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WEAK PRETERITE INFLECTIONS IN THE *CURSOR MUNDI*

The present paper examines, discusses and compares inflections in the preterite weak verb system of Cotton and Trinity manuscripts of the *Cursor Mundi*. Its goal is to determine the extent to which the verbs comply with the paradigms formulated by the standard historical grammars of English, and areas/issues with respect to which the two MSS do not pattern alike. It will be shown that while the Cotton MS exhibits virtually no inflectional marking, the Trinity MS is only halfway through with the dropping of person/tense/number distinctions. It will be also demonstrated that some of the verbs found in the Trinity MS gave in to simplification more readily than others.

1. Introduction

1.1. The aim

The aim of the present paper is to examine, discuss, and compare inflections in the preterite weak verb system of the *Cursor Mundi* in two of the four manuscripts critically edited by Richard Morris in the years 1874–1893. The rationale behind the choice of the research topic and source material was that even though the *Cursor Mundi* is as classic an example of a Middle English text as, for instance, *Orrmulum* or *Lazamon's Brut*, relatively little attention seems to have been devoted to its linguistic side, which certainly makes the poem a fertile ground for investigation. Moreover, of all the publications on the *Cursor Mundi* only one, namely a paper by Farkas (1996), deals with morphology, its scope being, however, prepositions or, rather, the way in which they support the typology of the above MSS. Given that, and the reorganisation that the weak verbs underwent on the way from Old (OE) to Middle English (ME), the analysis of their inflection exhibited by the language of two versions of the *Cursor Mundi* will be carried out in order to determine (a) the extent to which the verbs comply with the paradigms formulated by the standard historical grammars of English and (b) areas/issues with respect to which the two MSS do not pattern alike.

The first part of the current contribution deals with the background information concerning the text and the MSS under study. The second part, in turn, concentrates on the analysis of the sample as well as on the discussion of the collected material.

1.2. The corpus

The analysis of the data is based on a mixture of a stratified and block, random representative sample¹ of 2000 verbs extracted from the British Museum Cotton Vespasian A iii and the Trinity College Cambridge R. 3. 8. MSS of the *Cursor Mundi* (henceforth referred to as the Cotton (C) and the Trinity (T) MSS respectively), chosen for their provenance expected to yield the most contrastive evidence. Since the Cotton MS, unlike the Trinity one, was copied by three scribes, the sample includes specimens of all the three handwritings found in the text, with a view to ensuring the reliability of the collected corpus, although according to Hupe (1893 [1962]: 128) one cannot rule out the possibility that the three hands belonged to the same district. The number of verbs sampled from each scribe corresponds to the (rounded) percentage of the total a given hand constitutes in the MS (Hand I – 93% = 930 verbs, Hand II – 3% = 30 verbs, Hand III – 4% = 40 verbs per 1000 selected tokens).

1.3. The text

The *Cursor Mundi* is a Middle English poem of about 30 000 lines, composed by an anonymous author at the beginning of the 14th century (MED), somewhere within the bounds of the northern dialect continuum. Even though the exact geographical location of the text is very difficult to ascertain, the more so as neither MED nor LALME make any suggestions as to the possible provenance of the original, some scholars, and among them Hupe (1893 [1962]) and Strandberg (1919), ventured to propose a locality from which the poem may have originated. However, while for Hupe (1893 [1962]: 187) it is in North Lincolnshire that the *Cursor Mundi* might have come into existence, for Strandberg (1919: xiv) the area of Northumberland seems more appealing, since in his opinion there is no correspondence between the rhymes of the investigated text and those of Robert Mannyng of Brunne, a North Lincolnshire writer. The provenance of the manuscripts C and T will be dealt with in section 1.4.

¹ The understanding of the word “representative” follows that proposed by McIntosh (1989: 34), while the “stratified random sample” has been created on the basis of the procedures described in Kenny (1982: 161–166). By stratification the present author understands a fair proportional share that the three Cotton MS scribes have in the analysed data. The admixture of block sampling, in turn, results from the corpus being based on fifty-line blocks randomly extracted from the two texts.

