

**Alexandra Fodor (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest):
Rise and Fall in the Life of *And***

This paper tends to examine the occurrence of *and* meaning ‘if’ in Middle English and in Early Modern English prose texts. The principal aim is to prove that *and* functioning as a conditional subordinator was in fact not an unusual phenomenon and should thus not be disregarded when analysing conditional constructions in the given periods.

In order to attain precise results, both periods are further divided into subperiods: Middle English into ME1, ME2, ME3, and ME4, and Early Modern English into E1, E2, and E3 – in accordance with the distribution of the Helsinki Corpus. The corpora used for the analyses are the Penn-Helsinki Corpus and the Helsinki Corpus.

I would like to look for conditional clauses introduced by *and*, and see their rate of occurrence, whether there is really a rise and fall in its usage. I also wish to take a look at the “regular” conditional clauses introduced by *if* (and possible spelling variants) and to compare the number of occurrences with that of *and*-clauses. I intend to locate the *and*-conditionals, especially in Middle English, and specify that dialectal area where it was most frequently used, and that subperiod when the number of *and*-conditionals reached its peak.

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