

Lecture №

The English language - the international language

Plan:

1. Importance of the English language
2. The historical development of English
3. Spheres of usage
4. Variations in modern English

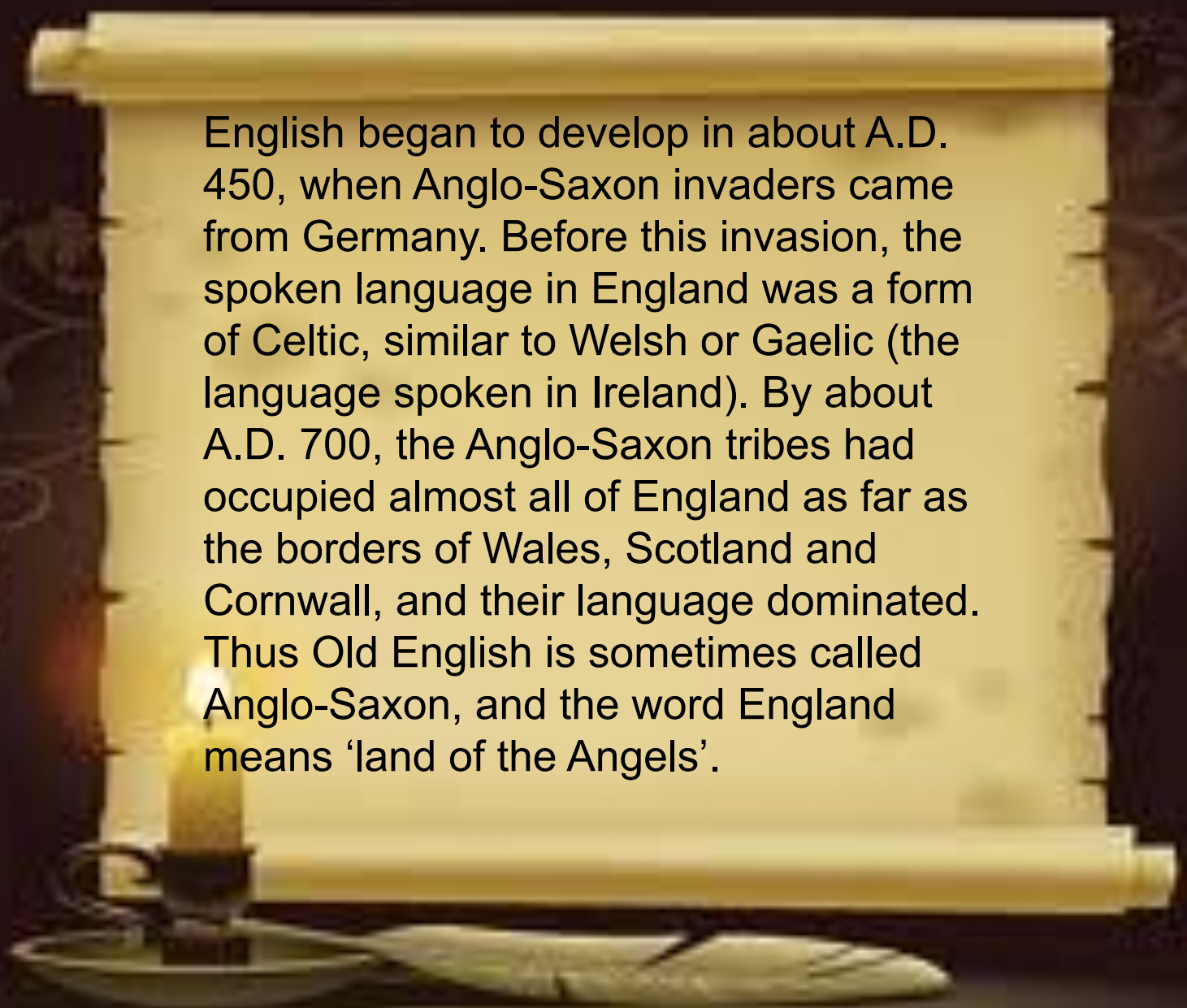
Millions of people are learning English. One billion people speak English. That's 20% of the world's population. 400 million people speak English as their first language. For the other 600 million it's either a second language or a foreign language.

