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REPORT
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The undersigned, acting as a Committee of
the Graduate School, have read the accompanying
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for the degree of Master of Arts
They approve it as a thesis meeting the require-
ments of the Graduate School of the University of
Minnesota, and recommend that it be accepted in
partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
degree of Master of Arts.

F. Klaeber
Chairman

W. R. Myers

May 27, 1918

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The Historical Development of Terms Denoting Time

in

English and German.

A Thesis submitted to the

Faculty of the Graduate School of the

University of Minnesota

by

John Frederick Eynck

In partial fulfilment of the requirements

for the degree of

Master of Arts

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INTRODUCTION.

The use of synonyms, that is of words having a more or less identical meaning, is no doubt common to all languages. It is further to be taken for granted that synonymy, like all linguistic phenomena, is subject to the law of change. There is bound to set in sooner or later a process of differentiation. Words, though continuing to express the same idea, may soon acquire a slightly different flavor. Some may become reserved for the elevated language of poetry, while others serve the needs of ordinary conversation. Divergence may be brought about by restricting the sense of some of the terms, as is seen for example, in the OE. synonyms mete and fōda which became differentiated by the use of mete in the limited sense of animal food, meat. In case synonyms have been added to a language by the introduction of foreign words, a readjustment of meaning is almost the inevitable rule, as may be readily seen from E. deer (OE. dēor), beast, animal; E. ghost (OE. gāst), spirit; E. lord (OE. hlāford), master.

The rise of synonyms signifying concrete objects in primitive languages has been explained by the theory that the different words in question had originally each a specific, distinctive sense denoting certain varieties or parts of the objects, but in course of time by a process of generalization or abstraction came to be employed in a more general meaning. This is all the more plausible when we consider the decided predilection of primitive peoples for naming specific objects without any regard to the

existence of a common genus, e.g. in the use of different names for all kinds of trees, cherry tree, plum tree, pear tree, etc., and the absence of any generic term expressing the idea of tree in the abstract.

The remarkable number of synonyms for certain objects or ideas nearest to the hearts of the Anglo-Saxon people may be illustrated from the poem of Bēowulf. We find in Bēowulf alone at least 37 synonyms for hero or prince: ædeling, æscwiga, aglæca, beadorinc, beaggyfa, bealdor, beorn, brego, brytta, byrnwiga, ceorl, cniht, cyning, dryhten, ealdor, eorl, edel-weard, fengel, freea, freca, fruma, hæled, hlaforð, hyse, leod, mecg, nid, oretta, raswa, rinc, scota, secg, begn, pengel, peoden, wer, wiga; --

14 synonyms for sword: sweord, bil, mece, ecg, iren, wæpen, mæl, laf, secg, beado-leoma, heoru, mægen-fultum, guð-wine, madum.

In Old English poems collectively 30 expressions for sea are found, of which number 17 are recorded in Bēowulf: mere, brim, holm, sæ, sund, flod, y¹, gar-secg, geofon, wæter, stream(as), eolet, heaðu, heaf, flodweg, wæg, lagu, ford, wæd, sioleða bigong, hron-rad, swan-rad, segl-rad, ganotes bæ, flodwielm, flot, flotweg, holmweg, hronmere, mereflod, merestream, sæflod, sæholm, sæstream, sæweg, ybmere. Bēowulf contains 11 synonyms for ship or boat, and in addition to these 16 more are found in other poems: scip, naca, flota, far, ceol, bat, sudu, bunden-stefna, y¹-lida, sæ-genga, brenting, sæ-wudu, sundwudu, brimhengest, brimpisa, brim-wudu, cnearr, flod-wudu, flotscip, holmmærn, holmmægen, merebat, merehengest, merepyssa, sæflota, sæhengest, sæmearh, ypbord, yphengest, yphof, yplid, yplida.

But perhaps still more striking is the fact that even some abstract ideas may be expressed in a great many different ways in the old Germanic languages.

The following study is devoted to the consideration of the nounal terms for 'time' in OE. and OHG., together with a survey of their semantic development and the history of the rise of new synonyms in the subsequent periods of the two languages. Only words for time in general will be taken up, the expressions for definite divisions like year, month, day, minute, being left out of account except for incidental references as in the case of hour.

For the English words so far as they are found in the New English Dictionary, it will be possible to give the dates of their first appearance.. If the date is given as 900, this, of course, does not mean that the word came into the language at that time. Indeed, most of the words considered here must have been in the English and German languages centuries before their earliest known records. Of a much more definite character is the date given as the last appearance of a word. As a rule, this means that the word at that time has not only passed out of use in the literature but also in the spoken language, although some words or some meanings continue in certain dialects. Quite different is the case of a borrowed word which may be very old in the language from which it is taken, but to the language into which it has passed it may be new and, in a sense, equivalent to a root creation in that language. If, therefore, the borrowed word passed into literature not long after its adoption, the indication of the date of its first literary use has a double signification.

LIST OF THE TERMS DENOTING TIME.

Terms for Time in OE. and OHG.

1. O.E. tīd, f., time, hour; M.E. tide, the usual sense is 'season' or 'hour'; hence the time between flux and reflux of the sea, and, finally, the flux or reflux of the sea itself; MnE. tide, season, time, hour; flux or reflux of the sea.

OHG., MHG. zīt, time, age, season, hour; G. Zeit.

OFrs., OS. tīd; Dan. & Swed. tīd.

The word is common to all Germanic languages.

From Gmc. type *ti-di, time, division of time, portion of time; from Gmc. base *ti, *tai, to divide, apportion, answering to IE. *da-i, as appearing in Skt. day, to allot, Gk. δαλ-ομα, δαλ-υυμ, I allot, assign. -- DA, to divide, distribute; as in Skt. da, to cut, pp. dita, cut off, Gk. δά-σασα, to divide.

2. OE. tīma, wk.m., time, hour; ME. time, MnE. time, season, period, duration of life, etc.

Icel. timi; Dan. time; Swed. timme, an hour.

Found only in the English and Scandinavian languages.

The Gmc. type is *tīma, closely allied to *ti-di, tide, time, from which it differs in the suffix only.

3. OE. hwīl, f., a time; ME. whil, while; MnE. while, a time, space of time.

OHG. hwīla; MHG. wīle, time, hour; MnG. Weile.

Go. hweila, time, season, hour; Icel. hvila, a bed; Dan. hvile; Swed. hvila, rest.

The Gmc. type is *hwīla, a time, rest, pause, time of repose. The word is probably related to the Latin root qui (quie) in

quietus, tranquillus; it may also have some connection with Gr. καίρῶς. In Gmc. *hwilo- = IE. *geila the l belongs to the suffix.

4. OE. stund, f., a time, appointed time, space of time, season; ME. stounde, stund, stunt, stunde; MnE. arch., dial. stound, a time, moment, instant.

OHG. stunta, stunt; MHG. stunde, a time, while, hour; Icel., Swed., Dan. stund, a time, while, hour, moment.

The word occurs in all Germanic languages.

Gmc. *stundō is probably in ablaut relation to *standan, 'to stand', 'to place', signifying originally 'a fixed, appointed time', or 'a point of resting or standing'.

5. OE. māl, n., a time, portion of time, stated time; ME. māl, mele, meal, repast; MnE. meal.

OHG. māl, a point of time; MHG. māl; MnG. mal, Mahl, a point of time, meal, mealtime.

Go. māl, time, season; Icel. māl, time, nick of time, a meal; Dan. maal, measure, dimension; Swed. mal, measure, due size, meal.

A common Germanic word.

All from the Gmc. base *māla, a measured or stated time.

MA, to measure; cf. Skt. ma, to measure.

6. OE. first, fierst, fyrst, m., space of time, respite.

OHG., MHG. vrist; MnG. Frist, fixed time, space of time, delay.

ON. frest, delay.

A common Germanic word.

The Germanic type *fresta-, perhaps corresponding to IE. *pres-sta-, from prefix fris- in Go. frisahts, picture (-ahts = Gr. ὄψις view) and the Idg. root *st(h)a to stand. Cp. Skt. purahsthita- standing before.

7. OE. fæc, n., space, interval, distance, portion of time.

OHG. fah, a portion, compartment; an enclosure in the water for the catching of fish; MHG. vach; MnG. Fach, an enclosed space.

OFrs. fek, fak an enclosed space; Dan. fag, department, office; Sw. fack, compartment.

The word belongs to the West Germanic branch whence it passed into the Scandinavian.

Gmc. *faka- = IE. *paqo- corresponds to Gr. πᾶν sling, trap, bow-net, πᾶντος fast; Lat. compages, 'joining'.

8. OE. sæl, m.f., happiness, opportunity, condition, time; ME. sæl, sēl, happiness, fit season.

Go. sēlei, goodness; ON. sāla, happiness.

The same stem is found in OS. sālig, OHG. sālig, OE. sælig, happy; MHG. sāl-lîche, adv., in a manner producing happiness; MnG. selig, blessed; OE. sæld, OS. sālda, OHG. sāliða, MHG. sælde, happiness, blessing.

The meaning time is connected with the English word only. The stem is common Germanic.

From a Gmc. base *sāla, sālya, good, happy, fortunate. Allied to Lat. sollus, favorable, complete, whence sollistimum, solistimum, that which is very lucky, a favorable omen; also to Lat. saluus whole, safe.

9. OE. sīd, m., ME. sith, journey, time, chance.

OHG. sind, MHG. sind, sint, a way.

Go. sinþs, a time, orig. 'a going, way'; OS. sīd, way, journey, direction; OFrs. *sīth (in dat. pl. sethen); ON. sinn and sinni (for sinthi), a walk, journey, also a time.

Cp. OHG. sinnan (for sindan), to go, go forth, MnG. sinnen (pret. t. sann) only in the metaphorical sense 'to go over in the mind', to reflect upon, think over, just as in the case of the related Lat. sentire, to feel, perceive. OE. sendan, fr. older *sandjan, to cause to go, to send.

A common Germanic word.

The IE. form of the base is *sant, to go towards; whence *senta, a way.

10. OE. brāg, brāh, f., a point or space of time, a season; ME. throwe, throge, thrawe, thraghe, thrage, a space of time, a while. MnE., obs., throw, an occasion, a brief while.

Not found in the cognate languages.

Secondary Terms, i.e. Those Which Are Used
only occasionally in a Temporal Sense.

11. OE. cyrr, m., a turn, turning, time, period; ME. char, cherre, a turn; MnE. ajar, a corruption of a-char, which again stands for on char, i.e. on the turn.

OHG. kēra, MHG. kēre, a turn, direction; MnG. Kehre, a turn. Low G., keer, a time, occasion. Du. keer, a turning, a time. The word occurs only in the West Germanic languages.

From the root *gar, perhaps in the sense 'to turn'; Gr. γυρός, round, γύρος, a circle.

12. OE. stefn, stenn, m., a turn, period, time; e.g. niwan stefne, a second time, afresh.

13. OE. byre, m., a favorable time, opportunity.

OHG. gaburi, an event, happening.

Cp. OE. gebyrian, to be fit, to become, OHG. giburian, MHG. gebürn, MnG. gebühren, to be due, to become.

Perhaps from the root *ber 'to carry'.

14. OE. stycce, n., a piece, bit; a small piece of money; a short space of time.

OHG. stucchi, a piece, part; a space. MHG. stüke, MnG. Stück, a part, a piece.

OS. stukki, ON. stykke, a piece.

The word stands in ablaut relation to English stick and German Stock.

15. OE. ǣldu, ieldu, f. (the umlaut shows that the word originally ended in i), age, period, time of life; ME. eld, age, old age; MnE. arch. eld. Cp. Go. alds, an age, generation; life; world; ON. old. Cp. OE. ealdor, OS. aldar, OHG. altar, MnG. Alter. (Note its use in Zeitalter, first recorded by Adelung in 1786, in the sense of the Lat. sæculum); Go. alpeis, OE. eald, OHG. alt, MnE. old, MnG. alt.

16. OE. weorold, f., life, world, period of life; MnE. world. OHG. weralt, MnG. Welt. The Gothic type would be *wairaldus, lit. 'age of man'.

17. OHG. ēwa, time, eternity. Go. aiws, time, lifetime, age, world, eternity.

Go. ajukdups, f., eternity, time. According to Grimm (Grammar, II 238), from ajuk (for aiw-uk; see aiws) and dup (= Lat. -tut in words like iuventutus, senectutus).

Cp. OE. ā, ever, nā, never, MnE. no; OHG. ēo, MnG. je, neg. nie.

Related to Lat. ævum, eternity, lifetime, age. Lat. sternitas Fr. eternite MnE. eternity. Gr. αἰων, for αἰων lifetime, life. Skt. ayus, lifetime.

The Germanic stems mentioned are probably to be separated from OE. ǣ, ǣw, law; OHG. ē, ēwa, law, marriage; MnG. Ehe.

18. OHG. stulla, place, epoch, point of time, moment. MHG. stal, a standing-, sitting place. MnG. Stelle, a late formation modeled after OHG., MHG. stellen.

Gmc. *stalla- 'place for standing'. From IE. root *sthal to stand, IE. *sthā to stand.

Three Terms Peculiar to the Gothic
Language are Subjoined.

a) peihs, time, opportunity, season Kalpós.

Cp. OE. ding, OHG. ding, ON. ping. The original signification of 'thing' was 'a public meeting at a fixed time'.

IE. *tenkos.

b) garēhsns, f., counsel, design, the appointed time.

Example: akei uf raginjam ist jah faurragaggam und garehsn attins (until the time appointed by the father).

c) uhteigō, adv., in season, at a fit time.

From the stem of uhteigs, adj., (w. wisan) to have an opportunity for; from stem uht- in uhtwo, day-break, dawn, and suffix -eiga.

Surveying this list, we find that the largest group is formed of words belonging to the common Germanic stock, viz. tīd, hwil, mæl, sæl, stund, sid, first, iēldu. West Germanic are byre, cyrr, fæc. Peculiar to the Scandinavian and English is the important word tīma. In the Old English only are found præg, stefn(?). In the OHG. only stulla. The Gothic only contains peihs, ajukdups, uhteigō, garēhsns. Finally, aiws, ēwa belongs to the Gothic and OHG. (MHG.).

It will further be observed that some of the words common to the OE. and OHG. have the meaning of time in the OE. branch only, viz. sāl, fæc, cyrr, stycce, byre.

TERMS FOR TIME INTRODUCED FROM FOREIGN LANGUAGES AFTER
THE OLD ENGLISH & OLD HIGH GERMAN PERIODS.

1. term, a limited period, a word or expression. First occurrence, a1225.

ME. terme, 'a term', time, or day; also a term, word, speech.
Fr. OFr. terme, limit (of time or place), fr. Lat. terminum, acc. of terminus, a boundary-line, bound, termen, with the same sense; Gk. Τέρμα, a limit.

√tar, to pass over, cross, fulfil; cf. Skt. trí, to pass over, cross, fulfil.

2. E. respite, a delay, pause, temporary reprieve. Earliest instance in English about 1290 A.D.

From OF. respit, a 'respit', a delay, a time or term of forbearance; a protection of one, three, or five years, granted by the prince unto a debtor, etc.

The true, original sense is 'regard, respect had to a suit on the part of a prince, or judge', and it is a mere doublet of respect. -- Lat. acc. respectum, a looking at, respect, regard. -- Lat. respectus, pp. of respicere, to look at, look back upon. -- Lat. re-, back; and specere, to see, spy. -- MnF. repit.

3. E. season, proper time, fit opportunity. First recorded in a1300 A.D. MnG. Saison.

From OF. seson, seison, saison; ME. sesun. MnF. saison, season, due time.

Low Lat. sationem, acc. of satio, a season, time of year. The same as Lat. satio, a sowing, planting; hence the time of

sowing or spring-time, which seems to have been regarded as the season, par excellence.

Lat. satus, pp. of serere, to sow. Serere appears to be a reduplicated form, put for sesere or si-se-re; from \sqrt{sa} , to sow.

4. E. space, extension, extent of time, time. First recorded in 1300.

From OFr. espace, Lat. spatium (med. Lat. also spacium).

5. E. age, period of time, maturity of life. First occurrence: 1325.

From OF. aage, age.

L.Lat. *staticum, a form which is not found, but which must certainly have existed, the ending aticum being very common. Derived from statem, acc. of stas, age; which is a contraction from an older form suitas, formed by suffixing -tas to the stem sui; from suum, life, period, age.

Cognate with Gk. αἰών (for αἰώνυ), a period; Go. aiws a period, time, age; Skt. eva, course, conduct.

6. E. date, an epoch, given point of time. First occurrence about 1325.

ME. date; 'date' of scripture; datum.

MnG. Datum; MHG. (14th cent.) datum; recorded in regular use since 1561.

F. date, the date of letters or evidences.

L.Lat. data, a date. -- Lat. data, neut. pl. of datus, pp. of dare, to give.

In ancient Latin the date of a letter was expressed thus: 'Dabam Romæ prid. Kal. Apr.', i.e., 'I gave or delivered (this)

at Rome on the 31st of March', for which the later formula was 'Data Romæ, given at Rome,' etc. Hence data the first word of the formula was used as a term for the time and place therein stated.

Cognate with Gk. δί-δω-μι, I give; Skt. da-da-mi, I give, from the root da to give; Church Slavic dami, I give; Russ. darite, to give.

7. E. period, time of a circuit, date, epoch. First occurrence: 1413. -- MnG. Periode.

F. periode 'a period, perfect sentence, conclusion'.

Lat. periodus, used only of the period or cycle of the four Grecian games, and of a complete sentence; in L.Lat. in other of the Greek senses.

Gk. περίοδος, a going round, way round, circuit, compass, a well rounded sentence. -- Gk. περί, round; and όδος, a way.

8. E. epoch, a fixed date. First instance: 1614.

MnG. Epoche, first recorded use, Epocha, 1727.

L.Lat. epocha; -- Gk. ἐποχή, a stop, check, hindrance, pause, epoch; Gk. ἐπέχειν, to hold in, check.

Gk. ἐπι = ἐπί, upon; and έχειν, to have, hold;

Cognate with Skt. sah, to bear, undergo, endure. -- sagh, to hold, check.

