



A Lexical
Comparison of Four
Prick of Conscience
Group-IV Manuscripts¹

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Abstract Dublin, Trinity College, 157 (D.4.11) (MV 21), London, Lambeth Palace, 492 (MV 48), London, Sion College, Arc. L. 40. 2/E. 25 (MV 49) – from line 2,850 – and Shrewsbury, School, III (Mus. III. 39) (MV 95) were recently grouped together as the TLS_1S_2 subset within the *Prick of Conscience* Group-IV manuscripts. Apart from often showing identical – or closely related – deviant readings, these copies also display a fairly consistent shared pattern of significant textual omissions (Garrido-Anes 2022). However, lexical variants – whether inherited or idiolectal, intentional or inadvertent, and stylistically or geographically conditioned – are by no means unusual across these four manuscripts. By providing a lexical comparison and analysis of the said copies, this paper aims to shed some light on individual scribal habits towards their presumed exemplar(s), thereby giving further insight into the TLS_1S_2 subgroup textual relations. The present analysis contributes to refining the history of this particular Group-IV branch through the identification of up to six different lexical layers.

Keywords *Prick of Conscience*, manuscripts, lexicon, stemma

1. Previous Studies on the *Prick of Conscience*: Groups, Subgroups, and the TLS_1S_2 texts

The 115 known manuscripts of the *Prick of Conscience* (*PoC*) suggest that this long religious poem – almost 10,000 lines – was one of the most widely read in England in the late Middle Ages. Hanna & Wood’s updated list shows 97 manuscripts of the Main Version (MV), 19 of the Southern Recension (SR), and 49 copies of fragments (2013: 378–383). Unfortunately, the scholarly attention that this work has received so far cannot yet compare with that given to, for instance, *Piers Plowman* or Chaucer’s writings. As Johnston (2020: 743) observes:

In many ways, this text has been the victim of its own success. Partly, such neglect seems due to the huge number of manuscripts that survive, marked by a bewildering codicological, dialectal, and textual variation between copies, meaning no one has yet figured out how to characterize its overall manuscript context. What little scholarship

on this poem exists has thus understandably tended toward the literary-critical, and away from the textual and codicological.

Deeper research efforts are still undoubtedly needed to advance our understanding of the poem's transmission, whose picture continues to be far from complete. Johnston (2020: 744) regrets that:

Scholarship on Middle English manuscripts has, by and large, tended to avoid characterizing large manuscript corpora, like *PoC*, preferring instead the individual case study of a codex or small group of codices. But proceeding by isolated case studies has prohibited the field from making larger, more universal claims about book production and the circulation of manuscripts.

Even though progress may seem slow when confronting the massive amount of extant material, every small puzzle solved through individual or collaborative work can yield benefits in the long run. Within the textual approach, the initial classification of the *POC* manuscripts (Andreae 1888) was based on eighteen British Library copies. Later, Bülbring (1891a, 1891b, 1897), D'Evelyn (1930), Humphreys & Lightbown (1952), and McIntosh (1976 [1989]), among others, contributed studies on further copies. Our current knowledge of the work derives mainly from Britton's research into the Yorkshire manuscripts (1979), Lewis & McIntosh's comprehensive *Guide* (1982), Morris (1863), and – more recently – Morey (2012), Hanna & Wood's (2013) corrected and amplified text of Morris's edition, and Johnson (2020).

The MV copies were assigned by Lewis & McIntosh (1982) to one of four groups:² Group I consists of 19 manuscripts – including those deemed closer to the original – and five subgroups;³ Group II includes 26 copies and three

² See the list of MV manuscripts in the Primary Sources section.

³ MV 44 and MV 96 (Subgroup 1); MV 27, MV 34, and MV 83 (Subgroup 2). Other related manuscripts are: MV 20, MV 60, and the conflated MV 5 (Subgroup 3); MV 5 is also related to MV 46 and the conflated MV 49 (Subgroup 4); MV 3, MV 9, MV 10, MV 86, and the conflated MV 90 and MV 24 (Subgroup 5); MV 13 and MV 52 are unclassified.

identified subgroups;⁴ Group III is made of 15 texts and two tentative small subgroups;⁵ and Group-IV comprises 45 manuscripts. Lewis & McIntosh (1982) assigned eight of these copies to the so-called Vernon-Simeon subgroup;⁶ seven to the related Lichfield subset;⁷ and another four to an additional subcategory of Vernon-derived texts.⁸ Their *Guide* (1982: 8–9) emphasized the fact that the remaining 26 Group-IV witnesses demanded further research. Carrillo-Linares (2016: 61) examined seven of these manuscripts (MV 28, MV 29, MV 43, MV 62, MV 93, MV 94, and the conflated MV 35) and referred to them as the ‘Northern subgroup’. She also redefined MV 12 – formerly assigned to Group II by Lewis & McIntosh (1982: 45) – as an essentially Group-IV text, except in Book V.⁹ More recently, Garrido-Anes (2022) explored the associations between another series of Group-IV manuscripts: Dublin, Trinity College, 157 (D.4.11) (MV 21), London, Sion College, Arc. L. 40. 2/E. 25 (MV 49),¹⁰ and Shrewsbury, School, III (Mus. III. 39) (MV 95). This study claimed that the previously unsubcategoryed London, Lambeth Palace, 492 (MV 48) was a further addition to the subset, named TLS₁S₂ after the initials of its four known members.

MV 21, MV 48, MV 49, and MV 95 display a significant repeated pattern of couplet omissions, deviant readings, and paraphrases that set them apart from the other manuscripts of the larger Group-IV family. At times, though, the four copies differ in their renderings of certain words, lines, or couplets, thereby showing either sporadic individual scribal behaviour or

4 MV 7, MV 19, MV 22, MV 53, and MV 85 (Subgroup 1); MV 8, MV 41, MV 58, MV 64, MV 86, and the conflated MV 12 and MV 33 (the Key of Knowing Subgroup); MV 51, MV 56, MV 61, MV 73, and the conflated MV 35 (the Lollard Subgroup); MV 42 and MV 92 share features with the Lollard and the Key of Knowing manuscripts; MV 69 and the conflated MV 5, MV 13, MV 24, MV 32, and MV 78 are unclassified.

5 MV 26 and the conflated MV 32 (subgroup 1); MV 17 and MV 38 (subgroup 2); MV 15, MV 16, MV 55, MV 66, MV 67, MV 74, MV 75, MV 91 and the conflated MV 1, MV 76, and MV 78 are unclassified.

6 MV 18, MV 31, MV 36, MV 40, MV 59, MV 70, MV 77, and MV 82.

7 MV 23, MV 45, MV 54, MV 57, MV 68, MV 88, and MV 89.

8 MV 4, part of MV 24, MV 63, and MV 72.

9 For further information about the different versions, groups, manuscripts, and the numeric nomenclature here adopted, see Lewis & McIntosh (1982).

10 MV 49 is a Group-I copy to the beginning of Book IV (line 2,850), where it becomes Group IV (Lewis & McIntosh 1982: 83).

the occasional reflex of some additional unshared source. Textual collation has shown that a predecessor (henceforth S_2) of MV 95 and a presumed common exemplar (henceforth TL_{S_1}) to MV 21, MV 48, and MV 49 must have derived from the same $TL_{S_1}S_2$ node (Garrido-Anes 2022). The four manuscripts erratically disagree on some independently eyeskipped parts and also display disparate degrees of textual condensation, especially by their respective endings. Furthermore, they predictably diverge in their spelling and morphological systems due to temporal and geographical distance (see Map 1 below).

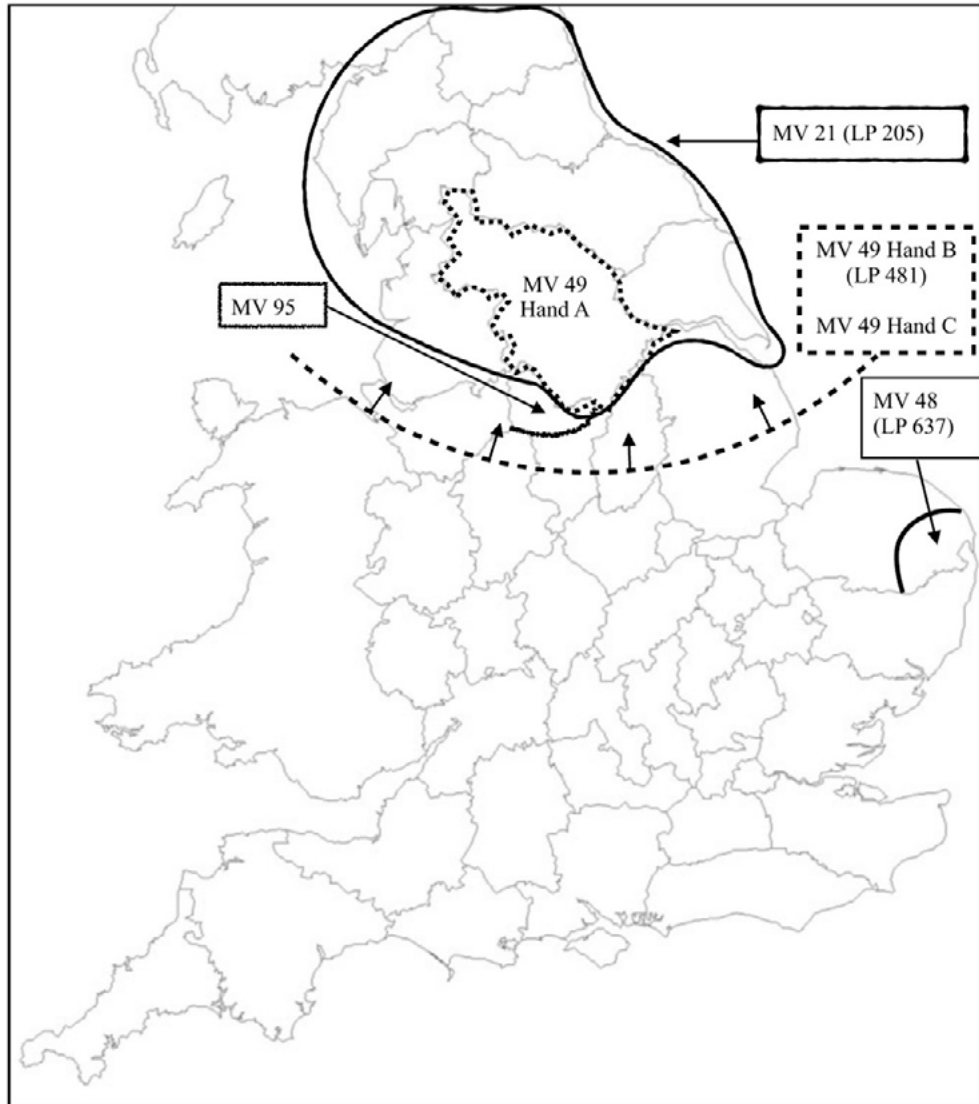
MV 21 is an early fifteenth-century manuscript in the language of Northern England (Benskin, Laing, Karaiskos & Williamson 2013: LP 205). It is written on parchment and in *anglicana formata*, and its *PoC* text is “considerably reduced [...] with many lines omitted, much condensation and some paraphrase” (Lewis & McIntosh 1982: 52–53). Two lyrics scribbled by a later hand on the bottom margins of the two final leaves seem to point to some Northern owner (Johnston 2020: 783).

MV 48 was written in the late fourteenth century in the dialect of South East Norfolk (Benskin, Laing, Karaiskos & Williamson 2013: LP 637). The manuscript is on parchment and the script is *anglicana formata*, although *bastard anglicana* is used for titles and Latin quotations. Its *PoC* text is also abridged (Lewis & McIntosh 1982: 81–82). This copy seems to have connections with the Dioceses of Norwich and Lincoln (Lewis & McIntosh 1982: 82; Johnston 2020: 789).

MV 49 dates from the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century. Its three scribes used varieties of Northern English and wrote in *anglicana* and *bastard anglicana* scripts. The manuscript is a conflated paper copy showing considerable text condensation. Hand A has been associated with West Riding Yorkshire (Benskin, Laing, Karaiskos & Williamson 2013: no LP provided); Hand B is labelled as Northern Middle English (Benskin, Laing, Karaiskos & Williamson 2013: LP 481); and Hand C is also considered to be northern (Lewis & McIntosh 1982: 83). Johnston (2020: 789) shows ownership connections with Westminster and Yorkshire.

Lastly, MV 95 is a paper manuscript dated to the late fifteenth century. The script of the *PoC* text is *anglicana* with some secretary features. The content is often abridged and revised, with many lines omitted or reversed, and its

language has been localized to Northwestern Derbyshire (Lewis & McIntosh 1982: 128; Benskin, Laing, Karaiskos & Williamson 2013: no LP provided).



Map 1: Localizations of MV 21, MV 48, MV 49 (hands A, B and C) and MV 95.

Map 1. Localizations of the TL_1S_2 Manuscripts.

2. Lexical layers through lexical comparison: goal, method, and background

This paper offers a lexical comparison of MV 21, MV 48, MV 49, and MV 95 as a method for discriminating between the variants carried over from shared predecessors and those more likely to have been added by later scribal initiative. The tranches of text aligned for the present study are determined by factors such as the physical state of the different copies, the conflated nature

of MV 49, and dissimilar textual omissions or non-parallel condensation of content. Thus, MV 48 stands on its own up to line 446, where MV 21 begins; MV 49 is incorporated into the analysis from line 2,850, where its Group-I constitution ends and its Group-IV constitution starts; MV 95's first legible line is 4,917, and it ends defectively at around 7,539; in turn, MV 21, MV 48, and MV 49's respective abrupt endings occur at lines 9,470, 5,868, and 9,217.¹¹ This analysis extends to line 7,539, after which, only MV 21 and MV 49 can be compared. The vocabulary they present hardly differs after that line, and their degree of condensation is often asymmetrical by the end of their texts.

