Experience Day English Language and Culture
24 November 2023

Introduction

A student of English Language and Culture will tell you about your first year at this programme.

Lecture

Title
From Novel Romance to Romance Novel: When did we start writing about love in English?

Short description
From Taylor Swift to Jane Austen, love is obviously an important theme in English literature and pop culture. What is perhaps less obvious is that many of the phrases and tropes that we use when we write about love in English trace their roots back to the medieval period. In this lecture we will explore some of the earliest English writing on love. We will then examine how writing about love shifted during the medieval period by looking at selections of chivalric romance, song lyrics, and other texts.

Lecturer: Dr. Krista Milne (k.a.milne@hum.leidenuniv.nl)
Krista A. Milne's research focuses on late medieval literature and culture, often from book history and digital humanities approaches. She also works on the intersection between the French and English literature of medieval England. She teaches Middle English literature at Leiden University.

Seminar

Title
Geoffrey Chaucer, The Canterbury Tales & The Knight's Tale

Lecturer: Elisa Ramirez Perez (e.ramirez.perez@hum.leidenuniv.nl)
Elisa Ramírez Pérez is a historical linguist specialising in late Old English morphosyntactic change. She teaches history of the English language and historical linguistics alongside other philological courses such as Old and Middle English literature and culture.

Q&A

Do you have any questions regarding the programme? The student will answer them all at the Q&A.

Preparation

See the assignment blow.

Middle English language and literature:
Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* & *The Knight's Tale*

Preparation:
1. Check the following links to find out who [Greoffrey Chaucer](#) was and what *[The Canterbury Tales](#)* are. For the Geoffrey Chaucer link, read the 'Top Questions' and the first section only (until 'Forebears and early years').
2. Watch this animated [video](#) based on one of Chaucer's tales, namely *The Knight's Tale*.
3. Read lines 1034 to 1186 of *The Knight's Tale* in translation via this [link](#). Go to page 53 and start reading from 'Until one morning in the month of May' until 'And each of us must take what chance he can' at the bottom of page 57.
4. Here is the complete *[Canterbury Tales](#)* in Middle English, and here *[The Knight's Tale](#)* (Benson's 2008 edition) starting on page 37.

Based on your preparation, complete the following questions:

1. Provide a summary of *The Knight's Tale*.
2. Translate lines (ll.) 1074 to 1102 of *The Knight's Tale* into <u>Present-Day English prose</u> (go to page 40 via the last link in 4. above). Please, try to come up with your own translation instead of copying Coghill's version. Make sure you consult the helpful <u>explanatory notes</u> at the end of the page in Benson's edition when working on your translation.
3. Who are Arcite, Palamon and Emelya? How are they related?
4. Which literary convention is exemplified by Palamon's declaration in lines 1093 to 1111?
5. Based on your reading of *The Knight's Tale*, identify 4 characteristics of this literary convention in the aforementioned lines (i.e. Palamon's declaration).
6. Identify the rhyming pattern in the passage set for translation.
7. Which languages do the following 8 words come from? Check these links to find out: [morwenynge](#) (l.1062); [prisoner](#) (l.1063); [chambre](#) (l.1065); [wyndow](#) (l.1075); [herte](#) (l.1079); [adversitee](#) (l.1086); [hevene](#) (l.1090); [ymaginacioun](#) (l.1094). **<u>TIP</u>**: first check the 'Etymology' section and then look at the 'Language abbreviation key' on the left of the page!
8. Is Middle English spelt the same as Present-Day English? Find 5 examples in the passage set for translation to support your answer.

9. Is the syntax (i.e. word-order) of Middle English the same as that of Present-Day English? Find 5 examples in the passage set for translation to support your answer.

10. Consider lines 1083, 1095 and 1101. These lines contain both negative and interrogative sentences. How does the grammar of Middle English differ from Present-Day English grammar in terms of negative and interrogative sentences?