<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>The language of Laʒamon's Brut (I)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub Title</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>岩崎, 春雄(Iwasaki, Haruo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>慶應義塾大学藝文学会</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication year</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genre</td>
<td>Journal Article</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The copyrights of content available on the KeiO Associated Repository of Academic resources (KOARA) belong to the respective authors, academic societies, or publishers/issuers, and these rights are protected by the Japanese Copyright Act. When quoting the content, please follow the Japanese copyright act.
THE LANGUAGE OF LA3AMON'S BRUT (I)

Haruo Iwasaki

1. The language of La3amon's Brut belongs to the period of early Middle English when the tendency to simplify the linguistic structure which first developed in late Old English was being realized. It is therefore of great importance apart from its literary value for a historical study of the English language. There are two texts of Brut preserved in the Cotton collection in the British Museum: Caligula A. ix and Otho C. xiii.* The former was presumably written in 1200 or thereabout and the latter about a half century later.

The aim of this article is to compare these two texts and to reveal some features of the traditional poetic language in its transitional stage in the first half of the thirteenth century. As it is impossible to cover here all the phenomena presented in the two texts, this article will be restricted largely to an inquiry as to how the words and grammatical forms in the C-text are changed in the O-text. The words will be given in alphabetical order with specimens followed by their modern rendering. The numbers in brackets indicate frequency and those in parentheses indicate line-number. The materials will be studied in two separate sections: vocabulary and grammar. The text used is 'LA3AMON: BRUT' (ed. by G. L. Brook and R. F. Leslie, EETS 250, 1963) and the lines here under investigation are 1-5117.**

VOCABULARY

NOUNS

2. C aldorman: O man [1]
   Numbert hehte pe alder-mon (712) Numberd hepte pe man
   (=the man was called Numbert)

*Here referred to as the C-text and the O-text respectively.
** N. Bøgholm's similar investigation, The Layamon Texts: A Linguistical Investigation (Einar Munksgaard, Copenhagen 1944), came to my attention after this article had been finished. Comparison with and criticism of this book will be made in another article.
3. C aðelene: O folk [1], cnihtes [1]
of æðelene hire fædere (1639) of hire fader cnihtes
(=of her father's knights)

4. C aðeling: O kniht [1], frendes [1]
Heo axeden aðelinges (2681) ...axede pe cnihtes
(=They asked the knights)

5. C æhte: O godes [1], seoluer [1]
þa æhte heo nomen (4698) þe godes inomen
(=they seized the goods)

6. C balu: O care [1], wowe [2], harm [1]
pu scalt...muchel balu habben (3669) ...mochel care habbe
(=thou shalt have great sorrow)

7. C beorn: O man [2], cniht [3], kempe [1], children [1]
beornes per fullen (2267) cniptes par fullen
(=knights fell there)

Lihtēo of eowre blanken (2924) Of youre hors a-liptep
(=Alight from your horses)

9. C burstan: O harme [6], lure [1]
for hora muchela burstan (500) for hire mochele arme
(=by reason of their great harm)

10. C compe: O fihte [6], werre [1]
per heo weren on kompen (2103) pare hii weren on fihte
(=where they were in the combat)

Seie pu bi-fore mire duȝ[ð]en (1501) (S)e(i bi-fore mine men
(=Say thou before my people)

faie-sip pes kinges (1415) Rudibras his deape
(=the death of King Rudibras)

13. C folde: O grunde [4], lond [1]
and he feol to folde (1443) and he ful to grunde
(=and he fell to the ground)

inne griðe and in friðe (1261) in gripe and paise
(=in concord and in peace)

ne na gael heo[m] senden (4589) ne non truage sende
(=nor any tribute send to them)

i griðe he heold his kine-lond (1342) in paise heold...
(=he held his kingdom in peace)

17. C gume: O man [3], cniht [1]
   pa com an gume ærenen (4260) po com par a man erne
   (=then came a man running)

   and sette æld a pisse londe (3584) setten truage...
   (=and set tribute in this land)

   pa hefde Brutus pa ȝeue (897) po hafde Brutus pe ȝeft
   (=Then had Brutus the gift)

    ȝisles heo him ȝeouen sone (2728) Hostages him bi-toke
    (=they soon gave him hostages)

    haures he sende (746) spiares he [s]ende
    (=he sent spies)

