

A Study of the Final "e" in Chaucer.

Thorvaldur Petursson (B. A.) Manitoba.

Being a thesis submitted to the Department
of English of the University of Manitoba, in partial
fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts.

May 1926.

Contents

Introduction.

Chapter I. Preliminary Discussion.....	1
Chapter II Nouns.....	4-18
1. Nominative Case.....	4
2. Dative Case.....	7
3. Accusative Case.....	15
Chapter III Verbs.....	19-26
1. Present Indicative.....	19
2. Preterets.....	19
3. Present Infinitives.....	21
4. Present Participles.....	24
5. Past Participles.....	24
6. Present Preteritives.....	26
Chapter IV adjectives.....	27-30
Chapter V Adverbs.....	31-32
Chapter VI Conclusion.....	33
Bibliography.....	

Explanation of Abbreviations.

O. E. = Old English.	Dat. sg. = Dative Singular
O. F. = Old French.	Acc. sg. = Accusative Singular
O. N. = Old Norse.	Past pt. = Past participle
Icel. = Icelandic.	Rd. = Reduplicating
Lat. = Latin	Pret. = Preterit
M. E. = Middle English.	

N.B.--- The numeral preceding each word denotes the line in which the word occurs, in the Prologue, the text used is:

Greenlaw E. "Selections from Chaucer". Scott
Foresman and Company, New York, 1907.

Prefatory Note.

This thesis is an attempt to show that Chaucer followed the prevailing usage in Middle English, in regard to the retaining of the final "e".

This study presupposes, further, a knowledge of Old English grammar, and the changes resulting in Middle English grammar.

T.P.

Chapter 1. Preliminary Discussion.

"As compared with Old English most changes in the inflexion of Middle English words may be summed up under the one head of simplification of forms. This simplification has taken place naturally and gradually under the influence of phonetic change and analogy. (1)

The truth of the above statement may be clearly seen when we compare lines from an Old English poem, such as Beowulf, with lines from Chaucer, say the Prologue. We notice at once how much nearer to our own modern written language Chaucer is, than the unknown author of the great epic Beowulf.

Why is this? It is because the language of Chaucer has been simplified by a process which simplified the grammatical forms of Old English. But in Chaucer's time, inflexional endings were still retained that we do not have even to-day, and of these the final "e" is an important one.

Skeat (2) points out that the final "e" in Chaucer marks many grammatical inflections occurring in (a) the nominative or accusative of a substantive: (b) the dative:

(1) Emerson O.F.. A Middle English Reader, New York, 1912.

(2). Skeat, Rev. W.W. --- The Chaucer Canon, Oxford, 1900.

(c) the genitive: (d) the def.adjective: (e) the plural adjective (f) the verb, 1 person sing. (g) the pt.sg. of a weak verb, (h) and adverb: (i) some O.E. suffix of varying character.

His analysis of the Squieres Tale beares out his statement.

In this thesis an attempt will be made to show that the same holds true in the Prologue. (3)

But we have more than Old English words to contend with. The merging of the Anglo-Saxon and the Norman elements in England was changing the language.

There were a large number of French words coming into the language. These words, be it observed, assumed no grammatical gender in Old English. This is added evidence that grammatical gender had disappeared in early Middle English. For the feminine forms for the adjective and pro-noun (except the personal) were now lost, and inflexional forms based on feminine and neuter originals in Old English had almost disappeared, too.

Our study of the Prologue will endeavor to ascertain Chaucer's attitude in this matter.

The inflectional endings, a-o-u-an of Old English substantives and adjectives became -e in Middle English. As for example "sone", from Old English suna-u-o, a u-stem strong masculine declension.

(3) Greenlaw E.----Selections from Chaucer, New York, 1907.

In Middle English, it became sune, became also sone. The Old English weak masculine noun ende, with an -an ending in all the oblique cases, became in Middle English ende, in all cases. The adjective grenu-e, became grene, and the dative singular of the masculine and neuter which was grenum, became grenu, became grene.

As regards the verb: the infinitive Old English ending -an became -e. For example, sittan, became sitte, and the past participle ending -en became -e.

In the study of the Prologue, we shall note whether the above statements hold true, or not.

The text containing the Prologue, from which the words ending in -e are taken, for the purposes of this thesis, is:
Greenlaw E.-----Selections from Chaucer, New York, 1907.

Chapter 11.

:Nouns.

1. Nominative Case Singular Nouns.

A Derived from Strong Old English Nouns.

79. Sone	O.E. Sunu > sune > sone
118. Nonne	O.E. Nunne > nonne
276. See	O.E. Sae > see
309. Lawe	O.E. Lagae > lage > lawe
319. Fee	O.E. Feo > fee
330. Tale	O.E. Talu > tale
341. Ale	O.E. Ealu > eale > ale
359. Shirreve	O.E. Scir and O.E. gerefa: scir > shir, gerefa > gerefe > reve, hence shirreve
503. Shame	O.E. Scamu > scame > shame
504. Shepherd	O.E. Sceaphyrde > shepherd
542. Reve	O.E. Gerefa > gerefe > reve
550. Dore	O.E. Duru > dure > dore

b. Derived from Weak Old English Nouns.

