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Jeremy J. Smith
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Preface

This book is designed for the use of undergraduate and postgraduate students who wish to understand the linguistic structure of Old English. It is designed as a bridge between elementary primers (e.g. Hough and Corbett 2006, Hogg 2002, the OE sections of Smith 2005, and classic and still useful outlines such as Sweet/Davis 1953) and more advanced discursive works (e.g. Lass 1994) and OE grammars (e.g. Campbell 1959, Hogg 1992). I envisage the book being used, at a fairly early stage, as part of a general programme in English historical linguistics or (it is hoped) wider Germanic philology.

This book was commissioned some time ago, and since I undertook it other publications have appeared which cover some of the same ground. Perhaps the most important of these, and certainly the best, is McCully and Hilles 2005, which is designed with a similar audience in mind. However, I see my book as complementary to such works; it derives its orientation from ‘traditional’ philology (though drawing, of course, on more recent scholarship), and it is laid out as a resource rather than in units. Although, happily, old antagonisms between traditional approaches and more ‘modern’ linguistics are now receding, there is maybe a place for an approach which tries to synthesise long-established and more recent scholarship, accessible to scholars of both backgrounds.

Materials in this book derive from courses I have taught in English historical linguistics over the last twenty years, and I am most grateful to undergraduate and postgraduate students and colleagues who have used and commented on them. In particular, I am grateful to Simon Horobin, who read through the first draft of the book and made many suggestions for improvements. I am also very grateful to Helen Barton of Cambridge University Press, for her tolerance and understanding in putting up with a dilatory and distracted author, to Rosina Di Marzo, to Jill Lake for her skilful and tactful copy-editing, and to Philip Riley for his meticulous proofreading.

Jeremy Smith
Notations and Conventions

EModE Early Modern English
EWS Early West Saxon
IPA International Phonetic Association
LWS Late West Saxon
ME Middle English
ModE Modern English
OE Old English
PDE Present-Day English
<..> graphemic transcription
<<..>> allographic/graphetic transcription
../ phonemic transcription
[..] allophonic/phonetic transcription
> goes to, becomes, is realised as
< comes from
$ syllable boundary
# morpheme boundary
Ø zero
/ in the environment: X > Y/A_B = ‘X becomes Y in the environment of a preceding A and a following B, i.e. AXB becomes AYB.’

V vowel
C consonant
: indicates full length of preceding vowel (i.e. long vowel)
' main accentual stress or pitch prominence on following syllable

In the following list of phonetic symbols, based on those used by the International Phonetic Association, pronunciations are as in ‘Received Pronunciation’ (RP), the prestigious accent used in England, ‘General American’ (GenAm), the reference accent commonly used for US English, or sometimes ‘Standard Scottish English’ (SSE), the prestigious accent used in Scotland. Occasionally reference is made to other languages, e.g. French, German. For a full account of IPA usage, see the Handbook of the International Phonetic Association (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999).
Notations and Conventions

a front open unrounded vowel, as in CAT (RP, GenAm, SSE)
æ front unrounded vowel between open and mid-open, as in some RP pronunciations of CAT
α back unrounded vowel, as in BATH (RP), PALM (GenAm)
º back rounded vowel, as in CLOTH (RP)
b voiced bilabial plosive, as in BEE
β voiceless bilabial fricative, as in BLAVA ‘blue’ (Catalan)
ç voiceless palatal fricative, as in ICH ‘Í’ (German)
œ back mid-open rounded vowel, as in THOUGHT (RP, GenAm)
d voiced alveolar plosive, as in DEEP
δ voiced dental fricative, as in THOSE
e front mid-close unrounded vowel, as in FACE (SSE)
ø unrounded central vowel, as in NURSE (RP), NURSE (GenAm)
ε front mid-open unrounded vowel, as in DRESS (GenAm), PÈRE (French)
f voiceless labio-dental fricative, as in FEE
g voiced velar plosive, as in GOAT
h voiceless glottal fricative, as in HOT
i front close unrounded vowel, as in FLEECE (RP, GenAm)
ɔ centralised unrounded mid-close vowel, as in KIT (RP, GenAm)
j palatal unrounded semi-vowel, as in YACHT
k voiceless velar plosive, as in CLOTH
l voiced alveolar lateral continuant, as in LOT
ɹ voiced alveolar lateral continuant with velarisation, as in ILL (RP)
m voiced bilabial nasal, as in MOUTH
n voiced alveolar nasal, as in NURSE
ŋ voiced velar nasal, and in THING (RP)
o back mid-close rounded vowel, as in GOAT (GenAm, SSE)
œ front mid-close rounded vowel, as in PEU ‘few’ (French)
œ front mid-open rounded vowel, as in PEUR ‘fear’ (French)
θ voiceless dental fricative, as in THING
p voiceless bilabial plosive, as in PALM
r voiced alveolar trill, as in RED (SSE)
s voiceless alveolar fricative, as in SING
ʃ voiceless palato-alveolar fricative, as in SHIP
t voiceless alveolar plosive, as in TAP
u back close rounded vowel, as in GOOSE
v centralised rounded mid-close vowel, as in FOOT (RP, GenAm)
ɔ voiced labio-dental fricative, as in VIEW
ʌ back labio-dental fricative, as in VIEW
v back labio-dental fricative, as in STRUT (RP, GenAm)
w labial-velar semi-vowel, as in WEATHER
m voiceless labial-velar fricative, as in WHETHER (SSE)
Notations and Conventions

\(\text{x}\) voiceless velar fricative, as in LOCH (SSE)
\(\text{y}\) front close rounded vowel, as in TU ‘you (sg)’ (French)
\(\text{γ}\) centralised rounded mid-close vowel, as in FOOT (SSE)
\(\text{ʒ}\) voiced velar fricative, as in AUGE ‘eye’ (German)
\(\text{ʒ}\) voiced palato-alveolar fricative, as in MEASURE
\(\text{z}\) voiced alveolar plosive, as in ZOO