

Vowel Change Found in Geoffrey Chaucer's *The House of Fame*: Great Vowel Shift

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Abstract

It has already been understood that Great Vowel Shift (GVS) takes the major differences between the pronunciation in Middle English and Modern English. GVS is a change in pronunciation of vowel sounds in English language. The evidence of this change can be attained through written texts. It can be found by comparing Geoffrey Chaucer's literary works to William Shakespeare's works to see the differences. However, in this paper I focused only on analyzing the GVS in Geoffrey Chaucer's poem entitled The house of Fame. The purpose of this study is to find out what kind of sound shift appears in The House of Fame and to explain in what phonological environment the vowel shift takes place. The result shows that there are seven kinds of sound shifts found in the poem. Those are [e:]>[i:], [i:]>[aɪ], [ɔ:]>[o:], [ɛ:]>[e:], [a:] > [ɛ:] > [eɪ], [o:] > [u:], and [u:] > [au]. Besides, from this study, it can be concluded that there are three kinds of phonological environments employed in vowel shift.

Keywords: Great Vowel Shift, Geoffrey Chaucer

Introduction

By comparing the system of Modern English (MnE) vowels to that of Middle English (ME), it can be seen that their vowel systems are different. Most of the vowels appearing in ME were diphthongized or shifted higher in their place of articulation in oral cavity. It indicates that there is a vowel change within both ages. That kind of radical development is known as Great Vowel Shift (GVS).

GVS is a change in pronunciation of vowel sounds in English language. The pronunciation of long vowels changed in which those became higher and further in the mouth, while mostly, the pronunciations of short vowels were not changed. This was a radical change that became the major factor in separating Middle English from Modern English, in 15th century to 18th century.

The evidence for change in pronunciation can be attained through written text since the literature has developed since Old English. It was famous with *Beowulf* in c800, while poetry was still minor. In Middle English, The well-known literature in that era was written by Geoffrey Chaucer in the year 1340 to 1399. In late Middle English, the literature was largely developed since the introduction of printing appeared in 1476. It was introduced by William Caxton. Printing took big influence to the existence of literature. In Early Modern English, the age of Shakespeare, the rise of novel, poetry and prose, as well as journalistic literature highly appeared.

Since the change of vowel sounds, especially Great Vowel Shift, could be found in the written text as the development of literature greatly happened in each age, in this paper I would analyze the Great Vowel Shift in the poem by Geoffrey Chaucer

entitled *The House of Fame*. The aim of this paper is to explain in what phonological environment the vowel shift takes place in the poem of Geoffrey Chaucer, *The house of Fame*, to see the change in Middle English and Present-day pronunciation.

This study is worth-studying since it helps the language users to see the difference between Middle English and Modern English pronunciation. Besides, it also helps them to see how the vowel sounds changed and what kinds of sounds changed in Great Vowel Shift.

Review of Literature

In this part, the theories which are related to the study will be explained. Those theories will be divided into two sections. The first one is about the Great Vowel Shift, and the other one is about Geoffrey Chaucer.

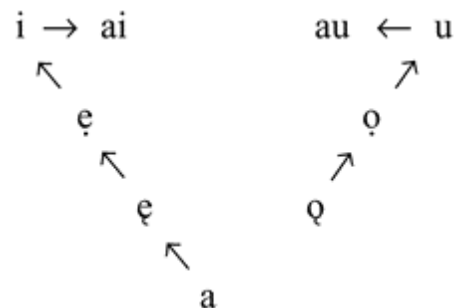
The Great Vowel Shift

Phonological change in a language has more obvious results than others, even though grammar may also change time by time. Change in phonology can be seen from its sound whether it is shifted or weakened. If we talk about shifting, a phonological shift is a change in which a sound might be diphthongized or raised in tongue height resulting high long vowels. This change is known as Great Vowel Shift (GVS) in which the sounds were modified to the long vowels began in Middle English and continued into the eighteenth century (Archibald, 2000).

