A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE VERSE RHETORIC OF LAYAMON'S BRUT AND BEOWULF

by

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As we leave behind us Anglo-Saxon literature and enter upon the Middle English period, we meet with a remarkable chronicle of the early thirteenth century,—Layamon's Brut "The literary merit of Layamon's chronicle is so great, he is so genuine a poet and patriot, that his work must always possess an interest and fascination for the student of English literature", writes Miss Weston. We observe, nevertheless, that this interest has expressed itself in no very long list of critical studies. The Layamon bibliography is notably brief, and particularly deficient on the stylistic side. The length of the poem, 3224½ half lines, is an obstacle to exhaustive research, and the general belief that Layamon's poetic style is essentially Anglo-Saxon is accepted on a priori grounds without an attempt at verification.

Sir Frederic Madden first announces Layamon's lineal descent from native poets. "It is a remarkable circumstance", he tells us, "that we find preserved in many passages of Layamon's poem the spirit and style of the earlier Anglo-Saxon writers. Very many phrases are purely Anglo-Saxon, and with slight change, might have been used in Caedmon or AEIfric. A foreign scholar and poet, versed both in Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian literature, has declared, that tolerably well read as he is in the rhyming chronicles of his own country and of others, he has found Layamon's beyond comparison the most lofty and animated in its style, at

1. The Chief M.E. Poets p.375.
every moment reminding the reader of the splendid phraseology of Anglo-Saxon verse." This conclusion seems plausible, even convincing; but there are certain potentially misleading circumstances as to the affinities of his poetic style which must be considered before generalizations can safely be made.

(1) The language of Layamon is closely related to the older prose speech. As Madden points out, the Brut belongs to a transition period, when the forms and phraseology of Anglo-Saxon had not yet entirely broken down under the pressure of newer language influence. French was still a negligible element in English speech. In correcting Madden's count, Mr. Monroe gives as an accurate estimate 87 words of French origin appearing in both texts of Layamon, 63 in the later text only, or 150 in all. Thus by an easy but fallacious deduction, Layamon's consistently English prose vocabulary is taken as an indication of the Anglo-Saxon quality of his poetic methods.

(2) Naturally one other influence is acknowledged to be powerful,—the French. The effect of Wace's style on Layamon can hardly be ignored, and as an obvious subject for research receives practically all the attention given to Layamon's stylistic methods. Whatever cannot be traced to French influence can readily be assigned to English inheritance.

(3) Metrically, the predominance of Anglo-Saxon verse types, with French influence operating to increase the Schwellvers

2. Mod. Phil. 4. p.559.
category, to decrease alliteration, and to foster rime, helps to establish the limits of Layamon's verse method. Miss McNary says that "to imitate the French verse constantly and consistently was not in the power, or according to the desire, of the English poet. His sense of the Old English verse was on the whole the stronger."

So Regel characterizes Layamon as "der neuangelsächsische dichter, in den schätzen der eigenen sprache ganz gu hause und von dem starken geiste der alten heimischen poesie mächtig durchweht." But Regel is concerned to prove that Layamon is superior to Wace, and when he has shown the English poet's departure from his French model, his task is finished. Moreover he makes his point solely by a short consideration of Layamon's maxims, and a longer treatment of his similes. Madden comments on the rarity of the simile in Anglo-Saxon poetry and in Layamon, but Regel's study at least shows us that in his short similes Layamon is indebted to the French. Likewise it is to be noted that Layamon has a few elaborate similes which can be related neither to Anglo-Saxon nor to his French original. It is not my purpose here to consider Layamon's figures of speech, but I may well point out that Regel's neglect of metaphor and of litotes makes it impossible to draw from his work any valuable conclusion regarding Layamon's indebtedness to

Anglo-Saxon for his figurative language.

Walker goes so far as to hazard the suggestion that Layamon knew *Beowulf*. He refers to the giant conflict, where Layamon writes of Geomagog

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{pat was } & \text{pe heihste.} \\
\text{Godes wider-saka:} \\
\text{pe wrse hine luuede.}
\end{align*}
\]

1806.

Comparing this to *godes ondsacan* (186) of *Beowulf*. He says, too, that the attack of the twenty giants upon Brutus and his *dælude* is like that of Grendel upon Hrothgar and his *dælude*.

He adds that following passages to strengthen his argument:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ladliche laeches:} \\
\text{heo leiteden mid ejan.} & \quad \text{L.1884} \\
\text{him of eagem stod} \\
\text{ligge gelicost} & \quad \text{lecht unfaeger.} & \quad \text{B.723} \\
\text{a pus pe haeze sceafe:} \\
\text{feorde to helle.} & \quad \text{B.1923}
\end{align*}
\]

Mentioning the *Beowulf* compounds *hearm-* - *leod-* - *feod-sceda*. As a last bit of evidence he recalls the occasion of Beowulf's death
when he indicates that Wiglaf is to succeed him. Arthur, in the Brut, names Constantine, Cador's son, as his successor.

Striking these parallels are, but is their evidence conclusive? Surely giants are not exclusively Beowulf property; and it does not seem strange that a heroic king, leaving no heir, should suggest the ruler to follow him. Some of the proofs are only language similarities, which are perfectly natural. The parallel passages offer the strongest argument, but flashing eyes are scarcely argument, but flashing eyes are scarcely unusual; even thus emphasized. Certainly without other resemblances two such passages, with slight subsidiary evidence, cannot justify Wülker's assured conclusion, "Aus den angeführten stellen lässt sich wol folgern, dass Layamon das Beowulflied kannte."

The purpose of the preceding remarks is merely to indicate that similarities of language and meter, without definite tests of verse rhetoric, may lead to the false assumption that because Layamon's method is not French, it is fundamentally that of Anglo-Saxon poetry.

Some detailed research into definite poetic devices may throw light on the question of Layamon's actual inheritance from the earlier poetry, and thereby contribute toward an answer to the vexing question whether, or in what degree, Anglo-Saxon

1. Über die Quellen Layamons. p. 551.
poetic method survived into the Middle English period. For the purposes of this study I have grouped together certain poetic devices which may be termed minor, carrying on the investigation by comparison with the Old English epic, Beowulf. It would be desirable to add the evidence of the Exodus, Fata Apostolorum, Andreas, Judith, and Byrhtnoth; but since the scope of the present paper is necessarily limited, I have reserved these poems for a later study, at which time I purpose to add a consideration of figures of speech in the two poems, of variation in Beowulf, and of parallelism in Layamon.

The amount of text used in the present treatment comprises the whole of the Beowulf, (Holder's Edition), and approximately the same number of lines from Layamon,- in all 6300 half lines chosen from different parts of the Brut, as follows: 1-2101, 19852-21952, 30141-32241. This makes possible a statistical comparison of the frequency of occurrence of the different devices considered. The passages have been selected at wide intervals in order that differences in style in the progress of so long a work may not go unrecorded. The second section comprises a particularly interesting portion of the Arthur story. The annalistic method, integral to the Brut, makes close similarity of theme with the Beowulf impossible, but there is no apparent reason why these sections should not show resemblances and divergencies as well as any others. In some respects they are admirably suited to the comparison. The
three deal largely with the events of single heroes. The first section, passing briefly over Eneas and his successors, records the deeds of Brutus,—his exile, his victorious battles, and his final possession of Albion, Diana's gift. Incidentally the interesting account of the fight between Corineus and Geomagog occurs here. I have already indicated that the second section is a portion of Layamon's very significant Arthur material, in which occur some highly emotional and exalted figurative passages. Section three is slightly annalistic, since the narrative is divided between Cadwalan, the chief figure of this portion of the story, and Cadwalader, his son. The coming of calamity to the people, in the form of a plague, causes Cadwalader to flee the land, and introduces several other characters. Athelstan comes out of Saxland to take possession of the country, and at Cadwalader's death Yuni and Ivor, his step-son and nephew, inherit Wales, where the Britons congregate. So the chronicle ends:

\[ \text{iwürde pet iwürde:} \]
\[ \text{iwürde Godes wille.} \]

In these sections, then, we deal largely with the superman, we hear horns and trumpets, see armies gather, and witness the relation between the prince and his followers. In every respect the passages chosen are as suitable as may be for the purpose of this study.
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MINOR POETIC DEVICES

In comparing Layamon’s verse with that of Anglo-Saxon, I have not concerned myself with matters of rime and metre. Those have been worked out in detail by Miss McNary in her dissertation entitled Studies in Layamon’s Verse. Instead, I have approached the subject from the point of view of diction, occupying myself with the use of separate words and their composition into something like definite poetic devices. In compiling my lists, I have made use of Brandl’s classification (Gesch. d. Alteng. Lit. I. 1012-14) of Anglo-Saxon epic characteristics, as manifested in Beowulf, employing it rather as a point of departure than as an absolute standard, and making whatever changes and additions I found necessary to my purpose. In the present paper I have considered the relatively simple and hence relatively minor devices, and have reserved for later study the more complicated and proportionately more poetic devices.
The present chapter divides itself as follows:

GROUP I

A. Preposed Pronouns
B. Typical Adverbial Expressions
C. Typical Adjectives
D. Decorative Adjectives
E. Couplets
F. Circumlocution
G. Antithesis
H. Catalogues of Detail

A. Preposed Pronouns. Brandl: Ex: Beowulf 28- hi --- swaese gesi̇pas, and 100- an --- feond on helle. The following additional examples may be cited from Beowulf:

maeg Higelaces
freondum gefaegra
wera ond wifa
gear in geardas
Ne-nom he in ðæm wicum,
mad'm - æhta ma

He þæer eallum weard,
Manna cynne,
Fela þæera waes,
op- þæet ðæer com
Weder-geata leod.

913
1133
1612
Examples of a similar construction in Layamon occur as follows:

Ah heo mot nede beien:

pe mon pe ibunden bid.
Preposed pronouns constitute one form of reduplicated subjects. The construction is common in the English language, having various manifestations. Thus, in brief, the subject noun may be itself repeated; pronoun substitution may occur, either before or after the noun, the pronoun being personal, demonstrative, relative, or reflexive; or the neuter subject it
may be followed by an infinitive, or by a sentence, principal or collateral. With only one of these uses are we primarily concerned, - the use of the pronoun before the noun. An example from modern English cited by Maetzner is Tennyson's, "And they crossed themselves for fear, All the knights at Camelot."

Maetzner adds that Old English offers many instances. In the examples which he makes use of, however, both in Old English and Modern English, the pronoun is not necessarily without an antecedent, a distinction which is characteristic of the use in Beowulf.

If, now, the examples from Beowulf and Layamon are compared, several divergencies at once appear, notably the paucity of the Layamon examples. Beowulf shows more than twice as many, the ratio being 15 to 7. Yet the difference is greater than this. The example in 1.19970 is doubtful, since there an antecedent practically occurs, though worded so differently as to leave the case at least questionable. Lines 19992-3 repeat 1.19884-5, while the examples at 30533 and 30926 are quite similar. Thus we retain only four distinct instances. The Beowulf, to be sure, is not absolutely without repetition, in that 1.2210 echoes 1. 100. Yet our number is here reduced only to 14, so that in place of an apparent ratio of 15:7, we have the true ratio 14:4.

Thus the Beowulf exhibits almost four times as many genuine instances as Layamon.

Aside from the infrequency with which preposed pronouns appear in Layamon, those which do occur are extremely simple. Five of the total possible cases are complete within the whole line. The example in l. 30533 is practically complete, the repetition of the pronoun having no significance, particularly since the first two lines are tautological. Only the example in l. 21927 extends beyond the long line. Seven of the Beowulf examples are complete within the limits of two successive half-lines, but two only are complete within a single long line. In the other five cases the pronoun occurs in the second half of the line, with the noun in the first half of the succeeding line. It is to be noted that in Beowulf the pronoun and noun are preferably separated, occupying parts of at least two lines, and that this condition prevails in more than half the examples given.

Perhaps these differences may become more apparent by the consideration of certain cases which may be regarded as possible variations of the preposed pronoun. Examples occur where the pronoun, having no antecedent, frequently
but not necessarily demonstrative, is followed by a substantive clause. The following example is representative:

\[ \text{Ic } \text{paet hogode, - - - - - - - - -} \]
\[ \text{paet ic anunga eowra leoda} \]
\[ \text{willan geworhte, odde on wael crunge 632} \]

Other instances may be found in lines 272-290-705-750-778-809-1392-1497-1607-1778-2026. The use, a common English idiom, is referred to above as a pronoun followed by a collateral sentence. The incomplete meaning of the pronoun without the substantive clause, - or in one case included above, the independent sentence,- is inherent in the construction. Nevertheless the use somewhat resembles in effect, and tends to support, the use of the preposed pronoun. An example from Layamon follows:

\[ \text{pa pat iherde his kun:} \]
\[ \text{pe he of icumen wes.} \]
\[ \text{pat he pe flo hauede idrawen:} \]
\[ \& \text{his fader of slawen. 319} \]

Others occur in lines 11,590, 19892, 20096.

Another variation is found in the pronoun without antecedent which relies for the completion of its meaning on a succeeding relative clause. This is a common form of the relative construction, but it should not be confused with cases of relative clauses having definite noun antecedents. So
common, indeed, is the construction that we are surprised to find it employed only five times in Beowulf. An example is:

\[ \text{ponne pa dydon,} \]
\[ \text{pe hine at frumsceafte ford onsendon} \]

The four remaining instances appear in lines 1053, 1755, 2406, 3124. A typical case from Layamon is:

\[ \text{pa sende Asscanius:} \]
\[ \text{pe wes lauerd \& dux.} \]
\[ \text{after heom zend pat lond:} \]
\[ \text{pe cuppen dweomerlakes song.} \]

Other cases are found in lines 15,570, 668,674, 916, 1007, 1804, 20979.

Even in these variations, which are not to be classed as genuine cases of preposed pronouns, a distinct difference is evident. The combined phenomena appear about equally in the two poems. The two uses, however, are inversely related with regard to frequency. The difference may be shown thus:

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<th>Beowulf</th>
<th>Layamon</th>
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<td>Pronoun &amp; Noun Clause</td>
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<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pronoun &amp; Relative Clause</td>
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<td>9</td>
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The Layamon total is slightly lowered if we disregard 1. 1007 of the Brut, which is practically a repetition of 1. 590.
The converse use becomes significant when we consider the question of connection, which now arises.

How, we may ask, is the use of the preposed pronoun in the Brut related to the practice of the earlier poem? It might very naturally be regarded as a descendant, and, indeed, on the language side this explanation is quite acceptable. Maetzner shows that the construction has an early origin in English, and that it has persisted in the language down to modern times. But only thus generally are the two related. In application they are widely at variance. We have seen that in Layamon the use is more infrequent and much simpler than in the Beowulf. We have now the additional fact to consider that Layamon shows a distinct preference for the relative pronoun construction. I note 308 instances in Layamon in contrast to 143 - less than half as many - in Beowulf. Here the meaning of an earlier comparison becomes clear.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beowulf</th>
<th>Layamon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pronoun &amp; Noun Clause</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pronoun &amp; Relative Clause</td>
<td>5</td>
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The use in Layamon is closely allied to the general relative construction; that in Beowulf is more nearly related to the preposed pronoun. Maetzner explains the value of the reduplicated subject as rhetorical in effect and emphatic. Yet
he adds that its use becomes general and thus in time feeble—merely pleonastic. While the Beowulf seems to preserve its rhetorical excellence with poetic effect, the Layamon examples point rather to its weaker, more generalized aspect. The first example, l. 1401, is undoubtedly effective, with its epigrammatic tone; the last example quoted, l. 267, has poetic merit. But aside from these two the uses are obviously enfeebled. In Layamon the preposed pronoun does not rise to the dignity of a poetic device. In the Beowulf it is employed with consciously artistic intent and result, emphasizing and skilfully reinforcing the highly poetic effect of Kennings. Only as a language inheritance are the two uses related.


Beowulf in geardum (13); under wolcnum (18); under heofenum (52); on searwum (249). In the following lists only those expressions are to be regarded as typical which occur five or more times in the poem in which they appear. Each list, however, contains a few expressions which occur less frequently, but which are typical in the other poem. Corresponding phrases, as well as exact equivalents, are included. Similar phrases are starred.


