst)
Conj (and) – dO (the reste) – A (by travaille)
Conj (and) – dO (the lyf) – A (by…synne)

Appendix C

A Treatise on the Astrolabe

1. Lyte Lowys my sone, I aperceyve wel by certeyne evydences thyn abilite to lerne sciences touching nombres and proporciouns; and as wel considre I thy besy praier in special to lerne the tretys of the Astrelabie.

   Vocative (Lyte…sone) – S (I) – V (aperceyve) – A (wel) – A (by…evydences) – dO (thyn…proporciouns)
   S (thyn abilite) – V (to lerne) – dO (sciences…proporciouns)
   Conjunction (and) – A (as wel) – V (considre) – S (I) – dO (thy besy prayer) – A (in special) – V (to lerne) – dO (the…Astrelabie)

2. Than for as moche as a philosofre saith, "he wrappith him in his frend, that condescendith to the rightfulle praiers of his frend", therefore have I yeven the a suffisant Astrolabie as for oure orizonte, compowned after the latitude of Oxenforde; upon which, by mediacioun of this litel tretys, I purpose to teche the a certein nombre of conclusions aperteynyng to the same instrument.

   Conjunct (than) – A (for…as) – S (a philosofre) – V (saith)
   S (he) – V (wrappith) – iO (him) – A (in his frend)
   S (that) – V (condescendith) – A (to…frend)
   A (therefore) – V (have) – S (I) – V (yeven) – iO (the) – dO (a…orizonte) – V (compowned) – A (after…Oxenforde)
   A (upon…tretys) – S (I) – V (purpose to teche) – iO (the) – dO (a…instrument)

3. I seie a certein nombre of conclusions, for thre causes.

   S (I) – V (seye) – dO (a…conclusions) – A (for thre causes)

4. The first cause is this: truste wel that alle the conclusions that han be founde or ellys possibly might be founde in so noble an instrument as is an Astrelabie ben unknowe parfitly to eny mortal man in this regioun, as I suppose.

   S (the first cause) – V (is) – dO (this)
   V (truste) – A (wel) – dO (that…regioun)
   Conj (that) – S (alle…that) – V (han be founde) – A (or ellys possibly) – V (might be founde) – A (in…Astrelabie)
   V (ben unknowe) – A (parfitly) – A (to…regioun)
   A (as) – S (I) – V (suppose)

5. Another cause is this, that sothly in any tretis of the Astrelabie that I have seyn, there be somme conclusions that wol not in alle thinges parformen her bihestes; and somme of hem ben to harde to thy tendir age of ten yeer to conceyve.

   dO (another cause) – V (is) – S (this)

Conj (that) – A (sothly…Astrelabie) – conj (that) – S (I) – V (have seyn)
S (there) – V (be) – dO (somme conclusions)
Conj (that) – V (wol) – neg (not) – A (in…thinges) – V (parformen) – dO (her bihestes)
Conj (and) – S (somme of hem) – V (ben) – A (to harde) – A (to…yeer) – V (to conceyve)

6. This tretis, divided in 5 parties, wol I shewe the under full light reules and naked wordes in Englissh, for Latyn canst thou yit but small, my litel sone.

    dO (this…parties) – V (wol) – S (I) – V (shewe) – iO (the) – A (under…Englissh)
    Conj (for) – dO (Latyn) – V (canst) – S (thou) – A (yit but small) – vocative (my litel sone)

7. But natheles suffise to the these trewe conclusions in Englissh as wel as sufficith to these noble clerkes Grekes these same conclusions in Grek; and to Arabiens in Arabik, and to Jewes in Ebrew, and to the Latyn folk in Latyn; whiche Latyn folk had hem first out of othere dyverse langages, and writen hem in her owne tunge, that is to seyn, in Latyn.

    Conj (but) – A (natheless) – V (suffise) – A (to the) – S (these…Englissh)
    A (as wel as) – V (sufficith) – A (to…Grekes) – S (these…Grek)
    Conj (and) – A (to Arabiens) – A (in Arabik)
    Conj (and) – A (to Jewes) – A (in Ebrew)
    Conj (and) – A (to…folk) – A (in Latyn)
    A (whiche) – S (Latyn folk) – V (had) – dO (hem) – A (first) – A (out…langages)
    Conj (and) – V (writen) – dO (hem) – A (in…tunge)
    S (that) – V (is to seyn) – A (in Latin)

8. And God woot that in alle these langages and in many moo han these conclusions ben suffisantly lerned and taught, and yit by diverse reules; right as diverse pathes leden diverse folk the righte way to Rome.

