

THE UNIVERSITY OF OSLO
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Examination in
NFI4120
Old Norse – Language and Text

Autum 2013

Time: Wednesday 04.12. kl. 9 – 13 (4 hours)

Place: Seminar room 3, P. A. Munch's house

The following dictionaries are allowed:

Cleasby, Richard & Gudbrand Vigfusson. *An Icelandic-English Dictionary*.

Zoega, Geir T. *A Concise Dictionary of Old Icelandic*.

Heggstad, Leiv et al. *Norrøn Ordbok*.

3 pages including front page

Note that all questions are to be answered.

1. Translate the following text to English or Norwegian.

Bǫðvarr, sonr Egils, var þá frumvaxti; hann var inn efniligsti maðr, friðr sýnum, mikill ok sterkr, svá sem verit hafði Egill eða Þórólfr á hans aldri; Egill unni honum mikit; var Bǫðvarr ok elskr at honum. Þat var eitt sumar, at skip var í Hvítá, ok var þar mikil kaupstefna, hafði Egill þar keypt við margan ok lét flytja heim á skipi; fóru húskarlar ok höfðu skip áttært, er Egill átti. Þat var þá eitt sinn, at Bǫðvarr beiddisk at fara með þeim, ok þeir veittu honum þat; fór hann þá inn á Vøllu með Húskǫrlum; þeir váru sex saman á áttæru skipi. Ok er þeir skyldu út fara, þá var flœðrin síð dags, ok þeir urðu hennar at biða, þá fóru þeir um kveldit síð. Þá hljóp á útsynningr steinóði, en þar gekk í móti útfallsstraumr; gerði þá stórt á firðinum, sem þar kann opt verða; lauk þar svá, at skipit kafði undir þeim, ok týndusk þeir allir.

2. The word form *firðinum* in “gerði þá stórt **á firðinum**” needs some explanation.

- a. Describe the word form in gender, number and case.
- b. Find the **lexical form** of the word and **explain the changes in vocalism** that have effected the word and how they are manifested in the inflexion. There are three different processes at work in the inflexion paradigm of this word.
- c. The case of the word form is related to the grammatical context. Explain the syntactic relations of the phrase *á firðinum*.

3. In the phrase “Ok er þeir **skyldu** út fara, þá var flœðrin síð dags” we find a verb which has an interesting inflection.

- a. Find the lexical form of the verb.
- b. Analyse the form of the verb in *number, person, tense and mode*.
- c. The form of the verb is related to the grammatical context. Explain the syntactic relations of the sentence (who is doing what, when and during which conditions?).

4. In the phrase “Bǫðvarr beiddisk at fara með **þeim**, ok **þeir** veittu **honum þat**” you find four pronouns. It is often essential to understand the reference of the pronoun to understand the meaning of the text. You should therefore look at the context in the text above to answer these questions.

- a. What is the reference in common for the pronouns *þeim* and *þeir*?
- b. The two forms *þeim* and *þeir* have the same reference but they do not have the same function in the phrase. Explain the function of the two forms.
- c. What is the reference for the pronoun *honum*?
- d. From your answer to (c) you know the gender and number of *honum*. What case is it?
- e. Explain the syntactic function of the form *honum*.
- f. What is the reference in the above text for the pronoun *þat*?
- g. Explain from the above context the syntactic function of the form *þat*.

5. Translate the following text to English or Norwegian.

Sigurðr hjó í steðjann ok klauf niðr í fótinn, ok brast né brotnaði; hann lofaði sverðit mjök ok fór til árinna með ullarlagð ok kastar í gegn straumi, ok tók í sundr, er hann brá við sverðinu; gekk sigurðr þá glaðr heim.

6. There are **ten finite verb forms** in the text.

- a. Give the lexical form of the verbs with the help of the lexicon.
- b. Divide your list of verbs into strong and weak verbs.
- c. The strong verbs differ significantly from the weak verbs. Present the main difference in the inflexion paradigms between strong and weak verbs.
- d. Present the principal parts of one strong and one weak verb respectively which are central to help you to establish the inflexion paradigm.