

**THE PLACE OF THE ADJECTIVE
ATTRIBUTE IN ENGLISH PROSE,
FROM THE OLDEST TIMES UP TO
OUR DAYS, A SYNTACTIC-
HISTORICAL STUDY**

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The place of the adjective attribute in English prose, from the oldest times up to our days, a syntactic-historical study by Birger Palm

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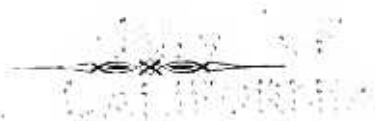
A SYNTACTIC-HISTORICAL STUDY

BY

BIRGER PALM

LIC. PHIL.

BY DUE PERMISSION OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY OF LUND TO
BE PUBLICLY DISCUSSED IN ENGLISH IN LECTURE HALL VI
MARCH 22, 1911, AT 10 O'CLOCK A. M.
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY



LUND 1911

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TO THE
UNIT OF
CALIFORNIA

PREFACE.

A short time after this little treatise appeared in its first rather incomplete form, my attention was called to a work entitled «Die Stellung des Attributiven Adjektivs im Englischen von den ersten Anfängen der englischen Sprache bis zur Früh-Neuenglischen Sprach-Periode», by A. Müllner, and published in 1906¹. I began to fear that much of my labour might have been in vain, but soon found that Müllner was not a very formidable rival. This may sound arrogant, but the fact is that Müllner's work contains hardly anything beyond a very limited collection of quotations in the shortest form possible, one half of them being taken from poetry. — The prose texts examined by my esteemed colleague are: Alfred, *Othere and Wulfstan* (Kluge, Angels. Leseb.); Alfred, *Vorrede zur Cura Pastoralis* (Kluge, Leseb.); Alfred, *Cura Pastoralis* (E. E. T. S. Bd. 45); Ælfric, *Homilien* (Kluge, Leseb.); *Saxon Chronicle* (Kluge, Leseb.); Morris, *Specimens of Early English*, Part I; Dan Michel, *Ayenb. of Iaw.* (pp. 70—76); R. R. de Hampole (Mätzner, *Altengl. Sprachproben*); Trevisa, *Polychronicon* (Vol. I, Ch. XXIII—XXV); Maundeville, *Voiage and Travaile* (Mätzner; pp. 155—182); Chaucer, *Tale of Melibeus*; Malory, *King Arthur* (pp. 1—50). Voilà tout!

It is true that Müllner gives a brief résumé after each period, but he restricts himself to stating that the word-

¹ The copy I possess was printed in New York, 1909.

order is such and such in such and such authors. Besides, his book presents not a few peculiarities among which may be mentioned: postposition of a word governing the genitive case (e. g. 'fela' and numerals) is looked upon as an instance of inversion of the adjective attribute (cf. pp. 18, 24); 'foresæd' is counted a participle (cf. p. 27); 'self' and 'ana' are said to be quantitative adjectives (p. 23); such words as 'ælmhtig' and 'hunigswette' are classed among attributes with an adverbial modifier (p. 27).

It will not be difficult to see that Müllner's dissertation cannot have been of much use either to me or to anybody else wanting to know anything about the rules for English word-order.

Be it far from me to have pronounced this severe sentence in order to exalt my own little book! I know there are many weak points in it and many assertions open to discussion. But at least I have, to the best of my power, tried not only to point out the actual state of things, but also to account for the reason why things are so, and not so.

Many will perhaps blame me for not having sufficiently heeded the fact that English is not a pure Germanic language. Maybe they are right. But I cannot help looking upon the assuming of French influence here and there and everywhere as often a convenient means of escaping difficulties. Where such an assumption can be avoided it should be, it seems to me.

My examples I have arranged chronologically, so far as that has been possible. As to the spelling of M. E. words it ought to be noted that in several texts *th* and *þ* occur alternately. I have thought best in such texts always to write *th* where this is most frequent, and *þ* where this type is the usual one.

Before finishing this Preface, I will not omit to express my sincere thanks to my teacher, Professor E. Ekwall, who

has always shown the greatest indulgence and has much encouraged me during the preparation of the present syntactical study, besides giving me many valuable pieces of advice. — Mr. Bert Hood of this town has kindly gone through my manuscript and has also helped me with the reading of the proof-sheets.

Malmö, Febr. 1911.

Birger Palm.

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be clearly documented and supported by appropriate evidence. This includes receipts, invoices, and other relevant documents. The second part of the document outlines the procedures for handling disputes and resolving conflicts. It stresses the need for open communication and a fair, equitable resolution process. The final part of the document provides a summary of the key points and offers recommendations for future actions.

The following table provides a detailed overview of the data collected during the study. Each row represents a different category, and the columns show the corresponding values. The data indicates a significant increase in the number of transactions over the period, which is consistent with the findings of the first part of the document. The table also shows that the majority of transactions are processed within the expected time frame, suggesting that the current procedures are effective. However, there are some areas where the process is slower than anticipated, and these will be addressed in the recommendations section.

Category	Value 1	Value 2	Value 3
Category A	120	150	180
Category B	90	110	130
Category C	70	85	100
Category D	50	60	75
Category E	30	40	50
Category F	20	25	30
Category G	10	15	20
Category H	5	7	10
Category I	3	4	5
Category J	2	3	4
Category K	1	2	3
Category L	0.5	1	1.5
Category M	0.2	0.3	0.4
Category N	0.1	0.2	0.3
Category O	0.05	0.1	0.15
Category P	0.02	0.03	0.04
Category Q	0.01	0.02	0.03
Category R	0.005	0.01	0.015
Category S	0.002	0.003	0.004
Category T	0.001	0.002	0.003
Category U	0.0005	0.001	0.0015
Category V	0.0002	0.0003	0.0004
Category W	0.0001	0.0002	0.0003
Category X	0.00005	0.0001	0.00015
Category Y	0.00002	0.00003	0.00004
Category Z	0.00001	0.00002	0.00003

The data presented in the table above shows a clear upward trend in the number of transactions across all categories. This is particularly evident in the first few categories, which represent the most frequent transactions. The overall increase in volume is a positive sign, indicating that the system is being used more extensively than in the past. However, it is also important to note that the growth is not uniform across all categories. Some categories, such as Category Z, show very low transaction volumes, which may be due to a variety of factors. Further analysis will be required to identify the reasons for these differences and to develop strategies to address them.

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