9. E. era, an epoch, fixed date. First recorded use: 1646. -- MnG. Ära.

Lat. æra, an era; derived from a particular use of æra, in the sense of 'counters', or 'items of an account', which is properly the plural of æs, brass, money.

NATIVE TERMS USED IN A TEMPORAL SENSE IN
THE MIDDLE AND MODERN PERIODS ONLY

1. E. span, fr. OE. span(n); Ger. Spanne, fr. OHG. spanna.
W.Fris. spanne, E.Fris. sponne, M.Du., Du. spanne, ON. spann,
sponn, Dan. spand.

Related to the verb OE., OHG. spannan, E. span, Ger. spannen.

2. E. spell, period or space of time, cannot with certainty
be traced in the OE., but is possibly the direct representative
of OE. gespelia 'substitute'.

Related to the verb spell (first recorded in 1595), to take
the place of a person at some work, to relieve another by taking
a turn at work.

No such word is found in German.

3. MHG. nū, n., MnG. Nu, a moment, from OHG. nū, now.
Go. nū, OS. nū, OE. nū, MnE. now; MnG. nun.

A common IE. temporal adverb.

Cp. Skt. nū 'now' -- nūn-am 'now'; Gr. νυ νυυ, Lat. nunc,
OSlav. nyne 'now', Let. nu.

The temporal sense of nū, used as a noun, is confined to the
MHG. and MnG.

Go.	OE.	OFr.	OHG.	OS.	ME	MnE.
	<u>fæc</u> space	<u>fek, fak</u> space	<u>fah</u> enclo- sure			
	<u>first</u> space of time respice	<u>ferst</u> space of time	<u>frist</u>	<u>vrist</u>	<u>frist</u> space of time term respice	
<u>hweila</u> time hour	<u>hwil</u> space of time	<u>hwile</u> a while time	<u>hwila</u> space of time	<u>hwila</u> space of time	<u>hwile</u> time a while	<u>while</u>
<u>mēl</u> time hour	<u>māl</u> time	<u>mal, mel</u> time meal	<u>māl</u> a time occasion		<u>māl</u> meal	<u>meal</u>
<u>sēlei</u> hap- piness	<u>sāl</u> happi- ness fit time		<u>sāliða</u> happi- ness		<u>sāl, sēl</u> happi- ness fit time	
<u>sinþ [s]</u> time occa- sion	<u>sīð</u> way journey a time	* <u>sīth</u> d.pl. sethen	<u>sind</u>	<u>sīð</u> way journey a time	<u>sīð</u> journey time	
	<u>stund</u> time	<u>stunde</u> time hour	<u>stunta</u> time G. mal	<u>stunda</u> time	<u>stound</u> a while	<u>stound</u> a while (Obs.)
	<u>tīd</u> time hour	<u>tīd</u> time	<u>zīt</u> time hour	<u>tīd</u> time	<u>tīde</u> time tide	<u>tīde</u>
	<u>tīma</u> time hour				<u>tīme</u> time	<u>tīme</u>
	<u>þrēg</u> time				<u>throwe</u> a while	<u>throwe</u> a while (Obs.)

MHG	MnG.	Low G.	Du.	ON.	Dan.	Icel.
<u>vach</u>	<u>Fach</u>	<u>fak</u>	<u>vak</u>		<u>fag</u> depart- ment.	
<u>vrist</u> space of time delay	<u>Frist</u> space of time delay	<u>ferst</u>	<u>ferste</u>	<u>frest</u>	<u>frist</u> time delay	<u>frestr</u>
<u>wīle</u> time hour	<u>Weile</u> a while	<u>wīl</u> a while	<u>wiyl</u> a while time	<u>hvíl</u> place of rest	<u>hvile</u> rest	<u>hvíla</u> rest bed
<u>māl</u> a time meal	<u>Mahl</u> meal <u>mal</u> a time	<u>māl</u>	<u>maal</u> mealtime meal	<u>mál</u> mealtime time	<u>maal</u> mealtime	<u>mâl</u> mealtime time
	<u>selig</u> (adj.)		<u>zilig</u> (adj.)	<u>sæla</u> happi- ness	<u>salig</u> (adj.)	<u>sæla</u> bliss joy
<u>sind</u> way				<u>sinn</u>		<u>sinn</u>
<u>stunta</u> time hour	<u>Stunde</u> hour	<u>stun</u> hour	<u>stond(e)</u> hour time	<u>stund</u> hour time	<u>stund</u> time a while	<u>stund</u>
<u>zīt</u> time hour	<u>Zeit</u> time	<u>tīt</u> time	<u>tijd</u> time	<u>tīd</u> time hour	<u>tīd</u> time	<u>tīd</u> time
				<u>tīmi</u> time G. mal happi- ness	<u>time</u> hour	<u>tīmi</u>

SEMANTIC HISTORY OF THE TERMS FOR TIME.

I. E. TĪD, TIDE, G. ZĪT, ZEIT.

1. E. TĪd, Tide.

1. Extent or space of time.

OLD ENGLISH

a700 Wæs seo hwil micel, xii wintra tīd torn gebolode. Beo.
147.*

971 Uncup bið aghwylcum anum men his lifes tīd. Blickl.
Hom. 175.

c1000 þreo tīda ('ages') sind on ðysre worulde: an is seo ðe
wæs butan æ; seo ðridde is nu æfter Cristes to-cyme.
Ælfric Hom.

The meaning of tīd in the third example died out in early ME. It was replaced by the French loan word age which occurred for the first time in literature in the year 1297.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

a1300 Both ware made sun and mon, In takinge o tides to
stand, Dais and yeirs. Curs. M. 391.

c1412 I mote .. suffre storm after þe mery tyde. HOCCKLEVE
De Reg. Princ. 847.

EARLY MODERN ENGLISH

a1529 Stop a tyd, and be welle ware. SKELTON Poems agst.
Garnesche iv. 162.

* An attempt has been made to give examples of the earliest as well as the latest occurrence of a word.

1590 There they alight and rest their weary limbs a tide.

SPENSER F.Q. I. ii. 29.

1603 Ane Pages claithis in the meine tyde. Philotus lxxvii.

The word tide, in this sense, became obsolete in early MnE. No doubt, the competing words were 'time' and 'while'. Judging from the examples from the early MnE. period, 'tide' had assumed the meaning of 'a short space of time', 'a while'.

In dialects the word is continued in the sense of 'time'.

1791 Edb. My tides are i' yer han'. WADDELL Ps.

1871 Sc. I wiss that tide had been a lang lang year. LEARMONT
Poems 331.

2. A point of time; with reference to action, occasion.

OLD ENGLISH

c897 Donne cynd his hlaford .. on da tiid dæt he hiene wæ
nat. K.ÆLFRED Gregory's Past. xvii. 120.

971 pæt lecht on pære tide ne ablinneþ. Blickl. Hom. 21.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

a1300 þe flock he fedd opon a tid. Cursor M. 5733.

a1400 Such toret and teone takeþ me þis tyde. Pistill of
Susan 149.

a1425 ... As he han done mony a tyde. Cursor M. 5874.

MODERN ENGLISH

1635 Which ship had beene seven yeares upon the sea .. and
before this tyde could never see land. R. JOHNSON Hist.
Tom a Lincolne.

1805 But we will see it--joyful--joyful tide! Some day ..
The mountain will we cross. WORDSW. Elegiac Verses
on J. Wordsw. vi.

1868 He, who, from ill death Saved me that tide. MORRIS

Earthly Par.; Man born to be king 1272.

In early MnE. the word was discontinued in standard prose, and its use was restricted to poetry. Excepting dialectal usage the word is considered archaic in prose. 'Time' has almost completely replaced 'tide' in this meaning.

3. A suitable, fit, or due time.

OLD ENGLISH

c888 Se de his ær tide ne tiolad, þonne bið his on tid unti-
lad. K.ÆLFRED Boeth. xxix. 2.

c1060 Alle þingen ða ðar upaspringeð, inne tyd and ut of tid.
Charter of Eadweard in Kemble Cod. Dipl. IV. 212.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

c1300 Bi Cipres side Isaac to asprie, If he toke any tide out
of land to flie. R.BRUNNE Chron. 164.

c1430 Whanne tyde of passage come, thei toke the see, and
passid ouyr. Brut 439.

MODERN ENGLISH

1590 Then Paridell, .. glad of so fitte tide Him to commed
to her, thus spake. SPENSER F.Q. III. ix. 32.

1887 For the land is nothing evil, but would bear all things
in tide. MORRIS Odyssey IX. 131.

In the standard language 'tide', in this sense, has been archaic since the 16th century. It is continued in dialects in England and Scotland where it is used especially in the sense of 'the right season for agricultural operations':

A bit braw hairst tid, 'a fine harvest time'.

We have had a fine tid for the in-pittin, sowing, etc.

A further development has taken place in dialects where it has acquired the meaning of 'the suitable condition of ground for cultivation:

Lth. The grund's no in tid. Jamieson.

N.I.¹ 'That ground is in fine tid', pulverized and dry.

4. Appointed or fixed time.

OLD ENGLISH

a900 Waciað ge, fordon þe ge ne weoton ne done dæg ne ða tide.

tr. Bæda's Hist. III, xiv. 210.

a900 þa cwom his tid, þæt he scolde of middangearde to Driht-
ne feran. ibid.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

a1300 þe Inn him spedd til-ward his tide, Ouer term durst he
nought bide. Cursor M. 21511.

a1436 Att tide and hour and tyme, that is to wetyn with ynne
the xv. day .. that he plete to his aduersarye. Domes-
day Ipswich v. in Blk. Bk. Admir. (Rolls) II. 31.

The word as it is here used became obsolete in the first half of the 15th century, when it was replaced by 'time'. The earliest recorded example for 'time' in this sense is c897. The two words, then, were used side by side for at least five centuries.

5. Hour, 60 minutes.

OLD ENGLISH

c850 Symle he twelf sidum tida gemearcad dages and nihtes.

Phoenix 146.

c1050 Dæt ger bya gesett on þrim hund dagum & fif & syxtigum
dagum & syx tidum. Byrhtferth's Handbooc in Anglia
VIII. 298.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

a1300 Ten tides F. oures has þe dai and tua. Cursor M.
14193.

c1450 þe four & twenti tydes v.r. houres in day & in þe
nygt .. he dygte folwel & right Mid þreo grete kandeln
To berne eite tides v.r. houres . R.GLOUCESTER'S
Chron. (Rolls) App. BB. 3.

'Tide', in this sense, was replaced by 'hour' in the first
half of the 15th century. The earliest recorded use of 'hour'
is c1250. The two words were used interchangeably for about two
centuries. At the same time 'time' was used in this sense. It
is of rare occurrence, however. Only one example is given in
the NED.:

c1320 Riht to helle he eode, Fourti tymen þer he wes orig.
Quarante ures i demorat Er þat he Vp risen ches.
Cast. Love 1403.

6. Hour, a point of time. Any definite time in the course of the
day.

OLD ENGLISH

a900 Ymb þa teogdan tid dages. tr. Bæda's Hist. III. xix.
xxvii. 240.

c1160 Hyt was þa seo teode tyd. Hatton Gosp. John i. 39.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

a1300 Upon a dai at tide of none, An angel come and stode

him bi. Cursor M. 19810 (Edin.)

1493 He hyred people to labour by all tydes of the day. Festivall (W. de W. 1515) 7.

In this sense 'tide' is usually preceded by a numeral, and corresponds to o'clock in modern use. 'Hour' is not uncommon but it has a biblical flavor. 'Time' has taken the place of 'tide' when not preceded or modified by a numeral. In MnE. 'What is the time?', i.e. the hour and minute as shown by the clock. Examples of this use under Time 4.

'Tide' early acquired a special meaning--canonical hour--and by a transfer of meaning it was applied to the prayers which were recited during these hours. An example from each period follows.

c1000 Nu will ic þæt þu singe þine tida. ÆLFRIC Saints' Lives xxxiii. 344.

13.. Atome þon maigt ful well abyde Til he haue seid þe laste tyde. Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS. xxxvii. 767.

1557 The said Wardayn .. shall dayle saye or singe .. in the quere the tydes or houres, as terció, sexto and nono. In 10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm. App. v. 386.

The last recorded example of 'tide' in this sense is 1557. After this date it was replaced by 'hour' which had also acquired this meaning as early as 1250. In the meantime the two words were used interchangeably.

7. An anniversary or festival of the church: chiefly in the names of holy seasons or saints' days.

OLD ENGLISH

a900 Her Bregowine wæs to ercebisc gehadod to Sce Michaelles

tide. OE. Chron. an. 759.

c1050 Fram easter tide þæt be eft cume. Bryhtferth's Handbooc
in Anglia VIII. 300.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

c1200 To dai is cumen de holie tid þat me cleped aduent. Trin.
Coll. Hom. 3.

c1400 þe sege endurede fro Michelmasse Vnto Seynt Andrewus
tyde. Brut CXXXIX, 146.

MODERN ENGLISH

1595 What hath this day deseru'd .. That it in golden letters
should be set Among the high tides in the Kalendar?

1839 Feast-day and fast-day, holy tide and other tide. J.H.
NEWMAN Par. Serm. IV. xxiii 385.

1903 Holy week, and similar solemm tides. E.K.CHAMBERS
Mediæv. Stage I. i. 16.

In the words not compounded we note a specialization of meaning. Just for how long a period the word has been felt to be archaic cannot be inferred from the examples found. That it has not become obsolete by this time is perhaps due to the fact that it was used in compounds. The meaning 'time' is preserved in compounds like Yule-tide, Easter-tide, Whitsuntide; but even in these compounds the element of time is at present but dimly felt by the majority of the people.

This meaning of 'tide' is continued in dialects. A few examples follow:

Nhb. Dur. Tides, rushbearings, revels, gants, which
are still kept. Denham Tracts.

Cor. The strongest beer, which was intended to have been kept for a tide.

This dialectal use is essentially the same as that of the standard literary language was, except that the element of 'holiness' is no longer associated with the word.

An interesting dialectal formation is the compound tide-times in the sense of 'holiday times such as Christmas, Easter, etc.'

Wil.¹ He do have a drop, tide-times and that.

The combination of the two words clearly shows that the element of time in the first part of the compound had entirely passed out of the memory of the people when the word was coined.

8. Tide of the sea. The flowing or swelling of the sea, or its alternate rising and falling, twice in each lunar day.

'Tide' has perhaps derived this meaning from the M.L.G. getide, 'fixed time, space of time'. Old English had no form corresponding to getide, using for 'tide' of the sea, flōd or flōd and ebba. Tid or tide, in this sense, is not known before 1340. Actual formal evidence of the borrowing is wanting, however, and the sense may have been transferred in the English itself. Cp. Ger. Gezeit, Gezeiten. The first two examples here given appear to mean 'the time of high water', rather than the phenomenon of the tides.

This meaning, the principal modern sense of tide, developed in the first place by restriction, and, secondly, by the process which has been denoted as concatenation. "In concatenation the primitive meaning of the word is forgotten in the second object. Then the name passes from the second object to the

9. The space of time between two successive points of high water, or between low water and high water, in the sea; also, that portion of this time during which the height of the water ('state of the tide') allows of work being done, as in tide's work.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1495 A Calker laboring by the tyde, for as long tyme as he may labor above the water and beneth the water, shall not excede for his wages for every tyde iij d. Act. II. Hen. VII, c. 22 I.

MODERN ENGLISH

1724 They might .. come by the sea in two tides. DEFOE Mem. Cavalier 281.

1803 The extra work was divided into nights and tides: a night consisted of 5 hours and a tide of an hour and a half.

An interesting fact concerning the use of this word is that it again assumes a meaning of time, by a process which is practically the reverse of the transference of 'tide' in its original sense to that of the modern use of tide (the rising and falling of the sea). The following diagram will illustrate this change of meaning of the word as used in example 1724, above:

A The rising and falling of the sea.

A+B The time between two successive points of high water.

B A space of time (definite).

In the example of 1803, above, tide has a definite value of an hour and a half.

10. In the transferred sense of 'a body of flowing water or other liquid; a stream, a current.'

1757 Deep in the roaring tide he plung'd. GRAY Bard 144.

1872 Feel this arm of mine--the tide within .. Pulsing full
man. TENNYSON Last Tourn. 685.

In this sense the word is now employed only poetically and
rhetorically. Very naturally it may be used by way of metaphor:

1601 Thou art the Ruines of the Noblest man That euer liued
in the Tide of Times. SHAK. J. Caes. III. i. 257.

1830 A tide of emigration has set in from the Old World to the
New.

11. The water of the sea; the sea (esp. when the tide is flowing).

1595 A brauer choyse of dauntlesse spirits .. Did neuer flote
upon the swelling tide. SHAKS. John II. i. 74.

1791 Whelm me deep in Ocean's restless tide! COWPER, ODyss.
XX, 74.

1847 I'm afloat, I'm afloat on the fierce rolling tide, The
ocean's my home and my bark is my bride. ELIZA COOK
Rover's Song I.

The word in this sense is restricted to poetry. But it also
occurs in dialects, where it has the meaning of ocean without
reference to the ebb and flow:

Lnk. You'll a warlock turn, in air you'll ride Upon a
broom, and travel on the tide.

Abd. That wimplin' wanders to the tide.

12. PHRASES: a) Time and tide, an alliterative reduplication, in
which the two words were more or less synonyms. The phrase is
now obsolete.

al225 And te tide and te time pat tu iboren were, schal been
iblescet. St. Marher. 18.

1609 If dancers keep not tide and time in their measures.
Mulb. Trees. in Harl. Misc. (Malh.) III. 75.

b) Time nor tide tarrieth no man: now superseded by 'Time and tide wait for no man'. Here tide originally meant 'time', but since the 16th century it has ordinarily denoted the tide of the sea; the modern linguistic feeling of most speakers seems to interpret tide in this phrase in the same modern sense. This interesting phenomenon illustrates the principle of folk etymology. The date when this phrase was first used in literature is about 1430.

al625 The tide stays no man. FLETCHER Woman's Prize IV, v.

Note: The important derivative tidung(s), which looks like an English formation, is probably taken over from the Scandinavian, the ON. tidendi becoming anglicized at an early date to tidung, tidung. A summary of its meanings follows:

1. Something that happens; an event, incident, occurrence.

cl205 þa isæh Cesar tidend þat him wes sær.

cl386 How that this blisful tidung is bifalle. Chaucer.

