



Comparative analysis of the Middle English verb "haven" and the Middle High German verb "haben"

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ABSTRACT

This article presents a comparative analysis of the evolution of the verbs *haven* in Middle English (1150–1500) and *haben* in Middle High German (1050–1350). The study examines their transformation from lexical verbs in Old English and Old High German into auxiliary verbs facilitating the construction of perfect tenses. Both verbs underwent significant morphological changes, particularly in their past tense forms, as they transitioned into weaker conjugation classes. *Haven* in Middle English retained remnants of strong conjugation patterns, while *haben* in Middle High German fully adopted weak conjugation, forming its past tense with the suffix *-te*.

These verbs played pivotal roles in the development of analytical perfect tenses, combining with participles to indicate completed actions. Despite similarities in their auxiliary functions, their grammatical behaviors diverged, particularly in their use with intransitive and transitive verbs. This divergence reflects broader syntactic differences between Middle English and Middle High German.

The analysis highlights that this shift from synthetic to analytical verb forms was a crucial development, shaping the tense structures of modern English and German. Additionally, the study underscores the broader implications of these transformations for the historical development of verb morphology and syntax in both languages.

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O'rta ingliz tili va o'rta yuqori nemis tili davrlaridagi "haven" va "haben" fe'llarining qiyosiy tahlili

Kalit so'zlar:

o'rta ingliz tili,
o'rta yuqori nemis tili,
fe'l rivojlanishi,
haven,
haben,
hatte,
konjugatsiya shakllari,
kuchsiz va kuchli fe'llar.

ANNOTATSIYA

Ushbu maqola o'rta ingliz tili (1150–1500) va o'rta yuqori nemis tili (1050–1350) davrida "haven" va "haben" fe'llarining rivojlanishini qiyosiy tahlil qiladi. Tadqiqot ushbu fe'llarning qadimgi ingliz va qadimgi yuqori nemis tillaridagi leksik fe'l sifatidagi rolaridan tortib, perfekt zamonlarni hosil qiluvchi yordamchi fe'llarga aylanish jarayonini o'rganadi. O'rta ingliz tilidagi "haven" va o'rta yuqori nemis tilidagi "haben" fe'llari, ayniqsa, o'tmish zamon shakllarida, kuchsiz fe'llar guruhiga o'tish jarayonida sezilarli morfologik o'zgarishlarga uchragan. O'rta ingliz tilida "haven" ba'zi kuchli konjugatsiya izlarini saqlab qolgan bo'lsa, o'rta yuqori nemis tilida "haben" kuchsiz konjugatsiya qoidalariga qat'iy rioya qilib, o'tmish zamon shaklini -te qo'shimchasi bilan hosil qilgan. Har ikkala fe'l ham tugallangan harakatlarni ifodalash uchun participlar bilan ishlatiladigan analitik perfekt zamon shakllarini yaratishda muhim rol o'ynagan, lekin ularning sintaktik vazifalari tillararo farqlangan. Tahlil shuni ko'rsatadiki, "haven" va "haben" yordamchi fe'l sifatida o'xshash rivojlanish jarayonlarini boshdan kechirishiga qaramay, ular o'ziga xos grammatik xatti-harakatlarni, ayniqsa, o'timsiz va o'timli fe'llar bilan qo'llanishida namoyon qilgan. Ushbu o'zgarishlar ikkala tilda ham fe'llarning sintetik shakllardan analitik shakllarga o'tishida muhim bosqich bo'lib, zamonaviy ingliz va nemis tillaridagi zamon tuzilmalarini shakllantirishda asosiy rol o'ynagan. Tadqiqot ushbu o'zgarishlarning har ikki tilning fe'l morfologiyasi va sintaksisining tarixiy rivojlanishidagi kengroq ta'sirini ham ta'kidlaydi.

Сравнительный анализ глаголов "haven" в среднеанглийском и "haben" в средневерхненемецком языках

Ключевые слова:

среднеанглийский язык,
средневерхненемецкий
язык,
эволюция глаголов,
haven,
haben,
hatte,
формы спряжения,
слабые глаголы и сильные
глаголы.