2. In making the Beowulf lists of Typical Adverbial Expressions, Typical Adjectives, Decorative Adjectives, and Compounds, I have used the glossary to Holder's edition of Beowulf.
**Beowulf**

**Phrase**

*aet hilde 1459, 1659, 2258, 2575, 2684*

*be saem tweonum 858, 1297, 1685, 1956*

*in burgum 2433*

in sele *pam hean 713, 1984*

*mid are 2378*

*mid his eorla gedriht 357*

**Variation**

*aet gude 1535, 2353, 2491, 2878*

*aet headdo-lace 584*

*aet eoga gelacum 1168*

*aet *pam lind-plegan 1073*

*aet nide 2585*

*aet niđa gehwam 882*

*aet saecce 953, 1618, 2612, 2659, 2681, (paere) 1665*

*aet wige 1337, 2629*

*burgum in innan 1968, 2452*

*in beor-sele 482, 2635*

*in *pam eord-sele 2232*

*in *pam (grund-) sele 2139*

*in *paem guđ-sele 443*

*in *paem win-sele 695*

*mid ar-stafum 317*

*mid his haele *p a gedryht 662*
Beowulf

mid minra (pinra) secga
gedriht 633, 1672
mid gesidum 1313, 1924
mid his hand-scale 1317, 1963
mid Hruntinge 1490, 1659
mid folme 748
mid mundum 1460, 3091
mid ofer-madrum 2993
of er grundas 1404, 2073
of er eormen-grund 859
of er sae side 2394
of er sae-wylmas 393
of er ganotes baed 1861
of er floda begang 1826
of er geofenes begang 362
of er fealone flod 1950
of er gar-secg 515
of er floda genipu 2808
of er heafo 2477, 1862
of er holmas 240
of er waeg-holm 217
of er lagu-straete 239
of er lagu-streamas 297
of er brim-streamas 1910
of er hron-rade 10
Beowulf

ofer swan-rade 200
ofer sealt waeter 1989
ofer wid waeter 2473
ofer waeteres hrycg 471
ofer yde 46, 1907, 1909
ofer yda ful 1208
ofer yda gewealc 464
ofer ylda bearne 605
ofer dryht-guman 1790
ofer þeoda gehwylce 1705
ofer wer- þeode 899

ofer ealle men 1717

*on aldre 1434, 1779

*on bearme 40, 1144, 2775

on Biowulfes bearne 2194
on faeder bearne 21
on bearne nacan 214
on bearne scipes 35,896
on breostum 552
on ealu-bence 2867
on mendu-bence 1902,2185,(þæere) 1052

on bence 1243

*on þæm daeg þisses lifes 197, 790, 806

on aldor-dagum 718, 757
on gear-dagum 1354, 2233
on tyn dagum 3159
on þyssum win-dagum 1062
Beowulf

*on ende 2021

*on eordan 1532, 1822, 2822
  2855, 3138

*on flet 1036, 1025, 1540,
  1568, 1647, 2034, 2064

*on folce 1701, 2377

*on handa 495, 540, 1678, 2208,
  3023, 3124

*on healf 1675

*on healle 614, 642, 1288

*on hreÔre 1745, 1878, 2328
  3148

on ende-staef 1753

on earde 2736

on edle 1730, 1774

on minre edel-tyrf 410

on foldan 1196, 2975

on hrusan 772, 2276, 2279, 2831

on grunde 2765

on gyfenes grund 1394

on middan-gearde 2996

on pa leode 193

on pam leodscipe 2197

on swa hwaedere hond 686

on ba healfa 1305, 2063

on twa healfa 1095

on healfa gehwone 800

on pisse meodu-healle 638

on Heorote 475, 497, 593, 1330, 1671, 2099

on sele 3128

on sele pam hean 1016

on beor-sele 492, 1094

on ferhåfe 754, 948, 1718
Beowulf

on geogope 409, 466, 2426, 2512

*on lande 1913, 2310, 2836

*on mod 67, 753, 1418, 1844, 2281, 2527

*on morgen 565, 837, 2484, 2939

on naes 1439, 2417

on ofeste 386, 1292, 2747, 2783, 3090

* on raeste 122, 747, 1298, 1585

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on þam holm-clife 1421

on (h) lícfe 3157

on bed 676

on wael-bedde 964

on legere 3043

on sweofote 1581, 2295

on sidne sae 507

on sae-lade 1157
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on ðeop waeter 509
on eg-streamum 577
on flode 1366
on gar-secg 49
on hafu 2523
on holme 543, 632, 1435, 1592, 2132
on mere 1130, 1603
on nicere mere 845
on segl-rade 1429
on sund 512, 539, 1510, 1618
on yðum 210, 421, 534, 1437

on searwum 249, 1557, 2530, 2568, 2700

on weg 264, 763, 844, 1382, 1430

*on willan 1739, 2307

to banan 587, 2203

on forð-weg 2625
on fede 970
on gange 1884
on lade 1987
on aenne sid 1579
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to ecg-banan 1262

to hand-banan 460, 2502

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*to gefehte 2048
to beadu-lace 1561
to gude 438,1472
to ðam lind-plegan 2039
to saecce 2686

*to life 2432
to aldré 955,2005,2498
to widan feore 933

*to sae 318
to brimes farode 28
to flode 1888
to holme 2362
to sae-lade 1139

*to sele 323,1640
to ðæm gold-sele 1639
to sele ðæm hean 919
to ðæm heah-sele 647
to ðæm hring-sele 2010
to healle 925,1009
to Heorute 766,1279,1330,1990
to hofe,1974,1836,(sinum) 1236,1507
to benece 327, 1013
to gescipe 2570

under heofenum 52, 505
under heofenes hador 414
under heofones hwealf 576,2015
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under helme 342, 404, 1745, 2539
under stan-cleofu 2540

wid aglaecan 2534, (pam) 2520, 425

*geond eordan 266, 3099

under roderum 310
under swegle 1078, 1197
under swegles begong 860, 1773
under wolcnum 8, 651, 714, 1631, 1770

under here-griman 396, 2049, 2605
under Earna-naes 3031
under naessa genipu 1360
under fen-hleoðu 820
under mist-hleoðum 710

wid feonde 439, 1864
wid feonda gehwone 294
wid Grendel 424, 1997, 2521

geon ðisne middan-geard 75, 1771
Layamon

Phrase

after heore wille 20510,20932, 31650,32105,32109,(aeuwer) 20763

bi his liue 19982,21199,30209

*bi sae 1485, 20203,20209, (pere) 20922,31194,32033

for lufe 31029, (pon) 223,(his) 837

for eower saulen 21453

inne benden 681,1044,(mine) 31011 in armliche benden 593 868

*in burze 21668,(pere) 293,2045, in nauer nare burze 30878,31201 30172

on castle 1682,1692,612, 31137,30499,(min)462,656

Variation

bi mine quicke liue 677,30307 (heore) 20522

bi þare sae brimme 20196

bi sae flode 1032, (þan) 1080

bi þan mere brade 21841

for Heleine lufe 31112

for þere muchele luo 30197

for his awene saule 66

for his (mines) fader saule 62,20896

for his moder saule 64
Layamon

i pon daże 1758, 20198, 31741, 
   (a) 30934, 31539
a pon ilke daże 20032
inne frimdaže 31945
inne iuurn daże 32206
i pan fridde daże 21853

i ueldes 20620, (p) 20645,
   (a pan) 31421, 31423
a Lincolnes felde 20681

i pon londe 343, 397, 601, 1241
1800, 1968, 21868, 31869,
32119, (pisse) 452, 1974,
19852, 20108, 30457, (a pisse)
21891, 31978, (a pan) 21831, 118
inne londe 30190
i pon eit-londe 1133
i pon wode-londe 1699
in AEnglelond 31208
in Aest-londe 30932
in Irlonde 30501
in Griclonde 559
inne Scottlonde 20366
in his aerde 31325, (pissen)
31319
in Armorichen earde 1635
a middalaerde 21740
in eorde 966
a watere 550, 562
inne wateren 20974
i pa sae 1401, 1283
inne sae 1114
i wide sae 1111
i pan straeme 21323

i pan watere 21750, 21790
i ran rich 30450

mid aermden 721, 87, 20438, 20702 (?), 31512

mid pan beste 707, 2076, 1855, 19934, 20184, 20448, 30286, 30921, 32073.

mid blissen 242, 32098

*mid his cnihen 819, 20908, 30424

Layamon

a pissere worlde-riche 20464, 20468
a mire peode 492, 1056
a uoele unne peoden 20772

mid haezerè blise 19953, 20552, 21664
mid muchelere blisse 2100, 20953, 30720
mid feouwer & twenti cnihen 21612

mid seouen hundred cnihen, 21219
(fiftene) 21278, (fif) 1425, (twe 30953
mid seouen þusend cnihen 20231, 21286, (þritti) 20187, 20548, (sixti) 20714

mid alle his here-cnihen 30787
mid balde his bornen 20531
mid baldre dujede 20225
mid ferde 21209, 21814, (his) 232, 438, 526, 617, 20066, 20577, 20609, 30477, (alle his) 31430, (fire 1576
Layamon

mid muchelere ferde 516,1746,19915
 30504,(muchelere his) 1527,31211,
(swa muchele) 30874
mid unimete ferde 1654,20015,20053
mid richen his ferde 20290
mid his leod-ferde 20722
mid muchelere genge 31115
mid unimete genge 30949
mid his here 1644.
mid swiðe haerde haere-gumen 20253
mid his kemppen 21718
mid aðelere kempen 21720
mid his wael-kempen 565
mid fiftene þusend monnen 30430
mid swiðe feole monne 31612
mid Saexisce monnen 20294
mid his mon-weorede 20393
mid muchelere mon-weorede 20553,21658,
 21707

mid folke 20189,20507
  (pan) 1366,31770,(allen his)135,
  30719

mid honden 1563,(his)1185,
  (his aþene) 1718,31006
  (ure)975,(swiðere)1548,
  (his swiðere) 2148

mid his (mine) driht folcke 111,1388
mid riche his folke 533
mid unimete uolke 20549,21732,31213
mid his wnfolke 1385
Layamon

mid alle his imihten 30422,
    31005, (alle heore) 30979,
    31434, (alle mire) 699

*mid golde 120, 1774, 1824, 20013,
    21144, 31510

*mid monscipe 119, 421, 348,
    20742

mid spere 548, 20517, 21505,
    (heore) 21515

mid strenge 1843, 20350,
    30480, 31577, 32034

mid seoluere 1774, 1824, 20013, 31510

mid ahten swiðe deore 30442

mid gersume 120

mid wræscipe 195, 288

mid wræscipen hezen 1821, 1211

mid muchele worscipe 206

mid heore speren longe 21395

mid allen his strenge 667

mid baldere strenge 20522, 21676

mid his guð strenge 1595

mid haehære strenge 20153, 21362

mid muchele(his) strenge 1465,
    20478, 1315

mid raehære strenge 19956, 20035

mid richere strenge 764

mid selere strenge 21654

mid his wored strenge 509

mid wunderliche strenge 1895
Layamon

*mid sweorde 1554, 1557, 548
  877, 21069, 21248, 21325, (his) 21257
mid sweoreden swithe stronge 21396
mid egge 31515
mid mechen 178
mid stele 1533
mid stelene orde 624

mid wepnen 1724, 21289, 21895, 30971, (his) 564, (ure) 973
mid pat beste wepnen 1107
mid wepnen wel idone 31179

mid watere 21579, 21895
mid watere swi~e braede 21742
mid paere sae 1233
mid unimete stremen 31229
mid uden 30539, 30675, (pan) 1341

mid heore waz~en 21515, 21596
mid graete waz~en 21505
mid clubben 20968
mid clubben swi~e graete 21504

mid worde 30341, 32093, 32179, 32207
mid adelen his worden 31061
mid bolde heore worden 21671
mid godene heore worden 665
mid gomenfulle worden 21430
mid heore hux worden 21682
mid lihfulle worden 1262
mid milden his worden 1192, 1197
mid seorhfulle worden 1042
mid luðere heora craften
1345, 21174, 21648

mid muchele harme 20526

of kunne 94,(ĥire) 1247, 21444, 21448, 20251,(his) 21486, 31463, 31986,(his aȝne) 335, (mine) 20628, 21686,(ane) 30534,(hire) 31099,(al heore) 31484

of his cnihten 613, 30709, 30867

mid þeu-fulle worden 1797
mid speche 788
mid adelere speche 30216
mid greidlicre speche 445

mid adelen his crafte 21132
mid heore ufele craften 31658
mid wijele-fulle craften 21140

mid feole cunne haermen 21894
mid haermen þan maesten 31161
mid harme swide stronge 21830
mid teonen 171, 330, 73
mid ufele 31592
mid unrihte 32023, 1431

of aedele mine cunne 20634
of swide heȝe cunnen 21110, 379
of kine-wurde cunne 20768
of meren his cunne 409
of Brutus kunne 2041
of Edwines cunne 31285, 31290, 31293

of ber-cnihtes 19944
of gode cnihten 365
of duȝede 20851
of his ferde 30425,(mire) 21467, (pare) 30641
of þan mon-weorede 31436
Layamon

of lif-dajen 20698, 21652, 31255, 31736, 20023

of alle his deden 30888

of folke 94, (his) 2074, (pan) 329, 2070

of golde 20480, 21640, 30669, (pan) 30819, 30835

of kingen 20769, 31784, (pan) 1521

of adele his dede 21846
of Cadwalanes deden 31165
of where deden 31624
of heore misde 31392
of alle pine misdede 32080
of Cadwadlanes uolke 30181
of Frenchisce folke 1655
of folke swide hende 2000
of mine leode 32147
of summes cunnes leoden 21765
of reade golde 1181, 1267, 30805
of ahte 96
of pine garsume 31571
of adele pan kinge 20996
of his leod-kinge 30869
of Ardure kinge 20894
of Ardure pan kinge 20982
of Edwine kinge 30715
of Cadwaladen kinge 32127
of Oswy pan kinge 31482
Layamon

of londe 20929, 19877, 20416, 21532, 21546, 31344, 31356, 31513, 31525, (his) 896, 1028, 1963, 31506, (isse) 999, 20454, 32008, (al isse) 31988, (on) 1307, 31187, 31474, 31563, (alle on) 1656, (mine) 20830

of monne 96, 947, 31848, (his) 636, 1288, (alle ane) 32030, (a) 32006

of swlichere neode 671, 30222, 30244, 31073, 31336

of isse uare-coste 30173, (heore) of mine ford-fare 32180

*ouer sae 20443, 20817, 20889, 21280, ouer sae streames 326, 30924

ouer en lac 1279, 1280

ouer uden 21183

ouer at water 20094, 21277 (?)

ouer at water deope 20154

ouer deope wateres 21490

ouer ere Humbre 30203, 31476

ouer Humbre 30348, 30381, 31574

of an aeit-londe 21751

of his kine-londe 900

of AEst-londe 31486, 31494

of Brutlonde 21836

of Griclonde 601

of Sex-londe 31665

of Sud-londe 31063

of Walisce londe 31509

of arde 31342, 1427, 1451, 21656

of feole cumne aerde 30875

of haexten his monnen 20884

of feole usend monnen 30184

of an Troyseen monnen 410

of his neode 31027
Layamon

ouer waelde 21204, 21487, 21530
  21567
*on bedde 1216, (his) 30594
*on breosten 21231
*on daie 858, (ane) 82, 1818,
  (pon) 1284, (his) 31791
*on pan ende 31835, (an) 21782,
  (his) 31218, (aelc) 32226,
  31846
*on eorden 1150, 1940, 21535,
  30697
*on folke 20676, 20972, 30260,
  30409, 30416, 30783, 30843
*on heorten 19891, 20816, 21572,
  21932, 663, 2016, 30176, 30532,
  30825

ouer þe wolden 20138
ouer bradne waeld 21339

a mire breosten 21088
on heora breost-ponke 1936
on þane daþe amarwen 853
on þan heðen dawen 1171
on Brutus daei 2068

on folden 31732, 30631

on aelche leode 1927

ouer þe wolden 20138
Layamon

* on alchere halue 1665, 1709.
  20275, 20868
  on ane half 1748, (are) 20717, (oder)
  20721
  a sud halme (halue?) 21800
  on anachere siden 621, 1343, 1723
  an aueralchen siden 21941
  an aest side 21798
  a moniare siden 21774
  a nare side 21406
  on Caddwalanes hond 30142
  on Edwines hond 30370, 30384
  on riht hond 1398

* on hond 1058, 1180, 1825, 248,
  1964, 19945, 20309, 20415,
  20420, 20453, 20566, 21157,
  21226, 21639, 30404, 30428,
  30668, 30731, 30754, 30794,
  30804, 30848, 31265, 31580,
  31759, 1321, 1452, (his)
  2092, 31294, (his æhere) 20061,
  21046, 31992, (æhere), 20874,
  (eower æhere) 21436, (heore)
  31185, 31651

* on liue 227, 1254, 1378, 1829,
  19898, 20301, 30521, 30573,
  30883, 31457, 32010, 32012,

* on lond 116, 550, 562, 1785, 1789 on pan eit-londe 1160
Layamon

19994, 20010, 20529, 20537,
20565, 21864, 20741, 21175,
21451, 30294, 30300, 30357,
30461, 30678, 31102, 31105,
31504, 31801, 31803, 31269
31852, (pan) 127, 264, 1166,
31836, (his) 944, 20356

*a marwen 1694, 30764

*on mode 1477, 20083, 21560,
30541, 30655, (his) 167, 638,
30727

*on sae 30678

*on willen 1780, 1102, 20923,
21527, 30606, 30707, 30920,
(heore) 32039

to bedde 711, 19946, (his) 936,
31127

*to pan castle 1679, 599, 616,
30771, 31116

*to feht 1359, 1703, 1714, 1735,
30376, 31321

to iferen 1688, 20595, 31078,
31260

on leoden 69, 2015, 20766, 31792, 31817
on his peoden 20057
on aelchere eode 31056, 30212
on richen 20392, 20892

on pare sae brade 30496

to pas kings bedde 30484

to sturne fihte 20774

to his tueolf iferen 1617
Layamon

to grunde 800,988,1761, 20059,20077,20145,20636, 21366,21380,21388,21598, 21826,31311 (ran) 20062, 20700,20704,21273,21400, 21604,1666, (pe) 1543

to hond 2064,(his) 31459, 32021 (his aäre) 1641, 30464,(mire azaere)30314, (päre azere) 31101,31694

to horse 20471,21097(2),21212, 21481,31720

to hirede 496,1489,30466,(pan) 20326

to kinne 19928,30170,31456, 31936, (pan) 780,929,1472, 20009,20358,21914

*to his liue 1269,30242
to londe 105,106,952,1116.
  1268,1300,20451,20512,
  20515,20545,20955,21060,
  21822,32035,32221, (pan)
  1354,20954,21770,32165, 
  (pissen) 20498,20938,
  21332,21903,30515,30663,
  30891,31441,31924, (his)
  31746, (his azen) 21054 
  (apet) 1399

to neode 661,1199,20388,31710, 
  (his) 30211,30939, (pine)
  31057

to niht 709, (pere) 1680

to rede 440,518,20210,20387, 
  21931,30187,30243,30658,
  31026,31335

*to sae 20503,20920, (pere) 93, 
  97,1093,1412,1771,19912, 
  21471,30439,30674

to ane aeit-londe 30542

to sele heore londe 20890

to pan king-londe 31466

to ane wnsume londe 1204

to Brutlonde 30885

to Irlonde 21829

to Scotlonde 21659,30369,30427

to Sexlonde 31167,31916

to Walisce londe 32215,32227

to aerde 20674, (pan) 21758

to his peoden 31594

to pere middel-niht 20607, 
  20595,21691,21701


to flode 21271

to pan mere 21833

to ane watere 20067, (pan) 21628
Layamon

*to scipe 1272, 1511, 21588,
30503, 30538, 32041, (pan)
1131, 21619, 21631, 21940,
(heora) 1305, 1772, 20888

*to sope 602, 984, 20591, 30812,
31094

to wode 302, 429, 615, 1422, 31273,
31262, (pan) 522, 16885,
20243, 20665, 20694,

out of londe 286, 31845, (pane)
324, (pissen) 31352, (his)
1612

*seond londe 31850, (pat) 269,
494, 953, 1404, 1638, (pane)
423, (his) 2019, 30705, 31161,
(his) 1409, 20005, (al his)
32123, (pat ilke) 1301

*seond clude 21849, 32217, (as)
21916

ut of Griclonde 1110
ut of Saexlonde 20025, 20027,
20107, 20149, 31990
ut of Sexen 31934
ut of Spainisec arde 30703

*seond his kine-londe 1479
*seond feole kine-londe 30361
*seond al Griclonde 1076
*seond al Scotlond 21045
*seond Irlonde 30484
*seond an aerde 32211 (alle his)
30372 (alle mine) 31303, (alle pisse)
20432
*seond al pan nord aerde 20045
*seond pa cliues 21607
*seond cliuenen 32217
*seond munacliuen 32218
The comparative lists disclose at once the fact that the Layamon list is more than twice as long as the Beowulf list, and that it contains a great many commonplace phrases. Confining our attention to the resemblances which appear, we find a considerable verbal likeness in the two poems, which, however, upon closer examination, becomes insignificant beside a difference of far greater import than any mere similarity of phrasing. Only the more prosaic Beowulf expressions are repeated in Layamon. A few comparisons may make the difference clear, if we remember in every case that similarity, not identity, is to be expected.

