

## Abstract

The present thesis deals with the construction and testing of a web-based tool for analysis of Early Middle English texts, created from the data available in the Linguistic Atlas of Early Middle English (LAEME).

The introductory theoretical overview of research into Middle English texts focuses on dialectology and the relation between spoken & written language and it serves as a springboard for the development of the tool. The thesis further presents a detailed explanation of the methodology behind the tool. It describes the structure of the database containing the transformed data from LAEME and then it moves on to the semi-automatic data processing and types of output data. This processing consists mainly in the segmentation of LAEME spelling variants into smaller units and in determining which segments in a group of variants correspond to one another. The thesis also describes the individual functions available within the tool and tests their use on short sample analyses.

Although more extensive testing and modifications of the tool are required, it has so far revealed no crucial errors and the tool can be described as useable. The project succeeded in opening new possibilities of faster access to LAEME data. Furthermore, the tool is prepared for future upgrades, including the addition of data from other periods of development of the English language.