52. Tyme	O.E. Tima > time
150. Herte	O.E. Heorte > herte
171. Belle	O.E. Belle
238. Nekke	O.E. Hnecca > hnecc > nekke
253. Wydwe	O.E. widwe > wydwe

261. Pope	O.E. Papa > pope
552. Spade	O.E. Spaedu > spaede > spade
603. Herde	O.E. Hierde > herde
614. Wrighte	O.E. Wyrhta > wyrhte > wrighte
658. Helle	O.E. Helle
676. Strike	O.E. Strica > strice > strike

c. Derived from Old French.

3. Veyne	O.F. Veyne
11. Nature	O.F. Nature
157. Cloke	O.F. Clocke
160. Broche	O.F. Broche
173. Reule	O.F. Reule
199. Face	O.F. Face
209. Frere	O.F. Frere
314. Justice	O.F. Justice
355. Sire	O.F. Sire
436. Superfluitee	O.F. Superfluite
438. Studie	O.F. Estudie
492. Parisshe	O.F. Paroisse
514. Mercenarie	O.F. Mercenaire
521. Persone	O.F. Persone
573. Grace	O.F. Grace
607. Place	O.F. Place
629. Oille	O.F. Oile
674. Trompe	O.F. Trompe
735. Vileinye	O.F. Vileinie

804.	Gyde	O.F.	Guide
814.	Juge	O.F.	Juge

d. Derived from Other Languages.

1.	Aprille	Lat.	Aprilis, in M.E. Aprille
93.	Gowne	Welsh.	Gwn.
384.	Pye	Irish	Pighe, Gael. Pighe > pye
395.	Felawe	Icel.	Felagi > felawe
446.	Scathe	Icel.	Scathe in M.E. scathi > scathe.
708.	Ecclesiaste	Lat.	Ecclesiasticus > Ecclesiaste

2. Dative Case Singular.

a. Derived from Old English Strong Nouns.

2.	Roote	O.E.	Wyr̥t; dat.sg. wyr̥te > roote
5.	Ende	O.E.	Ende; dat.sg. ende
46.	Werre	O.E.	Werre; dat.sg. werre
49.	Hethenesse	O.E.	Haetheness; dat.sg. haethenesse
59.	See	O.E.	Sae; dat.sg. sae
69.	Mayde	O.E.	Maegden; dat.sg. maegdene > maegde > mayde
83.	Lengthe	O.E.	Length; dat.sg. lengthe
84.	Strengthe	O.E.	Streng̥hu; dat.sg. strengthe
97.	Nightertale	O.E.	Niht and O.E. talu; gen. sg. nihtre and dat.sg. tale > nihtertale
98.	Nyghtingale	O.E.	Niht and O.E. galan (V.) gale (noun) gen.sg. nihtre and dat.sg. gale > nihtegale > nyghtingale
114.	Spere	O.E.	Spere; dat.sg. spere
125.	Scole	O.E.	Scol; dat.sg. scole
127.	Mete	O.E.	Mete; dat.sg. mete
145.	Trappe	O.E.	Trappe; dat.sg. trappe
149.	Yerde	O.E.	Gyrd; dat.sg. gyrd > yerde

207.	Berye	O.E. Berige; dat.sg. berige > berye
271.	Horse	O.E. Hors; dat.sg. horse
300.	Lerninge	O.E. Leorning; dat.sg. leorning> lerninge
304.	Nede	O.E. Nied; dat.sg. niede>nede
334.	Morwe	O.E. Morgen; dat.sg. morgene> morge > morwe
345.	Drinke	O.E. Drunc; dat.sg. drynce> drinke
353.	Halle	O.E. Heal; dat.sg. healle> halle
356.	Shire	O.E. Scir; dat.sg. scire > shire
370.	Yeldhalle	O.E. Gild and O.E. heall; dat. sg. healle > heall; hence gild > yeld hence yeld ^e halle
391.	Knee	O.E. Cneow; dat.sg. cneowe > kneowe > knee
445.	Bathe	O.E. Baeth; dat.sg. baethe > bathe
450.	Offringe	O.E. Offrung; dat.sg. offrunge> offringe
458.	Heiwe	O.E. Heow; dat.sg. heowe > heiwe
459.	Lyve	O.E. Lif; dat.sg. life > lyve
460.	Youthe	O.E. Geoguth; dat.sg. goeguthe > guwethe > youthe
460.	Chirche-dore	O.E. Circe and O.E. duru; dat.sg. dure; dat.sg. chirche> chirche-dore
467.	Weye	O.E. Weg; dat.sg. wege > weye

