
Abstract

**The Influence of Latin on Word Order Variation
in the Old English *Orosius***

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The claim that Latin influenced the syntax of early English has generally been admitted, but the extent of its influence has been thought difficult to verify, because Latin's influence decreased as English prose developed. This paper approaches the question of Latin influence on Old English (OE) by examining the development of verb-second word order in the OE *Orosius*, which was rendered from the Latin original by an anonymous translator in Alfred's circle in the late ninth century. I measure OE's difference from Latin by the prevalence of verb-second word order. As is well known, verb-second word order is characteristic of the syntax of Germanic languages, and it is the prevailing word order in the main clause in OE. This paper clarified the difference between the OE prose without its Latin original and the OE prose translated from its original Latin text by examining their word orders.