    Conj (and) – S (God) – V (woot) – dO (that…taught)
    Conj (that) – A (in…moo) – V (han) – S (these conclusions) – V (ben…taught)
    Conj (and) – A (yit) – A (by diverse reules)
    A (right as) – S (diverse pathes) – V (leden) – dO (diverse…Rome)

9. Now wol I preie mekely every discret persone that redith or herith this litel tretys to have my rude endityng for excusid, and my superfluite of wordes, for two causes.

    A (now) – V (wol) – S (I) – V (preie) – A (mekely) – iO (every…wordes)
    S (every discret persone) – conj (that) – V (redith or herith) – dO (this litel tretys) – V (to have) – dO (my rude endityng) – A (for excused)
    Conj (and) – dO (my…wordes) – A (for two causes)

10. The first cause is for that curious endityng and hard sentence is ful hevy at onys for such a child to lerne.

S (the first cause) – V (is) – A (for…lerne)
A (for) – conj (that) – S (curious…sentence) – V (is) – A (ful hevy) – A (at onys) – A (for…lerne)
Conj (for) – S (such a child) – V (to lerne)

11. And the secunde cause is this, that sothly me semith better to writen unto a child twyes a god sentence, than he forgete it onys.

Conj (and) – S (the secunde cause) – V (is) –dO (this)
Conj (that) – A (sothly) – iO (me) – V (semith) – A (better) – V (to writen) – A (unto a child) – A (twyes) – dO (a god sentence)
Conj (than) – S (he) – V (forgete) – dO (it) – A (onys)

12. And Lowys, yf so be that I shewe the in my lighte Englissh as trewe conclusions touching this mater, and not oonly as trewe but as many and as subtile conclusiouns, as ben shewid in Latyn in eny commune tretys of the Astrelabie, konne me the more thank.

Conj (and) – vocative (Lowys) – A (yf so) – V (be) – dO (that…mater)
Conj (that) – S (I) – V (shewe) – iO (the) – A (in…Englissh) – A (as…mater)
A (as trewe conclusions) – V (touching) – dO (this mater)
Conj (and) – negative (not) – A (oonly…trewe)
Conj (but) – A (as many) – conj (and) – A (as subtile conclusiouns)
Conj (as) – V (ben shewid) – A (in…Astelabie)
V (konne) – iO (me) – dO (the more) – V (thank)

13. And preie God save the king, that is lord of this langage, and alle that him feith berith and obeieth, everich in his degre, the more and the lasse.

Conj (and) – V (preie) – dO (God…langage)
S (God) – V (save) – dO (the…langage)
Conj (that) – V (is) – dO (lord) – A (of…langage)
Conj (and) – S (alle) – conj (that) – iO (him) – dO (feith) – V (berith…obeieth) – A (everich…degree) – A (the…lasse)

14. But considre wel that I ne usurpe not to have founden this werk of my labour or of myn engyn.

Conj (but) – V (considre) – A (wel) – dO (that…engyn)
Conj (that) – S (I) – neg (ne) – V (usurpe) – neg (not) – V (to have founden) – dO (this werk) – A (of…engyn)

15. I n'am but a lewd compilator of the labour of olde astrologiens, and have it translatid in myn Englissh oonly for thy doctrine.

S (I) – neg (n') – V (am) – conj (but) – dO (a…astrologiens)
Conj (and) – V (have) – iO (it) – V (translatid) – A (in myn Englissh) – A (only…doctrine)

16. And with this swerd shal I sleen envie.

Conj (and) – A (with this swerd) – V (shal) – S (I) – V (sleen) – dO (envie)

17. The firste partie of this tretys shal reherse the figures and the membres of thyn Astrelabie by cause that thou shalt have the gretter knowing of thyn oune instrument.

S (the…tretys) – V (shal reherse) – dO (the…membres) – A (of thyn Astrelabie)
A (by cause) – conj (that) – S (thou) – V (shalt have) – dO (the…instrument)

18. The secunde partie shal techen the worken the verrey practik of the forseide conclusiouns, as ferforth and as narwe as may be shewed in so small an instrument portatif aboute.