For the simple mid hoden, to *pan* castle of Layamon we find in Beowulf the more varied mid folme, mid mundum, to *paem* heah-sele, to *pam* gold-sele, to *pam* hring-sele. As a substitute for the definite mid seoluere and mid golde of Layamon we have the less concrete and more poetic Beowulf equivalents *mid paem madum*, *mid ofer-madum*. On breosten has the corresponding Anglo-Saxon phrases on bearm scipes, on faeder beorme, on bearm macan.

Layamon, to be sure, uses *mid* sweorde, *mid* mechen, *mid* egge for the *mid ecge* of Beowulf; but it is to be noted that at least the older poem has the most poetic, the only figurative, use.

Layamon has numerous expressions for warriors, some of them, as for example *mid alle his here-cnihten*, *mid his leod-ferde*, *mid his mon-weored* *mid nis wael-kempen*, *mid baldre dugede*, *mid balde his beornes*, *mid swide haerda haere-gumen*, - being almost as poetic as the Beowulf phrases *mid his eorla gedriht*, *mid minra secca gedriht*, *mid his haelepa gedriht*. In reference
to the sea, also, the *Brut* has some rather pleasing variants:

*over sea streames, over ouden, over deope wateres, over pon lac,*

*bi þare sae-brimme, bi sae flode, bi þan mere brade.* These, however, are feeble in comparison with the vigorous and picturesque Anglo-Saxon collection: *ofer yda ful, ofer yda gewealc, ofer hron-rade, ofer swan-rade, ofer waeg-holm, ofer gær-secg, ofer lagu-streames, ofer lagu-straete, ofer brim-streamas, ofer geofenes begang, ofer sae-wylmas, ofer floda begang, ofer waeteres hrycg ofer ganotes bæt, ofer fealone flod, ofer floda genipu, ofer sealt waeter.* Moreover the highly poetic, *under heofenum, under heofenes hwealf, under swegles begong, under swegle, under wolcnum* have no equivalent whatever in the Layamon list. It may be suggested, of course, that the Layamon has its own poetry of phrase, which is excluded from this discussion because it is not matched in the *Beowulf.* True, we do find such mildly poetic examples as *mid his wnfolke, mid hæzere blise, mid milden his worde, mid wijele-fulle craften,* and the various forms of *mid muchelen strengde;* but these are weaklings beside the forceful Anglo-Saxon *of ofer eormen-grund, to beadu-lace, to þam lind-plegan, on minre edel-tyrf, under mist-hleodum, and under here-griman.* The prose of *Beowulf* survived in the adverbial expressions, but not its poetry.
C- Typical Adjectives. Brandl: monegum maegdum, wide siças, deorcum nihtum, atelic egesa. The intention of the following lists is to exhibit those adjectives which by frequent use tend to lose something of their descriptive value and to become intensifying adjectives. As in the adverb list, only those adjectives which appear at least five times are to be regarded as typical. Those in the Beowulf list which occur less frequently are given merely for the sake of comparison with the corresponding Layamon list and have not been included in the count of typical adjectives. A few have been admitted which Brandl classifies as adjectives of mood, but it is difficult to see how any limiting word can be frequently used with various nouns without losing some of its original significance. Only adjectives used attributively have been included.

1. There is justification on the grounds of expediency for including only attributive adjectives. Examination of the predicate adjectives with relation to the typical adjective lists shows that only 16 of the 39 attributive adjectives listed in Beowulf appear also as predicate adjectives; these 16 being used 33 times. Only three adjectives not already given would be added by extending the list, -georc, gesyne, gifele, found 17 times. In Layamon, on the contrary, 19 of the 26 attributive adjectives are employed also in the predicate, occurring in this use 118 times. Thirteen other adjectives, used 112 times in the predicate, would be added to the typical list. None of these 13 or the 3 in Beowulf would be common to both poems. Thus the lists would be encumbered, with no different results from those reached by a consideration of only attributive adjectives. The conclusions would merely be strengthened, and the gulf widened between the Beowulf and Layamon.
Repeated use of an adjective in any connection tends to weaken it, but the attributive adjective becomes conventionalized more easily than adjectives in other positions, because a certain degree of emphasis is inherent in the appositive and predicate use. Thus, "The blue sky" means to us only the expected color of the sky, but if we say, "The sky is blue", by the natural order of the English sentence we throw the adjective into a position of prominence. Similarly "Blue is the sky" gives to the adjective the emphasis of transposition. Only in the attributive use can the adjective readily lose its force.

This is illustrated by the French distinction in the position of its adjectives. The tendency of the language toward a rising accentuation operates to place distinguishing adjectives after their nouns. Adjectives denoting quality inherent in the noun usually precede. Likewise many of the common adjectives, such as bon, mauvais, grand, petit, jeune, and vieux, generally precede the nouns they modify.

It is interesting to note, in this connection, that both the Beowulf and Layamon secure some emphasis for even typical adjectives by placing them after their nouns. Approximately 17% of the uses in Layamon and 22% of the uses in Beowulf appear in this transposed order. The stress thus gained does not, of course, lessen the typical character of the adjective, but it affords some variety to the necessary and the commonplace.
Beowulf

*aeðele

aeðele cempa 1312
aeðelan cynnes 2234
aeðele ord-fruma 263

ae ðeling aer-god 130, 1329, 2342
iren aer-god 989, 2586

atol aefen-grom 2074
atol aeglaeca 592, 732, 816
atol angengea 165
atole ecg-praece 596
atolan clommmum 1502
atol inwit-gaest 2670
eatolne inwit-scear 2478
atol yldo 1766
atelic egesa 784
atol yða geswing 848
brad gold 310b
bradne mece 2978
brade rice 2207

*brad

beorht

beorht beacen godes 570
beah-sele beorhta 1177
beorhte bold 997
bord-wudu beorhtan 1243
Beowulf

beorhtre bote 158
beorhtum byrnum 3140
byrhtan byrig 1199
beorhte fraetwe 214, 896
beorht hofu 2313
beorhte randas 231
eoge cuđe 1145
cuđe folme 1303
guma gudum cuđ 2178
cuđe naessas 1912
cuđe straete 1634
dyrncaet decre 2254, 2306
deorrre dugude 488
dyre iren 2050
deorum madme 1528, 2236, 3131
deorum men 1879
deoran sweorde 561, 3048
dyrnan craefte 2290, 2168
dryht-sele dyrnne 2320
dyrnra gasta 1357
dyrne langad 1879
eald aesc-wiga 2042
ealdum ceorle 2972
eald efel-weard 1702, 2210
Beowulf

eald enta geweorc 2774
eald gewin 1781
ealdum infrodi um 1874
ealde lafe 795, 1488, 1688
ealde maďmas 472
ealde riht 2330
eald sweord 1558, 1663, 2979
ealdes uht-flogan 2760
eald uht-sceađa 2271
ealde wisan 1865

ece drihten 108, 2796, 1692, 2330, 1779
ece raed 1201, 1760
ece eord-reced 2719

*faeger

fagne f10r 725
hrof golde fahne 927
sadol searwum fah 1038
sele-ful since fach 2217
fagum sweordum 586
sweord swate fah 1286
win reced faettum fahne 716
Faest

Freondscipe faestne 2069
Faeste friðu-waere 1096
Stan-bogan stapulum faeste 2718
Segl sale faest 1906
Wudu wyrtum faest 1364

Faeted

Faette beagas 1750
Faettan goldes 1093, 2246, 2102
Faette scyldas 333
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Þa bocares wise 32125
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A comparison of the adjective lists reveals some similarity in the limiting words which may be termed typical in the poems. Thus we find 39 typical adjectives in Beowulf, 26 in Layamon, with 7 common to both. Such correspondence as we find is natural, since the adjectives represent, in most cases, type ideas which must appear in any work making epic pretensions. That the Beowulf phrases are the more poetic is evident at once, the greater poetic value being inherent in the nouns, not in the adjectives. There are a few rather close equivalents in the two poems, such as: Beowulf- deorum men; Layamon- his mon deore, his deorest mon. Beowulf- deoran sweorde, dyre iren; Layamon sceld deore. Beowulf- Godum daedum; Layamon- gode dode. Beowulf- god cyning;
Layamon- god king. Beowulf- godra gud-rince, gar-wigend gode;
Layamon- god cniht, haeledes gode. Beowulf- hlaford leofne;

Most of these phrases, it is true, are not poetical, and in general the adjective phrases of the Brut lack the poetic strength of those in the older poem. This deficiency is due in part to a small proportion of compound nouns, although these do occur occasionally to add epic dignity, as, for example, in here-kempen heze, moni mod-sorhze. Two rather distinct differences appear.

(1) Layamon shows a slightly greater fondness for frequent repetition of such set phrases as god cniht, used 15 times, and muchele ferde, used 12 times. These conventional
phrases occur also in the Beowulf, but there is some difference in the percentage of repeated phrases in the two poems. In Beowulf 16.654% of the phrases appear more than once, in Layamon 26.824%. There is, moreover, a difference in the frequency with which any given phrase will appear in the poems. This difference may be shown by the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Phrases Repeated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Times used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beowulf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Percentage of phrases used twice . . . . .9.701 12.543
- Percentage of phrases used more than twice .8.953 14.281

So we find 16.043% of the phrases in Beowulf, 21.601% in Layamon, used less than five times; 2.611% of the Beowulf phrases, 5.223% of the Layamon phrases, are used five times or more. The same results are shown by a table based on the total number of repeated phrases, 50 in Beowulf, 77 in Layamon.
The general tendency of the Beowulf to repeat less often than Layamon may be shown graphically thus:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Times Used</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beo.</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6.</td>
<td>8.</td>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay.</td>
<td>46.753</td>
<td>23.376</td>
<td>10.389</td>
<td>10.389</td>
<td>2.597</td>
<td>1.298</td>
<td>1.298</td>
<td>1.298</td>
<td>1.298</td>
<td>1.298</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Beowulf 86%, in Layamon 80.518% of all repeated phrases occur less than five times; 14% in Beowulf, 19.476% in Layamon, are found five times or more. These differences, in connection with other material, serve to emphasize a significant distinction in the two poems. We may note here that in its 268 different phrases the Beowulf employs 39 separate adjectives, while in the 287 phrases of Layamon there are but 26 adjectives. Thus the average appearance of a typical adjective in a new connection is 6.87 times in Beowulf, 11.03 times in Layamon. The average appearance of a typical adjective in Beowulf is 9.56 times, in Layamon 18.23 times. The very obvious meaning of all these figures is that the Beowulf seeks variety, while Layamon is content with prosaic repetition.
(2) Another difference, which does not appear from the lists, in the preference of Layamon for predicate adjectives, less frequent in Beowulf. Layamon has, in the lines read, 336 against 192 in Beowulf, almost twice as many. On the other hand, the Beowulf has almost three times as many uses of the objective complement. The Beowulf also exceeds the Brut in the number and frequency of adjectives used appositively, both in single adjectives and in such pairs as eald ond unhar. The relation of these various uses may be shown as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Beowulf</th>
<th>Layamon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Predicate Adjective</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective Complement</td>
<td>2.93</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Appositive</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Appositive</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is significant, too, that while the 192 uses of the predicate adjective in Beowulf represent 126 different words, the 336 cases in Layamon employ only 121 words, comparatives and superlatives being listed as separate words. The Beowulf thus secures much greater variety. Habitual recurrence of the predicate adjective in Layamon accounts for an infrequent attributive use of such words as faeie and lad, which we should expect to find often. The Layamon, then, contains more predicate adjectives, more frequently repeated phrases, and fewer poetic combinations than the Beowulf.
D - Decorative Adjectives. Brandl: har of a cliff; golden-
feax(!) of a king; wundenheals of a ship. Adjectives descriptive
of mood are included here: leof, swaes, atol, snotor, geomor. In
the list given I have made two classes, including in the first
adjectives of mood, and in the second other decorative adjectives,
omitting some adjectives of mood which have a tendency to become
typical and have therefore been considered under C. A list of
these adjectives follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beowulf</th>
<th>Layamon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>atol</td>
<td>bald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deor</td>
<td>deore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>geomor</td>
<td>kene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grim</td>
<td>leof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hold</td>
<td>oht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hwate</td>
<td>wild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leof</td>
<td>wis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>modig</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>snotor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>swaes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Beowulf

I
an-hydig 2667
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fela-hror 27
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*sorh-full 512,1278,1429,2119
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<td>ard 31500</td>
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<td>*bittere 21247</td>
<td>boc-ilerede 31534</td>
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<td>uage 30999</td>
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<tr>
<td>grim 535, 683</td>
<td>freo 361, 20474, 20752</td>
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<td>gold 21154</td>
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<td>mete-custi 348, 19932</td>
<td>*gold-faże 21328, 30984, 31406</td>
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<td>*milđe 19879, 21890, 30809</td>
<td>gomenfulle 21430</td>
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<td>mod-fulle 31464</td>
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<td>*modi 31563</td>
<td>*gulden 20998, 32203</td>
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<td>gudliche 860</td>
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<td>hefenliche 21239, 32053, 32201</td>
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<td>rimie 1545</td>
<td>kinborene 336</td>
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<tr>
<td>sad 20830</td>
<td>kinewunde 20174, 20768</td>
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<td>*saeri 167, 638, 1037, 1476, 21114, 31780, 32013</td>
<td>laðliche 1884</td>
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I

snelle 20076
*sorhfulle 325,1042
*stid imode 21228,30902
sturn 19939,20774,21124,31471
swete 1332
unbalded 20257,30537
*werti 1328
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*riste 356
*comerest 21256,31003,31241,
31634,31802
*sepe 21503

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*leofliche 31787
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*scene 2094,20356
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stilliche 355
stor 85,1709
*sutel 1519
*tirful 2031
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II

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wintrede 101
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Examination of the decorative adjectives in the two poems shows that conditions here are much the same as those of preceding groups, except that fewer similarities are disclosed by the lists: There are, however, some: Beowulf - biter; Layamon bittere. Beowulf dyhtig; Layamon duhti. Beowulf- lide, milde; Layamon lide, milde. Beowulf- stid-mod; Layamon stid imodede. Beowulf gold-fah; Layamon- gold-fahe. It is to be noted that such resemblances as exist are extremely simple, and that Layamon lacks the poetic development of root ideas such as appears in bolgen-mod, gud-modig, brun-fag, dreor-fah, gryre-fah, gold-hroden, and gold wlanc. The many compound adjectives of Beowulf indicate its more poetic mood. I count 7 genuine compounds in the Layamon list, about 7%, against 128, about 52%, in the Beowulf list. But even in simple words Layamon is usually prosaic. There is significance also in the length of the two lists. The subjective element naturally enters into the determination of decorative adjectives, rendering impossible the mechanical precision of the adverb and typical adjective lists. Yet any sin of omission must necessarily decrease only the Beowulf list, since the need is felt of cataloging all possible decorative adjectives in Layamon, with the result that many words are included which would be overlooked in the Beowulf. In spite of this leniency toward the decorative adjectives of the Brut, the Beowulf has a much more extensive list. There are in Layamon 40 adjectives of mood and 55 other decorative adjectives, 95 in all, as against 114 adjectives of mood in Beowulf and 132 other decorative adjectives, a total
of 246. The relation appears thus:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Layamon</th>
<th>Beowulf</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adjectives of Mood</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Decorative Adjectives</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Decorative Adjectives</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are 12 adjectives of mood and 8 other decorative adjectives common to both poems. Therefore approximately 1/3 of the Layamon adjectives of mood are found also in the Beowulf, while only about 1/10 of the Beowulf adjectives of mood appear in Layamon. Approximately 1/7 of the other decorative adjectives of Layamon are common to Beowulf, while about 1/16 of the other decorative adjectives in Beowulf appear in Layamon. More than 1/5 of the entire decorative adjective list of Layamon is found in Beowulf; about 1/12 of the entire Beowulf list has a place in Layamon.

By their very nature decorative adjectives are used much less frequently than typical adjectives, but even here Layamon shows something of the tendency toward repetition that characterizes his typical adjectives. The average use of adjectives of mood is 1.71 in Beowulf, 2.47 in Layamon; of other decorative adjectives 1.56 in Beowulf, 1.80 in Layamon; of all decorative adjectives, 1.63 in Beowulf, 2.08 in Layamon. It is thus easily apparent that the Beowulf is much richer than Layamon in the number and poetic quality of its embellishing adjectives.
E. Couplets. Brandl: faehd ond fyren; ne aenig mon, ne leof ne lad (510). Couplets occur characteristically within the half line, both in Beowulf and in Layamon. Hence, to avoid unnecessary and useless confusion, I have excluded from the lists all expressions going beyond the half line. Proper names have also been omitted. I have divided the lists into List I, Conjunctive Couplets, an extension of Brandl's "synonyme Wörter", and List II, a modification of his "zergliederungen." Since in both poems the first group is of far greater import than the second, and since similar conclusions are reached by a consideration of the separate phenomena, I have based my comments chiefly on List I. Hence the term "couplet" must be understood to refer to conjunctive couplets unless disjunctive couplets are particularly mentioned.