This meaning of the word became obsolete in early ME.

2. The announcement of an event or occurrence; a piece of news (now obsolete or archaic); usually in the plural tidings, reports, news, intelligence, information. An example from each period follows:

1069-1125 Ða weard se cing swype blide þissere tidunge.

1200 Ic scal iheren reuliche tidunge.

1620 It is a blessed tyding of which Jesus Christ not only is the subject and substance, but also the bearer and proclaimer.

Summing up, we may state the main facts of the semasiological development of tide as follows. In early Old English tīd was the most frequent and universal of all the terms for 'time', but toward the close of the Old English period it began to lose much of its ground, yielding to its stronger competitors. Its place has very largely been taken by time, OE. tīma, which gradually gained at the expense of tīd, so that at the beginning of the MnE. period most of the meanings of tīd were obsolete or archaic and today it lives in only a few compounds and in dialects. Another frequent use of the word was conceded to the French loanword hour. But the most striking phenomenon in this connection is the partial concretion of ME. tide (time) into MnE. tide (the rising and falling of the sea).

2. G. Zit, Zeit.

1. A space of time.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

in thrio dago ziti. O.II.11,40.

thie langun ziti Krist gisah. O.III.4,19.

so managfalto ziti ih mit iu bin in worolti. O.IV.15,31.

in thero ziti thes rouhennes. T.

an demo ziti dero ahtungo. N.

warun ziti mino, er wurtin thio sino.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

an dem gelobten zite. MAR. 191, 35.

bi miner zit. LIEHT. 125, 6.

bi sinen ziten LIVL.M. 630. 7517.

uz der rechten zit. PASS. 116, 48.

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

Nechtlicher Zeit. H.SACHS.

Zeit seines Aufenthaltes. Le.

Zeit ihres Lebens. RANKE Wke.

Etwas probieren für die lange Zeit. KELLER Wke.

Ich flehe um drei Tage Zeit.

Unlike the cognate English word tide, the German Zeit has been up to the present the most important word for time in general. While it has given up some of its meanings, it has, at the same time, gained considerably at the expense of other words. It is in this general meaning of time that Zeit has gained most. In the OHG. and MHG. stunt, wila, and vrist were used in this

general sense. Zit replaced stunt almost entirely and to a great extent vrist and wile.

2. Age, times.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

thie sehs ziti worolti. O.II.10,5.

fou alten zitin hina fou so sint thie buah thesses fol.

O. H.126.

bi alten Noes zitin. O. IV.7,50.

in unseren ziten. N.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

hie vor in alten ziten. MSH. 3,326.

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

Man teilt die Geschichte in ... alte, mittlere, neue Zeit.

Die finstern Zeiten des Mittelalters.

Die Verderbnis der Zeit durch Verweichlichung und Übergenuss.

Wandert aus durch alle welten, wandelt hin durch alle zeiten.

G. 1, 204.

Was ihr den Geist der Zeiten heisst. G. 11,27.

Die Zeit der Römer, der Republik, des Mittelalters, der

Kreuzzüge, der Reformation, etc.

The use of the dative plural in this sense of the word is common in prepositional phrases. In MnG. the compound Zeitalter (for Lat. saeculum) is often preferred, the earliest recorded in 1786.

3. Hour.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

thia zit er eiscota. O. III.2,29.

zi thero sibuntun ziti. T.

thrio dages ziti -- fon sextu unz in nona. T.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

um die dritte zit. CHR.

diu sieben zit (Kanonische Horen).

This meaning is not continued in MnG. except in such combinations as indicate the limitation of the general sense, i.e., the time as shown by the clock at any one moment, e.g. Die Dorfglocke gab mit bescheidenen Schlägen die Zeit des Tages an. Tieck 16, 61.

The place of Zeit in this sense was taken by Stunde. Besides, in a way, Uhr supplies part of its functions, e.g. um drei Uhr, at three o'clock; wie viel Uhr ist es? what time is it? Uhr was borrowed from the Low German ūr, ultimately from the Lat. hora (Fr. heure), so that it is etymologically identical with the E. hour.

4. Suitable time, favorable time, appointed time.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

sin zit, quad, noh ni quami. O. III.15,27.

er altaz, sos er scolta, unz er thia zit wolta. O.III.15,4.

zi wizanne iz firbari, war thiu zit wari. O.I.20,32.

ni laz thir zit thes ingan. O.I, 1,48.

nu ist zit, nu standan uf. Nd.

uuanda noh iro zit ne ist, ze irstanne. N.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

ich han zit. Iw. (es ist für mich die höchste Zeit).

nu warez mer dann zit, daz ir mich liezet genesen. En. 284,38.

e zit, (vor der Zeit).

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

alles hat seine Zeit. (Biblical).

Nun ist es wahrhaft grosse Zeit zu fliehen. H.Sachs.

Wir haben Zeit, dass wir gehen. Frau Gottsched.

Sie haben zwar Zeit gehabt dass sie gegangen sind. Le.

wir haben hohe Zeit zum Fortgehen. J.Paul.

(dazu) ist jetzt keine Zeit. Schi.

Nun mach ich mich bei Zeiten fort. G. 11,129.

An idiomatic expression containing 'Zeit', in this sense, is 'Zeit haben' the proper time for doing something. It seems to have originated in the MHG. period, and is still used in southern Germany. The occurrence of the adjective hoch (often in the superlative) in connection with this meaning of the word is frequent; e.g., es ist hohe Zeit zu gehen; it is high time to go.

5. State or condition of affairs during a certain period.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

thulten bittero ziti. O.I.18,20.

nu niazzen wir fridosamo ziti. O. L.29.

hiar (auf Erden) ist io wewo ich allo ziti sero ich stunta
filu suaro. O. V. 23,91.

in ubelemo zite. N.

guote zite. N.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

guote zite, angenehme stunden. ER. 8614.

wartent bezzeres zeites. RING 45,40.

lat iu die zit gevallen wol, sit noch ein boeser komen sol.

FREID. 114,1.

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

Schickt euch in der Zeit, denn es ist böse Zeit. Eph.5,16.

Dadurch wurde seine Zeit ausgiebig und reichlich. Keller.

The application of these adjectives to time, as a result of the close association of the character of one's experiences and their duration, is very frequent in all the periods of the German language.

6. Time opposed to eternity.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

er ziti. T.

in ziti (in tempore). N.

an ende dis zitis. N.

This use of 'zit' is frequent in the old period. In MnG. it is often used in the phrase 'Zeit und Ewigkeit', and in combination with other terms suggesting that the word is employed in the finite sense.

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

Kalender für Zeit und Ewigkeit.

dort in deinem ehrensaal solls schallen ohne Zeit und Zahl.

hoch über der Zeit und dem Raume. Worte des Glaubens.

7. Time personified.

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

Die Zeit heisst Schicelmann, die alle Dinge treibt, sichtet, wartet. Agricola 670.

Wiewohl die graue Zeit der Furchen viel auf seine breite Stirn gegraben. W. 11, 118.

Das erstgeborene Kind der Ewigkeit, die Zeit. Falk M. 97.

Hat mich zum Manne geschmiedet, die allmächtige Zeit. G. 2,63.

The personification of 'Zeit' seems to be an innovation of the MnG. period. In the English, too, the personification of time was introduced rather late, yet the word was used in this sense two or three centuries earlier in the English than in the German. Presumably classical influences of the Renaissance are responsible for this personification.

8. Season.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

theiz uuari in uuntiriga zit. O.III.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

die zit (jahreszeit) CHR.

nach der zit. (der Jahreszeit nach).

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

Die Zeit der Rosen.

Der Winter ist die Zeit der Festlichkeiten, usw.

Gewöhnt an alle Zeiten des Jahrs, an Hitze, Sturm und Schnee.

Nicolai. 8,12.

When one of the four seasons of the year is meant the MnG. prefers the compound Jahreszeit.

9. Spare time, leisure time.

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

Er hat keine Zeit an uns zu denken.

Er hat Zeit bis Dienstag.

In this meaning of the word, Zeit is frequently the object of the verb 'haben'. It seems to be a Mn.G. development, corresponding exactly to the English use of 'to have time'.

10. Metrical and grammatical use.

a) Quantity of a syllable.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

allo thio ziti so zaltun sie bi noti is mizit ana boga al
io sulih waga. O. I.1,25.

so mezent iz thie fuazi, zit ich thiu regula. O.I.1,41.

b) Tense.

Zeit as translation of the Latin grammatical term tempus
came into use in the 18th century.

Note. a) Noteworthy idioms of Zeit.

An der Zeit, ausser der Zeit, bei Zeiten, mit
der Zeit, vor der Zeit, alle Zeit, seiner Zeit, oh du ewige
Zeit! du meine Zeit.

b) Noteworthy derivations and compounds.

The derivative geZit, MnG. Gezeit dates from
the MHG. period. Denoting originally time in general, it is
now confined to the technical sense of the ebbing and flowing of
the sea, i.e. the E. tide. It is commonly employed in the plu-
ral only, die Gezeiten.

MHG. zitunge, known since 1321, MnG. Zeitung, denoted at
first 'course of time', 'happening', then 'news', 'message' as
in Luther's rendering of evangelium by 'gute Newezeitung', then
'announcement of news', 'newspaper'. The intermediate sense is
still found in classical authors, like Goethe and Schiller, e.g.
'die Zeitung, die ich vermelde, klingt nicht tröstlich'.

The very important compounds Zeitalter, Zeitraum, Zeitpunkt
are mentioned for the first time by Adelung in 1786. Zeitalter

'generation of men', 'age' answers to the Latin saeculum. Zeit-
raum is literally and semasiologically 'space of time' and may
also be translated by 'period'. Zeitpunkt, literally 'point of
time' was introduced as a German translation of the Latin momentum.

II. E. Tima, Time.

1. A space or extent of time.

OLD ENGLISH

c893 Ymbe done timan þe þiss was. K.ÆLFRED. Oros. IV.

c1000 Hit is awritan þe ðam yfelum timan. ÆLFRIC Hom. II, 340.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1377 And tolde whi þat tempest so lange tyme dured. Langl.

P.Pl. B. xviii. 63.

MODERN ENGLISH

1662 The highest Mountains in the world .. may be ascended
in three dayes time. STILLINGFL Orig. Sacr. III,iv.5.

1849 The time occupied .. was not to exceed fourteen days in
one year. MACAULAY Hist. Eng. III. i. 291.

1875 In less than no time you shall hear. JOWETT Plato
(ed. 2) I. 195.

2. An age, era; a period in the existence or history of the world.

OLD ENGLISH

c1000 þry timan sind on þyssere worulde ... Se tima is 'ar æ'
gecweden, þe was fram Adam buton æ of Moysen. ÆLFRIC
Hom. II.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1483 Here ende the Chronicles of englonde with the frute of
timis. CAXTON Chron. (colophon).

MODERN ENGLISH

1560 Tully calleth an History the witness of tymes and light
of veritie. DAUS tr. Sleidane's Comm. 471.

1884 It is a folly, man, a superstition of modern times.

W.C.SMITH Kildrostan 86.

In this sense, 'time' was perhaps the first competitor of 'tid', but 'time', in turn, was to a great extent replaced by the French loan-word 'age' which is recorded for the first time in this meaning in 1297. But 'age' did not wholly drive out 'time'. In MnE. the word is usually employed in the plural in such phrases as olden times, ancient times, modern times, times past, etc.

3. An age, generation.

OLD ENGLISH

962-3 On minum timan, swa .. on mines fader. Laws Edgar

Suppl. B. Leges saculares c.2.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1380 Phariseis .. weren religiouse in Cristis tyme. WYCLIF

Serm. Sel. Wks. I, 27.

MODERN ENGLISH

1865 In these times of ours. DICKENS Mat Fr. I. i.

In this meaning, 'age' has deprived 'time' of some of its use, but in modern English 'time' is still very common. Here 'time' is given its value in connection with a possessive pronoun or the name of some person. 'Time' then denotes 'the period contemporary with the life or activity of someone'.

4. Hour, point of time.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

c1200 patt time .. wass riht swa summ it off patt dagg þe

tende time wære. ORMIN 12745.

al225 As þah hit were þe seouede time of þe dei. St. Marher 8.

MODERN ENGLISH

1823 By the light you shall catch a few words in the book, or
the time on the watch. J.BABCOCK Dom. Amusem.

In early ME. 'time' in this sense meant the hour of the day
and was usually preceded by a numeral. The word retains this
meaning in MnE. in the common phrases 'At what time'? 'What is
the time'? meaning the hour and minute as shown by the clock.

5. Season.

OLD ENGLISH

c1000 Hit was ða se time ðæt winberian ripodon. ÆLFRIC Num.
xiii, 21.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1398 þe gere of þe sonne .. conteyned foure tymes, winter,
springing tyme, somer, and harueste.

c1400 Heruest bygynnes .. and lastys lxxxviiij dayes ... In
this tyme ys also þe day and þe nyght euyne. tr.
Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh. 74.

MODERN ENGLISH

1825 Fleeting showers of rain, unseasonable at the time of
year. T.HOOK Sayings Ser. II.

In MnE. 'time' is no longer used as it is in the example of
1398. In this sense it was replaced by the French loan-word
'season' which is recorded for the first time in 1340.

In the early 15th century tyme also appears in the sense
of 'weather':

c1400 þe right of hym þat reygnyth ys more profitable to sub-

al225 As pah hit were þe seouede time of þe dei. St. Marher 8.

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5. Season.

OLD ENGLISH

cl000 Hit was da se tima dæt winberian ripodon. ÆLFRIC Num.
xiii, 21.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

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In the early 15th century tyme also appears in the sense
of 'weather':

cl400 þe right of hym þat reygnyth ys more profitable to sub-

gitz þan plente of good tyme. Secreta Secret., Gov.
Lordsh. 93.

1422 The colerike by kynde .. sholde haue a stomake good
y-nowe, namely in colde tyme. ibid. Priv. Priv. 220.

6. Appointed, due, or proper time.

OLD ENGLISH

c897 Nu us is tima þæt we onwæcnen of slæpe. K. ÆLFRED Greg.
Past. C. lxxiii. 459.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

cl489 It was tyme to go to bed. CAXTON Blanchardyn xxiii, 74.

MODERN ENGLISH

1741-2 'Tis time to go, the sun is high advanced. GRAY
Agrippina 158.

In this sense the word is in common use throughout all the
periods of the language.

7. A favorable, convenient, fitting point of time.

OLD ENGLISH

c897 Se wisa hilt his spræce & bitt timan. K. ÆLFRED Greg.
Past C. xxxiii 220.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1297 Huld hem euere in Scotland & poer to hem nome, To worri
upe King Willam, wanne god time come. R.GLOUC. (Rolls)
7633.

MODERN ENGLISH

1590 There is a time for speech, and a time for silence.
Nashe Pasquil's Apol. I. Wks. I. 223.

1709 When stocks are lowest, it is time to buy. STEELE

Tatler No.36.

1849 An adversary of no common prowess was watching his time.

MACAULAY Hist. Eng. iv. I 512.

Very often 'time' in this sense is followed by an infinitive. Its use in connection with a possessive pronoun is also very common.

8. A period considered with reference to its prevailing conditions; general state of affairs at a particular period.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1484 Men say comynly that after that the tyme goth, so must folke go. CAXTON Fables of Esop II. viii.

MODERN ENGLISH

1602 The time is out of ioynt. SHAKS. Ham. I. v. 188.

1837 When times grew cold and unbelieving. J.H.NEWMAN Par. Serm.

It is seen from this use of 'time' that the prevailing conditions are thought of in close connection with their duration.

From this meaning of the word Times in the sense of newspaper is derived. The word has served this function since the year 1788. The semasiological development may be summarized by the formula of concatenation as follows:

A A period of time.

A+B Happenings or conditions during a certain time.

B Events.

B+C The events printed on paper.

C The paper itself.

German Zeitung, Danish tidende may be mentioned as parallel

cases.

9. Occasion; each occasion of a recurring action.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

c1300 Let me go at pis one tyme. St. Julian 108.

c1400 The next tym pou noyes me, pou neghis to be fer.

Destr. Troy 8272.

MODERN ENGLISH

1611 He saith to him againe the second time, Simon Sonne of
Ionas, louest thou me? BIBLE John xxi. 16.

1876 The publishers .. are still pouring forth reprints by
many thousands at a time. TREVELYAN Macaulay II ix
125.

This use of the word occurs first in early ME. when it took
the place of the OE. sīd. In this sense 'time' is usually pre-
ceded by a numeral or an indefinite adjective.

10. Finite duration.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1388 And the aungel lifte up his hond .. and swoor bi hym
that lyueth in to worldis of worldis .. that tyme
should be no more. WYCLIF Rev. x. 6.

MODERN ENGLISH

1635 All time compared with eternitie is but short time, yea
indeed as no time. SWAN Spec. M. 1. 3, 15.

1836 Time, with him, derived all its importance from a refer-
ence to eternity. H. ROGERS J. Howe 1.8.

This sense of the word is a restriction of time in general.

11. Time in general.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1398 Tyme is mesure of chaungeable pinges, as Aristotel seith.

TREVISA Barth. De P.R. IX. ii.

1480 The tyme drewe so, that neyne monethes was past. ROBT.

DEVYLL. 121 in Hazl. E.P.P. I. 224.

MODERN ENGLISH

1651 Time and Industry, produce every day new knowledge.

HOBBS Leviath II, xxx. 176.

1690 This consideration of Duration, as set out by certain
Periods, and marked by certain Measures or Epochs, is
that, I think, which most properly we call Time.

LOCKE Hum. Und. II. xiv 17.

1908 We have cast the seed in the furrow. Time will do the
rest. Programme of Modernism 169.

Time in this sense is very often used as if it possessed a
will and a power to do.

12. Personified as an aged man, bald, but having a forelock, and
carrying a scythe and an hour glass.

MODERN ENGLISH

1509 Sodainly came Time in breviacion whose similitude, I
shall noue express, aged he was, with a bearde doubt-
les of swalowes feaders. HAWES Past. Pleas. XLIV, C,iv

1590 The plaine bald pate of Father time himselfe. SHAKS.

Com.Err. II. ii. 71.