In other countries it is used as a second language. It is a way in which people who have different languages communicate with each other. This is especially true in many parts of Africa and India. In these countries and former British colonies like Malta and Hong Kong, as well as some countries like Philippines and Papua New Guinea, English is an "official language".

Why? Because it's the most important international language in the world. But how did it become so important?

Did you know that English is a member of a language family that includes ancient languages like Ancient Greek and Latin, languages such as Urdu and Persian, Slavonic languages such as Russian and Polish as well as most European languages including French, Spanish, Swedish and German?

It is called 'family' of languages because all of the languages in that group have the same original roots. The family that English belongs to is the Indo-European family.

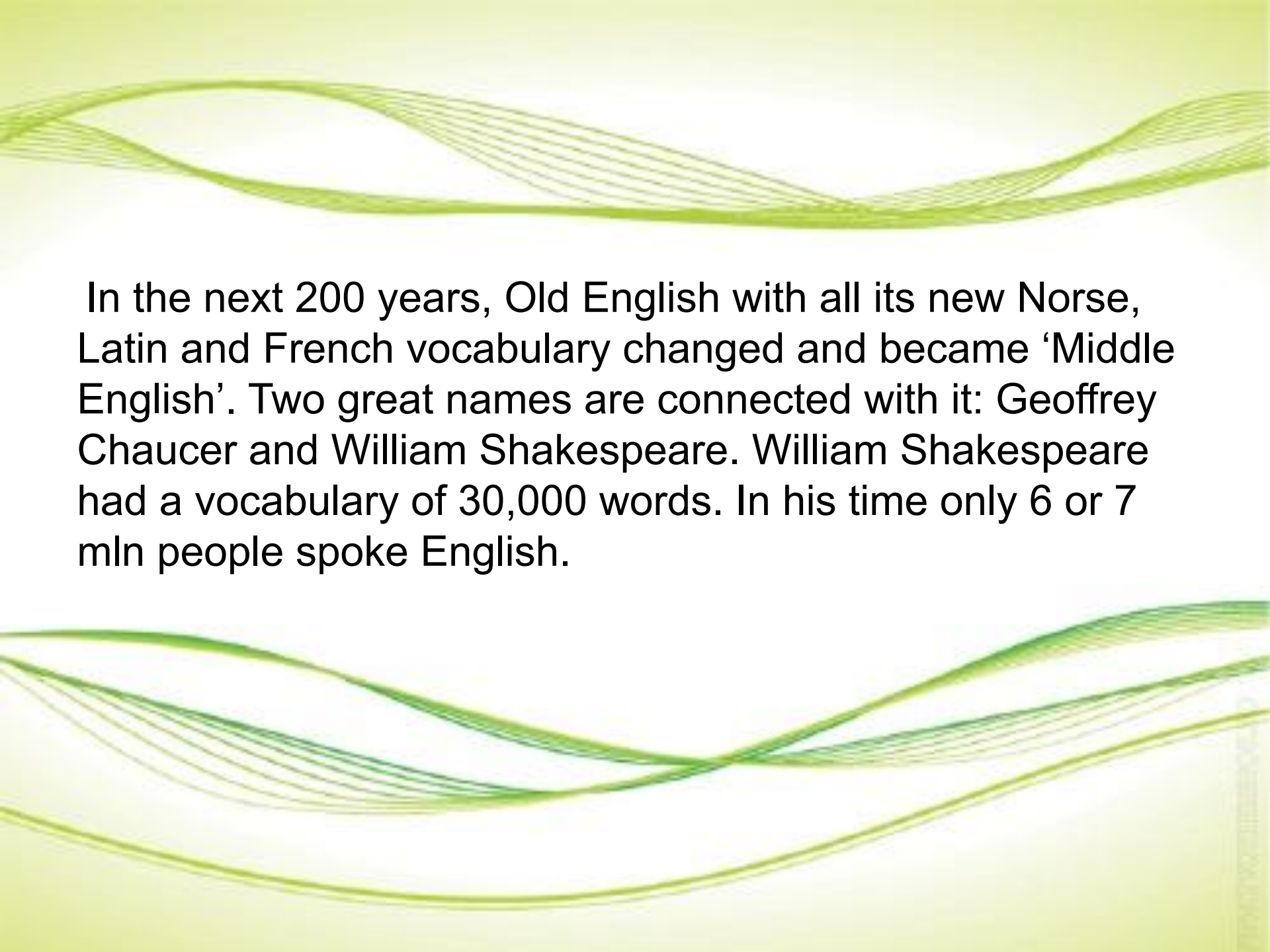
A decorative illustration featuring a parchment scroll with text, a lit candle in a metal holder, and a quill pen resting on a surface below the scroll. The background is dark with ornate, swirling patterns on the left and right sides.