The current parallel analysis of MV 21, MV 48, MV 49, and MV 95 doubtlessly benefits from previous and ongoing studies on the *PoC*. Although this research focuses on the vocabulary in the TLS₁S₂ manuscripts, it does not lose sight of their broader linguistic, textual, and intertextual contexts.¹² The majority of the items used for the comparison are included in the University of Huelva Middle English lexical database.¹³ This work in progress by Carrillo-Linares and Garrido-Anes includes 120 lexical items that present variation in about 60 works preserved in multiple manuscripts with different dialectal origins. The study of the recorded occurrences, replacements, and omissions in the parallel extant copies of those works helps to describe patterns of word rejection and replacement, some of which are likely to have been dialectally motivated. In the case of the *PoC*, occurrences, omissions, lexical equivalents, and paraphrases have been retrieved for 110 lexical items¹⁴ in – so far – 54 out of the 90 manuscripts

11 Line numbers correspond to Hanna and Wood (2013).

12 Special thanks are due to the British Library, the Bodleian Library, the libraries of Dublin Trinity College, Lambeth Palace, Oxford University College, and Edinburgh University for providing me access to the digitized or microfilmed copies of the Main Version manuscripts.

13 The database, not publicly available, is held at <http://phpmyadmin.uhu.es>.

14 From the 120 database items, the 110 occurring in the *Prick of Conscience* are the following: ALKIN, AND (HAND), ANHEDE, ASSETHE, AY, BANEN, BIGGEN, BIHING, BILIFE, BISEN, BLINEN, BRAIDEN, CASTEN, CLOMSEN, CLOT, COMLY, CRAG, CRIBBE, CUNNING, DALE, DALK, DASED, DEREN, DIGHT, DIN, DINGEN, DINTEN, DOLE, DOTEN, DREGHEN, DROVEN, EGGEN, EKEN, ERR, FEL, FELE, FELLE, FELLY, FERLY, FLAIEN, FLITEN, FON, FORLUKEN, FORSAKEN, FRAISTEN, FRETT, FROUNT, GILERY, GLOWEN, GOULEN, GRETEN, GRISELY, HELDEN, HENTEN, HIDE, HOUSIL, ILL, IRKEN, KENEN, KIRK, LAIKEN, LAINEN, LAITEN, LAKEN, LETTEN, LIFTE, LITHE, LITHER, LOPER, MERRRYNG, MIRK, MISTER, NEVEN, QUAINTESE, RAIKEN, ROGGEN,

of the poem's Main Version. The central purpose of the database is to discover dialectological patterns in the lexis, but – as shown below – the study of lexical variation can also be a helpful tool in the study of textual relations.¹⁵

For reasons of space and the limited scope of this study, apart from MV 21, MV 48, MV 49, and MV 95, only readings in MV 27/34 (Group I) and three other Group-IV manuscripts of the Northern (MV 29), the Vernon-Simeon (MV 49), and the Lichfield subgroups (MV 57) are here provided for reference.¹⁶ This study contributes to the database with the addition of the realizations of the 110 items retrieved from the previously unstudied MV 48. The present analysis has also brought to light some additional instances of lexical variation not included in the *PoC* database. Therefore, the possible dialectal nature of some of them has not yet been studied.

In medieval manuscript transmission, the reasons underlying the presence or absence of particular words and expressions in the multiple copies of a particular work are rarely linear and straightforward; rather, they are complex and dependent on multiple intervening factors. The dialectal origin of the change is merely one among many other possibilities. Stenroos (2020: 175) suggests that 'land documents' are likely to constitute a more objective – although more semantically restricted – source of lexical information than the usually non-localized and creative literary texts. In her recapitulation of previous Middle English lexical studies, she observes that:

ROSYNG, ROUKEN, SAGHTEL, SAMEN, SANDE, SCULKEN, SELCOUTHE, SERE, SLAKEN, SLAVEREN, SLEGT, SMORED, SONDEREN, SOUCHEN, STEDE, SWELTEN, SWINKEN, THARNEN, THOLEN, THRALLEN, THREPEN, TITE, TROWEN, UGLY, UNDERLOUT, WARN, WARNEN, WATHE, WERE, WLATSOME, WONEN, WONYNGE-STEDE, YEMEN, YERNEN. The remaining 10 items are: BILOUKEN, DELVEN, FORHOUE, FOSTREN, GEREN, HANKEN, METHE, SUNDREN, THEWE, WISSEN.

¹⁵ For more on lexical variation and word geography and methodological applications, see Carrillo-Linares (2005–2006, 2010, 2016), Carrillo-Linares & Garrido-Anes (2007, 2008, 2009, 2012), and Garrido-Anes (2019).

¹⁶ Group I is here represented by MV 27 and MV 34, two virtually identical copies thought to be "close to the author but of quite local diffusion" (Hanna & Wood 2013: lxvi). The readings from MV 27/34 have been double-checked against Morris (1863) and Hanna & Wood's revision (2013). MV 34 supplies the readings for some missing lines in MV 27 (1,538–1,579; 6,923–9,210). The readings from MV 57 are supplied by Morey (2012). On copying and reading the *PoC*, see Johnston (2020).

The effects of scribal transmission on vocabulary appear to be unpredictable (Benskin & Laing 1981: 96–97; Black Stenroos 2002: *passim*). Studies of word geography have mostly focussed on texts that survive in several scribal copies clearly representing different dialects; such studies include Kaiser (1937) and Carrillo-Linares (2005–2006), Carrillo-Linares & Garrido-Anes (2007, 2008) on the *Lay Folks' Catechism*, Carrillo-Linares & Garrido-Anes (2009, 2012; Carrillo-Linares 2010, 2016), as well as Horobin (2004) on the *Prick of Conscience*, Scahill (2005) on *Ancrene Wisse* and [...] Black Stenroos (2002) on *Piers Plowman*. Together, studies such as these, may throw much light on the dialectal patterning of Middle English vocabulary; however, as specific localizations are for the most part unavailable for this kind of texts, the geographical interpretation of the findings is necessarily tentative.

The provisional nature of the interpretation of lexical change may still prevail in these manuscripts even when their dialectal provenance is known. As shown by Carrillo-Linares (2005–2006, 2010, 2016), Carrillo-Linares & Garrido-Anes (2007, 2008, 2009, 2012), and Garrido-Anes (2019), the analysis of scribal attitudes regarding the lexicon in the source texts requires deep research into the stemmatological relations among the copies. McIntosh's description of the three types of copying (1973: 60) should also be born in mind. As is the case with the treatment of spelling and morphology, Middle English scribes could also adopt one of the following strategies when dealing with vocabulary: (1) the *literatim* approach, aiming to retain the lexical items found in the exemplar; (2) *translatio*, which involves rendering words of the copy-text into the scribe's own dialect or set of personal preferences; (3) or a combination of both, in varying degrees, depending on circumstances. These are often challenging to assess since they may include the copyists' intentions, their capacity for concentration, the legibility of their source, the number of copies of the work they had to hand, or the nature of the potential audience. Text type, whether prose or verse, and stylistic choices also play their part when retaining, omitting, or altering words from the exemplar.

For the above reasons, variants departing from others within the same group or subgroup should never be assumed to be attributable directly to the

scribe(s) and dialect(s) of the copy where they occur. Even though that might well have been the case, the unknown number of lost exemplars prevents certainty that an anomalous change or unique variant was not inherited from a non-shared, not yet analysed – and most probably now missing – source. However, side-by-side analysis of as many copies as possible enables tracking down variants to previous stages of the transmission (Robinson 2013: 13; Bordalejo & Robinson 2018: 37). Cumulative evidence of untraceable lexical changes in one particular manuscript together with previous studies leading to the same or adjacent geographical areas should provide safer indications of – respectively – new scribal attributions and likely dialectal motivation. Independently of whether the ‘altering scribe’ was that of the extant copy or a predecessor – and whether dialectal factors were involved or not – the identification of different layers of lexical change can certainly enhance understanding of medieval scribal reception.

3. Lexical profiles: a contextual analysis of the TLS₁S₂ subgroup

The collation and comparative analysis of the selected lexical items in MV 21, MV 48, MV 49, and MV 95 provide the different scribes’ lexical profiles. Common and diverging elements lead to the identification of traces of previous stages of the transmission chain.

3.1. The reflex of the Group I archetype

The survival of a substantial part of the presumably original lexicon in the TLS₁S₂ texts supports Lewis & McIntosh’s assertion that the fourth large manuscript family of the *PoC* ultimately derives from Group I (1982: 7). These occurrences remain relatively stable in the dissemination of the Group-IV texts, and especially within the TLS₁S₂ subgroup. The lexical invariance in MV 21, MV 48, MV 49, and MV 95 – often shared with MV 29, MV 40, and MV 57, from the Northern, Vernon-Simeon, and Lichfield Group-IV subsets – is sometimes suspended within these three subgroups. Since the poem was probably composed in Yorkshire,¹⁷ the subsequent expansion of the copies further south

¹⁷ See more about the likely dialect of composition in Hanna and Wood (2013: xxxiv–xlvi).

might have brought about some of the occasional lexical replacements within the Northern, the Vernon-Simeon, and the Lichfield subgroups.

The earliest and most extensive layer of *literatim* lexical copying is shown in Table 1.¹⁸ However, as can also be observed, there are occasional cases of ‘euere’ for ‘ay’ (line 12);¹⁹ ‘wikkednesse’ for ‘ille’ (line 97); ‘derknes’ for ‘myrknes’ (line 194); ‘reueþ’ for ‘letten’ (line 253); ‘leeue’ for ‘trow’ (line 296);²⁰ ‘breþ’ for ‘(h)and’ (line 775); ‘draveleth’ or ‘sauereþ’ for ‘slavers’ (line 784); ‘desyr’ for ‘yernen’ (line 1,136); ‘wylned’ for ‘yherned’ (line 2,188); ‘fele’ or ‘dyuerse’ for ‘sere’ (lines 1,518, 3,436, 4,294); ‘wepyng’ for ‘gretyng’ (lines 496, 502, 6,106, 6,571, 7,093); ‘eche’ for ‘(h)eke’ (line 3,256), ‘churche’ for ‘kyrk’ (lines 3,779, 3,790, 4,452, 4,472, 4,646); ‘zif ne’ for ‘warn’ (line 7,260); ‘sone’ for ‘tyte’ (line 7,260); ‘greue’ for ‘dere’ (line 7,307); or ‘alle maner’ for ‘alkyn’ (line 7,323).²¹ The altering scribes were not necessarily the copyists of the manuscripts analysed; the variants – or at least some of them – could have also been carried over from some intermediate, and probably less northerly, exemplar. The deviant readings are fewer in MV 29 – a manuscript from the Northern Subgroup – and more frequent in the Vernon-Simeon-Lichfield subgroups, whose circulation was wider across the Midlands, especially in the south and west.²²

3.2. The reflex of the Group-IV archetype

A second lexical layer in the TLS₁S₂ subgroup is composed of an additional set of items copied *literatim* by the TLS₁S₂ scribes, albeit – in this case – they retain variants already present in some shared predecessor with the other Group-IV subfamilies. It is certainly possible that a few of the changes such as certain omissions (e.g. ‘ay’) or typical replacements (e.g. ‘diuerse’, ‘foul’, ‘euere’, ‘duelle’, ‘when’, ‘wolde’, or ‘grete’ for ‘sere’, ‘wlatsom’, ‘ay’, ‘wone’, ‘als-tite’, ‘yherned’, or ‘mykel’) may have been accidentally common in the TLS₁S₂ and the other three subgroups. Identical variation could have been independently

18 See the Appendix for Tables 1–10.

19 See also lines: 15; 21; 31; 32; 717; 1,861; 3,293; 3,706; 6,348; 6,362; 6,364; 7,290; 7,388.

20 See also lines: 301; 303; 313; 320; 788; 4,275.

21 For the sake of brevity, only one spelling form is provided.

22 For specific locations, see Lewis & McIntosh (1982) & Benskin, Laing, Karaiskos & Williamson (2013).

produced as a result, for instance, of individual eyeskip, but also due to the altering scribes' possible near provenance or resembling personal choices.

Notwithstanding these facts, the repeated and often predictable parallel pattern of omission, deviation, and less ordinary replacements in the same contexts (see Table 2) firmly suggest derivation from a common Group-IV source. That seems to be the case of the agreements of the six manuscripts on: 'rore' for 'goule' (line 477); 'yan' for 'tite' (line 1,914); '@say' for '@ay' (line 2,852);²³ 'sume' for 'sere' (line 2,877); 'forsooth' for 'me thynk' (line 3,296); 'haue sorow' for 'thole' (line 3,517); 'suffyr' for 'drighe' (line 3,540); 'sydes' for 'partes' (line 4,500); 'turn' for 'trowe' (line 4,567); 'blowen' for 'strewed and skaterd' (line 4,996); and '@fulle ille' for '@ille' (6,746). Given that scribes would not have generally wished to ruin the poem's rhyme, line final-position items were more unlikely to be changed. At times, though, non-disturbing and still rhyming alternatives were provided at the end of lines, even if that occasionally involved some non-exact synonyms and deviations from the 'word-for-word' and 'meaning-for-meaning' type of replacement. Some instances are: '@fulle' for '@ille' (line 292); '@wepyng/wepande' for '@gretyng/gretand' (lines 496, 502, 7,093); '@chyrche' for '@kyrk' (lines 3,779, 3,790); '@affraieþ' for '@flays' (line 2,549); '@nemene' for '@neuen' (line 2,896); '@þere' or '@here' for '@sere' (lines 6,582, 6,628). Paraphrases of larger segments and other strategies, such as the inversion of the couplet lines, were sometimes used and the scribes would always manage a new fitting rhyme as in (1) 1,864–1,865 and (2) 3,901–3,902:

1. MV 27: "Þis twynnyng may be cald þe dede /
 Þat fleyghes about fra sted til *stede*"
 MV 57: "This partyng may be calde the deth /
 that flutteth abouten as hit *geth*"

2. MV 27: "A party for veniel syns *sere*, /
 A party for syns þat er forgeten *here*;"

23 Line final position is indicated by the use of the symbol @ before the word.

MV 57: “Som for synnes here *forgeten*, /
Som for venyal synnes *meten*;”

Omissions or lexical alternatives emerging at different points in the transmission may have been dialectally motivated. However, a damaged exemplar, manuscript contamination, occasional misreadings, and scribal errors, together with individual resourcefulness, could also play their part in bringing about changes. Such may be the cases of ‘love’ for ‘trow’ (line 296) and ‘sloupe’ and ‘glory’ for ‘sleghtes’ (line 1,181). These unique readings may have originated in, respectively, MV 57 and MV 40, but they could have also been carried over from some unknown and unshared exemplars.

