

CONTENTS

<i>List of maps</i>	<i>page</i> x
<i>List of contributors</i>	xi
<i>General Editor's preface</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xvii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xviii
1 INTRODUCTION <i>Norman Blake</i>	1
1.1 Beginnings of the study of Middle English	1
1.2 The study of Middle English since the Second World War	3
1.3 English, French and Latin	5
1.4 Spelling and standardisation	9
1.5 Social and literary developments	15
1.6 Concluding remarks	20
Further reading	21
2 PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY	
<i>Roger Lass</i>	23
2.1 Introduction	23
2.2 Phonology, origins: the Old English input system	39
2.3 The formation of the Middle English vowel system	42
2.4 Consonantal developments	57
2.5 Length and quantity	67
2.6 Accentuation	83
2.7 When did Middle English end?	90
2.8 Morphology: general matters	91
2.9 Morphology: the major syntactic classes	103
Further reading	147
Textual sources	154

Contents

3	MIDDLE ENGLISH DIALECTOLOGY	
	<i>James Milroy</i>	156
3.1	Dialect method and the study of Middle English	156
3.2	The study of geographical variation in Middle English	167
3.3	Variation theory and Middle English dialectology	192
3.4	Concluding remarks	201
	Further reading	204
4	SYNTAX <i>Olga Fischer</i>	207
4.1	Introduction	207
4.2	The noun phrase	210
4.3	The verb phrase	233
4.4	Questions	278
4.5	Negation	280
4.6	Composite sentences	285
4.7	Agreement	364
4.8	Word order	370
4.9	Some grammatical processes	383
	Further reading	391
	Textual sources	398
5	LEXIS AND SEMANTICS <i>David Burnley</i>	409
	Lexis	409
5.1	Foreign influences	414
5.2	Word formation	439
5.3	The structure of the lexicon	450
	Semantics	461
5.4	Meaning, use and structure	461
5.5	Semantic change	485
	Further reading	496
6	THE LITERARY LANGUAGE	
	<i>Norman Blake</i>	500
6.1	Introduction	500
6.2	Early Middle English literature	508
6.3	Later Middle English literature	517
6.4	Special features of the literary language	532
	Further reading	540

Contents

7	ONOMASTICS <i>Cecily Clark</i>	542
7.1	Sources and methodology	542
7.2	Anthroponymy	551
7.3	Toponymy	587
	Further reading	604
	<i>Glossary of linguistic terms</i>	607
	<i>Bibliography</i>	629
	<i>Primary sources</i>	629
	<i>Secondary sources</i>	634
	<i>Index</i>	677