The division of List I into noun, adjective, verb, and adverb combinations needs no comment. The brevity of List II renders such division unnecessary here, the phrases being listed under the terms used to connect them, ne, odda, and mid. The separation of List II into A and B requires a word of explanation. The example Brandl has given, faehd ond fyren, is composed of two rather close equivalents, but phrases with such identity of meaning will of course not be numerous, since exact synonyms are rare in any language. Consequently I have included under A closely similar expressions, and have placed under B combinations which, although not exactly synonymous, convey a single collective idea.
The use of couplets to form a half line becomes a conventional device, and it is not to be supposed that the use of two dissimilar words in a conjunctive combination necessarily implied two distinct ideas. Concrete nouns are less likely to be synonymous than nouns of abstract significance, which tend to fall automatically into List A. Adjectives, primarily expressive of quality, are discriminated with greater difficulty, particularly when the first member is a typical adjective with weakened force. The almost inevitable result is the congregating of adjectives in List A. Verbs and adverbs, although they have been included for the sake of completeness, are of much less importance than the nouns and adjectives.
### Conjunctive Couplets

**Beowulf**

**Nouns**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ar ond ombiht</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baele ond bronde</td>
<td>2322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beagas ond brad gold</td>
<td>3105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beg ond siglu</td>
<td>3163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>craeft ond cendu</td>
<td>2696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eafod ond ellen</td>
<td>902,2349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>faehde ond fyrene</td>
<td>137,879,2480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fyrene ond faehde</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fen ond faesten</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fraetwe ond faet-gold</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>frofor ond fultum</td>
<td>698,1273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gamen ond gleo-dream</td>
<td>3021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>þaer waes gidd ond gleo</td>
<td>2105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*horn ond byman</td>
<td>2943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hyndu ond hra-fyl</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lac ond luf-tacen</td>
<td>1863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maeg ond mago þegn</td>
<td>408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oredes ond attres</td>
<td>2523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>þa waes sael ond mæl</td>
<td>1008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>saela ond mæla</td>
<td>1611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>þaer waes sang ond sweg</td>
<td>1063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>se þe sod ond riht</td>
<td>1700</td>
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<tr>
<td>scuccum ond scinnnum</td>
<td>939</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beowulf</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symbel ond sele-ful</td>
<td>619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ūa waes synn ond sacu</td>
<td>2472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wæan ond wraec-sid</td>
<td>2292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wraetta ond wira</td>
<td>2413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wyrmas ond wildeor</td>
<td>1430</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Conjunctive Couplet

Beowulf

Nouns

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Noun</th>
<th>Line(s)</th>
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<td>aescum ond eogum</td>
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<td>bearnum ond brodrum</td>
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<td>bearn ond bryde</td>
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<td>beddum ond bolstrum</td>
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<td>billum ond byrnum</td>
<td>40, 2621</td>
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<td>bold ond brego-stol</td>
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<td>bord ond byrnan</td>
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<td>bunan ond discas</td>
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<td>burg ond beagas</td>
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<tr>
<td>*daeges ond nihtes</td>
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<td>dugude ond geogode</td>
<td>160, 621, 1674</td>
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<td>eard ond eorlscipe</td>
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<td>earm ond eaxle</td>
<td>835, 972</td>
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<tr>
<td>fet ond folma</td>
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<tr>
<td>folc ond rice</td>
<td>1179</td>
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<tr>
<td>geofum ond gudum</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*geongum ond saldum</td>
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<tr>
<td>hamas ond hea-burh</td>
<td>1127</td>
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<tr>
<td>healle ond heah-setl</td>
<td>1087</td>
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<td>*helm ond byrnan</td>
<td>1022, 1629, 2868</td>
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<tr>
<td>helmas ond heard sweord</td>
<td>2638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hond ond heard sweord</td>
<td>2509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>siddan ic hond ond rond</td>
<td>656</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Beowulf

hord ond rice
hord ond hleo-burh
leafes ond lafes
leomum ond leafum
life ond lice
lif ond leodscipe
lond ond leod-byrig
londes ond locenra beaga
mearam ond madumum
wif ord ond wid eage
gleaf me sinc ond symbol
*sunnan ond monan
waepen ond gewaedu
*wera ond wifa
wicga ond waepna
wig ond wisdom
wiges ond wealles
wigum ond waepnum
wongas ond wic-stede
worda ond worca

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<td>2395</td>
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</table>
Conjunctive Couplets

Beowulf

Adjectives

A.

aedele ond eacen 198
betlic ond ban-fag 780
biter ond beadu-scearp 2704
biter ond gebolgne 1431
brad ond brun-ecg 1546
eald ond eges-full 2929
eald ond infrod 2449
eald ond omig 2763
eald ond unhar 357
faeg ond geflymed 846
fah ond faeted 2701
fah ond fyr-heard 305
hu he fror ond god 279
fus ond faege 1241
Gamol ond guđ-reow 58
Gamol ond graeg-mael 2682
Gamol-feax ond guđ-rof 608
god ond geatolic 1562
Geatolic ond gold-fah 308
gap ond gold-fah 1800
grim ond graedig 121,1499
heard ond hring-mael 2037
Beowulf

hreoh ond heoroe-grim 1564
idel ond unnyt 413
lad ond longsum 134,193
*micelne ond maerne 3098
recce ond rede 122
sid ond searo-fah 1444
sid ond syillic 2086
stid ond styl-scg 1533
waefre ond wael-fus 2420
*wis ond gewittig 3094
yrre ond an-raed 1575

Conjunctive Couplets

Beowulf

Adjectives

B.

dreorig ond gedrefed 1417
$ifre ond galg-mod 1277
hat ond heado-grim 2691
hat ond hreoh-mod 2296
as waes heah ond brad 3157
heah ond horn-geap 82
isig ond ut-fus 33
snotor ond swyd-fernd 826
sod ond sarlic 2109
awancor ond sadol-beorht 2175
wreó¿en-hilt ond wyrm-fah 1698
Conjunctive Couplets

Beowulf

Verbs

A.

*forgyted ond forgymed* 1757
*forsted ond forsworced* 1767
*hafa nu ond geheald* 658
*hatode ond hynde* 2319
*heold mec ond haefde* 2430
*manad swa ond myndgad* 2057
*seomade ond syrede* 161
*seen ond secean* 3102
*geseted ond gesaed* 1696
*seofen ond scynded* 918
*weaxed ond wridad* 1741
*wanode ond wyrde* 1337

B.

*swefed ond sended* 600
*swelan ond swellan* 2713
*wiston ond ne-wendon* 1604
Conjunctive Couplets

Beowulf

Adverbs

A.

fyr & faestor

143

B.

faet mec aer ond sid
feorran ond nean
faet pe feor ond neah
nean ond feorran
innan ond utan

2500
839
1221
1174,2317
774
Conjunctive Couplets

Layamon

Nouns

A.

\begin{align*}
\text{per} \text{ wese blisse} & \text{ & muche song} & 30617 \\
\text{3eond cludes} & \text{& 3eond cluenen} & 32217 \\
\text{fold} & \text{& garsume} & 939 \\
& \text{& mid gold} & 120 \\
& \text{& mid gersume} & 31067 \\
\text{his gold ond} & \text{his gaersume} & 184,480 \\
\text{inne gride} & \text{& inne fride} & 21007 \\
\text{heore yelp} & \text{& heore gome} & 20585,21023 \\
*\text{hornes} & \text{& bemen} & 94 \\
of \text{kunne} & \text{& of folke} & 268 \\
\text{pe} & \text{wes lauerd} & 31276 \\
\text{& dux} & \text{habben his riche} & 31370 \\
\text{and his lond} & \text{& make\text{e}n sehtnesse} & 31410 \\
& \text{and grid} & 31371 \\
& \text{makien pe sahtnesse} & 1158 \\
& \text{and grid} & 32134 \\
& \text{and beon saht} & 404 \\
& \text{and some} & 20509 \\
\text{mid ta\text{c}n} & \text{& mid swefnen} & 102 \\
\text{his waei} & \text{and his iwille} & 20439 \\
\text{par aros wale} & \text{& win} & 21929 \\
\text{wind stod} & \text{& pat weder} & \\
\text{mid wolonen} & \text{& mid wedere} & \\
\text{her wes wop} & \text{& her wes rop} & \\
\text{pesne wop} & \text{& pesne rop} & \\
\end{align*}
Conjunctive Couplets

Layamon

Noun

B.

mid axes & mid sweordes 21248
his baerd ond his chinne 20305
ban & heora ribbes 1603
beornes ond eorles 20389
eorles & beornes 31555
fat his blood & his brain 1468
mid bouren & mid hallen 2025
an burze and on londe 31801
children & hinen 368
ure cun & heore riche 20636
onihtes & clærckes 31556
jeond chirchen & jeond munecluuen 32218
daifes & dères 217
*daesies and nihtes 20576, 20580, 21495, 31036
tweize dawes & tua niht 1113, 21848
préo dazes & préo niht 20723
pritti dawes & pritti niht 1275
seone niht & enne daei 1402, 31775
ba bi daie & bi nith 2062
bi dæcie & bi nihte 21470
fene daei and pe stude heo setten 31377
daies & dunes 21437
Layamon

3eond dales & 3eond dunes
of dalen & of dunen
over dales & over dunes
pene drinc & pene mete
mid mete & mid drinchen
eorles and kempen
mid fenne & mid ræode
of ðare verde & of ðan scipen
mid fiscen & mid ðæzel
folc and his ferde
muchel garsum & mete
pat gold & pal ne dude him on
pa þunge & pa alde
hæfen & heore honden
*halmes & burnen
pat his halm & his haefd
to nimen his heortes & his hinded
an horsen & an foten
mid horsen & mid scruden
hors & heore wepnen
mid hornen & mid hunden
muchel hunger & haete
mid hungere & mid hette
pat wes hunger and hette
scarp hunger & hette
Layamon

uppen lif & uppen leomen 500
3e sculen haber lif & leomen 702
lond ond his leoden 31687
pis lond and pas leoden 32235
ba bi londen and bi scipen 30512
a londe & a watere 550
a waetere & a londe 562
in pan lufte & bi pan grunde 30637
his marken & his mare 31220
of monne & of ahte 96
of monnen & of wapnen 947
*at i-seop mone & sunne 21090
preostes & muenekes 21859
riche men and haene 19968
riche men & wedlen 497
pan wode & an richen 20364
to ruggen and to bedde 19946
sae & pa sunne 30611
un sae and on londe 30678
bi sae & bi londe 31194
scaftes & sceldes 20915
mid scelden and mid burnen 31922
his scipen and his leode 32133
(m) mid seoluere & mid golde 1774,1824,20013,31510
or seoluer and o golde 30669,20480
uppen seoluer and uppen golde 31081
Ah nim pi seoluer and pi golde
in seoluer and gold
in seoluerere and in golde
gold & seoluer
mid spaeres & mid sceldes
mid spaeren and mid graete wazen
mid heore wazen & mid heore speren
on sterren and on sunne
mid stocken & mid stanen
pan strongen & pan balden
pan strong & pan richen
& his sune & his aem
per wes pe swein & pe onaue
mid sweord & mid spere
wapmen & wifmen
wastmes and wederes sele
pa weolezen & a wealden
bi-zeoten wepnen & mete
mid wifen and mid children
a winde and a mone
wind and pa wide se
wintres & sumeres
alter bi worden and bi writen
purh wude & purh feldes
Seond wudes & Seond feldes
Seond wudes & Seond lidan
Layamon

he wes feir & heih
feir hit wes & swide heih
feire & muchele
gode ord wihe
vicipen grete & longe
nu he l & swund
ihal & un isund
wes and riche
liche kene end w whaet
noni & wel idce
soni and inge
*muchel & maere
mucle & swide maere
a muchel cros and mare
muche' ferd & riche
muchele & strunge
swide muchel an sw 'e strong
sweread muchel & swide strong
ohte me and whitte
se we at me wiht
hege 'strong & swide god
*liche & atere
r'tful

1546
1143
2004
20263
20926
1252
821
129
30579
21862
21794
1139
32002
31386
1502
1833
30751
1849
20578, 21096
20588
1651
51119
917
Conjunctive Couplets

Layamon

Adjectives

B.

swide brod & swide long 1320
is a clude haeh and strong 21752
wes pe wei holh & long 761
riche and henen 30689, 31535
**Conjunctive Couplets**

**Layamon**

**Verbs**

A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>he wes icruned and ieled</td>
<td>31941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>custen &amp; clupten</td>
<td>20557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heo herjede and heo barnde</td>
<td>30553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ihouen and ihalden</td>
<td>30207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ladde &amp; radde</td>
<td>20034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heo riden and heo arnden</td>
<td>30352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stikeden &amp; slojen</td>
<td>20659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>weox fæt folk &amp; wel ipaih</td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wise mi &amp; witere</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
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</table>

B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>he scal bletseižen &amp; scriue</td>
<td>32157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>halden his lond and beon his mon</td>
<td>32027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heo složen &amp; heo nomen</td>
<td>30354</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conjunctive Couplets

Layamon

Adverbs

A.

kenliche & lude
raedhe & ful sone
siden & widen

21651
20435, 20476
139

B.

bi-foren & bi-hinden
nu & aueuer mare

439, 760
1925, 20797, 21920, 31051
Disjunctive Couplets

Layamon

ne

no on uelde no on wude
nunder heort no hinde
a leoda ne a spella
no pat lond no pat flod
naefde he sper no naenne sceld
ne wapmen ne wifmen
of pan lasse no of pan mare
ne ganninde ne ridinde
nulle ich hine slae no ahon

odde

pe mihte riden oper gan
oder slaen oder ahon
oder of-slagen oder an hon
oder quic oder ded

wid

bord wid borden
breoste wid breoste
hond wid honde
### Disjunctive Couplets

**Beowulf**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disjunctive Couplets</th>
<th>1736</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adl ne ylāo</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>brond ne beado-mecas</td>
<td>1454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wordum ne worcum</td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wyrda ne worda</td>
<td>3030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ne leof ne lād</td>
<td>511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aer ne siddan</td>
<td>718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ðaetē sud ne nord</td>
<td>858</td>
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<table>
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</thead>
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<td>ðat pec adl odde ecg</td>
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<tr>
<td>adl odde iren</td>
<td>1848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>folc odde freo-burh</td>
<td>693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sibbe odde treowe</td>
<td>2922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ower feor odde neah</td>
<td>2870</td>
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<table>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>lad wid lādum</td>
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<tr>
<td>lif wid līce</td>
<td>733,2423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>līnd wid līge</td>
<td>2341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sund wid sande</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% Phrases in each group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beowulf A.</td>
<td>37.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layamon A.</td>
<td>18.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beowulf B.</td>
<td>62.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layamon B.</td>
<td>81.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beowulf Total</td>
<td>99.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layamon Total</td>
<td>99.99</td>
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</table>

### Adjectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% Phrases in each group</th>
<th>No. Phrases</th>
<th>Times Used</th>
<th>Average Use</th>
<th>No. Repeated</th>
<th>Times Used</th>
<th>Average Use</th>
<th>% Phrases Repeated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beowulf A.</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>6.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layamon A.</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>31.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beowulf B.</td>
<td>85.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layamon B.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beowulf Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1.045</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>4.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layamon Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table I

**Frequency & Repetition**

#### Verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% Phrases in each group</th>
<th>No. Phrases</th>
<th>Times Used</th>
<th>Average Use</th>
<th>No. Repeated</th>
<th>Times Used</th>
<th>Average Use</th>
<th>% Phrases Repeated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beowulf A.</td>
<td>78.57</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layamon A.</td>
<td>75.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beowulf B.</td>
<td>21.42</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layamon B.</td>
<td>25.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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<td>Beowulf Total</td>
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<td>14</td>
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#### Adverbs

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Times Used</th>
<th>Average Use</th>
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<th>Times Used</th>
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<th>% Phrases Repeated</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beowulf A.</td>
<td>25.</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.333</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>75.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Layamon B.</td>
<td>40.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
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### Table II

**Alliteration, Rime etc.**

#### Nouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No. Phrases</th>
<th>No. Allit.</th>
<th>% Allit.</th>
<th>No. Rime</th>
<th>% Rime</th>
<th>Times Used (Phrases)</th>
<th>No. containing weakening words</th>
<th>% con. wk. words</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beowulf A.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>84.61</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8</td>
<td>47.05</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11.76</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>34.78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beowulf B.</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>76.74</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.32</td>
<td>53</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>79.71</td>
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<td>137</td>
<td>36</td>
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#### Adjectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>No. Rime</th>
<th>% Rime</th>
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<th>No. containing weakening words</th>
<th>% con. wk. words</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beowulf A.</td>
<td>33</td>
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<td>96.96</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
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## Table II

Alliteration, Rime, etc.

### Verbs

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<th>% Rime</th>
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<tr>
<td>% of Verbs</td>
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<td>9.09</td>
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<td>1.16</td>
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I have appended three tables summing up the results which I have obtained from List A. Table I to show frequency and repetition, Table II to illustrate effectiveness, and Table III to present totals. Table IV sums up List B, and is useful for comparison with Table III. Columns 7 and 8 of Table II, 12 and 13 of Table III, contain figures for weakening words. I have used this term to denote the addition within the half line of words not necessary to the combination. Thus saela ond maela appears also in the less concise and consequently weaker half line, a waes sael ond mael. Since the Layamon couplets rarely occur in the brief form of the Beowulf combinations, I have counted as weakening words only those which break up the exact balance of parts. So inne gride & inne fride is not weakened by its preposition, but arose wale & win lacks proper balance. In Table II the percentage of weakening words is based on the total number of uses of all phrases. The necessity for changing the basis of computation in this table is shown by the two uses of the phrase sael ond mael, which for purposes of alliteration and rime need be counted only once, but which shows weakening words in one use and not in the other.

1. An interesting variation of these weakened phrases is found in the Layamon combination, adjective + noun + adjective, which does not appear in Beowulf. The three phrases so constructed are: a muchel cros and mare, muchel ferd & riche, cht men and wihte. The extra emphasis thus thrown on the typical adjective is especially useful in restoring force to a final adjective. From the point of view of the couplet, however, any addition is weakening.
For a similar reason this is also the basis for the percentages of phrases used in catalogs.

A comparison of the lists for frequency, summed up in Table I, shows that Beowulf and Layamon are much alike in their use of couplets. Both show a greater number of nouns in List B and more adjectives and verbs in List A, a similarity of phenomena which has been explained. Moreover both have practically the same total number of phrases, 131 in Beowulf, 127 in Layamon. There are some differences, however. While Layamon has more noun phrases than Beowulf, the Beowulf exhibits more adjective couplets, thus revealing a greater tendency toward poetic description. The Beowulf has also a much higher percentage of nouns in List A, 37.68%, than Layamon, 18.88%; so that its nouns, at least, are more closely synonymous. This condition is reversed in the adjectives,- Beowulf 75%, Layamon 80%,- but the results do not neutralize each other, because the Layamon percentage is only slightly higher, and because it is inflated by large numbers of colorless typical adjectives. Only one of the phrases is without such an adjective, and in many cases both members are typical. Yet the use in the two poems is sufficiently close to warrant us in tracing Layamon’s use of couplets to Anglo-Saxon practice. There are, indeed, 8 corresponding phrases, constituting 6.10% of the Beowulf couplets, 6.29% of those in Layamon. There is some similarity in life and lice, lif & leomen; lond and leod-byrig, lond and his leoden. Like meaning may be traced in a few cases where there is no real word
correspondence. It is significant, too, that 2.404% of the whole number of half lines in Beowulf, 2.984% of those in Layamon are composed of conjunctive couplets. By the addition of the disjunctive couplets, the percentage is raised to 2.671 in Beowulf, 3.253 in Layamon. It is probable that Layamon was influenced in his constant use of couplets by Wace, who also employed them; but Layamon's consistent preference for Anglo-Saxon words keeps him nearer, in this respect, to Anglo-Saxon tradition.