Therefore, Great Vowel Shift could differentiate the pronunciations between Middle English and Modern English. The main difference took place in the value of the long vowels. According to Baugh and Cable (1978), Vowels of Middle English had still "continental" values, especially in Chaucer's pronunciation (38). Soon, in the fifteenth century there was a great change in which the long vowels took a greater elevation of the tongue and closing the mouth (Baugh and Cable, 1978: 238). It can be described when the tongue was elevated and the mouth was closed, the high long vowels became diphthongs, while the mid long

vowels were raised and became the high long vowels.

The vowel changes will be clearly seen in chain shifty of long vowels (Miglio and Moren, 1999; Baugh and Cable, 1978: 238).



The diagram indicates the rough indication of the shifting. It indicates that [i] and [u] were broken into the diphthongs [ai] and [au]. Besides, the diagram can tell us about the general movement with slight differences in the speed which the result were accomplished (Baugh and Cable, 1978: 238).

In addition, the vowel sounds which were affected are provided as follows (table from O'Grady *et al* 1997: 304):

Middle English	Great Vowel Shift	Modern English
[ti:d]	[i:] > [ai]	[taid]
[lu:d]	[u:] > [au]	[laud]
[ge:s]	[e:] > [i:]	[gi:s]
[sɛ:]	[ɛ:] > [e:] > [i:]	[si:]
[go:s]	[o:] > [u:]	[gu:s]
[brɔ:kən]	[ɔ:] > [o:]	[brɒkən]
[na:mə]	[a:] > [ɛ:] > [eɪ]	[neɪm]

There are some effects of sound change, especially Great Vowel Shift. The effect of GVS can be seen in English alphabet. In present-day English pronunciation, A, B, C, and D are pronounced /eɪ, bi:, si:, di:/. However, in contemporary French, A, B, C, D are pronounced /a, be, se, de/. Besides, GVS also affected English spelling. The raise of printing press by William Caxton influenced the standardization of English spelling. The spellings in Middle English where the Great Vowel Shift occurred were preserved in Modern English. In short, Great Vowel Shift

The causes of this sound change are still debatable. Some theories argue that the cause of this vowel shift was the mass migration after the Black Death which became possible for some particular groups to modify their speech in order to mutual intelligibility. However, other experts say that the change was caused by the political situation in which after the Black Death people from lower levels (English) moved to higher level in which French spoken by Anglo Norman was no longer prestigious.

However, even though the causes were not obvious, the fact was known that the loanwords from the Romance language of Europe requiring a different kind of pronunciation was the main factor of vowel change. Pyles and Algeo (1993) state that the shift affected words of both native ancestry and borrowings from French and Latin and many pairs of words in each category which for morphological reasons have a short-long alternation in Modern English thus have quite radically differing pronunciations in Middle English. It means that the contemporary and neighboring languages like French, German, and Spanish were not completely affected.

Geoffrey Chaucer

Geoffrey Chaucer was a well-known poet of Middle Ages who was born in London in the early 1340's. Chaucer could be said as a prosperous son since his father was a prosperous wine merchant. As his father had enough money, Chaucer could obtain education that grounded him in Latin and French and another education that would

promise him to work at diplomatic, court, and public service. In 1374, he was appointed Controller of the Customs in wall, skins and hides at the Port of London. In 1382, at the same time he was appointed Controller of the Petty Customs on wines. He felt okay to have more jobs and more money. However, He had lost them because of the change in administration. After that, it was probably he wrote his literary works when he travelled on diplomatic missions. This brief life of Chaucer is in line with Murphy (2011).

Moreover, Geoffrey Chaucer is known as the Father of English literature due to the greatest English poet in Middle English (retrieved from *Wikipedia.org*). His first major work was *The Book of the Duchess*. The other works were *Anelida and Arcite* and *The House of Fame*. *The Legend of Good Women*, *Parliament of Foules*, and *Troilus and Criseyde* were also included in his works. The most famous work of Geoffrey Chaucer was *The Canterbury Tales*, which talked about fictional pilgrims.

