

Morphological spelling in the early editions of *The kalender of shepherdes*

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This presentation will discuss the results of my research on the interrelations between graphemics and morphology in sixteenth-century and seventeenth-century editions of *The kalender of shepherdes*, a comprehensive compendium of prose and verse texts on a variety of subjects. The analysed editions comprise those printed by R. Pynson (1506), J. Notary (1518), W. de Worde (1528), T. Este (1570), T. Adams (1611), and R. Ibbitson (1656). The corpus constituting the basis for the study contains over 500,000 words, and is a self-compiled electronic database of transcriptions of the editions based on the facsimiles available at *Early English Books Online* (at <http://www.lib.umi.com/eebo/>).

The focus of the paper is the analysis of the graphemic realisation and development of selected derivational suffixes in all the editions under consideration. The analysed suffixes include native ones, e.g., {-ful}, {-ly}, {-ness}, and {-ship}, as well as those borrowed from Latin and French, e.g., {-al}, {-ity}, {-our}, and {-tion}. Morphological spelling, together with the indication of vowel length, orthographic distinctions between homophones, and the establishment of etymological spelling, are considered the most important variables to be taken into consideration in the analysis of the process of orthographic standardisation in Early Modern English (Salmon 1999). The main aims of the undertaken comparison are to discuss the degrees of consistency and variation in the selected early English printed texts, as well as to point to the importance of external motivation for the changes from the contemporary spelling reformers (e.g., Mulcaster 1582, Coote 1596).

The study discussed in this paper is part of a larger project that aims at analysing the orthographic systems of the early printers of books in English. The advanced stage of the project has enabled the present author to draw some cross-comparisons between the editions analysed for the purposes of this study and those of other books issued by the same printers.

References:

- Coote, Edmund 1596 *The English Schoolmaister*. London: Jackson & Dexter.
- Lass, R. (ed.) 1999 *The Cambridge History of the English Language. Volume III: 1476-1776*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Mulcaster, Richard 1582 *The First Part of the Elementarie*. London: Vautrollier.
- Salmon, V. 1999 "Orthography and punctuation", in: R. Lass (ed.), 13-55.