471.	Targe	O.E.	Targe; dat.sg. targe
506.	Clennesse	O.E.	Claenness; dat.sg. claennesse > clennesse
519.	Hevene	O.E.	Heofon; dat.sg. heofene > hefene > hevene
519.	Fairnesse	O.E.	Faegerness; dat.sg. faeger- nesse > fairnesse
520.	Bisynesse	O.E.	Bisig and O.E. nes; dat.sg. bisige, > and dat.sg. nesse > bisynesse
541.	Mere	O.E.	Mere; dat.sg. mere
554.	Nose	O.E.	Nosu; dat.sg. nose
566.	Towne	O.E.	Tun; dat.sg. tune > towne
567.	Temple	O.E.	Templ; dat.sg. temple
624.	Sparwe	O.E.	Sparwa; dat.sg. sparwe
667.	Ale-stake	O.E.	Ealu, and O.E. staca dat.sg. Ealwe and dat.sg. stace > ale-stake
742.	Dede	O.E.	Daed; dat.sg. daede > dede
755.	Speche	O.E.	Spaec (earlier spraec), dat.sg. spaece > speche
759.	Mirthe	O.E.	Mirhth; dat.sg. mirhthe > mirthe.
763.	Trouthe	O.E.	Treowth dat.sg. treowthe > trouthe

B. Derived from Old English Weak Nouns.

102.	Tyme	O.E. Tima: dat.sg. timan > tima > time > tyme
112.	Syde	O.E. Side: dat.sg. sidan > sida > side > syde
191.	Hare	O.E. Hara: dat.sg. haran > hara > hare
265.	Tonge	O.E. Tunge: dat.sg. tungan > tunga > tunge > tonge
332.	Dayesye	O.E. Daeg and O.E. dage, gen.sg. daeges and dat.sg. eagan > eaga > eage: > ye; hence daeges > dayes and ye > dayesye
507.	Hyre	O.E. Hyr; dat.sg. hyran > hyra > hyre
533.	Herte	O.E. Heorte; dat.sg. heortan > heorta > herte
557.	Harre	O.E. Heorr; dat.sg. heorran > heorran > heorra > harre
683.	Cappe	O.E. Caeppe; dat.sg. caeppan > caeppa > caeppe > cappe
686.	Lappe	O.E. Laeppa; dat.sg. laeppan > laeppa > laeppe > lappe
853.	Name	O.E. Nama; dat.sg. naman > nama > name

Dative Case Plural.

Derived from Old English Weak Nouns.

9.	Ye	O.E.	Eage, plural eagan eaga eage ye.
----	----	------	-------------------------------------

c. Derived from Old French.

21.	Pilgrimage	O.F.	Pelerinage
23.	Hostelrye	O.F.	Hostellerie
24.	Compaignye	O.F.	Compaignie
40.	Degree	O.F.	Degre
56.	Siege	O.F.	Siege
60.	Armee	O.F.	Armee
70.	Vileinye	O.F.	Vileinie
77.	Viage	O.F.	Veiage
81.	Presse	O.F.	Presse(n) presse
85.	Chivachye	O.F.	Chevalerie
87.	Space	O.F.	Espace
88.	Grace	O.F.	Grace
100.	Table	O.F.	Table
103.	Cote	O.F.	Cote
109.	Visage	O.F.	Visage
110.	Usage	O.F.	Usage
129.	Sauce	O.F.	Sauce
132.	Curteisye	O.F.	cortesisie
141.	Reverence	O.F.	Reverence
142.	Conscience	O.F.	Conscience
143.	Manere	O.F.	Maniere
168.	Stable	O.F.	Estable
169.	Maistrye	O.F.	Maistrerie

181.	Cloystre	O.F.	Cloistre
182.	Oystre	O.F.	Oistre
208.	Frere	O.F.	Frere
211.	Daliaunce	O.F.	Daliaunce
211.	Langage	O.F.	Language
212.	Mariage	O.F.	Mariage
214.	Ordre	O.F.	Ordine > ordre
236.	Rote	O.F.	Rote
244.	Facultee	O.F.	Faculte
245.	Aqueyntaunce	O.F.	Aqueyntance
247.	Poraille	O.F.	Pouraille
250.	Servyse	O.F.	Service
256.	Rente	O.F.	Rente
260.	Cope	O.F.	Cope
270.	Motteleye	O.F.	Mottele
280.	Dette	O.F.	Dette
281.	Governaunce	O.F.	Gouvernance
282.	Chevisaunce	O.F.	Chevissance
292.	Office	O.F.	Office
295.	Philosophye	O.F.	Philosophie
296.	Sautrye	O.F.	Psalterie
298.	Cofre	O.F.	Cofre
305.	Forme	O.F.	Forme
306.	Sentence	O.F.	Sentence
314.	Assyse	O.F.	Justice
315.	Patente	O.F.	Patente
316.	Science	O.F.	Science
330.	Compaignye	O.F.	Companie

