

**STRENGTHENING
MODIFIERS OF
ADJECTIVES IN
MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649369560

Strengthening Modifiers of Adjectives in Middle High German by Fred Cole Hicks

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FRED COLE HICKS

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STRENGTHENING MODIFIERS OF ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS IN MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN.

PREFATORY.

In the following pages a study of the use of strengthening modifiers of adjectives and adverbs during the classical Middle High German period, or from about 1150 to 1300, is attempted. Such devices being so largely unconscious, and at the same time so subject to fashion, we may expect to find a certain consistency in their use, and to see in them marks of style, sometimes of the individual, but more often of different schools and classes of literature. They seem therefore well worthy of special treatment.

Aside from the thesis of H. Z. Kip,¹ which is limited to the religious poetry of the eleventh and twelfth centuries, and which treats the subject more from the standpoint of the lexicographer, no such treatment has been given. What little has been done on the subject is to be found in the dictionaries, and scattered through the notes in the various editions of the works of this period. That the material there offered is inadequate, and the statement of facts often erroneous, is apparent to one who takes but a casual glance into the subject, or who will but compare the notes of the different editors.

During the investigation which has formed the basis of this study, such questions as the following have been kept in mind, in the case of each of the words which may be classed as strengthening particles, viz: 1. The origin and development of meaning of the word. 2. In what dialects and for what periods is it current? 3. In what classes of literature is it found, or in what classes is it the most frequent? 4. With what classes of adjectives and adverbs is it used? 5. Is it a

¹Zur Geschichte der Steigerungsadverbien in der deutschen geistlichen Dichtung des 11. und 12. Jahrhunderts, (Leipzig Dissertation) Journ. of Germ. Phil., vol. III, p. 148 ff.

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part of the popular dialect, or is it confined to literary or poetical diction? 6. Are there any signs of its becoming obsolete? 7. The peculiarities of individual writers, if any.

Not all of the literature of this period has been examined, as that seemed neither necessary nor feasible. The works which were selected for exhaustive treatment, however, are such as may be considered fairly representative of the different classes of literature during the period, and are numerous enough to warrant the drawing of general conclusions.

For the purpose of statistics, the different forms of the same word to which a strengthening particle is joined (as for instance, *nd*, *ndch*, *ndhe*, *ndhen*) are grouped together, and no distinction is made between the adjective and the adverbial use of the same word. This plan has been adopted on the assumption that the choice of a strengthening particle with any author is not dependent on the form or grammatical use of the word to be strengthened. In the examples which are given, the more usual form of the word, and in the case of adjectives, the uninflected form, appears. No attempt has been made to preserve the orthography of the different editions, except where direct citations are made.

SOURCES AND TEXTS.

The following works have served as sources. They are arranged under the different dialects, as far as may be determined, in chronological order, the classification and dating being that of the various editors, Paul's *Grundriss*, and Michels' *Mittelhochdeutsches Elementarbuch*. The works have been examined exhaustively, except as may be indicated for some of the longer ones.¹

ALEMANNIC.

1. Poetical monuments.

a) Lower Alemannic.

Reinmar von Hagenau, *Des Minnesangsfrühling*, p. 150 ff.
Gottfried von Strassburg, *Tristan*, ed. by Bechstein, Leipzig 1890.

Konrad Fleck, *Flore und Blanscheflur*, ed. by Emil Sommer, Quedlinburg 1846.

Die Gute Frau, ed. by the same, *ZfdA* 2, 385 ff.

Volmar, *Das Steinbuch*, ed. by Lambel, Heilbronn 1877.

Konrad von Würzburg,

Der Trojanische Krieg (10,000), ed. by A. von Keller, Stuttgart, 1858.

Keiser Otte mit dem Barte, ed. by K. A. Hahn, Quedlinb.-Leipzig 1838.

Alexius, ed. by Richard Henczynski, Berlin 1898.

Hugo von Langenstein, *Martina* (10,000), ed. by A. von Keller, Stuttgart 1856.

Reinfried von Braunschweig (10,000), ed. by Bartsch, Stuttgart 1871.

Peter von Stauffenberg, ed. by Edw. Schröder, *Zwei Altdeutsche Rittermaeren*, Berlin 1894.

b) Upper Alemannic.

Rudolf von Ems,

Der Gute Gerhard, ed. by Haupt, Leipzig 1840.

¹The figures in parentheses after any title indicate the number of lines of that particular monument which have been considered.

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Barlaam und Josaphat (10,000), ed. by Pfeiffer, Leipzig 1843.

Johannes Hadlaub, ed. by Bartsch, Biblioth. Aelterer Schriftwerke der deutschen Schweiz, vol. VI, 283 ff.

2. Prose.

Altdeutsche Predigten, ed. by Wackernagel, (sermons 1-13, 18-20, 27-35, 42-52) Basel 1876.

Predigten des 13. Jahrhunderts, ed. by Grieshaber (100 pages), Stuttgart 1844-46.

Predigt auf Johannes den Täufer, Germania, 35.

BAVARIAN-AUSTRIAN.

1. Poetical monuments.

a) Bavarian.

Albrecht von Johansdorf, MF XII.

Wolfdietrich B, bearbeitet von Oskar Jänicke, Deutsches Heldenbuch, vol. III, Berlin 1871.

Wolfram von Eschenbach, Parzival, ed. by Lachmann, Berlin 1891.