Now his literary works can be compared to William Shakespeare's works in a sense of pronunciation. It can be noticed that Chaucer's pronunciation of the long vowels was quite different from ours, while Shakespeare's pronunciation was quite similar to the present-day pronunciation in which we can understand his works. In Baugh and Cable (1978: 238), the comparison of the long vowels which were shifted can be seen as follows:

<i>M.E.</i>	<i>Chaucer</i>		<i>Shakespeare</i>
ī	[fi:f]	<i>five</i>	[faɪv] ⁴⁰
ē	[me:də]	<i>meed</i>	[mi:d]
ē	[kle:nə]	<i>clean</i>	[kle:n] (now [kli:n])
ā	[na:mə]	<i>name</i>	[ne:m]
ō	[gɔ:tə]	<i>goat</i>	[go:t]
ō	[ro:tə]	<i>root</i>	[ru:t]
ū	[du:n]	<i>down</i>	[daʊn] ⁴⁰

Methodology

This study is considered as phonological study since it is related to sound pattern. This study also includes the sense of history of English language. I limited the study and focused only on analyzing the vowel shift in the poem by Geoffrey Chaucer entitled *The House of Fame* which took place in Middle English. As a result, the vowel shift which became the huge difference between Middle English and Modern English could be seen. Therefore, the goal of this study is to explain in what phonological environment the vowel shift takes place in which it is found in Chaucer’s poem, *The House of Fame*.

To obtain the goal, there is a set of procedures taken place in this study. Firstly, the words which the vowels were shifted were collected. There were 77 words collected. Secondly, the data was analyzed by classifying the words based on what sounds changing. After that, the classified data was analyzed by finding the phonological environment in which the shift took place.

Vowel Shift in Sound [e:] > [i:]

This phonological shift is the most frequent shift appearing in this poem. There are 21 words experiencing the vowel shift from [e:] to [i:]. Those are *dreem, slepe, trete, yere, shelde, disese, wery, here, appere, dere, chere, kepe, speke, demed, semed, speche, heer, dede, leve, steresman*. Those will be clearly seen in table 1 with its change seen in Modern English.

Table 1. Vowel Shift in [e:] > [i:]

Middle English	GVS	Modern English
dreem	[e:] > [i:]	dream
slepe		sleep
trete		treat
yere		year
shelde		shield
disese		disease
wery		weary
Middle English		Modern English
here		hear
appere		appear
dere		dear

chere		cheer
kepe		keep
speke		speak
demed		deemed
semed		seemed
speche		speech
swete		sweet
heer		here
dede		deed
leve		leave
steresman		steersman

If we take a look at the chain shifty of long vowels to analyze the phonological shift in [e:] > [i:], it is seen that [e:] words were pronounced as [ɛ:]. However, during the 18th c Middle English [ɛ:] has been raised into [e:] and [e:] joined increasingly in [i:]. The chain shifty of long vowel will be shown as follows:

i:
↑
e:
ε:

Moreover, from the data obtained, it can be analyzed that the vowel [e:] becomes the vowel [i:] in the environment [e:] is [-consonantal, +tense, - high, - low]. In other words, [e:] is shifted into high long vowel [i:] because [e:] is a mid-long vowel and the elevation of the tongue makes the mid long vowel raised higher. The phonological environment is shown as follows.

[e:] → [i:] / [- consonantal, +tense, - high,
- low]

In addition, the shift of vowels can be seen through phonological rules. The phonological rules from Middle English’s pronunciation to Modern English’s pronunciation will be discussed. There are four phonological rules that will be presented in this part.

The first phonological rules in vowel shift [e:] > [i:] are clearly shown when the vowel is followed by rhotic and sound after rhotic is lost. The phonological rules can be seen in the following table.

