

# The Syntax of Early English

---

OLGA FISCHER  
ANS VAN KEMENADE  
WILLEM KOOPMAN  
WIM VAN DER WURFF



# Contents

Preface *vii*

List of editions used *x*

- 1 Language change and grammar change** *1*
  - 1.1 Introduction *1*
  - 1.2 Historical change, language acquisition and the Principles and Parameters model *2*
  - 1.3 Grammar change and language change *19*
  - 1.4 Methodology and the role of data *26*
  - 1.5 Overview of the book *35*
  
- 2 An outline of Old English syntax** *37*
  - 2.1 Introduction *37*
  - 2.2 Morphology and case assignment *37*
  - 2.3 Word order *46*
  - 2.4 Some clause types *53*
  - 2.5 Subordinate clauses *55*
  - 2.6 Preposition stranding *64*
  
- 3 An outline of Middle English syntax** *68*
  - 3.1 Introductory remarks *68*
  - 3.2 Morphology and case assignment *69*
  - 3.3 Word order *79*
  - 3.4 Clause types *83*
  - 3.5 Subordinate clauses *88*
  
- 4 The Verb-Second constraint and its loss** *104*
  - 4.1 Introduction *104*
  - 4.2 The facts *105*
  - 4.3 The position of the finite verb: Verb-Second? *110*
  - 4.4 Developments after the Old English period *129*

<b>5</b>	<b>The loss of object–verb word order</b>	<i>138</i>
5.1	Introduction	<i>138</i>
5.2	Old English: the basic facts	<i>139</i>
5.3	Old English word order: OV or VO?	<i>145</i>
5.4	Middle English: the basic facts	<i>160</i>
5.5	Analysing the Middle English word order patterns	<i>164</i>
5.6	The diachrony of OV and VO order	<i>172</i>
<b>6</b>	<b>Verb–particles in Old and Middle English</b>	<i>180</i>
6.1	Introduction	<i>180</i>
6.2	Particles: some general considerations	<i>181</i>
6.3	Particles in Old English	<i>185</i>
6.4	Position of the particle marks the position of the verb before movement	<i>190</i>
6.5	The universal base hypothesis	<i>197</i>
6.6	Some remaining problems: particles separated from the verb (part . . . V)	<i>199</i>
6.7	Particles in Middle English	<i>201</i>
6.8	Conclusion	<i>210</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>Changes in infinitival constructions</b>	<i>211</i>
7.1	Introduction	<i>211</i>
7.2	New infinitival constructions: constructions containing a lexical subject	<i>214</i>
7.3	Borrowing and internal factors: the Latin <i>AcI</i> in the history of Dutch	<i>241</i>
	Appendices	<i>248</i>
<b>8</b>	<b>The history of the ‘easy-to-please’ construction</b>	<i>256</i>
8.1	Introduction	<i>256</i>
8.2	Theoretical issues in the analysis of ‘easy-to-please’	<i>257</i>
8.3	Data and analysis for Old English	<i>261</i>
8.4	Data and analysis for Middle English	<i>271</i>
8.5	Explaining the changes in Middle English	<i>277</i>
<b>9</b>	<b>Grammaticalization and grammar change</b>	<i>284</i>
9.1	Introduction	<i>284</i>
9.2	Grammaticalization theory	<i>286</i>
9.3	Two case studies	<i>293</i>
	Appendix	<i>320</i>
	References	<i>322</i>
	Index	<i>336</i>