

Element Order in Ælfric's First Series of *Catholic Homilies*: Part I

Susumu Hiyama

Abstract

This article investigates more than six hundred clauses in the first three prose works (Preface, Homily I and II) of Ælfric's First Series of *Catholic Homilies* with special emphasis on the position of sentential elements and their weight.

Keywords: *Ælfric's First Series of Catholic Homilies (Preface, Homilies I-II), clause category, element order, Old English, weight ordering*

0 Introduction

This study offers a descriptive analysis of the element order patterns that appear in Ælfric's *Catholic Homilies* (Preface, Homily I, and II in the First Series); references are to Clemoes (1997), by homily and line, and I have adopted many of the modifications and changes in the Dictionary of Old English Corpus. For details of classification, see Hiyama (2010).

1 Type A

The great majority of the subjects precede the finite verbs (S-V; 141 out of 147, or 96%) as in (S1-V) 2.34 *Hi comon ða hredlice* 'Then they came quickly', (S2-V) 1.6 *An angin is ealra þinga* '(There) is one origin of all things', and (S3-V) Preface.62 *Manega lease cristas cumað on minum naman* 'Many false Christs shall come in my name'. There are only six instances which contain the V-S order, of which four have subjects of medium weight (V-S2) and two have those of heavy weight (V-S3), including (V-S2) 1.161 *On twam þingum hæfde god þæs mannes saule gegodod* 'With two things had God endowed this man's soul' and (V-S3) Preface.131 *Mycel yfel deð se ðe leas writ* 'He does great evil who writes false'.

Direct objects are usually found in the postverbal position (V-O; 60 out of 74, or 81%), as in (V-O1) 1.272 *He nolde genyman us neadunge of deofles anwealde* 'He would not take us forcibly from the devil's power', (V-O2) 2.26 *Ge geseoð þis tacen* 'You shall see this token', and (V-O3) Preface.108 *Ure drihten behead his discipulum þæt ...* 'Our Lord commanded his disciples that ...'. Most of the preverbal direct objects are of either medium or heavy weight (11 out of 14, or 79%). Examples of the O-V pattern include: (O1-V) 1.69 *god þa hine gebrohte on neorxnawange* 'God then brought him into Paradise', (O2-V) 2.83 *þæs hlafes we onbyriað* 'This holy bread we taste', and (O3-V) 1.70 *Ealra þæra þinga (þe ...) þu most brucan* 'All the things (which ...) you may eat'. I have found no Type A clauses which contain the accusative and infinitive construction.

Indirect objects are found in fifteen Type A clauses, of which nine have V-I and six have I-V. Examples are: (V-I1) 2.181 *We mihton eow secgan ane lytle bysne* 'We might tell you a little simile', (V-I2) Preface.108 (quoted in the previous paragraph), and (V-I3) 1.287 *He hæfð gerimod rihtwisum mannum innfær to his rice* 'He has opened to righteous men the entrance to his kingdom'; (I1-V) 2.24 *efne ic eow bodige micelne gefean* 'Lo, I announce to you great joy', (I2-V) 1.258 *dumbum he forgeaf getincnyss* 'to the dumb he gave power of speech', and (I3-V) 1.258 *Deofulseocum & wodum he sealde gewyt* 'He gave sense to those possessed by devils and the mad'. When there are two kinds of

objects (direct and indirect) in the same clause, the order is always I-O.

All complements in Type A clauses are postverbal (V-C). Of the twenty-seven instances with the complement, thirteen have complements of medium weight and fourteen have those of heavy weight, as in (V-C2) Preface.63 *ic eom crist* ‘I am Christ’ and (V-C3) 1.90 *heo is ban of minum banum & flæsc of minum flæsce* ‘she is bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh’.

When there is only one adverbial element in a clause, it almost always follows the finite verb (V-A; 56 out of 60, or 93%), as in (V-A1) 1.19 *he nis na acynned* ‘he is not born’, (V-A2) 2.79 *Crist wolde on ytinge beon acenned* ‘Christ would be born on journey’, and (V-A3) Preface.48 *ic truwiged ðurh godes gife* ‘I trust through God’s grace’. All four examples with preverbal adverbials (A-V) contain light adverbials, a typical example being (A1-V) 2.68 *Ealle þeoda þa ferdon* ‘All nations then went’.