3.3. The TLS₁S₂ node

The third layer of lexical choices must have been inherited from a closer exemplar shared by the TLS₁S₂ subgroup. As a distinctive branch within Group IV, MV 21, MV 48, MV 49, and MV 95 unequivocally diverge from the Northern, the Vernon-Simeon, and the Lichfield texts (see Table 3). Whereas the TLS₁S₂ copies read ‘schall’, ‘threpe’, ‘dyntes’, ‘ye same’, ‘pyne’, ‘grauyng’, ‘vgly’, ‘dolefully’, and ‘saules’, the rest of the Group-IV texts give, instead, ‘aght’ (line 5,382), ‘trete’ (line 5,407), a word omission (line 5,418), ‘sere/diuerse/many’ (line 5,583), ‘angre’ (line 6,039), ‘goulyng’ (line 6,106), ‘grysly’ (line 6,564), ‘ful deolful’ (line 6,873), and ‘synfulle’ (line 7,343). Furthermore, MV 21, MV 49, and MV 95 – MV 48 ended much earlier – seem to have inherited ‘dolefull’ (line 7,344) from their exemplar. The same applies to MV 21 and MV 49’s ‘sorowe’ (line 7,082). The TLS₁S₂ reading and the counterpart forms in MV 29 and MV 40 are identical in both cases. On the one hand, ‘sorowe’ for ‘helle’ does not look like a coincidental dialectal replacement; it is not likely that such a common word was alien to the altering scribe(s); rather, it may have been the result of an intentional change introduced in some shared ancestor within Group IV. On the other hand, ‘dolefull’ for ‘noyse and’ is an inherited scribal error that consisted in copying the final part of a line – slightly above this one – which also ends in ‘dyn’ (line 7,328), specifically, ‘dolefull dyn’. Several words

are simultaneously omitted in the TLS₁S₂ copies (line 6,058).²⁴ As previously explained, the establishment of textual relations should not initially rely on isolated omissions that could have been accidental lapses or coincidences; however, the absence of certain words may eventually become significant when they form part of a shared recurrent scheme of deviant behaviour.

3.4. The TLS₁ and the S₂ nodes

MV 95 must have derived from a node different from the one shared by MV 21, MV 48, and MV 49 (hence, TLS₁). It lacks some of the other three copies' line omissions (e.g. lines 5,002, 5,199, 5,200, 6,322),²⁵ which places this manuscript in a separate transmission line within the TLS₁S₂ branch. The fourth lexical layer is, then, represented by forms carried over from the TLS₁ and the S₂ nodes. As illustrated in Table 4, from among the MV 95 readings that differ from the TLS₁ set, some might be distantly related to one or more of the other Group-IV manuscripts,²⁶ while others are peculiar to MV 95 alone.²⁷ The implications are that some realizations could have been drawn from an unshared exemplar (S₂), while others may have been introduced by the scribe of this particular copy or some intermediate source (S_{2A}).

3.5. The TL, the S₁, and the S₂ nodes

The comparative analysis of the lexicon in the TLS₁S₂ copies evinces that both MV 21 and MV 48 derive from the same additional unknown source within the TLS₁ branch. Whereas MV 49 tends to remain faithful to the TLS₁ archetype, MV 21 and MV 48's shared exemplar (henceforth TL) must have contained several additional lexical translations, either express avoidances of northerly terms or stylistic preferences that were passed on to these two descendants. As shown in Table 5, the reflex of this fifth layer manifests itself through MV 21 and MV 48's shared variants, such as 'euyl' for 'ille' (lines

²⁴ See also: lines 6,390; 6,693; 7,089; 7,155; 7,342.

²⁵ For further detail on line or couplet omissions and related paraphrases in the TLS₁S₂ subgroup, see Garrido-Anes (2022).

²⁶ See lines 5,002; 5,033; 5,199; 5,200; 5,216; 6,109; 6,322; 6,384; 6,643; 6,721; 7,262; 7,531.

²⁷ See lines 6,111; 6,184; 6,456; 6,628; 7,066; 7,265; 7,323.

5,734, 5,746) and ‘few/fewer’ for ‘fonne/foner’ (lines 3,731, 3,732, 4,576, 7,531). MV 21 and MV 48 also read ‘euell saules’ for ‘ille’ (line 2,857), an unusual rendering not likely to have been sheer coincidence. MV 21’s deviations from MV 49 after the sudden end of MV 48 at line 5,868 are also given in Table 5. These readings are ‘euyl’ for ‘ille’ (lines 6,136, 6,138, 6,384), ‘zolke’ for ‘dalk’ (line 6,443), ‘zernyng’ or ‘wanyng’ for ‘tharnyng’ (lines 7,296, 7,304), and the omissions of ‘ay’ (line 6,537 and 7,039), ‘sere’ (line 7,308), and ‘ill’ (line 7,327). In the absence of the MV 48 text for comparison in this part, the attribution of these changes to the TL source should be cautious. However, considering that MV 21 is a northern text, its lexical alternatives (where MV 49 – also northern – retains the archetypal term) could probably be assumed to have originated in the seemingly less northerly source shared with MV 48. Regarding MV 95 and its S_2 node and their connections with MV 49 or its source (S_1), lines 6,136 (‘ille/yll’), 6,384 (‘ille/yll’), 6,443 (‘dalk, dalke’), and 7,327 (‘ille/yll’) can be traced back to their common $TL S_1 S_2$ ancestor.

3.6. The $TL[S_1][S_2]$ node

Further confirmation of the close relationship between MV 21 and MV 48 is presented in Table 6. The absolute lack of evidence for MV 49 and MV 95 in the lines shown prevents a confident attribution of these shared distinctive readings to the TL node, the earlier $TL S_1$, or $TL S_1 S_2$. Several alternative lexical renderings suggest derivation from exemplars produced in a less northerly dialect than the original poem; in fact, a few of them are identical to variants found in the non-northern manuscripts of the other Group-IV subgroups. Coincidences do not necessarily imply a shared source for the changes, especially when those particular alternatives tend to be expected in manuscripts circulating outside the work’s original northern area. The omission of ‘won’ (line 1,046) and the occurrence of ‘euell’ instead of ‘ill’ (lines 1,615, 2,154, 2,157, 2,162, 2,385) could be such cases. Other coincidental readings such as ‘yis’ for ‘sere’ (line 1,654) and ‘wit’ for ‘trowe’ (line 1,784) – not exact synonyms but more atypical renderings – might have originated in some distant exemplar common to three of the subgroups.

The rest of the omissions and, especially, the lexical changes featured in Table 6 are idiosyncratic to the $TL S_1 S_2$ subgroup. The available evidence

makes it impossible to determine whether these variants stem from the TS, the TLS₁, or an older node, but they interestingly illustrate typical geographical variation, as in ‘duellyng’ for ‘wonnyng’ (line 1,372), ‘witten’ for ‘knawen’ (line 1,572), ‘place’ for ‘stede’ (line 1,757), and ‘hatte’ for ‘calle’ (line 2,813). Some of the alternatives given are renderings that go beyond the literal translation and often involve word order changes or paraphrases: ‘myght & strenthe’ for ‘swinken and sorrow’ (line 738); ‘subtile’ or ‘many sotel’ for ‘vayn’ (line 1,181); ‘frenship’ for ‘saghtel’ (line 1,470); ‘was’ for ‘held’ (1,528); ‘lastande’ for ‘lifand’ (1,753); ‘wastes’ for ‘sculkes’ (line 1,788); ‘haste’ for ‘mast’ (line 2,185); ‘here’ for ‘were’ (line 2,296); ‘manere’ for ‘were’ (line 2,510); ‘@here’ for ‘sere’ (line 2,726).

Except for ‘swinken and sorrow’ (line 755), ‘vayn’ (line 1,181), and ‘@lifand’ (line 1,753), the rest of the items in Table 6 tend to be avoided in non-northern areas, especially, though not only, in medial position.²⁸ However, once a word was dropped or changed in a non-northern manuscript, succeeding copies – even if northern – are less likely to restore the original word. A non-northern exemplar would explain the presence of a large number of lexical translations of supposedly northern words in a northern copy like MV 21. When variation was exceptionally introduced at the end of a line, the original couplet rhyme would be transformed into another suitable one, and efforts were made to sustain it with the new word or a paraphrasis. The couplet below (lines 762–763) illustrates how the different versions deal with the original ‘fon’ and ‘@sere’.

1. MV 27: “Now, he says, ‘my *fon* days *sere* /
Sal enden with[yn] a short tyme *here*’.”
- MV 29: “Now, he says, ‘my *fo* dayes *sere* /
Salle ende wyth a schorte tyme *here*’.”
- MV 40: “Now, he seiþ, ‘my *fewe* sayes *sere* /
Schul ende in schort tyme *here*’.”
- MV 57: “He seyth, ‘my *fewe* dayes *sere* /
Shul ende nowe in shorte tyme *here*’.”

28 On lexical variation, word geography, and works surviving in multiple manuscripts, see Carrillo-Linares (2005–2006, 2016); Carrillo-Linares & Garrido-Anes (2007, 2008, 2009, 2012); and Garrido-Anes (2019).

MV 21: “He says now ‘sall my *fewe* dayes sone *wende* /
And within schort tyme *brought to ende*’.”

MV 48: “He seyth ‘my dayes son will *wende* /
And with schorte tyme *here mak an ende*’.”

Whereas the northern MV 29 retains both words, the versions of widespread distribution in the south and west of the Midlands read ‘fewe’. The manuscripts in the TL node inherited an additional paraphrasis affecting the entire couplet, omitting ‘@sere’, and requiring a different rhyme. They additionally show slight variation between them: MV 48 omits ‘fewe’, and their last parts of the second couplet line differ in the verb.

3.7. The T and the L nodes

Further dissimilar readings in MV 21 and MV 48 are given in Table 7. In most of the lines shown, the damaged or incomplete MV 21, MV 49, and MV 95 copies unfortunately preclude any inference about whether the deviation from the reading in their common exemplar occurred in both MV 21 and MV 48 or only one of them. Where comparison with MV 49 and/or MV 95 is possible (lines 4,291, 5,243, 5,259, 5,743), MV 21 and MV 48 offer contrasting alternative readings. The implication is the presence of a sixth lexical layer. However, it is not discernible whether some words in the lexical pairs may have been retained from the TL exemplar or introduced by MV 21 (or a predecessor in an unshared T node) or MV 48 (or an exemplar in a separate L node). Thus, MV 21 gives ‘euyll’, ‘synful’, ‘ilka’, ‘yvill’, and ‘pertenly’ (lines 4,291, 5,243, 5,259, 5,743) where MV 48 reads ‘wykkid’, ‘euel’, ‘synfful’, an omission, and ‘open’.

3.8. MV 48 or the L node

Although some of the divergent cases above cannot be traced back to earlier stages of the transmission due to the absence of surviving evidence, the lines included in Table 8 evince that the northern MV 21 tends more readily to accept the vocabulary in the TL source than the East Anglian MV 48. The ‘translating’ scribe of the Norfolk copy – or its exemplar under the L node – provides a substantial list of alternatives to the TL lexicon. Dialectal motivation may underlie most of the replacements in MV 48, which remain

unchanged in the otherwise closely related MV 21. Previous and ongoing research suggests that variants for ‘als-tite’, ‘wlatsome’, ‘ay’, ‘sere’, ‘won/wonnyng’, ‘myrk/myrknes’, ‘besynes’, ‘dale’, ‘flay’, ‘selcouthe’, ‘yhernyng’, ‘stede’, ‘grisely’, ‘kyrk’, ‘warne’, ‘tite’, ‘wgly, wglines’, ‘hent’, ‘dole’, ‘myster’, ‘ban’, ‘flitte’, ‘thole’, ‘frount’, ‘wathe’, ‘sonder’, ‘fon’, ‘lyfte’, ‘gretyng’, among other items, are commonly found in manuscripts traceable to exemplars of non-northern descent.²⁹

Furthermore, MV 48 reads ‘theynke’ when MV 21 omits ‘fares’ (line 1,343) and ‘partyng, clepyd, drede’ instead of ‘twynnyng’, ‘called’, ‘deede’ (line 1,864). MV 48 also gives ‘scharply’ for ‘tite’ (line 1,915), ‘betten’ for ‘dongen’ (line 3,256), ‘cleped’ for ‘gadird’ (line 3,833), ‘wyse’ for ‘maners’ (line 4,385), ‘harme’ for ‘wathe’ (line 4,558), ‘powder’ for ‘askes’ (line 4,996), ‘dyed’ for ‘swelt’ (line 5,212), and ‘parte’ for ‘chede out’ (line 5,641). Substituting ‘wonyng’ for ‘dwellynge’ (line 1,009), for example, is a likely dialectal rendering of an original word that remained unchanged in the TL source in this line but was replaced in others, as previously shown. However, ‘@wyrkand’ for ‘@wonnande’ (line 1,032) or ‘peynes’ as a further replacement for ‘euelles’ – the TL alternative to ‘maledys’ (line 3,003) – may have had a different type of motivation. MV 48 also shows unshared word additions, such as ‘many’ (line 1,181), and unshared word omissions, such as those of ‘besynes’ (line 1,027), and of ‘servand’ (MV 21) for ‘minister’ (MV 27) in line 3,684. Other idiosyncratic readings like ‘@maye’ for ‘@flay’ (line 1,268) or ‘@I wysse’ for ‘@stede’ (line 2,193) are part of paraphrases rather than word-for-word translations. This evidence indicates a sixth layer of innovation in the L branch. The MV 48 scribe could have introduced these apparently unique readings, but they could have also been – maybe partially – copied from an exemplar not shared with MV 21.

