

hree English Periods

- •Old English
- •Middle English
- •Modern English
 - Early Modern English
 - •Late Modern English



•Descendant of the German language

•Spoken by Angles and Saxons

HISTORY

•5th Century AD: Angles and Saxons (Germanic tribes) invaded the Britain

•Reunited, became Anglo-Saxons

•Their language is *Englist*, which was where the word *English* originated

•Circa 890 AD: Anglo-Saxons invaded a land

•Called it Anglo-Land (now called England), meaning Land of the Angles

MIGRATION

Irish missionaries came to EnglandBrought the Latin alphabet

ROMAN INVASION

•597 AD: Roman invader Augustine attempted to Christianize England•Established kingdoms all over England

RESULTS

The Latin alphabet became the basis of English alphabet
Romans spread and popularized English throughout England

CHANGES IN OLD ENGLISH

•æ

•Pronounced as *ai*

•Changed to *e*

•Example: *naver* is now spelled *never*

•Feminine/Masculine word form dropped

•Indefinite articles, *a* and *an* were introduced

•Verb placement

•755 AD: verb is placed at the end of a sentence

• ∂ at he... na justise ne dide

•Translation: that he no justice did (Nielsen 203)

•1137: verb is placed after the pronoun

•til hi iafen up here castles

•Translation: till they surrendered their castles (Nielsen 203)

iddle English

(1100-1500)

HISTORY

- •The Normans, who spoke French, invaded England
- •Royalties and government officials began speaking French
- •English became language of the poor (peasants, butchers, maids, servants)
- •Also the language of poets and writers
- •English kings began marrying Norman women
- •More people adapted French language, causing the decline of English usage

RESULTS

- •English children became bilingual
- •Materials written in English became very scarce
- •Many French words were borrowed
 - •tax, estate, trouble, duty, pay, table, boil, serve, roast, dine, religion, savior, pray, and trinity
- •French was England's official language up until the beginning of 14th century

French words in English

Baron, count, courtier, duchess, duke, marchioness, marquis, noble, peer

Appetite, beef, biscuit, confection, plate, raisin, supper, treacle, veal, vinegar

Ambush, army, battle, enemy, garrison, lieutenant, moat, peace, sergeant

By heart, come to a head, have mercy on hold one's peace, take leave

Words from Other Languages • Latin: Alias, homicide, diocese,

- <u>Latin</u>: Alias, homicide, diocese, mediator, scripture, lucrative, tolerance
- Netherlands: poll, skipper
- <u>Spanish</u>: cork, savvy
- <u>Portuguese</u>: marmalade
- <u>Arabic</u>: saffron, admiral, mattress, algebra, alkali, zenith
- <u>Persian:</u> chess, rook, checkmate

CHANGES

•Three different words with one meaning

•kingly (Old English), royal (French), and regal (Latin). meaning of "relating to a king"

•More French Influence

- •More borrowed words
- •Borrowed words, *cellar* and *place* affected the way *c* was pronounced
- •Cene, cyssan, and cneow (Old English)
- •Lice and mice

odern English

(1500- PRESENT)

TWO TYPES

Early Modern English

•From 1500 to 1800s

Late modern English

•1800s until today

arly Modern English

Great Vowel Shift

•Happened between 1400 and 1500

•Sudden and major change how vowels are pronounced

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•a is pronounced as /ei/
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- •e as /ei/ and/or /i/
- •*i* as /ai/
- •o as /ou/or /u/
- •and u as /au/

CHANGES AND DIFFICULTIES

•Many English words are not pronounced as they used to be

•A person born in 1400 would have difficulty understanding a person from the 1500s

•Very careful listening and analysis of written documents were done for better understanding

•Example: House and mouse used to rhyme with moose

OTHER FACTORS THAT CHANGED EARLY MODERN ENGLISH William Shakespeare

- •Began writing his sonnets and novels
- Created words, such as critical, leapfrog, majestic, pedant, and dwindle
- •Created clichés, such as *flesh and blood*, and vanish into thin air