There are twenty-three Type A clauses with two adverbials, of which nineteen have V-A-A, three have A-V-A, and one has A-A-V. Examples include: (V-A-A) Preface.81 *He & his gingran awyrdað manna lichaman digellice ðurh deofles cræft* ‘He and his disciples injure men’s bodies secretly through the devil’s power’, (A-V-A) 1.246 *Seo halige moder maria þa afedde þæt cyld mid micelre arwyrðnysse* ‘The holy mother Mary then nourished that child with great veneration’, and (A-A-V) 2.32 *Hwæt þa hyrdas þa him betweenan spræcon* ‘The shepherds then spoke among themselves’.

I have found nine instances which contain three (or more) adverbials, of which six have V-A-A-A (as in 1.138 *Weard þeah þæt wif ða forspanen þurh ðæs deofles lare* ‘But the woman was seduced by the devil’s counsel’), one has A-A-A-V (as in 1.106 *Ealswa eft of wætere he gesceop fixas & fugelas* ‘Likewise, he created fishes and birds from water afterwards’), and another one has A-A-V-A (as in 1.284 *Dryhten ða on ðam feowerteogoðan dæge his æristes astah to heofonum ætforan heora ealra gesyhðe mid þam ilcan lichaman* ‘Then, on the fortieth day of his resurrection, the Lord ascended to heaven in sight of them all, with the same body’; note that this clause in fact has A-A-V-A-A), and the other has A-V-A-A (as in 2.163 *Ða hyrdas þa spræcon him betweenan æfter þæra engla framfærelde* ‘The shepherds then spoke among themselves, after the departure of the angels’).

2 Type B

Subjects follow finite verbs (V-S) in eighty-four instances (84%), as in (V-S1) Preface.128 *Nu bydde ic (& halsige on godes naman ...) þæt ...* ‘Now I pray (and beseech, in God’s name, ...) that ...’, (V-S2) 1.90 *Ða cwæð adam* ‘Then said Adam’, and (V-S3) 2.172 *Ne mihte ure mennisce gecynd crist on ðære godcundlican acennyðnesse geseon* ‘Our human nature could not see Christ in that divine nativity’. In the remaining sixteen clauses (all with S-V), more than half of the subjects are pronominal (S1). Examples include: (S1-V) 1.270 *For ðy he com to us* ‘therefore he came to us’, (S2-V) 2.160 *Soðlice menn sindon godas gecigede* ‘Truly men are called gods’, and (S3-V) 2.59 *Soðlice swa micel getel mancynnes becymð þurh cristes menniscnysse to engla werodum* ‘Truly such a great number of mankind comes, through Christ’s incarnation, to the hosts of angels’.

Almost all direct objects in Type B clauses are postverbal (V-O; 37 out of 38, or 97%), as in (V-O1) 2.150 *þa forwyrnde se engel him ðæs* ‘then the angel restrained him from it’, (V-O2) Preface.102 *Ne sende se deofol ða fyr of heofenum* ‘The devil did not send fire from heaven’, and (V-O3) 1.265 *Ða nam þæt iudeisce folc micelne andan ongean his lare* ‘Then the Jewish people showed great envy of his doctrine’. The only instance with the O-V pattern is 1.276 *Hwæt þa twegen gelyfede men hine arwyrðlice bebyrgdon* ‘Then two believing men honourably buried him’, where the light direct object *hine* ‘him’ is placed before the finite verb *bebyrgdon* ‘buried’. (We may note here that Godden (2000: 728), s.v. *hwæt* (b), glosses *hwæt* in one sense as ‘introducing a statement, usu. narrative, esp.

as *hwæt þa*'. Adopting this explanation would dismiss 1.276 as a Type B clause, since Godden seems to suggest that the phrase *hwæt þa* is functioning as an interjectional phrase, not as a combination of an interjection and an adverb.) As for the accusative (Z) and infinitive construction, I have found only one example: 2.211 *þa geseah heo þæt cild licgan on binne* 'Then she saw the child lying in the bin' (V-Z2).