Table 2. Phonological rules of [e:]>[i:] followed by rhotic

	Yere [ye:re]	Wery [we:ri]	Here [he:re]	Appere [ape:re]	Dere [de:re]	Chere [tʃe:re]	Heer [he:r]	Steresman [ste:resman]
Stress stabilization	[ˈye:re]	[ˈwe:te]	[ˈhe:re]	[aˈpe:re]	[ˈde:re]	[ˈtʃe:re]	[ˈhe:r]	[ˈste:resman]
Initial aspiration	n/a	n/a	n/a	[aˈpʰe:re]	[ˈdʰe:re]	n/a	n/a	n/a
Vowel shifting	[ˈyi:re]	[ˈwi:ri]	[ˈhi:re]	[aˈpʰi:re]	[ˈdʰi:re]	[ˈtʃi:re]	[ˈhi:r]	[ˈsti:resman]
Deletion	[ˈyi:r]	n/a	[ˈhi:r]	[aˈpʰi:r]	[ˈdʰi:r]	[ˈtʃi:r]	n/a	[ˈsti:rsman]
Vowel fronting	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	[ˈsti:rsmæn]

The second phonological rule shows that the sound [e:] is shifted when it is followed by stops. As a result, the final vowel

[e] is deleted after the stops consonants. The rules are provided below.

Table 3. Phonological rules of [e:]>[i:] followed by stops

	Slepe [sle:pe]	Trete [tre:te]	Kepe [ke:pe]	Speke [spe:ke]	Swete [swe:te]	Demed [de:med]	Semed [se:med]	Dreem [dre:m]
Stress stabilization	[ˈsle:pe]	[ˈtre:te]	[ˈke:pe]	[ˈspe:ke]	[ˈswe:te]	[ˈde:med]	[ˈse:med]	[ˈdre:m]
Initial aspiration	n/a	[ˈtʰre:te]	[ˈkʰe:pe]	n/a	n/a	[dʰe:med]	n/a	[ˈdʰre:m]
Vowel shifting	[ˈsli:pe]	[ˈtʰri:te]	[ˈkʰi:pe]	[ˈspi:ke]	[ˈswi:te]	[dʰi:med]	[ˈsi:med]	[ˈdʰri:m]
Deletion	[ˈsli:p]	[ˈtʰri:t]	[ˈkʰi:p]	[ˈspi:k]	[ˈswi:t]	[dʰi:md]	[ˈsi:md]	n/a

The third phonological rule shows that vowel [e:] might be shifted when it is followed by fricatives, and the final vowel [e] pronounced after the fricative or stop

consonants will be deleted. The phonological rules are provided in the following table:

Table 4. Phonological rules of [e:]>[i:] followed by fricatives

	Disese [de:sese]	Leve [le:ve]	Shelde [ʃe:lde]
Stress stabilization	[ˈde:sese]	[ˈle:ve]	[ˈʃe:lde]
Initial aspiration	[ˈdʰe:sese]	n/a	n/a
Vowel shifting	[ˈdʰi:sese]	[ˈli:ve]	[ˈʃi:lde]
Deletion	[ˈdʰi:sɛs]	[ˈli:v]	[ˈʃi:ld]

From the data obtained in Chaucer's poem, the last phonological rules in which [e:] is followed by affricate only occur in a word. It is the word *speche*. It denotes that [e:] is raised into [i:] in the environment it is followed by /tʃ/ and there is vowel deletion in [e] pronounced after the affricate consonant.

Vowel Shift in Sound [i:] > [ai]

There are 14 (fourteen) vowel shifts found in Chaucer's poem *In House of Fame*. Those take place in sound [i:] in which it was diphthongized into [ai] due to the elevation of tongue. Those words which preserve this raising are *tymes*, *lyf*, *dyde*, *myles*, *whyt*, *pyne*, *wfy*, *hye*, *vyce*, *nyce*, *ye*, *lye*, *myn*. Those words are provided in the following table 5 to see the change found in Modern English.

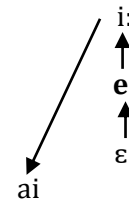
Table 5. Vowel Shift in [i:] > [ai]

Middle English	GVS	Modern English
tymes	[i:] > [ai]	time
lyf		life
dyde		died
myles		miles
whyt		white
pyne		pain
wyf		wife
hye		high
vyce		vice
nyce		nice
ye		eye
lye		lie
myn		my

From the comparison of Middle English to Modern English in the table provided earlier, it is clear that [i:] is raised into [ai]. [i:] is diphthongized in the environment [i:] is [- consonantal, + tense, + high, - low]. Therefore, it can be said that vowels which are raised into diphthongs are the high tense vowels. The phonological environment is presented as follows.