340.	Contree	O.F.	Contree
350.	Stuve	O.F.	Estuve
363.	Liverree	O.F.	Livree
364.	Fraternitee	O.F.	Fraternite
413.	Surgerye	O.F.	Chirurgie
414.	Astronomye	O.F.	Astronomie
435.	Diete	O.F.	Diete
436.	Superfluitee	O.F.	Superfluite
441.	Dispence	O.F.	Dispence
442.	Pestilence	O.F.	Pestilence
449.	Parishe	O.F.	Paroisse
432.	Charitee	O.F.	Carite
469.	Amblere		
476.	Daunce	O.F.	Danse
484.	Adversitee	O.F.	Adversite
487.	Doute	O.F.	Doute
489.	Substance	O.F.	Substance
525.	Pompe	O.F.	Pompe
570.	Taille	O.F.	Taille
601.	Age	O.F.	Aage
602.	Arrerage	O.F.	Arrerage
663.	Gyse	O.F.	Guise
664.	Diccyse	O.F.	Diocese
680.	Jolitee	O.F.	Jolivete
693.	Male	O.F.	Male
703.	Flaterye	O.F.	Flaterie
716.	Clause	O.F.	Clause
727.	Matere	O.F.	Matere

744.	Degree	O.F.	Degree
844.	Aventure	O.F.	Aventure
857.	Chere	O.F.	Chere
857.	Eschaunge	O.F.	Eschaunge

Derived from Other Languages.

172.	Celle	Lat.	Cella
231.	Stede	O.N.	Stedja M.E. stede
508.	Myre	O.N.	Myrr > myre
668.	Cake	Icel.	Kaka > cake

3. Accusative Singular.

a. Derived from Old English Strong Nouns.

34.	Weye	O.E.	Weg; acc. sg. wegne > wege
46.	Trouthe	O.E.	Treowthu; acc. sg. treowthe > trouthe
108.	Bowe	O.E.	Boga; acc. sg. boganne > boge > bowe
276.	See	O.E.	Sae; acc. sg. sae > see
296.	Fithele	O.E.	Fithele; acc. sg. fithele
303.	Cure	O.E.	Caru; acc. sg. care
303.	Hede	O.E.	Hadu; acc. sg. Hade > hede
424.	Bote	O.E.	Bot; acc. sg. bote
512.	Folde	O.E.	Fald; acc. sg. falde > Folde
527.	Lore	O.E.	Lor; acc. sg. lore
593.	Bynne	O.E.	Binn; acc. sg. binne > bynne
654.	Awe	O.E.	Ege; acc. sg. egene > ege > awe
672.	Love	O.E.	Lufu; acc. sg. lufe > love
773.	Mede	O.E.	Med; acc. sg. mede
832.	Ale	O.E.	Ealu; acc. sg. ealu > eale

b. Derived from Old English Weak Nouns.

7.	Sonne	O. E.	Sunne; acc.sg. sunnan > sunna > sonne
35.	Tyme	O. E.	Tima; acc. sg. timan > tima > time > tyme
133.	Lippe	O. E.	Lippa; acc.sg. lippan > lippa > lippe
348.	Mete	O. E.	Mete; acc.sg. metan > meta > mete
403.	Moone	O. E.	Mona; acc.sg. mona > mone > moone
409.	Cryke	O. E.	Crecca; acc.sg. creccan > crecca > crecce > cryke
423.	Rote	O. E.	Wyrte; acc.sg. wyrtan > wyrta > wyrte > rote
555.	Werte	O. E.	Wearte; acc.sg. weartan > wearta > wearte > werte
563.	Thombe	O. E.	Thuma; acc.sg. thuman > thuma > thume > thombe
565.	Bagpipe	O. E.	Bag and O. E. pipe; acc.sg. pipan > pipa > pipe: hence bagpipe.

Accusative Case Plural.

586.	Cappe	O. E.	Caeppe; acc.pl. caeppan > caeppe > cappe
------	-------	-------	---

c. Derived from Old French.