3.9. MV 21 or the T node

A handful of currently untraceable variants to any known or textually inferred sources beyond their respective T, S₁, and S₂ nodes are shown in

²⁹ Carrillo-Linares & Garrido-Anes’s database includes these items in multiple localized manuscripts of Middle English works. See also Carrillo-Linares (2005–2006, 2010).

Tables 9, 10, and 11. The sixth lexical layer in MV 21 is represented by an assemblage of alternative words or expressions originating either in this copy or a predecessor in the T node. Only in MV 21 (see Table 9) is ‘bale’ given as a synonym for ‘paynes’ (line 1,746) and ‘full of vices’ for ‘ille’ (line 3,671). In line 1,752, ‘@sighande’ might have been a misreading of the initial <d> in ‘@dyzeande’. Another possible error is ‘werke’ instead of ‘chirch/kyrk’ (line 4,072). The use of ‘3olke’ for ‘dalk’ (line 6,443) has few chances of being a stylistic choice; the word appears to have been wrongly repeated, as an ‘egg yolk’ is also mentioned in the line above. MV 21 additionally paraphrases the last part of the 2,132–2,133 couplet, where the rhyme was adjusted to ‘@here/ bere’ replacing ‘@chesse/pesse’.

1. MV 27: “Es Haly Kyrk þat God first *ches*, /
Thurgh whilk men commes to the sight of *pes*.”
MV 29: “Haly Kyrk yat godde fyrste *ches*, /
Thurgh wylk men comes to ye syght if *pees*.”
MV 40: “Is Holy Chirche þat god furst *ches*, /
Bi whuche meN come to þe si3t of *pes*.”
MV 57: “Is Holy Writte that God fyrste *chees*, /
By whiche men comen to syght of *pees*.”
MV 21: “Yat is Haly Kirke yat god firste *here*, /
Thurghe whilke men commes to ou[r] *bere*.”
MV 48: “Yat is Holy Chirch yAt godd ffirste *chesse* /
Th[ro]w which men cumen to ye *land* of *pesse*.”

The textually related MV 48, however, retains the TL distinctive reading partially preserved in MV 21 (‘Yat is’...). No evidence is available, though, to trace further back the origin of MV 48’s ‘land’ for ‘sight’. In line 5,589, it becomes apparent that the TLS₁ exemplar must have provided the framework for the ‘tholed’ shared readings in MV 48 and MV 49, whereas the lexical variant ‘soffred’ is attributable to either MV 21 or a predecessor in the T node. By contrast, the reading in MV 95 – similar to that in MV 29, except for the synonym for ‘thole’ – must have already been present in the S₂ node from which it derives; the lexical alternative ‘soffret’ in MV 95 appears to be a later innovation, textually unrelated to the form in MV 21.

1. MV 27: “Ȓat he tholed for mans salvacioun,”
MV 29: “Ȓat he tholed for oure saluacioune,”
MV 57: “That weren for oure salvacyoun,”
MV 21: “Ȓat he soffred for mannes saluacion,”
MV 48: “Ȓat he tholedde ffor manes saluacioune,”
MV 49: “Ȓat he tholed for mans saluacioune,”
MV 95: “Ȓat he soffrett for awre saluacion,”

3.10. MV 49 or the S_{1A} node; MV 95 or the S_{2A} node

MV 49 displays an extraordinarily reliable reproduction of the lexicon in the TLS₁ exemplar (see Tables 1–9). However, several exceptions emerged in the collation of the vocabulary representing the items used for this study. The only instances of variation apparently unique to MV 49 or an unshared antecedent (S_{1A}) are provided in Table 10. Thus, ‘euermore’ for ‘ay’ (line 5,220), ‘gaf’ for ‘egged’ (line 5,483), and ‘@grete’ for ‘@plente’ (line 7,327) do not match either of the other copies in the subgroup. In line 7,327, the shared rephrasing (‘Yare sall be...’) carried over from the TLS₁S₂ exemplar and the context of the entire line present three slightly differing readings in MV 21, MV 49, and MV 95:

1. MV 34: “And of all Ȓat *ill es gret plente.*”
MV 29: “And of alle yat *ille es grete plente.*”
MV 40: “And of al Ȓat *euel is gret plente.*”
MV 57: “And of alle his *badde greet plenté.*”
MV 21: “Yare sall be of *all thyng plente.*”
MV 49: “Yare sal be al *`ille´ thyng grete.*”
MV 95: “There shall be all *yll thyng plente.*”

It should be highlighted that a significant number of cases of lexical divergence in MV 95 are currently untraceable beyond this copy within the subgroup. They may be attributed to the MV 95 scribe, but they could have also been drawn from some intermediate exemplar (S_{2A}) between MV 95 and the S₂ node (see Table 11). The non-northern origin of this divergence can

be inferred from the fact that words such as ‘alkyn’, ‘tholede’, ‘yhernynges’, ‘ay’, ‘3erne’, ‘warne’, and ‘tharnyng’ in the TLS₁ manuscripts are here found as ‘and all’ (line 4,948); ‘sofrett’ (line 5,589), ‘couetus’ (line 6,628), ‘euer’ (lines 6,643, 7,265), ‘dissyre’ (line 6,721), ‘yff no’ (line 7,262) and ‘graitt sowrow’ (line 7,296). Variants such as ‘doluen’ for ‘beryed’ (line 5,216) and ‘feryng’ for ‘flayng’ (line 6,109) are similar in other Group-IV manuscripts. The fact that MV 95 is a late manuscript that offers an abridged revision of the *PoC* suggests that scribal preferences could probably account for the changes that have no apparent geographical connection: ‘yit’ for ‘ill’ (line 5,407), ‘@chrying owtt’ for ‘myrknes’ (line 6,111), ‘@trespass’ for ‘@dight’ (line 6,184), ‘lykewysse’ for ‘sone’ (line 6,456), ‘pompe’ for ‘ruse’ (line 7,066), ‘peynes’ for ‘sorow’ (line 7,296) and ‘@wates’ for ‘@laytes’ (line 7,531). The addition of intensifiers such as ‘graytt’ (lines 6,106 and 7,296) also points in that direction.

The lexical relations among the TLS₁S₂ copies are less evident in five cases that deserve attention. From line 7,342 (see Table 9) it can be inferred that MV 21, MV 49, and MV 95’s shared omissions of ‘þe devils’ and ‘sall’ were already present in the TLS₁S₂ exemplar. The T node reads ‘ay’, but MV 49 and MV 95 give ‘euer’. Since this is a very frequent rendering of the word, its occurrence in these two copies might not be textually related. If related, the TLS₁S₂ exemplar would have read ‘euel’ and ‘ay’ would be attributable to the T (or TL) node. With the current evidence, although replacement from ‘euer’ to ‘ay’ is less common than from ‘ay’ to ‘euer’, this northernizing move cannot be discarded in the northern MV 21.³⁰

1. MV 34: “*þe devils ay* omang on þam *sall* stryke,”
MV 21: “And *ay* emange apon yaim strike,”
MV 49: “And *euer* omang opon yam strike,”
MV 95: “And *euer* among on them stryke,”

In line 5,801 (see Table 9), MV 21 also reads ‘ay’ where MV 48 and MV 49 have ‘euer’ and MV 95 omits the line. The word ‘euer’ could have been present in the TLS₁S₂ exemplar given that the northern MV 49 tends to faithfully copy

30 For more on northern scribes, see Hudson (1983).

whatever readings were found in the source. Line 6,382 is not available for MV 48, so it is impossible to infer whether ‘dwell’ (MV 21) was also the form in the TL, the T, or the TLS₁S₂ exemplar. ‘Be’ in the TLS₁S₂ predecessor could explain the agreement with MV 95 on this uncommon alternative for ‘dwelle’. MV 49’s ‘yhelde’ (line 5,894) and ‘fune’ (line 7,531) may have been the original forms in the subgroup exemplar (see Table 10). However, since both MV 21 and MV 95 read ‘giffe’ and ‘few’, there is also a chance that these were TLS₁S₂ forms and MV 49 exceptionally deviated from it. In the absence of MV 48 for comparison, the attribution of these changes should be cautious. Considering that MV 21 is a northern text, its lexical alternatives (where MV 49 – also northern – shows the presumably original term) could have also originated in the seemingly less northerly source shared with MV 48, but then, the MV 95 readings would not be textually related. Whether a specific occurrence should be considered a variant or not depends on whether that particular reading is believed to be the one in the archetypal manuscript. More evidence is needed to define these five cases.

4. Conclusions

The present analysis uses lexical collation to describe and interpret vocabulary transmission within the TLS₁S₂ copies of the *PoC*. It also considers the relations of these copies within the wider context of the stemma by showing parallelisms and divergences between this and the other three Group-IV main subsets: the Northern, the Vernon-Simeon, and the Lichfield subgroups. The Group-I version is the starting point of reference for a comparison that reveals the lexical profiles of the copies, which results in the identification of up to six distinct lexical layers in each of the TLS₁S₂ manuscripts.

This research evinces that in dealing with a poem of religious and spiritual teaching, the scribes of the TLS₁S₂ manuscripts would have generally attempted to be faithful to the contents, the form, and the poetic and rhyming nature of their exemplars. Most of the lexicon in the TLS₁S₂ copies can be traced back to the presumably original vocabulary, forming the oldest and best represented lexical stratum. The second lexical layer is composed of vocabulary relics of a primitive Group-IV ancestor that deviated from the earliest versions by introducing some geographically conditioned

word changes and omissions and others that must have been the stylistic or personal preference of some scribe. Several northern terms were replaced with others of a more widespread distribution, which points to a less northerly provenance of this Group-IV exemplar.

Due to occasional missing leaves and the currently damaged parts of some manuscripts, not much has survived from the third lexical layer identified. However, a substantial number of word omissions and some atypical readings set MV 21, MV 48, MV 49, and MV 95 apart from the Northern, the Vernon-Simeon, and the Lichfield subgroups. The $TL S_1 S_2$ subset splits into two well-defined branches that represent the fourth layer in their respective manuscripts. One is the $TL S_1$ set, which includes MV 21, MV 48, and MV 49; the other is S_2 , from which MV 95 derives. The key to this subdivision is provided by some lines which MV 95 retains from the $TL S_1 S_2$ exemplar, but which are omitted in MV 21, MV 48, and MV 49's shared predecessor. In turn, words from $TL S_1 S_2$ preserved in the $TL S$ copies are substituted in the S_2 branch. Apart from a variety of additional lexical replacements or rejections suggesting that the languages of $TL S_1 S_2$, $TL S_1$, and S_2 were not northern, some stylistic creativity was also at play.

Within the $TL S_1$ copies, the fifth layer is also twofold. On the one hand, the S_1 node leading to MV 49 presents, quite consistently, an accurate reproduction of the vocabulary from the exemplar. On the other hand, MV 21 and MV 48 share a significant number of deviant readings that denote derivation from a common line of descent. This TL source must have also been produced in a non-northern dialect since various lexical changes and omissions carried over to MV 21 – a northern manuscript – and MV 48 – from Norfolk – affect words of well-known northern distribution.

Layer number 6 includes different sets of lexical variants gathered from MV 21, MV 48, MV 49, and MV 95, which are not traceable to any other known source. Unique or rare variants can only start to be tentatively considered actual innovations by the scribes of those particular copies when those readings are absent from other manuscripts to which they are textually related. In addition, variants that at first sight seem to be shared may have actually emerged independently. Scribal patterns of vocabulary usage must always be described and understood in light of the broader tradition. Underlying the sixth layer, an intermediate and now lost source from

which those readings were inherited cannot be discarded. MV 48 – or, at least partially, an exemplar in the L node – stands out as the most active copy of the four in terms of scribal innovation. It seems to be followed by MV 95 and MV 21, or their sources, in their respective S_2 and T nodes; by contrast, MV 49 generally shows fidelity to its predecessor. As was the case with the Vernon-Simeon and Lichfield manuscripts, the TLS_1S_2 subgroup clearly displays several degrees of southernization inherited from their unknown exemplars and carried over through an indefinite number of copies beginning in Group IV. The dialectally and stylistically dynamic nature of the copying process is especially significant in MV 48, from Norfolk. Even though the northern MV 49 and MV 21 barely change the northern vocabulary still preserved in their exemplars, both reflect the southernized stages and the stylistic rewordings that precede them in the transmission chain. MV 95 also reflects some degree of dialectal translation. However, most of the lexical variants in this late North Derbyshire text suggest an intentional revision.

This study is based chiefly on words of a potentially dialectal character, but not all the lexical replacements attested can be assumed to be dialectally conditioned unless accumulated evidence of rejection in localized manuscripts can be traced to a particular area. Some replacements may have emerged from individual stylistic initiative. Manuscript contamination and scribal errors are other factors that could trigger lexical change. The history of the lexicon in the TLS_1S_2 subgroup can be schematized as follows (see Figure 1 below):

Figure 1. Manuscript Relations in the TLS_1S_2 Group.