William Caxton

- •Introduced the printing press to England in 1476
- •Began printing English textbooks
 - •Were sold at cheap prices
 - •English grammar, spelling, and vocabulary were standardized
 - •1604: dictionary was published

ate Modern English

•Began in the 1800s and is the English that we speak today

•Same as Early Modern English, but has richer vocabulary

BRITISH EMPIRE

•Colonized many nations

- •Words were borrowed (i.e. *pajamas* and shampoo from Hindi, *tycoon* from Japanese, and *sauna* from Finnish) and added to the English vocabulary
- •Other words have Latin or Greek roots (i.e. biology, oxygen)

World War I and World War II

•American soldiers collaborated with British soldiers

- •Military slang words were created
- •blockbuster, nosedive, camouflage, radar, roadblock, spearhead, and landing strip

EXAMPLES OF TEXTS WRITTEN DURING DIFFERENT ENGLISH PERIODS

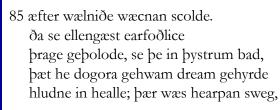
Beowulf

Originally written in Old English

Đa wæs on burgum Beowulf Scyldinga, leof leodcyning, longe þrage

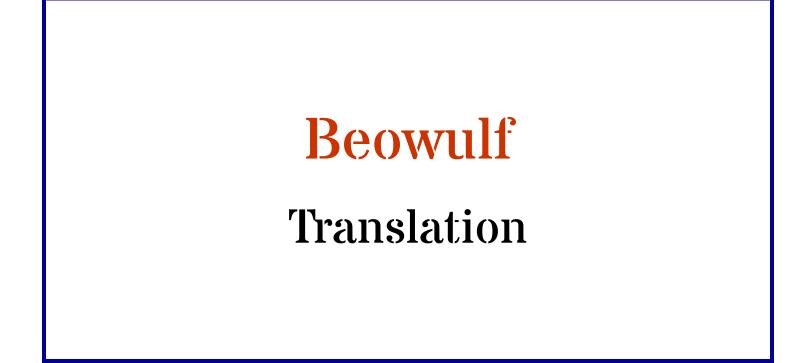
55 folcum gefræge (fæder ellor hwearf, aldor of earde), oþþæt him eft onwoc

- heah Healfdene; heold þenden lifde, gamol ond guðreouw, glæde Scyldingas. ðæm feower bearn forð gerimed
- 60 in worold wocun, weoroda ræswan, Heorogar ond Hroðgar ond Halga til; hyrde ic þæt wæs Onelan cwen, Heaðoscilfingas healsgebedda. þa wæs Hroðgare heresped gyfen,
- 65 wiges weorðmynd, þæt him his winemagas georne hyrdon, oðð þæt seo geogoð geweox, magodriht micel. Him on mod bearn þæt healreced hatan wolde, medoærn micel, men gewyrcean
- 70 þonne yldo bearn æfre gefrunon, ond þær on innan eall gedælan geongum ond ealdum, swylc him god sealde, buton folcscare ond feorum gumena.
 ða ic wide gefrægn weorc gebannan
- 75 manigre mægþe geond þisne middangeard, folcstede frætwan. Him on fyrste gelomp, ædre mid yldum, þæt hit wearð ealgearo, healærna mæst; scop him Heort naman se þe his wordes geweald wide hæfde.
- 80 He beot ne aleh, beagas dælde, sinc æt symle. Sele hlifade, heah ond horngeap, heaðowylma bad, laðan liges; ne wæs hit lenge þa gen þæt se ecghete aþumsweorum



- 90 swutol sang scopes. Sægde se þe cuþe frumsceaft fira feorran reccan, cwæð þæt se ælmihtiga eorðan worhte, wlitebeorhtne wang, swa wæter bebugeð, gesette sigehreþig sunnan ond monan
- 95 leoman to leohte landbuendum ond gefrætwade foldan sceatas leomum ond leafum, lif eac gesceop cynna gehwylcum þara ðe cwice hwyrfaþ. Swa ða drihtguman dreamum lifdon
- 100 eadiglice, oððæt an ongan fyrene fremman feond on helle.Wæs se grimma gæst Grendel haten, mære mearcstapa, se þe moras heold, fen ond fæsten; fifelcynnes eard
- 105 wonsæli wer weardode hwile,
 siþðan him scyppend forscrifen hæfde
 in Caines cynne. þone cwealm gewræc
 ece drihten, þæs þe he Abel slog;
 ne gefeah he þære fæhðe, ac he hine feor forwræc,

110 metod for þy mane, mancynne fram. þanon untydras ealle onwocon, eotenas ond ylfe ond orcneas, swylce gigantas, þa wið gode wunnon lange þrage; he him ðæs lean forgeald.



