

The Paternoster III

Old English

Fæder ure þu þe eart on heofonum,
si þin nama gehalgod.
Tobecume þin rice.
Gewurþe ðin willa
on eorðan swa swa on heofonum.
Urne gedæghwamlican hlaf syle us
todæg
and forgyf us ure gyltas,
swa swa we forgyfað urum gyltendum.
And ne gelæd þu us on costnunge
ac alys us of yfele.

Middle English

Oure fadir that art in heuenes,
halewid be thi name.
Thi kyngdoom come to.
Be thi wille don
in erthe as in heuene.
3yue to vs this dai oure breed ouer
othir substaunce
and for3yue to vs oure dettis,
as we for3yuen to oure dettouris.
And lede vs not in to temptacioun
but delyuere vs fro yuel.

1. Identify seven illustrations of inflectional levelling in Middle English.
2. What primarily orthographical innovations can you find in the Middle English text?
3. Discuss the lexical (i.e. vocabulary) changes between the two translations. Can you identify the source language of each “new” Middle English word?