If, then, the device is essentially Anglo-Saxon, where is it used more effectively— in Beowulf or in Layamon? As the phrases stand, separated from context, there is no doubt that the Beowulf combinations are superior. There are two reasons for the greater vigor and emphasis of the Anglo-Saxon phrases. First, they are alliterative. Alliteration, to be sure, is an Anglo-Saxon verse device which is not fundamental in Layamon, and which is consequently used only for additional ornament. Still, where it appears in Layamon the phrases gain immeasurably as they stand alone, and considerably even in the body of the poem. Such cases are gold and garsume, lif and leomen; mid sweord and mid spere; mid stocken and mid stanen; wale and win. Table III shows that 86.25% of the Beowulf phrases alliterate as against only 29.92% in Layamon. Individual differences appear in Table II, where, for example, the total alliterative percentage rises as high as 95.45 in the case of the Beowulf adjectives, and descends to 10.00 in
Layamon. Supplementary to the figures on alliteration I have collected figures for perfect rime, although these are to be regarded as interesting rather than significant. Both the total number of rimes and the percentage of rimes as shown by Table III, are slightly higher in the Brut. Since rime is a recognized verse device with Layamon, we might expect here a greater difference than the figures show; but rime occurs normally at the end of half lines rather than within them. Secondly, the combination in Beowulf usually makes a complete half line without the addition of any other words. The reverse is true in Layamon, where it is almost the rule rather than the exception to include words which detract from the effectiveness of the couplets. 30.85% of Layamon's phrases show weakening words, as compared with 9.80% in Beowulf.

In the figures for rime, alliteration, and weakening words we note the chief differences between the conjunctive and disjunctive couplets. The figures of Table IV are, in respect to rime and alliteration, proportionately higher in Layamon and lower in Beowulf than the figures in Table III, with a reversal of the condition in weakening words. The divergencies, however, are easily explained. All rimes in Table IV are identical rimes, 2 in Layamon and the sole example in Beowulf being slightly marred by different inflectional endings. Thus the higher percentage in Layamon simply denotes less variety in the individual combinations. This identity of rime affects also the Layamon
figures on alliteration, since in three of his six cases Layamon secures alliteration by a mere repetition of the first term as in bord wid borden. The reason for Layamon's smaller percentage of weakening words is obvious. The use of correlative enables him to fill the half line sufficiently, without the necessity for additions.

The lack of alliteration in the Layamon couplets and the introduction of weakening words suggest that the use in the Brut is that of somewhat degenerate imitation. There is involved, however, a fundamental difference in the poetic method of the two poems. If we compare their repeated phrases, we find that Layamon shows a rather considerable preference for repetition.

The average use of a phrase in Beowulf is 1.167 times, in Layamon 1.481, the average use of a repeated phrase being 2.466 in Beowulf and 3.103 in Layamon. Altogether 11.45% of the phrases in Beowulf and 22.83% of those in Layamon are repeated. While these cases of repetition are not all emphatic, there can be no doubt that Layamon gains some cumulative effect by the reiteration of such phrases as dales and dunes, hunger and hette, gold and garsume, inne gride and inne frid, lif and leomen. Although such repetition occurs occasionally in Beowulf, the device is there overshadowed by a more artistic verse method than that of the Brut. It must be remembered also that the length of the Middle English poem, about five times that of Beowulf, allows opportunity for repetition not shown in the tables, while the full amount appears in the Beowulf figures. Although this differ-
ence may not change comparative proportions, it does affect mere quantity, which in this connection is of some importance as rendering iteration more conspicuous. Certain set expressions are anticipated in stereotyped situations. Moreover Layamon shows fondness for repeated clauses and sentences. The examples which I cite from the first 2000 lines of the poem do not pretend to be inclusive, but they may serve to illustrate the point:

feollen þae faeie
fallen þa feie
faeie þer feollen
& þa leoden of-slawen
& his leoden of-slawen
& alle þa leoden of-slaen
& þa leoden heo slowen
& slowen þa leoden
Duden alle þa cnihtes:
swa Brutus heom taute
al his men duden:
swa þe king hehte
þar he mihte bi-halden
þe bi halues were
þa he mihte ihere:
þe bihalues were.
mid stocken & mid stanen:
stal riht heo makeden
mid stocken & mid stanen:
stal feht heo makeden.

riht al swo stille:
stelen swa we wolden.
& ferden ut swa stille:
swa heo stelen wolden.

pe king hine bi-poute:
what he don mahte
Neopelas he hine bi-poute:
wat he don mahte.

pa Troyssse men slojen:
al pa Grickes pea heo nei comen.
al pat he nei com:
per mid he hit aquelde.
& alle heo slowen:
pat heo nei comen.

He sende his sonde:
wide Zend pane londe.
pe king sende his sonde:
Zeond al Griclonde.
& sende his sonde:
Zeond his kine-londe
These examples could easily be multiplied. Such repetition appears also in Beowulf. Indeed, Kistenmacher has collected a rather imposing list of repetition, particularly of half lines. Yet in Beowulf these are somewhat obscured by the greater importance of kennings and variation. In Layamon they are pursued for their own sake beyond the limit of the half line.

It is further to be noted in regard to Layamon's use of noun couplets that 48 cases form part of catalogs, some of which are, to be sure, abbreviated catalogs. Only four such

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1. Die Wörtlichen Wiederholungen im Beowulf.
uses are found in Beowulf. The percentage for Beowulf is 4.70, for Layamon 35.03. Not only does this difference show that the Beowulf examples are much more nearly synonymous, but it also affords evidence of the differing methods of the two poems. By means of these catalogs Layamon secures parallelism of structure, which constitutes one of the main verse devices of the Middle English poem. That such is the intention is shown by the following combinations, which I have been excluded from

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</table>
the main lists because of the omission of the conjunction, and which show Layamon's fondness for parallelism.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{he wes swa kene} & \quad \text{he wes swa strong} & 1374 \\
\text{moni heaued} & \quad \text{moni hond} & 574 \\
\text{par is fuzel} & \quad \text{par is fisc} & 1235 \\
\text{mid hornen} & \quad \text{mid hunden} & 20855 \\
\text{weore heom lef} & \quad \text{weore heom lad} & 19998 \\
\text{he jae} & \quad \text{heem lif} & 21935 \\
\text{heo slozen} & \quad \text{heo nomen} & 20276 \\
\text{summe he sloh} & \quad \text{summe he bond} & 767 \\
\text{mid wapnen} & \quad \text{mid waeteren} & 21895 \\
\text{mid wixeleden} & \quad \text{mid wrenchen} & 1894 \\
\text{heo hefden} & \quad \text{heo hefden water} & 1273 \\
\text{par is wode} & \quad \text{par is water} & 1237
\end{align*}
\]

Thus we may say that while Layamon's use of the Anglo-Saxon verse device of couplets is intrinsically weaker than the use in the \textit{Beowulf}, he has nevertheless adapted it to his own needs and purposes.
F. Circumlocution. Brandl: heten[pas waeg (152); lif forleosan; faergryre (174); modgehygd (233). The circumlocution lists contain, first, a list of compound nouns in which the dual form does not correspond to a two-fold idea; secondly, lists containing verbose expressions for the ideas of speaking, living, and dying. The examples in this latter category have been divided into List I, containing figurative circumlocution, and List II, literal circumlocution. The lists expressing the conception of death are further subdivided with a view to showing in all euphemistic expressions. The terms "circumlocution" and "figurative" are, in this connection, elastic, covering even slight variations from direct and literal language.
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<tr>
<td>head-ricc</td>
<td>2466, 370</td>
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<td>here-ricc</td>
<td>1176</td>
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<td>hate-nest</td>
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Beowulf

hilde-rinc
hord-maddum
hord-gestreon
holt-wudu
lic-homa
maegen-craeft
maegen-strengo
man-scafa
madm-gestreon
mod-gehygd
mod-gegonc
mod-sefa
morhor-bealo
ombhit-pegn
oret-magu
sinc-gestreon
sinc-mappen
panc-hycgende
pryd-swyd
wael-dead
waeter-yd
weall-clif
wine-drihten
wite-seon
word-cwide
yrfe-laf

1307,3124,3136,986,1495,1576
1198
1899,3092
1369,2340
812,1007,1754,2651,3177
380
2678
712,737,1339,2514
1931
233
1729
349,1853,2628,160,2012
1079,2742
673
332,363,481
1092,1226
2193
2235
131,736
695
2242
3132
360,862,1604,2722,3175
1650
1841,1845,2753
1053,1903
Circumlocution

Beowulf

Speech

I.

word-hord onleac 259
onband beadu-rune 501
Let þa of breostum, þa he gebolgen waes, 2550
Weder-Geata leod word ut faran
of-þæt wordes ord
breost-hord þurhbraec. 2791

II.

word æfter cwaed 315
word inne abead 390
wordum baedon 176
meæl-wordum fraegn 236
sume worde het 2156
wordum herge 3175
*gesæga him eæc wordum 388
wordum wriælan 366,874
Beowulf maælode beot-wordum sprææc 2510
ond on sped wrecan spel gereade 873
sode gebunden. word oðer fænd 870
meces ægæ: nales wordum log 1811
ond freond-læp 1192

word bewægned.
Beowulf

Þurh hredra gehyd  higes cunnian,
wig-wececan  ond þat word acwyd:
þæt he þone wisan  wordum hnaegde
þurh hleoðor-cwyde  holdne gegrette
saegde him þæs lænes þanc,
gode ic þane scege
   frean alles þanc
wuldur-cyninge  wordum scege,
Circumlocution

Beowulf

Life

I.

gebad wintra worn,

γeah-γe wintra lyt

under burh-locan gebidan haebbe.

pare-γe cwise hwyrfad

se paer lengest hwearf

γaem feower bearne ford-gerimed

in worold wocun:

γy-γeet him eft onwoc

heah Healfdene:

γanon Bomor woc

γanon untydres ealle onwocon

γanon woc fela

gesceafhta-

II.

on γaem daege γysses lifes

on aldor-dagum

lif-dages

lif-gesceafhta

lif-gesceafhta lifigende breac
Circumlocution

Beowulf

Death

I. A.

a) haefde aeghwaeder
laenan lifes

b) aldre benectan

Haedcen Hreþling

Bona swylce laeg,

folces hyrde,

íæt se byrn-wiga
feoll on feðan:

íæt se wid-floga
hreas on hrusan

hím on efn liged

siex-bennum seoc

ende gefered

im þæs ende-lean
waldend sealde

ende gefere

þonne leng ne-maeg
medu-seld buan.

ealdre besnyðede

680

2924

egeslic eord-draca,
aldre sceþdan

þæt him hilde-grap
eorres inwit-feng

da gebeah cyning,
wæs in feorh dropen

hreþre ne-mihte,
aldre gesceþdan

waes in feorh dropen

nalles fraetwe geaf
wandum stille

ealdor-gewinna

2903
Beowulf

d) paet pec adl odde eog eafopes getwaefed 1763
   aeti-rihte waes
   gut getwaefed, nymde mec god scyld
   of flan-bogan feores getwaefde,
   yd-gewinnes, paet him on aldre stod
   here-strael hearda

   God eape maeg
   pon dol-sceadon daeda getwaefan 478

   gif mec hild nime 452,1481
   para-de paer gut fornam 1123
   Heado-raes fornam
   mihtig mere-deor purh mine hand 557
   hyne wyrd fornam 1205
   paet-fe gar nymet,
   hild heoru-grimme Hreplies eaferan,
   adl odde iren ealdor pinne 1846
   ac hyne eog fornam 2772
   ac hine irenna eoga fornamon 2829

   f) sweordum aswefede 567
   swefad ond sende
   feormynd swefad
   forpan ic hine sweorde swebban nelle
   aefter billes bite blod-fag swefad,
   ealdres scyldig
   nu se wyrm liged,
   swefad sare wund, 2060
   sinc bereafod 2745
Beowulf

haeled in hodman

paer his lic-homa

swefep aefer symle.

Funden da on sande

hlim-bed healdan,

*para-pe his lif ofgeaf,

ond pa pas worold ofgeaf

worold aflaetest

oflet lif-dagas

pa he of life gewat

Him da Scyld gewat

fela-hror feran

frod on ford-weg.

gebad wintra worn,

aldor of earde

maere þeoden,

dugud ellor scoc

lif of lice

Feond gerylde,

aldre linnan,

ford-gewitenenum

ridend swefad,

leger-bedde faest

sawul-leasne

pone-pe him hringas geaf

pa se ellor-gast

ond pa lasan gescæft

to gescæp-hwile

on frean waere

pa he of ealdre gewat

faeder ellor hwearf,

op-pæt he ana hwearf,

mon-dreamum from

ponne min sceaced

ferh ellor wraec

paet du me a waere

on faeder staele
Beowulf

praer waes AEschere,
feorh udgenge
ponne he ford scile,
lysed weordan
sunu Ecgpeowes
Scolde his aldor-gedal

ponses lifes
ond se ellor-gast
feor sicfan

paet dam peodne waes
sylfes daedum,

ne-waes paet ede sid,
maga Ecgdeowes

ofgyfan wolde,

wic eardian

swa socel aeghwylc mon

2122
3176
2451
1550
805
2709
2586
1201
2469
2818
Beowulf

1) wig-heap gewanod;
   mine magas
   eorlas on elne:

2) se ðone gomelan
   secean sawle hord,
   lif wid lice:
   feorn ægelinges

3) forhabban in hrepere
4) ond on healfe gehwone
   sawle secan

5) ac him hilde-grap
   ban-hus gebraec.

6) pean-ðe ofer his
   heardan ceape:
   Geata dryhtne,

7) nu se here-wisa
   gamen ond gleo-dream

Is min flet-werod,
   hie Wyrd forsweop
ealle Wyrd forsweop
to metodsceafte,
ic him aefter sceal.
Wyrd ungemete neah,
gretan sceolde,
sundur gedaelan
no þon lange waes
   flaesce bewunden.
ne-meahte waefre mod
   heawan pohton,
ne-waes ecg bona,
   heortan wylmas,
ealdre gehohte,
   Hædcynne weart,
guð onsaeg.
   hleahtor alegde,
Circumlocution

Beowulf

Death

I. B.

a) se-þe hine dead nimeð

gif mec dead nimeð;
odðe mec dead nimeð.
þe þa dead fornam
Ealle hie dead fornam
sunu dead fornam,
de hyne swylt fornam
wael-dead fornam
Denigea leode.
gud-dead fornam,
feorn-bealo frecne,
þæet þec, dryht-guma
dead oferswyded
Fin eft begeat
sweord-bealo slide

b) hran aet heortan.

od-daet deade wylm

2269

c) þurh deade nyd

ponne se an hafað
daeda gefondad.

2453

d) Waes þam yldestan

Nu is wil-geofa
dryhten Geata
wunad wael-reste

Morpor-bed stred,
Wedera leoda,
dead-bedde faest,

2435

2900
Beowulf

e) Bealo-cwealm hafad
   fela feorh-cynna feord onsended. 2265

f) fæt hit sceafen-mæl scyran moste,
   cwealm-bealu cyðan. 1939

g) fæt minne lic-haman
   mid minne gold-gyfan gled faedmie 2651
Circumlocution

Beowulf

Death

II. A.

*a) ende-dogores
ealdres aet ende
pone leofestan
worolde lifes
godum gegongen
onisse meodu-healle
aapeling aer-god
worolde lifes
fee was ende-daeg
min gebidan
Sceolde laen-daga
ende gebidan,
ende gebidan,
wiste pede geornor,
fee was ende-gongen,
dogera daeg-rim
odde ende-daeg

b) furh hwaet his woruld gedal weordan sceolde
No his lif-gedal
sarlic puhte secga aenegum

841

2908

467

3002

1586
Beowulf

unlitigendum
pone selestan
Fundenon pa on sande

*d) syddan Hygelac laeg
syddan Heardred laeg
he fyrmest laeg
pa his brodor laeg

*e) ac he eordan gefeoll
mere-grund gefeoll
paet se lic-homa
faege gefealled

gomela Scylding

hreas (heoro-) blac
ac in campe gecrong
he under rand gecranc
Sume on waele crungon!

He aet wige gecrang

bil eal purh-wod
heo on flet gecrong
gorn prowian,

*f)

his frea-wine

flane geswenete.
Beowulf

wisse he gearwe,

Þæt he daeg-hwila gedrogon haefde,
earth wynne; ða waes eall sceacen
dogor-gerimes, dead ungeemetne neah

2725
Circumlocution

Beowulf

Death

II. B.

*a) aefter dead-dæge
   aer swylt-dæge
   wundor-deaфе swealt
   od-þæt he mordre swealt

   Waes þa deade faest,
   haefde eord-scrafa    ende genyttod

*b) aldor-bealu eorlum
   eft gefremede

   mord-beala mare
   þæt hio leod-bealewa   laes gefremede
   þæþer waes Hondscio   hilde onsaеge,
   feorh-bealu faegum

   885
   2798
   3037
   2782
   3045
   1676
   135
   1946
   2076
   1711

   c) ne-geweox he him to willan,    ac to waeь-fealle
      ond to dead-cwalum    Deniga leodum
### Circumlocution

**Layamon**

**Nouns**

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<td>wider-craft</td>
<td>272,970</td>
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</table>
Circumlocution

Layamon

Speech

II.

he bi-heihte hire biheste
bodede mid worde
*hit seide mid worde.
vastnede mid worden.

pa he alles spac:
mid praeste he spilede.
& pu heom cleppe to:
& cudliche wið heom spec.

pat word talie:
ne talkie mid speche.
& heora lauerd spac:
& pus heom wid spelede.
sugged me to runen:
raed past eou punche.
saeide mid mude.

AEfne þere speche:
pa spac pe eorl riche.