English began to develop in about A.D. 450, when Anglo-Saxon invaders came from Germany. Before this invasion, the spoken language in England was a form of Celtic, similar to Welsh or Gaelic (the language spoken in Ireland). By about A.D. 700, the Anglo-Saxon tribes had occupied almost all of England as far as the borders of Wales, Scotland and Cornwall, and their language dominated. Thus Old English is sometimes called Anglo-Saxon, and the word England means 'land of the Angels'.

As Anglo-Saxons were farmers, many of their words are still in the dictionary today: *sheep, earth, dog, field, work, the, is, you*. Latin appeared in Britain first when the Romans came in A.D. 43, but only a few Latin words entered then the Celtic language. Hundreds of Latin and Greek words flooded Old English when Saint Augustine brought Christianity to Britain in A.D. 597.



Old English was clearly a Germanic language – it was more like modern German and Dutch than modern English. It was affected by the languages of other invaders such as the Vikings, who came from Scandinavia in the ninth century, and the Normans who came from France in 1066. The Normans used Latin for official business, but spoke French in daily life, so at this time there were three languages used in England. Because the rulers used French and Latin, many specialized words, especially those connected with government, law, learning or the army, have come into English from French or Latin, while words for more everyday things are from Old English.



In the next 200 years, Old English with all its new Norse, Latin and French vocabulary changed and became 'Middle English'. Two great names are connected with it: Geoffrey Chaucer and William Shakespeare. William Shakespeare had a vocabulary of 30,000 words. In his time only 6 or 7 mln people spoke English.

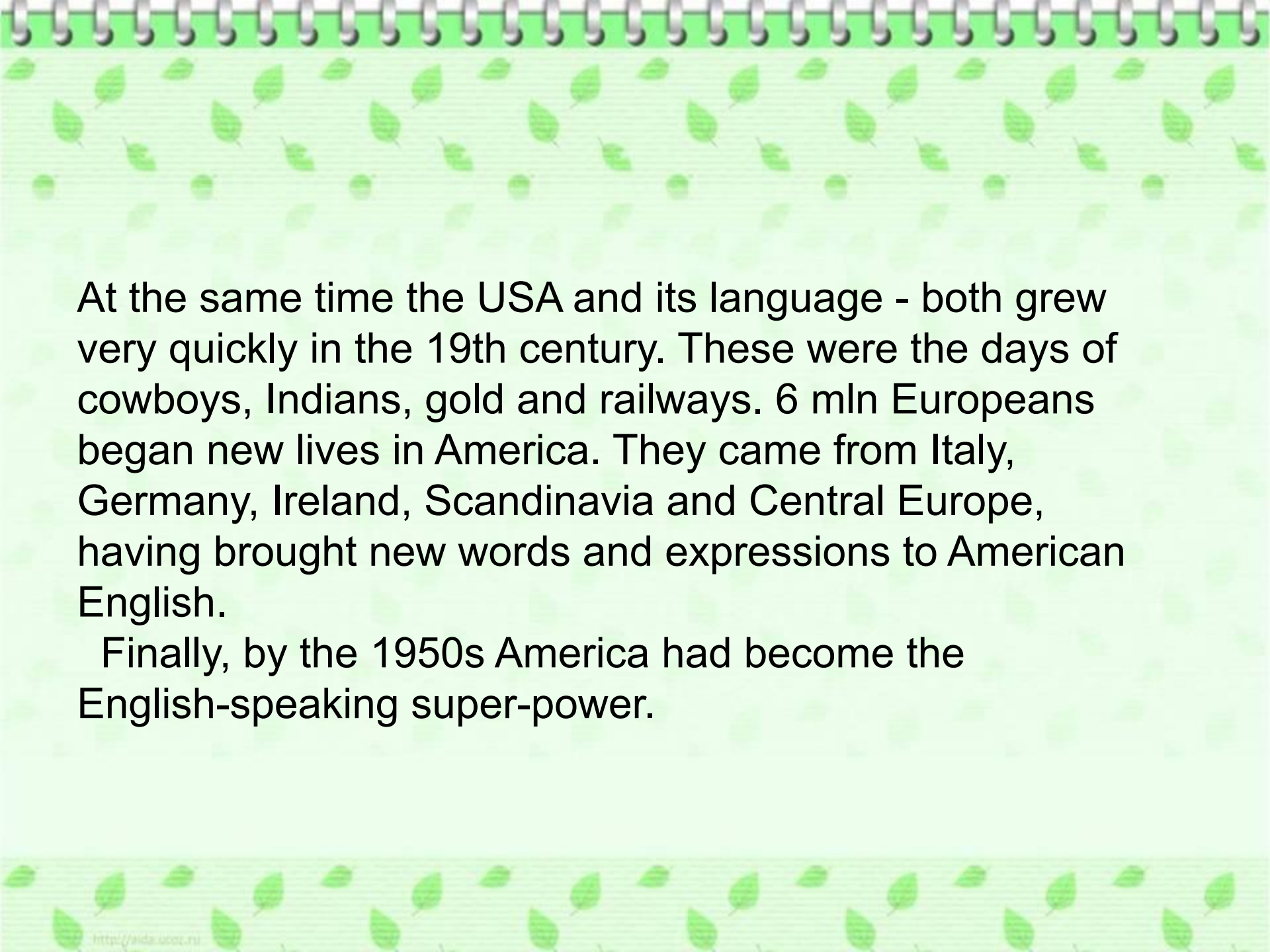
The export of English began in 'the Elizabethan Age' (1558-1603) due to Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh who brought England a lot of lands, money and power and who spread English to the new world and the West Indies. The English language went also to Australia with Captain Cook (1770).