3.	Veyne	O.F.	Veyne
35.	Space	O.F.	Espace
45.	Chivalrye	O.F.	Chevalerie
46.	Curteisye	O.F.	Cortesisie
70.	Vileinye	O.F.	Vileinie
110.	Usage	O.F.	Usage
121.	Madame	O.F.	Madame
121.	Eglantyne	O.F.	Eglantine
122.	Service	O.F.	Service
139.	Chere	O.F.	Chere
166.	Venerye	O.F.	Venerie
173.	Reule	O.F.	Reule
223.	Penaunce	O.F.	Penance
224.	Pitaunce	O.F.	Pitance
235.	Note	O.F.	Note
291.	Benefice	O.F.	Benefice
292.	Office	O.F.	Office
419.	Cause	O.F.	Cause
473.	Suffisaunce	O.F.	Suffisance
496.	Ensample	O.F.	Ensample
499.	Figure	O.F.	Figure
510.	Chaunterie	O.F.	Chanterie
568.	Example	O.F.	Example
604.	Covyne	O.F.	Convine

617.	Surcote	O.F.	Surcote
624.	Face	O.F.	Face
703.	Moneye	O.F.	Moneie
709.	Storee	O.F.	Estore
710.	Offertorie	O.F.	Offertoire
716.	Nombre	O.F.	Nombre
768.	Ese	O.F.	Aise

Accusative Case Plural

Derived from Old French.

8.	Melodye	O.F.	Melodie
----	---------	------	---------

d. Derived from Other Languages.

350.	Luce	Irish.	Pice
403.	Herberwe	Icel.	Herbergi > herberwe
648.	Felawe	Icel.	Felagi > felawe
113.	Daggere	Welsh.	Dagr
403.	Herberwe	Icel.	Herbergi > herberwe

Chapter 111.

Verbs.

1. Present Indicative.

a. Derived from Old English Strong Verbs.

728. Speke O.E. Sprecan pres. indic.
1st sg. sprece > speke

b. Derived from Old English Weak Verbs.

15. Wende O.E. Wendan; w, 1 3rd plural,
wenedon > wende

155. Trowe O.E. Truwian w,2; 1st sing.
truwie > trowe

284. Calle O.E. Ceallian w,2; 3rd plural,
cealledon > ceallede > calle

329. Telle O.E. Tellan w,l; 1st sg. telle

c Derived from Old French.

34. Devyse O.F. Deviser > M.E. devyse

36. Pace O.F. Pacer > M.E. pace

829. Recorde O.F. Recorder >M.E. recorde

830. Accorde O.F. Accorder > M.E. accorde

d. Derived from Other Languages.

82. Gesse M. L. G. Gissen > M. E. gesse

854. Welcome Icel. Velkominn > M. E. Welcome

2. Pret erit

a. Derived from Old English Weak Verbs.

45. Lovede O. E. Lufian w. 2; Pret. 3rd sg.
lufede > luvēde > lovede

70. Sayde O.E. Secg(e)an w,3; pret. 3rd sg.
sayde >saegde

78.	Wente	O. E.	Wendan W.1; pret. 3rd sg. wenede > wente
102.	Liste	O. E.	Lystan W.1; pret. 3rd sg. lyste
110.	Coade	O. E.	Cunnian w.2; pret. 3rd sg. cunnode > cunde > coade
136.	Raughte	O. E.	Raecean W.1; pret. 3rd sg. rohte > raughte
146.	Fedde	O. E.	Fedan W.1; pret, 3rd sg. fedde
221.	Herde	O. E.	Hierdan W.1; pret. 3rd sg. hierede > herde
279.	Bisette	O. E.	Besettan W.1; pret 3rd, sg. besaette > bisette
300.	Spente	O. E.	Aspendan W.1; pret. 3rd sg. aspendede > spende > spente
387.	Made	O. E.	Macian W3; pret. 3rd sg. macede > made
415.	Kepte	O. E.	Cepan W. 1; pret. 3rd sg.
492.	Lafte	O. E.	Laefan W.1; pret 3rd sg. laefede > laefde > lafte
497.	Wroghte	O. E.	Wyrcean W.1; pret. 3rd sg. worhte > wroghte
497.	Taughte	O. E.	Taecean W.1; pret. 3rd sg. tahte > taughte

512.	Dwelte	O.E.	Dwellan W,1; pret. 3rd sg. dwealde > dwelde > dwelte
566.	Broghte	O.E.	Bringan W,1; pret. 3rd sg. broghte > broghte
682.	Thoughte	O.E.	Thenc(e)an W,1; pret 3rd sg. thoghte > thoughte
698.	Hente	O.E.	Hentan W,1; pret. 3rd sg. hentede > hent ('ed) e hente
824.	Gadrede	O.E.	Gaderian W,2; pret. 3rd sg. gaderede > gadrede

3. Infinitives.

a. Derived from Old English Strong Verbs.