Group I				Layer 1
Group IV				Layer 2
Group TLS_1S_2				Layer 3
TLS ₁			S ₂	Layer 4
TL		S1A (MV 49)	S2A (MV 95)	Layer 5
T (MV 21)	L (MV 48)			Layer 6

Lexical collation has helped to understand the dissemination of some vocabulary items across the primary Group-IV families of the *PoC*, and more specifically, within the TLS_1S_2 subgroup. It has also uncovered a part of the history of MV 21, MV 48, MV 49, and MV 95 through the identification of their main lexical strata and has further refined the textual relations between the manuscripts of the TLS_1S_2 subgroup. The analysis of the lexicon in these copies has not only confirmed Garrido-Anes (2022)'s findings that the previously unclassified MV 48 is closely related to MV 21 and MV 49 – and slightly more distantly – to MV 95; it has also revealed a tighter relationship between MV 21 and MV 48. This study has shown that both copies derive from a TL node unshared with MV 49 or MV 95. The comparative analysis of the lexicon in the extant manuscripts of this subset has contributed to disentangling the now superimposed distinct stages of scribal intervention. Dialectal and stylistic choices, both original and inherited, have additionally disclosed different scribal attitudes towards the vocabulary found in the exemplars.

Previous, current, and future studies into word geography are indispensable to better understand vocabulary reception and distribution in Middle English works. In 1973 McIntosh claimed that “what would be needed in order to carry out a more systematic investigation is the collaborative effort of a sizable number of scholars, together with financial support for the establishment of the necessary corpus of texts” (Hoad 1994: 199). Although progress is being made, the field is so vast and challenging that this statement recovered by Hoad in the 1990s is still valid today. Apart from some early 21st-century incursions in several works preserved in multiple manuscripts such as *Piers Plowman*, *Cursor Mundi*, or the *Lay Folks' Catechism*, ongoing studies such as the *PoC* and the ‘land documents’ projects may help to continue to connect the numerous remaining dots. In this sense, smaller and larger contributions and any upcoming contextualized pieces of evidence need to be welcome, as all together they will become increasingly meaningful for the field. **N**

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Appendix³¹

Table 1: Lexical Layer 1 (The Reflex of the Group I archetype).

GROUP I	GROUP IV							LINE
	(N)	(VS)	(LICH)	(TLS ₁ S ₂)				
MV 27/34	MV 29	MV 40	MV 57	MV 21	MV 48	MV 49	MV 95	11
@TROW	∅	@om.	@TROW	∅	@TROWEN	N/A	∅	12
AY		euere	AY		AY			13
WONED		WONEDE	WONED		WONED			13
@ANHEDE		@on godhede	@ANHEDE		@ONEHEDE			14
AY		euere	AY		AY			15
@WON		@WONE	@WON		@WONE			16
AY		euere	AY		AY			21
AY		om.	AY		AY			31
AY		euere	AY		AY			32
@AY		@ay	@ay		@ay			37
@ILLE		@ILLE	@ILLE		@ILLE			77
@ILLE		@ILLE	O		@ILLE			92
ILLE		wikkednesse	O		@ILLE			97
@SERE		@SERE	@SERE		@SERE			146
@ILLE		@ILLE	@ILLE		@ILLE			174
@ILLE		@ILLE	@ILLE		@ILLE			182
MYRKNES		derknes	derkenes		MYRKNES			194
@ILLE		@IL	@ILLE		@ILLE			204
@LETTYNG		@LETTYNG	@LETTYNG		@LETTYNG			237
LETTEN		reueþ	reven		LETT			253
@ILLE		@fulfille	@fulfille		@ILLE			292
TROW		leeue	love		TROW			296
TROWED		leeuede	leveden		TROWED			301
TROWES		leue	leveden		TROWES			303
TROWES		leeueþ	leven		TROWE			313
TROWED		TROUWE	leved		TROWID			320
@TROW		@TROUWE	@TROWE		@TROW			332
@SERE		@SERE	@om.		@SERE			346
@SERE		@SERE	@SEERE		@SERE			352
@AY		@AY	@AY		@AY			403
@GRETYNG		@wepyng	@wepyng	@GRETYNG	[...]			496
@GRETAND		@wepande	@wepand	@GRETANDE	@GRETAND			502
@WLATSOM		@WLATSOME	@WLATSOME	@WLATSOME	@WLATSOM			520
WLATSOM		WLATSUM	WLATSOME	WLATSOME	[...]			583
@WLATSOM	@WHALSOME	@WLATSOME	@WLATHSOOME	WLATSOME	[...]			610
@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE			651

31 The symbols used in the tables are the following: om = word omitted; O = line omitted; P= paraphrasis; ∅ = missing text; N/A = not applicable; @= final position; [...] = blurred.

AY	AY	euer	O	AY	AY		717
HAND	ANDE	breþ	breth	AENDE	[...]		775
SLAVERS	SLAUERS	sauereþ	draveleth	SLAVERS	SLAUERITH		784
@DOTES	@DOTES	@DOTeþ	@DOTETH	@DOTES	[...]		785
TROWES	TROWES	leeueþ	leveth	TROWE	TROWE		788
@TROWYNG	@TROWYNG	@TROWYNG	@TROWYNG	@TROWYNG	@TROWYNGE		789
@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	O	@STEDE	@STEDE		858
GRYSLY	GRYSLY	GRISLY	GRISLY	GRISELY	GRYSSELY		911
DALE	DALE	DALE	DALE	DALE	DALE		1,044
@THRALLEN	@THRALLE	@þRALLE	@THRAL	@THRALL	@YRALLE		1,064
@KEN	@KENNE	@KEN	@KEN	@KEN	@KENE		1,074
YERNEN	3ERNYNG	desyr	desyre	3ERNYNG	3ERNYNG		1,136
DALE	@DALE	@DALE	@DAALE	@DALE	O		1,166
DOLEFUL	DOLEFULE	DEOLFUL	DEOLFUL	DOLEFULL	O		1,166
STEDE	STEDE	STUDE	STUDE	STEDDE	STEDE		1,168
GILERY	GYLERY	GILERIE	GYLORYE	GILLERYE	GILERIE		1,176
SLEGHTES	glory	slouþe	SLEYGHTE	SLEGHTES	SLEYTHES		1,181
@QWAYNTYSE	@QUAYNTYSE	@QUEYNTISE	@QUEYNTYSE	@QUAYNTYSE	@QWAYNTYSE		1,181
@CAST	@CASTE	@CASTE	@CAASTE	CASTEN	CASTEN		1,193
CASTES	CASTES	CASTEþ	CASTETH	CASTES	CASTEY3T		1,221
@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE		1,327
@ILL	@ILL	@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE		1,615
AY	AY	AY	AY	AY	AY		1,373
@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE		1,428
@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE		1,448
SERE	SERE	fele	SERE	SERE	SERE		1,518
@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE		1,705
@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE		1,744
@BLYN	@BLYNNE	@BLYNNE	@BLYN	@BLYN	@BLYNNE		1,746
@BRAYDE	@BRAYDE	@BREIDE	@BRAYDE	@BRAYDE	@BREYDE		1,750
@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY	@AYE		1,755
@STEDE	@STEDE	@STUDE	@STEEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE		1,818
AY	AY	euer	AY	AY	AY		1,861
@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@geth	@STEDE	@STEDE		1,865
@LITH	@LYTH	@LIP	@LYTH	@LITH	@LYTHE		1,917
@CAST	@CASTE	@CASTE	@CAST	@CASTE	@KESTE		1,918
@CAST	@CASTE	@CASTE	@CASTE	@CASTE	@KESTE		1,976
@DRIGHE	@DRY	@DRY3EN	@DRYE	@DRYE	@DREYE		2,044
AY	AY	@AY	@AY	AY	AYE		2,086
@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILL	@ILLE		2,146
YHERNED	3ERNEDE	3EORNED	yeerned	3ERNED	3ERNYD		2,176
YHERNED	3ERNYD	3EORNEDE	wylned	3ERNED	3ERNED		2,188
@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE	@IL	@ILL	@ILLE		2,165
@DERE	@DERE	@DER	@DERE	@DER	@DERE		2,290
TROW	TROWE	TROWE	TROW	TROWE	TROWE		2,510
@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY		2,536
@FLAYS	@FLAYS	@affraieþ	@affrayeth	@FLAYES	@FFLEYETHE		2,549
@DERES	@DERES	@DEReþ	@DERETH	@DERES	@DERYTH		2,552
@HENTES	O	O	O	@HYNTES	@HENTE		2,722

STEDE	STEDE	STUDE	O	STEDE	STEDE		2,790
STEDE	STEDE	STUDE	O	STEDDE	STEDE		2,806
@MYRKNES	@MYRKENES	@MERKNIS	O	@MYRKNES	@MERKNES		2,815
STEDES	STEDYS	STUDES	O	STEDDES	STEDYS		2,816
STEDES	STEDYS	STUDES	STEDES	STEDDES	STEDES	STEDES	2,850
STEDES	STEDYS	STUDES	STEDES	STEDDES	[...ys]	STEEDES	2,873
STEDES	STEDYS	STUDES	STUDES	STEDDES	[...]	STEDES	2,880
STEDES	STEDE	STUDE	STED	STEDDES	STEDE	STEDE	2,885
@NEVEN	@NEUEN	@nemene	@NEVENE	@NEUEN	@NEUEN	@NEUEN	2,896
GRYSLY	GRYSLY	GRISLI	GRYSLY	GRISELY	GRYSSELYCH	GRYSELY	2,907
GRISLY	GRYSLY	GRISLY	GRYSLY	GRISELY	GRYSSELY	GRYSLY	2,925
SERE	sare	sor	sore	SERE	SERE	SERE	2,982
@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SEERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	2,984
@STEDE	O	O	O	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	3,025
@FELLE	@FELLER	@FELLE	@FELLE	@FELL	@FFELLE	@FELLE	3,077
@WON	@WONE	@WONNE	@WONNE	@WONNE	@WONE	@WONE	3,096
AY	om.	om.	om.	AY	[...]	AY	3,173
DOLE	DOLE	DEL	DEOL	DOLE	DOLE	DOLE	3,218
ALKYN	alle	alle	alle	ALKYN	ALKYNS	ALKYNS	3,248
EKE	EKE	eche	eche	EKE	EKEN	EKE	3,256
YHERNYNG	3ERNYNG	3EORNYNGE	YERNYNG	YHERNYNG	O	3ERNYNG	3,267
@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEED	@STEDDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	3,286
AY	AY	euere	ever	AY	AY	AY	3,293
@FERLY	@FERLY	@FERLY	@FERLYE	@FERLY	@FFERLY	@FERLY	3,296
@DERE	@DERE	@DERE	@DERE	@DERE	@DERE	@DERE	3,324
@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEEDE	@STEDE	[...]	@STEEDE	3,317
HOUSIL	HOUSYLLE	HOUSEL	HOUSUL	HOUSILL	HOWSSELL	HOUSEL	3,402
@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SEERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	3,412
SERE	SERE	diurse	dyverse	SERE	SERE	SERE	3,436
THOLE	THOLE	suffre	suffre	thole	[...]	THOYLE	3,515
THOLE	thole	pole	thole	thole	[...]	THOYLL	3,524
@SANDE	@sande	@sonde	@sonde	@sande	O	@SANDE	3,535
@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SEERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	3,538
STEDE	STEDE	STUDE	om.	STEDE	[...]	STEEDE	3,543
@HEKE	@EKE	@EKE	@EKE	@EKE	@EKE	@EKE	3,546
ASSETHE	ASETHE	ASEEP	ASSEETH	ASETHE	[...]	ASETHE	3,610
@STEDE	@STEDE	@STED	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEEDE	3,679
@AY	@euere	@euere	@AY	@AY	@AYE	@AY	3,706
@STEDES	@STEDES	@STUDES	@STEDES	@STEDE	@STEDDYS	@STEEDE	3,723
@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY	@AYE	@AY	3,776
TROW	TROWE	TROWE	TROWEN	TROWE	TROWE	TROW	3,776
@KYRK	@KYRKE	@churche	@chyrche	@KIRKE	[...]	@KYRK	3,779
@KYRK	@KYRKE	@churche	@chirche	@KIRKE	@KYRKE	@KYRKE	3,790
@STEDE	O	O	O	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	3,811
@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@meten	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	3,902
@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	3,972
@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEEDE	3,980
@TROW	∅	@trowe	@om.	@TROWE	@TROWE	@TROWE	4,004
@WERE		@WERE	@WEERE	@WERE	@WERE	@WERE	4,088