In 1620 "Mayflower" sailed to America, in the next 30 years more than 250,000 people from all over Britain followed "the pioneers".



Between 1800 and 1900 Britain became the richest and the most powerful country in the world. The British Empire included many foreign countries like New Zealand, Nigeria, India, Canada, and South Africa. English was an important language on every continent.



The background of the slide is a light green spiral-bound notebook. The top edge features a silver-colored metal spiral binding. The green cover of the notebook is visible at the top and bottom, decorated with a pattern of small, stylized green leaves. The central area of the notebook is white, providing a space for the text.

At the same time the USA and its language - both grew very quickly in the 19th century. These were the days of cowboys, Indians, gold and railways. 6 mln Europeans began new lives in America. They came from Italy, Germany, Ireland, Scandinavia and Central Europe, having brought new words and expressions to American English.

Finally, by the 1950s America had become the English-speaking super-power.

In fact American English is growing faster now than ever before. The new words come from people of Southeast Asia and Central America, from scientists and teenagers. Over 70% of the world's scientists read English. And 90% of all information is stored in English. English is used for many purposes. Vocabularies, grammatical forms and ways of speaking and writing have emerged influenced by technological and scientific developments, economics and management, literature and entertainment genres.

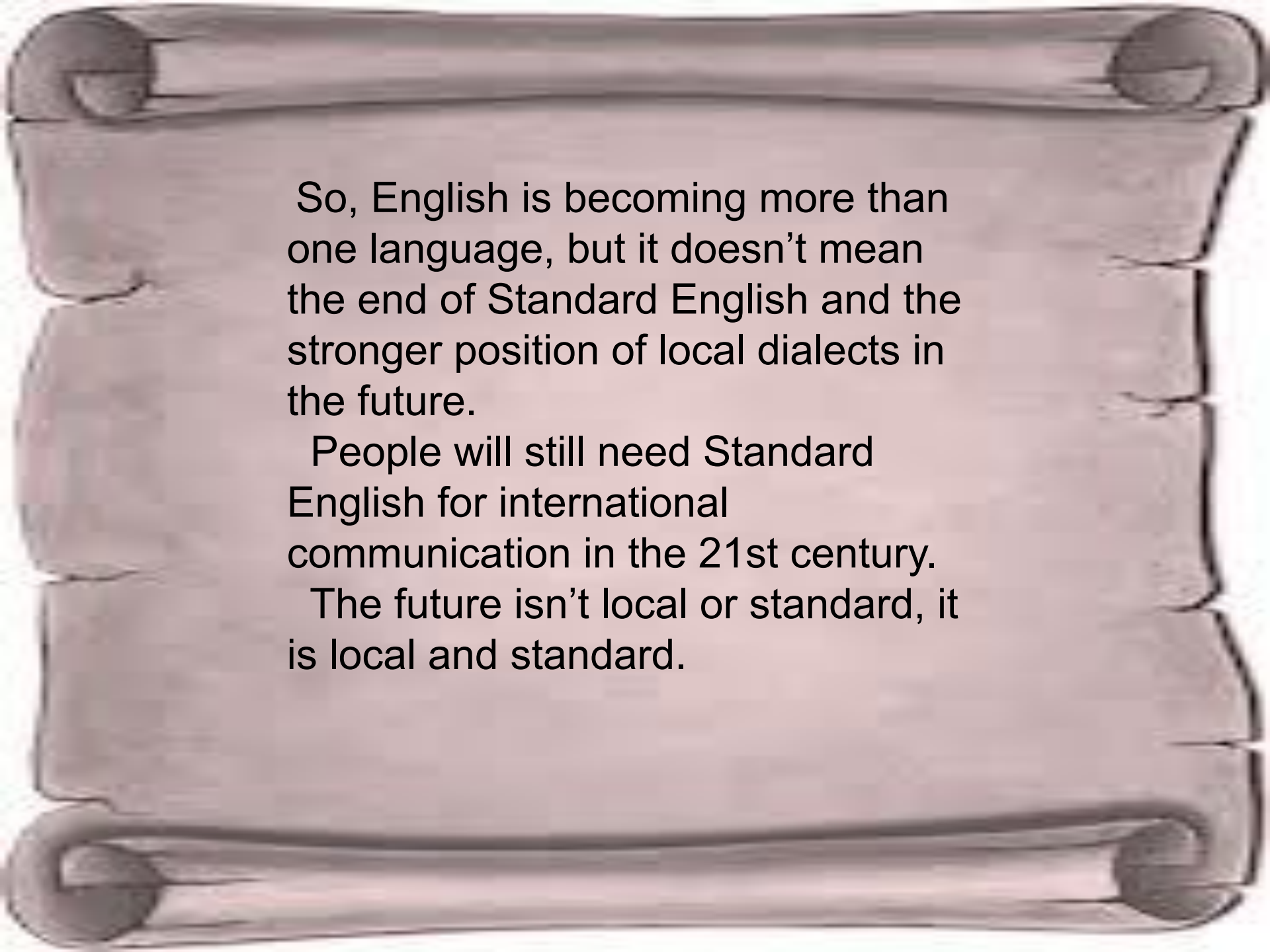


English is the language of summit meetings and the UNO. English is also becoming increasingly the language of international trade: nearly 50% of all the companies in Europe communicate with each other in English. 75% of all international telexes and letters are in English. 