[i:] → [ai] / [- consonantal, +tense, +high, - low]

This kind of change in which high tense vowel becomes diphthong can be seen in chain shift of long vowels. It can be shown as follows.



This vowel shift can also be represented in phonological rules to see how the words were pronounced in Middle English and in Modern English. The shift [i:] into [ai] can be presented in three parts of explanations.

The first phonological rules can be seen that [i:] is diphthongized and it is followed by stop consonants. After the diphthong is followed by stop consonants, the vowel placed after the consonants will be deleted, for examples in the words *tymes*, *pyne*, and *dyde*. However, in the word *myn*, what consonant reducing is the consonant /n/. To make it clear, the phonological rules can be seen in table 6.

Table 6. Phonological Rules of [i:]>[ai] Followed by Stop Consonants

	Tymes [ti:məs]	Pyne [pi:nə]	Myn [mi:n]	Dyde [di:də]	Whyt [wi:t]
Stress stabilization	['ti:məs]	['pi:nə]	['mi:n]	['di:də]	['wi:t]
Initial aspiration	['tʰi:məs]	['pʰi:nə]	['mʰi:n]	['dʰi:də]	n/a
Vowel shifting	['tʰaiməs]	['pʰainə]	['mʰain]	['dʰaidə]	['wait]
Deletion	['tʰaims]	['pʰain]	['mʰai]	['dʰaid]	n/a

The second phonological rules can be seen when the [i:] is diphthongized and it is followed by fricatives. The words which are represented in this phonological rule are *lyf*,

wyf, *vyce*, *nyce*, *myles*. To make it understandable, the phonological rules can be seen in table 7.

Table 7. Phonological Rules of [i:]>[ai:] Followed by Fricatives and Approximant

	Lyf [li:f]	Wyf [wi:f]	Vyce [vi:s]	Nyce [ni:s]	Myles [mi:ləs]
Stress stabilization	['li:f]	['wi:f]	['vi:s]	['ni:s]	['mi:ləs]
Initial aspiration	n/a	n/a	n/a	['nʰi:s]	['mʰi:ləs]
Vowel shifting	['laif]	['waif]	['vais]	['nʰais]	['mailəs]
Deletion	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	['mails]

The third phonological rules can be understood that the words without any sound proceeding after [i:] into [ai] can be applicable. The words can be presented in table 8.

Table 8. Phonological Rules of [i:]>[ai:] without any sounds proceeding

	Hye [hi:]	Ye [i:]	Lye [li:]
Stress stabilization	['hi:]	['i:]	['li:]
Vowel shifting	['hai]	['ai]	['lai]

Vowel Shift in Sound [ɔ:] > [o:]

The third sound which may be raised is [ɔ:]. This low long vowel is shifted into [o:]. From the data obtained in the poem, *The House of Fame*, there are eight words perceived in this vowel shift. Those are *stoon, gost, swoor, doon, goon, wroot, shoon, noot*. Those words can be presented in table 9 where the contrast words between Middle and Modern English are provided perceived in this vowel shift. Those are *stoon, gost, swoor, doon, goon, wroot, shoon, noot*. Those words can be presented in table 9 where the contrast words between Middle and Modern English are provided.

Table 9. Vowel Shift of [ɔ:]>[o:]

Middle English	GVS	Modern English
stoon	[ɔ:] > [o:]	stone
gost		ghost
swoor		swore
doon		done
goon		gone
wroot		wrote
shoon		shone
noot		know

From the table, it can be noticed that [ɔ:] is raised into [o:] in the environment [ɔ:] is [-consonantal, + tense, - high, + low]. The phonological environment can be presented as follows:

[ɔ:] → [o:] / [-consonantal, +tense, -high, +low]

It is in line with the chain shifty that indicates the lower vowels become higher. The chain shifty can be seen as follows:

u:
↑
o:
↑
ɔ:

In order to make it clear, this phonological change [ɔ:] to [o:] can be understood in the phonological rules which include stress stabilization, initial aspiration, and vowel shifting. These phonological rules can be presented in table 10 in which we can see that [ɔ:] is shifted into [o:] in the environment it can be followed by stop consonants.