S (the secunde partie) – V (shal techen) – iO (the) – V (worken) – dO (the verrey practik) – A (of…conclusiouns)
A (as…as) – V (may be shewed) – A (in… aboute)

19. For wel woot every astrologien that smallist fraccions ne wol not be shewid in so small an instrument as in subtile tables calculed for a cause.

A (for) – A (wel) – V (woot) – S (every astrologien) – dO (that …cause)
Conj (that) – S (smallist fraccions) – neg (ne) – V (wol) – neg (not) – V (be shewid) – A (in…instrument)
A (as…tables) – V (calculed) - A (for a cause)

20. The thirde partie shal contene diverse tables of longitudes and latitudes of sterres fixe for the Astrelabie, and tables of the declinacions of the sonne, and tables of longitudes of citees and townes; and tables as well for the governaunce of a clokke, as for to fynde the altitude meridian; and many anothir notable conclusioun after the kalenders of the reverent clerkes, Frere J. Somer and Frere N. Lenne.

S (the thirde partie) – V (shal contene) – dO (diverse…latitudes) – A (of…Astrelabie)
Conj (and) – S (tables…sonne)
Conj (and) – S (tables…townes)
Conj (and) – S (tables) – A (as…clokke)
A (as for) – V (to fynde) – dO (the altitude meridian)
Conj (and) – S (many…conclusioun) – A (after the kalenders) – A (of…Lenne)

21. Rekne and knowe which is the day of thy month, and ley thy rewle up that same day, and than wol the verrey poynt of thy rewle sitten in the bordure upon the degre of thy sonne.

V (rekne…knowe) – dO (which…month)
A (which) – V (is) – dO (the…month)
Conj (and) – V (ley) – dO (thy rewle) – A (up…day)
Conj (and) – A (than) – V (wol) – S (the…rewle) – V (sitten) – A (in…sonne)

22. Ensample as thus:

   S (ensample) – A (as thus)

23. The yeer of oure Lord 1391, the 12 day of March at midday, I wolde knowe the degre of the sonne.

   A (the…midday) – S (I) – V (wolde knowe) – dO (the…sonne)

24. I soughte in the bakhalf of myn Astrelabie and fond the cercle of the daies, the whiche I knowe by the names of the monthes writen under the same cercle.

   S (I) – V (soughte) – A (in…Astrelabie)
   Conj (and) – V (fond) – dO (the…daies)
   dO (the wiche) – S (I) – V (knowe) – A (by…cercle)

25. Tho leyde I my reule over this forseide day, and fond the point of my reule in the bordure upon the firste degre of Aries, a litel within the degre.

   A (tho) – V (leyde) – S (I) – dO (my reule) – A (over…day)
   Conj (and) – V (fond) – dO (the…reule) – A (in…bordure) – A (upon…Aries) – A (a…degre)

26. And thus knowe I this conclusioun.

   Conj (and) – A (thus) – V (knowe) – S (I) – dO (this conclusioun)

27. Anothir day I wolde knowen the degre of my sonne, and this was at midday in the 13 day of December.

   A (anothir day) – S (I) – V (wolde knowen) – dO (the…sonne)
   Conj (and) – S (this) – V (was) – A (at…December)

28. I fond the day of the month in manere as I seide; tho leide I my rewle upon this forseide 13 day, and fond the point of my rewle in the bordure upon the firste degre of Capricorne a lite within the degre.

   S (I) – V (fond) – dO (the…month) – A (in…seide)
   A (in manere) – A (as) – S (I) – V (seide)
   A (tho) – V (leide) – S (I) – dO (my rewle) – A (upon…day)
   Conj (and) – V (fond) – dO (the…rewle) – A (in…bordure) – A (upon…Capricorne) – A (a…degre)

29. And than had I of this conclusioun the ful experience.

   Conj (and) – A (than) – V (had) – S (I) – A (of…conclusioun) – dO (the…experience)

30. Put the ryng of thyn Astrelabie upon thy right thombe, and turne thi lift syde ageyn the

light of the sonne; and remewe thy rewle up and doun til that the stremes of the sonne shine thorugh bothe holes of thi rewle.

