

We present a detailed analysis of word order in a corpus of Middle French. As a basis for our research, we took the entire text of the *Remède de Fortune*, a work written between 1342 and 1357 by Guillaume de Machaut, the famous poet and composer.

Our work is intended to be strictly descriptive. Its main aim was to show and to characterise the principles of the positional syntax of Middle French on the chosen text and compare it afterwards with results of studies conducted on this topic over the past thirty years.

With the intention of applying some limit to our topic and to our corpus, we decided to concentrate on subordinate clauses. Having defined the material, it was necessary to classify the subordinate clauses in a systematic way. As the classification basis, we used the system proposed by Pierre le Goffic, presented in his *Grammaire de la Phrase française*. We arranged all subordinate clauses in four chapters according to their connector. For the analysis method, we mainly followed the studies of P. Esperling, Ch. Marchello-Nizia, B. Combettes, R. Martin and M. Wilmet.

The first step was to define the basic order, which was SVO in Middle French as it is Modern French. Then we marked the positional variants existing in our text according to the presence or absence of the subject, inversion of the subject-verb order and finally the position of other constituents (the direct and indirect objects, prepositional and adverbial phrases) relative to the subject and the verb.

The frequency statistics for each variant we found are summarised in the tables and accompanied by examples and short commentaries.

We then compared our results with those of some of the few studies made on this field. We ascertain that the text of Machaut, written in rhyme, exhibits similar features with regard to the positional syntax, as the texts in prose, usually examined by linguists researching this topic. We consider if, at least in the case of some authors, it is a question of a text genre rather than of text form that in the 14th century still determines whether and to what extent the text will be marked with respect to the basic SVO word order. Finally, we make some brief remarks about the position of parts of the verbal phrase.