27.	Ryde	O.E.	Ridan l, ryden > ryde
30.	Reste	O.E.	Restan l, resten > reste
33.	Ryse	O.E.	Risan risen > ryse
94.	Sitte	O.E.	Sittan V. sitten > sitte
96.	Wryte	O.E.	Writan l, writen > write
126.	Unknowe	O.E.	(un) cnawan rd. cnawen > cnawe > knowe
128.	Falle	O.E.	Feallan rd. feallen > falle
223.	Geve	O.E.	Giefan V. giefen > giefe > geve
258.	Helpe	O.E.	Helpan lll. helpen > helpe
383.	Sethe	O.E.	Seothan ll. seothen > sethe
384.	Bake	O.E.	Bacan Vl. bacen > bake
427.	Wynne	O.E.	Winnan lll. winnen > wynne

462.	Speke	O.E.	Sprecan V.	specen > spece > speke
474.	Laughe	O.E.	Hlehhan V1.	hlehhen > laughe
536.	Delve	O.E.	Delfan 111.	delfen > delfe
565.	Blowe	O.E.	Blowan rd.	blowen > blowe
631.	Byte	O.E.	Bitan 1,	biten > bite
644.	Grope	O.E.	Gripan 1,	gripen > gripe > grope
648.	Fynde	O.E.	Findan 111.	finden > finde > fynde
660.	Drede	O.E.	Draedan rd.	draeden > draede
743.	Forgeve	O.E.	Forgifan V.	forgifen > forgife
745.	Stonde	O.E.	Standan V1,	standen > stonde
746.	Understonde	O.E.	(under) standan V1,	standen > stonde
750.	Drinke	O.E.	Drincan 1.	drincen > drince
763.	Lye	O.E.	Leogan 11.	leogen > lege
853.	Bigynne	O.E.	Beginnan 111.	beginnen > bigynne

b. Derived from Old English Weak Verbs

17.	Seke	O.E.	Secan W.1;	secen > seke
30.	Reste	O.E.	Restan W.1;	resten > reste
130.	Kepe	O.E.	Cepan W.1;	cepen > kepe
144.	Wepe	O.E.	Weopan W.1;	weopen > wepe
192.	Spare	O.E.	Sparian W.2;	sparien > spare
195.	Festne	O.E.	Faestnian W.2;	faestnen Festne
278.	Sellan	O.E.	Sellan W.1;	sellen > selle
299.	Hente	O.E.	Hentan W.1;	henten > hente
300.	Lerne	O.E.	Leornian W.2;	lernien > lerne

300.	Teche	O.E.	Taec(e)an W.1; tecen > teche
346.	Thinke	O.E.	Thencan W.1; thencen > thinke
401.	Rekene	O.E.	Reccan W.1; reccen > rekene
426.	Sende	O.E.	Sendan W.1; senden > sende
460.	Seye	O.E.	Secgan W.111; secgen > seye
536.	Thresshe	O.E.	Therscan W.1; therscen > th y ersce > thresshe
611.	Lende	O.E.	Lendan W.1; lenden > lende
652.	Pulle	O.E.	Pullian W.11; pullen > pulle
772.	Pleye	O.E.	Plegan W.1; plegen > pleye
826.	Areste	O.E.	Onrestan W.1; onresten > areste
853.	Bigynne	O.E.	Biginnan W.1; biginnen > bigynne

c. Derived from Old French Verbs.

95.	Endyte	O.F.	Enditer > in M.E. in endite
96.	Juste	O.F.	Juster > in M.E. in juste
96.	Purtreye	O.F.	Pourtraire > in M.E. in purtreye
302.	Preye	O.F.	Preier > in M.E. preye
326.	Pinche	O.F.	Pincer > in M.E. pinche
374.	Assente	O.F.	Assentir > in M.E. assente
375.	Blame	O.F.	Blamer > in M.E. blame
481.	Preche	O.F.	Precher > in M.E. preche
493.	Visyte	O.F.	Visiter > in M.E. visyte
513.	Miscarie	O.F.	Miscarier > in M.E. miscarie
636.	Crye	O.F.	Crier M.E. > in crye
736.	Feyne	O.F.	Feindre > M.E. in feyne

481.	Preche	O.F.	Precher	in M.E.	preche
493.	Visyte	O.F.	Visiter	in M.E.	visyte
513.	Miscarie	O.F.	Miscarier	in M.E.	miscarie
636.	Crye	O.F.	Grier >	M.E.	crye
736.	Feyne	O.F.	Feindre >	M.E.	in feyne

d. Derived from Other Languages.

474.	Carpe	O.N.	Karpa, >	M.E.	karpe
405.	Undertake	Icel.	O.E.	under and Icel	taka
				in M.E.	undertake
		Icel.	Happ.	M.E.	happe

4. Present Participles.

a. Derived from Old English Strong Verbs.

276.	Sowninge	O.E.	Sowenende >	sowninge
633.	Sittinge	O.E.	Sittende >	sittinge

b. Derived from Old English Weak Verbs.

569.	Byinge	O.E.	Bycgende (W.l.) >	byinge
821.	Taryinge	O.E.	Tiergende (W.l.) >	taryinge

5. Past Participles.

Derived from Old English Strong Verbs.