Efne þissere saȝe:
pa pe Brut saeide

1263
32093
32179
32206
488
718
787
862
865
20592
21557
31711
Circumlocution

Layamon

Life

II.

bi heore quiken liuen
bi mine quicke liue
quic on life
of pine weorl—lifen
we lif laeden:
& liden to sumne.
& per we scullen we dazes ba:
driuen to pan ende.
pe while his dazes ilaste
jif me mot ilasten:
at lif a mire breosten.
Circumlocution

Layamon

Death

I. A.

a) þat he grund sohte.

b) þat he scal þat lif leosen:
   & leosien his freonden.
   & swa heo scullen on londen:
   losien heore freonden.
   for her we habbeod for-loren:
   leoue we maemies.

c) þer wes þe swein & þe ensue:
   beien of are laȝe.

d) aleggen ich wulle his muchele mod

e) and swa me scal him tache:
   to walden kineriche.

f) heore beat wes þae lasse.

*g) & feie-sid makede
   iwenden toward Brutun:
   to his bale-side
   faeie-sih iworthen
   & þus þe haeȝe scade:
   ferde to helle
   and seoddan þu scalt iwit:
   and faren heofne-richen
   he ferde of þisse liue.

1597

20112

20537

20821

31250

31316

31313

31239

304,21396

566

20688

1923

32083
and his saule sende:
to pan heuenlicche kinge.
pha he sculde wihten
his du¿ede he bi-lefde

h) Saxes gunnen sinken:
sor^e heom wes ziuede
sorzen ier worhten
we heom sculle tellen:
sorhfulle spelles.
heore æelp fallen:
& heom seolue a-quellen.
sorzen unimete.
comen to folke:
uppen pan monne:
mord wes iwurden.

i) þer fore he scal ibiden:
bitterest alre baluwen.
harde gomenes:
& he hit skal abugge.
and þer uore ibiden:
bitterest alre baluwen.
ah þer uore him skal ileoten:
bitterest alre baluwen.
Circumlocution
Layamon
II. A.

a) pat com hir lifes ende
   pa com his lifes ende

b) al pat he smat to:
   hit was some for-don.

c) jif he hine mid sweorde at-ran:
   nea ras he neuer mare.
   & brouhten heom per neodere.
   pat neofer seodde heo ne arisen:

 d) he heom adun leaide.
    and neouðer hine aleggen.
    & anan leiden to pan grunden:
    of pane Freince preo þusende.
    per weoren ileid to grunde.
    and to grund leggen
    legge we heom to grunde.
    per fore þe sculen liggen stif
    for betere us is on londe:
    mid monsceipe to liggen.

 *e) þaet we nabbed his freond:
    ifelled to grunde.
    & fealden of his monnen
    heo faelden of his iueren
Layamon

He feolde þa Frenca:
he falde monie hundred
& his folc ualden:
ualden to grunden.
and his folc afeollen
& eowre foed felled
feowerti þusude:
ifeolled to þan grunde.
and feolde þa Bruttes to grunde.
and feolde Irisce men:
feondliche to grunden.
heo ualden heom to grunden
fal to þe grunde
& fallen to þan grunde:
Crist heom aualle.
monie þar feollen
þer feol moni god oniht
beornes þer neollen
feollen Saexisce men:
þer feolle Cheldriches men
þer feollen seouen kinges
Sexes þer uollen:
unimete feollen:
faeie men on folden.
þer feollen æuere in þene grunde
fallen to grunde
feol to grunde
he iseih his frend fallen
faelled his leoden
faeie per feollen.
feollen pa uaeie:
uelden to grunde.
feollen pa uaeige
al pat he per mid hitte:
al his a-dun healde.
haelden into haele:
haedene hundes.
halden to (pan) grunde
leted pa Grickeisc:
gliden to grunden.
moni puseend par abad
and pa Sexisce men:
ibroht to pan grunden.
per sunken to pan grunde:
fif & twenti hundred.

1) pa flan heom weoren lade.

8) per weoren men faeie.
per fore ze sculen beon faeie
pat he feie iwerd
pa weoren heo faie
pe formeste is faeie
Layamon

monie per weoren faeie
he scolf and his ferde:
faeie scal iwear.  
faeie on his side
fat bearn nas nowit feie
& moni cniht feie
fe gume scal beon faeie
faeie-scipe wurhte.

h) from løden alesen

i) feollen pa cnihtes:
faleweden nebbes.
jeond pan feldes wide:
swulten men uaeiże.
Circumlocution

Layamon

Death

II. B.

*a) daed he moste polien
& al heore dujede:
daed scal idolien
Þorn him heo sculden da3en:
& Þene dead polien.

*b) him seolfue to balewe
balu com on ueste
balu wes on folke
þe balu wes unimete
þat balu weore swa riue
balu wes on folke.
daed þer wes rife.

*c) Sweadден Octa wes of-sla3en:
& idon of lif-da3en.
and ho bilafden of-sla3en:
& idon of lif-da3en.
and al his folc þer isla3en:
and idon of lif-da3en.
ðer wes Oswy of-sla3en:
& idon of lif-da3en.
þat he wolde been Ardures bone
In their general outlines the lists of circumlocution indicate fundamental similarity in the two poems. Both contain double nouns to express single ideas; both reveal a tendency to express indirectly certain primal facts, notably death. Yet there are typical differences of greater importance than surface resemblances. The Beowulf, for example, has a far greater number of pleonastic compounds,- 50 used 91 times as against 10 used 16 times in Layamon, where one word contributes 6 of the 16 uses. This is quite in accord with the lavish expenditure of nouns in Beowulf, the heaping up of word on word. The more impoverished vocabulary of Layamon prohibits such extravagance; a double word must perform double duty. Hence circumlocution in nouns is rare in the Brut. The list of pleonastic compounds in Beowulf comprises about 6% of all its compound nouns, in Layamon, a little less than 1%. These figures give evidence of the great difference in the number of compound nouns employed in the two poems, the Beowulf containing nearly ten times as many as Layamon.

In phrases and sentences there is again significant difference. Figures are of little value here, since the whole point lies not in comparative numbers, but in the superior poetic value of the Beowulf expressions. Nevertheless the following table may serve to substantiate more general statements. I have made use of the figures on death, since this is the most important idea for circumlocution, and I have attempted to show the number of different conceptions involved, the number of times these are
expressed, and the number of figurative and euphemistic circumlocutions.

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>7(2 used in I A)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>L.</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Even numerically the Beowulf exceeds Layamon, and it is significant that the bulk of the Layamon figures lies in II A, outside of figurative language. Two thirds of the Beowulf expressions are, on the contrary, figurative. The figures chiefly employed in both poems do not differ greatly from our modern euphemisms embodying the same conceptions. In Beowulf the sleep metaphor is prominent, and in both occurs the idea of a journey into an undiscovered country. But it is to be noted that Layamon employs 9 variations of the death idea 71 times, and that without any great variety of form. Such is not the Practice of the Beowulf, where even repetitions are fresh with new turns of thought and new shades of expression. Here Variation is sought as an integral part of the poetic scheme, while in Layamon a few rather prosaic expressions, similar or identical in phrasing, are employed for innumerable occasions. Thus we find in circumlocution characteristics of the two poems.
in Beowulf intensity and poetic variation, in Layamon conventional phrases for constantly recurring events.
G. Antithesis. Brandl: to frofre-fyren pearfe 14; gudreow-glaede 58. The material which follows has been distributed to List I, which contains verbal antithesis within narrow limits, usually the line; List II, which exhibits passages stressing contrasting ideas, rather than words; and List III, which is merely an extension of the method illustrated in List II. For the sake of clearness, an attempt has been made to group together similar ideas.
Antithesis

Beowulf

I.

fea-sceaf funden; he paes frofre gebad 7
fea-sceaf guma frofre gebohte 973
folke to frofre; fyren-pearfe ongeat 14
Frofor eft gelamp
sarig-modum

ne leof ne lad 511
leofes ond lades 1061
ladum daedum, peah him leof ne-waes 2467

beorhtre bote to banan folmum 158
bealuwa bisigu, bot eft cuman 281
se-pe him bealwa to bote gelyfde 909
weana ne-wende to widan feore 933
bote gebidan

He paer cailum weard

freondum gefaegra; hine fyren onwod 915
freondum afyulled; Nalles facen-stafas 1018
wid Grendles gryre iC aem godan sceal 384
on Grendles gryre. God eafe maeg 478
Beowulf

waes aefter wista  wop up ahafen 128
swefan aefter symble;  sorge ne-cudon 119
druncon win weras;  wyrd ne-cudon 1233
in paem win-sele  wael-dead fornam 695

Eyrn aefter gomene

samen ond gleo-dream.  For on sceal gar wesan 3021
haeled in hodman;  nis paer hearpan sweg 2458

Wen ic, aet ge for wlenco,  nalles for wraec-siðum
ac for hige-prymmem 338

se-pe aefter sinc-syfan  on sefan greau 1342
blim-bed healdan  þone-þe him hringas geaf 3034
breost-hord blod-reow  nallas begas geaf 1719
þyre befongen  se-pe aer folce weold 2595
Samol ond gud-reow,  glæede Scyldingas. 58

sib gemaene  ond sacu restan 1857
sefa wid sorgum.  Sibb sefre ne-maeg 2600
frome, fyrd-hwate.  Freode ne-woldon 2476

hu he frod ond god  feond oferswydet 279
frod folces weard,  feahðe secan 2513

þu eart maegenes strang  ond on mode frod 1844
maegen mid modes snyttrum 1706
tir-seadigum menn  torna gehwylces 2189
<table>
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<th>Line</th>
<th>Original Text</th>
<th>Translation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Swa he nida gehwane</td>
<td>genesen haefde</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>feorn-bennum seoc,</td>
<td>gefean habban</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>aedeling aer-god</td>
<td>unblide saat</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>mordre gemearcod</td>
<td>man-dream fleon</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>modes myrde</td>
<td>manna cynne,</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>fyrene gefremede</td>
<td>geoce gefremede</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>wid teod-preaum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Þurh anes craeft</td>
<td>ealle ofercomon</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Þone cwealm-cuman</td>
<td>cwicne forlastan</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>ac wuldor-torhtan weder.</td>
<td>Hæt a waess winter scacen,</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>faeger foldan bear.m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Þaet se wid-floga</td>
<td>wundum stille</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>wlonces wig-craeft,</td>
<td>widres ne-truwode</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>husa selest</td>
<td>heoro-dreorig stod</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>weallad wael-nidas</td>
<td>ond him wif-lufan</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>niode naman,</td>
<td>andlangne daeg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>od-þaet niht</td>
<td>becwom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beowulf
Beowulf

II.

willan geworhte, odde on wael crunge 635

dom gewyrce, odde mec dead nimed 1491

ne-geweox he him to willan, so to wael-fealle

ond to dead-cwalum 1711

Helle gemundon

in mod-sefan; metod hie ne-cudon 179

Selra bid aeghwaem,

faet he his freond wrece, ponne he fela murne 1384

Dead bid sella

gorla gehwylcum ponne edwit-lif 2890

Ne-frin þu æfter sælum! Sorh is geniwod 1322
Beowulf

III

lyft-wynne heold
nihtes hwilum, nyder eft gewat
dennes niosian

Ic gefremman sceal
eroelic ellen, odde ende-daeg
on ṣisse meodu-healle minne gebidan
ne maegd scyne
habban on healse hring-woordunge,
ac sceal geomor-mod, gold bereafod
oft nalles aene elland tredan:
nalles hearpan sweg
wigend weccean, ac se wonna hrefn
fus ofer faegum fela reordian

Wunad he on wiste, no hine wiht dweled,
ad ne yldo, ne him inwit-sorh
on sefan sweorcēd, ne gesacu ohwaer
ecg-hete eowed, ac him eal worold
wenæd on willan.

Wa bid paem-ðe sceal
furn slidne nid sawle bescufan
in fyres faédm, frofre ne-wenan,
wihte gewendan; wel bid paem-ðe mot
aefter deaf-dæge drihten secean
ond to faeder faépmum freodo wilnian
Antithesis
Layamon

I.

Pé al her a-qualde:
quit at he funde.
oðer we sculle daede beon:
ne múye we hine quic iseon.
oðer quic oðer ded

Pé child wes iboren isund:
to baluen his moder.
pat bearn nas nowit feie.
Pís child leuede & wæl íse:
of his seocnesse:
ísund wes iwurden.

out of þeowedome:
freo þat heo weoren.
& for mine freo-dome:
ifrouerde þa warycchen.

& mine leouce dohter:
to swa lade mannes bihoue.
weore heom lef weore heom led:

moni heaufed moni hond:
fallen to foten.
moni hond moni fot
alle to gadere he heom nom:
nane he ne lafde.
to faren pe to wonien
wonien heo sculen un-balde:
for hora muchela bursten.
& we maewen faren riche.

ardur him taht wid:
& nolde him jiuem na grid.
bat he heom jiuem mildze:
of heore mise.

monie par fuhten:
monie flaem makeden.

par is fuzel par is fisc:
par is wode par is water:

Nefde Brutus nenne swa wrecne man:
bat gold & pal ne dude him on.
ouer-comen heora teonen:
&a weoren heo blide.
we ifan alle icoren:
Gumen mine gode.

and walden al his riche:
and he scal wurden hene.
Layamon

kine-helm ich wulle bruke:
& he hit scal abugge.

from loden alesen
& wnnen bi-raeued
& frofre bidaeled.
Layamon

II.

he wes pan jungen for fader:
pan alden for frouer.

whader he hit wolde iunne:
ofer him for-beode.

pe king him gon to slaepen:
and Brien gon to wopen.

pu aert ihalden kene gume:
hauest pu nu quene fecoues inume.

and zif he hit wul awon:
ich hit wulle wernen.

and Oswy his broder is oht ceuht:
and ard heorte na wiht.

oder brohte enne:
pe oder no brohte nenne.

Sume him radde to uehten:
summe wrid (frid?) to wurchen.

& AEnglisce kinges
walden as londes.
& Bruttes hit losedenden:

whader he scolde lidon:
pe he scolde bi-lauen.
Layamon

a swa heom beôd iwerd:
swa us wrse bid.  

woh him wes wunder lad:
and þat rihte a leof

we beôd under uote:
a þe is al þa bote.

þe an hine putte hiderward:
and þe oder hine putte zeondward.

þer neoren eorles:
no wurðer ene cheorles.

bidden for eower saulen:
þat sel ne wurðen heom nauaere.

ne miht þu na wiht so fleon:
þif þu us wlt heonne fleman.

þat heo aerest bijited:
after heo hit leosed.

for scome he ne mihte fleon:
no for haerme her beon.

wa wes him on liue:
þa þe fader wes on deade.

for wa wes heom on life:
for heore lauerdes deede.
Layamon

leofere him weore on dede:
peone quic on life.
fa faeie he sloh pe quike he bond
fa weole5 en & a weadlen
on wraecches monnes liche:
peh he weoren riche.
riche and hene
for pe riche haued muchel rum:
to raeson biforen pan wrecchan.
nis par nan swa heih:
nis fer nan swa laih.
halden us for haene:
per we weoren heze.
swule pu woldest to haeuene:
nu pu scalt to haelle.
Lien nu pere Colgrim:
puwere iclumben heze.
He wende hit to sone:
soof peh hit neore.
heo wenden pat his sawen:
soof weren.
ah alle heo weren lease:
swa he eode longe upward:
swa longe he eode adunward.
Brian eode upward:
his brode swaerd he up ahof:
and haerdliche adun sloh.
& treouwe mon auere beon:
& neouwar min herm iseon.
o fene heste iuorden:
ah bi-hated haerm to don.
& jif pu pis nult don:
pu scalt wurse under fon.
& jif pat nult don:
pu scalt wurse afon.
longe bid auer:
o iseo ye me aeft naeuere.
swa lange swa bid aeuere.
her ne cume we naeuern.
his wes al heore gome:
for Ardures kings sceome.
hepre zelp & heore gome:
ilomp heom seoluen to scame.
penne beod per forcuest:
deoren alre pruttest.
fa weoren aerhest:
fat aer weoren baldest.
Layamon

Pu eart cristine mon:
& we al swa sunden.
Saexisce men beod:
haede hundes.
/a hedene us hatied:
& pe cristine us sari makied.
Layamon

III.

I tenn were his cun iscend:
mid scomeliche witen.
heore wurdscape iloren:
a pisere world-richen.

nu ich wulle zifen him grid:
& leten hine me speken wid.
nulle ich hine slae no ahon:
ah his bode ich wulle fon.

wheper heo walden haelden grid:
& gretan pes londes king.
heo wolden mid widere:
pan kinge wid-stonden.
and zif he nolde awaei fleon:
& touward Alemaine teon.
and he wolde on londe:
mid fehte atstonden.

hit likede wel pan kinge:
buten for ane pinge.
hit of-puhte him ful sone:
for pan swikedom.

3if heo flozen to burzen:
per heo for-wurden.
3if heo flozen to pa wunde:
per hi heom fortuden.
nuðe we scullen wepen:

æ aer richen weore.

for wurdscipe ualled adune:

ær wes aer wunne.

alle ða hine lufeden:

he heom gon griþien.

alle ða him heolden wid:

he bi-nom heore lif.

Summe hit gonnæ raedæ:

summe to for-beoden.

summe ðer heolden wel to:

summe nolden hit no.

purh elleouen ðere:

ðe king wunedæ ðere.

& elleouen ðere.

ðe sorhæ wunedæ here.

ófte heo luten ðun:

alse heo wolde liggen:

ófte heo up lupen:

alse heo fleon wolden.

ðif we scestæd to heora maðæ:

ðæt biduræ imone ðeaf:

ðif we heom ilefæd:

ðæt biduræ muchele lure.

ðif heo wel wexæt:

heo willed wonien us.
Layamon

quelen pa eorles:
quelen pa beornes:
quelen pa yeines:
quelen pa sweines:
quelen pa lareden:
quelen pa leouweden:
quelen pa aeldren:
quelen pa zeonzeren.
quelaen pa wifmen:
quelen pa wanclen.

For þerstendaei wes Colgrim:
monnen alre kennest.
nu him is al swa þere gat:
þer he þene hul wat.

þerstendaei wes Baldulf:
cnihten alre baldest.
nu he stant on hulle:
& Auene bi-halded.

