

Subjunctive use

More frequent than in Mod.G., in conditionals and other subclauses ('als ob', 'obwohl' etc.)

- (14) ðeah þu stille **sy** [...], þeath ic þine æðelborennesse on ðe **geseo**.
 doch du still seiest [...], doch ich deine edle Herkunft an dir ersehe.
 'obwohl du schweigsam bist, sehe ich deine edle Herkunft an dir'

Periphrastic tense with participle -nde

There is a present participle in -ende/-ande (cf. German -end). It is sometimes used in a periphrastic construction that looks like a modern progressive, but has a less clearly defined meaning (not necessarily progressive, may also be habitual).

- (15) Mid þi þe he þas þingc wæs sprecende to him siflum
 mit dem dass er diese Dinge war sprechend zu sich selbst
 ('as he was saying this to himself...')

Perfect and future periphrases not yet fully established

There is a perfect construction, but it is not yet obligatory. A simply past tense can be used instead.

The perfect has an alternation between forms with *be* and forms with *have*, like in German

- (16) a. Ða ða se cyningc hæfde þæt gewrit oferræd
 da da der König hatte das Schreiben überlesen
 'als der König das Schreiben durchgelesen hatte ...'
 b. Ic eom soðlice of cynelicum cynne cumen
 ich bin wahrlich von königlichem Geschlechte gekommen

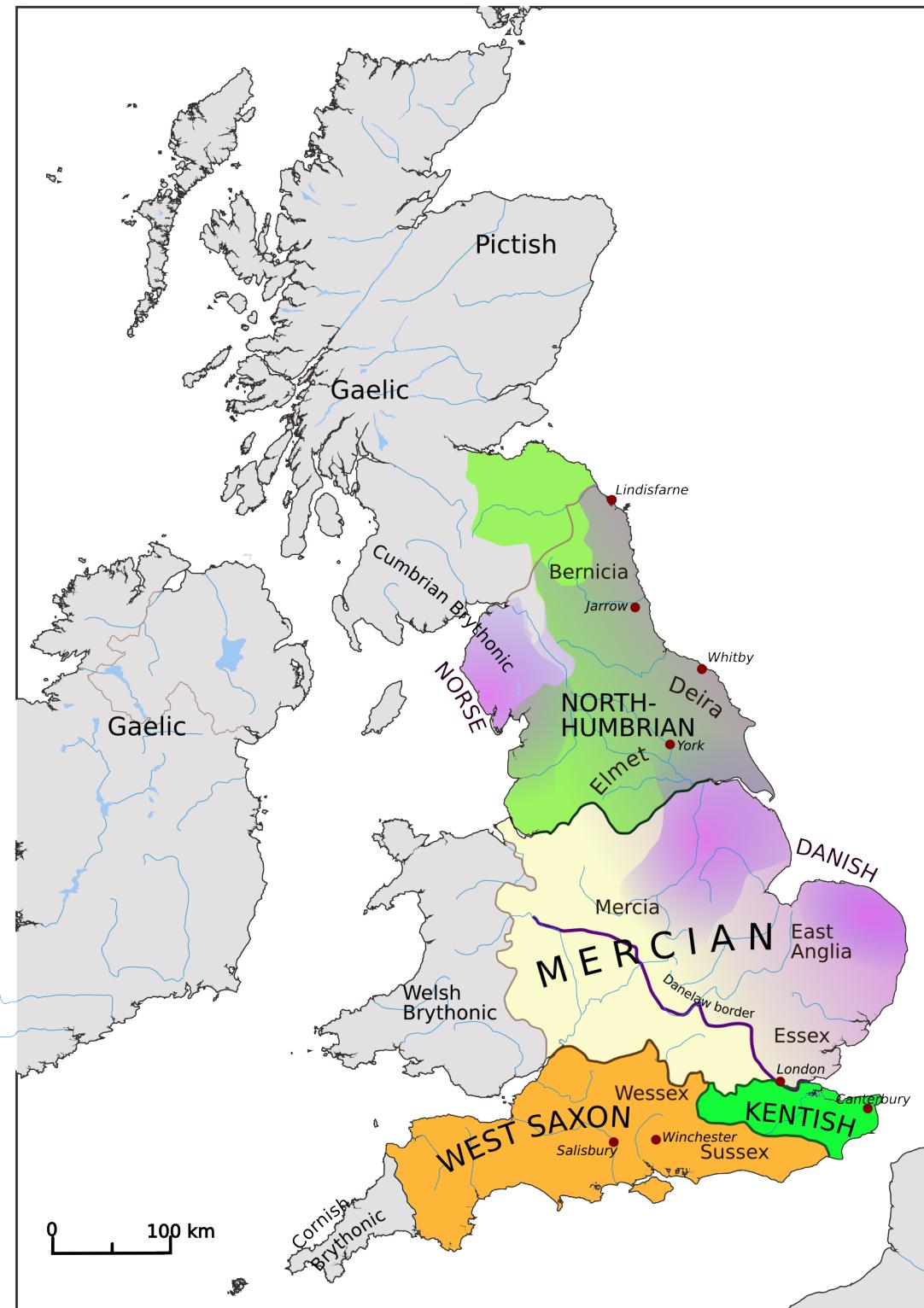
Sometimes the participle of the perfect construction is inflected to agree with the object (cf. French: *il les a faites*)