22. C hærre: O lauerd [3]
    and habben me for harre (2712) and habbe me for louerd
    (=and have me for lord)

    pa heléðes weren bliðe (891) pe cniptes weren blipe
    (=the knights were glad)

24. C hæretoge: O heuedling [1], cheueteine [1]
    heafden he to here-toge enne hæh-borene mon (4980) hadden hii anne heued ling...
    (=they had for leader a high-born man)

25. C hired: O men [1], cnihtes [2], folke [3], ferde [2], londe [2]
    mid al his hirede he wes per (1687) mid alle his cnihtes...
    (=he was there with all his retinue)

    kempen per feollen (1082) cniptes per fallen
    (=knights fell there)

27. C leode: O men [5], cnihtes [1], peode [3], londe [14], folke [17]
    An prest wes on leoden (1) A prest was in londe

(3) — 170 —
(=There was a priest on earth)

28. C maðmas: O godes [3]
   alle his maðmas (445) alle his godes
   (=all his riches)

29. C mensca: O mansipe [1]
   mid mensca heold his riche (1268) mid mansipe held his riche
   (=he held his kingdom with honour)

   pe leof hire weis on mode (2240) pat leof hire was on heorte
   (=who was dear to her in mind)

31. C quides: O word [3]
   zif pu brekest pine quides (4904) zef pou brekest pin word
   (=if thou breakest thy word)

32. C scalkes: O men [1], cnihtes [1], kempes [1]
   pa scalkes weoren stronge [940] pe kempes weren stronge
   (=the heroes were strong)

33. C seg: O man [1], cniht [1], gleomen [1]
   Ful sooth seide pe seg (3997) Sop saide pe man
   (=Full sooth said the man)

34. C sibbe: O paise [1]
   Sæhte and sibbe he luuede (3039) Septe and pais he (1)ofuede
   (=he loved concord and peace)

35. C sot: O fol [3]
   Cniht pu ært muchel sot (723) Cnipt pou art mocel fol
   (=Knight, thou art a great fool)

36. C sothschipe: O folie [1]
   pa get nolde pe leod-king his sothscipe bi-læuen (1510) ...his folie bleue
   (=Yet would not the king leave his folly)

37. C stunde: O wile [1]
   In are lutle stunde (921) in a lutel wile
   (=In a little while)

38. C tiðind: O tiding [23]
   pa tiðind com to Corineum (690) pe tiding com to Corineum
   (=The tidings came to Corineus)

   pat pu pi panc for-hele (2176) pat pou pi poht hele
   (=that thou concealest thy thoughts)
40. C pein: O man [4], cniht [4], eorl [1]
    his peines weoren kene (1074) his men weren kene
    (=his men were keen)
41. C peode: O londe [2], kinedom [1], cnihtes [1]
    and alle pine peode (2462) and alle pine cnihtes
    (=and all thy knights)
42. C wansipe: O wowe [1], harme [1]
    and wonien in wansiðe (1542) and wonie ine wowe
    (=and live in misery)
43. C wæl kempe: O cniht [2]
    mid alle his wæl kempan (1096) mid alle his cniptes
    (=with all his knights)
44. C wif: O wimmen [2]
    and pa scipen to-drægan and pa wif drenchen (755) ...pe wimmen adrenche
    (=and destroy the ships and drown the women)
45. C wintre: O ȝer [2]
    Feowerti wintre he walde pes leode (2135) Fourti ȝer he held pis lond
    (=He governed this land for forty years)
46. The most striking fact about the nouns is that in the O-text some of
    the words denoting 'man' have been replaced by other words familiar to us or
    have entirely been suppressed. These words denoting 'man', which were
    required in Old English poetry to maintain alliteration, are still to be found
    in the C-text and help to retain the colourfulness typical of alliterative
    poetry. Their frequent disappearance in the O-text, however, tends to take from
    it the richness and power characteristic of alliterative poetry and often de-
    stroys the alliteration at the same time. Aþeling, aldorman, scalk, seg,
    wæl kempe are not used in the O-text; beorn, pein are sometimes retained,
    but they are more often replaced by man, cniht etc; gume and kempe are
    very frequently to be found in both texts and yet in the O-text they often
give place to man or cniht.