Neidhart von Reuenthal, ed. by Haupt, Leipzig 1858.

Werner der Gartenaere, Helmbrecht, ed. by Keinz, Leipzig 1887.

Die Warnung, ed. by Haupt, ZfdA 1, 438 ff.

Lamprecht von Regensburg, S. Franciskan Leben, ed. by Weinhold, Paderborn 1880.

Reinbot von Durne, Der Heilige Georg, ed. by F. Vetter, Halle 1896.

Der Jüngere Titarel (2800), ed. by K. A. Hahn, Quedlinburg 1842.

Lohengrin (5000), ed. by Rückert, Quedlinb.-Leipzig 1858.

b) Austrian.

Die Hochzeit, ed. by Waag, Kleinere deutsche Gedichte des XI. und XII. Jahrhunderts, Halle 1890.

Genesis und Exodus, nach der Milstäter Handschrift, ed. by J. Diemer, Vienna 1862.

Die Bücher Mosis, ed. by the same, Deutsche Gedichte des XI. und XII. Jahrhunderts.

- Enticrist, ed. by Hoffmann, *Fundgruben* II, 102 ff.
Konrad von Fussesbrunn, *Kindheit Jesu*, ed. by Kochendörffer, *Quellen und Forschungen*, 43.
Der Nibelunge Nôt¹ (with reference to versions A, B, and C), ed. by Bartsch, Leipzig 1870-80.
Biterolf und Dietleib, ed. by Jänicke, DHB vol. I.
Ortnit, ed. by Amelung and Jänicke, DHB vol. III.
Wolfdietrich A and C, by the same.
Kudrun, ed. by B. Symons, Halle 1883.
Walther von der Vogelweide,² ed. by Lachmann, Berlin 1891.
Der Stricker, Karl der Grosse (10,000), ed. by Bartsch, Quedlinburg 1857.
Freidank, Bescheidenheit, ed. by Bezzenberger, Halle 1872.
Heinrich von dem Türlin, *Die Krone* (10,000), ed. by Scholl, Stuttgart 1852.
Ulrich von Lichtenstein (7285), ed. by Lachmann, Berlin 1841.
Der Pleier, Garel von dem blühenden Tal (10,000), ed. by Walz, Freiburg 1892.
Friedrich von Sonnenburg, ed. by Zingerle, Innsbruck 1878.
Ulrich von Eschenbach, Alexander (10,000), ed. by Wendelin Toischer, Tübingen 1888.

2. Prose.

- Berthold von Regensburg (vol. 1, 155 pp., vol. 2, 53 pp.), ed. by Pfeiffer and Strobl, Vienna 1862-80.
Altdeutsche Predigten, Wackernagel, (sermons 21-26).
Altdeutsche Predigten aus dem Benedictinerstifte St. Paulus, ed. by A. Jeitteles.

SWABIAN.

- Wernhers Maria, *Fundgruben* II, 145 ff.
Meinloh von Söflingen, MF II.
Bernger von Horheim, MF XIV.
Heinrich von Rugge, MF XIII.

¹ The dictionary of this edition was used for statistics as to strengthening particles.

² Hornig's *Glossar zu Walth.* was used for data.

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Hartmann von Aue,¹

Lyrics, MF XXI.

Erec, ed. by Haupt, Leipzig 1871.

Erstes Büchlein,² ed. by Bech, Leipzig 1871-3.

Gregorius, ed. by Paul, Halle 1882.

Der Arme Heinrich, ed. by the same.

Iwein,³ ed. by Henrici, Halle 1891.

Zweites Büchlein,⁴ ed. by Bech, as above.

Gottfried von Neifen, ed. by Haupt, Leipzig 1851.

Ulrich Schenk von Winterstetten, ed. by Minor, Vienna 1882.

Der Marnier, ed. by Strauch, QuF 14.

Der Rosengarten A, ed. by Georg Holz, Halle 1893.

Wolfdietrich D, ed. by Amelung and Jänicke, DHB vol. 4.

Prose.

Bruder David von Augsburg, ed. by Pfeiffer ZfdA 9.

EAST FRANKISH.

Konrad von Heimesfurt, Himmelfahrt Mariae, ed. by Pfeiffer, ZfdA 8, 156 ff.

Wirt von Gravenberg, Wigalois, der Ritter mit dem Rade (10,000), ed. by Benecke, Berlin 1819.

Der Winsbeke and Die Winsbekin, ed. by Leitzmann, Halle 1888.

Hugo von Trimberg, Der Renner (5000), herausgegeben vom historischen Verein in Bamberg, 1833.

SOUTH FRANKISH.

Moriz von Craon, ed. by Schröder, Zwei altdeutsche Rittermaeren, Berlin 1894.

Reinmar von Zweter, ed. by Gustav Roethe, Leipzig 1887.

¹ Vos, Diction and Rime-Technic of Hartman von Aue, was referred to for verification of data for Hartmann.

² For the Büchlein the edition of Haupt-Martin, Leipzig 1881 was compared.

³ The dictionary of Benecke-Wilken was used for data for Iwein.

⁴ The study of strengthening particles has brought to light no difference of diction which would warrant excluding the Zw. Büchl. from the works of Hartmann. For points of similarity see under *Starks*, p. 76; *Verra*, p. 80; and *Wol*, p. 63.