V (put) – dO (the…Astrelabie) – A (upon…thombe)
Conj (and) – V (turne) – dO (thi…syde) – A (ageyn…sonne)
Conj (and) – V (remewe) – dO (thy rewle) – A (up…doun) – A (til…rewle)
A (til that) – S (the stremes) – A (of…sonne) – V (shine) – A (thorough…holes) – A (of…rewle)

31. Loke than how many degrees thy rule is areised fro the litel cros upon thin est lyne, and tak there the altitude of thi sonne.

V (loke) – A (than) – A (how…degrees) – S (thy rule) – V (is areised) – A (fro…lyne)
Conj (and) – V (tak) – A (there) – dO (the altitude) – A (of thi sonne)

32. And in this same wise maist thow knowe by night the altitude of the mone or of brighte sterres.

Conj (and) – A (in…wise) – V (maist) – S (thow) – V (knowe) – A (by night) – dO (the altitude) – A (of…sterres)

33. This chapitre is so generall evere in oon that there nedith no more declaracioun; but forget it not.

S (this chapitre) – V (is) – A (so generall) – A (evere in oon)
Conj (that) – S (there) – V (nedith) – dO (no…declaracioun)
Conj (but) – V (forget) – dO (it) – A (not)

34. Tak the altitude of the sonne whan the list, as I have seid, and set the degre of the sonne, in caas that it be beforn the myddel of the day, among thyn almykanteras on the est syde of thin Astrelabie; and if it be after the myddel of the day, set the degre of thy sonne upon the west syde.

V (tak) – dO (the…sonne) – A (whan) – iO (the) – V (list) – A (as…seid)
A (as) – S (I) – V (have seid)
Conj (and) – V (set) – dO (the…sonne) – A (in…day)
A (in caas) – conj (that) – S (it) – V (be) – A (beforn…day) – A (among thyn almykanteras) – A (on…Astrelabie)
Conj (and) – A (if) – S (it) – V (be) – A (after…day)
V (set) – dO (the…sonne) – A (upon…syde)

35. Tak this manere of settyng for a general rule, ones for evere.

V (tak) – dO (this…settyng) – A (for…rule) – A (ones…evere)

36. And whan thou hast set the degre of thy sonne upon as many almykanteras of height as was the altitude of the sonne taken by thy rule, ley over thi label upon the degre of the sonne; and than wol the point of thi labell sitte in the bordure upon the verrey tyde of the day.

Conj (and) – A (whan) – S (thou) – V (hast set) – dO (the…sonne) – A (upon…height)
– A (as…rule)
A (as) – V (was) – S (the…sonne) – V (taken) – A (by…rule)
V (ley) – A (over…label) – A (upon…degre) – A (of…sonne)
Conj (and) – A (than) – V (wol) – S (the…labell) – V (sitte) – A (in…bordure) – A
(upon…day)

37. The yeer of oure lord 1391, the 12 day of March, I wolde knowe the tyde of the day.

    A (the…March) – S (I) – V (wolde knowe) – dO (the…day)

38. I tok the altitude of my sonne, and fond that it was 25 degrees and 30 minutes of
    height in the bordure on the bak side.

    S (I) – V (tok) – dO (the…sonne)
    Conj (and) – V (fond) – dO (that…side)
    Conj (that) – S (it) – V (was) – dO (25…height) – A (in…bordure) – A (on…side)

39. Tho turned I myn Astrelabye, and by cause that it was beforn mydday, I turned my riet
    and sette the degre of the sonne, that is to seyn the first degre of Aries, on the right
    side of myn Astrelabye upon 25 degrees and 30 mynutes of height among myn
    almykanteras.

    A (tho) – V (turned) – S (I) – dO (myn Astrelabye)
    Conj (and) – A (by cause) – conj (that) – S (it) – V (was) – A (beforn mydday)
    S (I) – V (turned) – dO (my riet)
    Conj (and) – V (sette) – dO (the…sonne) – A (that…Aries)
    Conj (that) – V (is…seyn) – dO (the…Aries) – A (on…Astrelabye) – A
    (upon…almykanteras)

40. Tho leide I my label upon the degre of my sonne, and fond the point of my label in the
    bordure upon a capital lettre that is clepid an X.