80% of all information in the world's computers is in English. Pop singers writing their songs often use lyrics or phrases in English. America and Britain export thousands of films and TV programmes every year. The International Olympic Committee meets in Lausanne, the official language of all the meetings is English. Now English words have started to become a part of other languages, too. In France, this new vocabulary is called "Franglais" (the mixture of English and French words); in Spain – Spanglish, in Japan – Japlish, in Sweden – Swinglish.

So, English is slowly becoming more than one language. English is changing in many countries of the Third World - which were once a part of the British Empire – now they're independent. For example, in Jamaica. There are 2 kinds of English in this West Indian island. One is standard - the language of the government and newspapers and the other is Creole - the day-to-day language of the people.



In Sierra Leone they speak Krio – 80% of the words in the Krio dictionary come from English. In India you can hear 3 languages: Hindi, Indian English and the local Indian language. 1/3 of the world's population lives near the Pacific Ocean in Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, Hawaii, California, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia. English is an important first, second or foreign language in all these countries.



So, English is becoming more than one language, but it doesn't mean the end of Standard English and the stronger position of local dialects in the future.

People will still need Standard English for international communication in the 21st century.

The future isn't local or standard, it is local and standard.

English has been an international language for only 50 years. The world is in transition and English may take new forms, but it may also supplement or co-exist with languages by allowing strangers to communicate across linguistic boundaries. It may become one tool that opens windows to the world, unlocks doors to opportunities and expands our minds to new ideas.