    Hired is one of the words that are used only in the C-text. It is also
    dropped as the first element of compound words in the O-text. Leod as well
    as hired is usually dropped in the O-text as the first element of compound words.

    It is also noteworthy that some of the nouns are replaced by French e-
    quivalents: ȝisle (O: hostage), gauel (O: truage), griñe (O: paise), haur
    (O. spiare) etc.

    (5) — 168 —
ADJECTIVES

47. C ærest: O forste [2]
   ðat wes pa ærarste mon (2121) and...wa(s) ðe forste man
   (=that was the first man)

48. C æðel: O god [6], bold [2], murie [1], riche [1]
   ðe æðele wes to neode (332) pat god was to neode
   (=who was good at need)

49. C æðelest: O selest [1], wisest to neode [1]
   æðelest alre kingen (1306) selest alre kinge
   (=the noblest of all the kings)

50. C ba: O bope [10]
   ba bi daie and bi nith (1042) bope bi daige and bi nipt
   (=both by day and by night)

51. C blipe: O glad [1]
   ða leoden weoren ðe bliðre (1264) ðe leoden were ðe gladdere
   (=the people were the gladder)

52. C drihtliche: O dohtie [1], gode [2], riche [1]
   wið-uten his driht-liche scipen (4010)...his gode sipes
   (=without his good ships)

53. C eð: O glad [1], bet [1]
   eð him wes on heorten (1117) glad he was on heorte
   (=he was glad in mind)

   þe duc þer-fore fain wes (2442) þe duk þar-fore glad was
   (=The duke was therefore glad)

55. C feie: O dead [3]
   monie þer weoren fæie (3960) mani dead weren
   (=many were dead there)

   on feole kunne wisen (860) in many cunnes wise
   (=in many kind of wise)

57. C lîpe: O lef [1], ieweme [1]
   liðe him beo Drihten (2) lef him beo Driste
   (=may the Lord be gracious to him!)

58. C lut: O lutel [2], feue [1]
   inne lut ġere (195) ine feue ġere

—167—

(6)
   moni hunger and moni purst (3102) muchel hunger and porst
   (=much hunger and thirst)

60. C muchel: O mani [3], grete [3]
   per comen muchel burstes (1231) pare come manie harmes
   (=there came many evils)

61. C sel: O gode [1], merie [1], wise [1]
   purh sele mine folke (4156) porh...mine gode cnihtes
   (=through my good folk)

   pat us is selest to don (461) wat vs is best to done
   (=what is best for us to do)

63. C selre: O bet [1]
   pat hire pe selre beo (35) pat hire pe bet bifalle
   (=that it be the better for it)

64. C stepe: O mochel [1], bold [1]
   and pina stepa main (772) and pine mochele mihte
   (=and thy great might)

65. C unæðe: O sorì [1]
   per-fore hire wes unæðe (2247) par-fore ŋeo was sorì
   (=therefore she was sad)

66. The adjectives that are seldom used in the O-text are æðele, ba, ðæ, stepe, 
    unæðe. Sel is originally a comparative, but it is here used as a positive. 
    Muchel and mani are often used indifferently, but the examples show that 
    they are beginning to be used in their own function: mochel for uncountable 
    nouns, mani for countable nouns.

   ADVERBS

67. C ærest: O forste [1]
   se[ð]ðen heo ærest wes a-reæd (1032)...he was forst arered
   (=since it first was reared)

68. C ful: O wel [3]
   pes kinges heorte wes ful sær (4312)...was wel sor
   (=The king's heart was very sore)

69. C rape: O sone [1]
   oper pu penchest beo raðe dead (2165)...beo sone dead
(=or thou thinkest soon to be dead)

70. C sel: O wel [1]
Sel pe scal iwurðen (1118) Wel pe sal bi-tyde
(=May it go well with thee)

71. C seoðan: O parafter [6], after pat [2], fram pat [1]
Seððen comen Sæxisce men (3545) par-after c(o)me...
(=Thereafter came Saxon men)

72. C swipe: O wel [9], wnderlich [1], mochel [1]
hit wes him swiðe queme (1214) hit was him wel icweme
(=it was to him most pleasing)

73. C tosumne: O togadere [8]
pa comen heo to-sumne (1278) po comen hii to-gadere
(=then they came together)

74. C wel: O swipe [3]
ÆAfter Heli king æhte pis lond Lud his sune wel longe (3524) After...swipe long (=After King Heli Lud his son governed this land very long)

75. As an intensive adverb swipe is the most common. Wel and swipe are often used indifferently. It is curious that ful, which is to become the com-monest intensive adverb in Middle English and is therefore expected to appear in both texts, is found only in the C-text.

