History of English

Middle English

Reestablishment of English

- The situation changed after 1200

- A feeling of rivalry developed between the 2 countries and finally anti-foreign movement resulted into the Hundred Years' War.

Reestablishment of English

- During two centuries after Norman Conquest French was necessary for upper classes, in the 13th and 14th centuries its maintenance became quite artificial.

- The spread of English among upper classes was making steady progress.

Reestablishment of English

- The tendency to speak English was becoming stronger even in such conservative institutions as church and university.

- The 14th century Oxford and Cambridge needed students to construe and translate in both English and French

Reestablishment of English

- The fact which helped English to recover its former prestige was the rise of substantial middle class, as well as of two other important groups – craftsmen and merchants.

Reestablishment of English

- In 1352 the mayor and the aldermen of London ordered that the trial would be in English not in French

- In 1362 an important step was taken toward restoring English in the country, namely in legal system.

Reestablishment of English

- The last step that the English language had to make its gradual ascent was its employment in school. It had to meet the competition with Latin and French.

Middle English Linguistic characteristics

- Fast and considerable changes in grammar and vocabulary.

- Decay of inflectional endings.
- Losses among strong verbs
- Strong Verbs become weak
- Loss of grammatical gender

Middle English
Linguistic characteristics

- Of the 10.000 words adapted from Norman French , ¾ are still in use: *justice, jury, damage, prison, marriage, sovereign, parliament, prince, viscount, baron* etc.

- But *king* & *queen* are of Germanic origin.

Loans from Norman French

The Norman flood brought us

- picture, question, treasure, mercy, suspense,
- reception, immediate, pure, crime, subtle, exempt, suffice, mirror, music, defend,
- control, journal, multiply, journey, region, country, office and countless others.

Loans from Norman French

- Practically all of English words beginning with /v/ are of Norman French origin:

  virtue, vanity, vowel, virgin, vassal, vault, vary, value, vacant, vanquish, vermin and *very.*

Loans from Norman French

- Native English words never contain the digraph <oi>, and almost all words containing it come from Norman French:

  oil, coin, boil, join, point, poison, soil, cloy, toil, loyal, royal, joy, poise, foil, destroy, alloy, ointment and others.

Loans from Norman French

- Norman French contributed practically the entire traditional vocabulary of linguistics:

  language, sentence, question, noun, verb, adjective, pronoun, tense, case, participle, infinitive, subject, object and many more.

Loans from Norman French

- In fact, even such everyday Old English words as *andwlita, ea, weald* and *berg* disappeared from the language, replaced by their French equivalents *face, river, forest* and *mountain*.

- Old English *dal* was reduced to a regionalism, *dale,* and the normal word became *valley*.

Native English

- Personal pronouns, grammatical words, number names, most body-part names, most kinship terms, names of basic materials, most names of natural phenomena and of geographical features, everyday verbs and adjectives – all are native English:

- me, you, and, the, with, to, in, not, two, seven, head, heart, arm, foot, man, woman, child, father, mother, daughter, stone, wood, iron, gold, sun, moon, star, wind, rain, snow, tree, road, path, stream, ford, bridge, come, go, think, believe, speak, wonder, live, laugh, stink, red, black, old, young, new, little and short.

Middle English

- By the end of the Middle English period, the Germanic element in the English vocabulary had been firmly put in the shade by a Romance and Italian lexical invasion of unprecedented proportions.

Middle English
French Influence on the Vocabulary

- The peak of borrowing was the last quarter of the 14th century, when over 2.500 French words are identified.

Middle English
French Influence on the Vocabulary

- <u>Governmental and Administrative words:</u>

Crown, state, empire, reign, royal, authority, majesty, tyrant, oppress, assembly, tax, revenue

<u>Ecclesiastical words</u>

Religion, theology, baptism, sermon, passion, clergy, pastor, hermit etc.

Middle English
French Influence on the Vocabulary

Law

Arrest, blame, convict, legacy, executor, evidence, fine, prison, etc.

Army and Navy

Army, navy, battle, combat, siege, ambush, retreat, banner, defend etc.