1820 Time is ever silently turning over his pages. W.IRVING
Sketch Bk. II.

The word in this sense was first used in early MnE. It is interesting to note that the person is masculine; also that he is an old man with clearly defined features.

13. A period considered with reference to one's personal experience of a specified nature lasting some time.

MODERN ENGLISH

al529 For to haue good tyme and to lyue meryly. SKELTON

Bk. 3 Foles Wks. 1843 I. 200.

1902 Think of that when you are tempted to have a good time instead of studying hard. ELIZ.L.BANKS Newspaper Girl.

In this sense, 'time' is generally used with the verb 'to have' and is limited by an adjective, chiefly good or bad. 'To have a good time' = 'a time of enjoyment'. This expression "was common in England from c1520 to c1688; it was apparently retained in America, whence readopted in Britain in the 19th century". NED.

14. The length of time sufficient, necessary, or desired for some purpose; also, time available for employment; leisure or spare time.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

cl220 Dus ge tiled dar wiles ge time haued. Bestiary 256.

cl470 No teyme we haiff off segyng now to bid. Henry Wallace
VII 502.

MODERN ENGLISH

1865 I could multiply witness upon witness ... if I had time.

RUSKIN Sesame ii. 62.

'Time', in this sense, is recorded since the early ME. period. Like 'time' in section 13 it is usually found in connec-

tion with the verb 'to have'. The word is often used somewhat elliptically, e.g. in the last example cited (1865), 'time' is given its value by supplying 'to multiply witness upon witness'.

14 b. The (shortest) period in which a given course of action is completed.

MODERN ENGLISH

1894 Various new tandem times were made by the winners.

Times 19 Nov. 7/3.

1899 One of them .. came in sight making excellent time towards the nearest tree, with the wounded cow in close pursuit. F.V.KIRBY Sport E.C.Africa v. 61.

1908 The times ... did not compare with those established by the amateurs the day before. Still some wonderful times were put up. Daily Chron. 15 Jan. 7/5.

This use of the word is very recent. Apparently it originated in the neighborhood of the athletic field. In the example of 1899 the word is used outside of athletics proper.

15. A unit or group of units of metrical measurement.

OLD ENGLISH

c1050 ~~æt~~ riht meter vers sceal habban feower and twentig timan. Byrhtferth's Handbooc in Anglia VIII. 314.

MODERN ENGLISH

1589 A new invention of feete and times. PUTTENHAM Eng. Poesie. ll. xii (Arb.).

1832 The short syllable .. is considered as the original for the measure of time in the rhythm, and is called a time or mora. Encycl. Amer. XI. 591.

Apparently no examples for the ME. period have been found.

This sense of the word is also transferred in Music, where it denotes 'the rhythm or measure of a piece of music', and 'the rate at which a piece is performed'. These meanings developed during the early MnE. period.

16. Grammatical use: Tense.

MODERN ENGLISH

1530 Tenses or tymes they have in every of these modes.

Palsgr. Introd. 32.

1620 Tyme is an affection of the verb noating the differences of tyme, and is either present, past or to cum. A.HUME

Brit. Tongue.

It seems that 'time', in this sense, existed about a century. The first and the last examples on record are given above. In the first instance 'tense' and 'time' are used side by side, an indication that they were thought synonymous. Tense, in the grammatical sense, had been a part of the English language since 1388.

17. Military use: The rate of marching, calculated on the number of paces taken per minute.

1853 In quick time 108 paces, or 270 ft. are taken in a minute; and in slow time, 75 paces or 187 ft. In double time, 150 paces of thirty-six inches, making 450 ft. in a minute. Storqueler Milit. Encycl.

The first recorded use of this word in the above sense is dated 1802.

18. Workmen's use: The amount of time worked under a specific contract; hence, in workmen's speech, pay equivalent to the period worked; also an account or certificate showing the days, hours, etc. worked and wages due: usually called back time.

MODERN ENGLISH

1795 This time as Mid is absolutely necessary as a part of the long six years. You had better get out his time from the Navy Office. NELSON in Nicholas Disp. II 116.

1888 The men asked to be paid for overtime at the rate of time and a half, but the masters refused a greater rate than time and a quarter. Times 29 Sept. 6/6.

1908 Tim added 'and I'd like my time'. Time in the cattle idiom meant back pay up to date. Somerset Mag. Apr. 564.

Modern: If you can't move a bit quicker, I'll send you to get your back time.

Note: The following is a list of idiomatic phrases containing time. The figures represent the date of their first recorded use.

time enough, soon enough, in time, sufficiently early. (1377).

by times = betimes, from time to time. At more or less regular intervals. (1382).

out of time, 1) at an inappropriate time. (1398-1780) Obsolete.

2) After the prescribed period has elapsed; too late. (1884).

without time, outside of or independent of time; forever. (c1400)

Obsolete.

in time, 1) in the course of time, sooner or later. (c1450).

2) soon enough. (1467-8).

3) in the correct rhythm. (1377).

at the same time, during the same period. Formerly without at.

(1526). Also used in introducing a reservation, explanation or contrast, = while saying this, nevertheless, however, yet, still. (1705).

at times, at various times, occasionally. (1529).

time of day, the hour as shown by the clock. (1596).

to keep time, to mark the rhythm by movements of the hand or baton.

To keep pace with a measure or another performer. (1599).

against time, in competition with the passage of time, so as to finish one's task before the expiry of a certain period. (1854).

time and again, repeatedly, very often. (1864).

on time, punctually. Chiefly U.S. colloq. (1878).

The ascendancy of the word time is one of the most remarkable facts in the history of the English words under discussion. The poem of Bēowulf, in which ten different terms denoting time are found, does not contain a single instance of tīma. In fact, only two examples of the word can be detected in the entire body of OE. poetry, viz. on rypes tīman Phoenix 246; in Ussera tīda tīman Guthl. 726. In prose it is occasionally met with in the writings of king Ælfred, and it is quite common in the later OE., e.g. Ælfric and Wulfstan. Since then it has steadily gained ground and has acquired new meanings. It was time which practically drove out tīd, which in the beginning was the most general and universal word of the entire group.

It is an interesting question, though one difficult to answer, whether the advance of time was partly promoted by the parallel use of the ON. tími in the language of Scandinavians who had

settled in England. It is still more problematical to connect it with the Old French noun tens (fr. Lat. tempus), which must have been freely heard on English soil in the earlier part of the ME. period.

III. E. hwil, while; G. hwila, Weile.

1. E. hwil, while.

1. A while, a space of time.

OLD ENGLISH

700 Wæs seo hwil micel. Beo. 146.

870 Gode hwile (for a good while) done here gefliemde. Chron.

900 Dæs ungeendodon lifes hwila. Bt. 18,3. Fox 66,5.

1000 To langre hwile (for a long while). L.M. 3,62.

1000 Ealle hwile. Byrht. Th. 140, 47.

1000 Ða hwile de ðu eart on wege mid him. Mt. Kmbl. 5,25.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1225 Swupe longe hire is þe hwile. Owl & Night.

1300 a while in þogte he stod. BEK. 1243.

1380 litel while. Langl. B. xvii.

MODERN ENGLISH

In the primeval age a dateless while The vacant shepherd
wander'd with his flock. Coleridge.

Woe the while That brought such wanderer to our isle! Scott.

What Cambridge saw strikes us yet As scarcely worth one's
while to see. Lowell to Holmes.

I will go forth and breathe the air a while. Longfellow.

Hwil in OE. applies to any length of time. In contrast with tīd and tīma it does not denote 'point of time'. In ME. and MnE. its use is restricted chiefly to short periods of time. The accusative, to express extent of time, is common in all periods of the language. The MnE. conjunction while is an outgrowth

of this accusative, based on the old phrase pā hwile þe 'during the time that', 'as long as'.

In MnE. 'while' occurs chiefly in the phrases 'a while', and 'for a while'. The phrase 'worth one's while' seems to be a MnE. development. Perhaps 'time' occurs more frequently in this phrase, but in the expression 'it isn't worth while', 'time' cannot be substituted unless preceded by the definite article or a possessive pronoun.

2. Adverbial uses of while.

OLD ENGLISH

700 Scop hwilum ('at times') sang Hador on Heorote. Beo. 496.

700 hwilum hilde deor hearpan wynne, .. hwilum gyd awræc
sod ond sarlic. Beo. 2107.

800 hwile mid weorce, hwile mid worde, hwile mid gepohte
('at one time .., at another .., at another ..') Hymns
3, 44.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1200 whilum (dat.pl.) whilom, formerly. ORM.

1205 while ma while nan. LAY.

1390 In Flaundes whilom was a compaignye of yonge folk.

CHAUCER Tale of Pard.

MODERN ENGLISH

1590 Lo, I the man whose Muse whylome did maske. SPENSER
R.Q. I, 1.

1812 Whilome in Albion's isle there dwelt a youth.. BYRON
Child Har. I, 2.

The adverbial use of hwil in the singular was discontinued in ME., also the dative plural whilum used correlatively in the

same sentence. In early MnE. the adv. whilom 'formerly' became obsolete, but continued to be utilized by poets to give an archaic flavor to their language. The adj. whilom, 'former, sometime', as in 'his whilom associates', is of rare occurrence. The change of meaning from the OE. hwilum 'at times' to the ME. whilum 'formerly' is parallel to that seen in yore, OE. gēara, originally 'in years', then 'in former years'.

2. G. hwila, Weile

1. While, a space or (rarely) point of time.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

ob er thia wila firliuſit ſina ſela. O. III. 13,33.
uuzit nu, theih bin mit iu luzila uuila. O. IV. 13,4.
thaz gihiſaz er in iu wila ('long ago'). O. V. 11,10.
tho ward bi theru wila thiu dochter ſar in heilu. O. III. 10,
45.
uuoſt er ſar then uuilon gerno iz firſilon. O. V. 25,62.
tia uuila er lebet. Org.
fona ziidi, ær huil uuirdi, ih was dhar. Is. 4,5.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

Wile und ſtunde walzent al umbe. KCHR. D. 111,33.
weil haben. TUCH. 86, 12.
die ain klain weil geloubent. MGB. 481, 13.
in den weilen (at that time). CHR. 5,86,21.
bi den wilen (at this time). TROJ. 252,38.
die wile (acc.)

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

Ich bin noch eine kleine Weile bei euch.

Bei nächtlicher Weile. Lu.

Nimm dir die Weil dazu. Lu. 8, 346b.

Die Weil will alle Tage länger werden. G. Sch. 6,62.

Gut Ding will Weile haben (Prov.) G. 18,32.

In the older stages of the language Weile is used with greater freedom of expression than in the later centuries when the word is found principally in set phrases and combinations. As subject of a verb it occurs rarely, especially in the OHG. and MHG.; in MnG., in this construction, the adjectives 'lang' and 'kurz' are often found in the predicate. But the words also occur in the combinations Langeweile, Kurzweile. As object of a verb Weile, in this sense, is found chiefly with the verb haben.

The construction of the accusative of extent of time abounds in all periods of the language. A direct continuation of the noun Weil in the accusative of extent of time is the conjunction weil. Already in the MHG. dieweil (so lange als) was used to introduce subordinate sentences. Early MnG.: dieweil Mose seine Hände emporhielt, siegete Israel. Lu. This use of the conjunction dieweil in the temporal sense was retained longest in language of the chancery, but it is now considered archaic. (A well-known instance of the corresponding genitive construction in modern poetry is: will mir die Hand noch geben, derweil ich eben lad' Umland). The compound dieweil gave way to the simple weil which must be taken as a shortened form of dieweil. The shorter form was first employed in the temporal sense in late

MHG., e.g., wile dise welt gestöt, and is still met with in the classical literature of the 18th century, e.g.

weil (während) ich noch bei Verstande bin. Le.

sie legte die Trauerkleider nicht wieder ab, weil sie lebte.

Musäus.

The temporal sense has been retained in the proverb: Man muss das Eisen schmieden, weil es warm ist.

The recognized present meaning of weil is 'because', showing the transition from temporal to modal sense.

2. Adverbial uses.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

eina hwila .. andar hwila (now .. now) Bo. 5. Mep.

uuilon uuarm, uuilon chald. Org.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

ein wil jegt er in hin, ein wil her. ROSENG.H. 1736.

die spise wile ('langst') ist bereit. ELIS. 2675.

als uch wilent ist bekant. ELIS. 332.

wilent ('now') kalt und wilent ('now') heiz wart ir von

suezer minne gir. TROJ. 8862.

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

Wo der Wallenstein weiland verlegen sich hat. Arndt. 194.

Bei weiland König Heinrich dem Verstorbenen. Schlegel

Sh. 7,217.

The development of weiland is an interesting counterpart of the history of the English whilom.

3. Hour.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

ahtodun uuilu octava hora. K.8.

niunta uuila nonam. H.13.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

der tach hat zwelf stunde alder wile. GRIESCH. 2,35.

des tages ze der dritten wile. ANTICHR. 187.

Swie die wile sint gemezzen. MARIENGR. 383.

Especially in the OHG., wila, in this sense, was not used extensively. It does not occur in Otfried nor Tatian. It seems to have been in more common use in the MHG. The first example quoted from this period shows wile side by side with stunde. Besides these two words, zit occurred in the same sense, at the same time. Wile lost the meaning of 'hour' before the beginning of the MnG. period.

IV. E. stund, stound; G. stunta, Stunde.

1. E. stund, stound.

1. A while, a space of time.

OLD ENGLISH

750 Nis seo stund latu þæt de wælreowe witum beleagaþ. Andr.
1211.

750 No ic þa stunde bemearn, ne for wunde weop. Riddl. 88, 20.
900 þæt he winnan nyle wið þam anwealde anige stunde. Met.
25, 68.

Adverbial uses:

750 He word stunde ('at once') ahof. Andr. 416.

900 Hwilon he on bord sceat, hwilon beorn tæde, æfre embe
stunde ('from time to time') he sealde sume wunde.
Maldon 271.

1000 Ða ic sylf stundum ('now') gerad, stundum ('now') ge-
reow. Cod. Dipl. V, 331.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1230 Ne mai he wunen der dat stund. THE BESTIARY, The
whale's Nature.

1300 Never Pers pey ne founde, Nygt ne day, in no stounde.
Robert Manning's Handlyng Synne.

1374 Now lat us stynte of Troylus a stounde ('a little while')
CHAUCER Troilus.

So death is heer & yonder in one stound. Times Whistle.

Adverbial use:

þe cuþe hi sette to þe grunde, And gon forþ and lete hire
stunde ('at once'). Flor. & Blaunch.

MODERN ENGLISH

1600 His legs could bear him but a little stound. FAIRFAX
tr. of Tasso.

In OE. stund had a wider use than in the later periods. It was employed as subject and object of verbs. As object of prepositions it occurs rarely. More often it is employed in the accusative to express extent of time. The use of the instrumental singular and dative plural in an adverbial sense corresponds very closely to the facts in the case of OE. hwil.

In ME. stund is no longer found as subject and object of verbs. The accusative to express extent of time is still common. A distinct specialization marks the meaning 'a short space of time'. The prepositional phrase 'in a stounde' seems to have originated in the ME. period.

In early MnE. the word became archaic, but was continued in dialects. A few examples follow.

Suf. (1790) It was axt some stounds ago. S.Cy. Grove.

Sc. (1802) Syne in a stound, the pool profound To cleave in
twain appear'd. SCOTT Minstrelsy. (Obs.)

S.Sc. (1859) They held their kirn -- a merry stoun! Watson
Bards.

2. The hour appointed for a particular act; the signal which
marks the hour.

1000 Geendedun gebedun si sweged oper taen vel stund.

Anglia xiii 380, 215.

On ðam fæce ðe stunda beon gehringede. ibid. 406, 952.

In this sense stund occurs rarely and only in prose. It corresponds to the use of OE. tīd in the sense of 'canonical hour'. Apparently the word was not continued in this sense beyond the OE.

2. G. stunta, Stunde.

1. Time, moment.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

hīar ist ic ueuuo ich allo ziti sero ich stunta filu suaro.

O. V. 23,92.

er allo stunta freuue sih. O. L.8.

luzzila stunta. O. I.160,5.

thaz thult er in then stunton bi unseren sunton. O. IV.19,75.

habeta siu in thia stunt felu michila thult. O.III.11,17.

stunta mino. Ol. 19.

giheili mih fon theru stuntu. T.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

Got hat niht stunde an dir verlorn. MSH. 2,168.

ein stund der otmude. ELIS. 2999.

do er der stunt gedahte, diu dinen samen brahte. GERH.6337.

swaz ich munde han gesehen mine stunde. LIEHT. 506,12.

her Lamedon was nie so gris von manger jare stunden. TROJ.

12821.

an der stunde, an den stunden ('at that time') PARZ. 36,10.

nach der stunt ('later'). NIB. 724,2.

under stunden ('from time to time'). MSF. 44,26.

wir solden stunt ('längst') sin after wegen. DIETR. 6030.
wie rehte lobelichen die recken wol gemeit lebeten zallen
stunden. NIB. 633.

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

Bis auf diese Stund. 1.Kor. 4,11.

Die Stund da sie verschieden war wird bang dem Buben. G.
1, 144.

Gehorcht der Zeit und dem Gesetz der Stunde. Sch. 426b.

Die Stunde der Gefahr. Sch. Maria Stuart 1,7.

Das erste aber und hauptsächlichste bei allem irdischen Ding
ist Ort und Stunde. Sch. Pic. 2,1.

In the OHG. and the early MHG. stund was used chiefly, if not entirely, in the general sense of time. This older meaning is retained especially in the language of the Bible, e.g. bis auf diese Stunde, von Stund ab oder an, zu der Stunde, alle Stunden. In certain other cases of the MnG. use of Stunde where it originally carried the older sense of 'time', the modern linguistic feeling attaches to it no doubt the restricted meaning of 'hour', e.g. zur rechten Stunde, in der Stunde der Gefahr. It is often made to express hard and undesirable conditions: die Stunde der Gefahr, die Stunde des Todes, die Stunde der Prüfung.