@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILL	@ILLE	∅		4,111
@AY	@AY	@AY	@AYE	@AY	@AYE			4,140
@KEN	@KENNE	@KEN	@KEN	@KEN	@KENE			4,215
STEDES	STEDYS	STUDES	om.	STEDDES	STEDE	STEDES		4,247
TROW	TROW	TROUWE	leve	TROW	TROW	TROW		4,275
SERE	SERE	feole	dyverse	SERE	SERE	SERE		4,294
@QUAYNTIS	@QUAYNTYSE	@QUEYNTISE	@QUEYNTYSE	@QUAYNTYS	@QWAYNTEYS	@QUAYNTYSE		4,327
THOLE	THOLE	þOLE	THOLE	THOLE	THOLE	THOYLE		4,380
@CONNYNG	@CONNYNGE	@CUNNYNG	@CONYNG	@CONNYNG	@CONNYNG	∅		4,435
TROW	TROWE	TROWE	leve	TROWE	TROW			4,440
@FELLY	@FELLY	@FELLY	@FELLEY	@FELLY	@FELLY			4,449
@KIRK	@KYRK	@churche	@chirche	@KIRKE	@KYRKE			4,452
@KYRKE	@KYRKE	@chirche	@chyrch	@KIRKE	@KYRK			4,472
@KEN	@KEN	@KEN	@KEN	@KEN	@KENE			4,520
@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEEDE		4,607
@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEEDE		4,614
KIRK	KYRK	chirche	CHIRCHE	@KIRKE	@KYRKE	∅		4,646
@NEVEN	@NEUEN	@NEUENE	@NEVEN	@NEUEN	@NEUEN			4,649
@AY	@AY	@AY	@AYE	@AYE	@AYE			4,678
@NEVEN	@NEUEN	@NEUENE	@NEVEN	@NEUEN	@NEUEN			4,688
@SERE	@SERE	o	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE			4,689
@KEN	@KENNE	@KEN	@KEN	@KEN	@KENNE			4,703
@DYN	@DYNE	@DIN	@DYN	@DYN	@DYNE			4,707
@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE	@SERE			4,724
@NEVEN	@NEUEN	@nemene	@NEVENE	@NEUEN	@NEUEN			4,757
@CAST	@CASTE	@CASTE	@CASTE	@CASTE	@CASTE			4,786
@NEVEN	@NEUEN	@NEUENE	@NEVEN	@NEUEN	@NEUENN			4,794
BYGGED	BYGGYD	BUGGED	om.	BYGGED	BYGGEDD	BYGGED		4,850
@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILL	@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE	4,931
@FELLE	@FELLE	@FELLE	@FEL	@FELL	@FFELL	@FELLE	@FELL	4,967
CRAGGES	CRAGGYS	CRAGGES	CRAGGES	CRAGGES	CRAGGED	CRAGGES	[...]	5,077
@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEED	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEEDE	@STED	5,216
TROWE	TROWE	TROUWE	TROWE	TROWE	TROW	TROW	TROW	5,287
@DERE	@DERE	@DERE	@DERE	@DERE	@DERE	∅	@DEYRE	5,413
DYNTES	om.	om.	om.	DYNTES	DYNTES		om.	5,418
@KEN	@KENNE	@KEN	@KENNE	@KEN	@KENNE		@KENNE	5,430
@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILL	@YLLE	@ILLE	o	5,641
@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE	@YLLE	@ILL	@ILLE	@ILLE	o	5,802
SERE	o	heore	here	SERE	∅	SERE	o	5,883
@SERE	@SERE	@þere	@SERE	@SERE		@SERE	@SERE	5,894
@ILLE	@ILLE	@IL	o	@ill		@ILLE	@YLL	5,905
@KEN	@KENNE	@KEN	@KEN	@KEN		@KEN	o	5,946
TROW	do	do	doon	TROWE		TROWEE	o	6,030
TROWED	TROWEDE	leeueþ	leved	TROWED		TROWED	o	6,030
THOLE	THOLEDE	þOLEDE	THOLED	THOLED		THOLED	o	6,039
@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY		@AY	@AYE	6,095
GRETYNG	GRETYNG	wepyng	wepyng	gretyng		GRETYNG	GRETYNG	6,106
@DYN	@DYNNE	@dyn	@dyn	@dyn		@DYN	@DYNNE	6,107
DULEFUL	DOLEFULLE	DEOLFUL	DEOLFUL	DOLEFULL		DULEFUL	DELEFULL	6,107

MERRYNG	MERRYNG	MARRYNG	MERRYNG	MERUYNG		MERRYNG	om.	6,111
@BLYN	@BLYNE	@BLYN	@BLYN	@BLYN		@BLYN	@BLYNNE	6,108
@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILL		@JLLE	@YLL	6,130
@DIGHT	@DYGHT	@DIHT	@DYGHT	@DIGHT		@DIGHT	@DYGHT	6,146
@SLAKE	@SLAKE	@SLAKE	@SLAKE	@SLAKE		@SLAKE	@SLAKE	6,221
@TITE	@TYTE	@TYT	@TYTE	@TYTE		@TITE	@TITE	6,229
EKE	EKE	ECHE	ECHE	EKE		EKE	EYKE	6,236
AY	euer	euere	ever	AY		AY	om.	6,348
AY	AY	euer	ever	AY		AY	ay	6,362
AY	AY	euere	ever	AY		AY	ay	6,364
@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY		@AY	@ay	6,382
@DIGHT	@DYGHT	@DIHT	@DYGHT	@DIGHT		@DIGHT	@dyght	6,451
MYRKE	MYRKE	MERK	MERKE	MIRKE		MYRK	MARKE	6,453
ay	om.	om.	om.	om.		AY	AY	6,457
@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY		@AY	O	6,473
@DRYGHE	@DRY	@DRYE	@DRYGHE	@DRE		@DREGHE	O	6,519
@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE		@STEDE	O	6,544
@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY		@AY	@EYE	6,549
@MYRKNES	@MYRKENES	@MERKNES	@MERKENES	@MYRKENES		@MYRKENES	@om	6,561
@DIGHT	@DYGHT	@DIHT	@DYGHT	@DYGHT		@DIGHT	@DYGHT	6,564
@GLOWAND	@GLOWANDE	@GLOWANDE	@GLOWAND	@GLOWANDE		@GLOWANDE	@GL[O]AND	6,568
@GRETYNG	@GRETYNG	@WEPYNG	@WEPYNG	@GRETYNG		@GRETYNG	@GRETYNG	6,571
@BLYN	@BLYNNE	@BLYNNE	@BLYN	@BLYN		@BLYNNE	@BLYN	6,574
@SERE	@SERE	@PERE	@SERE	@SERE		@SERE	@SERE	6,582
SERE	om.	om.	om.	@SERE		SERE	SERE	6,590
AY	om.	om.	om.	AY		AY	HEY	6,603
AY	om.	om.	om.	AY		AY	EY	6,627
@SERE	@SERE	@HERE	@SEERE	@SERE		@SERE	@SERE	6,628
CAST	CASTE	CASTEN	CASTE	CASTE		CAST	CAST	6,648
EKE	om.	om.	eche	EKE		EKE	EKE	6,649
@GLOWAND	@GLOWAND	@GLOWAND	@GLOWYNG	@GLOWAND		@GLOWAND	@GLOWAND	6,665
@THOLE	@THOLE	@POLE	@THOLE	@THOLE		@THOLE	@THOLE	6,680
@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY		@AY	@HEY	6,696
@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE	@STEDE		@STEDE	O	6,705
DOLEFULY	DULFULLY	DEOLFOLICHE	DEOLFULLY	DOLEFULLY		DULFULLY	DULFELY	6,710
@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILLE	@ILL		∅	@YLL	6,746
DULEFUL	DOLEFULLE	DELFUL	DEOLFUL	DOLEFULLY			DULFULL	6,873
@BLYN	@BLYNNE	@BLYNNE	@BLYNNE	@BLYN		@BLYN	O	7,046
@TROW	@TROWE	@TROWE	@TROW	@TROWE		@TROW		7,055
@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY	@AY		@AY		7,082
@GRETYNG	@GRETYNG	@WEPYNG	@WEPYNG	@GRETYNG		@GRETYNG		7,093
GRETE	GRETE	wepe	wepe	GRETE		GRETE		7,095
WARN	WERE	3if ne	yif ne	WARNE		WARNE		7,260
TYTE	SONE	sone	sone	TITE		TITE		7,260
@STEDE	@STEDE	O	@stede	@STEDE		@STEDE		7,267
AY	EUERE	euere	ever	AY		AY		7,290
@DYGHT	@DYGHTE	@DIHT	@DYGHT	@DIGHT		@DIGHT	@DYGHT	7,305
DERE	DERE	greue	greve	DERE		DERE	DEYRE	7,307
ALKYN	ALKYNS	alle maner	alle maner	ALKYN		ALKYN	ALL KYNNES	7,323

mykel	GRETE	GRET	GREET	GRETE	∅	GREETE	OM.	6,561
ay	OM.	OM.	OM.	OM.		OM.	OM.	6,578
ay	OM.	OM.	OM.	OM.		OM.	OM.	6,642
cast	OM.	OM.	OM.	OM.		OM.	OM.	6,650
ay	OM.	OM.	OM.	OM.		OM.	OM.	6,669
ugly	OM.	OM.	OM.	OM.		OM.	OM.	6,679
yherne	OM.	OM.	OM.	OM.		OM.	OM.	6,701
@ille	@FULLE ILLE	@FUL ILLE	@FUL ILLE	@FULL ILL		∅	@FULL YLL	6,746
ay	OM.	OM.	OM.	OM.		OM.	OM.	7,258
ay	OM.	OM.	OM.	OM.		OM.	OM.	7,343

Table 3: Lexical Layer 3 (The TLS₁S₂ Node).

GROUP I	GROUP IV							LINE
	(N)	(VS)	(LICH)	(TLS ₁ S ₂)				
MV 27/34	MV 29	MV 40	MV 57	MV 21	MV 48	MV 49	MV 95	
aght	aght	ou3te	aught	SALL	SCHALL	∅	shall	5,382
threp	trete	trete	tret	THREPE	OM.		threpe	5,407
dyntes	om.	om.	om.	DYNTES	DYNTES		om.	5,418
sere	sere	diuerse	many	YE SAME	YE SAM	YE SAME	O	5,583
angre	angyrs	anger	angur	PYNE	∅	PYNE	O	6,039
ay	ay	om.	om.	O		OM.	OM.	6,058
@goulyng	@goulyng	@goulyng	@goulyng	@GRAUYNG		@GRAUYNG	@GRAYTT GROUYNG	6,106
cragges	hyls	hulles	mounteynes	OM.		OM.	OM.	6,390
roches	montayns	mountaynes	hulles	OM.		OM.	OM.	6,390
hydusly	grysly	grisli	grysly	VGLY		VGLY	VGLY	6,564
ay	euer	euer	ever	OM.		OM.	OM.	6,693
duleful	+ffulle	+fful	+ful	DOLEFULLY		∅	DULFULL	6,873
helle	sorow	serwe	helle	SOROWE		SOROW	O	7,082
ay	ay	euere	ever	OM.		OM.	O	7,089
ay	om.	om.	ay	OM.		OM.	OM.	7,155
devils	deuylls	deueles	fendes	OM.		OM.	OM.	7,342
synfulle	synfulle	synful	synful	SAULES		SAULES	SOWLE	7,343
noyse and	dolefulle	delful	noyse and	DOLEFULL		DULEFUL	DOLEFULL	7,344

Table 4: Lexical Layer 4 (The TLS1 and the S2 nodes).

GROUP I	GROUP IV							LINE
	(N)	(VS)	(LICH)	(TLS ₁ S ₂)				
MV 27/34	MV 29	MV 40	MV 57	MV 21	MV 48	MV 49	MV 95	
neuend	neuend	seid	seyd	SAIDE	SEYDE	SAYDE	∅	2,850
last	last	lasteN	laste	BE	OM.	BE		2,857
vengeaunce	vengaunce	venge	vengeaunce	HELL	HELLE	HELLE		2,857
sere	sere	diurse	diurse	SOM	SUME	SOME		2,880
tite	sone	sone	sone	WHEN	WHEN	WHEN		2,901
@raumpande	@rampande	@raumpande	raumpande	GRYNNANDE	GRENANDE	GRYNNANDE		2,907
ay	ay	euer	om.	om.	HEUER	EUER		3,205
sere	grete	0	grettest	OM.	OM.	OM.		3,261
thole	thole	þole	take	SUFFRE	[...]	SUFFRE		3,519
thole	thole	þole	thole	BE	[...]	BE		3,542
thole	thole	þole	thole	OM.	[...]	OM.		3,547
@titter	@tyttere	@sannere	@titter	OM.	OM.	OM.		3,727
@stede	@stede	@stede	@stede	0	0	0	@stede	5,002
be	be	beo	be	DUELL	DWELL	DUELLE	be	5,033
clotes	cloutes	cloutes	cloutes	0	0	0	clothes	5,199
cribbe	krybbe	cribbe	crubbe	0	0	0	[...]bbe	5,200
beryd	deluede	buried	buried	BERIED	BERYED	BYRED	doluen	5,216
flaiyng	ferdenes	ferre	@affray	FLEYNG	∅	FLAYNG	feryng	6,109
@myrk[n]es	myrkenes	@merknes	@merknes	@MYRKNESSE		@MYRKNES	@chrying owtt	6,111
@dight	@dyghte	@diht	@dyght	@DYGHT		@DIGHT	@trespas	6,184
@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	0		0	@sere	6,322
payne	payne	peyne	pyne	SOROWE		SOROW	peyne	6,384
tyte	sone	sone	sone	SONE		SONE	lykewysse	6,456
yhernyngs	3ernyng	3ernynges	desyres	3ERNYNG		YHERNYNGES	couetus	6,628
ay	ay	euere	ever	AY		AY	euer	6,643
yherne	3erne	desyren	desire	3erne		∅	dissyre	6,721
rosyng	rosyng	bost	bostyng	ROESE		RUSE	pompe	7,066
warn	were	3if nere	yif nere	WARNE		WARNE	yff no	7,262
ay	om.	om.	ay	AY		AY	euer	7,265
sorow	sorow	serwe	sorow	SOROW		SOROW	peynes	7,323
@laytes	@laytes	@leiten	wayte	@LAYTES		@LAYTES	@wates	7,531

Table 5: Lexical Layer 5 (The TL, the S1, and the S2 nodes).