Indirect objects occur five times, and they are all light and postverbal (V-I1), as in 1.92 *Ða sette adam eft hire oðerne naman aeua* 'Then Adam afterwards bestowed on her another name, Eve'. In clauses with two kinds of objects, the order is invariably I-O (see 1.92 above, as well as 2.150 in the preceding paragraph).

There are twelve Type B clauses which contain complements, of which eleven have V-C and one has C-V; e.g. (V-C2) 1.136 *Næron hi blinde gesceapene* 'They were not created blind', (V-C3) 2.88 *Næs þæt cild for ði gecweden hire frumcennede cild* 'That child is not called her firstborn child', and (C1-V) 1.24 *Her sindon nigan engla werod* 'Here are nine hosts of angels'.

When there are no other adverbial elements in Type B clauses, the clause-initial position is occupied by either *ne* (four instances), A1 (twenty-five), A2 (one), or A3 (two). Examples include: (#*ne*_) 1.76 *Nast ðu þæt ...* 'You do not know that ...', (#A1_) Preface.73 *Þonne cymð se antecrist* 'Then antichrist shall come', (#A2_) 1.113 *For ði is se man betera* 'Therefore, man is better', and (#A3_) Preface.56 *For ðisum antimbre ic gedyrstlæhte (on gode truwiende) þæt ...* 'For this cause I (trusting in God) presumed that ...'.

When there is only one non-initial adverbial in Type B clauses, the postverbal position is the norm (V-A; 32 out of 36, or 89%); e.g. (V-A1) 1.159 *Þa wiste god hwæðere þæt ...* 'Then God knew, however, that ...', (V-A2) 2.174 *Næs þæt word to flæsce awend* 'The word was not turned to flesh', and (V-A3) Preface.113 *þonne swelt se arleasa on his unrihtwisnyse* 'then shall the wicked die in his iniquity'. In the remaining four clauses, non-initial adverbials follow initial adverbials (which are compulsory in Type B) and precede finite verbs, as in (A1-V) 2.186 *Hrædlice ða comon þa hyrdas* 'Then came the shepherds quickly' and (A2-V) 2.78 *Sodlice of ðe cymð se latteow* 'Truly, the guide will come from you'.

There are seventeen Type B clauses which have two non-initial adverbials, of which ten have V-A-A, four have A-V-A, and three have A-A-V. Examples include: (V-A-A) 1.179 *Þa weard god to ðam swiðe gegremod þurh manna mandæda (þæt ...)* 'Then was God so exasperated through the wicked deeds of men (that ...)', (A-V-A) 2.147 *Witodlice on ðære ealdan æ loð & iosue & gehwilce oðre ... (hi) lutan wið heora* 'Truly, in the ancient law, Lot, Joshua, and all others, (they) bowed before them', and (A-A-V) 1.162 *Ða þurh deofles swicdom & adames gylt we forluron þa gesælpe ure saule* 'Then through the devil's treachery and Adam's guilt we lost the happiness of our soul'.

Of the six clauses with three (or more) non-initial adverbials, three have V-A-A-A, two have A-V-A-A, and one has A-A-A-V; e.g. (V-A-A-A) 2.12 *Þa ferde ioseph cristes fosterfæder fram galileiscum earde of þære byrig nazared to iudeisre byrig* 'Then Joseph, the foster-father of Christ, went from the land of Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to the Jewish city', (A-V-A-A) 1.45 *Þa sona þa nigon werod (þe ðær to lafe wæron) bugon to heora scyppende mid ealre eaðmodnyse* 'Then forthwith the nine hosts (that were left) bowed to their Creator with all humbleness', and (A-A-A-V) Preface.104 *syððan he for his modignysse of aworpen wæs* 'afterwards he, for his pride, had been cast out'.