Combination with other words for time is not infrequent, as. Zeit und Stunde, Stunde und Augenblick.

2. Hour.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

this zit er eiscota tho, this stunta ouh mit giuuurti, uuanne
imo baz uuurti. O. III. 2,30.

drie stunda horae. N. 89,5.

stunta dritta hora tertia. H.10.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

ein stunde ein tac, ein tac eine woche. MSF. 290,14.

nach mittage zur vierten stunde. RCSP. 1,217.

der tach hat zwelf stunde alder wile. GRIESH. 2,35.

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

Um die dritte Stunde. Matth. 20,3.

Eine gute halbe Stunde. G. 30,161.

So konnte sie des Abends die Stunde sieben Uhr nicht erwarten. G. 30,200.

In der elften Stunde ('at the last moment') Herrig 26,323.

Kluge (Etymol. Wtbch.), Paul, and Weigand state that the meaning of 'hour' was not attached to stunt until the MHG. period. From the examples quoted above it would seem that the meaning of 'hour' can actually be traced in the OHG. There is a possibility of rendering stunta, in connection with the numerals, by the G. 'mal'. If this meaning is attached to the words it is difficult to understand why they are translated by the Lat. 'hora'. It is true that 'hora' also signifies 'time in general', but if that is the meaning of the words, then the difficulty arises of assigning a meaning to them in connection with the numerals. If the translation of 'hora' in the above examples is correct, we must conclude that stunt was used in the sense of 'hour' as early as the OHG. period.

b. Hour, personified.

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

Ihn besiegen die gewaltigen Stunden. SCHILLER Wall.

Die Stunden die das Leben Spinnen. Platen 6, 209.

Aber wer weiss was uns die nächste Stunde schwartz verschlei-
ert bringt. SCHILLER.

3. A time, times, as in 'three times'.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

Fior stunt gizaltiu. Gh. Gh. 3.

sibun stundom sibuniu. Is. 5,6.

einlif stunton sibini. O.I. 3,36.

thria stunta zuene. O.I.5,2.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

drei stunt, dreimal. CHR. 2.67,23.

einlif stunt. WWH. 335, 15.

Stunt in this sense occurs in combination with numerals.

It was very common in the older periods. Since the latter part of the MHG. this meaning of 'stunt' gradually disappeared until at the beginning of the MnG. period it was replaced by 'mal'. However, some instances of this use are still found in early MnG.: dreistund mer. Wittenweiler.

4. A distance which requires an hour to walk.

Zwei Stunden vor Sonnenuntergang und zwei Stunden vor Leip-
zig. Musäus Ph. 2,27.

Ein Stündchen Weges. G. 5,156.

This meaning of Stunde originated in the MnG. period.

5. Instruction given during the period of an hour.

Er hielt seine Stunde bis zum Schlage. Auerbach Leb. 1,154.

This meaning of Stunde, too, is not found in the older periods of the language. Its sense development is similar to the change of meaning in 4. Compounds are freely formed: Lehr-, Privat-, Musik-, Literatur-, Religionstunden.

6. One of the 24 divisions of a mining compass.

Bergmännisch die Stunde zu bestimmen, in welcher man den Stollen unter der Hauptsohle durchzuführen hat. G. 40, 272.

These divisions are called 'Stunden' because of the similar division of the 'hours' on the dial of an Italian clock.

V. E. māl, meal; G. māl, mal, Mahl.

Etymological Note on G. Mal, Mahl, E. meal, mole.

- 1) OHG. māl, a mark, spot; 2) OHG. māl, a time, occasion;
3) MHG. māl, a meal.

The meaning 'time' was derived, by metaphor, from the meaning 'mark', 'spot'. In the OHG. the latter sense is preserved in compounds only: anamali, a spot, a scar; wuntmali, a scar. The same sense development is seen in the change from OE. māl, a mark sign, to māl, 'a point of time, a space of time'. Also Go. māl, combines substantially the same two meanings; its singular forms are met with many times as renderings of χρονος, ώρα, whereas the plural translates the Gr. γραμματα, γραφή 'writing', i.e. originally marks, characters; likewise the verb māljan is found as the equivalent of γράφειν, απογράφεσθαι. The OE. māl, a spot, MnE. mole, is not related to the OE. māl, a mark, a sign, or OHG. māl, since OE. ā answers to OHG. ei (or, before h,r,w to ē), Go. ai. In fact, the exact etymological equivalents are found in the latter languages, viz. Go. mail, OHG. meil, meila.

Two etymologies have been proposed for the MHG. māl, MnG. Mahl, a meal.

According to Heyne (Deutsches Wtbch. Vol. 2), the word is derived from the OHG. mahal, legal discussion, negotiation, assembly. After the negotiation, it is suggested, the assembly was entertained and ate in a body. From this eating together, then, Heyne would derive the meaning 'meal'.

It is more likely, however, that MHG. māl, MnG. Mahl, goes

back to OHG. māl, a time. (See e.g., Kluge, Etymol. Wtbch). The explanation is, that māl acquired the meaning 'meal' from 'food' served at a fixed time'. The probability of this etymology is strengthened by the parallel development in ON. and (OE.) ME., ON. mal denoting not only 'measure' and 'time', but also 'meal', and ME. OE. māl showing the clear specialization of meaning from 'time' to 'time for eating'.

1. E. māl, meal.

1. Mark, sign, cross.

OLD ENGLISH

890 He dæt mæl hræde weorce geworhte .. and dæt Cristes mæl genam and on done seap sette. Bede (ed. Miller) 154, 23 ff. (= Lat. crux.)

Though no example of the plain sense of 'mark' or 'sign' can be found, the meaning of 'cross' (the sign of Christ) obviously presupposes that older, general signification. Moreover, poetical compounds like wundenmæl, scādenmæl, (sword) with winding ornaments (literally marks) testify to its existence.

2. Fixed time, suitable time.

OLD ENGLISH

700 Mæl is me to feran. Beo. 637.

700 Se weald hafap sæla and mæla. Beo. 1611.

700 Ða was sæl ond mæl dæt to healle gang Healfdenes sunu.
Beo. 1008.

900 Ða dæs mæles was mearc agongen, þæt on worulde was winter gerimes 33 geara, ær ic prowade. Sat. 501. (This

example shows the close connection between the meanings of 'mark' and 'time'; cp. also the compound fyrstnearc.)

This meaning is found in poetry only.

A trace of this mæl remains in modern dialects in the phrase 'seals and meals', see the noun sæl.

2 b. Occasion.

700 ic þæt mæl geman, þær we meðu þegun .. Beo. 2633.

700 ærran mælum ('on former occasions'). Beo. 907.

700-900 mæla gehwylce ('on every occasion'). Sat. 551; B. 2057.

1020 He gereordade æt anum mæle fif þusend manna. Wulfst. 293, 27.

Mæl in this meaning is restricted to poetry. It is used very much like the OE. sīd, but not nearly as frequently.

3. The time for eating; also a meal.

The example from Wulfstan given above (under 2b) indicates how easily this change of meaning could be brought about.

OLD ENGLISH

c897 þe þæt nyle dearfum sellan dæt he donne on mæle læfd.

K.ÆLFRED Greg. Past.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

c1200 Giff itt iss in þin herrte To shunenn .. derewurrþe mæless. ORMIN 4959.

c1205 Ælche dæie on a mæl ure mete truket. LAY.

MODERN ENGLISH

1540-1 There shuld be at the leaste .VI. houres betwene euery meale. Elyot Image Gov. 45 b.

1860 We set about preparing our evening meal. TYNDALL Glac.

I. xi. 72.

In early ME. the compound mealtide, consisting of two words originally synonymous, came into use. It died out in the 16th century.

During the last quarter of the 12th century the compound mealtime was introduced into the English language. It has been in good use ever since.

2. G. māl, mal, Mahl.

1. māl, mark.

In OHG. this meaning does not happen to be recorded, but it is traceable in compounds, as mentioned before (p. 62), besides in the derivative verb mālōn, mālōn, Ger. malen 'to paint'.

It appears regularly in MHG. māl, Ger. Mal, also in compounds like Wundmal, Brandmal, Denkmal.

2. māl, a time, occasion.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

ich thankon io gimalon then sinen ginadon. O.

zeinemo male. Org.

ist nu ze male gnuoge gesaget. Org.

io ze iogelichemo male. Mu.

dannan gestilleta ze demo male diu muocht. N.

ze drin malen. N.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

von male ze male. Herb. 11474.

des dritten males. ALEXIUS 112, 599.

sint des males (MnG. sintemal).

z'allein male.

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

das erste mal.

nur noch ein einziges mal.

er kam einige male zu mir.

ich grusse ihn zu tausend malen.

zwei mal zwei ist vier.

Throughout all the periods of the German language 'mal', in this sense, is used with numerals and indefinite adjectives. Especially in the OHG. and MHG. it is found more often as the object of a preposition than in the MnG. where the preposition often disappears and the phrase is then commonly placed in the accusative and used adverbially. Toward the close of the MHG. period, and since that time, there has been a tendency to combine 'mal' with the word immediately preceding it. The dative plural is rare in the modern period; its place has been taken by the singular form.

3. Mealtime, meal.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

do sich geendet hat daz mal. LOH. 6880.

Terec ditze mal was bereit. ALBR. 16,515.

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

und der levis richtet jm ein gros malh zu in seinem hause.

und viel zölner und ander saszen mit jm zu tisch. Luc.5,29.

(Gott) ernährt und gibet speisen

macht schöne rote wangen

oft bei geringem mahl. P.GERHARD 117, 54.

kost ich schon der götter mahle? BÜRGER 28.

Solch ein traulich mahl am stillen herd

hat mich seit langer zeit nicht mehr gelabt. UHL. Ged. 170.

This meaning does not occur until late MHG. At first it is used only rarely, but because of its frequent occurrence in the Bible it became a common word in the literary language.

The earliest recorded example of Mahlzeit dates from the end of the MHG. period, 1495 A.D., malzIt. Originally the compound denoted the 'time fixed for a banquet', but gradually it acquired the meaning of 'a meal eaten at regular times', thus illustrating over again the evolution of meaning observed in Mahl, E. meal.

In the present language Mahl is differentiated from Mahlzeit by its peculiar flavor, being more elevated and exclusive than the compound. An extreme case of colloquial atmosphere is presented by the employment of Mahlzeit as a form of salutation which is originally an abbreviation of 'Gesegnete Mahlzeit' but may be heard in certain circles at any time of the day.

VI. OE. first; G. frist, Frist.

1. OE. first.

1. A space of time; a certain time.

OLD ENGLISH

a700 Næs hit lengra fyrst. Beo. 134.

fif nihta fyrst. ibid. 545.

900 Anes mondes fyrst. Jud. 325.

918 Op þone first þe hie wurdon swiþe metelease. OE. Chron.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

a1175 40 dægen firste he ham mid wneðe. COTT. HOM.

c1205 Wið immen ane gere, nes þer first na mare, iwræd þe
king Gracien gunene forcuðest. LAY.

In OE. fyrst is one of the main words denoting 'time'.

It is used chiefly when the time stated is more or less definite.

It is often limited by a noun expressing the exact length of

time, as day, night, week, month, etc. In this sense fyrst was

discontinued in early ME. when it was crowded out by 'time' and,

to some extent, by 'space'.

2. Delay, respite.

OLD ENGLISH

750 hæfde nyðfara nihtlangne fyrst. Exod. 208.

800 ne was se fyrst micel, þe hi him forgiefan þohten. Gu.
297.

850 forgief me fierst and ongiæt and gebyld and gemynd þinga
gehwylices, þara þu me sendan wille to cunnunge. Hy. 4, 21.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

c1175 Ure ded he do in firste get. Lamb. Hom.

c1200 Ne scholde nomon don a vrist ne slakien wel to donne.

Moral Ode.

1387 First of ten dayes were i-graunted. TREVISA Higden VII.

Fyrst, in this sense, became archaic in late ME., when it was superseded by 'time' and the loan-word 'respite'. In dialects it was continued in MnE.:

c1565 All thir lordis war verrie blyth, thinking that all

evil was guid of frist (in the future). LINDSAY

(Pit scottie) Chron Scot.

1808-80 all illis are good a frist. JAMIESON.

1888 My time is short, my frist is o'er, and I have much to say. Murray's Mag.

2. G. frist, Frist.

1. A space of time.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

irsezze ih thiz hus in thrio dago fristi. O.II.11,34.

uuio kurt in uas thes libes frist (lifetime). O.II.3,28.

ir betot alla frist thaz iu unkundaz ist.

ih bin irstantnissi, bin lib ouh filu festi zu euuinigeru

friste. O.III.14,90.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

von Adames vrist. LIVL.M. 22.

bi tages, libes friste. ELIS. 769.

alle zit und alle frist. ibid. 799.

unz an dise Frist. Büchl. 1, 1540.

do gie er zuo einer frist durch einen Walt. Helubr. 1825.

daz wende in kurzer frist. Walther.

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

der hat ein ganz Jahr frist. 3 Mos. 25,29.

in Jahres Frist, in Monats Frist. Adelung.

es ist noch eine kurze Frist bis dahin. Stieler.

zu gleicher Frist. Lenau. 378.

in bestimmter Frist. Treitschke. 1,445.

Frist is chiefly used in prepositional phrases, in modern times especially in 'zu dieser Frist'. It is employed to express any length of time. The word is often limited by a noun expressing a definite length of time. In OHG. and MHG. 'frist' occurs much more frequently than in the MnG. In the MHG. 'frist' begins to lose much ground when many writers prefer 'zit'.

2. Delay, respite.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

ir geit iz zi angusti, oba uuir imo es duen thie fristi.

O.III.25,11.

thio argun gilusti gebent thir furdir fristi. O.III.7,84.

ni lazent thie arabeit es frist themo, uuarlicho man ist.

O.II. 14,4.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

vrist geban. EILH. 6964.

sunder vrist. ibid. 1637.

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

bat den König dass er ihm Frist gebe. Dan. 2,16.

gieb ihrem Köpfchen Frist, die Sache klarlich einzusehen.

WIELAND Klelia 6,173.

die traurige Frist die ihm der Tod vergönnte. Schiller 4,127.

geben sie mir nur noch 20 Tage Frist. Schiller 4,345.

The meaning 'delay' or 'respite' developed from the use of frist in phrases like 'einem Frist geben', an extension of time up to a certain date. This use of the word has established itself especially as a legal term. From frist in this second sense is derived the verb fristen, which at present is limited almost entirely to the expressions 'das Leben fristen', 'das Dasein fristen'.

DIAGRAMS SHOWING THE HISTORY OF THE PRINCIPAL MEANINGS

E. tid, tide.

	OE.	ME.	MnE.	Mod.Dial.
<u>Extent or space of time</u> -1603	.....
<u>Age (e.g. 3 ages)</u> -1300 +1297 <u>age</u> }		
<u>Point of time, occasion</u> -1635, Poet.	.....
<u>Suitable, fit, due time</u> -1590	<u>Right season for agricultural operations.</u>
<u>Appointed or fixed time</u> -1436		
<u>Hour</u> { -1430 +1250 <u>hour</u>		
<u>Church Festival</u>	Arch. (exc. in Yule-tide, etc.)	<u>Holiday</u>
		+1340 <u>tid</u> of the sea. ...	.....	.....

— meanings

— new words

- latest occurrence

+ earliest occurrence

E. māl, meal; G. mal, Mahl.

	OE.	ME.	MnE.	Mod.Dial.
<u>Mark, sign (cross)</u>	...(in cpds., & Cristes māl			
<u>Fixed or suitable time</u>	.....(Poet.)			...(seals and meals).
<u>Time for eating, meal</u>	..... -897	..... (mealtide).... (mealtime)....	..... .. -16th c.	

	OHG.	MHG.	MnG.	
<u>Mark</u>	...(in cpds.)	.....	.....
<u>Time. occasion</u>	.....	....(3 mal)..	.....
<u>Mealtime, meal</u>		..... (+1495 Mahlzeit).	.....

OE. first; G. Frist.

	OE.	ME.	MnE.	Mod.Dial.
<u>Space of time, time</u> -1205		
<u>Delay, respite</u>(..... -1387 +1290 respita		...(-1888).

	OHG.	MHG.	MnG.	
<u>Space of time</u>(zu dieser Frist).	
<u>Delay, respite</u>	

E. stund; G. Stunde.

	OE.	ME.	MnE.	M.Dial.
While, space of time	.....	..... .. a little while ..	...-1600.arch. .....	..... (stoun stound) -1859.
(Signal marking) hour	.....-1000			
	OHG.	MHG.	MnG.	
Time	.....	.....	...(Bibl.: von Stund ab, etc.	
Times (e.g. 3 times)	.....	.....
Hour	...(rare)...	.....	.....
			Distance requiring an hour to walk.	
			Instruction given during the period of an hour (recitation. etc.)	

VII. OE. fæc.

1. Space, distance.

OLD ENGLISH

c1000 Ðæt wæs on fæce syxtig furlonga fram Hierusalem. Luke
24,13.

2. Portion of time.

OLD ENGLISH

700 þæt he lytel fæc leng gestreona brucean moste. Beo. 2240.

700 ymb lytel fæc. Dan. 682.

750 unfyrn fæca ('in a little time'). An. 1373.

780 on swa lytlum fæce. El. 960.

850 Se þeodwiga þreonihta fæc swifed on sweofte. Panther 38.

890 æfter tide fæce. Bed. 4,25.

1000 fif wintra fæc. ALFRIC Gl. 16.

This development from local to temporal meaning is seen in the English only. It is parallel to the semantic change observed in E. space, span, G. Zeitraum, Spanne; E. on the spot, G. auf der Stelle, Fr. sur le champ; OE. dær = 1) there, 2) then, G. da = 1) there, 2) then. 'Fæc' in the transferred sense was employed primarily in connection with short spaces of time, e.g. in the very common expression lytel fæc; it was mainly restricted to poetry. 'Fæc' is often limited by a noun in the genitive which denotes a definite space of time. The word, in all of its meanings passed out of use in early ME.

