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## GRADUATE THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

### The influence of the "Book of Job" on the Middle English morality plays

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#### Abstract

The Book of Job was extremely popular in the Middle Ages, especially in England, because of its role in liturgy as well as lay religious devotion. I argue that the Book of Job was heavily influential in the writing of the medieval morality plays Castle of Perseverance, Mankind, Wisdom, and Everyman. In the plays, the dramatists mirrored many of Job's structural and artistic elements, creating direct parallels between the Biblical text and the morality plays. The authors also relied on Job's ideological framework to establish their own arguments, forming not only a textual but ideological linkage. Yet the most intriguing connection between Job and the morality plays is their function within the medieval religious context; the Hebrew Book of Job is used as a model for the Christian morality plays. By examining the role of Job in medieval England, I demonstrate how the figure of Job can be used as a Christian rather Jewish model. The influence of the Book of Job is central to the morality plays' structures, artistic techniques, and ideological arguments. I argue that, as other Scriptural books acted as patterns for the medieval cycle and mystery plays, the Book of Job stood as a pattern for the medieval morality plays.

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present day newspaper article from each language as a starting point for discussion. Examples from both texts will be used to illustrate the lexical fields of French loanwords in English during the Middle English (ME) and Early Modern English (EModE) periods, as well as the effects of French and English affixing of native and foreign words. Knowledge of the language became useful for the growing 'aspirations of the middle class'<sup>9</sup> in England, and this 'opening up of French to those outside the aristocracy'<sup>10</sup> led to a so-called 'heyday of French': a period, from 1258 to 1362, during which it was used 'in the broadest spectrum of activities'.<sup>11</sup> Thus, in the PD articles, there is an. The Middle English Literature means English literature that developed during the period from 1100 to 1500 century. During this unique period, English got maturity and widespread popularity among people belonging to every strata of society. The English literature came into being when the Anglos and Saxton and Jutes came to settle in England in the later part of the fifth century and eventually gave the country its name and its language. The Angles brought the story of Beowulf with them to England in the sixth century. This was about seventy years about the death of Muhammad (PBUH) and in the sa