Middle English
French Influence on the Vocabulary

Fashion, Social life, Meals

Collar, gown, robe, garment, lace, blue, brown, scarlet, jewel, ivory, diamond, sapphire, pearl, amethyst, topaz, oyster, salad, olives, toast, biscuit, grape, orange, pastry, tart, jelly

Middle English
French Influence on the Vocabulary

Synonyms at Three Levels due to mixture of Latin, French and native elements:

- Ask-   question-   interrogate
- Holy –   sacred-   consecrated
- Time-   age-   epoch
- Rise –   mount-   ascend
- Goodness – virtue -   probity

(English –   French-   Latin)

Lexical alternatives
Germanic   French   Latin

Germanic	French	Latin
Climb		ascend
Fast	firm	secure
Fire	flame	conflagration
House	mansion	
Kingly	royal	regal

Middle English

- -ful was used to generate adjectives from nouns: full of +N = *beautiful, graceful, merciful;*

- in Middle English there have been lots of adj

Middle English

- The French *-able* suffix combined with English roots to produce *findable, speakable, makeable, unknowable*

- In *discovering* used as a noun we have a French prefix and an English suffix sandwiching a French word.

Middle English

- French introduced Latin-derived suffixes

  de-,dis- en, ex-, pre-, pro-, -able, -ence, -ant, ity, -ment, -tion (spelt as -cion)

Middle English

- Every word developed its range of collocations:

- *royal blue, Royal Highness, Royal Shakespeare Company; blood royal, banners royal*

- *Regal look/ performance/confidence*

Middle English Dialects

Northern

East Midland

West Midland

Southern

Рис. 1. Древнеанглийские диалекты

Рис. 2. Среднеанглийские диалекты

да. *glendran* 'прог...
'голод'; да. *hreδδa* '...
лочка'; да. *hyse* 'мол...
же; да. *lempit* 'ме...
'углубление, овраг';...
'железное кольцо, о...
мучить', совр. англ...
же; да. *cwyld* 'веч...
да. *flitan* 'ругать' ...
швабск. *flitzen*, то ...
явления [8, 9]).

Рис. 3. Совре...

...ления древнеанглийских и среднеанглийских диалектов ...едует иметь в виду, что мы располагаем ограниче...овокупностью диалектных памятников того или ино..., неодинаково соотнесенных друг с другом по време... написания (или по времени возникновения дошедш... рукописей). В связи с этим не исключена возмож... того, что наблюдаемые нами специфические черт... отдельных дошедших до нас древнеанглийских п...ков являются не диалектными, а хронологическим...

они могут быть обусловлены не местным характером текстов, а различием во времени их написания. Весьма неточной остается и ареальная локализация отдельных древнеанглийских памятников, в связи с чем традиционное деление древнеанглийских диалектов на англские, уэссекские и кентские представляется весьма относительным.

Вообще в ряде случаев было бы правильнее говорить именно о языке изучаемого текста (рукописи) или автора, а не о языке диалекта: дошедшие до нас памятники, естественно,

2*

19
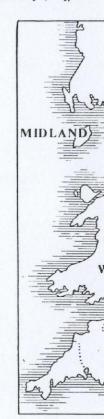
Middle English Dialects

- Prof. Barber noticed "Early Middle English texts give the impression of a chaos of dialects, without any common conventions in pronunciation or spelling, and wide divergence in grammar and vocabulary"

Middle English
Rise of Standard English

- East Midland type of English, particularly dialect of its metropolis became the basis of Standard English.

1) It was less conservative than the Southern dialect and less radical than Northern dialect.

Middle English
Rise of Standard English

- 2) The East Midland district was the largest and the most populated dialect area
- 3) The   presence of Oxford and Cambridge Universities in the area
- 4) The importance of London as the capital of England

Middle English
Trilingualism VS Standard English

- By the 16th century, trilingualism would have been restricted to a specialised, chiefly legal elite. But earlier educated English people were naturally trilingual:

- English was their mother tongue,

- Latin was the required language of church, was necessary in political-legal matters.

- French was necessary for administrative matters and to be fashionable throughout Western European society.

Middle English

As the Middle English progressed,

- legal English,
- philosophical English,
- medical English,
- literary English,
- parliamentary English and other varieties started to appear.

The Renaissance1500-1650

The Problem of Orthography

- No generally accepted system that anyone could conform to

- Adaptation of borrowings (brevity< brevitas, external< externus)

Middle English

- Casualness of usage and style was a hallmark of the Middle and early Modern English periods. Chaucer sometimes used *daughters, or doughtren, or doughtres*. He appeared to settle on whichever form first popped into his head, even at the risk of being inconsistent from one paragraph to the next.

Spelling Fluctuation

- At this time, and for centuries afterwards, such fluctuation in spelling within a single document was commonplace.

