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El análisis del cambio lingüístico: la evidencia onomástica.

ABSTRACT: The study of the abundant onomastic material conserved in the different documentary records compiled in England after the Norman Conquest has become one of the most important sources of dialectical reconstruction, both for linguists researching the Old English and the Middle English periods. In this article, we study the most important methodological implications of these type of investigations, in relation to the reconstruction of the different dialectical variants recognizable in Old and Middle English. Two main groups of documents are introduced: the Domesday Book (compiled in 1086) and the Lay Subsidy Rolls (compiled during the 13th-15th centuries). The interpretation of each type of onomastical material is radically different, and so are the problems and advantages they submit. However, this material has frequently proven extremely useful and reliable to the historical dialectologist.