8.	Y-ronne	O.E.	Rinnan lll. past pt. -	ge-ronnen >	ronne
25.	Y-falle	O.E.	Feallen rd. past pt.	ge-fallen >	y-falle
51.	Wonne	O.E.	Winnan lll, past pt.	wonnen >	wonne
52.	Bigonne	O.E.	Beginnan lll, past pt.	beginnen >	beginne > bigonne

77.	Y-cume	O.E.	Cunnan past pt. ye-cumen > y-cume
126.	Unknowe	O.E.	(un) cnawan; rd. past pt. (un) cnawen > unknowe
226.	Y-shrive	O.E.	Scrifan; past pt. scrifen > shrive
324.	Falle	O.E.	Feallan; rd. past pt. fallen > falle
343.	Bake	O.E.	Bacan; V1 past pt. bacen > bake
378.	Y-bore	O.E.	Beran V past pt. ge-baren > y-bore
396.	Y-drawe	O.E.	Dragan V1. past pt. ge-dragen > y-drawe
406.	Shake	O.E.	Scacan V1; past pt. scacen > shake
423.	Y-knowe	O.E.	Cnawan rd; past pt. ge-cnawe > y-knowe
511.	Withholde	O.E.	With and O.E. healdan rd; past pt. healden > holde, hence withholde
592.	Y-sene	O.E.	Seon; V. past pt. ge-sewen > y-sene
616.	Highte	O.E.	Hatan V1; past pt. heten (hehten) > hehte > highte

6. Preteret Present Verbs.

a. Derived from Old English Verbs.

94.	Coude	O.E.	Cunnan 111, pret. cuthe > coude
184.	Sholde	O.E.	Sculan 1V. pret. scolde > sholde
224.	Wiste	O.E.	Witan 1, pret. wieste
227.	Dorste	O.E.	Durran 111, pret. dorste
232.	Moote	O.E.	Motan VI, pret. moste > mote > moote.

Adjectives.

Chapter IV.

a. Derived from Strong (Indefinite) Old English

Adjectives.

103.	Grene (acc. sg.)	O. E. Grenne; > grene
153.	Softe (nom. sg.)	O. E. Softe
160.	Shene (acc. sg.)	O. E. Scene > shene
208.	Merye (nom. sg.)	O. E. Merige > merye
287.	Lene (nom. sg.)	O. E. Hlaene > lene
289.	Holwe (acc. sg.)	O. E. Halge > holwe
290.	Thredbare (nom. sg.)	O. E. Thraed > thred and O. E. baere > bare; hence thredbare
352.	Sharpe (nom. sg.)	O. E. Searpe > sharpe
358.	Morne (nom. sg.)	O. E. Morgen > morwen > morne
420.	Drye (dat. sg.)	O. E. Drygum (masc.) > dryge (fem. & n.) > drye (masc. fem. and neuter.)
504.	Foule (nom. sg.)	O. E. Fule
504.	Clene (nom. sg.)	O. E. Claene > clene
531.	Trewe (nom. sg.)	O. E. Treowe
549.	Thikke	O. E. Thicce > thikke
647.	Kynde (nom. sg.)	O. E. Cynde > kynde
690.	Smothe (nom. sg.)	O. E. Smethe > smothe
831.	Fyrste (acc. sg.)	O. E. Fyrstsee (masc.) fyrste (fem. neuter) fyrste (masc. fem. and neuter)

120.	Gretteste (nom.sg.)	O.E.	Greateste > gretteste
129.	Depe (dat.sg.)	O.E.	Deopan > deopa > depe
176.	Newe (dat.sg.)	O.E.	Neowan > neowa > newe
213.	Owne (dat.sg.)	O.E.	agnun > agne > owne
533.	Hoole (dat.sg.)	O.E.	Halgan > halge > hoole
632.	Hindrest (nom.sg.)	O.E.	Hinder and superl. ending este

Plural

1.	Sootte (dat.pl.)	O.E.	Swetan > sweta > soote
61.	Fiftene (acc.pl.)	O.E.	Fiftiene
152.	Grege (nom.pl.)	O.E.	graegon > graega > grege
201.	Stepe (nom.pl.)	O.E.	Steopan > steopa > stepe

Adjectives.

c. Derived from Old French.

138.	Amiable	O.F.	Amiable
143.	Charitable	O.F.	Charitable
167.	Able	O.F.	Able
168.	Deyntee	O.F.	Deintee
205.	Pale	O.F.	Palle
209.	Solempne	O.F.	Solempne
214.	Noble	O.F.	Noble
225.	Povre	O.F.	Povre
319.	Simple	O.F.	Simple
328.	Medlee	O.F.	Medlee
398.	Nyce	O.F.	Nyce
420.	Moiste	O.F.	Moiste

Strong (Indefinite) Plurals.