1.4. The MSS

The British Museum Cotton Vespasian A iii and the Trinity College Cambridge R. 3. 8. MSS, on which the present contribution is based, are the two most extreme of the four MSS completely edited for the Early English Text Society by Richard Morris between 1874–93. The Cotton manuscript, which represents the dialect of the West Riding of Yorkshire (LALME), dates from the very beginning of the 15th century (MED). It shows three different handwritings, with very occasional occurrences of a (later) fourth hand. The Trinity manuscript, in turn, was copied in the area of Lichfield in the West Midlands (McIntosh 1989: 26), in the first quarter of the same century as the former manuscript (Hupe 1893 [1962]: 67).

2. The presentation and the analysis of the data

The present section discusses and compares manuscripts C and T in terms of the endings taken in Middle English by the so-called “weak” verbs² in the respective grammatical categories of their preterite inflectional paradigms, i.e. the 1/2/3 Sg Indicative, the Plural Indicative, and the Participle. Since no instances of the Preterite Subjunctive Sg or Pl forms have been recorded in the sample, the two categories will be excluded from discussion. The understanding of the term “weak”, as regards the Middle English verbal system, follows the description proposed by Wełna (1996: 110), who defines ME weak verbs as those that “... formed their past and past participle by means of a marker containing the dental suffix *-d/-t*”. The investigated verbs will be organised into two groups (here Groups I and II, respectively), depending on whether the dental element applied in the formation of the Preterite and the Past Participle is or is not preceded by a schwa (or /i/ in the case of the more northern text) (Mossé 1952 [1991]: 73), and the distribution of inflectional signals will be always presented with respect to the tense marker involved (i.e. *-ed/id/-d/-t*). The selection of the possible allomorphs used to indicate a given category will be quoted after Fisiak (1968 [2004]).

2.1. 1 Sg Preterite Indicative

At the beginning of the Middle English period the 1 Sg Preterite Indicative was marked by two allomorphs, namely *-Ø* and */-ə/ <e>*. With the levelling of unstressed vowels and dropping of the word-final schwa, first attested in the North at the end of the 12th century, came the simplification of inflection reflected by the subsequent loss of inflectional morphs (Fisiak 1968 [2004]: 93). Table 1, below, presents the distribution of the two suffixes found in the Cotton manuscript:

² For a detailed discussion of Old and Middle English weak verbs see Mossé (1952 [1991]), Campbell (1959), Fisiak (1968 [2004]), and Wełna (1996).

Table 1. The distribution of the 1 Sg Pret. Ind. markers – the Cotton MS

1 Sg Preterite Indicative						
	Hand 1		Hand 2		Hand 3	
	I	II	I	II	I	II
-Ø	–	25 (92.59%)	–	–	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
/-ə/ <e>	–	2 (7.4%)	–	–	–	–
Total	–	27 (100%)	–	–	1 (100%)	1 (100%)

There are no occurrences of the category in question in Hand 2. Hand 3 shows no inflected 1 Sg Pret. Ind. forms, irrespective of the group. Hand 1, in turn, exhibits the application of both existing markers, however the small number of marked tokens makes their presence insignificant. Bearing in mind the North often being in the forefront of language change and the northern provenance of C, it seems only natural for the 1 Sg Pret. Ind. signals to be distributed within the examined sample in the way presented above. The apparent predominance of the unmarked variants points to a considerable progress in the process of reducing the inflectional elements.

The distribution of the (un)signalled 1 Sg Pret. Ind. forms, as regards the Trinity manuscript of the *Cursor Mundi* is the complete opposite of the situation pictured in the Cotton MS. The lexemes which display the zero morpheme are heavily outnumbered by those marked with /-ə/ <e>, as shown in Table 2:

Table 2. The 1 Sg Pret. Ind. signals in the Trinity MS

1 Sg Preterite Indicative		
	I	II
-Ø	4 (100%)	4 (15.38%)
/-ə/ <e>	–	22 (84.61%)
Total	4 (100%)	26 (100%)

Such a ratio of the unsignalled to signalled tokens in the Trinity MS reflects the particulars of the variety in which the text was transcribed. Since the process of copying took place in the southern part of the West Midlands (LALME), the area far less innovative than the northern dialect continuum, the dropping of the 1 Sg Pret. Ind. marker is observable to a much lower degree. Still, the fact that the unmarked forms constitute almost 27% of all occurrences (Groups I and II combined) points to a gradual simplification of inflection.