RELATIVE PRONOUN

76. C pe: O pat [numerous]
pe soðe word me seiden (2322) pat sop word me seide
(=who told me sooth word)

77. pe (or pa) in the C-text is almost always replaced by pat in the O-text.
The former is already beginning to give place to the latter especially when the antecedent is modified by al, al pat, pat, ilke and the superlative of adjectives. But sometimes, even if the antecedent is modified by these words, pe is retained not only in the C-text but also in the O-text (198, 644, 661, 1414, 3198 etc.).

VERBS

78. C ahte: O hadde [6]
and his fader ahte al pat lond (4119) ...hadde al pat lond
(=and his father possessed all the land)

79. C bu3en: O wende [5], come [1], fleon [1]
and mid pe we wulleð buðen (3862)...we wolle wende
(=we will go with thee)

80. C demen: O seie [1], speken [1]
    Al pis wes idon alse pe duc demde (2464) ...pe duk seide
    (=All this was done as the duke had told)

81. C eode: O wende [2]
    al pat folc eode an lond (896) pat folk wende a pat lond
    (=all the folk went on the land)

82. C faren: O wende [9], come [3], feren [1]
    whi nult þu faren (1899) wi ne(1)þ pou wende
    (=why wilt thou not go?)

83. C ferde: O eode [10], wende [16], faren [1]
    and he æfter him ferde (3194) and hii him after wende
    (=and he [they] went after him)

84. C fo: O go [2]
    Fo we get to Beline (3015) Go we get to Belyn
    (=Let us go again to Belin)

85. C fræinede: O axede [1], seide [1]
    He fræinede pis leod-folc (3304) He axede pat folk
    (=He asked the people)

86. C freten: O eten [1]
    pat heo freten ðet corn (1948) pat hii heten corn
    (=that they ate the corn)

87. C fusden: O wende [4], come [1]
    and heo him to fusden (3741) and hii him to wende
    (=and they went to him)

    ȝareweden heom to fehten (4867) greipede ham to fihte
    (=prepared them for fight)

89. C ilomp: O biful [9], ful [1]
    and him pa beth ilomp (307) par-fore him þe bette bi-fulle
    (=and the better befell to him)

90. C iwat: O eode [1], wende [1], abod [1]
    þe mete forð iwat (331) þe mete forþ eode
    (=the meat diminished)

91. C liðen: O wende [22], ferde [1], go [1], beo [2], gliden [1], passi [1]
    whuder ich mæi liðan (603) woder ich may wende
92. C queðe: O seide [7], spac [2]

Summe queðen ælles (449) Some seiden elles
(= Some said otherwise)


and sæhtne me wið Rom-lede (4380) and paise me...
(=and reconcile me with the Rome-folk)

94. C spilede: O spec [4], seide [3]

and luueliche spilede (3935) and lofueliche saide
(=and lovingly said)

95. C temen: O wende [2]

per-to þu scalt teman (625) par-to pou salt wende
(=Thereto thou shalt proceed)

96. C teon: O go [1], eode [1], drawe [1]

ich wile teo to-foren (398) ich wole go b(i)-fore
(=I will go before)

97. C trukien: O bileue [1]

nulle we pe trukien (2177) nole we pe bileue
(=we will not believe thee)

98. C welden: O habbe [2], witie [2], don [1], holde [4]

pe while pe he mai hit walden (1679) ...hit mai holde
(=as long as he may hold it)

99. C wende: O ferde [4], tornde [3], eode [2], com [1]

heo ouer sæ wende (4475) he ouer see verde
(=he went overseas)

100. C wonien: O libben [2]

pe while peo...wes folc woniende (582)...welen men libbende
(=As long as...men were living)


He hehte wurchen ane tur (3871) He lette make...
(=He ordered a tower to be built)