    A (tho) – V (leide) – S (I) – dO (my label) – A (upon…sonne)
    Conj (and) – V (fond) – dO (the…label) – A (in…bordure) – A (upon…X)
    A (upon…lettre) – conj (that) – V (is clepid) – dO (an X)

41. The longitude of a climat is a lyne ymagined fro est to west ilike distant fro the
    equinoxiall.

    S (the…climat) – V (is) – dO (a…west) – A (ilike…equinoxiall)

42. And the latitude of a climat may be cleped the space of the erthe fro the begynnyng of
    the first clymat unto the verrey ende of the same clymat evene direct ageyns the pool
    artyke.

    Conj (and) – S (the…climat) – V (may…cleped) – dO (the…erthe) – A (fro…clymat)
    – A (unto…clymat) – A (evene…artyke)

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43. Thus sayn somme auctours; and somme of hem sayn that yf men clepe the latitude of a cuntrey the arch meridian that is contened or intercept bitwix the cenyth and the equinoxial, than say they that the distance fro the equinoxial unto the ende of a clymat evene ageynst the pool artik is the latitude of a clymat forsoothe.

A (thus) – V (sayn) – S (somme auctours)
Conj (and) – S (somme of hem) – V (sayn) – dO (that…forsoothe)
Conj (that) – A (yf) – S (men) – V (clepe) – iO (the…cuntrey) – dO (the...equinoxial)
A (than) – V (say) – S (they) – dO (that….forsoothe)
Conj (that) – S (the distance) – A (fro the equinoxial) – A (unto…clymat) – A (evene…artik) – V (is) – dO (the latitude) – A (of a clymat) – A (forsoothe)

44. Know by thin almenak the degre of the ecliptik of eny signe in which that the planete is rekned for to be, and that is clepid the degre of his longitude.

V (know) – A (by…almenak) – dO (the…ecliptic) – A (of…signe) – A (in…be)
A (in which) – conj (that) – S (the planete) – V (is…be)
Conj (and) – S (that) – V (is clepid) – dO (the…longitude)

45. And know also the degre of his latitude fro the ecliptik north or south.

Conj (and) – V (know) – A (also) – dO (the…latitude) – A (fro…south)

46. And by these ensamples folewynge in speciall maist thou worche in general in every signe of the zodiak:

Conj (and) – A (by…folewynge) – A (in speciall) – V (maist) – S (thou) – V (worche) – A (in general) – A (in…zodiac)

47. The degree of the longitude peraventure of Venus or of another planete was 1 of Capricorne, and the latitude of him was northward 4 degrees fro the ecliptik lyne.

S (the…planete) – V (was) – dO (1…Capricorne)
Conj (and) – S (the…him) – V (was) – A (northward 4 degrees) – A (fro…lyne)

48. Than tok I a subtil compas, and clepid that oo point of my compas, and that other point F.

A (than) – V (tok) – S (I) – dO (a…compas)
Conj (and) – V (clepid) – iO (that) – dO (oo…compas)
Conj (and) – iO (that other point) – dO (F)

49. Than tok I the point of A and sette it in the ecliptik lyne in my zodiak in the degre of the longitude of Venus, that is to seyn, in the 1 degre of Capricorne; and than sette I the point of F upward in the same signe by cause that latitude was north upon the latitude of Venus, that is to seyn, in the 4 degre fro the heved of Capricorne; and thus have I 4 degrees bitwixe my two prickes.

A (than) – V (tok) – S (I) – dO (the…A)

Conj (and) – V (sette) – dO (it) – A (in…zodiac) – A (in…Venus)
S (that) – V (is…seyn) – A (in…Capricorne)
Conj (and) – A (than) – V (sette) – S (I) – dO (the…F) – A (upward…signe) – A (by…Venus)
A (by cause) – conj (that) – S (latitude) – V (was) – A (north) – A (upon…Venus)
S (that) – V (is…seyn) – A (in…degree) – (fro…Capricorne)
Conj (and) – A (thus) – V (have) – S (I) – dO (4 degrees) – A (bitwixie…prickes)

50. Than leide I down softly my compas, and sette the degre of the longitude upon the orisonte; tho tok I and waxed my label in manere of a peire tables to receyve distinctly the prickes of my compas.