2.2. 2 Sg Preterite Indicative

The category of the 2 Sg Preterite Indicative was expressed by three signals, namely /-əst/ <est>, /-əs/ <es>, and /-ə/ <e>, <e> occurring in all dialects except for the northern variety (Fisiak 1968 [2004]: 94–95). The 2 Sg Pret. Ind. exponents found in version C of the poem, as well as the number of verbs exhibiting them, are given in Table 3:

Table 3. The distribution of 2 Sg Pret. Ind. markers in the Cotton manuscript

2 Sg Preterite Indicative						
	Hand 1		Hand 2		Hand 3	
	I	II	I	II	I	II
-Ø	2 (100%)	7 (100%)	–	–	–	1 (100%)
/-ə/ <e>	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	2 (100%)	7 (100%)	–	–	–	1 (100%)

The sample exhibits a remarkable invariability in regard to the assignment of the 2 Sg Pret. Ind. markers in that all the identified tokens appear without an inflectional ending. The homogeneity of the text is, however, less striking once it is ascertained that “in the North *-en*, *-e* and *-est* were dropped at the end of the 12th century thus simplifying the preterite system at the beginning of the Middle English period” (Fisiak 1968 [2004]: 99).

In T there are only five weak verbs (one of them apocopated) marked for the 2 Sg Pret. Ind., the distribution of their signals being presented in Table 4, below:

Table 4. The distribution of the 2 Sg Pret. Ind. markers in the Trinity manuscript

2 Sg Preterite Indicative		
	I	II
/-əst/ <est>	1 (50%)	2 (66.6%)
/-ə/ <e>	–	1 (33.3%)
/-əs/ <es>	1 (50%)	–
Total	2 (100%)	3 (100%)

Throughout the sample, the tabulated category is almost uniformly expressed by /-əst/ <est>, which remains in accordance with the “norm” set by the historical grammars of English in respect of the dialect represented by the text (see Fisiak 1968 [2004]: 92). The two exceptions represent, no doubt, different stages of one process, namely the simplification of the predominant marker.

2.3. 3 Sg Preterite Indicative

The exponents of the 3 Sg Pret. Ind. were exactly like those used to mark the 1st person of the same category (Fisiak 1968 [2004]: 94). Table 5 shows the token occurrences for the 3 Sg Pret. Ind. types found in the Cotton manuscript:

Table 5. The distribution of 3 Sg Pret. Ind. markers in the Cotton manuscript

3 Sg Preterite Indicative						
	Hand 1		Hand 2		Hand 3	
	I	II	I	II	I	II
-Ø	61 (96.82%)	308 (96.55%)	4 (100%)	5 (55.5%)	3 (100%)	21 (100%)
/-ə/ <e>	2 (3.17%)	11 (3.44%)	–	4 (44.4%)	–	–
Total	63 (100%)	319 (100%)	4 (100%)	9 (100%)	3 (100%)	21 (100%)

As expected in the text of northern origin, forms devoid of any inflectional ending constitute the majority of all the located items. The unquestionable predominance of the zero morpheme, in the case of Hands 1 and 3, can be put down to the fact that the innovation responsible for the elimination of inflection originated in the North, long before the Cotton MS was written. At the same time, the relatively small difference between the numbers of signalled and unsignalled variants from Group II in the fragment transcribed by Hand 2, could be attributed to the scribe representing a more conservative (not that northern)³ variety of English.

Table 6, below, shows the distribution of the 3 Sg Pret. Ind. signals exhibited by the Trinity manuscript. The picture that emerges from the analysis of the corpus suggests that at the beginning of the 15th century, in the area of Lichfield (where the T version came into being), the dropping of the inflectional elements was well in progress, yet far from being completed. This, however, comes as no surprise, given the Midland provenance of the manuscript, which places it right in between the innovative and conservative dialectal areas:

Table 6. The distribution of 3 Sg Pret. Ind. signals in T

3 Sg Preterite Indicative		
	I	II
-Ø	87 (80.55%)	136 (42.36%)
/-ə/ <e>	21 (19.44%)	185 (57.63%)
Total	108 (100%)	321 (100%)

³ Hupe (1893 [1962]: 63) calls the discussed dialect “midland”, while McIntosh speaks of three *northern* hands in the C manuscript of the *Cursor Mundi* (McIntosh 1989: 26).