102. There are many words in the C-text used to denote 'go': buzen, eode (pt.),

faren, feren, fusen, fo, iwat (pt.), liben, temen, teon, wende, of which buzen,

fo, iwat, teon, temen are beginning to disappear in the O-text. Feren is

almost always used in the preterit tense while faren seldom appears in the

preterit; the latter is usually used in the infinitive, past participle or in the

imperative. A similar tendency is also noted in lipen, which is seldom used
in the present tense. It often appears in combination with *com* and when thus connected (i.e. *com lipen*) it is not replaced by other words. The only verb to behave like a normal verb is *wende*, but this again will be later restricted to the preterit tense. *Go* is still infrequent in both texts.

**PREPOSITIONS**

103. C **at**: O of [7]
   At hire heo nomen læue (638) Of hire he nam leue
   (=They [He] took leave of her)

104. C **binnen**: O **in** [1], **wipine** [1]
   and binnen heo i-wenden (2953) and wip-ine wende
   (=and they went within)

105. C **bute**: O **wipoute** [2]
   þu liðe al buten læue (2516) pou wendest al wip-houte lefue
   (=thou wentest all without leave)

106. C **geond**: O **ouer** [38], **in** [3], **into** [1], **porh** [1]
   geond al Gric-londe (540) ouer al Greclonde
   (=over all Greece)

107. C **in**: O **to** [4], **into** [1]
   seoððen Gurmund com in pis lond (988)...com to pisse lond
   (=after Gurmund came to this land)

108. C **mid**: O wíð [3]
   pat þeo wimon was mid childe (135)...was wid childe
   (=that the woman became with child)

109. C **of**: O **fram** [5], vt **of** [2]
   fleon of pissen londe (3782) faren fram pis londe
   (=go from this land)

110. C **on**: O **in** [numerous]
   þe king wes on mode sar (321) þe king was sor in mode
   (=The king was sad at heart)
   þe ær weoren on lond (3451) þat her weren in londe
   (=who ere were in the land)
   on his liue he wes swa riche (3512) in his lifue...
   (=in his life he was so powerful)

111. C wíð: O **mid** [3], **fram** [2], to [5]
   wíð his hird-iferen (3306) mid his ivere
   (=with his companions)
One of the features of the O-text that make the text more like Modern English than the C-text is the frequent substitution of *on* for *in*. *Mid* and *wið* are still used in their original meanings, but they are beginning to be confused.

*Geond* is almost always replaced by *ouer*. This tendency is already seen in the Final Continuation of *The Peterborough Chronicle*.

**CONJUNCTIONS**

113. C *als-e*: O *als-e poh* [2]
   als-e heo wolden liggen (942) als-poh hii wolde ligge
   (=as though they would lie)

114. C *als-e peah*: O *ase* [2]
   als-e peah hit seoð weore (3324) ase hit sop were
   (=as though it were true)

115. C *for pan pe*: O *for* [1]
   for pan pa pe keiser-e wes swa heah (3747) for pe kaiser...
   (=because the emperor was so noble)

116. C *seoppen*: O *wane* [1], *fram pat* [1] *after pat* [1]
   seoð-en Brennes wes deaed (2989) after pat Brenne...
   (=after Brennes was dead)

117. C *swu-lc*: O *as poh* [1], a[1]se [6]
   Brut swulc he weoren (4639) ase poh he Brut were
   (=as though he were a Briton)

118. C *pe get pe*: O *pe get pat* [1], *pe get* [1]
   pe get pe he hes i Rome (4853) pe get he was in Rome
   (=while he was in Rome)

119. C *pe wile pe*: O *pe wile pat* [9], *pe wile* [2], *wile pe* [1], *wile pat* [3]
   wile [3]
   pe wile pe he on liue wes (115) wile he was on liue
   (=while he was alive)

120. C *ponne*: O *wane* [8]
   ponne men gað to bedde (357) wane men gop to bedde
   (=when men go to bed)

121. C *wið pan pe*: O *wið pan pat* [1], *wið pat* [1]
   wið pan pe pu me helpe (4232) wip pat pou (me helpe)
   (=on condition that thou help me)

122. Here contrary to the general tendency the analytical expressions are be-
ginning to be simplified. The typical process may be illustrated by *pe wile pe.

(To be continued.)