- With the introduction of printing into England in the 1470s, English spelling began to grow more consistent, since the printers found it convenient to choose particular spellings and to stick to these as far as possible. But standardisation was a slow process.

- William Shakespeare, for instance, spelled his own name in several different ways – and fluctuation in spelling was still common in the seventeenth century, and far from rare in the eighteenth.

Spelling Fluctuation, potato

- the word _potato_.

- This word was taken into English in the 16th century, via Spanish from the native American language Taino. In the 16th century, we find all of the following spellings in use in English: _botata, batata, battata, potato, potaton, potade, patata, potatoe_ and the bizarre _potatus_, a confused Latinism.

- By the 17th century, only some of these were still in use, but then we find the further spellings _partato, potado, potata, pottato and puttato_.

Spelling Fluctuation, potato

- the word *potato*
- By the 18th century, this variation had been narrowed down to just three choices: *potato, patata and potatoe*.
- By the 19th century, only *potato and potatoe* were still in the running. The frequency of this second choice is one reason that we require the plural form *potatoes* today, even though we have finally settled on the singular form *potato*.

Royal Chancery Standard

- In the early 1400s, young men who had been educated first in English rather than French began to take their places within the royal administration. By 1420–30, these men were now in positions of considerable authority. In using a written English derived from the practices of a limited number of London schools, a new, highly influential, 'house style' began to spread in the administration. This house style – dubbed Chancery Standard after the Royal Chancery by scholars – was quickly exported outside government.

Royal Chancery Standard

- People wishing favours would naturally write in a way intended to be ingratiating to the centre; the fact that the new style was inevitably seen as the 'voice of the king' could not have hindered its spread. By 1500, the Chancery Standard had become the primary, and soon after the only, acceptable form of written English.

The Renaissance1500-1650

- Words from the Romance languages:

Chocolate, bizarre, detail, duel, entrance, progress, tomato, vogue, essay, shock, equip, volunteer

The Renaissance1500-1650

- Thomas More introduced the words:

- *absurdity, acceptance, anticipate, contradictory, durable, exaggerate, explain, detector, frivolous, monopoly, paradox, pretext*

The Renaissance1500-1650

- Among Shakespearean words we find

antipathy, catastrophe, critical, demonstrate, emphasis, extract, meditate, modest,

Shakespeare

Shakespeare coined 2000 words and gave us countless phrases:

- to be or not to be,
- to be cruel to be kind,
- flesh and blood,
- cold comfort,
- remembrance of things past,
- the sound and the fury,
- vanish into thin air,
- in my mind's eye etc…

History of English and its present

- Much of English vocabulary was lost
- Change of meaning in numerous words:

Shakespearean English   _VS_   _Current English_

    foolish   _nice_

a cold in the head   _rheumatism_

The emergence of linguistic lexicon 1500-1700

- Alphabet (1580) gave rise to alphabetarian, alphabetic, alphabetically

- Linguist (skilled in the usage of languages)→ a student of languages; *linguacity, linguacious, linguister*, none of the derivatives survived

The emergence of linguistic lexicon 1500-1700

- Colon
- Comma
- Dissonance
- Lexicon
- Parenthesis
- Philological
- Pronoun
- Rhetoricise
- Substantive
- trope

The 18th century

- Development of Progressive Verb Forms

- In Shakespearean times one would ask 'What do you read?' not 'What are you reading'.

- 'The bridge is being built' was unknown.

The 17th- 18th century English Dictionaries

- From the 17th century on, dictionaries of English began to be written, and the decisions of the lexicographers (dictionary-writers) helped to provide some further stabilisation.

- Even so, by the time of American independence in 1783, English spelling was still not fully fixed: there were still a number of words with multiple spellings.

The 17^{th-} 18th century

- 1755   A Dictionary of English Language
  by Samuel Johnson

Samuel Johnson - -ize – ise

- English has a verb-forming suffix -ize, of Greek origin (*realize, civilize, satirize, demonize, finalize and hospitalize* etc).

- Traditionally, this suffix was spelled -ize in English, and it still is in American English, where nothing has happened.

- In French, however, the spelling –izer gave way centuries ago to the changed spelling -iser, as in French civiliser 'civilise'. As so often, what the French were doing induced the British to do the same, and so many British writers began to write realise and civilise.

- By Johnson's day, these new spellings had become common, and Johnson gave them his seal of approval.