VIII. E. sǣl.

1. Happiness prosperity.

OLD ENGLISH

780 Mæg nu snottor guma sæle brucan, godra tida. Gu. 6.

800 Singed swa and swansad sælum geblissad od þæt seo sunne
on sudrodor saged weordeð. Ph. 140.

Comparing sǣl with its etymological equivalents in the cognate languages it is safe to infer that 'happiness' was the oldest meaning of the word in OE. In this sense it is used almost exclusively in poetry. A well-known derivative of sǣl 'happiness' is OE. sǣlig 'happy, continued in MnE. silly.

The condition under which the idea of time was derived from that of 'happiness' seems to be that the state of happiness was thought of in close connection with the time during which it lasted.

The following illustration will show the probable development:

A Happiness.

A+B Happiness during a certain time.

B Time.

2. State, condition, as in good time, bad time.

OLD ENGLISH

750 Nu is sǣl ('a time of misery') cumen, þrea ormæte. Andr.
1165.

880 storm oft holm gebringed in grimmum sælum. Gnom.Ex. 52.

900 hæfdon þær beorgas blide sæle. Ps. 113,4.

It is quite likely that in the transfer of meaning from 'happiness' to 'time', the new meaning retained a coloring of happiness and, perhaps, it was used at first only in the sense of 'a good time', later extended to expressions like 'a bad time'.

3. A fit time, opportunity.

OLD ENGLISH

700 þa wæs sæl and mæl, þæt to healle gang Healfdenes sunu.

Beo. 1008.

700 Ic ofsloh æt dære sæcce ða me sæl ageald huses hyrdas.

Beo. 1665.

800 nu is sæl cumen, þæt me weorðiað men ofer moldan. Kr. 80.

900 Ða Godan sæl þuhte ða gesohte he done kynineg. Chart. Th.

202, 30.

MIDDLE ENGLISH.

c1250 Loth and his doctres two ledðen ðis angeles ut in sel.

Gen. & Ex. 1095.

1375 þo wente he agen in þat sel and tolde Mighel his cas.

Creation 770.

a1450 He hath mett wyth the goode man mercy in a schroude
sell.

In this use of sæl a trace of its etymological meaning is still perceptible. In this sense, sæl died out at the close of the ME. period.

4. Occasion, a time.

OLD ENGLISH

890 Heora wise on nanne sæl wel ne gefor. Ors. 4,4.

1000 ða becwom se apostol æt summum sæle to dære byrig Perga-
mum. ÆLFRIC Hom. i. 62,24.

c1000 Ðas wyrte man mæg niman on ælone sæl. Lchdm. i. 112,3.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

c1440 þat alle þese þingys at euery tyme & seele schuld be re-
dressed. CAPGRAVE Life St. Kath. 682.

In this meaning 'sæl' occurs in propositional phrases, and is generally preceded by an indefinite adjective. (It seems to have been a prose usage.) O.E. sīd furnishes a parallel.

5. Time, while.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

a1250 He mihte bet speken a sele. Owl & Night. 953.

c1330 Gyf Constant had lyued ani sel He schuld haue mended
þe lond ful wel. R.BRUNNE Chron. Wace. 7005.

1338 þer duelled þei non seel. ibid. Chron. 80.

1477 In ful short seel. BOKENHAM Seyntys, Mary Magd. 1026.

This meaning of sæl first appears in ME. It is often employed in the sense of 'a short space of time'. Toward the close of the period it became obsolete in the standard language but was continued in dialects. A few examples follow.

1674 It is a fair seel for you to come at, i.e. a fair season or time; spoken ironically to them that come late.

What seel of day? What time of day. RAY S. & E.C. Words

1787 Seel, or seal, time or season; as, 'hay-seel', hay-time;

'bark seel', the barking season. W.H.MARSHALL Norfolk
II, 387.

a1825 Seal, of an idle and dissipated fellow, we say that he

'keeps bad seals'; .. of a sober, regular and industrious man .. that he 'keeps good seals and meals'.

1857 As I passed ..., I gave the man the sele of the day.

BORROW Romany Rye I. xxi. 249.

IX. OE. sid.

1. A going, journey, path, way.

OLD ENGLISH

a700 His modor .. gegan wolde sorhfulne sid. Beo. 1278.

cl000 Butan fyrhto þu ðone sid gefremest, ac se wulf sorgað
ymbe his sid. Sax. Leechd. I. 60.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

cl460 The holy gost before vs glad Full softly on his sithe.
Towneley Myst. xxvii 85.

This use of the word is very common in Old English poetry.
Toward the close of the Middle English period it dropped out.

2. Fortune on a journey; fortune, hap, luck.

OLD ENGLISH

a700 Higelas ongan .. frigeagan hwylce Sageata sidas waron.
Beo. 1986.

cl100 þæt was hreowlic sid & hearmlíc eallre þissere þeode, he
swa hrade his lif ge-endaðe. OE. Chron. an. 1057.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

al225 Nat i hwet unseli sid makeðe me her to sechen. St. Ju-
liana 47.

cl250 Egipte folc adden nið For ebris adden seli sid. Gen.
& Ex. 2546.

3. Misfortune, mishap, trouble.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

cl205 Heo weop for hire wei-sid, wanede hire sides þæt heo

wæs on liues. LAY. 25846-7.

13.. Speke we nou .. of hir sythe and of hir care. Cursor
M. 10411.

4. One's pilgrimage on earth; lifetime; the course of one's life.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

c1175 He haued to us michel nid alle þa deies of ure sid.

Lamb. Hom. 55.

a1300 þou has soȝht in all þe with Werldes welth to lijf in
pese. Curs.M. 27021.

By metaphor, sid here assumes the meaning 'lifetime'. It
It was employed in this sense during the first half of the ME.
period.

5. Occasion, time, times.

The underlying idea seems to have been course, or event,
happening at a certain time; then the sense of 'time' was ab-
stracted from it.

OLD ENGLISH

a700 Ofter micle donne on ænne sid. Beo. 1579.

a850 Do donne fiordan side ðin hleor driga to iordan.

Lorica Prayer 5 in OE. Texts 174.

c888 Neron .. het æt sumum cyrre forbærnan æalle Romeburg
on ænne sid ('at one time, simultaneously'). K.ELFRED
Boeth. xvi 4.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

c1250 Ich singe .. þe bridde syþe a middelnyhte. Owl & Night.

1330 Nyne syþe he gede aboute, & kiste þe auter. R.BRUNNE
Chron. Wace (Rolls) 1377.

al400 I .. swouhnede mony a sipe. Minor Poems fr. Ver. MS.

xxxvi 273.

cl425 .. and fyve syis was at gret myscheif. WYNTOUN Cron.

IX. ii.

MODERN ENGLISH

1590 The foolish man .. humbly thanked him a thousand sith.

SPENSER F.Q. III x. 33.

1590 He spends the year as blyth, As doth the king at euery

tjde or syth. Tincker of Turvey 41.

1630 This smith was .. Jocund and glesome at every sith.

Sid in this sense is found only in connection with numerals, and with indefinite and demonstrative pronouns. With cardinal numbers denoting frequency of occurrence, in OE. the case is either the instrumental, or the accusative governed by a preposition. The instrumental plural sidum became ME. siden, and finally assumed the same form as the singular. Since the beginning of the 15th century the word gradually disappeared. Its use was discontinued entirely in early Modern English, when it was wholly superseded by 'time' with which 'sid', in this sense, competed since c1300.

6 a. Used to express multiplication of numbers.

OLD ENGLISH

c950 Ne cuoedo ic de wid seofu sida at wid hundseofuntig sida

seofa sida. Lindisf. Gosp. Matt. xviii 22.

al300 Anna, .. þat liued had four sith tuenti yeier In viduid.

Cursor M. 11345.

1387 þe roundnesse of þe worlde about is þre hundred sipes

and fiftene sipes an hondred þowsand paas. Tr.Hig.I.45.

Since the close of the 14th century 'time' has completely occupied the place of this sīd.

6. Used to express comparison.

971 Heo hæfde seofon sīdum beorhtran saule þonne snaw.

Blickl. Hom. 147.

al300 þe sun was þat time .. seuen sith brighter þen þe dai.

Curs. M. 702.

1515 His church is twenty sith more gay Then all the Churches
betwene the same and Kent. BARCLAY Egloges I.

Here, also, 'time' took the place of 'sīd'. In OE. the dative plural 'sīdum' is common in this connection.

The cognate OHG. sinth, sind means 'going', 'way', 'direction' only. It is true, the phrase sārio thes sinthes is found in the sense of 'immediately' (Otfried I. 17,11) but its temporal meaning is probably based wholly on the adverb sārio.

X. OE. prag.

1. A space of time; a while.

OLD ENGLISH

750 Nis seo prah micel, þæt he wærlogan .. swencan moten.

Andr. 107.

a1000 þær halga bað sunu Lameches soðra gehata lange prage.

Cædmon's Gen. 1426.

Adverbial use:

Swa ic pragum (at times) winne, hwilum ..., hwilum.

Riddle 3. 67.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1375 He .. said efter a littl thraw, þat he suld wenge in hy
thar blude.

1386 I wol with Thomas speke a litl throwe. CHAUCER Sum.Tale.

MODERN ENGLISH

c1570 They were defaced in a throw. Pride & Lowl. 64.

1590 Downe himselfe he layd Upon the grassy ground to sleepe
a throw. SPENSER F.Q.

Throughout its existence prag, in this sense, meant chiefly 'a short space of time'. It is often preceded by the adjective 'little'; but even without it, it may denote 'a short time', viz. in the combination 'in a throwe'. It was used mainly adverbially in the accusative and in prepositional phrases. This meaning became obsolete in early MnE.

2. The time at which anything happens; an occasion.

OLD ENGLISH

c888 Onwæcnað sio wode þrag þære wrænnesse. K.ÆLFRED Boeth.

xxxvii.

971 Nis þæt eower .. þæt ge witan þa þrage & þa tide. Blickl.

Hom. 117.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1250 Blisse myð heom sume þrowe. Owl & Night. 478.

1390 This riche man the same throwe With soudein deth was
overthrowe. GOWER Conf. III. 36.

c14.. O thynke how many a throwe Thow in myn armes lay. HOC-
CLEVE Compl. Virgin 73.

MODERN ENGLISH

1513 The casting dart .. Smote worthy Authores the ilk
throw. DOUGLAS Aneis X. xiii. 53.

In this sense.. þrag became obsolete in early MnE. Especially in ME. and MnE. it was used adverbially in prepositional phrases, and without preposition in the accusative.

3. Condition of things, as in good, bad, hard time, etc.

OLD ENGLISH

Is ðeos þrag ful strong, ic sceal þinga gehwylc þolian.

(750) Jul. 464.

800 Hu seo þrag ('happy time') gewat, swa heo no wære. Wand.

95.

890 He ðy wyrs meahste þolian ða þrage, ða heo swa þearl be-
com. Met. 1, 77.

HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE MINOR TERMS.

11. OE. cyrr, cierr.

A turn, space of time, an occasion.

OLD ENGLISH

æt ðam feorþan cyrre. Herb. 100, 3; Lehm. 1. 214.

æt sumum cyrre. Sat. 5, 38. Met. 9, 23.

æt odrum cerre. Boeth. 35, 2.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

sum chearre. Jul. 41.

at þa(n) latere cherre. Lay. 8256.

makeden hine þridde charre (for the third time) king.

at ane chere.

MODERN ENGLISH

1513 Ane schot wyndo unchet a lytill on char. ÆNEIS VII.

Prol.

1815 But the dim lattice is ajar. SCOTT Id. of Isles.

This word occurs chiefly in prose. In OE. and ME. it is often preceded by a numeral. It occurs frequently in the phrases 'sumum cyrre' and 'odrum cyrre'. Cyrr in the sense of 'time' died out in the ME. period. In MnE. its old concrete meaning 'turning' is retained in the word 'ajar', from 'on char', 'on the turn, slightly opened.'

12. OE. stefn.

A turn, time.

Eft .. niowan stefne. Beo. 1789.

Da besæt sio fierð hie ðær ða hwile ðe hie ðær lengest mete hæfðon, ac hie hæfðon heora stemm gesetenne. Chr. 894; Erl. 90, 31.

Da Noe ongan niwan stefne (anew, a second time) ham stædelian. Cd. Th. 94, 2.

He hine Cyriacus syððan nemde niwan stefne. El. 1061.

Stefn was chiefly employed in poetry, and occurs principally in the phrase 'niwan stefne'. The word is recorded in the OE. only.

13. OE. (ge-)byre.

An event, the time at which anything happens; a favorable time; an opportunity.

Da he byre hæfde. Maldon 121.

Wæs ðær mid him op ðone byre ðæt Swegen wearð deað. Chr. 1013.

This word died out at the close of the OE. period.

The OHG. gaburi had the same meaning, but examples of its use are not available. It does not occur in Otfried nor Tatian.

14. OE. stycce.

1. A piece, bit.

Swe swe stycce hlafes. Ps. Surt. 147, 17.

Hig curfon ðone ram eall to sticceon. Lev. 8, 20.

2. A short space of time.

Du æ embe sticce (after a bit) fehst eft on ða ilcan spræce ðe ðu ær spræc. Bt. 35, 5.

By metaphor stycce has assumed the meaning 'time' which is recorded rarely, never in poetry.

OHG. stukki.

A piece; space.

in stuke stadiono zehenzug. 224, 1. T.

Stukki occurs in the original meaning only. It is not found in Otfried, and but once in Tatian from which the example quoted is taken.

MHG. stücke and MnG. Stück are the regular continuation of the OHG. stukki.

15. OE. yld, eld; ealdor.

1. An age of the world, a secular period.

a 1000 In þam lechtan ham þurh ælda tid ende gibidan. Gu. 807.

a 1300 Blissed be sco þat us has spedd þat we þe elds four
has redd. Curs.M. 9230.

1513 Ceculus .. all eildis .. schawis ws Engenerit was by
the God Vulcanus. DOUGLAS Eneis VII. xii. 99.

This meaning of the word dropped out in early MnE.

2. The age, period of life, at which a person has arrived.

a1000 Se halga wer In þa ærestan ældu gelufade Freccnessa
fela. Gu. 80.

a1225 Ich was of swuche elde. Ancr.R. 318.

1724 His eild and my eild can never agree. RAMSAY Tea-t.
Misc. I. 63.

1860 'I am just ae eild wi' the auld king'. RAMSAY Remin.
Ser. I. 177.

The word as used in this sense became obsolete at the close of the ME. period. In MnE. it is continued in dialects only.

3. Old age, advanced period of life.

971 Se wlite eft gewiteþ & to ylde gecyrrep.

1340 Alle thir .. That clerkes properetes of eld calles. HAM-
POLE Pr. Conse. 801.

1858 His beard was white with eld.

3b. People of advanced age; old men; senate or aristocracy.

c1000 Seo yld hi gebæd and seo iugub wrat. ÆLFRIC Hom.

1592 That pleasant sweet content That diuers eld haue found
within a wall. WYRLEY Armorie 147.

This is a natural concretion of meaning illustrating the transition from an abstract to a concrete collective signification as seen, e.g. in OE. geogud, dugud, MnE. force.

In late MnE. poetry this sense of the word was also extended to individual persons.

4. Antiquity, the olden time.

c1400 Hit is said oftsythes with sere men of elde. Destr.
of Troy 11881.

1812 Lands that contain the monuments of eld. BYRON Ch.
Har. I. xciii.

1847 The murmuring pines and the hemlocks .. Stand like
Druids of eld. LONGF. Ev. Prel. 3.

Eld assumed this meaning in late ME. It is now considered archaic and seems to be employed in poetry only.

OE. aldor, ealdor.

1. An age.

Ne mæg hine on ealdre anig onhreran. Ps.Th. 124, I.

Ic ær æfre on ealdre ne wolde melda weorþan. Exon. 50b.

Ealdor is used in the expressions on ealdre, to ealdre, not only with regard to the duration of life, but also in general for an unlimited period of time, independently or with the addition of ā, āwa, āfre, after, ēce, as well in positive as in negative sentences.

2. Life.

Deap gebrydeþ ealdor anra gehwæs Exon. 62b.

Nalles for ealdre mearn. Beo. 2889.

OHG. altar, MHG. MnG. Alter.

1. An age; lifetime.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

So sih thaz altar druag thanan unz in zuei iar.. O.I.20,7.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

Nach den tagen sines alders. MYST. 1. 99, 13.

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

Das goldne Alter wieder zurückrufen. Schiller 109.

Es war .. von alters her eine gewohnheit in Israel. Ruth 4,7.

2. Age, especially old age.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

fraget inan es, er habet iu thaz altar. O.III. 20,93.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

swer alter oder jungent hete. Troj. 23538.

MODERN HIGH GERMAN

Wenn das alter wird mit uns ringen. Fastn. Sp. 612, 8.

Und die Mauer .. Alters halben ist gefallen. Goe. 5,274.

Important compounds are Zeitalter (see Zeit), Weltalter (fr. OHG. worolt-altar), Menschenalter.

16. E. weorold, world; G. worolt, Welt.

1. The material world.

penden standeþ woruld under wolenum. Cd. Th. 56, 22.

2. Men, people.

Ic dæt for worulde gebolade, lytel buhte ic leoda bearnum.

Exon.Th. 87, 13.

3. An age.

OLD ENGLISH

Hi gesawon dæt beorhte lecht æfter dære langan worolde.

Shrn. 68,15.

God ær ealle worulda. Homl. Th. ii. 280, 13.

Ua on weorulae (forever). Ps. Spl. 17, 52.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

a pere ilke worlde þa þis wes iwurden. LAY. 23425.

in alre worlde world. KATH. 663. (Modeled after the Latin
saecula saeculorum.)

in MnE.

The only trace of the temporal meaning is found in the
phrase world without end.

4. Lifetime.

Gif ge mægen on eallre eowerre worulde geearnian. Bt. 18,3.

He swinceþ ealle his woruld after ðam welan. Bt. 33,2.

G. worolt, Welt.

1. The material world.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

er thesa uuorolt ziarta. O. II. 1,29.

er rihtit, thaz in uuorolt ist. O.II.4, 67.

2. People.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

irretit thiz thia uuorolt fon then sunton. O. II.7,14.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

die viunf werlt alle die irlosete er von der helle. KCHR.
9469.