Beowulf bode in the burg of the Scyldings, leader beloved, and long he ruled in fame with all folk, since his father had goneaway from the world, till awoke an heir, haughty Healfdene, who held through life, sage and sturdy, the Scyldings glad.

Then, one after one, there woke to him, to the chieftain of clansmen, children four: Heorogar, then Hrothgar, then Halga brave; and I heard that -- was --'s queen, the Heathoscylfing's helpmate dear.

To Hrothgar was given such glory of war, such honor of combat, that all his kin obeyed him gladly till great grew his band of youthful comrades. It came in his mind to bid his henchmen a hall uprear, a master mead-house, mightier far than ever was seen by the sons of earth, and within it, then, to old and young he would all allot that the Lord had sent him, save only the land and the lives of his men.

Wide, I heard, was the work commanded, for many a tribe this mid-earth round, to fashion the folkstead. It fell, as he ordered, in rapid achievement that ready it stood there, of halls the noblest: Heorot he named it whose message had might in many a land. Not reckless of promise, the rings he dealt, treasure at banquet: there towered the hall, high, gabled wide, the hot surge waiting of furious flame. Nor far was that day when father and son-in-law stood in feud for warfare and hatred that woke again.

With envy and anger an evil spirit endured the dole in his dark abode, that he heard each day the din of revel high in the hall: there harps rang out, clear song of the singer. He sang who knew tales of the early time of man, how the Almighty made the earth, fairest fields enfolded by water, set, triumphant, sun and moon for a light to lighten the land-dwellers, and braided bright the breast of earth with limbs and leaves, made life for all of mortal beings that breathe and move.

So lived the clansmen in cheer and revel a winsome life, till one began to fashion evils, that field of hell.

Grendel this monster grim was called, march-riever mighty, in moorland living, in fen and fastness; fief of the giants the hapless wight a while had kept since the Creator his exile doomed.

On kin of Cain was the killing avenged by sovran God for slaughtered Abel.

Ill fared his feud,⁶ and far was he driven, for the slaughter's sake, from sight of men. Of Cain awoke all that woful breed. Ettins and

elves and evil-spirits, as well as the giants that warred with God weary while: but their wage was paid them!

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Originally written in Middle English

Written by an Anonymous person

First published in 1925

Passus I

SIÞEN þe sege and þe assaut watz sesed at Troye, Þe bor brittened and brent to bronde and askez, Þe tulk þat þe trammes of tresoun þer wrot

Watz tried for his tricherie, þe trewest on erthe: Hit watz Ennias þe athel, and his highe kynde, Þat siþen depreced prouinces, and patrounes bicome Welnee of al þe wele in þe west iles. Fro riche Romulus to Rome ricchis hym swyþe, With gret bobbaunce þat bure he biges vpon fyrst,

And neuenes hit his aune nome, as hit now hat; Tirius to Tuskan and teldes bigynnes, Langaberde in Lumbardie lyftes vp homes, And fer ouer þe French flod Felix Brutus On mony bonkkes ful brode Bretayn he settez wyth wynne,

Where werre and wrake and wonder Bi syþez hatz wont þerinne, And oft boþe blysse and blunder Ful skete hatz skyfted synne. Ande quen þis Bretayn watz bigged bi þis burn rych, Bolde bredden þerinne, baret þat lofden, In mony turned tyme tene þat wroten. Mo ferlyes on þis folde han fallen here oft Þen in any oþer þat I wot, syn þat ilk tyme. Bot of alle þat here bult, of Bretaygne kynges, Ay watz Arthur þe hendest, as I haf herde telle.

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Translation

The siege and assault having ceased at Troy as its blazing battlements blackened to ash, the man who had planned and plotted that treason had trial enough for the truest traitor!

Then Aeneas the prince and his honored line plundered provinces and held in their power nearly all the wealth of the western isles.

Thus Romulus swiftly arriving at Rome sets up that city and in swelling pride gives it his name, the name it now bears; and in Tuscany Tirius raises up towns, and in Lombardy Langoberde settles the land, and far past the French coast Felix Brutus founds Britain on broad hills, and so bright hopes begin, where wonders, wars, misfortune and troubled times have been, where bliss and blind confusion have come and gone again.