

Historical development of English and Russian parts of speech

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General information about English part of speech

In standard grammatical terms, we classify English words into the following categories, or parts of speech:

- ❖ Noun
 - ❖ Verb
 - ❖ Adverb
 - ❖ Adjective
 - ❖ Preposition
 - ❖ Conjunction
 - ❖ Numeral
 - ❖ Pronoun
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OLD ENGLISH

Old English was a much more inflected language than contemporary English.

It was characterized by:

- ❖ strong and weak verbs;
 - ❖ a dual number for pronouns
 - ❖ two different declensions of adjectives;
 - ❖ four declensions of nouns;
 - ❖ grammatical distinctions of gender;
 - ❖ did not use the article
-



Old English - Adjective

As well as the noun, the adjective can be declined in case, gender and number. One-syllable adjectives ("monosyllabic") have different declension than two-syllable ones ("disyllabic").

Singular. (narrow)

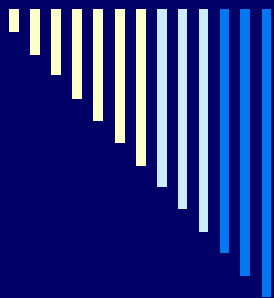
	Masc. ■	Neut. ■	Fem. ■
Nominative	nearu	nearu	nearu
Genitive	nearwes	nearwes	nearore
Dative	nearwum	nearwum	nearore
Accusative	nearone	nearu	nearwe
Instrumental	nearwe	nearwe	



Modern English - Adjective

An **adjective** - is a word whose main syntactic role is to modify a noun or pronoun (called the adjective's subject), giving more information about what the noun or pronoun refers to.

~~We can not declined adjectives in case, gender or number.~~



Old English - Adjective

Degrees of comparison:

absolute, comparative, superlative.

- eald (old) - ield**ra** - ield**est**
- strong - streng**ra** - streng**est**
- long - leng**ra** - leng**est**
- geong (young) - ging**ra** - ging**est**



Modern English - Adjective

Degrees of comparison:
positive, comparative, superlative.

- ❑ *Rich - richer – the richest*
- ❑ Big – bigger – the biggest
- ❑ Small – smaller – the smallest



Old English - Pronoun

Pronouns were the only part of speech in Old English which preserved the dual number in declension.

E.g. 1st person

	Singular	Plural	Dual
N	ic, íc	wé	wit
G	mín	úre	uncer
D	mé	ús	unc
A	mec, mé	úsic, ús	uncit, unc



Old English - Verb

Strong and Weak

distinguished between
seven classes
(changing of vowels
and consonants),
each in conjugation
and in the
stem structure.

Infinitive
Past singular
Past plural
Participle II

were conjugated in a simpler
way than the strong ones,
and did not use the ablaut
interchanges of the
vowel stems.

Weak verbs are
divided into three classes which
had only slight differences
though.

They did have the
three forms - the infinitive,
the past tense,
the participle II.



Modern English – Verb

Modern English makes a distinction between **regular** (changing into root – vowels and consonants) and **irregular** (- ed, - d) verbs. This distinction goes back to the Old English system of **strong** and **weak** verbs.



Modal Verbs in Modern and Old English (Present-Preterite)

The main difference of verbs of this type in modern English is their expressing modality, i.e. possibility, obligation, necessity. They do not require the particle **to** before the infinitive which follows them. In Old English in general no verb requires this particle before the infinitive. In fact, this **to** before the infinitive form meant the preposition of direction.



Tenses in Old and Modern English

Syntactically, the language had only two main tenses - the **Present** and the **Past**. No progressive (or **Continuous**) tenses were used, they were invented only in the **Early Middle English period**. Such complex tenses as modern Future in the Past, Future Perfect Continuous did not exist either. However, some analytic constructions were in use, and first of all the perfective constructions.

F.G.: Hie geweorc geworhten hæfdon

(they have build a fortress' - shows the exact Perfect tense, but at that time it was not the tense really, just a participle construction showing that the action has been done) Seldom you can also find such Past constructions, which later became the Past Perfect Tense.



Conclusion

English through history was very progressive and active - the whole revolution happened with it in the 15th and the 16th centuries, not only taking into consideration the Great Vowel Shift, but also the major grammar changes. The result was the Modern, or New, English, which has practically no declension, lost genders, shortened words and forms, simplified the syntax.



Old church Slavonic

- **Category: Old Church Slavonic nouns**
- Old Church Slavonic words that refer to people, places, things, qualities or ideas. Old Church Slavonic nouns that are inflected to show grammatical relations other than the main form.
- E.g. Аблъко, братолюбъство, воєводство, брѣма, въздрасть, владѣчьствию, болѣзнь



□ Category: Old Church Slavonic verbs

Old Church Slavonic verbs: Old Church Slavonic words that indicate actions, occurrences or states.

E.g. Любити, дъхати, погребити, пити, ищєзнѣти, глаголати.



Category: Old Church Slavonic adverbs:

Old Church Slavonic adverbs
words that modify clauses,
sentences and other parts of
phrases.

E.g. Близъ, въскорѣ, яко, въчера



Category: Old Church

Slavonic conjunctions:

Old Church Slavonic words
that connect words, phrases or
clauses together.

E.g. аще, да, и, или, къгда, ни



Category: Old Church Slavonic pronouns

Old Church Slavonic words that
refer to and substitute nouns.

E.g. овъ, она, оно, онъ



Category: Old Church Slavonic prepositions:

Old Church Slavonic words that limit nouns or pronouns, by indicating relationships with following phrases.

E.g. мимо, междю, междоу, подъ, при, прѣдъ



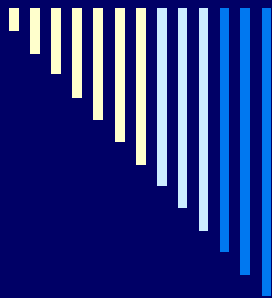
One of the peculiarity of Russian language it is a **morphemic stability**.

E.g. Russian root **kaz**. It means to point or to show.

Noun: у к а з, с к а з к а

Verb: у к а з а т ь, с к а з а т ь

Adjective: с к а з о ч н ы й, etc.



Conclusion

Languages developed and changed rapidly during the history. All communicative processes reflect on the language grammatical and phonetic form. Intercultural relationship brings a lot of new words and enrich a vocabulary. All these processes reduce the role of declension, case, number, constrict the number of existing tense forms, people trying to make own language easy for learning.