GROUP I	GROUP IV							LINE
	(N)	(VS)	(LICH)	(TLS ₁ S ₂)				
MV 27/34	MV 29	MV 40	MV 57	MV 21	MV 48	MV 49	MV 95	
om.	om.	om.	om.	EUPELL SAULES	EUELLE SAULES	ille	∅	2,857
foner	foere	fewor	foner	FEWER	FFEWER	foner		3,731
foner	foere	fewor	foner	FEWER	FFEWER	foner		3,732
fone	ffo	ffewe	fewe	FFEWE	FEW	ffone		4,576
ille	ille + (‘be it’ om.)	∅	evel + (‘be it’ om.)	EUYLL + (‘BE IT’ OM.)	EUELL + (‘BE IT’ OM.)	ille + (‘be it’ om.)	∅	5,734
ille	ille	euel	yvel	EUYLL	EUEL	ille	∅	5,746
ille	ille	euel	yvel	EUYLL	∅	ille	@yll	6,012
ille	ille	euel	euele	EUYL		ille	yl	6,136
ille	ille	euele	evel	EUYLL		ille	∅	6,138
ille	ille	euele	yvel	EUELL		ille	yll	6,384
dalk	dale	dale	dalke	∅OLKE		dalk	dalke	6,443
ay	om.	om.	om.	OM.		ay	euermore	6,537
ay	ay	euer	ay	OM.		ay	∅	7,039
tharnyng	tharnyng	∅ernyng	wantyng	∅ERNYNG		tharnyng	graitt sowrow	7,296
tharnyng	tharnyng	wontyng	wantyng	WANTYNG		tharnyng	losyng	7,304
sere	om.	om.	om.	OM.		sere	om.	7,308
ill	ille	euel	badde	OM.		ille	yll	7,327

Table 6: Lexical Layer 5 (The TL[S₁][S₂] node).

GROUP I	GROUP IV							LINE
	(N)	(VS)	(LICH)	(TLS ₁ S ₂)				
MV 27/34	MV 29	MV 40	MV 57	MV 21	MV 48	MV 49	MV 95	
ay	ay	euere	ay	OM.	OM.	N/A	∅	738
swinken and sorrow	swynk and yair + om.	swynk and serwe	swinke is more and sorow	MYGHT & STRENTHE	MYTH AND STRENTHE			755
@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	@OM.	@OM.			762
souchen	shouches	souchep	spieth	OM.	OM.			788
ugly	vgly	grygli	ugly	OM.	OM.			870
@neven	@neuenes	@nempnes	@neveneth	@OM.	@OM.			969
@wonand	@wonand	@wonande	@wonyng	OM.	OM.			997
won	wone	wonen	wone	OM.	OM.			1,011
won	wone	om.	om.	OM.	OM.			1,046
lither	lychery	euel	evel	OM.	OM.			1,059
vayn	vayne	veyn	veyn	SUBTILE	many SOTEL			1,181
castes	castes	castep	casteth	OM.	OM.			1,219

rogg	tuge	drawe	drawe	OM.	OM.			1,230
sonder	sundur	om.	om.	OM.	OM.			1,230
ay	ay	euere	euer	OM.	OM.			1,243
ay	ay	om.	om.	OM.	OM.			1,290
wonnyng	wonyng	wonynge	wonyng	DUELLYNG	@ DWELL[YNG]			1,372
saghtel	saghtellyng	sauhtnyng	saughtenyng	FRENSCHIP	FFRENCHI[P] PE			1,470
held	holde	heolden	heelde	WAS	WAS			1,528
sere	sere	diuerse	dyuerse	OM.	OM.			1,533
knawen	knawen	knowe	knowen	WITTEN	WYTE			1,572
ill	ille	eu[el]	yvel	EUELL	EUELLE			1,615
sere	ser	þis	this	YIS	YIS			1,654
@lifand	@lyfande	@liuande	@lyvyng	@LASTANDE	@LASTANDE			1,753
sted	stede	stude	stud	PLACE	PLACE			1,757
trow	om.	wite	wete	WIT	WYTE			1,784
sculkes	sculkys	sculkeþ	sheweth	WASTES	WASTE3T			1,788
ille	ille	euel	evel	EUELL	EUELL			2,154
ille	ille	euel	evel	EUELL	EUELL			2,157
ille	ille	euel	evel	EUELL	EUEL			2,162
yhernyng	3ernyng	3eornede	yeerned	OM.	OM.			2,185
@mast	@maste	@mast	@fast	@HASTE	@HASTE			2,185
@were	@were	@weere	@were	@HERE	@HERE			2,296
ille	ille	euel	evel	EUELL	EUELL			2,385
@were	@where	@were	@were	@MANERE	@MANERE			2,510
@felle	@felle	@felle	@felle	@OM.	@OM.			2,571
@sere	@sere	@sere	0	@HERE	@HERE			2,726
@ille	@ille	@ille	0	@OM	@OM			2,747
@hent	@sent	@sent	0	@ENDE	@HENT			2,803
calles	caled	cald	0	HATTE	HYTHE			2,813

Table 7: Lexical Layer 6 (The T and the L nodes).

GROUP I	GROUP IV							LINE
	(N)	(VS)	(LICH)	(TLS ₁ S ₂)				
MV 27/34	MV 29	MV 40	MV 57	MV 21	MV 48	MV 49	MV 95	
ay	∅	euere	ay	∅	EUERE	N/A	∅	20
ay		om.	om.		EUERE			41
ille		euel	0		EUELLE			94
@ille		@om.	0		@TILL			98
ille		euel	evel		EUEL			100
lettes		þat no	that they no		WHI YT YEI			238
ay		euer	ever		EUER			270

tyte		soone	soone		SON			322
ay		om.	om.		EUER			324
sere		diuerse	diuerse		DIUERS			365
sere		feole	sere		DIUERS			337
@als-tyte		@tit	@so-tyte		@BRI3TE			377
@dight		@diht	dyght	DAYES	[...]			448
myrk		foul	om.	OM.	[...]			456
wlatsom		foul	foule	[...]	FFOULE			459
fon		fewe	fewe	OM.	FFEW			530
wlatsom	ille	euel	euel	FOULE	STENKE			657
ille	ilk	euel	euel	OM.	[...]			660
ay	ay	om.	om.	OM.	[...]			773
comly of shap	om.+ of face	om. + of face	om. + of face	IF HE HAUE FORCE	SEMLY OF SCHAPE			690
fone	ffo	ffewe	fewe	FEWE	[...]			764
foner	fewere	fewor	fewer	OM.	[...]			765
als tyte	tyte	sone	sone	SONE	[...]			766
fon	fo	fewe	fewe	FEWE	OM.			762
ay	ay	om.	om.	OM.	[...]			773
full late	late	lop	looth	ILLE	HARD			789
@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	@OPPENLY	@ARE SEN VERELY			828
wgly	vgly	grisly	uglye	FOULE	OM.			907
calde es	wyttenesse	called is	called es	HALDEN IS	CLEPID ES			1,046
sere	sere	vre	oure	OURE	OM.			1,250
ay	ay	om.	ofte	O	FUL OFTEN TYME			1,275
ay	ay	euere	ay	NOGHT	NEUERE			1,341
flese	check	check	fleen	FELES	THENEKE			1,341
fares	[...]th	Om.	om.	OM.	THEYNKE			1,343
lyfte	@lyth	bri3t	bryght	LYGHT	O			1,444
@gretyng	@gretyng	@wepyng	@wepyng	@LYKYNG	@GRETYNGE			1,451
sere	ysis	diuerse	dyverse	MANY	DYUERS			1,572
gyse	wyse	gyse	gyses	WAYES	TOKENS			1,572
fleyghes	flyttes	fihtep	flutteth	STRAYES	WALKEYTH			1,864
ay	om.	om.	om.	OM.	EUER			2,484
ille	ille	euel	yvel	EUYLL	WYKKID	ille		4,291
ille	ille	euel	wicked	SYNFUL	EUEL	ille	ylle	5,243
ille	ille	euele	wykked	ILKA	SYNFFUL	ylle	[i]ll	5,259
ille	ille	euel	euel	YVILL	OM.	ille	O	5,743
apert	aperte	part	open	PERTENLY	OPEN	aperte	O	5,743

Table 8: Lexical Layer 6 (MV 48 or the L node).

GROUP I	GROUP IV							LINE
	(N)	(VS)	(LICH)	(TLS ₁ S ₂)				
MV 27/34	MV 29	MV 40	MV 57	MV 21	MV 48	MV 49	MV 95	
als-tite	∅	om.	sone	als-tite	SONE	N/A	∅	471
wlatsom		wlatsum	wlathsome	wlatsome	FFILTHE			564
ay	ay	euer	ay	ay	EUER			827
sere	sere	diurse	dyverse	sere	OM.			997
@wonnynng	@wonynge	@wonyng	@wonyng	@wonnynng	@DWELLYNGE			1,009
sustayns	susteyns	sosteyneþ	norysshen	sustenys	P			1,019
@won	@wone	@wonne	@won	@wonne	P			1,019
myrk	myrke	merk	merk	myrke	DERKE			1,025
bisens	kindely	ensaunple	ensaunple	besynes	OM.			1,027
@wonnand	@wonande	@wonande	@wonande	@wonnande	@WYRKAND			1,032
dale	dale	dale	dale	dale	VALE			1,046
ay	ay	om.	om.	ai	IN			1,169
vayn	vayne	veyn	veyn	subtile	MANY SOTEL			1,181
@flay	@flay	@fray	@afray	@flay	@MAYE			1,268
ay	ay	euere	euer	ay	ALL			1,285
ay	om.	euer	ay	ay	EUER			1,288
fares	[...]th	om.	om.	om.	THEYNKE			1,343
ay	ay	ay	Om.	ay	EUER			1,365
myrk	myrke	derk	derk	myrke	DERKE			1,435
selcouthe	selcouth	selcoup	selcouthe	selcouthe	DYUERS			1,518
yhernynges	3ernyng	disir	wilnyng	3ernynges	DESYRE			1,579
won	wone	wone	wone	wonne	DWELLE			1,645
yhernes	3ernes	kepeþ	kepeth	3ernys	COUEYTHE3TH			1,649
stede	stede	stude	stude	stede	PLACE			1,701
ay	Om.	euer	ever	ay	EUER			1,751
ay	ay	euer	ever	ay	EUER			1,752
grisely	gryslly	grisli	grisly	grisely	DREDEFFUL			1,757
myrknes	myrkenes	merknes	merkenes	murkinness	DERKNES			1,809
ay	check	check	om.	ay	EUER			1,853
twynnyng	Om.	partyng	partyng	twynnyng	PARTYNGE			1,864
cald	callede	called	calde	called	CLEPYD			1,864
@dede	@dede	@dede	@deth	@deede	@DREDE			1,864
titte	ones	ones	ones	titte	SCHARPLY			1,915
ay	ay	euer	ay	ay	EUER			1,970
ay	om.	om.	om.	ay	OM.			2,051
ay	om.	om.	om.	ay	EUER			2,106
ille	euele	euel	ille	ill	WYKED			2,120

ay	ay	euer	ay	ay	EUER		2,121
kyrk	kyrk	chirche	writte	kirke	CHIRCH		2,132
@kyrk	@kyrke	@chirche	@chirch	@kirke	@CHIRCHE		2,139
yhern	wolde	wolde	wolde	3erne	WOLDE		2,182
@ay	@ay	@ay	@ay	@ay	@OM.		2,183
@stede	@stede	@stede	@steed	@stede	@I WYSSE		2,193
grisly	gryslly	grisly	gryslly	grisely	FFERDFFUL		2,218
grisly	gryslly	grisly	gryslly	grisely	FFOULE		2,233
warne	haued noght	hadde not	ne had	warne	YIFF YEI HADD NOU3T		2,342
titter	titter	sannore	sonner	titer	SUNNER		2,354
@wglines	@vglynes	@foulnes	@foulnesse	@vgglynes	@[WI]CKNES		2,364
gryselly	foule	om.	om.	grisely	FFOULE		2,387
ille	ille	euel	ille	ill	EUEL		2,498
stedes	stede	studes	O	stedde	OM.		2,800
stede	stede	stude	O	stede	PLACE		2,813
kyrk	kyrk	chirche	O	kirk	CHIRCH		2,820
ay	ay	euere	ay	ay	@WITHOUTEN ENDE	ay	2,857
@syn	@synne	@synne	@syn	@syn	@OM.	@syn	2,857
ay	ay	om.	om.	aye	EUER	ay	2,869
dole	dole	deol	deol	dole	SOROW	dole	2,922
sere	sere	diuerse	dyuerse	sere	HERE	sere	2,985
sere	sere	dyuerse	dyuerse	sere	DYUERS	sere	3,003
sere	sere	om.	mony	sere	SWYCH	sere	3,003
maledys	euylles	eueles	evels	euelles	PEYNES	yuels	3,003
@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	YERE	@sere	3,046
dungen	dongoun	beten	beten	dongen	BETTEN	dongend	3,256
tite	sone	sone	sone	sone	ANONE	sone	3,287
@kyrk	@kyrk	@chirche	@chirche	@kirke	@CHIRCH	@kyrk	3,321
ay	ay	ay	ay	ay	EUER	ay	3,360
@sere	@sere	@sere	@seere	@sere	@CLERE	@sere	3,398
myster	mystere	mester	mystur	myster	NEDE	myster	3,447
mister	mystere	nede	myster	O	NED	myster	3,477
kirk	kyrke	chirche	chirche	kirke	CHIRCH	kyrk	3,478
bannes	banes	bannest	bannoeste	bannys	CURSEY3T	bannes	3,484
@ban	@bane	@ban	@upon	@ban	@HAUE	@ban	3,485
@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	DYUERSE	@sere	3,633
@kirkes	@kyrkes	@chirches	@kirkes	@kirkes	OM.	@kyrkes	3,684
minister	mynystere	ministre	minister	servand	OM.	servand	3,684
ille	ille	euel	ille	ill	DEDLY SYNNE	ille	3,699
ay	om.	om.	ay	ay	OM.	ay	3,734

