

Question 13 Ye Olde English Problem Solution

D1. Translate the following into modern English.

- (a) *se cyning eow lufode* *The king loved you all*
- (b) *ge lufodon þæt mægden* *You all loved the girl*
- (c) *wit inc lufodon* *We both loved you both*

D2. Translate the following from Modern English into Old English. (14 pts)

- (a) The prince loved the child *se æpeling lufode þæt cild*
- (b) The child loved the prince *þæt cild lufode þone æpeling*
- (c) We all loved the child *þæt cild we lufodon* OR *we lufodon þæt cild*
- (d) The child loved you both *þæt cild inc lufode*
- (e) The girl loved you all *þæt mægden eow lufode*

Explanation

Old English had the following grammatical features which had to be reflected in the translations:

- (a) cases (subject and object not the same) for pronouns and articles
- (b) a distinction between dual ('both') and plural ('all')
- (c) verb agreement with the subject (singular vs plural)
- (d) different genders for nouns
- (e) different word order to Modern English

The following table shows the details of (a)-(d)

	As subject	As object	verb agreement
'the' (girl, child)	<i>þæt</i>	<i>þæt</i>	<i>lufode</i>
'the' (king, prince)	<i>se</i>	<i>þone</i>	
we both	<i>wit</i>	<i>unc</i>	<i>lufodon</i>
we all	<i>we</i>		
you both		<i>inc</i>	
you all	<i>ge</i>	<i>eow</i>	

Word order: when the object (O) is a pronoun, verb goes to the end SOV
When the object is a noun, both OSV and SVO are possible