- (17) þær he hæfð mon geworht**ne**
 da er hat Mann geschaffen**en**
 ('...wo er den Menschen erschaffen hat')

The modal verbs *willan* and *sculan* can be used for expressing future, but a simple present tense can often be used instead.

- (18) a. and gif þu þæt ne dest þu **scealt** oncnawan þone gesettan dom.
 und wenn du das nicht tust du sollst empfangen das bestimmte Urteil
 b. þonne **hafast** þu mede and eac clæne handa fram þæs unscæðþigan blode
 dann hast du Lohn und auch saubere Hände von des Unschuldigen Blut
 ('dann wirst du den Lohn empfangen und doch deine Hände nicht mit dem Blut dieses Unschuldigen beschmutzt haben')

4. Dialects of Old English



5. An old English manuscript page

(Corpus Christi Coll. 279b, fol. 112v, Beda, Historia / Cædmon's Hymn)

þara stoebynðer diris nūsculan hƿuan hefon
rues peaqid metodeſ miltiſ ƿisimod geþonc
ƿuldorſ ſedri ſrahe pundiſ geþpas
ecliptiſ oþeronſtealde heaſt geceop
eoſdan beaſnum hefon to hƿoſe halig
ryppend ðamiddon geaqid moncynnes peaqid
ecliptiſ aſtateo de pnumfoldaſ fneſ
ælmihig ðaaſas he pnom hæm ſlaepe jeall
habel he ſlapande ſong easte ingemynde haſde.
þem pondum ſonamōis pond inhatylce gemet
gode pyphes ſonges togebeode. þacom he onman
ne to han tungue þan rebeſ iralduſ mon pes.
ſede him hƿylce gýre heon peng thehine ſona
tohaſie abbudyrſan gelædde ƿiſne þat cydde
ſtagde. ða heo gesommian ealle hagelagi
destan men þaleoſin ne pas. ƿiſ and pedpidum
het recan þat ſƿen þat leod ſingan þat te alna
heora dome geopen paſe hƿat oddi hƿonon
þat cumen paſe þaſes h̄i eallum gesegn
ſpaſpahit paſe þat him paſe pnom dnyltne
rylbum heofonlic gýſe forgyfen ðaſelton
hie him ƿaſdon ſum halig ſpel ƿiſ god cundne
laſe pond bebuðon himba gýſe miltiſ þaſe
h̄i ſum ſunge leod ſonges þat ge hƿyrſde.