3 Type C

There are 139 Type C clauses which contain subjects, of which 123 (88%) have the pattern S-V, and 16 (12%) have V-S. Some examples of these patterns are: (S1-V) Preface.66 *ac for his gecorenum he gescyrte ða dagas* ‘but for his elect he will shorten those days’, (S2-V) 1.88 & *god þa geswefode þone adam* ‘And God then put Adam to sleep’, and (S3-V) 2.82 & *se (ðe ...) ne swylt (he) on ecnysse* ‘he (who ...) shall not die to eternity’; (V-S1) Preface.127 & *swa ðeah ne do we nan ðing to gode buton godes fultume* ‘and nevertheless we do nothing for God without the assistance of God’, (V-S2) 1.12 & *ne mæg nan þinc his willan wiðstandan* ‘and no thing may withstand his will’, and (V-S3) 2.81 & *on hire wæs crist se soða hlaf acenned* ‘and in it was Christ, the true bread, brought forth’.

Direct objects are more likely to follow finite verbs (V-O; 96 out of 131, or 73%) as in (V-O1) Preface.82 (*He & his gingran ...*) & *gehælað hi openlice on manna gesihðe* ‘and (he and his disciples) heal them openly in the sight of men’, (V-O2) 1.66 (& *god ...*) & *him on ableow gast* ‘and (God) blew spirit into him’, and (V-O3) 2.17 (*hio ...*) & *acende þa hire frumcynnedan sunu* ‘and (she) brought forth then her firstborn son’. Most of the postverbal direct objects are of either medium or heavy weight (88 out of 96, or 92%). On the other hand, nearly half of the preverbal ones are light. Typical examples with the O-V order are: (O1-V) 1.281 (*crist ...*) & *hi gefrefrode* ‘and (Christ) comforted them’, (O2-V) Preface.80 & *nænne ne gehælað fram untrumnyssum* ‘and (the devil) heals no one from diseases’, and (O3-V) 2.49 & *eall mennisc him anum cynelic gafol ageaf* ‘and all mankind paid royal tribute to him alone’. I have found only one instance which contain the accusative (Z; *hi* in the following example) and infinitive construction: 1.27 (*God ...*) & *let hi habban agenne cyre* ‘and (God) let them have their own discretion’ (V-Z).

Indirect objects are found in twenty-one Type C clauses, of which thirteen have V-I and eight have I-V. Examples include: (V-I1) 1.156 (*god ...*) & *sealde him agenne cyre* ‘and (God) gave him his free choice’, (V-I2) 2.104 & *se engel cydde cristes acennednysse hyrdemannum* ‘and the angel announced Christ’s birth to the herdsmen’, and (V-I3) 1.108 *ac he ne sealde nanum nytene ne nanum fisce nane sawle* ‘but he gave no soul to any beast, nor to any fish’; (I1-V) 1.68 & *god him sette naman adam* ‘and God bestowed on him the name of Adam’, (I2-V) 1.231 & *þisre mægþe god sealde (& gesette) æ* ‘And for this race God gave (and established) a law’, and (I3-V) 2.136 (*hi ...*) & *godum mannum sibbe bodedon* ‘and to good men (they) announced peace’. In clauses with two kinds of objects, the I-O order is the norm (18 out of 20, or 90%); for examples, see 1.156, 1.108, 1.68, 1.231, and 2.136 above. The O-I order is illustrated by 2.104 above and 1.291 & *he þonne þa manfullan deofle betæcð into ðam ecan fyre hellesusle* ‘and he will then deliver the wicked to the devil, into the eternal fire of hell-torment’.

All complements in Type C clauses follow finite verbs (V-C). Examples include: (V-C2) Preface.76 *ac his tima ne bið na langsum* ‘but his time will not be long’ and (V-C3) 1.248 & *his lif wæs eal buton synnum* ‘and his life was all without sins’.

I have found ninety-eight Type C clauses with single adverbials, of which sixty-one have V-A and thirty-seven have A-V; e.g. (V-A1) Preface.77 & *ðeos weoruld bið siððan geendod* ‘and this world will afterwards be ended’, (V-A2) 1.146 & *þu awenst to eorðan* ‘and you shall return to earth’, and (V-A3) 2.18 (*hio ...*) & *alede þæt cild on heora assena binne* ‘and (she) laid the child in their donkey’s bin’; (A1-V) 1.83 & *ða wæs adam swa wis (þæt ...)* ‘And then was Adam so wise (that ...)’, (A2-V) 2.18 (*hio ... hire frumcynnedan sunu*) & *mid cildclaðum bewand* ‘and (she) wrapped (her firstborn son) in swaddling clothes’, and (A3-V) Preface.74 & *se gesewenlica deofol þonne wyrcð ungerima wundra* ‘And the visible devil shall then work countless miracles’.