9.	Smale (nom.pl.)	O. E.	Smaele > smale
14.	Couthe (nom.pl.)	O. E.	Cuthe > couthe
18.	Seke (nom.pl.)	O. E.	Secce > seke
24.	Nyne (nom.pl.)	O. E.	
26.	Alle (nom.pl.)	O. E.	Falle > alle
90.	Fresshe (acc.pl.)	O. E.	Fersce > fresshe
90.	Whyte (acc.pl.)	O. E.	Kvite > whyte
90.	Rede (acc.pl.)	O. E.	Reade > rede
164.	Thre (acc.pl.)	O. E.	Thrie > thre
175.	Olde (acc.pl.)	O. E.	Ealde > olde
190.	Swifte (nom.pl.)	O. E.	Swifte
234.	Faire (acc.pl.)	O. E.	Faegere > faire
248.	Riche (dat.pl.)	O. E.	Ricum > ricu > rice > riche
557.	Blake (nom.pl.)	O. E.	Blace
569.	Wyse (dat.pl.)	O. E.	Wisum > wisu > wyse
625.	Narwe (nom.pl.)	O. E.	Nearwe
639.	Fewe (nom.pl.)	O. E.	Feawe
701.	Thise (dat.pl.)	O. E.	Thissum > thisu > thise
846.	Blythe (nom.pl.)	O. E.	Blithe > blythe

b. Weak (Definite) Adjectives Derived from Old English.

Singular.

5.	Swete (dat. sg.)	O. E.	Swetan > sweta > swete
7.	Yonge (acc. sg.)	O. E.	Geongan > geonga > geonge
8.	Halfe (acc. sg.)	O. E.	Healfan > healfa > halfe
64.	Ilke (nom. sg.)	O. E.	Ilca > ilke

435.	Mesurable	O.F.	Mesurable
483.	Benygne	O.F.	Benigne
517.	Digne	O.F.	Digne
540.	Propre	O.F.	Propre

Adjectives, Plural.

Derived from Old French.

7.	Tendre	O.F.	Tendre
204.	Souple	O.F.	Souple
488.	Povre	O.F.	Povre
13.	Straunge	O.F.	Estrange

Chapter V.

Adverbs.

a. Derived from Old English.

14.	Ferne	O. E.	Fecrrene > ferne
37.	Wyde	O. E.	Wide
41.	Inne	O. E.	Inne
48.	Ferre	O. E.	Fear; comp. fierra > ferre
52.	Ofte	O. E.	Ofte
65.	Somtyne	O. E.	Sum and O. E. timan > tima > time
67.	Evermore	O. E.	Aefre and O. E. mara > evermore
93.	Faire	O. E.	Faegre
97.	Hote	O. E.	Hate > hote
98.	Namore	O. E.	Na and O. E. mara > namore
107.	Lowe	O. E.	Lagu > lowe
125.	Faire	O. E.	Faegre
128.	Withalle	O. E.	With and O. E. ealle > withalle
133.	Clene	O. E.	Claene > clene
148.	Sore	O. E.	Sare > sore
189.	Therefore	O. E.	Thaere (dat. sg.) and O. E. fore
256.	Bettre	O. E.	Bettra > better
283.	Sothe	O. E.	Sothe
293.	Levere	O. E.	Leofera > leverer
376.	Bifore	O. E.	Biforen > before
388.	Weste	O. E.	Weste

445.	Bisyde	O.E.	Be side>bisyde
457.	Streite	O.E.	Estreit
462.	Nouthe	O.E.	Nu tha>nouthe
467.	Muche	O.E.	Micel>muche
571.	Algate	O.E.	Al and Icel. gata>gate
621.	Aboute	O.E.	Onbuton> abuton>abute
672.	Loude	O.E.	Hlude
721.	Faste	O.E.	Feste

b. Old French Adverbs.

437.	Digestible	O.F.	Digestible
170.	Clere	O.F.	Clere
435.	Mesurable	O.F.	Mesurable
376.	Roialliche	O.F.	Roial and O.E. lice
			> M.E. Roialliche
447.	Streite	O.F.	Estreite

Plural (Adverb).

Derived from Old French.

99.	Servisable	O.F.	Servisable.
-----	------------	------	-------------

Chapter VI.

Conclusion.

In concluding we may say, that in our investigation of the final "e" in the Prologue to the Canterbury Tales, by Geoffrey Chaucer, our author has in the majority of cases observed faithfully the grammatical usage that prevailed in his time; he is not an erratic speller, or an indifferent grammarian.

We note too, that there are a number of words derived from foreign sources, other than Old French, which have been made to conform to the Middle English orthography, and which to-day are even more changed; as for example, *Aprille*, from Latin *Aprillis* (1.) which to-day is spelt *April*. Also, *stede*, (231) from Old Norse *stedja*, which to-day is spelt *stead*.

The number of words which in Middle English retained a final "e" which we do not keep in modern spelling, shows that we have progressed along the path of simplification of grammar; although the difference between modern English, and middle English is not as great, by any means, as the difference between Middle English and Old English.