АННОТАЦИЯ

В статье проводится сравнительный анализ эволюции глаголов "haven" в среднеанглийском языке (1150–1500 гг.) и "haben" в средневерхненемецком языке (1050–1350 гг.). Исследование посвящено процессу преобразования этих глаголов из лексических в древнеанглийском и древневерхненемецком языках во вспомогательные, которые сыграли ключевую роль в формировании перфектных времен. Глаголы "haven" и "haben" претерпели значительные морфологические изменения, особенно в формах прошедшего времени, так

как оба стали частью слабых классов спряжения. В среднеанглийском языке "haven" сохранил остатки сильного спряжения, тогда как "haben" в средневерхненемецком строго следовал слабому спряжению, образуя прошедшее время с помощью суффикса -te. Оба глагола использовались в аналитических перфектных конструкциях, где совместно с причастиями обозначали завершённые действия. Однако их синтаксические роли различались: в каждом языке наблюдались уникальные подходы к использованию вспомогательных глаголов с переходными и непереходными глаголами. Анализ показывает, что, несмотря на схожую эволюцию вспомогательных функций, "haven" и "haben" демонстрировали различия в грамматических особенностях, особенно в отношении синтаксиса и морфологии. Этот сдвиг стал важным этапом в развитии обоих языков, отражая переход от синтетических к аналитическим формам, который впоследствии определил структуру временных форм в современном английском и немецком языках. Исследование также подчеркивает более широкое значение этих трансформаций для исторического развития морфологии и синтаксиса глаголов в обоих языках, открывая новые перспективы для изучения их грамматической эволюции.

INTRODUCTION

The historical development of the verbs *haven* in Middle English and *haben* in Middle High German illustrates significant shifts in grammatical structures and verb conjugation during the medieval period, shaped by larger trends of simplification in the verbal system. Both languages saw a transition from synthetic to analytical constructions, particularly with the development of auxiliary verbs used to form perfect tenses.

In Middle English from 1150 to 1500, the verb *haven* underwent crucial transformations. The evolution from its Old English form, *habban*, involved the simplification of tense forms and the emergence of auxiliary functions. Tense conjugation in Middle English was marked by forms such as *have*, *hast*, and *hath*, which gradually simplified the more complex system of Old English. The past tense forms like *hadde* (singular) and *hadden* (plural) were commonly used, and *have* begun to establish themselves as auxiliary verb, commonly appearing in perfect constructions as *He hath spoken*, which evolved into the modern *He has spoken*. This period marked the shift from the synthetic constructions of Old English to the more analytical structures of Modern English, where auxiliary verbs like *have* were used in conjunction with past participles to express completed actions. The verb *have* thus played a key role in the development of English grammar, cementing its place as a fundamental auxiliary verb [1; 115].

Similarly, in Middle High German (1050–1350), the verb *haben* also evolved into a weak verb, adopting a regular conjugation pattern for the past tense by adding the suffix -te (e.g., *hatte* for "I had"). This development mirrored the simplification seen in Middle English. Like *have* in English, *haben* became an auxiliary verb in the construction of the

perfect tense. The conjugation system for *haben* in the present tense remained regular, with forms like *ich habe*, *du hast*, and *er hat*. While *haben* retained its function as a lexical verb (indicating possession), its auxiliary function expanded significantly.

Both languages saw similar transformations in their use of auxiliary verbs, though there were differences in the specific roles these verbs played. In Middle English, *haven* worked alongside *be* to form perfect tenses, while in German, *haben* and *sein* were used with distinct grammatical functions [11; 34].

LITERATURE REVIEWS AND METHODS

Middle English Language

According to T.A. Rastorgueva, the word "haven" was crucial in Middle English from 1150 to 1500. The usage and evolution of the word "have" started to resemble its current English usage throughout this time. The development of "have" as a fundamental auxiliary and lexical verb was impacted by the substantial grammatical and phonological changes that characterized Middle English [13; 250]. As an auxiliary verb, "haven" became a part of the perfect tense. The word "haven" (to have) was often employed in Middle English in a variety of ways. This passage from Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* serves as an illustration of the word "haven" in Middle English:

For instance: "And thus I hope to have an end of this." *Line 318 In this instance, Loy D. Martin said that the root form of the verb "have" (or "haven") means "to possess" or "to achieve" in the sense of the future. Similar to its contemporary English counterpart, the Middle English verb "haven" exhibits some variation in its forms and conjugation, with "have" serving as the main form for the present tense and also appearing in perfect compositions [7;17].

