Rhythmical Prose

Concepts

Alliterative prose Any Old English text that does not fully meet the requirements of alliterative verse, yet relies on alliteration for a metrical structure. Typically used of Ælfric's later works (his *Lives of Saints* in particular); some scholars would extend the term also to Wulfstan's homiletic prose.

Binomial pair A cluster of two words, often nouns or verbs, often overlapping in meaning, often alliterative, and frequently used in enumerations of the joys of heaven and the pains of hell: *granung and gnornung, mān and morþor*

Paranomasia Punning or word-play that relies on similar-sounding words e.g. to suggest a connection whether or not they are etymologically related

Two-stress phrases Phrases built around two stresses, encouraging rhythmical recital; typically refers to sequences characteristic of Wulfstan's homiletic prose

Ubi sunt (qui ante fuerunt) A rhetorical device, the meaning of which is "where are they (who came before)," used to point out the transience of life on earth, usually in contrast with the Christian afterlife