A (than) – V (leide) – S (I) – A (down softly) – dO (my compas)
Conj (and) – V (sette) – dO (the…longitude) – A (upon…orisonte)
A (tho) – V (tok) – S (I) – conj (and) – V (waxed) – iO (my label) – A (in…tables)
V (to receyve) – A (distinctly) – dO (the…compas)

51. Tho tok I thys forseide label, and leyde it fix over the degre of my longitude; tho tok I up my compas and sette the point of A in the wax on my label, as evene as I koude gesse, over the ecliptik lyne in the ende of the longitude, and sette the point of F endelong in my label upon the space of the latitude, inward and over the zodiak, that is to seyn northward fro the ecliptik.

A (tho) – V (tok) – S (I) – dO (thys…label)
Conj (and) – V (leyde) – iO (it) – A (fix…longitude)
A (tho) – V (tok) – S (I) – A (up…compas)
Conj (and) – V (sette) – dO (the…A) – A (in…label) – A (as…gesse) – A (over…longitude)
A (as evene as) – S (I) – V (koude gesse)
Conj (and) – V (sette) – dO (the…F) – A (endelong…label) – A (upon…latitude) – A (inward…zodiac)
S (that) – V (is to seyn) – A (northward…ecliptik)

52. Than leide I doun my compas, and loked wel in the wey upon the prickes of A and of F; tho turned I my ryet til that the pricke of F satt upon the orisonte; than saw I wel that the body of Venus in hir latitude of 4 degrees septemtrionals ascendid, in the ende of the 8 degre, in the heved of Capricorne.

A (than) – V (leide) – S (I) – A (doun) – dO (my compas)
Conj (and) – V (loked) – A (wel) – A (in the wey) – A (upon…F)
A (tho) – V (turned) – S (I) – dO (my ryet) – A (til…orisonte)
A (til) – conj (that) – S (the…F) – V (satt) – A (upon…orisonte)
A (than) – V (saw) – S (I) – A (wel) – dO (that…Capricorne)
Conj (that) – S (the…Venus) – A (in…septemtrionals) – V (ascendid) – A (in…degre) – A (in…Capricorne)

53. And *nota* that in this manere maist thou worche with any latitude septemtrional in alle signes.

Conj (and) – V (*nota*) – dO (that…signes)
Conj (that) – A (in…manere) – V (maist) – S (thou) – V (worche) – A (with…septemtrional) – A (in alle signes)

54. But sothly the latitude meridional of a planete in Capricorne ne may not be take by cause of the litel space bitwixe the ecliptyk and the bordure of the Astrelabie; but sothely in all othre signes it may.

Conj (but) – A (sothly) – S (the…Capricorne) – neg (ne) – V (may) – neg (not) – V (be take) – A (by…Astrelabie)
Conj (but) – A (sothely) – A (in…signes) – S (it) – V (may)

55. Also the degre peraventure of Jupiter, or of another planete, was in the first degre of Piscis in longitude, and his latitude was 2 degrees meridional; tho tok I the point of A and sette it in the first degre of Piscis on the ecliptik; and than sette I the point of F dounward in the same signe by cause that the latitude was south 2 degres, that is to seyn, fro the heved of Piscis; and thus have 2 degres bitwexe bothe prikkes.

A (also) – S (the…planete) – V (was) – A (in…longitude)
Conj (and) – S (his latitude) – V (was) – dO (2…meridional)
A (tho) – V (tok) – S (I) – dO (the…A)
Conj (and) – V (sette) – iO (it) – A (in…Piscis) – A (on the ecliptik)
Conj (and) – A (thanne) – V (sette) – S (I) – dO (the…F) – A (dounward…signe) – A (by…degrees)
A (by cause) – conj (that) – S (the latitude) – V (was) – A (south 2 degres)
S (that) – V (is to seyn) – A (fro…Piscis)
Conj (and) – A (thus) – V (have) – dO (2 degres) – A (bitwexe…prikkes)

56. Than sette I the degre of the longitude upon the orisonte; tho tok I my label, and leide it fix upon the degre of the longitude; tho sette I the point of A on my label evene over the ecliptik lyne in the ende of the degre of the longitude, and sette the point of F endlong in my label the space of 2 degres of the latitude outward fro the zodiak (this is to seyn southward fro the ecliptik toward the bordure), and turned my riet til that the pricke of F saat upon the orisonte.