The present form of "have" started to emerge in both pronunciation and spelling. In Middle English writings, variants such as *hadde* (past tense) and *has* third person singular were often used.

Present tense:

- Singular: I have, thou hast, he/she/it hath
- Plural: we/ye/they haven

Past tense:

- Singular: I hadde, thou haddest, he/she/it hadde
- Plural: we/ye/they hadden

The word "haven" evolved as a weak verb in Middle English. It mostly became a weak verb, while it was employed as a strong verb in some places. The verb "have" existed in a variety of forms in Middle English, including "I have," "thou hast," and "he hath." Changes were mostly related to tense and person.

It was around this time that the Old English verb "habban" evolved into simpler forms, such as "hadde." The word "have" naturally developed as a weak verb and was important for indicating tense [13; 25].

B. Tursunov said that during the Middle English period (1150–1500), the Old English verb *habban* (to have) started to become simpler. This fit into a larger pattern of morphological decline that was prevalent at the time. Verb forms became simplified when the Old English inflectional ends progressively disappeared. *Habban*'s past tense was created by adding a dental suffix (such as -d or -t) since it was classified as a weak verb in Old English. Forms like *hadde* (past singular) and *hadden* (past plural) became common in Middle English, demonstrating the persistence of this weak conjugation.

In some dialects or regions, forms of *have* may have shown traces of strong conjugation patterns, though these were less common and did not dominate. The weak conjugation became the norm across most of Middle English. Middle English saw the reduction of conjugational diversity. For instance:

- *I have* → modernized directly from Old English *ic hæbbe*.
- *Thou hast* → a simplified form from *þu hæfst*.
- *He hath* → a retained form from *he hæfþ*.

In contrast to the more intricate Old English forms, the Middle English word *hadde* for the past tense appeared. The contemporary *had* was derived from this past tense form [2; 21].

According to E.A. Matveeva, during the Middle English period, the perfect form was expressed through analytical structures. The verbs *have* and *be* were used as auxiliary verbs, and due to their frequent usage with other forms, these verbs gradually lost their lexical meanings. They functioned primarily as auxiliary components, working together with participles [12; 44].

E.A. Matveeva claims that analytical frameworks were used to represent the ideal form throughout the Middle English era. The verbs *have* and *be* were auxiliary verbs that progressively lost their lexical meanings since they were often employed with other forms. They collaborated with participles and served mostly as supplementary components [12; 58].

Sentences such as:

1. "...that hem hath holpen..." serves as an example of the components' arrangement in perfect forms. "...that has helped them..." is the translation. In this instance, the past participle *holpen* (helped) and the auxiliary word *has* (has) combine to generate the perfect tense. The participle adds to the meaning of the verb, while the auxiliary verb indicates the tense. 2. "...and the younge sonne hath in the Ram his halve course yronne." In other words, "...and the young sun has run its half-course in Aries." Similarly, the perfect tense form is completed with the past participle *yronne* (ran) and the auxiliary word *has* (has). In these situations, *have* and *be* have lost their separate meanings of possession and existence over time, respectively, and are now grammatical devices used to convey tense. The shift from the intricate inflectional system of Old English to the more straightforward and analytical structure of Modern English was a significant turning point in the history of English grammar [12; 60].

Middle High German Language

As stated by Minor A.Ya., the word *haben* evolved as a weak verb in Middle High German (1050–1350 AD). The suffix *-te*, which is typical of weak verbs, is how *haben* obtained its past tense forms in Middle High German. The verb *haben* (to have) was a member of the weak verb class in Middle High German (MHG), meaning that its past tense forms were created by appending the suffix *-te* to the verb stem, which is a characteristic of weak verbs. Strong verbs, on the other hand, usually use vowel modifications rather than a fixed suffix to generate their past tense [8; 85].

Present tense

ich habe

du hast

er/sie/es hat

wir haben

ihr habt
sie haben

In contrast to the plural forms, which adhere to the usual weak verb conjugation pattern, the present tense forms of haben are fairly regular, with vowel shifts in the second and third-person singular forms: have (1st person), hast (2nd person), and hat (3rd person).