2.4. Plural Preterite Indicative

The Plural Preterite Indicative had only one marker in Middle English, namely /-ən/, dropped in the North already at the end of the 12th century (Fisiak 1968 [2004]: 99). As shown in Table 7, the C copy of the poem exhibits the reduced variant of the morph alternating with the zero ending:

Table 7. The distribution of Plural Pret. Ind. exponents in the Cotton MS

3 Sg Preterite Indicative						
	Hand 1		Hand 2		Hand 3	
	I	II	I	II	I	II
-∅	29 (87.87%)	181 (97.83%)	3 (100%)	4 (50%)	–	4 (100%)
/-ə/ <e>	4 (12.12%)	4 (2.16%)	–	4 (50%)	–	–
/-ən/	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	33 (100%)	185 (100%)	3 (100%)	8 (100%)	–	4 (100%)

In keeping with the northern tendency towards the reduction of inflectional exponents, almost 95% of all the Pl Pret. Ind. occurrences displayed by C (Hands 1, 2 and 3 combined) constitute tokens marked by the zero morpheme. The relatively small number of forms signalled by /-ə/ <e> (12 occurrences altogether) suggests the marginal role of the suffix in indicating the discussed category at the time when the copy was being prepared, unless the twelve instances are instances of mute <e>.

The distribution of the Pl Pret. Ind. signals in the Trinity manuscript is the reverse of that found in the Cotton MS. Even though the elimination of inflection is also observable to a certain extent (see Table 8), the prevalent marker is undeniably /-ə/ <e> – the intermediate stage on the way from a full-fledged inflectional ending to a completely reduced one:

Table 8. The distribution of Pl Pret. Ind. suffixes in the Trinity manuscript

Plural Preterite Indicative		
	I	II
-∅	47 (74.6%)	45 (32.6%)
/-ə/ <e>	13 (20.63%)	87 (63.04%)
/-ən/ <en>	3 (4.76%)	6 (4.34%)
Total	63 (100%)	138 (100%)

The more conservative nature of English represented by the Trinity MS shows in the ratio of the marked to the unmarked variants. Out of the total of 201 Pl Pret. Ind. forms, as many as 109 use a signal other than -∅. On the other hand, it is impossible to ignore the fact that almost half of all the tokens opt for the lack

of exponent, which, given a natural inclination of language to economy, clearly shows the direction taken by the development of inflection.

2.5. Past Participle

The Past Participle of weak verbs was indicated in ME by two markers, namely: /-ən/ <en> with the allomorph /-n/ after vocalic stems (/ -ən/ being used elsewhere), and -Ø after a dental element -d/-t. Table 9, below, presents the percentages for the Past Participle signals found in the Cotton MS:

Table 9. The (rounded) percentages for the Past Participle markers in the Cotton MS

Past Participle						
	Hand 1		Hand 2		Hand 3	
	I	II	I	II	I	II
-Ø	91.17% (62)	99.05% (209)	100% (1)	100% (5)	100% (1)	100% (8)
/-ə/ <e>	8.82 (6)	0.94% (2)	-	-	-	-
Total	100% (68)	100% (211)	100% (1)	100% (5)	100% (1)	100% (8)

What follows from the data tabulated above is that the Past Participle is another category more and more often left unmarked, with over 91% of tokens uniformly labelled by -Ø, giving a general impression of strict conformity to the trends observable in the northern dialect continuum.

The Trinity MS does not display such homogeneity with regard to the Past Participle exponents as the Cotton version of the *Cursor Mundi*. Nevertheless, also in this copy of the poem the category in question clearly favours the “no signal” option:

Table 10. The distribution of the Past Participle markers in the Trinity manuscript

Past Participle		
	I	II
-Ø	79 (80.61%)	110 (56.12%)
/-ə/ <e>	19 (19.39%)	85 (43.37%)
/-ən/ <en>	-	1 (0.51%)
Total	98 (100%)	196 (100%)

Whatever the group, verbs devoid of an inflectional element constitute over 64% of the tokens sampled from the West-Midland text. The remaining variants, numerous as they may be, are nothing but an indicator of a change well in progress, yet not quite completed.