þerstendaei wes þe kaisere:
kennest alre kingen.
nu he is bicumen hunte:.
& hornes him fulied.
The Anglo-Saxon method of securing contrast is quite evident from the lists that have been given. That it differs from the practice of Layamon is also patent, even though minor resemblances appear. Thus, general and convenient antithetical ideas appear in both,—the dear and the loathly, the high and the low, life and death, youth and age, joy and sorrow. Yet the expressions of these ideas are so various that no definite comparison of similarities is possible. The differences become apparent by a perusal of the three lists. List I shows the Beowulf method of contrast within the verse, and between prominent alliterating words of the two half lines: feasceat funder, he þaes frofre gebad. With the typical Beowulf examples the first Layamon list is congruous: monie þar fuhtan: monie flaem makeden. In both the half line may even be sufficient for completing the contrast: Beowulf—ne leof ne lat; Layamon weore heom lef weore heom lat. Naturally the Layamon examples alliterate more rarely than those of Beowulf, although alliteration strengthens a number of them. The Beowulf shows a preference for nouns which is not characteristic of Layamon; in the Middle English poem there is evident a general tendency to make use of verbs and adjectives, and more especially to combine two parts of speech. The greatest significance, however, lies in the fact that the Beowulf list of verbal contrasts is much longer than the corresponding Layamon list, and that it exhibits much greater variety.
List II is a departure from the Beowulf standard. In it appears intentional antithetical effect, stressing less the words than the contrasting ideas. The Beowulf list, though it contains a few effective passages, is short. The Layamon list, on the contrary, is extensive, containing many interesting examples. Thus Layamon's fondness for parallelism is shown by the following:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{r \ e faeie he sloh} & \quad \text{r \ e quike he bond} & \quad 1290 \\
\text{n} & \quad \text{r \ er nan swa heih:} & \quad 985 \\
\text{n} & \quad \text{r \ er nan swa laih.} & \\
\text{r \ e \a n hine putte hiderward:} & \quad 30780 \\
\text{and r \ e \ o\dd er hine putte zeondward.} & \quad 30758 \\
\text{Brian eode upward:} & \quad \\
\text{Brian eode adunward.} & \\
\end{align*}
\]

The effect of rime in knitting the lines closely together is evident in:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{r \ e \ king him gon to slaepen:} & \quad 30263 \\
\text{and Brien gon to wepen.} & \quad \\
\text{for some he ne mihte fleon:} & \quad 31853 \\
\text{no for haerme her beon.} & \\
\text{we beod under wote:} & \quad \\
\text{a r \ e is al r \ a bote.} & \quad 21925 \\
\text{r\en\e beod r\e forcu\dest:} & \quad 20869 \\
\text{deoren aire pruttest.} & \\
\text{r\e neoren eorles:} & \quad 30992 \\
\text{no w\u00fdr e\u02d7e cheorles.} & \\
\end{align*}
\]
swa longe swa bid aeure:
her ne cume we naeuer.
jis wes al heore gome:
for Ardure's kinges scome.

The close relation of the half lines and the brevity of the idea conveyed gives to the excerpts an epigrammatic tone, which is heightened in such passages as:

pat heo aerest bizeted:
after heo hit leosed.

pa heene us hatied:
& pe cristine us sari makied.
forpe riche haued muchel rum:
to raesen biforen pan wrecchan.

This epigrammatic effect is supplemented by ironical passages:

bidden for eower saulen:
pat se ne wurden heom nauaere.
ne miht þu na wiht so fleon:
þif þu us wlt heonne fleman.
Lien nu þere Colgrim:
þu were iclumen hase.
Swula þu woldest to haeuene:
nu þu scalt to haelle.

These specialized uses of antithesis are foreign to Beowulf.
There are epigrams in the two passages:

Selra bid æghwaem
æt he his freond wrece, þonne he fela murne 1384
Deæt bid sella
eorla gehwylcum þonne edwit-lif 2890

but they are moral epigrams,—aphorisms, rather,—serious and didactic. Perhaps the best of the list is the quick and natural retort of Hroðgar, with its succession of light initial syllables, and its central massing of emphasis:

Ne-frin þu æfter saelum! Sorh is geniwod 1322

On the whole, the Beowulf examples of List II are less effective than the varied and artistically compact passages of Layamon.

List III is a more complicated extension of List II. The Beowulf examples here are more significant than under II. Those at 1.3016 and 3023, a part of the somber and poetic forebodings of Wiglaf's messenger, are effectively managed; and the passage at 1.183 is even more elaborate, with the antithetical balance excellently maintained through several members. Yet even here we find the Layamon list longer and more noteworthy, and its parallelism strongly marked. In the passage at 1.31825 we find parallel construction worked out almost to the point of monotony, slightly relieved by a series of antithetical doubles. The passage at 1.977 includes three contrasting groups arranged in a series which combines to make an impression of strong contrast. The effect is slightly weakened by a neglect of climactic
order, but the passage as a whole has the stamp of conscious and successful artistry. The examples at l. 1416 and 1880 have the further adornment of double contrast,—in the one instance of noun with noun and verb with verb, in the other of a duplicate set of verbs. The last passages quoted have, together with the regular contrasting idea,—identical in the three cases,—the adverbial contrast of erstendaei and nu, and the additional effect of parallelism and dramatic repetition.

Thus it is evident that the greater complexity of Layamon's antithesis separates his use from the Anglo-Saxon method. While Beowulf uses word contrast with excellent effect, List I of Layamon is so simple as to result almost spontaneously from any poetic effort. To predicate Anglo-Saxon origin because of natural similarity is unnecessary. List II is far removed from the Beowulf standard, and List III goes beyond the verse unit, the typical limit of contrast in Beowulf. The antithesis of Beowulf is verbal; the antithesis of Layamon is notional, related to Anglo-Saxon method only by the very general connection of a natural language practice.
Purely as a matter of convenience, I have divided the lists which follow, including in List I catalogs made up of concrete details, in II of persons, in III of places, and in IV of abstractions. Division of the Beowulf material is really unnecessary, and valuable only as it furnishes a means of comparison with Layamon. The Layamon lists, however, are scarcely intelligible without some system of discrimination. For this reason, too, I have separated List I into A and B, setting forth in A regular noun catalogs, and grouping in B divergencies in which the verb shares prominence with the noun.

In both poems List I is of greatest significance and the rest are to be regarded as merely supplementary. In the discussion which follows, observations are in general drawn from List I, the other lists being definitely specified in any cases where they may happen to furnish excellent examples of the phenomena involved.
Catalogs

Beowulf

I.

hilde-waepnum ond heado-waedum,
billum ond byrnum 39
fæt ic sweord bere oððe sidne scyld,
seolo-rand to guðe 437
feorh cyningas,
breost-gewaedu ond se beah somod 1210
fær him Hygd gebead hord ond rice,
beagas ond brego-stol 2369
fær he folc ahte,
burh ond beagas 522
hond rond gefeng,
seolwe linde, gomel swyrd geteah 2609
urum sceal sweord ond helm,
byrne ond byrdu-scrud bam gemaene 2659
hord forstandan,
bearn ond bryde 2955

Him big stodan bunan ond orcas,
discas lagan ond dyre swyrd 3047
Beowulf

helmum behongen, hilde-bordum,
beorhtum byrnum, swa he bena waes

Hwanon frigeaeg ge faette scyldas,
graege syrcan ond grim-helmas,
here-sceaffa heap

Bruc fisses beages, Beowulf leofa,
hyse, mid haele, ond fisses hraegles neot,
þeod-gestreona

Het þa in beran eafor heafod-segn,
heado-steapne helm, hare byrnan,
gud-sweord geatolic

Hyrde ic, þaet he þone heals-beah Hygde gesealde,
wraetlicane wundur-maddum, þone-þe him Wealhþeo geaf,
dæodnes dohtor, þrio wieg somod
swancor ond sadol-beorht

Þaet he on Biowulfes bearm alegde,
ond him gesealde seofan þusendo,
bold ond brego-stol

him on bearm hladen bunan ond discas
sylfes dome, segn eac genom,
scaena beorhtost

nam on Ongentio iren byrnan,
heard swyrd hilted ond his helm somod
Beowulf

Waes þæt beorhte bold tobrocen swide
eal inne-weard iren-bendum faest,
heorras tohlidene; hrof ana genaes
ealles ansund

Forgeaf þa Beowulfes bearn Healfdenes
segen gyldenne sigores to leane,
hroden hilde-cumbor, helm ond byrnan;
maere maþum-sweord

Him waes ful boren ond freond-laþu
wordum bewaegned ond wunden gold
estum geeawed, earm-hreade two
hraegl ond hringas heals-beage maest

æt þæm ade waes æþ-gesyne
swat-fah syrce, swyn eal-gylken,
æofor iren-heard, æþeling manig

þa waes on healle heard-ecg togen,
sweord ofer settum, sid-rand manig
hafen handa faest; 'helm ne-gemunde,
byrnan side, þa hine se broga angeat.

ond his magum ætbaer
brun-fagne helm, hringde byrnan,
eald sweord etonisc, þæt him Onela forgeaf,
his gaedelinges guð-gewædu,

fyrd-searo fuslic
Beowulf

Dyde him of healse  hring gyldenne
þioden prist-hydig,  þegne gessealde,
egongum gar-wigan,  gold-fahne helm,
beah ond byrnan  2809

Setton him to heafdon,  hilde-randas,
bord-wudu beorhtan;  þæer on bence weas
ofer aþelinge  yd-gesene
heodo-steapa helm,  hringed byrne,
þrec-wudu þrymlíc  1242
þæt hie him ofer flet  eal gerymdon,
healle ond heah-setl,  þæet hie healfre geweald
wid Eotena bearn  agan moston,
ond æt feoh-gyftum  Folcwaldan sunu
dogra gehwylce  Dene weorþode,
Hengestes heap  hringum wenede,
efne swa swide  sinc-gestreonum
faettan goldes,  swa he Fresena cyn

maddum-sigla fealo,
gold glitinian  grunde getenge,
wundur on wealle  ond þaes wyrmes denn,
ealdes uht-flogan;  orças stondan,
þyrn-manna fatu,  feormend-lease,
hyrstum behrorene:  þæer weas helm monig,
eald ond omig,  earm-beaga fela,
searwum gesæled.  Sinc eæde maeg,
Beowulf

gold on grunde, gum-cynnes gehwone
ofrer-higian: hyde se-de wylle!
Swylce he siomian geseah, segn eall-gylden,
heah ofer horde, hond-wundra maest

gud-byrne scan
heard hond-locen, hryng-iren scir,
song in searwum, hie to sele furðum
in hyre gryre-geatwum gangan cwomon.
Letton sae-mepa side scyladas,
rondas regn-hearde wid þaes recedes weal;
bugon þa to bence: byrnan hringdon,
gud-searo gumena; garas stodon,
sae-manna searo; samod aetgaedere,
aesc-holt ufann graeg
Beowulf

II

fanon untydras ealle onwocon,
scotenas ond ylfe ond orc-menas,
swylce gigantas

Herebeald ond Haedcyn odde Hygelac min
Heorogar ond Hrodgar ond Halga Til
faet he to Gifdum odde to Gar-Denum
odde in Swio-rice,
Beowulf

III

donon he gesohte swaesne edel,
leof his leodum lond Bronginga,
freodo-burh faegere

Hie dygel lond

warige æt, wulf-hleoƿu, windige naessas,
frecne fen-gelad, aer fyrgen-stream
under naessa genipu niðer gewited

no he on holm losap,
ne on foldan faþm, ne on fyrgen-holt,
ne on gyfenes grund, ga þæer he will

steap stan-hlido, stige nearwe,
enge an-paþas, un-cuþ gelad,
neowle naessas, nicor-husa fela
Beowulf
IV

od̄-pæt unc flod todraf,
wado weallende, wëdera cealdost,
nipende niht ond norpan wind
no hine wiht ðweled, 545
adl ne ðylde, ne him inwit-sorh
on sefan sweorceð, ne gæsacu ohwaer
ecg-hete eowæd 1735

pæt ec adl oddæ ecg ðæforæs getwaefed,
oddæ fyres fæng oddæ flodes wylm
oddæ gripe meoes oddæ gares flint
oddæ atol ðylde, oddæ eagena bearhtm
forsited ond forsworced 1763
mid stelene orde:
& mid starka biten.
mid stocken & mid stanen:
& Æorned mine madmas.
& mine leoue dohter:

mid hornen & mid hunden:
& mid fíf hundred cnihten.

to nimen his heortes & his hindes:
& al þa deor þat ich finde.

mid allen heora uenge.
& mid seoluere & mid golde:

mid bouren & mid hallen.
mid hae3e stan walle.

scipien heom mid londe:
mid seoluere & mid golde.

hafden and heore honden:
& heore white halmes.

þisles ich wulle haben:
of haexten his monnen.
hors & heore wepan:
daies & dunes
Layamon

mid heore speren longe:
and mid sweoreden swide stronge 21396

mid clubben swide graete.
mid spaeren and mid graete uazen:

he ȝæf heom lif he ȝæf heom lumen:
& heore lond to halden. 21935

sae & ȝa sunne.
wind and ȝa wide se:

nom him an honde:
of seoluer and ȝa golde.

nom he tunnen gode:

swe scarpe wes ȝe pic:
ȝe staf wes swide sellic.

and bitechen me his sune:
his gold and his gaersume.

uppen alle ȝe londe:
uppen seoluer and uppen'golde.

he bi-nom heore lif.
and heore leoden:
and al ȝat heo loof hafden.

his teldes alle sette.
his marken & his mare:
and eke his mon-weoredes.
he nom his madmes alle:
and his mon deore.

heo luveden bi wuden:
heo lufeden bi wurten.
bi moren and bi rote:

mid scelden and mid burnen:
mid wifen and mid children.

bi sixe bi secuene:
bi tene bi eolleue.
bi twelue bi twenti
bi trett bi feowerti.

heo bi-tahten heore hors:
and heore burnen.
scaftes & sceldes:
& longe heore swerodes.

pa burh wes wel iarwed:
binnen lüt yearen.
he þef heo his stepmoder:
for þon lofe of his broþer.
& Lauinion þen castel:
& muchel lond þer to.

on sterren and on sunne:
and on þare sae brade.
isiht he cuðe:
a winde and a mone.
of pan uisce per he wlaet:
and of wurmen per heo crepe.

penne heom al his age:
"he he bi eten mahte.
& alle his scipen gode:
'a floten bi sae flode.
& his dohter Ignogen:
heore duc to quene.

mid wresipen hezen.
mid mete & mid drinchen:
& mid murie gleo-dreme.
mid seoluer & mid golde:
'he elche bar an honde.
mid horsen & mid scruden:

mid fenne & mid raede:
mid watere swide braede.
mid fiscen & mid feozelen:
mid uniuene pinge.
'at water is unimete brade:
nikeres per baded inne.
'per is aeluene plode:
in atteliche pole.
sixti aet-londes:
beod i pan watere longe.
in aelc of pan ait-londe:
is a clude haeh and strong.
nes naestied arnes:
& odere graete uoȝeles.

past is alreforwarde:
pat heo us ifreocie.
sone par after:
surne we his dohter.
past he heo ȝeue ure lauerde:
Brutun to his bedde.
of his corne he us ȝeue swa muches:
past we beon iquemel.
gold & garsume:
& his gode hors.
& al his beste maete cun:
pe his men habbed.
& alle pa lidinde scipen:
pe on his londe bedef.
& alle at bi-houed:
pa scipen to driuen.
of monnen & of wapnen:
Layamon

I. B.

He nom þa Englisca boc:
an ofer he nom on Latin:
boc he nom þe þridde:
heo rihten heora rapes:
heo raerdan heora mastes.
heo wunden up seiles:

breken braden speren:
brustleden sceldes.
feollen Saexisce men:

he þe wule binden.
quellen þine leoden:
ond þi lond ægen.

wind heom com on wille:
heo wunden up seiles to coppe.
scipen gunnen liðen:
leod-scopes sungen.

þa falden heo adune:
heremarken uaje.
heo wurpen sceldes sone:

þa sunne gon to scine:
þe rein bi-gon to rine.
þe qual' gon to stunte:

al þridden dale mi lond:
ich wolde setten Brutan on hond.
& freoien al his folc:
& freonscipe makien.
& Ignogen mine dohte:
3euen eowre duke.

yat me hit him to brohte: 1057
alle his aihte.
& greidede his scipen gode:
bi pan sae flode.
& al yat paer to bi-houede.

aet to hire he wolde teman: 1077
& wrchen hire ane temple.
& on licnesse of raede golde:
whenne he come to londe.
& ae to his liue:
hire willen idrizen.

he braeid hae3e his sceld:
forn to his breosten.
he igrap his spere longe:
his horse he gone spurie'.

a-marden pas leoden.
bur3es he barnde:
castles he ualde.
his here wrohte on londe:
harmes uniuo[e.
Layamon

þurh hire þu miht biwinnen:
lufe of hire cunnen.
and iwinnen al þi kine-lond:
to þire æzere hond.
and wunien on londe:
and walde þine riche.

and he wulle þi mon bi-cume:
and to þisle seollen þe his sune.
and of þe his kine-lond halden:
and for lauerd þe ikenne.
& on ælchere þeode:
beon þaru to þine neode.
he wulle beon þi mon icoren:

þeos to waden wenden:
and þer gunnen wunien.
and barnden Cadwalanes lond:
and eoden him ludere an hond.
& his folc slozen:
a þeole cunnes wissen.

ah þif þu wult me lenen:
& þine læue iunnen.
and þu me wulle fulsten:
and ferde bi-taechen.
and swa muchel of þine garsume:
god swa þe þunche.

of heore quale-side.
& hu heo ifaren hafden:
elleue seren.
& hu pat ufel wes at-stunt:
& hu pa tunes ibuld.
and huper wes faeizer lond:
inoh seolues and gold.

3eue us e king & al his gold:
& pa madmes of his lond.
3ef us peal 3eue us hors:
3eue us haihe scrud.
3eue us aenne ende:
of his kine-londe.
3eue us zilsaes per to:

par is fuzel par is fisc:
per wuniad feire deor.
par is wode par is water:
par is wilderne muchel.
weallen per beod feire.
wuniad in pon londe:
ecotantes swide stronge.

