LNG 202, Middle English Quiz, April 11, 2017

1) Why did the vowel quantity in the following words change from Old English to Middle English?

OE *camb* [kɑmb] ME *camb* [kɑ:mb]

OE *feld* [fɛld] ME *feld* [fɛ:ld]

OE *word* [wɔrd] ME *word* [wɔ:rd]

2) What happened to the case system in Middle English as a result of the weakening of unstressed vowels to /ɛ/ and then /ə/? For example, in OE, the phrase “þa siex stafas” would appear as “the six staves” in Middle English.

3) What is “periphrasis”?

4) The word “pilgrimage” demonstrates a particular sound change in the process of being borrowed from Latin, *perigrinus*. Circle the term that describes this sound change: assimilation, dissimilation, deletion, lenition.

5) Dialects of Middle English varied in how they marked present tense verbs. Identify the person (1st, 2nd, 3rd) of the verb “loves” in this sentence: “He whom thou loues full wele alway / Es seke, and like, lord, for to dye.”

Extra credit (1 point): Based on the form of this verb, what dialect (North, Midlands, South) of Middle English is this text written in.

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