3. Some peculiarities of the Trinity MS

Upon closer examination the Trinity version of the *Cursor Mundi* shows certain peculiar characteristics. To begin with, some of the high-frequency verbs appearing in the text exhibit parallel instances (with and without word-final <e>) of the 3 Sg Pret. Ind., the Pl Pret. Ind. or the Past Participle (see Table 11 for details):

Table 11. The distribution of the 3 Sg Pret. Ind., Pl Pret. Ind. and Past Participle parallel forms of certain high-frequency verbs

	<i>had(de)</i>		<i>led/lad(de)</i>		<i>sou3t(e)</i>		<i>þou3t(e)</i>		<i>brou3t(e)</i>		<i>wrou3t(e)</i>	
	<e>	-∅	<e>	-∅	<e>	-∅	<e>	-∅	<e>	-∅	<e>	-∅
3 Sg	6	41	5	5	8	3	11	2	6	4	–	5
Pl	6	13	2	1	4	2	1	1	–	2	1	–
PP	1	1	–	2	1	1	–	1	4	6	1	3

Yet, the apparently haphazard, total confusion of forms, rather puzzling at first glance, seems to have at least two potentially acceptable explanations. First, given that all the quoted items come from the first 16748 lines of the 30 000-verse poem, their high irregularity could be, perhaps, regarded as resulting from the indecisiveness of the scribe not yet fully acquainted with and comfortable about the copied material, in other words: a so far *literatim* scribe step by step revealing idiosyncrasies of his own dialect. On the other hand, if half of the exemplar did not provide a copyist with enough room for deciding on a “system”, then what amount of material would? Second, rhythmical considerations may have also played a certain role in determining scribal choices. Given the structure of the poem written, for the most part, in octosyllabic couplets (with the exception of lines 14937–17100 in C and 14937–17082 in T, composed in septenaries, see Thompson 1998: 67–68), the interchangeable use of the marked and unmarked variants may have been a useful tool in manipulating the number of syllables in a verse. As Minkova and Stockwell (1997: 53, footnote 27) rightly point out, “... by late ME ... final -e’s had been lost in the spoken language ... and could be inserted optionally in poetry as a deliberate and convenient archaism”. This appears to be exactly the practice behind the presence of the discussed forms, all the (contextualised) occurrences of which are listed in the appendix. The analysis of the quotations shows that, indeed, there are lines which would be metrically defective were it not for the (graphemic or just auditory) insertion of word-final <e> (see examples 42, 44, 46, 47, 54, 57, 63, 64, 67–68, 75–76, 78, 81, 83–84, 86, 110, 112, 118, 121, 123, 143–145, and 150), as well as those in which the grapheme is by necessity, be it hiatus or syllabification, “empty” (quotations 43, 45, 53, 55–56, 62, 65–66, 73–74, 77, 82, 85, 87, 90–91, 111, 113–114, 122, 124, 127, 129, 131, 135, and 142), but then why use the letter at all? Unfortunately, lax versification rules and preference for the rhyme (e.g., 115, 117) over the metrics blur the picture to the point at which definitive interpretation is barely pos-

sible. The situation is accurately depicted by Minkova (1991: 43) who observes that “final *-e*’s no longer make sense to the scribe, so he either ignores them or starts piling them up against both earlier and contemporary grammatical norms, unetymologically, and, more interestingly unmetrically”.

Apart from the parallel between the inflected and uninflected instances of ‘had’, ‘led’, ‘sought’, ‘thought’, ‘brought’ and ‘prepared’, the Trinity scribe introduces another one, namely the use of mixed (in the sense of strong/weak) past forms of, already unstable at that time, ME *bēde(n)* (frequently confused with *bidden* – SV5; see Wełna 1996: 124, 135) and *drēd(e)* (SV7). Given the possible morphological shapes the Preterite of the two verbs could assume in Middle English (Wełna 1996: 123, 139), in the case of the former, strong occurrences (change of the root-vowel) clearly outnumber the supposedly weak ones: 11 x *bad* : 1 x *badde* in the 3 Sg Pret. Ind. (vs. 3 x *bedd*, 1 x *bedde*, and 1 x *badd* in the Cotton MS). Obviously, the value of a geminate as an indicator of the preceding vowel being short is questionable, especially in the word-final position, in which already in LOE it represents, for certain, a short consonant, but since intervocalic geminates expressed consonant length quite consistently (Stockwell – Minkova 1997: 52, footnote 14), there is a reason to believe in the weakness of the abovementioned single occurrence: *badde*, where the change of the root vowel could be caused by an early shortening of /æ:/ > /æ/ > ME /a/ before /d:/. Moreover, strong verbs from class 2, as Wełna (1997: 223) has it, “had from the earliest times shown a tendency to become weak...”, see also Wełna (1991: 132). The latter verb, *drēd(e)*, often appeared as a weak one (Wełna 1996: 139), the fact confirmed by Krygier (1994: 110), according to whom *drēd(e)* was weak as early as the 12th century (1994: 266). Out of its three occurrences: 1 x *dred*, 1 x *dradde* (3 Sg Pret. Ind.), and 1 x *dredde* (Pret. Pl), one, namely *dred*, could be strong, provided the root-vowel is long, but it seems more probable that the discussed variant is a simplified version of *dredde*.