Table 10. Phonological rules of [ɔ:]>[o:] followed by stops

	Stoon [stɔ:n]	Doon [dɔ:n]	Goon [gɔ:n]	Shoon [ʃɔ:n]	Noot [nɔ:t]	Wroot [wrɔ:t]
Stress stabilization	[ˈstɔ:n]	[ˈdɔ:n]	[ˈgɔ:n]	[ˈʃɔ:n]	[ˈnɔ:t]	[ˈwrɔ:t]
Initial aspiration	n/a	[ˈdʰɔ:n]	n/a	n/a	[ˈnʰɔ:t]	n/a
Vowel shifting	[ˈsto:n]	[ˈdʰo:n]	[ˈgo:n]	[ˈfo:n]	[ˈnʰo:t]	[ˈwro:t]

Vowel Shift in Sound [ɛ:] > [e:]

The fourth vowel shift appearing in the poem is the sound [ɛ:] which is raised into [e:]. As for [ɛ:] which is raised to [e:], in the pronunciation, it raises further as high as [i:]. However, there are also some words whose vowels are raised to [eɪ]. From the data, the vowel [ɛ:] which is raised to [e:] and later to [eɪ] can be obtained in four words. Those are *heed*, *reed*, *deeth*, *greet*. Which words whose vowels change either [e:] or [eɪ] can be seen in table 11.

Table 11. Vowel Shift of [ɛ:]>[e:]

Middle English	GVS	Modern English
Heed	[ɛ:]>[e:]	Head
Reed		Red
Deeth		Death
Greet		Great [eɪ]

From the table it is seen that the word *greet* which is shifted to [e:] and later to [eɪ] because of the position of rhotic /r/ placed before the vowel.

Table 12. Phonological rules of [ɛ:]>[e:]

	Heed [hɛ:d]	Reed [rɛ:d]	Deeth [dɛ:θ]	Greet [grɛ:t]
Stress stabilization	[ˈhɛ:d]	[ˈrɛ:d]	[ˈdɛ:θ]	[ˈgrɛ:t]
Initial aspiration	n/a	n/a	[ˈdʰɛ:θ]	n/a
Vowel shifting	[ˈhe:d]	[ˈre:d]	[ˈdʰe:θ]	[ˈgre:t]

↓
Later become [eɪ]

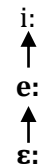
Vowel Shift in Sound [a:] > [ɛ:] > [eɪ]

The fifth vowel shift found in Chaucer’s poem is [a:]. This sound is raised to [ɛ:] then to [eɪ]. It proves that the mid / lower long vowels can be raised into the higher long vowels due to the raising of the tongue and in the environment [a:] is [- consonant, + tense, - higher, + low]. The words perceiving

Moreover, it can be understood that [ɛ:] is shifted in the environment [ɛ:] is [- consonantal, +tense, - high, -low]. The phonological environment can be represented as follows.

[ɛ:] → [e:] / [- consonantal, +tense, - high, - low]

It is in line with the chain shifty as provided below.



It can be seen that [ɛ:] is raised to [e:] as a result of elevating the tongue. However, in this vowel change, the provided words as stated earlier do not move up to [i:]. It can be easily understood in the phonological rules provided in table 12.

this shift are *becam*, *brayn*, *mad*, *parfit*. Those words can be seen in the following table.

Table 13. Vowel Shift of [a:] > [ɛ:] > [eɪ]

Middle English	GVS	Modern English
Becam	[a:] > [ɛ:] > [eɪ]	Became
Brayn		Brain
Mad		Made
Parfit		Perfect

This vowel change can be easily found the transformation in the following phonological rules.