There are thirty-one Type C clauses which contain two adverbials, of which nineteen have V-A-A, seven have A-V-A, and five have A-A-V. Examples are: (V-A-A) Preface.101 (*He ...*) & *forbærnde ealle his scep ut on felda* ‘and (he) burned all his sheep out in the field’, (A-V-A) 1.66 & *god þa geworhte ænne mannan of lame* ‘And God then wrought a man of clay’, and (A-A-V) 2.87 (*Maria ...*) & *for rymtleaste on anre binne gelede* ‘and, for want of room, (Mary) laid him in a bin’.

Three or more adverbials are found in eight Type C clauses, of which four have A-V-A-A, three have V-A-A-A, and one has A-A-A-V; e.g. (A-V-A-A) 1.116 *ac ðeahhwæðere god arærð eft ðone lichaman to ecum ðingum on domesdæg* ‘but, nevertheless, God will raise again the body to eternity on doomsday’ (the more precise description of this clause is A-V-A-A-A), (V-A-A-A) 2.184 *ac he þurhwunad þeah a on ecnysse on anum hade untotwæmed* ‘but he remains undivided in one person for ever’, and (A-A-A-V) 2.59 (*he ...*) *ac eac swilce miclum geihthe* ‘but (he) also greatly increased it’.

4 Type D

All conjoined subordinate clauses share the pattern S-V, e.g. (S1-V) 1.262 (*buton ...*) & *he beo gefullod* ‘and (unless) he be baptized’ and (S2-V) 1.152 (*gif ...*) & *his nan man ne onbyrigde* ‘and (if) no one had tasted it’. The majority of the non-conjoined counterparts also have S-V (258 out of 271, or 95%); e.g. (S1-V) Preface.68 *gif he bið þurh boclice lare getrymmed* ‘if he is strengthened by book learning’, (S2-V) 1.152 *gif þæt treow moste standan ungehrepod* ‘if that tree could have stood untouched’, and (S3-V) 2.110 *þæt se ungesewenlica wulf godes scep ne tostence* ‘so that the invisible woulf would not scatter God’s sheep’. The remaining thirteen non-conjoined clauses share the V-S pattern, of which one has a light subject, another one has a subject of medium weight, and eleven have heavy subjects. Examples include: (V-S1) 1.226 *þa gestrynde he sunu* ‘when he begot a son’, (V-S2) 1.125 *þa ongeat se deofol þæt ...* ‘When the devil understood that ...’, and (V-S3) Preface.88 *for ðan ðe on ðam timan bið swa micel yfelnyss & þwyrnys betwux mancynne* ‘for in that time (there) will be so much wickedness and perversity among mankind’.

Direct objects in conjoined Type D clauses divide in approximately equal numbers into postverbal (nine examples) and preverbal (seven), as in (V-O2) Preface.76 (*þæt he ...*) & *wile neadian mancynn to his gedwylde* ‘and (that he) will compel mankind to his heresy’ and (V-O3) 1.53 (*for ði þe god ...*) & *let hi habban agenne cyre* ‘and (for God) let them have their free choice’; (O1-V) Preface.112 (*Gif ðu ...*) & *hine ne manast* ‘and (if you) do not exhort him’, (O2-V) 1.144 (*for ðan ðe ðu ...*) & *min bebod forsawe* ‘and (because you) despise my commandment’ and (O3-V) 2.73 (*þæt we ...*) & *on ðære ures geleafan gafol mid estfullum mode him agifan* ‘and (that we) therein, with devout mind, pay to him the tribute of our faith’. When we turn to non-conjoined counterparts, the O-V pattern (sixty-seven instances) slightly outnumbers the V-O pattern (fifty-five); e.g. (V-O1) 1.266 *hu hi mihton hine to deaðe gedon* ‘how they might put him to death’, (V-O2) 2.8 *þæt on ðam timan se romanisca casere octauianus sette gebann* ‘that at that time the Roman emperor Octavianus made proclamation’, and (V-O3) Preface.126 *ac þæt we geearnion þæt ece lif þurh his weorces fremminge* ‘but that we may earn eternal life by the performance of his work’; (O1-V) Preface.90 *ðe him onbugað* ‘who submit (themsevels) to him’, (O2-V) 1.113 *gif he gode geðihð* ‘if he thrives with God’, and (O3-V) 2.56 *Se ðe his heofonlice rice geihthe* ‘he who increased his heavenly empire’. The accusative and infinitive construction occurs only once: 1.53 above has the order V-Z, in which the finite verb *let* is immediately followed by the accusative *hi*.