Finally, there seems to be a considerable difference between Groups I and II as regards the extent to which the respective verbs drop their inflectional markers. In all the examined paradigms, Group I opts for no exponent far more often than the other group, see Table 12 for details:

Table 12. The percentages for the unmarked instances of the 1/2/3 Sg Pret. Ind., Pret. Pl, and Past Part. in Groups I and II

	1 Sg	2 Sg	3 Sg	Pret. Pl	Past Part.
Group I	100%	–	80.55%	74.6%	80.61%
Group II	15.38%	–	42.36%	32.6%	56.12%

The consistency with which verbs from Group II lag behind points out to there being a pattern responsible for the discrepancy, rather than sheer coincidence. The major difference between the two groups as regards items equipped with a category signal is essentially the number of syllables: two in the case of Group II, e.g., *herde*,

solde; three (or more) in Group I, e.g., *cursede*, *suffrede*, *commaundide* etc. The much higher ratio of unmarked tokens shown by the latter could be, just like "... syncope and apocope, ... [a] manifestation[s] of the preference for briefness" (Vennemann 1988: 2; see also Lutz 1991: 152). Moreover, words of more than two syllables are given as an example of environment for early schwa loss by Minkova (1987: 447, 1991: 110), who, following Luick (1914–40 [1964]), links the deletion of schwa with the suppression of the secondary stress in such words. Last but not least, the presence of marked Group I forms seems to violate "a general prosodic constraint in English which bans syllables ... [with a non-branching rhyme and schwa in the peak position] ... from appearing adjacent to another W node of the same configuration or word-finally" (Minkova 1987: 452–453).

4. Conclusions: Final comparison

What the comparison of the respective categories presented in sections 2.1.–2.5. shows is that with all the simplified variants found in the West-Midland copy of the *Cursor Mundi*, there are still more differences than similarities between the two investigated manuscripts. While the weak verbs in the Cotton version of the poem drop the inflectional markers in a larger part of their preterite paradigms (the zero morpheme is the dominant signal in five out of five examined categories), the Trinity manuscript frequently retains full or half-reduced endings, employing $-\emptyset$ in fewer instances than its northern counterpart. On the other hand, the sample based on the T MS abounds in evenly distributed competing forms, a clear sign of it undergoing a change, and, despite its non-innovativeness, exhibits a considerable amount of simplification. Still, the two manuscripts seem deeply rooted in the dialectal areas from which they originated, which shows in C always being in the forefront of implementing innovations and T adopting a more conservative attitude.

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Appendix

Parallel instances of high frequency verbs from Table 11 in context (the Trinity manuscript)

1. 3 Sg Preterite Indicative

CM: line

1.1. had

1) Him self had lost & al his kyn	[843]
2) But oure lord had raunsonde him	[844]
3) On suche a wise as he had þouȝt	[845]
4) For if he had wolde he myȝte man	[849]
5) Whenne Adam say he had mysdone	[859]
6) And tolde him þat he had sene	[1330]
7) Whenne he had þus him tolde	[1331]
8) A nedder hit had aboute bi leide	[1336]
9) Þat tyme ar hit had done þe sake	[2471]
10) Hir self had þe grame & gilt	[4331]
11) Almost also she had him spilt	[4332]
12) Þat he had longe in prisoun bene	[4546]
13) Al þat god had him seide	[6101]
14) God as he bifore had hiȝt	[6114]
15) Whenne moyses þat folke had lad	[6301]
16) Daud þat mony had in wone	[7881]
17) Raft he him his wif þat had but one	[7882]
18) Muchel had he vnhele	[8137]
19) Þritty zere had ben mesele	[8138]
20) Of grete londes had he lord bene	[8141]
21) Of al wisdom he had Inowe	[8482]
22) Of þis tresoun she had me done	[8675]
23) If aungel had take monnes kynde	[9778]
24) & if god had made anoþer man	[9783]
25) Þat þe prophete had on him leide	[9827]
26) And had þat shap changed away	[9853]
27) For had he knowen hit biforn	[10789]
28) If she wiþ childe had be founde	[10802]
29) And she no husbonde had I-had	[10803]
30) wommon þat had no husbonde	[10806]
31) And had a mayde wiþ him in house	[10843]
32) his fadir had his speche anoon	[11096]
33) had spoused as ze herde say	[11124]
34) Suche cloþes as she had to honde	[11235]
35) Whenne ihesus þus had seide his wille	[12155]
36) Til he had hem seide his wille	[13117]
37) he had hir aske what she wolde	[13148]
38) Siþen had he symond & Iudas	[13298]
39) whenne he þus had hem tauȝte	[15669]
40) whenne he had made his orisoun	[15689]
41) whenne he had þe þridde tyme	[15699]