His sconken he helede:
mid hose of ftele.
Calibeorne his fweord:
he sweinde bi his side.
hit wes iworht in Aualun:
mid wigele-fulle craften.
Halm he set on hafde:
haeh of stele.
Jer on wes moni 3im-ston:
al mid golde bi-gon.
he wes Uderes:
chas adelen kinges.
he wes ihaten Goswhit:
aelchen odere unilic.
He heng an his sweore:
aenne sceld deore.
his nome wes on Bruttisc:
Pridwen ihaten.
Jer wes innen igrauen:
mid rede golde stauen.
an on-licnes deore:
of drihtenes moder.
His spere he nom an.honde:
pra Ron wes ihaten.
To-gadere gunnen resen:
peines riche.
breken speren longe:
sceldes brastleden an honde.
heouwen he ȝ e helmes:
scaenden ȝ a brunies.
feollen aerm kempes:
aemteden sad eles.
drem wes on uolke:
ȝ a eorðe gon to dunien.
urnen ȝ a brockes:
of reden blodes.
feollen ȝ a folckes:
falewede nebbes.
Bruttes gunnen breoden:
balu wes on uolken.

gaeres heo letten gliden.
breken braede weizes:
brustleden scaftes.
gold-uȝe sceldes:
scanden bilifes.
feollen ȝ a cnihtes:
faleweden nebbes.
ȝeond ȝan feldes wide:
swulten men uaeige.
blod orn in þe weige:
streams swide brade.

feollen þa uaeige.
brokes þer wnen:
mid unimete stremen.
of bloden þan rede:
þe balu wes unimete.
helmes þer gullen:
beornes þer uesollen.
sceledes gunnen scenen:
schalkes gunnen swelten.

and hu he sette moting:
& hu he sette husting.
and hu he sette halimot:
& hu he sette hundred.
and þa nomen of þan tunen:
on Sexisce runen.
& þildæn he gon rere:
mucle & swide maere.
& þa chirchen he gon dihten:
after Sexisce irihten.
and Sexis he gon kennen:
þa nomen of þan monnen.

al nim þi seoluer and þi gold.
nim an hundred hunden:
nim an hundred haukeken.
nim an hundred steden:
nim gold-fah i-wede.
and send þas gretinge:
to Cadwadlan kinge.

þider comen kinges:
and eke here-pringes.
þider comen eorles:
þider comen beornes.
biscpes þider comen:
and boc-ilerede men.
riche and hene:
þider heo comen alle.

queleg ða eorles:
queleg ða beornes.
queleg ða þeines:
queleg ða sweines.
queleg ða lareden:
queleg ða leouwedan.
queleg ða aeldren:
queleg ða zeongeren.
queleg ða wifmen:
queleg ða wanclen.
Catalogs
Layamon
II.
of Kunne & of folke:

of monne & of ahte.

Pa wepmen weren iwexan:
Pa wimen wel ipowene.
& heore nutene:
neotsume weren.
of gode onihten.
wid outen wifmen:
Pe noht ne cunnen of wepmen.
children & hliten:
wapmen & wifmen:
Pa weoleyen & a weadlen
summe he sloh summe he bond:
Pa beste quike he at-heold.
beornes and eorles:
& Pa hali biscopes.
alle Pa ine men iborne:
Englisce and Bruttisce.
eorles & beornes:
onihtes & claerckes.
Per wes Oswy of-slagen:
& idon of lif-dazen.
& his sune & his aem:
& eorles sume uiuen.

Per weoren niȝe þuseude:
Pringes norderne.
islaȝen i þan daȝe:

Per comen seouen kinges:
and six sunen kinges.
sequentene eorles:
and sixti þusend beornnes.

Per feolcen seouen kinges:
and six sunen kinges.
his eorles his beornes:
his cnihtes his cheorles.
Per wes þe swein & þe cnaue:
beien of are laȝe.

AElec of his birlen:
& of his bur−pæinen.
& his ber−cnihtes:
gold beren in honden.
to ruggen and to bedde:
iscrud mid gode webbe.
Neðe he neuere naenne cod:
þaêt he nes keppe swide god.
neuaer nanes cnihtes swein:
þaêt he naes bald þein.
Layamon

ta tuzen towuark hirede:
alle pat weoren ihadded.
& preo biscope wis:
a boke wel ilaered.
preostes & mucnekes:
unimete monie.
canones per komen:
monie & wel idone.
mid alle pan halidomen:
pa hahst an londe weoren.
and zeornden Ardures grid:
and his admeñen.
 Ryder pa wifes komen:
pa i pan londen wuneden.
heo wasiden in haere aermen:
heore children aermen.

buten Noe & Sem:
Japhet & Cham.
& heore four wiues:

vere gene cun Heleine:
ves kinges sune Priami.
& muchel folc of his peoden:

Childric ihaten.
& Colgrim & Baldulf:

Ebissa & Ossa:
Octa & of pine cunne ma.
Colgrim was þe hæohst mon:
þat ut of Sax com.
after Hengeste:
& Horse his broder.
& Octa & Ossa:
& heore iuere Ebissa.

þer lai þe kaisere:
& Colgrim his iuere.
& Baldulf his broder:
& moni an oðer.

þer Childrich lid i ueldes.
Colgrim & Baldulf:
mid baldere strengeðe.
þat Alemainsce uolc:
þat us hæfed ihaermed.
& þat Sæxisce uolc:
þat sorzen us bihated.
þat alle habbeð aquaelde:
þa hæahste of mine cunne.
Conßanz and Costantin:
& Úðer þe wes fader min.
and Auriliaen Ambrosie:
mines fader broder.
& moni þusend monnen:
of ædle mine cunne.
Layamon

wes þe wei holh & long:
| a lude (clude?) weren stronge.

no on uelde no on wude:
no nauere nare stude.
dales & dunes:
& al mi drihtliche uole.
of dalen & of dunen:
& of baecchen deopen.
wenden ouer woldes:
& ouer wildernes.
ouer dales & ouer dunes:
ouer deope wateres.

he scal habben payes weste:
and wildernesse inoʒe.
and monie mod-sorhʒe:
his monscipe scal ualle.

þeond cludes & þeond cliuuen.
þeond chirchen & þeond munec-cluuen:
þeond wudes & þeond liden.

and sende in to Denene:
to Galwaðe & to Scotland
Orcaneie & Galeweie:
Man & Murene.
and alle þæ londes:
þe þer to laeien.
ouer pen lac of Siluius:
& ouer pen lac of Philisteus.
bi Ruscikadan heo nomen pa sae:
& bi pe montaine of Azare.

To Peito he sende:
sele his peines.
& sum touward Flanders:
feondliche swiđe.
and to Turuine:
tweie per wenden.
& into Gascuinne:
cnihtes aec gode.

Al Scot-peode:
he ʒaf his ane peine.
& al Nord-humberlond:
he sette his brođer on hond.
Galeweore & Orcaneie:
he ʒaf his ane eorle.
him seolf he nom from Humbre:
pat lond into Lundene.

he nom Sumerset:
& he nom Dorset.
and al Deuene-scire:
pat volc al for-ferde.
and he Wiltun-scire:
mid widere igraette.
he nom all pa londes:
in to pære sae stronde
and senden to Sexlonde.
he sende in to Denene:
he sende in to Moreine.
in to Wellisce londe:
in to Scotlonde.
in to Orcaneixe:
in to Galwaixe.
in to Islonde:
in to Frislonde.
in to Gutlonde:
par aros wale & win:
& wider-hepes feola
muchel dom muchel dune:
muchel folkes dream.

mid wizeleden mid wrenchen:
mid wunderliche strengden.

hesne wop & hesne rop:
& reouden uniuoze.

her wes wop & her wes rop:
and reouden uniuoze.
muchel hunger & haete:

mid hungere & mid hete:
mid feole cunne haermen.
mid wapnen mid waeteren:
mid feole wan-siden.
mid gride mid fride and mid lufe.
The lists of noun catalogs are in many respects similar. The typical example cited by Brandl is not essentially different from the Layamon catalog

heo bi-tahten heore hors:
and heore burnen.
scaftes & sceldes:
& longe heore sweordes.

More extended catalogs from the two poems are:

Forgeaf .pa Beowulf bearn Healfdenes
segen gyldenne sigores to leane,
hroden hilte-cumbor, helm ond hyrnan;
maere madpum sweord
mid wrscipen he\n\nmid mete & mid drinchen:
& mid murie gleo-dreme.
mid secluer & mid golde:
pe elche bar an honde.
mid horsen & mid scruden:

On the surface, then, the noun catalogs of the two poems appear closely related. The examples quoted, however, have been chosen with a view to showing similarities; comprehensive and impartial examination of the lists indicates that the resemblances are, after all, superficial.

From the point of view of content the two reflect some differences of social organization. The noun catalogs of the Beowulf are made up almost exclusively of arms and treasure,
or a combination of them, - beah and byrnan. One use of the catalogs is to depict the generosity of prince to hero, or the homage of the seeling to his lord. The catalogs of weapons, of course, exhibit the warlike nature of the people, but even these may be merely the form that gift-giving takes. In two places only is the emphasis of the Beowulf catalogs shifted, and in the second of these the departure is slight.

There is, to be sure, plenty of fighting in Layamon, and giving of treasure as well. But the weapons of Layamon are largely represented in action, - practical helps rather than symbols of knightly valor; the gift-giving is forced, meeting the demands of a victorious people setting its price; and the catalogs are by no means so exclusively confined to gifts and armor.

For the purposes of the present study the stylistic differences in the catalogs are naturally of greater moment than the diverse social life reflected in them. The Layamon list is much less homogeneous than the Beowulf list. Several of its manifestations invite attention. List I is subdivided, with regular noun catalogs collected under A, and some significant deviations reserved for B. List I A begins with a number of abbreviated catalogs. It is noticeable that most of these require something more than the mere details of the catalog to fill out the line, the preposition mid being especially useful.

mid hornen & mid hunden:
& mid fif hundred onihten.

mid scelden and mid burnen:
mid wifen and mid children.
hafden and heore honden:
& heore white halmes.  

he 3aef heom lif he 3ef heom lumen:
& heore lond to halden.  

Sae & pa sunne.
Wind and pa wide se:

mid stelene orde:
& mid sterca biten.
mid stocken & mid stanen: 

The examples here cited illustrate another difference in the catalogs of the two poems. It is evident that the *Beowulf* examples are, on the whole, consistent. Like objects are collected. In

hord forstandan,  
bearn ond bryde  
and

feorh cyninges, 
breost-gewaedu ond se beah somod  
aer he folc ahte, 
burh ond beagas  

there is a combining of the inanimate with the animate, but the case is unusual in *Beowulf*. In *Layamon* it is quite common.
The first example quoted joins quite impartially horns and hounds and knights, just as wives and children fill out a line started with shields and burnies. The combination may even be somewhat ludicrous, as in this example chosen from List II:
Apparently Layamon is not much concerned with consistency in his
catalogs. He is evidently less interested in what he is saying
than in his manner of saying it. His combinations may or may
not be appropriate. Yet even though they fall short of the
precise Beowulf standard, they accomplish Layamon's intention.
By them he secures a balanced long line with corresponding
halves.

It is interesting to note that beyond this narrow
limit of two or three or four consecutive half lines, Layamon's
pure noun catalogs deteriorate slightly. His introduction of
extraneous words results in loose passages wherever he attempts
to vary these words. The example at l. 1821, quoted earlier,
is one of the most perfect of the extended noun catalogs in
List I A, and its satisfactory effect is due entirely to
repetition of the preposition mid. The example at l. 231
has forceful parts, and these are held together by repetition.
In other words, Layamon's effective passages are parallel.

The deviations under B show most clearly Layamon's
use of noun catalogs, and consequently this is his most
significant division. Here the verb comes into prominence
to link the details of the catalogs into effective parallel
In longer passages this method contributes greatly to the poetic effect of the Middle English poem:

and hu he sette moting:
& hu he sette husting.
and hu he set sciren:
and makede frið of deoren.
& hu he sette halimot.
& hu he sette hundred.

Obviously it is not in Layamon only that we find parallelism, which is a natural result of the catalog device. From List IV of Beowulf are drawn the following poetic lines:

\[ \begin{align*}
\text{æst } \text{æl odde eog } & \text{æafæs getwaefed}, \\
\text{odde fyres feng } & \text{odde fodes wyld}, \\
\text{odde gripe meces } & \text{odde gares fliht}, \\
\text{odde atol yldo, } & \text{odde eagena bearhtm,}
\end{align*} \]
Yet we feel that parallelism in *Beowulf* is natural or occasional, rather than conscious and fundamental. Where the enumeration alone does not fill the line, though it is frequently sufficient, the *Beowulf* catalogs preferably use variation.

hond rond gefeng,
geolwe linde,  gomel swyrd geteah  2609
Bruc ðisses beagas,  Beowulf leofa,
hyse, mid haele,  ond ðisses hraegles neot,
þeod-gestreona

Layamon's nearest approach to variation appears in
heore scalen wleotet:
swulc gold-fæge sceldes.
þer fleoted heore spiten:
swulc hit sparen weoren.  21326

where it is highly probable that the distinction between scales and fins is of less importance than the extension of the dramatic figure involved. This use of variation in Layamon corresponds in a measure to the use of parallelism in *Beowulf*. Since in the older epic parallelism is not a verse necessity, it is there reserved chiefly for emotional moments, with added vigor because of its rarity.

In relation to stylistic differences the length of the various lists is important. All the Layamon divisions are longer than the corresponding divisions of *Beowulf*, in which II, III and IV are noticeably short. This is because the interest of the
Beowulf in the details of the catalogs tends to attract all cases to I, while the effort of Layamon to secure parallelism results in a slightly more even distribution and in much longer lists. Moreover the individual passages of Layamon are long. In the few extended passages of Beowulf, variation shares interest with the cataloging device; Layamon's long catalogs are decidedly more numerous, and are single in aim. Measured by the full line, some of Layamon's passages are no longer than Beowulf catalogs which appear shorter to the eye. Yet they give an effect of greater length because of Layamon's preference for the Schwellvers. Miss McNary points out that Layamon was attracted by the iambic rhythm of Wace because it permitted extra stresses. She regards 10% as a conservative estimate of his hypermetrical lines, giving 39.3 as the probable percentage, and 45.4% as possible. For these reasons, Layamon's passages, frequently long, create an impression of length greater than the actual count of lines might justify.

In reviewing these differences, we are led to the natural conclusion, supported by previous observations of varied phenomena in the two poems, that Layamon's use of catalogs is not derived from Anglo-Saxon practice. The interest of Beowulf is primarily in the details themselves, and the characteristic device of variation, employed here as

2. Ibid. p. 21-22.
elsewhere, serves to connect the items of the catalogs. Layamon, on the contrary, is interested in his numerous details largely for their inestimable value as appropriate elements for parallel structure,—one of the chief poetic devices of the Middle English epic.
CONCLUSION

By a consideration of the minor verse devices of Layamon's Brut and of Beowulf, we reach several conclusions.

A. The Beowulf use of preposed pronouns as a modification of Kennings is far superior in aesthetic effect to Layamon's generally feeble use.

B. So, too, in adverbial phrases Beowulf exhibits a greater number of poetic expressions. Even where Layamon secures poetry in his phrases, as, for example, in terms referring to the sea, whose emotional appeal inspired both poets to rise to a higher level of art, he fails to attain the vigor and diversity of the Beowulf.

C. Typical adjectives, by their very nature, generally lack poetic effect. Yet even here Layamon's phrases are more commonplace, and his greater percentage of repetition shows him to be less eager for variety than the Beowulf poet, and, on the whole, more prosaic.

D. The superior poetic diction of the Beowulf comes out more clearly, however, in its decorative adjectives, which surpass those of Layamon both in their number and in their poetic quality. The more numerous compounds of Beowulf are an index to the loftier tone of the Anglo-Saxon poem. Krackow points out that in the Middle English period, compounds no longer served as poetic devices in the language.

1. Die Nominalcomposita, p. 79
E. The Beowulf shows, moreover, greater skill in the use of couplets, which are more compact than in Layamon, thus receiving stronger stress, and securing the heightened effect of alliteration.

We see, then, that in the five divisions of the material which deal primarily with poetic diction in single words and combinations, the Beowulf shows a larger vocabulary and greater discrimination in the use of words. The last three divisions come also under the general head of diction, but in them the idea receives greater emphasis. Hence there is a line of division at this point, although it can not be sharply drawn.

F. It is to be remarked that both poets adopt a circumlocutory method of palliating harsh facts. Thus mankind prefers to veil death in periphrastic terms. The feeling is natural, and it need be no cause for surprise that both the Beowulf and the Layamon make use of easy figurative & euphemistic expressions. Yet it cannot be questioned that the Beowulf poet reveals a more vivid imagination, both in the varied turns of thought which he evolves from commonplace euphemism, and in the more poetical expression at his command.

G. Antithesis marks a turning point in the poetic methods of the two epics. Both employ contrasting words and ideas, but their fundamental aim is not the same. Beowulf seeks to join antithetical words in the single line. Layamon has something of this in a simpler and less effective form, but
his use of antithesis is essentially different from the *Beowulf* use. His antithetic effects are largely aphoristic, or epigrammatic, or even ironical. As a result he is more given than *Beowulf* to complication of form. The contrast of the *Beowulf* heightens the poetic effect of its diction; the contrast of Layamon reveals an aphoristic tendency which is quite noticeable in the style of his verse.

H. The catalogs bridge over the gap between minor and major devices. As catalogs they do not primarily determine style. They do, nevertheless, foreshadow the significant difference in the verse method of the two poems. In the *Beowulf* catalogs, variation appears, while Layamon exhibits an unreserved preference for parallelism of structure.

Thus it is evident that in spite of some similarities, which are, from the point of view of style, superficial, the *Beowulf* and the *Brut* are not essentially alike. The eight verse devices which have been considered are alike in reflecting more differences than similarities. Even in B, C, D, and E, where, the devices are close to familiar prose speech, we find only a limited number of similarities, and in the remaining categories the resemblances constantly decrease. In no wise can the Old English epic be looked upon as the prototype of the later chronicle. Layamon's heritage from early poetics is too slight to be significant, - so slight, indeed, as to be practically inseparable from language inheritance. In all the verse
devices which are essentially Anglo-Saxon the *Beowulf* poet shows himself a master, while Layamon uses them scarcely more frequently or more cleverly than acquaintance with a common language naturally allows. On purely Anglo-Saxon poetic ground Layamon is prosaic and conversely, where he achieves poetry he departs from the earlier method, or at least so modifies it to meet his needs that it is no longer recognizable as Anglo-Saxon. Only as a natural concomitant to speech is Anglo-Saxon verse tradition carried over into the Middle English period. To determine the real poetic value of the spirited chronicle we must seek comparison in its own field, since to view it as a lineal descendant of Anglo-Saxon is to be led astray.
May 24, 1915

Professor Walter Miller,
Chairman, Graduate Conference,

Dear Sirs:

I have carefully examined the thesis of Miss Frances Miller, and hereby recommend its acceptance.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Chester Murray
May 15, 1915

Dear Dean Miller:

I submit hereunto:

Miss Frances Miller's dissertation for the degree of Master of Arts, just received.

It has my approval.

Sincerely yours,

H. W. Belden