Indirect objects are found in twenty-five non-conjoined clauses, of which nineteen have I-V and six have V-I; e.g. (I1-V) Preface.102 *þe hit him cyðan sceolde* ‘who should announce it to him’, (I2-V)

2.124 *þe se engel þam hyrdum sæde* ‘which the angel said to the shepherds’, and (I3-V) Preface.121 (*þe he ...*) & *eft halgum lareowum onwreah* ‘and (which he) afterwards revealed to holy teachers’; (V-I1) 1.234 *for ðan þe he wolde of þisre mægðe him moder geceosan* ‘because he would choose him a mother from this race’ and (V-I3) Preface.108 *þæt hi sceoldon læran & tæcan eallum þeodum ða ðing (þe ...)* ‘that they should instruct and teach all people the things (which ...)’. I have found only one conjoined clause with an indirect object; see 2.73 in the preceding paragraph. Most of the clauses with two kinds of objects have the order I-O; see 1.234 and Preface.108 above. (For the order O-I, see Preface.102 and 2.73 above.)

Complements in non-conjoined Type D clauses often follow finite verbs (V-C; 63 out of 84, or 75%), as in (V-C2) 1.252 *þa sint genemnedediscipuli* ‘who are denominated disciples’ and (V-C3) 2.14 *for ðan þe he wæs of dauides mægðe* ‘because he was of the tribe of David’. Examples with the C-V pattern are: (C1-V) 2.207 *þæt heo hit beon moste* ‘that she might be it’, (C2-V) 1.75 *hwæt he wære* ‘what he would be’, and (C3-V) Preface.97 *swilce he god ælmihtig sy* ‘as if he were God Almighty’. There is only one conjoined clause with a complement—it has a heavy complement before the finite verb (C3-V): 2.192 (*þæt he ...*) & *þæs cildes fosterfæder wære* ‘and (that he) would be the child’s foster-father’.

In both non-conjoined and conjoined clauses which contain single adverbials, the orders A-V and V-A are almost evenly balanced. Examples include: (non-conjoined) (A1-V) Preface.81 *þe he sylf ær awyrde* ‘whom he himself had previously injured’, (A2-V) 2.194 *þæt he of wife acenned wære* ‘that he would be born of woman’, and (A3-V) 1.134 *gif ge of ðam treowe geetað* ‘if you eat from that tree’; (conjoined) (A1-V) 1.223 (*þe ...*) *ac æfre weorðode þone soðan god* ‘but (which) had ever worshipped the true God’ and (A3-V) 2.64 (*þæt he ...*) & *heora naman on ecere eadignysse awrite* ‘and (that he would) write their names in everlasting bliss’; (non-conjoined) (V-A1) Preface.110 *ðe wile wel tæcan* ‘who will teach well’, (V-A2) 1.131 *ðe stent onmiddan neorxnawange* ‘which stands in the middle of Paradise’, and (V-A3) 2.182 *hu þæt hwite ne bið gemengd to ðam geolcan* ‘how the white is not mingled with the yolk’; (conjoined) (V-A2) 2.15 (*for ðan þe he ...*) & *wolde andettan mid marian hire gebyrde* ‘and (because he) would acknowledge her time of birth with Mary’ and (V-A3) Preface.76 (this is already quoted above, in the paragraph on direct objects).