1.1.1. hadde

- 42) Fer & nere **hadde** souȝt [3521]
 43) Of hony hit **hadde** likest sauoure [6382]
 44) He **nadde** reyned but a stounde [7875]
 45) Ny noon hadde no miȝte *þerto* [9796]
 46) *Þat* **hadde** feet or hondes *þre* [9835]
 47) *Þe* stronge sorwe *þat* he **hadde** [15703]

1.2. lad/led

- 48) Oure lord **lad** hem in her fare [5001]
 49) he hem **lad** sooþ hit es [6375]
 50) *Wiþ* disese shal he neuer be **led** [9907]
 51) And **lad** hir in to galile [10818]
 52) And in hir arme **lad** hir childe [11602]

1.2.1. ladde/ledde

- 53) And alle *þe* godis he *wiþ* him **ledde** [2435]
 54) Faire a court *wiþ* him he **ledde** [7873]
 55) *With* hir she **ledde** maydenes seuen [10819]
 56) And **ladde** *þere* harde lif-lode [11108]
 57) He **ladde** hem þourȝe *þe* see fome [14409]

1.3. souȝt

- 58) And she **vnsouȝ t** sacles of synne [2440]
 59) Fer & nere hadde **souȝ t** [3521]
 60) *Þere* he moost his witt **souȝ t** [8655]

1.3.1. souȝte

- 61) He **souȝ te** vp & doun *þere* [1883]
 62) She **souȝ te** on him mony a day [4335]
 63) And soone **souȝ te** a tricchery [4392]
 64) *Þat* he **souȝ te** on his lady [4406]
 65) *Þis* Ioseph **souȝ te** on me in bour [4411]
 66) And **souȝ te** her houses al bidene [6117]
 67) Saul **souȝ te** ofte here & *þere* [7689]
 68) Saul **souȝ te** dauid to quelle [7698]

1.4. brouȝt

- 69) An olyue braunche in mouþ **brouȝ t** [1904]
 70) And **brouȝ t** him siþen bifore *þe* kyng [4544]
 71) Whenne he *þese* wordis to hir **brouȝ t** [10851]
 72) *Þat* **brouȝ t** vs out of fere [15674]

1.4.1. brouȝte

- 73) In care he **brouȝ te** vs & in sore [615]
 74) And *þo* he **brouȝ te** hem to a paas [2519]
 75) *Þider* **brouȝ te** he hem *wiþ* him [8010]
 76) Þourȝe a bite **brouȝ te** alle in blame [8500]
 77) And **brouȝ te** him self in mychel wo [8506]
 78) And *wiþ* him **brouȝ te** bartelmeu [13289]

1.5. *þouȝt*

- 79) Oure lord þenne on noe **þouȝt** [1860]
 80) Þat lond to wone In loth **þouȝt** best [2473]

1.5.1. *þouȝte*

- 81) Shame vs **þouȝte** he to abide [868]
 82) And on þe steppes **þouȝte** he þon [1325]
 83) Him **þouȝte** þenne þat he seȝe [1339]
 84) Þere **þouȝte** him hit lay squelonde [1344]
 85) Him **þouȝte** hit rauȝte fro erþe to helle [1347]
 86) Me **þouȝte** þat þis zonder nyȝt [4561]
 87) Of þe seuen me **þouȝte** ferly [4565]
 88) And als mychel wondir **þouȝte** me [4568]
 89) he say þat him **þouȝte** ferly [6320]
 90) him **þouȝte** he was euen þer by [8147]
 91) To folwe him **þouȝte** him no shame [13298]