Past tense (preterite)
hatte

The normal weak verb pattern of adding the -te suffix to the verb stem hab- to produce the past tense hatte is followed by haben in the preterite form. Actions or states that have already been finished are expressed using this form. The first and third-person singulars of the verb haben in the preterite have identical form (hatte for both ich and er/sie/es) [2; 24].

According to Minor A.Ya., the past tense forms of the verb "haben" were formed by adding the suffix "-te," and these forms are still used in modern German. The verb "haben" acts similarly to strong and weak verbs in the present tense. The current German counterpart of "hatte" is roughly comparable to the past tense form. "Gehabt," the past participle of "haben," has been preserved in contemporary German. "haben" was employed as an auxiliary verb in Middle High German, and it is still used in modern German.

The way haben evolved as a weak verb in MHG demonstrates the normal pattern of weak verbs, which usually use the -te suffix to construct their past tense. Haben has remained a crucial verb over the years, serving as an auxiliary verb in the construction of perfect tenses in both Middle High German and subsequent phases of the language, including Early New High German and Modern German [8; 50].

Filicheyva N.I. asserts that intransitive verbs that describe incomplete acts are unable to produce descriptive (participle) forms at first because their second form cannot be employed in the same manner as adjectives. Nevertheless, these verbs progressively acquired descriptive forms by means of transitive verbs, i.e., by forming descriptive structures with the verb haben (e.g., "ich habe geschlafen"); "I have slept"). Only forms with haben and intransitive verbs, which are quite late in Old High German. But in Middle High German, descriptive sentences became the norm when intransitive verbs eventually joined with haben. The historical language change in Old High German, wherein intransitive verbs which at first were unable to create descriptive forms or participles started using haben, an auxiliary verb, to describe previous deeds. In Middle High German, when it established a normal grammatical structure, this evolution spread more widely [3; 184].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Similarities and Differences

The verb forms of "haben" in Middle High German and "have" in Middle English were simplified, particularly in their past tense conjugations. An important shift in tense structure occurred when both verbs assumed auxiliary functions to create the perfect tense. Both verbs developed into grammatical instruments for conveying tense while yet maintaining their fundamental lexical meanings [1].

While "haben" in Middle High German did not preserve such forms and mostly adhered to the weak verb conjugation pattern, "have" in Middle English retained certain dialectal signs of strong conjugation. Although these verbs developed into auxiliary verbs, they had rather distinct functions in sentence construction. While "haben" and "sein"

frequently functioned as auxiliary verbs with distinct meaning roles in German, auxiliary verbs like "have" and "be" collaborated in English [11].

CONCLUSION

The evolution of the verbs "have" in Middle English and "haben" in Middle High German reflects significant changes in the structure and use of auxiliary verbs in both languages. Despite emerging from different linguistic traditions, both verbs underwent simplification and adapted to the needs of expressing grammatical tenses. In Middle English, the verb "have" transitioned from a strong verb to a weak verb, shedding its more complex forms in favor of simpler conjugations. The auxiliary function of "have" in forming the perfect tense became a prominent feature, aligning with modern English usage. Over time, the verb "have" lost much of its lexical meaning and became primarily an auxiliary verb, a pattern that continues in contemporary English.

Similarly, "haben" in Middle High German evolved into a weak verb, with its past tense formed by the addition of the typical weak verb suffix "-te." This transformation followed the broader trend of simplification during the Middle High German period. However, unlike English, "haben" in German retained some strong conjugation features in certain dialects. The auxiliary role of "haben" in forming perfect tenses became established in both Middle High German and later stages of the language, including Early New High German and Modern German.

Despite these similarities, there were key differences in the roles that these verbs played in their respective languages. While "haben" in German was primarily used with transitive verbs to form the perfect tense, "have" in English collaborated with both transitive and intransitive verbs, often in combination with the verb "be" to indicate a broader range of tenses. Overall, the historical changes in both "have" and "haben" highlight the broader linguistic shifts from synthetic to analytic structures in the evolution of both English and German. These transformations were not merely grammatical but also reflective of the changing communicative needs of the speakers, who adapted their language to increasingly efficient ways of expressing time and aspect.

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