The 17th- 18th century Samuel Johnson - theatre, centre

- Much the same thing has happened with another familiar group of words spelled differently on the two sides of the Atlantic: the group represented by the words *theatre* and *centre*. The traditional English spellings of these are *theater*, *center*, and so on, and these spellings were well established by the 17th century.

The 17th- 18th century Samuel Johnson - theatre, centre

- But, of course, the French spellings of these words are *théatre*, *centre*, and so on. Eager to claim some of the prestige of French for their own language, British writers began using the French spellings in English, and again Dr Johnson approved the new spellings.

- But the older spellings remain undisturbed in American English, where they are likewise the only possibilities.

British VS American Spelling

- Why did these French-inspired changes in spelling find no lasting foothold in American English?

- The breadth of the Atlantic Ocean was no doubt one factor. But there was another one, much more important: Noah Webster (1758–1843).

The 19th century and after

Influences affecting English

- The growth of Science
- Automobile, Film, Broadcasting, Computer

Brief History of English

Factors that contributed to the development

- The 100 years war
- Rise of middle class
- The Renaissance
- The Development of English as maritime power
- The expansion of the British Empire
- The growth of commerce and industry
- The growth of science and literature

Economic & technical superiority & English

Present of English

- With over 1.5 billion speakers of English around the globe , the English of England is today a tiny minority dialect of 'World English'.

Present of English

Varieties of English and variability of English nowadays

- English as a global language

- World Englishes (Caribbean English, Indian English, Singlish, Konglish, Frenglish, Spanglish etc.)

Present of English

- Many terms have evolved to characterize nonstandard varieties of English - scientific, objective, popular, impressionistic, insulting:
- Regional dialects   Modified standards
- Nonstandard speech   Creoles
- Pigeons   Vernaculars
- Code-mixing   Substandard speech
- Country talk   Argot
- Lingo   Broken English
- Gutter speech

Standard English

- Most English speakers do not speak Standard English.

- A significant number of English authors do not write in Standard English.

- And a large number of those using English in computer-mediated communication do not use it either.

(David Crystal *The Stories of English*)

Rivals of English

- English is more used but less loved,
- French is more loved but less used

English as a world language

Assets and liabilities

- 1. Cosmopolitan vocabulary – borrowing from numerous languages

English as a world language borrowings

- Native American languages

Moose

Raccoon

Chipmunk

skunk

English as a world language borrowings

- Dutch

Brandy

Landscape

Measles

uproar

English as a world language borrowings

- Italian

Balcony

Duet

Granite

Opera

Piano

Umbrella

volcano

English as a world language borrowings

- Spanish

Alligator
Cargo
Contraband
Cork
Hammock
Mosquito
Sherry
Tornado
vanilla

English as a world language borrowings

- Greek

Acme
Acrobat
Anthology
Barometer
Catastrophe
Chronology
Elastic
Magic
tactics

English as a world language borrowings

- Persian

Caravan	jasmine	turban
Divan	paradise	spinach
Khaki	check	
Mogul	chess	
Shawl	lemon	
Sherbet	lilac	

English as a world language borrowings

- Russian

troika

Samovar

Glasnost

perestroika

English as a world language borrowings

- Brasilian Portuguese
  - *lambada*
- Basque
  - *bizarre*
- Ukrainain
  - *yarmulke*
- Catalan
  - *aubergine, paella, barracks*

English as a world language borrowings

- Philippine
  - *yo-yo*
- Czech
  - *pistol, polka, robot*

- Egyptian
  - *basalt, ebony, gum, ibis, ivory, pharaoh*

English as a world language borrowings

- Hawaiian
  - *muu-muu (long loose dress)* AmE
- Irish Gaelic
  - *whisky*
- Finnish
  - *sauna*

English as a world language borrowings

- Also borrowings from :
- Hebrew
- Hungarian
- Hindi-Urdu
- Bengali
- Malay
- Chinese   etc.

English as a world language Assets

- 2. Inflectional simplicity
- Inflections of nouns and verbs were reduced to indication of plural forms, within adjectives to indication of comparative and superlative degrees
- 3. Natural Gender

English as a world language
Assets

- 4. Simplification of Tense Forms

- 5. No conjugation of verbs, no declension of nouns, adjectives, numerals, no case

English as a world language liabilities

- Idioms (ethnically & culturally-specific)
- Chaotic spelling, lack of correlation between spelling (which often indicates the word's etymology) and pronunciation

Lieutenant

Colonel

Ascertain