1.6. *wrouȝt*

- 92) Virago hir name he **wrouȝt** [632]
 93) Bifore ar he þe world **wrouȝt** [846]
 94) Of alle þingis þat he **wrouȝt** [8656]
 95) And al is fully þat he **wrouȝt** [9862]
 96) he **wrouȝt** al in litil stounde [11221]

2. Plural Preterite Indicative2.1. *had*

- 97) So **had** þei hadde wiþouten faile [1827]
 98) To drenche wende þei **had** be boun [1848]
 99) Beestaile þei **had** ynouȝe I wot [2444]
 100) þei **had** eten to þe erþe bare [4574]
 101) þere þei **had** mychel watir wone [6389]
 102) þenne **had** þei watir in þat lond [6393]
 103) And of þe fre blood **had** þei þe hew [8121]
 104) Of mankynde **had** þei þe mett [8123]
 105) whenne þei **had** circumcised Ion [11095]
 106) Alle **had** hir soone in mouþe [13143]
 107) **Had** þei furst noon *opere* gode [13276]
 108) Of aungels fode **had** þei greet met [14414]
 109) For þei **had** mony feloun foo [14419]

2.1.1. *hadde*

- 110) **Hadde** þei done Noes counsaile [1828]
 111) Whenne þei **hadde** her kyndely fode [1912]
 112) For þei **hadde** þe ouer hond [2508]
 113) þe kyngis **hadde** of no mon doute [2523]
 114) Of watir **hadde** þei mychel þrest [6308]
 115) þei offered þat þat þei **hadde** [8130]

2.2. *lad/led*

- 116) & pore liflode þei **led** [13279]

2.2.1. ladde/ledde

- 117) *þe riches þat þei wiþ hem ladde* [8129]
 118) *þis fals folk ihesus ladde* [16303]

2.3. souȝt

- 119) *wide þei souf t here þere* [6309]
 120) *þat souf t his folk to bringe to grounde* [7981]

2.4. souȝte

- 121) *þei souf te me to rende & ryue* [7507]
 122) *þei men hem souf te wiþ greet males* [13307]
 123) *þo souf te þei ihesus to slone* [13952]
 124) *Souf te ihesu to do to dede* [13961]

2.4.1. brouȝt

- 125) *Bifore þe kyng þei dauid brouf t* [7655]
 126) *And brouf t word with syngynge steuen* [11244]

2.5. wrouȝte

- 127) *To mon wrouf te þei neuer vnpees* [13306]

2.5.1. þouȝt

- 128) *þe baronage wondir þouf t* [4549]

2.6. þouȝte

- 129) *His frendes þouf te þerof selcouþ* [11091]

3. Past Participle

3.1. had

- 130) *And she no husbonde had I-had* [10803]

3.1.1 hadde

- 131) *So had þei hadde wiþouten faile* [1827]

3.2. lad/led

- 132) *Whenne moyses þat folke had lad* [6301]
 133) *hir to haue gouerned & lad* [10804]

3.3. souȝt

- 134) *wiþ þe ben vn sauf t* [16318]

3.3.1. souȝte

- 135) *& seide I haue souf te neer & ferre* [4552]

3.4. brouȝt

- 136) *He made vs alle in bale be brouf t* [614]
 137) *Al was brouf t in Adames siȝt* [622]
 138) *Alle were brouf t to serue Adame* [623]
 139) *Whenne she to Adam was brouf t* [631]
 140) *þat he to kyngis counsel was brouf t* [4550]
 141) *But need his most forþ be brouf t* [10772]

3.4.1. *brouȝte*

- 142) Was adam **brouȝ te** when he made was [608]
 143) Adames siȝte were **brouȝ te** to [620]
 144) *þat* loue me haþ **brouȝ te** to grounde [4349]
 145) *þat* if he were **brouȝ te** in place [4525]

3.5. *þouȝt*

- 146) On suche a wise as he had **þouȝ t** [845]

3.6. *wrouȝt*

- 147) When his vengeaunce *þer* was **wrouȝ t** [1859]
 148) helpe lord *þat* al haþ **wrouȝ t** [4961]
 149) For ȝoure loue was I widewe **wrouȝ t** [8392]

3.6.1. *wrouȝte*

- 150) wel **wrouȝ te** wiþouten doute [9900]