

## **ABSTRACT**

The aim of this thesis is to analyse and describe the Middle English adjectival innovations of native origin coming into existence by prefixation in the period of 1200-1400. The formations are described from the point of view of their word-formation and semantics, the individual word-formation patterns are identified and analysed in terms of their productivity. In the theoretical part we present three points of view – social, typological and word-formational – which allow us to formulate our hypothesis consisting in the assumption that the native prefixation will exhibit gradual signs of decreasing productivity, brought about both by the language-external and language-internal causes – the language being overwhelmed by the an influx of foreign elements due to political and social situation at the time; as well as gradual phonological and semantic non-transparency of the native prefixes. The empirical part is based on the analysis of the 219 adjectives retrieved from the Oxford English Dictionary. Our results show that 7 out of 13 prefixes are decreasing in productivity or unproductive, yet the situation is not homogeneous and we were able to identify eight possible scenarios of development in productivity patterns. Our hypothesis is thus confirmed only partially – both the extra and intra-linguistic factors play a significant role in decreasing the productivity of the native prefixation, yet not all the prefixes in focus are influenced and rather tend to develop differently.

**Key words:** native, prefixation, adjective, word-formation, semantics, Middle English, Old English, productivity