

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE *MORPHOLOGICAL ACCUSATIVE-GENITIVE* *ALTERNATION* IN OLD ENGLISH

ALTERNATION is generally defined as a phenomenon of a morpheme exhibiting variation in its PHONETIC realization. The variant phonetic realization is conditioned by different phonetic, morphological, or syntactic qualities. Old English undoubtedly displayed a wide range of phonetic alternations (Hogg 2011, among others). Recent syntactic and semantic diachronic research has shown that the definition of alternation should be expanded to include new types of structural variations. SYNTACTIC alternations, hence alternations in the realization of verb's argument structure, have been distinguished in the historical English language (among others, see, McFadden 2002, De Cuypere 2010, 2013, 2015; Coleman 2011, van Gelderen 2017, Zehentner 2019, Sówka-Pietraszewska 2019). On the other hand, Mitchell (1985) and Allen (1995) show that Old English, being an inflectional language, displayed some MORPHOLOGICAL alternations. They may be defined as the availability of a verb to change the morphological case of its the direct object or its Theme argument; for example, the verb *drincan* marked its direct object with Acc or Gen or the verb *etan* assigned either Acc or Gen to its NP object (1985: 454-465). This presentation aims to examine the MORPHOLOGICAL ACCUSATIVE-GENITIVE ALTERNATION in Old English. It will be argued that verbs participating in this alternation were accomplishments, but the type of the case on the Theme argument might have changed the interpretation of their inner aspect from durative to telic. Namely, the measured-out Genitive marked object rendered the verb atelic. In contrast, the verb got a telic interpretation when the NP object was marked with the Accusative case. It will be pointed out that only unbounded nouns with the quality to shift referential limits from countable *the apple* to uncountable and partitive *some/part of the apple* could alternate case. Other features triggering the morphological accusative-genitive alternation in Old English, such as selected aspectual prefixes, will also be considered.

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