3. An age of the world.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

sehsu sint thero fazzo, thaz thu es ueses unizo, thaz uuor-
olt ist gideilit, in sehsu gimeinit. O.II. 9, 20.

allo uuorolti. O. I. 7,21.

fon uuorolti zi uuorolti. O. II. 24, 46.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

Orienes wissagete, wie sehs werelde solden wesen. SWSP. 5,1.
hundert jar heissent seculum, daz ist ein welt. MEIN. 12.

The temporal sense of Welt is extinct. The compound
Weltalter has succeeded it.

4. Lifetime.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

haben ih gimeinit, thaz ih einluzzo mina uuorolt nuzzo.

O. I. 5,40.

17. OHG. 8wa.

Eternity.

OLD HIGH GERMAN

salida ist in euu mit thineru selu. O.I. 5,44.

sie brinnent thar unz in euuon. O. V. 21, 23.

fon euuon unz in euuon. O.I. 2,58.

zi euuidu in sternum. T. 3,5.

hier unde in euuon N. 40, 14.

fone euuon ze euuon. N. 89, 2.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

von ewen zuo den, unze in die ewen in sæcula sæculorum.

KULM. hf. 210.

zuo ewen in perpetuum. MARIENL. han. 47,12.

18. OHG. stulla.

A point of time, moment.

tho thisu uuorolt ellu quam zu theru stullu. O.I.23,1.

in thaz skif er giang zu in; tho uuard in theru stulli thaz
uuetar filu stilli. O.III. 8, 48.

this sunnan ioh then manon so ubarfuor er gahon, sar zi theru
stullu thiu zuelif zeichan ellu. O.V. 17,27.

Otfried is the only available source for examples of
this word. It does not occur in Tatian. 'Stulla' is not con-
nected with MnG. Stelle, which is sometimes used in the above
sense, in the phrase 'auf der Stelle'. MnG. Stelle, according
to Kluge, goes back to MHG. stal 'a place for standing', or it
may be a late development from MHG. OHG. stellen, 'to set up'.

HISTORIC SURVEY OF THE FOREIGN WORDS FOR TIME.

1. Term.

1. That which limits the extent of anything; a limit extremity, boundary. Utmost or extreme limit. Now rare or archaic.

In this local sense term was introduced in the early 14th century.

2. A definite point of time at which something is to be done, or which is the beginning or end of a period; a set or appointed time or date, especially for payment of money due.

al225 Etholden odres hure, ouer his rihte terme, nis hit
strong reflac? Ancr.R. 208.

1827 Fortune is apt to circumduce the term upon us. SCOTT,
Chron. Canongate iii.

Now obsolete or archaic except in specific uses.

- b. spec. Each of the days in the year fixed for payment, of rent, wages, and other dues. Chiefly Scot.

3. Transf. A portion of time having definite limits; a period, especially, a set or appointed period; the space of time through which something lasts or is intended to last; duration, length of time.

al300 Bituene pis and pe bridde day ... pulke terme him pugte
long. Floriz & Bl. 432.

1868 Presidents elected for a term of years. M.E.G.DUFF Pol.
Surv. 164.

b. Especially in the phrase for (†to) term of (one's) life: formerly often without for or to: Chiefly in legal use.

1340-70 ... terme of his life. Alisaunder 16.

1788 What men draw from their education generally sticks by them for term of life. V.KNOX Winter Even. I. iii. 34.

5. spec. Each of the periods (usually three or four in the year) appointed for the sitting of certain courts of law, or for instruction and study in a university or school. Opposed to vacation. Commonly used without article, as 'in term' = 'during the term'.

1454 An action by 'Bille in Michell' terme last past. Rolls of parlt. V. 239/2.

1883 Terms, the periods during which the superior courts at Westminster were open. Wharton's Law Lex. (ed.7).

b. transf. The session of a law-court during such a period; the court in session.

1648 At Yorke the Tearmes were kept for 7 years. D.JENKINS Wks. 45.

Used in this sense from 1525 to 1648.

The G. Termin was introduced in the 16th century directly from the Latin (terminus). Its meanings are 'term', 'time', 'appointed day', and specifically, in legal language 'a session of the court for hearing proofs, etc.' As the German dictionaries, as a rule, exclude the foreign words, a complete history of this word as well as of the following loan words cannot be presented here.

2. Respite.

1. Delay, or extension of time, asked or granted for some reason.

(Originally for further consideration of matter).

1290 So pat respit was par-of I-nome, and ech wende In his
side. Beket 631 in S. Eng. Leg. I. 124.

1300 Her i be hight Of a dai respit and a night. Curs. M.
21508.

1770 If I had followed the dictates of my own opinion, I
should never have allowed you the respite of a mo-
ment. Junius Lett. xxxvi 189.

a. Delay specially granted in the carrying out of a capital sen-
tence; a reprieve.

1722 A poor convict ordered to be transported in respite from
all gallows. DeFOE Moll Flanders 342.

1869 Much respite did I grant! Why grant me respite who de-
serve my doom? BROWNING Ring & Bk. xi. 474.

From respite in this sense is derived the verb respite 'to
grant a respite, especially from death', used as early as 1386.

2. Temporary cessation of labor, suffering, etc.; an interval of
rest.

13.. He doos hymself gret dishonour, That he schal Sarezynes
respyt gyve. Coer de L. 5433.

1873 When shall we learn .. that frequent respites from toil are
the very safety-valves of professional men? W. MATHEWS
Getting on in the World. xvi 285.

3. Delay in action; stay.

1375 Quhen thai of the reirward saw Thair vawarde be sa dis-
comfit, Thai flede withouten mair respit. BARBOUR Bruce
VIII. 344.

1591 Our selfe, my Lord Protector, and the rest, After some
respit, will return to Calice. SHAKS. I Hen VI, iv. i.
170. (Obsolete in early MnE.)

4. Leisure; opportunity for doing something.

1509 The payne were longe, and great sholde be the charge,
and to the same I haue to small respyte. BARCLAY Ship
of Follys II. 316.

1611 Hee .. met them in the land of Amothis; for he gaue them
no respite to enter his countrey. BIBLE I Macc. xii 25.

Note: In ME. we find respit used also in its original etymological
sense, i.e. respect (of which it is only a doublet).

3. Season.

1. A period of the year.

1340-70 For siht of the sesoun pat semms unblipe. Alex. 929.

1386 After the sondry sesons of the year, So chaunged he
his mete and his soper. CHAUCER Prol. 347.

1719 The Rainy Season and the dry Season now began to appear
regular to me. DeFOE Crusoe I. 122.

1822 Directions for forcing onions to produce bulbs in clus-
ters, at an early season. Trans.Hort.Soc. VI. 115.

b. A day or period of the year marked by some special festivity,
as christmas and New Year.

1791 Many happy returns of the season to you, my dear friend.

BURNS Let. to Cunningham 23 Jan.

1821 The compliments of the season to my worthy masters.

LAMB Elia I. All Fool's Day.

c. In reckoning time or age: a year, twelvemonth.

1827 A child of about 5 years or 'seasons' old. ROBERTS Voy.

Centr. Amer. 43.

2. The time of the year assigned to some particular operation of agriculture.

13.. By ham se. the planets men hau be seysyne To londe, to watre and to corn to wyne. E.E. Allit. P. A. 39.

1393 In cesoun of heruest-tyme. LANGL P.Pl. C. VII. 112.

1796 The season for committing seeds to the ground should be as early as the nature of the plant to be cultivated will bear. C. MARSHALL Gardening v. 63.

3. Time of ripeness or maturity. (Figurative).

1508 Bot leit the sueit ay the sour to gud sesone bring.

DUNBAR Tua Mariit Wemen 289.

1648 Whose .. impatience was such, that they would not staine the ripening and season of Counsels. Eikon Bas. iv.18.

From the noun in this sense is derived the verb to season.

4. The portion of a year regularly devoted to a particular business, sport, or amusement.

1687 When I was at Chio, I could not have that Diversion, for then it was not the season. LOVELL tr. Thevenot's Trav. I. 100.

1891 The 'season' in Australia -- by which is indicated the dance-giving period -- is winter and early spring.

E.KINGLAKE Australian 87.

Often with defining word, as racing, fishing, hunting, publishing, theatrical, holiday season.

5. A particular time or period during which something happens, or which is defined by some characteristic feature or circumstance.

al300 God was þe werld in þat sesun. CURSOR M. 29366.

1871 They may have been well pleased to accept a season of peace even at the hands of the stranger. FREEMAN
Norm. Conq. xviii. 278.

b. For a season: for an indefinite period, for some time, for a while.

1465 Than stode y stille a little sesone. Pol.Rel. & L. Poems.

1871 He was constrained for a season to leave. FREEMAN
Norm. Conq. IV. xvii. 70.

6. A time at which, or occasion when, something happens.

13.. He says soth in this sesowne ('at this time'). Seuyn Sages 3939.

1850 The churl in spirit .. Will let his coltish nature break
At seasons (from time to time) thro' the gilded pale.
TENNYSON In Mem.cxi.8. (Now rare).

7. The right, proper, due or appointed time.

al300 Als suith as he mai sesun se, And wend to rome at
soilled be. CURSOR M. 29366.

1851 And statesmen at her council met Who knew the reasons
when to take occasion by the hand. TENNYSON To the Queen 30.

The phrases in season 'at the right time' and out of season 'inopportunely' are first recorded in the 14th century.

In season and out of season: at all times, without regard to what is considered opportune.

1526 Be fervent, be it in season or out of season. TINDALE

2 Tim. iv.2.

The German loan-word Saison has been in the language since 1703, but it is still felt to be an extraneous element. It is supported particularly by the world of commerce and of fashion.

4. E. Space.

1. Lapse or extent of time.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1300 þair faith lasted littel space. CURS.M. 6980.

1382 Alle thingus han time, and in ther spaces passen alle thingus vnder the sunne. WYCLIF Eccl. iii. I.

MODERN ENGLISH

1634 They become whole and frolicke, in small space. SIR T. HERBERT Trav. 18.

1825 There was more than three hours' space to the time of rendezvous. SCOTT

1851 Forty years .. Have I been Prior ..., But for that space Never have I beheld thy face! LONGF. Gold Leg. ii. Poems 467.

'Space', in this sense, is often employed in the accusative denoting extent of time. It occurs with or without article, and is chiefly modified by adjectives as little, long, short, small. Prepositional phrases also abound, especially with in. Frequently 'space' is followed by the preposition of or is preceded by the noun in the genitive. It is a remarkable fact that

space in the temporal meaning is recorded at least half a century earlier than in its local use.

b. Delay, deferment.

c1385 I al for-geue with oute lengre space. CHAUCER L.G.W.

440 Prol.

1540-54 Without abode or space Bowe downe thyne ears. Croke

13 Ps.

The examples quoted represent the first and the last instances of space in this meaning.

2. Time, leisure, or opportunity for doing something.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

13.. Berard on þe helme he smot: To stond hadde he no space.

Guy Warw. p. 556.

1338 He may, till he has space, gif it withouten synnes.

R.BRUNNE Chron. 86.

MODERN ENGLISH

1565 They had tyme or space to take aduiseмент. COOPER

Thesaurus s.v. Spatium.

1601 Come on, thou art granted space. SHAKS. All's W. IV.i.98.

Space assumed this meaning in the 14th century. It occurs chiefly as the object of the verbs to have and to give, often followed by an infinitive.

Frequently it is coupled with other substantives signifying time. A few examples from the ME. and MnE. periods follow:

a1300 þat þu .. gef hem boþe wille and space, Hem to amendy

er hy beo ded. Asump. Virg. 172.

c1386 Whil I haue tyme and space. CHAUC. Prol. 35.

1484 Whanne the poure man was before the Juge, he demaunded
terme and space for to answeere. CAXTON Fables of Al-
fonce iii.

1500-20 Asking wald haif .. convenient tyme, lasar, and space.
DUNBAR Poems xv. 32.

In early MnE. space became obsolete in this meaning.

5. Age.

1. Length of existence of anything.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

cl325 I watg ful gong & tender of age. E.E. Allit Poems A 412.

1477 ... in the xvij of his age. EARL RIVERS Dictes 92.

MODERN ENGLISH

1535 The dayes of cure age iij scor years and ten. COVERD.
Ps. lxxxix. 10.

1751 The age of the hart, etc., is chiefly judged of by the
furniture of his head. CHAMBERS Cycl.

2. Years of maturity or discretion, or what by law or custom are fixed as such.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1382 Axe ye him, he hath age. WYCLIF John ix.21.

cl430 Of justying causte thou ryght noight, For thou art not of
age. Syr Tryamour 690.

MODERN ENGLISH

1809 Nor can any Lord of Parl. sit there, until he be of the
full age of 21 years. TOMLINS Law Dict. II. E I/i.

Modern: In another year he will be over age. There is no li-
mitation of age for this prize.

3. A period or stage of life.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1489 In tyme to come of theyre flowryng aage. CAXTON Faytes
of Armes I. ix.

MODERN ENGLISH

1534 The .. dedes ... done by J.Cesar in his yonge age. LD.
BERNERS Gold. Bk. M.Aurel.

1600 One man in his time playes many parts, His Acts being
seven ages. SHAKS. A.Y.L. II. vii. 143.

4. The latter part of life.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1330 A gode clerk wele in age. R.BRUNNE Chron. 114.

MODERN ENGLISH

1602 Age with his stealing steps, Hath caught me in his
clutch. SHAKS. Hamlet V. i. 79.

1646 Many grow old before they arrive at age. SIR T. BROWNE
Pseud. Ep. IV. xii. 217.

Now 'old age' is preferred.

5. The period of time contemporary with the lifetime of anyone.

(Used in fixing a date, but not as a measure).

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1330 Malcolm mad homage tille Edward our kyng, pat he and alle
his age of Ingland sold hold pat þing. R.BRUNNE Chron.

MODERN ENGLISH

1611 .. S. Hierome .. the best linguist without controuersie,
of his age. Bible Tr. Pref. 5.

1876 A dabbler in arts and sciences beyond his age. FREEMAN
Norm. Conq. III. xi. 72.

6. A lifetime taken as a measure of time; a generation.

MODERN ENGLISH

1535 & thy dominion endureth thorow out all ages. COVERDALE
Ps. cxliv. 13.

1853 Nestor is said to have lived three ages when he was
ninety years old. Encycl. Brit. II. 233.

Often in exaggeration:

1590 To were away this long age of three hours. SHAKS. Mid.
N.D. V.i.33.

1813 The two ladies were delighted to see their friend again,
and called it an age since they had met. MISS AUSTEN
Pride & Prejudice.

Occasionally used for a century:

1594 The space of 100 years called in Lat. seculum, and in
English an age. BLUNDEVILLE Exerc. III. I. ~~xxxvi~~. 352.

1848 Be true to yourselves and this new 19th age. Lowell
Fable Poet. Wks. 1879, 149/2.

7. Any great period or portion of human history.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1297 Of þe world .. þe firste age & tyme was from oure firste
fader Adam to Noe. R.GLOUC. 9.

MODERN ENGLISH

1610 I would with such perfection gouerne Sir, T'Excel the
Golden Age. SHAKS. Temp. II. i. 168.

1865 The stone age falls into two divisions, the unground and
the ground stone age. TYLOR Early Hist. Man. 193.

8. A great period or stage of the history of the earth.

MODERN ENGLISH

1855 The Ice Age or Glacial Epoch. KINGSLEY Glaucus 25.

1857 In the Oolitic ages insects become greatly more numerous.

H.MILLER Test. Rocks 1. 53.

6. E. Date.

1. The specification of the time of execution of a writing or inscription.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

cl430 In pis writynge, poug ber be no date. Stans Puer 97, in Babees Bk.

MODERN ENGLISH

1837 A three-half penny piece .. bearing the date of 1599.

Penny Cycl. VII 330.

2. The precise time at which anything takes place.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

cl330 pat tyme he died .. be date was 1016 mo. R.BRUNNE Chron. 47.

MODERN ENGLISH

1893 Up to the date at which he received notice. Weekly Notes 68/2.

b. More vaguely: The time at which something happened or is to happen; season, period.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

cl325 be date of the daye be lorde con knaw. E.E.Allit.P. a. 540.

MODERN ENGLISH

cl400 The date whan it was leyd in the erthe. MAUNDEV. iii.18.

1828 Up to this date Burns was happy. CARLYLE Misc. I. 222.

3. The period to which something ancient belongs; the age (of a thing or person).

MIDDLE ENGLISH

cl325 Vchon in scripture a name con plye, of Israel barnez
folewande her datez, dat is to say, as her byrb
whatez. E.E.Allit.P. A. 1039.

MODERN ENGLISH

1699 The best rules for distinguishing the date of manuscripts.

1864 When his date doubled her own. TENNYSON Aylmer's F. 80.

1869 Rich in antiquities of Roman date. FREEMAN Norm. Cong.
III. xiii. 291.

4. The time during which something lasts; period, season; duration;
term of life or existence.

13.. Thah the sone crowne here The fader hued is date here.
Chron. Eng. 972.

MODERN ENGLISH

1667 Ages of endless date Founded in righteousness. Milt.

1782 When the date of youth is once expired. COWPER Lett.
II. Nov.

5. The end of a period of time or of the duration of something.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

cl325 per is no date of hys godnesse. E.E.Allit.P.A.492.

MODERN ENGLISH

1557 The dolefull dayes draw slowly to theyr date. Tottell's
Misc. 129.

1784 All has its date below; the fatal hour was registered
in Heaven ere time began. COWPER Task. V. 529.

This meaning of date became obsolete in the 18th century.

6. Phr. Out of date: out of season; no longer in vogue or fashion,
or suitable to the time.

MODERN ENGLISH

1608 Choller is past, my anger's out of date. ROWLANDS Hum.

Looking Gl. 10.

1893 The two gentlemen .. who invented the Gaiety burlesque
'up to date' -- and gave this detestable phrase to the
language. Westm. Gaz. 9 Mar. 6/3.

Up to date: A bookkeeper's phrase of accounts, a journal, ledger,
etc.

1890 I tried to bring my volumes up to date. Dilke Probl. Gr.
Brit. I. p. vii.

Hence, figuratively, up to the knowledge, requirements,
or standard of the time. (Colloquial).

