ABSTRACT


Keywords: Comparative Linguistics, Middle and Modern English Words, Morphology

This research mainly explores the comparison of words from Middle and Modern English periods. This research paper discusses two major concerns: first is the word changes and second is the similarities and differences of words in both periods. The researcher uses morphological analysis to compare each words in both periods as in Carstairs and McCarthy (2002) and also Boij (2005). There are five word classes which are analyzed, they are nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs. A qualitative approach by Dörnyei (2007) is applied in this study. This method allows the researcher to make a systematic and factual description of the obtained data. The researcher uses qualitative data collection as the technique of collecting data. The sources of data are taken from Geoffrey Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales which is written in two different periods. The Middle English words are collected from Robinson (1957), meanwhile the Modern English words are collected from Ecker and Crook (1993). The results of data analysis show that words with a final -e in Middle English have lost in Modern English as the result of GVS (Great Vowel Shifting). In Modern English, nouns have -s and -es endings as a sign of plural forms, these replace -en plural ending in Middle English. The first and third person pronouns have a similar forms, the changes are drawn by the second person pronouns thou, ye, thee, and yow are replaced by you in Modern English. Adjectives have lost a final -e in Modern English. The transformation of verbs are shown by the replacement of -eth inflectional ending. It is replaced by -s or -es in Modern English. Adverbs have no replacement of inflectional endings. The -ly ending is found in both periods as a sign of adverbs.