

Chadwick, H. Munro, and N. Kershaw Chadwick, The Growth of Literature, Vol. I, (Cambridge at the University Press) 1932

p. 13 Footnote 1. This and the following chapters (III-V, VII, VIII) are concerned to a large extent with the subjects treated in The Heroic Age, by H. M. Chadwick (Cambridge, 1912), to which - in order to save unnecessary repetition - the reader is referred for a more detailed study of the material. In general the Greek and Teutonic evidence is treated more briefly in the following chapters. We adhere to the views expressed in the former work, except that we now recognise the existence of non-heroic stories relating to the Heroic Age.

p. 22 (10) The abundance of static epithets.

This is the feature which most clearly distinguishes the languages of the earlier heroic poems, both Greek and Teutonic, from that of later poetry and of prose. Examples are extremely numerous in the Homeric poems and plentiful enough in Beowulf. The epithets sometimes consist of simple or compound descriptive adjectives or adjectival expressions, sometimes of nouns in apposition. Thus, where we should say 'the sea', the Homeric poems and Beowulf commonly add an epithet, e.g. 'grey' (πολιός , fealu). Similarly, a ship is often described as 'hollow' (κοῖλος) or 'broad-bosomed' (sidfaedmed); or, again, as 'curved' (Κορυνίς), which is also possibly the meaning of wundenstefna, etc. Headlands or cliffs have the epithet 'breezy' (ἡνεμόεις , windig). Buildings are called 'lofty' (ὕψηλός , heah). Heroes have various epithets, denoting prowess, etc., applied to them, while their squires or personal followers are often described as 'dear' or 'own dear' (φίλος , swans). Not unfrequently also we meet with more picturesque expressions, such as 'the dawn clad in saffron' (ἡὼς κροκόπειπλος) or 'the sun clad in radiance' (sunne sweglwered).

In addition to these adjectival descriptions there are others which contain nouns, often in apposition with personal names, e.g. 'lord of men' (ἄναξ ἀνδρῶν)