@flitte	@flyt	@flite	@flytte	@flitt	OM.	@flyte		3,762
@als-tite	@tyte	@tyd	@tyte	@als-tite	@ALS-WYTHE	@als-tyte		3,767
@kirke	@kyrk	@churche	@chyrche	@kirke	@CHIRCH	@kyrk		3,819
ay	here	here	here	ay	HERE	ay		3,829
haly	in yaire lyfe	Pat in heore lyf	in her lyf	haly	MEKE	haly		3,829
kirk	kyrke	chi[r]che	chirches	kirke	CHIRCH	kyrke		3,830
kirkes	kyrkes	chirches	chirches	kirke	CHIRCH	om.		3,833
gadird	gadyrde	gederet	gedered	gedrede	CLEPED	gedrede		3,833
sere	sere	mony	sere	sere	MANY	sere		3,899
sere	om.	om.	om.	sere	MANY	cere		3,994
kyrk	O	churche	chirche	kirke	CHIRCHE	kyrk		4,084
@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	@HERE	@sere		4,284
@tite	@styte	@tyd	@tite	@tite	WYHTE	@tyte		4,292
@sere	@sere	@sere	@seere	@sere	@HERE	O		4,322
thole	lat	lete	suffre	lat	[...]	lat		4,352
sere	sere	mony	dyuersely	sere	MANY	sere		4,385
maners	maners	maners	om.	maners	WYSE	maners		4,385
frount	frount	frount	forhede	fronte	FFORHEUENED	fronte		4,410
sere	sere	diuerse	dyverse	sere	MANY	∅		4,500
@wathe	@wathe	@scaye	@lothe	@wathe	@HARME	@wathe		4,558
yherne	3ernr	coueyte	wylne	3erne	COUEYTTEN	∅		4,663
@mirknēs	@myrkenēs	@merknes	@merkenēs	@myrknēs	@D[A]RKNES			4,728
sonder	sondryd	be broken	be parted	sonder	[...]			4,789
sere	sere	diuerse	dyuerse	sere	MANY	sere		4,866
sere	sere	diuerse	diuerse	sere	MANY	sere	[...]	4,919
alkyn	alle	al	alle	alkyn	ALLE MANER	alkyn	and all	4,948
sere	sere	diuerse	diverse	sere	MANY	sere	sere	4,996
askes	askys	askes	askes	askes	POWDER	askes	askes	4,996
wgly	vgly	lodly	ogly	vgly	LOTHELY	vgly	O	5,024
@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	@DYUERSE LANDE	@sere	@sere	5,072
swelt	om.	om.	om.	swelte	DYED	swelt	om.	5,212
trowes	O	seyn	say	trowes	SEY	trowes	trowes	5,291
ille	ille	euele	wicked	ill	EUELL	∅	yit	5,407
@sere	@sere	@pere	@seere	@sere	@YERE		@sere	5,425
@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	HERE		om.	5,432
tholed	tholede	poled	tholed	tholed	OM.		om.	5,433
@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	@DERE		O	5,437
ay	euermore	euere	ever	ay	EUER	ay	O	5,456
@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	@YERE	@sere	@sere	5,472
tholed	tholed	poled	tholed	tholed	SUFF[E]RD	tholed	O	5,540

sere	sere	eny	any	sere	MANY	sere	0	5,541
ille	om.	om.	om.	ill diff	REKELES	ille	om.	5,553
chede out	departe	departe	departe	sched	PARTE	sched	0	5,641
@ken	@kenne	@be	@ken	@ken	KNOW	@ken	0	5,685
@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	@sere	@YERE	@sere	0	5,720
ille	ille	euel	yvel	ill	YDELL	ille	0	5,744

Table 9: Lexical Layer 6 (MV 21 or the T node).

GROUP I	GROUP IV							LINE
	(N)	(VS)	(LICH)	(TLS ₁ S ₂)				
MV 27/34	MV 29	MV 40	MV 57	MV 21	MV 48	MV 49	MV 95	
paynes	payne	peyne	peyn	BALE	paynes	N/A	∅	1,746
@dyand	@dyande	@diande	@dyghyng	@SIGHANDE	@dy3eande			1,752
@ches	@ches	@ches	@chees	@HERE	@chesse			2,132
ille	om.	om.	om.	FULL OF VICES	om.	om.		3,671
kirk	∅	chirche	chirche	WERKE	chirch	kyrk		4,072
tholed	tholed	0	weren	SOFFRED	tholede	tholed	sofrett	5,589
ay	euere	0	ay	AY	euere	euer	0	5,801
duelle	duelle	dwellen	byde	DWELL	∅	be	be	6,382
dalk	dale	dale	dalke	3OLKE		dalk	dalke	6,443
ay	om.	om.	ay	AY		euer	euer	7,342

Table 10: Lexical Layer 5 (MV 49 or the S₁A node).

GROUP I	GROUP IV							LINE
	(N)	(VS)	(LICH)	(TLS ₁ S ₂)				
MV 27/34	MV 29	MV 40	MV 57	MV 21	MV 48	MV 49	MV 95	
ay	om.	om.	om.	ay	ay	EUERMORE	om.	5,220
egged	eggyde	tysede	tysed	egged	[...]	GAF	egged	5,483
yhelde	3elde	3elde	yeelde	giffe	∅	YHELDE	gyff	5,894
plente	plente	plente	plente	plenté		GRETE	plente	7,327
fone	fo	fewe	few	few		FUNE	few	7,531

Table 11: Lexical Layer 5 (MV 95 or the S2A node).

GROUP I	GROUP IV							LINE
	(N)	(VS)	(LICH)	(TLS ₁ S ₂)				
MV 27/34	MV 29	MV 40	MV 57	MV 21	MV 48	MV 49	MV 95	
alkyn	alle	al	alle	alkyn	alle maner	alkyn	AND ALL	4,948
beryd	deluede	buried	buried	beried	beryed	byred	DOLUEN	5,216
ay	om.	om.	om.	ay	ay	euermore	OM.	5,220
ille	ille	euele	wicked	ill	euell	∅	YIT	5,407
tholed	tholed	O	weren	soffred	tholede	tholed	SOFRETT	5,589
@goulyng	@goulyng	@goulyng	@goulyng	@grauyng	∅	@grauyng	@GRAYTT grouyng	6,106
flaiyng	ferdenes	fere	@affray	fleyng		flayng	FERYNG	6,109
@myrk[n]es	myrkenes	@merknes	@merknes	@myrknesse		@myrknes	@CHRYING OWTT	6,111
@dight	@dyghte	@diht	@dyght	@dyght		@dight	@TRESPAS	6,184
tyte	sone	sone	sone	sone		sone	LYKEWYSSE	6,456
yhernyngs	3ernynge	3ernynges	desyres	3ernyng		yhernynges	COUETUS	6,628
ay	ay	euere	ever	ay		ay	EUER	6,643
yherne	3erne	desyren	desire	3erne		∅	DISSYRE	6,721
rosyng	rosyng	bost	bostyng	roese		ruse	POMPE	7,066
warn	were	3if nere	yif nere	warne		warne	YFF NO	7,262
ay	om.	om.	ay	ay		ay	EUER	7,265
tharnyng	tharnyng	3ernyng	wantyng	3ernyng		tharnyng	GRAITT SOWROW	7,296
sorow	sorow	serwe	sorow	sorow		sorow	PEYNES	7,323
@laytes	@laytes	@leiten	wayte	@laytes		@laytes	@WATES	7,531

Primary Sources³²

- MV 1: Aberystwyth, National Library of Wales, Porkington 20
 MV 2: Arundel Castle, Sussex, Library of His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, E. M.
 MV 3: Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon, Essex, Foyle MS
 MV 4 (DB): Brussels, Bibliothèque Royal Albert I, IV 998
 MV 5: Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum, McClean 131
 MV 6 (DB): Cambridge, Gonville and Caius College, 386
 MV 7 (DB): Cambridge, Magdalene College, F.4.18 (18)
 MV 8 (DB): Cambridge, St. John's College, 80 (D.5)
 MV 9 (DB): Cambridge, St. John's College, 137 (E.34)
 MV 10 (DB): Cambridge, University Library, Dd.11.89
 MV 11: Cambridge, University Library, Dd.12.69
 MV 12 (DB): Cambridge, University Library, Ll.2.17
 MV 13: Cambridge, University Library, Additional 6693
 MV 14: Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University Library, English 515
 MV 15 (DB): Canterbury Cathedral, Lit. D. 13 (66)
 MV 16 (DB): Charlottesville, Virginia, University of Virginia Library, Hench 10
 MV 17: Chicago, Illinois, Newberry Library, 32.9
 MV 18 (DB): Chicago, Illinois, Newberry Library, 33 (C. 19169)
 MV 19 (DB): Douai Abbey, Woolhampton, Berkshire, 7
 MV 20: Dublin, Trinity College, 156 (D.4.8)
MV 21 (DB): Dublin, Trinity College, 157 (D.4.11)
 MV 22 (DB): Dublin, Trinity College, 158 (D.4.15)
 MV 23: Holkham Hall, Wells, Norfolk, Library of the Earl of Leicester, 668
 MV 24 (DB): Leeds, University Library, Brotherton 500
 MV 25: Leeds, University Library, Brotherton 501
 MV 26: London, British Library, Arundel 140
MV 27 (DB) London, British Library, Cotton Galba E. IX
 MV 28 (DB): London, British Library, Cotton Appendix VII
MV 29 (DB): London, British Library, Egerton 657
 MV 30: London, British Library, Egerton 3245
 MV 31 (DB): London, British Library, Harley 1205
 MV 32: London, British Library, Harley 2377
 MV 33 (DB): London, British Library, Harley 2394
MV 34 London British Library, Harley 4196
 MV 35 (DB): London, British Library, Harley 6923
 MV 36 (DB): MV 40 London, British Library, Additional 22283
 MV 37: London, British Library, Sloane 1044, item 235
 MV 38: London, British Library, Sloane 2275
 MV 39: London, British Library, Additional 11304
MV 40: London, British Library, Additional 22283
 MV 41 (DB): London, British Library, Additional 24203

32 The manuscripts used for this study are in bold. (DB) appears next to the manuscripts so far included in Carrillo-Linares & Garrido-Anes's Middle English lexical database.

- MV 42 (DB): London, British Library, Additional 25013
 MV 43 (DB): London, British Library, Additional 32578
 MV 44 (DB): London, British Library, Additional 33995
 MV 45: London, College of Arms, LVII
 MV 46: London, Lambeth Palace, 260
 MV 47 (DB): London, Lambeth Palace, 491
MV 48 (DB): London, Lambeth Palace, 492
MV 49 (DB): London, Sion College, Arc. L. 40. 2/E. 25
 MV 50: London, Society of Antiquaries, 288
 MV 51: London, Society of Antiquaries, 687
 MV 52 (DB): London, Longleat, Wiltshire, Library of the Marquis of Bath, 31
 MV 53 (DB): Manchester, Chetham's Library, Mun. A.4.103 (8008)
 MV 54: Manchester, John Rylands University Library, English 50
 MV 55: Manchester, John Rylands University Library, English 51
 MV 56: Manchester, John Rylands University Library, English 90
MV 57: New Haven, Yale University Library, Osborn a 13
 MV 58 (DB): New York, Pierpont Morgan Library, Bühler 13
 MV 59 (DB): Oxford, Bodleian Library, Ashmole 41
 MV 60 (DB): Oxford, Bodleian Library, Ashmole 52
 MV 61 (DB): Oxford, Bodleian Library, Ashmole 60
 MV 62 (DB): Oxford, Bodleian Library, Bodley 99
 MV 63 (DB): Oxford, Bodleian Library, Digby 14
 MV 64 (DB): Oxford, Bodleian Library, Digby 87
 MV 65: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Digby 99
 MV 66 (DB): Oxford, Bodleian Library, Douce 126
 MV 67: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Douce 141
 MV 68: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Douce 156
 MV 69: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Douce 157
 MV 70 (DB): Oxford, Bodleian Library, English Poetry a. 1
 MV 71 (DB): Oxford, Bodleian Library, Junius 56
 MV 72 (DB): Oxford, Bodleian Library, Laud Miscellaneous 486
 MV 73: Oxford, Bodleian Library, e Musaeo 76
 MV 74: Oxford, Bodleian Library, e Musaeo 88
 MV 75: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Rawlinson A.366
 MV 76 (DB): Oxford, Bodleian Library, Rawlinson C.35
 MV 77 (DB): Oxford, Bodleian Library, Rawlinson C.319
 MV 78: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Rawlinson C.891
 MV 79 & MV 80: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Rawlinson D.913
 MV 81: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Rawlinson Poetry 138
 MV 82 (DB): Oxford, Bodleian Library, Rawlinson Poetry 139
 MV 83: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Rawlinson Poetry 175
 MV 84: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Selden Supra 102
 MV 85 (DB): Oxford, St. John's College, 57
 MV 86 (DB): Oxford, St. John's College, 138
 MV 87 (DB): Oxford, Trinity College, 15 (E. 15)
 MV 88 (DB): Oxford, Trinity College, 16A (D. 16A)

MV 89 (DB): Oxford, Trinity College, 16B (D. 16B)

MV 90 (DB): Oxford, University College, 142 (D. 142)

MV 91: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, University of Pennsylvania Library, English 1

MV 92 (DB): Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, University of Pennsylvania Library, English 8

MV 93: Princeton, New Jersey, Princeton University Library, Taylor MS

MV 94 (DB): San Marino, California, Huntington Library, HM 139

MV 95 (DB): Shrewsbury, School, III (Mus. III. 39)

MV 96: Wellesley, Massachusetts, Wellesley College Library, 8

MV 97: Harfield House, Hertfordshire, Library of the Marquis of Salisbury, Deeds 59/1, covers.

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