I have found forty-five non-conjoined clauses which have two adverbials: twenty-two have V-A-A, twelve have A-A-V, and eleven have A-V-A. Examples include: (V-A-A) Preface.57 *for ðam ðe menn behofiað godre lare swiðost on þisum timan* ‘because men have need of good instruction, especially at this time’, (A-A-V) 2.83 *þonne we mid geleafan to husle gað* ‘when we go for eucharistic bread with faith’, and (A-V-A) 1.222 *þe næfre ne abeah to nanum deofulgylde* ‘which had never bent to any idol’. There are only two conjoined clauses with two adverbials—one has V-A-A, and the other has A-A-V, as in (V-A-A) 1.53 (*for ði þe god ...*) & *hi næfre ne gebigde ne ne nydde mid nanum þingum to ðam yfelan ræde* ‘and (because God) would never have inclined nor forced them in any way to that evil counsel’ and (A-A-V) 2.73 (this is cited in the paragraph on direct objects above).

There are seventeen Type D clauses with three or more adverbials: all are non-conjoined clauses, and six have V-A-A-A, another six have A-A-V-A, four have A-V-A-A, and one has A-A-A-V. Examples include: (V-A-A-A) Preface.61 *swilce næron næfre ær fram frymðe middangeardes* ‘as have never been from the beginning of the world’, (A-A-V-A) 1.169 *swa swa him ær behaten wæs for ðan gylte* ‘as had been promised him for that sin’, (A-V-A-A) 2.47 *for ðan þe næfre næs swilc sib ær ðan fyrste on middanearde* ‘because (there) was never such peace before that period in the world’, and (A-A-A-V) Preface.72 *þe for heora mandædum siððan ecelice ðrowiað on ðære sweartan helle* ‘who

afterwards suffer eternally in the dark hell for their evil deeds’.

5 Summary

Most subjects are placed before finite verbs (S-V) in Type A (96%), C (88%), and D (95%); and the inverted order is found in most of the Type B clauses (84%).

The postverbal position seems to be the norm for direct objects in Type A (81%), B (97%), and C (73%); in Type D, however, there are more clauses with the order O-V (54%). I have found only five instances with the accusative and infinitive construction, and in all, the accusative (Z) is placed between finite (V) and non-finite (X) verbs (i.e. V-Z-X).

Indirect objects are found either before or after finite verbs. There are more instances of the V-I order in Type A (60%) and C (62%), and the reverse order (I-V) prevails in Type B (100%) and, to a much lesser degree, in D (77%). When there are two kinds of objects (direct and indirect) in the same clause, the order I-O is the norm.

Complements are usually placed after finite verbs in all clause types: Type A (100%), B (92%), C (100%), and D (74%).

Single adverbials are usually found postverbally (V-A) in Type A (93%) and B (89%); this tendency is much weaker in Type C (62%), and Type D has more clauses with the order A-V. When there are two or more adverbials in a clause, the most frequent patterns in the four clause types are as follows: (two adverbials) Type A/B/C/D (V-A-A); (three or more adverbials) Type A (V-A-A-A), B (V-A-A-A), C (A-V-A-A), and D (V-A-A-A and A-A-V-A).

Select Bibliography

- Clemons, Peter, ed. (1997) *Ælfric's Catholic Homilies: The First Series*. EETS ss 17. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Gneuss, Helmut. (2009) *Ælfric of Eynsham: His Life, Times, and Writings*. Old English Newsletter Subsidia 34. Kalamazoo, MI: Medieval Institute Publications.
- Godden, Malcolm, ed. (2000) *Ælfric's Catholic Homilies: Introduction, Commentary, and Glossary*. EETS ss 18. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Healey, Antonette diPaolo, Joan Holland, Ian McDougall & Peter Mielke. (2004) *The Dictionary of Old English Corpus in Electronic Form*. Toronto: Dictionary of Old English Project.
- Hiyama, Susumu. (2010) 'Element Order in *The Blickling Homilies*: Part I.' *Akita Prefectural University RECCS Bulletin* 11: 45-55.
- Mitchell, Bruce. (1985) *Old English Syntax*. 2 vols. Reprinted with further corrections in 1987. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Thorpe, Benjamin, ed. & trans. (1844) *The Homilies of the Anglo-Saxon Church: The First Part, Containing the Sermones Catholici, or Homilies of Ælfric*. 2 vols. Reprinted in 1983. London: Aelfric Society; Hildesheim/Zuerich/New York: Gerog Olms Verlag.
- Wilcox, Jonathan, ed. (1994) *Ælfric's Prefaces*. Durham Medieval Texts 9. Durham: Department of English Studies.

