

January 2010

Wednesday 12

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Week 03
Day 012-353

Priority

09.00 century. It has since become the standard in both speech and writing. Its basis was the East Midland type of English, particularly the English of London.

10.00 There were several reasons why the East Midland dialect became the basis of Standard English. First it was conservative than the Southern or Northern dialect. Secondly the East Midland district was the most populous of the major dialect areas. Thirdly Oxford and Cambridge were situated in this area. Lastly Chaucer wrote his works in the East Midland dialect.

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The Thames. The East and West Midland dialects were spoken between the Humber and the Thames. These dialects differ from one another in pronunciation, vocabulary and inflection. In the third person plural present indicative -th was used in OE verbs but in ME -eth was used only in the Southern dialect. In the Midland dialect it was replaced by -en and in the Northern dialect -es was used. Thus we have loves in the North, loven in the Midlands and loveth in the South. In the Present Participle before the use of -ing we find loven in the North and lovende in the South.

The Northern and the Southern dialects differ widely but the Midland dialects occupy an intermediate position between the two. Due to the Scandinavian influence, they, them and their were used in the North, while he, here and him were used in the South. In pronunciation 'a' in the North corresponds 'e' in the South where we find words like stone and home while in the North we find stane and hame. Where we find ck in the South, there is 'k' in the North. In the Southern dialect we find bench and church which are benck and kirk respectively in the Northern dialect.

The Middle English dialects were mainly four, but towards the end of the fourteenth century a written language emerged and received general recognition in the fifteenth

January	2011					Notes
Day	1	2	3	4	5	
Mon	31	1	10	17	24	
Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thu		6	13	20	27	
Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	

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Standard English / Middle English Dialect

16.00
17.00 In the Middle English period there were many dialects in England. In fact each country had its own dialect and in
18.00 one country the language varied from town to town.

However we usually distinguish four main dialects of Middle English: Northern, East Midland, West Midland and Southern. The northern dialect was spoken north of the Humber river and the southern dialect was spoken south of

Notes

February		2011			
Wk	6	7	8	9	10
Mon		7	14	21	28
Tue	1	8	15	22	
Wed	2	9	16	23	
Thu	3	10	17	24	
Fri	4	11	18	25	
Sat	5	12	19	26	