

Abstract

The present MA thesis presents an analysis of version D of the Early Middle English verse sermon known as the *Poema Morale*. The objectives of the study were to verify the present localisation of D in Western Kent and clarify its relations to two more copies of the same text (T and M). The research consisted in analysing the language of the text in terms of its dialect and distinguishing between different layers of copying, where possible.

The analysis was performed using the electronic tool Linguistic Atlas of Early Middle English, specific procedures included mainly analyses of maps showing the distribution of dialectal features found in D, which were complemented by discussions of forms which D shares with other Kentish texts or versions T and M. The aim of these discussions was the identification of words coming from the exemplar. Evidence supporting the localisation of D in Kent as well as forms presumably taken from the archetype were presented and put in the context of the results of previous studies.