Table 14. Phonological Rules of [a:] > [ɛ:] > [eɪ]

	Becam [beka:m]	Brayn [bra:in]	Mad [ma:d]	Parfit [pa:rfit]
Stress stabilization	[be'ka:m]	['bra:in]	['ma:d]	['pa:rfit]
Initial aspiration	[be'k ^h a:m]	['b ^h ra:in]	n/a	['p ^h a:rfit]
Vowel shifting 1	[be'k ^h ɛ:m]	['rɛ:d]	['d ^h ɛ:ə]	['p ^h ɛ:rfit]
Vowel shifting 2	[be'k ^h eɪm]	['reɪd]	['d ^h eɪə]	n/a

From the phonological rules, it is seen that the word *parfit* does not employ the change in sound which is shifted to [eɪ].

Vowel Shift in sound [o:] > [u:]

The sixth vowel shift found in Chaucer's poem is [o:] which becomes [u:]. It proves the earlier statement that due to the shift of the tongue, the mid long vowels may be raised. The words found in this poem are *rode* and *sone*. [o:] is -raised in the environment [o:] is [-consonantal, +tense, -high, -low]. The phonological environment can be seen as follows.

[o:] → [u:] / [-consonantal, +tense, -high, -low]

It is in line with the chain shifty in which it shows that the position of tongue in [u:] is higher than the position in [o:]. The chain shifty is provided in the following figure.

u:
↑
o:
↑
ɔ:

In order to make it clear, those words can be represented in the following table with its phonological rules in table 15.

Table 15. Vowel Shift in [o:] > [u:]

Middle English	GVS	Modern English
Rode	[o:] > [u:]	Rood
Sone		Soon

Table 16. Phonological Rules of [o:] > [u:]

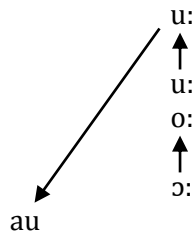
	Rode [ro:de]	Sone [so:ne]
Stress stabilization	['ro:de]	['so:ne]
Vowel shifting	['ru:de]	['su:ne]
Deletion	['ru:d]	['su:n]

Vowel Shift in Sound [u:] > [au]

The last vowel shift found in Chaucer's poem is [u:]. This also proves that high long vowel is diphthongized as a result of vowel shift. [u:] is diphthongized to [au] because [u:] is high long vowel. It can be represented in this phonological environment.

[u:] → [au] / [-consonantal, +tense, +high, -low]

It can also be perceived in the chain shifty which shows that [u:] takes higher position of tongue.



The words which represent this change are *doun*, *broun*, *hous*. Those words can be noticed in this table provided in 17 and its phonological rules in table 18.

Table 17. Vowel Shift in [u:] > [au]

Middle English	GVS	Modern English
Doun	[u:] > [au]	Down
Broun		Brown
Hous		House

Table 18. Phonological rules of [u:] > [au]

	Doun [du:n]	Broun [bru:n]	Hous [hu:s]
Stress stabilization	[ˈdu:n]	[ˈbru:n]	[ˈhu:s]
Initial Aspiration	[ˈd ^h u:n]	[ˈb ^h ru:n]	n/a
Vowel shifting	[ˈd ^h aun]	[ˈb ^h raun]	[ˈhaus]

Conclusion

Come to an end, it can be concluded that the Great Vowel Shift occurred in Chaucer’s poem entitled *The House of Fame*. There are seven kinds of sound shifts found in the poem. Those are [e:]>[i:], [i:]>[ai], [ɔ:]>[o:], [ɛ:]>[e:], [a:] > [ɛ:] > [ei], [o:] > [u:], and [u:] > [au]. From the phonological environments analyzed in each sound shift, it can be concluded in three mains phonological environments. First, it shows that (1) vowels can be diphthongized when those are shifted in the environment the vowels are tense and high, (2) vowels can be shifted into higher vowels in the environment the vowels are tense and mid, and (3) vowels can be shifted to mid vowels in the environment the vowels are tense and low.

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