A (than) – V (sette) – S (I) – dO (the…longitude) – A (upone…orisonte)
A (tho) – V (tok) – S (I) – dO (my label)
Conj (and) – V (leide) – iO (it) – A (fix…longitude)
A (tho) – V (sette) – S (I) – dO (the…label) – A (evene…longitude)
Conj (and) – V (sette) – dO (the…F) – A (endlong…zodiac)
S (this) – V (is…seyn) – A (southward…bordure)
Conj (and) – V (turned) – dO (my riet) – A (til…orisonte)
A (til) – conj (that) – S (the…F) – V (saat) – A (upon the orisonte)

57. Than say I wel that the body of Jupiter in his latitude of 2 degres meridional ascendid with 8 degres of Piscis in horoscopo.

A (than) – V (say) – S (I) – A (wel) – dO (that…horoscopo)
Conj (that) – S (the…Jupiter) – A (in…meridional) – V (ascendid) – A

(with…horoscopo)

58. And in this manere maist thou worche with any latitude meridional, as I first seide, save in Capricorne.

Conj (and) – A (in…manere) – V (maist) – S (thou) – V (worche) – A (with…meridional) – A (as…seide) – A (save…Capricorne)
A (as) – S (I) – A (first) – V (seide)

59. And yif thou wilt pleye this craft with the arisyng of the mone, loke thou rekne wel hir cours houre off by houre, for she ne dwellith not in a degre of hir longitude but litel while, as thow wel knowist.

Conj (and) – A (yif) – S (thou) – V (wilt pleye) – dO (this craft) – A (with…mone)
V (loke) – S (thou) – V (rekne) – A (wel) – dO (hir cours) – A (houre…houre)
A (for) – S (she) – neg (ne) – V (dwellith) – neg (not) – A (in…longitude) – conj (but) – A (litel while)
A (as) – S (thow) – A (wel) – V (knowist)

60. But natheles yf thou rekne hir verrey moevyng by thy tables houre after houre, [thou shalt do wel ynow].

Conj (but) – A (natheles yf) – S (thou) – V (rekne) – dO (hir…moevyng) – A (by thy tables) – A (houre after houre)
S (thou) – V (shalt do) – dO (wel) – A (ynow)

Summary

The starting point for this thesis was an interest in Middle English word order. I was interested in seeing whether there would be any differences in word order patterns between different genres of Middle English texts.

When comparing genres, it is ideal to be able to compare texts by the same author. Chaucer's writings give us this opportunity. I decided to work with prose texts because they are not dependent on rhyme and metre which may influence and alter the word order of texts written in verse. I decided to work with *The Tale of Melibee* and *The Parson's Tale* from *The Canterbury Tales* and *A Treatise on the Astrolabe* using an edition of Chaucer's texts, *The Riverside Chaucer*, because this provides the opportunity to compare texts by the same editor. My hypothesis was that there would be more imperatives in *A Treatise on the Astrolabe* than in the two other texts because of its didactic prose style. I was not sure whether the word order patterns of *The Parson's Tale* would be more similar to those of the *The Tale of Melibee* or those of *A Treatise on the Astrolabe*. *The Parson's Tale* is a literary prose text just as *The Tale of Melibee*, but it is a sermon and is didactic in style and may therefore have much of the same word order patterns as *A Treatise on the Astrolabe*.

In each of the texts I extracted 20 sentences from the beginning, the middle and the ending of each text. As several different clause types were contained within a sentence, I decided to group the data into three cateogries, i.e. main clauses, subordinate clauses and conjunct clauses. When I had completed the analysis I divided the different clauses into categories according to the position of the sentence constituents. I decided to focus on the positions of the subject and the verb in each clause. All other elements are grouped in a category which I have chosen to call X.

What I found was that the SOV pattern has a much lower number of occurrences in all these texts than the SVO pattern. *The Parson's Tale* shared similarities with both the other two texts. I also found that *The Parson's Tale* is more similar to *A Treatise on the Astrolabe* than to *The Tale of Melibee*. The fact that it is didactic prose (as *A Treatise on the Astrolabe*) seems to weigh heavier than that it is literary prose (as *The Tale of Melibee*). When it comes to verb-final clauses (imperatives) *A Treatise on the Astrolabe* has a higher frequency in main clauses than the two other texts. In the subordinate clauses *The Tale of Melibee* has a higher number of occurrences of verb-initial subordinate clauses than *The Parson's Tale* and *A Treatise on the Astrolabe* which reflects a higher number of verb-initial reporting clauses.

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