Appendix Syntactic Information of Each Element in *The Catholic Homilies*
Preface, Homily I & II

Subjects

	A	B	C	D	Total
S-V	141	16	123	261	541
S1	76	10	73	172	331
S2	45	2	36	64	147
S3	20	4	14	25	63
V-S	6	84	16	13	119
S1	0	26	1	1	28
S2	4	38	7	1	50
S3	2	20	8	11	41
Total	147	100	139	274	660

Direct objects

	A	B	C	D	Total
O-V	14	1	35	74	124
O1	3	1	17	31	52
O2	3	0	11	31	45
O3	8	0	7	12	27
V-O	60	37	96	64	257
O1	1	1	8	3	13
O2	21	12	35	23	91
O3	38	24	53	38	153
Total	74	38	131	138	381

Indirect objects

	A	B	C	D	Total
I-V	6	0	8	20	34
I1	4	0	4	18	26
I2	1	0	3	1	5
I3	1	0	1	1	3
V-I	9	5	13	6	33
I1	4	5	4	3	16
I2	3	0	6	0	9
I3	2	0	3	3	8
Total	15	5	21	26	67

Direct objects and indirect objects

	A	B	C	D	Total
I-O	14	5	18	9	46
I1-O1	0	1	0	0	1
I1-O2	2	1	2	4	9
I1-O3	5	3	5	2	15
I2-O1	0	0	0	0	0
I2-O2	1	0	2	0	3
I2-O3	3	0	5	0	8
I3-O1	0	0	0	0	0
I3-O2	2	0	3	1	6
I3-O3	1	0	1	2	4
O-I	0	0	2	3	5
O1-I1	0	0	0	1	1
O1-I2	0	0	0	0	0
O1-I3	0	0	0	0	0
O2-I1	0	0	0	1	1
O2-I2	0	0	1	0	1
O2-I3	0	0	0	0	0
O3-I1	0	0	0	1	1
O3-I2	0	0	1	0	1
O3-I3	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	5	20	12	51

Complements

	A	B	C	D	Total
C-V	0	1	0	22	23
C1	0	1	0	2	3
C2	0	0	0	11	11
C3	0	0	0	9	9
V-C	27	11	33	63	134
C1	0	0	0	0	0
C2	13	4	18	40	75
C3	14	7	15	23	59
Total	27	12	33	85	157

Single adverbials

	A	B	C	D	Total
A-V	4	4	37	59	104
A1	4	3	15	28	50
A2	0	1	11	8	20
A3	0	0	11	23	34
V-A	56	32	61	55	204
A1	17	1	0	0	18
A2	10	12	23	21	66
A3	29	19	38	34	120
Total	60	36	98	114	308

	A	B	C	D
A-V	7%	11%	38%	52%
V-A	93%	89%	62%	48%

Note: The figures for Type B deal with non-initial single adverbials.

Two adverbials

	A	B	C	D	Total
A-A-V	1	3	5	13	22
A-V-A	3	4	7	11	25
V-A-A	19	10	19	23	71
Total	23	17	31	47	118

	A	B	C	D
A-A-V	4%	18%	16%	28%
A-V-A	13%	24%	23%	23%
V-A-A	83%	58%	61%	49%

Note: Occasionally the sums of the percentages can be 99 or 101. (This also applies to the other tables with percentages.)

Three or more adverbials

	A	B	C	D	Total
A-A-A-V	1	1	1	1	4
A-A-V-A	1	0	0	6	7
A-V-A-A	1	2	4	4	11
V-A-A-A	6	3	3	6	18
Total	9	6	8	17	40

	A	B	C	D
A-A-A-V	11%	17%	13%	6%
A-A-V-A	11%	0%	0%	35%
A-V-A-A	11%	33%	50%	24%
V-A-A-A	67%	50%	37%	35%

Note: Each of the four combinations contains clauses with four or more adverbials like A-A-A-A-V, A-A-A-V-A, A-V-A-A-A, and V-A-A-A-A.