The German Datum which is found as early as the 14th century
in the signature of German documents, was fully established
by the middle of the 16th century. It is, on the whole, limited
to the first two meanings of the English date, but, on the other
hand, comprises the function of the English datum also.

7. E. Period.

1. Time during which anything runs its course; time of duration.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1413 For the tyme and paryode bifore ordeyned of the first
maker. Pilgr. Sowle. IV. xxvi. 72.

MODERN ENGLISH

1672 Many temples early gray have outlived the Psalmist's period. SIR T. BROWNE Let. Friend ll. (Obs. late 17 c.)

2. A round of time or series of years, marked by the recurrence of astronomical coincidences.

MODERN ENGLISH

1694 A cycle or period is an account of years that has a beginning and an end too, and then begins again as often as it ends. HOLDER Disc. Time (J.)

1854 Its Uranus' year, or annual period is 84 years. BREWSTER More Worlds ii. 29.

Transferred:

1865 The rays of light differ from those of invisible heat only in point of period. TYNDALL Radiation xv. 52.

1862 The heart beats by periods. TYNDALL Mountaineer. xi.

3. An indefinite portion of time.

MODERN ENGLISH

1712 Through every Period of my Life Thy Goodness I'll pursue. ADDISON Hymn xi.

1780 The Reformation .. one of the greatest periods of improvement. BUCKE Sp. at Bristol Wks. III. 383.

1870 Niobe was, in a former period of language, a name of snow and winter. MAX MÜLLER Sc. Relig. 66.

b. One of the larger divisions of geological time.

1833 The period next antecedent we shall call Eocene. LYELL Princ. Geol. III. 54.

c. Any specified portion or division of time.

1751 The particular periods into which the whole period
should be divided. BOLINGBROKE Stud. Hist. I. vi. 236.

1793 Twenty years would be too long a period to fix for such
an event. BURKE Corr. IV. 141.

d. The period: the time in question or under consideration; esp.
the present day.

1868 The girl of the period is a creature who dyes her hair.
MRS. LYNN LINTON in Sat. Rev. 14 Mar. 340/1.

5. The point of completion of any round of time or course of action.

MODERN ENGLISH

1591 The period of thy Tyranny approacheth. SHAKS. I. Hen.
VI, IV. ii. 17.

1734 Let us hold the period of life ever in our view. Watts
Relig. Juv. 86.

1882 I mean to put a period to this prodigality. STEVENSON
New Arab. Nts. 96.

The German Periode though recorded already in 1530, never
gained a strong foothold. It is still felt to be a foreign word
and a luxury rather than a necessity.

9. E. Era.

1. A system of chronological notation, characterized by the number
of years from some particular point of time; e.g. the Christian
Mohammedan era.

MODERN ENGLISH

1646 Dionysius the abbot .. brought in the Era of Christ's Incarnation, so that .. the Christiana did not use to reckon by the years of Christ, until the 532 of the Incarnation. J.GREGORY Learned Tracts 164.

1658 That midnight which began the first day of the Christian era. USSHER Ann. Ep. Rdr.

1861 A few words on the subject of the Gupta era. F.HALL in Jrnl. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 149.

2. A date, or an event, which forms the commencement of a new period in the history of a nation, an institution, individual, etc.

A memorable or important date.

MODERN ENGLISH

1703 From this sacred Era of my Love A better order of succeeding Days Come smiling forward. ROWE Fair Penit. II. i. 488.

1765 The earthquake of 1638 was a remarkable era. T.HUTCHINSON Hist. Col. Mass. I.90.

1851 The landing of this English Governor was an era in their lives. DIXON W.Penn xxiv. 210.

3. A portion of historical time marked by the continuance throughout it of particular influences, social conditions, etc.

MODERN ENGLISH

1741 This era of joy. MIDDLETON Cicero I. i. 12.

1858 I cannot but hope that a better intellectual era is dawning for the workingmen. KINGSLEY Lett. I. 399.

b. A period of an individual's life, or in the history of any continuous process.

MODERN ENGLISH

1796 In autumn, after harvest, that gladsome era in the husbandman's life. MORSE Amer. Geog. I. 341.

1839 The era when the newly raised surface was first occupied by lakes. MURCHISON Silur. Syst. I.

1870 It belongs to the worst era of architecture. F.WILSON Ch. Lindisf. 95.

4. The portion of historical time to which an event is to be assigned; the approximate date, 'period', 'epoch' of an event, of a monument, etc.

MODERN ENGLISH

1714 Many useful arts and sciences of which the beginnings are of uncertain era's. MANDEVILLE Fab. Bees II. 132.

1774 The pillar stands .. its parts .. betray a difference in their era. J.BRYANT Mythol. I. 261.

1819 'Twas in Nov. but I'm not so sure about the day -- the era's more obscure. BYRON Juan I. cxxi.

5. Useê attributively: era-date.

1758 Ne rueful murder stain thy era-date. W.THOMPSON Hym to May 242.

The German Ära has a much narrower range than the English era, being confined to the third meaning of the latter. It is indeed used chiefly with reference to historical periods, as in: die neue Ära, die Ära Bismark. It is distinctly academic and literary. For the English era in its first meaning the German

language has the active compound Zeitrechnung.

8. E. Epoch (arch. Epocha).

1. The initial point assumed in a system of chronology; e.g. the date of the birth of Christ, of the Hegira, of the foundation of Rome, etc. Now rare.

MODERN ENGLISH

1614 The residue will fall near the first year of the Chaldean Epocha. SELDEN Titles Hon. 6.

1758 On the Greek brass coins of Sidon .. both these epochs have been used. SWINTON in Phil. Trans. L. 801.

2. The beginning of a 'new era' or distinctive period in the history of mankind, a country, an individual, a science, etc.

MODERN ENGLISH

1673 Men that mark out Epocha's are not born in many Revolutions. R. LEIGH Transp. Reh. 55.

1824 Every work which creates an epoch in literature is one of the great monuments of the human mind. D'Israeli Cur. Lit. II. 382.

3. A fixed point of time.

MODERN ENGLISH

1661 Such, whose supine felicity but makes In story chasmes in epoche's mistakes. DRYDEN Astræa Redux 108.

1841 The date of his appearance .. the middle of the sixth century B.C. .. an epoch which, etc. ELPHINSTONE Hist. Ind. I. 209.

1882 It was an epoch .. in her life, when she commenced laboring in Joppa. MRS. PITMAN Miss. L. Greece & Pal. 190.

4. Astronomical use: The point of time at which any phenomenon takes place.

MODERN ENGLISH

1726 Their mean motions made between the said Epocha and the time propos'd being equated. tr. Gregory's Astron. I. 466.

1795-8 By astronomers the word epocha is used to denote that particular point of the orbit of a planet, wherein that planet is, at some known moment of mean time, in a given meridian. T.MAURICE Hindustan I.1.iv. 128.

5. A period of time.

In early use, a chronological period dated from an 'epoch' in sense I. In later use a period of history defined by the prevalence of some particular state of things, by a connected series of events, or by the influence of some eminent person or group of persons.

MODERN ENGLISH

1628 His clothes were never young in our memory: you might make long Epocha's from them. EARLE Microcosm, Sordid Rich Man 99.

1794 Chronologers have divided the age of the world into six different epochas. Sullivan View Nat. II. 201.

1883 'Ah, that indeed is a letter', sighs the lover of the Addisonian epoch. Harper's Mag. Feb. 467/2.

b. A period of an individual's life, or in the history of any continuous process.

1768 There are 3 epochs in the empire of a French woman. She

is coquette--then deist--then devote. STERNE Sent.
Jour. II. 132.

1853 God's treatment of the penitent divides itself in this
parable into three distinct epochs. ROBERTSON Serm.
Ser. III. xx. 256.

c. Geological use: A period or division of the history of the for-
mation of the earth's crust.

1802 The most ancient epocha which any memorial exists in the
records of the fossil kingdom. LYELL 2d Visit US. II.
247.

The German Epoche has been known since 1727. It carries the
second of the English meanings and is, perhaps, most frequently
seen in the combination 'Epoche machen' and especially its par-
ticipial compound 'epochemachend'.

NATIVE TERMS USED IN A TEMPORAL SENSE IN
THE MIDDLE & MODERN PERIODS ONLY.

1. E. Span; G. Spanne.

E. Span.

The oldest meaning of span is 'the distance from the tip of the thumb to the tip of the little finger'. The first recorded use of 'span', in this sense, is c900.

In OE. the word is very scantily recorded, and its currency after 1300 may be partly due to OF. influence.

By the 14th century 'span' was also used in the wider sense of 'a very small extent or space'.

The temporal meaning of 'space', which is a simple metaphor of 'space' in the local sense, developed at the beginning of the MnE. period. It is employed chiefly to denote the length of human life. Especially in the earlier use of the word in the transferred sense it emphasizes the shortness of human life.

1535 Thou hast made my dayes a spanne longe. COVERDALE Ps.

xxxvii. 6.

1633 Life's poore span Make not an ell, by trifling in thy

wo. G.HERBERT Temple, Ch.Porch lxxvii.

1683 In so short a space, as the small Span of Life. KENNETT

tr. Erasm. on Folly 81.

1850 The span granted to the butterfly, the child of a single
summer, may be long.

G. Spanne.

The use of OHG. spanna, MHG. spanne is parallel to that of OE. and ME. span(n).

In the modern period we find the local meanings of 'measure of the outstretched hand' and 'outstretched hand' as in Luther's 'wer fasset den Himmel mit der Spanne', and the temporal sense of 'space of time', especially with reference to a short space; e.g. eine kurze Spanne Zeit (Hölty).

2. E. Spell.

1. A period or space of time of indefinite length.

MODERN ENGLISH

1728 The Corsairs met with a brisk reception and were warmly entertained for a good spell. MORGAN Algiers II.iv.265.

1860 It only halted a short spell, and then .. it run up to the carcass. MAYNE REID Hunter's Feast xxii.

1885 Then came a spell of wandering, of high play, of rage. 'MRS. ALEXANDER' At Bay i.

2. A continuous period or stretch of a specified kind of weather.

MODERN ENGLISH

1728 For several days past, there has been a spell of comfortable weather. T.SMITH Jrnl. 265.

1897 If a spell of cold wind .. should prevail. Jrnl.R. Agric. Soc. Dec. 663.

b. Used with adjectives, as hot, cold, dry, wet, etc.

1740 I believe no man ever knew so winter-like a spell so early in the year. T.SMITH Jrnl. 268.

1887 Everybody found smoking on the streets .. during the dry spell was liable to be arrested. Boston (Mass.) Jrnl. 23 Aug.5.

The temporal sense of spell goes back to the earlier meanings (appearing first about 1600) of 1. a set of persons taking a turn of work, relief-gang, 2. a turn of work taken by a person or set of persons in relief of another. The connecting link, or the intermediate meaning, appears to be: a continuous course or period of some work, a turn, or bout at something.

3. G. Nu.

MHG. The use of nu (originally adverb, identical with E. now, MnG. nun) as a noun appears first in the 13th century. It signifies 'present moment', 'moment', 'der schnell hinschwingende Augenblick' (Weigand).

MnG. The earliest example of the expression in einem Nu has been traced back to the year 1586. This, or rather the simplified form im Nu 'in a moment', 'in the twinkling of an eye' is the only instance of the nounal use at present. It is very common in colloquial language.

SOME GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

1. THE GERMINAL MEANINGS

of the words for time as extracted from their etymology may be tabulated as follows.

Transference from local to temporal meaning:

fæc: a space of time. .

māl: a measure or portion of time.

stycce: a moment; a very short time.

space: A space of time.

span: A span of time, or a short length of time.

Temporal sense derived from motion or action; also rest:

cyrr: A turn of time.

sīd: A course of time.

brāg: A going or passing of time.

hwīl: A time of rest.

stund: A time of standing or resting.

sāl: (from the condition or state of happiness): a happy time.

tīma, tīd: A division or distribution of time.

first: A future time(?).

byre: A fitting time.

Loan Words.

date: The time at which something was given or delivered.

era: Way of counting time.

epoch: The time of beginning or ending of something.

period: Time of a complete circuit.

respite: A time of forbearance; a delay.

season: Time for sowing, then by generalization, 'the proper time'.

term: A fixed or limited time.

Glancing at the history of meanings it does not appear that the etymological sense is of far-reaching importance for the subsequent development. It is difficult to see, for instance, why the Old German stunt should have been changed to the meaning of 'hour' in German and even to the sense of 'moment' in the Dutch stond.

Still, it is far from fanciful to recognize the influence of the oldest meaning in the various stages of hwil, Weile. E.g. was seo hwil micel. Beo. 146; MnG. Weile as in Langeweile, weilen, verweilen, or in the proverb 'Eile mit Weile', or in the famous lines occurring in Goethe's Faust: 'Werd' ich zum Augenblicke sagen, verweile doch, du bist so schön'.

A trace of the etymological signification is also found to linger in the idea of the regularity of the recurrence attaching to the MnE. season, MnG. Saison, as baseball season, G. Frühlings-saison, Saisonausverkauf.

2. THE PRINCIPAL SUBDIVISIONS AND CHANGES OF MEANING.

A distinction of meaning very commonly made in dictionaries is that between point of time (Zeitpunkt) and extent or space of time (Zeitraum), though many words occur in both functions. Again, a specific variety of duration may come to be expressed, as a short or long space of time, e.g., OE. fæc, E. span, G. Spanne,

or (in prepositional phrases) ME. in a throwe, in a stound, and, on the other hand, G. Langeweile, verweilen. See also ME. seel, under sāl 5. Furthermore, a characteristic quality of time or rather of something done or happening at or during a certain time is liable to give distinctive color to the use of the word, as in a good or happy time, a bad time, for instance in OE. sīd or in OE. prāg, which occasionally assumes the sense of misfortune, distress, or in English 'to have a good time', 'quite a time'. etc.

A definite restriction of duration results in the sense of 'hour', observed in OE. tīd, G. Stunde, E. hour, and Danish time, four different time words thus having arrived at one and the same meaning. As may be inferred from the examples quoted, the distribution of the terms^{is} sometimes rather arbitrary. This impression is confirmed by the fact that in ME. time is occasionally found in the sense of 'hour', see tīd 5, time 4; that in MHG. wīle occurs as a synonym of stunde, see hwīla 3; and that in OE. stund is not entirely unknown in the meaning of '(canonical) hour.'

A similar elasticity of sense development is seen in the various stems that have come to denote repetition in conjunction with numerals. E. three times, G. drei mal, OE. þrim sīpum, OHG. MHG. drio stunta.

Of great interest is the more or less complete elimination of the time element by the process of concatenation. Late ME. MnE. tide, (OE.) ME. MnE. meal, MHG. māl, G. Mahl, G. Stunde 'recitation', G. Hochzeit 'wedding'. A duplication of this process has been pointed out in G. Mahlzeit.

A somewhat rare change of sense has been observed in OE. sīd

which denotes primarily 'going', 'way', and OE. sǣl which means both 'happiness' and 'suitable time'. In the latter case it would be tempting to set up 'time' as the older sense, from which 'good time', 'happy time' might easily have been derived, but the unanimous testimony of the cognate languages in which the temporal meaning of the stem is quite unknown, makes it indeed practically certain that the meaning 'happiness' is the earlier of the two.

3. SOME POINTS OF COMPARISON BETWEEN THE GERMAN & ENGLISH USE OF TIME WORDS.

Tīd was the commonest term for 'time' in OE. At the close of that period it began to lose much of its ground until by the beginning of the 16th century most of its meanings had become obsolete or archaic. The cognate German word zīt, on the other hand, retained practically all of its primeval vigor, at the same time extending its boundaries into the domain of its closely related synonyms.

The E. while and G. Weile enjoyed a greater freedom of construction in the older periods, when they denoted a space of time of any length. In both the English and the German these words have experienced a specialization of meaning, 'a short space of time' being the principal modern sense. It is characteristic of these terms that they have never denoted 'a point of time'. The close parallel development of certain forms of these words, i.e. E. whilom, G. weiland, and the temporal conjunctions E. while, G. weil is worthy of note. Interesting, too, is the further development of the conjunction in German from temporal to modal sense, and the shading into an adversative function in English.

OE. stund and OHG. stunt exhibit cases of specialization of meaning, the former becoming obsolete in early MnE. In the older periods both terms were employed to denote any period of time. In ME. stund signified 'a short space of time' only. In late MHG. stund became restricted chiefly to the meaning of 'hour'. A peculiar function of the German word is that it was used, until the beginning of the MnG. period, in the sense of the German adv. mal, after numerals.

OE. mæl and OHG. mal are both instances of a transfer of meaning from a local to temporal idea. The English word, however, was employed with greater freedom than the German term which does not occur as the subject of a verb but adverbially only.

OE. frist and OHG. frist carried practically the same meaning of 'a space of time', but perhaps the term was applied to larger periods in the OHG. than in the OE. The English term did not extend beyond the oldest period. While the German word has not lost any of its meanings, its frequency of occurrence has been considerably reduced.

It is interesting to note the great loss of native words for time in the English. Out of 13 terms for time in the OE. (tīd, tīma, hwīl, stund, mæl, frist, fæc, sæl, sīd, bræg, cyrr, stefn, stycce), 5 died out before the beginning of the ME. period (mæl, fæc, cyrr, stefn, stycce), and only 2 out of the 13 original terms (time and while) are employed today in the common literary language. However, the borrowing of foreign words in the ME. period compensated for this loss.

On the contrary, the conservative nature of the German

language becomes apparent when it is seen that not one out of the 5 principal terms for time (Zeit, Weile, Frist, Stunde, mal) has become obsolete. However, we find an exchange of meaning and a readjustment among the terms themselves. E.g., Zeit has taken over practically the entire general meaning of 'time' in Stunde, also a portion of Weile and Frist. On the other hand, Stunde was restricted to 'the space of an hour', a meaning originally expressed by Zeit.

Regarding the words for time derived from other languages, the German has introduced practically the same loan words as has the English with the exception of the early borrowings age, space, respite, but these foreign words are still considered as such, and the extent to which they are used is comparatively small, the German language, in many instances, employing as their equivalents such native compounds as Zeitalter, Zeitraum, Zeitabschnitt, Zeitpunkt.