

**ARCHAIC WORDS IN ENGLISH CLASSICAL LITERATURE AND THEIR
INFLUENCE ON MODERN LANGUAGE****Habibullayeva So'g'diyona Sherzod qizi**

3rd-year student, Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Annotation: This article examines the origin, etymology, and contextual usage of archaic and obsolete words in classical English literature, the types of archaisms, their influence on modern English, as well as their fundamental role in linguistics and their distinction from other linguistic units. The study analyzes archaic lexical units based on the works of 19th-century writers such as Jane Austen and Charlotte Brontë, revealing their stylistic function in literary texts and the traces they have left in modern English. The article also explores the role of archaisms in creating historicity and antiquity, the challenges of translating them, and existing scholarly perspectives on this issue.

Keywords: archaic and historical words, interpretation of archaism, etymology of archaism, Shakespearean language, Jane Austen's linguistics, the use of Victorian-era vocabulary in Charlotte Brontë's works, English classical literature, contextual meaning.

Introduction

Since ancient times, humankind has favored verbal communication as the primary means of interacting with one another. It has served as one of the most essential conditions for people to convey their thoughts clearly, to understand others without unnecessary difficulty, and to survive within society. Yet it is no secret that as humanity has moved forward and taken steps toward civilization, its way of life, its culture of dress, and its social principles have changed — and naturally, its manner of speech and its language have not remained unaffected either. English, regarded today as a global language of communication, is a clear example of this. Historically, it emerged in the 5th century AD as a result of Germanic tribes migrating to the British Isles, taking shape on the basis of the Germanic dialects brought by the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes. According to historical sources, this period's language was also called Anglo-Saxon. Over its thousand-year history, English has passed through several stages: Old English,

Middle English, Early Modern English, and Modern English. At each stage, the phonetics, grammar, and vocabulary of the language changed considerably.

As a result, millions of words have become obsolete and have fallen out of everyday active use. Some of them retained their meaning while giving way to another word, while others became entirely unusable and faded away along with the era itself. Numerous everyday terms, expressions, and phraseological units can be included in this category.

The purpose of this article is to discuss how words become archaic, what the main factors are that define the archaic layer of a language, the ways in which new words enter a given language as a whole, how Shakespeare's work brought about a fundamental turning point in Old English, and to compare the elevated linguistic and phonetic style used by writers of the subsequent Victorian and Edwardian periods, as well as the extent to which these have influenced the newly formed language of today.

Main Part

English is one of the ancient tongues that has passed through several major periods. Numerous historical and social factors have contributed to such changes in the language. In particular, as a result of the Norman Conquest of 1066, English came into close contact with French, giving rise to new words, expressions, and grammatical constructions. During this period the vernacular language became simpler and more comprehensible to the wider public. Furthermore, countless military campaigns and wars covering a wide range of issues also laid the groundwork for the growing diversity of ethnic layers and for the entry and settling of ever-newer words. As a result, some words lost their novelty, some survived only in certain dialects, their regional range narrowed considerably, and some even fell completely out of use. There are so many words of this kind that scholars still cannot state their exact number, but according to Oxford English Dictionary (OED) data, the language contains more than 47,000 words that are completely obsolete.

Obsolete (completely forgotten words): approximately 47,156 words. These words have hardly been used anywhere since 1755 (after the publication of Samuel Johnson's dictionary), and present-day speakers do not understand them at all.

Thou — means “you” (singular) (nowadays used only in religious texts or old poetry).

Wherefore — means “why” (many people mistakenly understand it as “where from”).

Crapulous — the unpleasant state resulting from overeating or overdrinking, accompanied by heavy breathing or belching.

Curmuring — the rumbling of the stomach, the sound produced by hunger or the digestive process.

Twirlblast — an old name given to a tornado or a powerful whirling storm.

Archaic (Archaisms): tens of thousands of words that, although not used in everyday life, still occur in literature, historical works, poetry, or religious texts (as, for example, in Shakespeare's plays) — such as thou (you), thee (you, object form), and anon (soon). In Early Modern English (roughly the 15th–17th centuries), personal pronouns were not limited to a single “you” as they are today. It distinguished between the singular “thou” and the plural/formal “you” forms:

- Thou (nominative case): you (singular)

Example: Thou art my friend. (You are my friend.)

- Thee (accusative/dative case): you (object form)

Example: I love thee. (I love you.)

- Thy / Thine (possessive): your / yours

Example: This is thy book. (This is your book.) / Thine is the victory. (The victory is yours.)

This shows that English, which today is relatively easy to learn both grammatically and lexically, was in earlier times extremely complex in pronunciation, so much so that research into it could only be carried out by specialists or by highly educated members of the monastic clergy.

The influence of Shakespeare's literature and work on modern English. William Shakespeare is considered the writer who has had the greatest influence on the formation of modern English. Through his works he enriched the language, adapted its grammatical patterns, and introduced thousands of words and expressions that remain in active use today.

The main influences of Shakespeare's literature on modern English are as follows:

1. The creation of new words

Shakespeare is believed to have introduced more than 1,700 new words into English. He expanded the vocabulary of the language by adding affixes to existing words, converting nouns into verbs, or creating entirely new concepts.

- Manager — taken from “A Midsummer Night's Dream.”
- Fashionable — used in “Troilus and Cressida.”

Other well-known words: lonely, uncomfortable, assassination, alligator. Many of the metaphors he created have become an inseparable part of the language.

- “Break the ice” (to ease tension / to start a conversation) — from “The Taming of the Shrew.”
- “Heart of gold” (a kind-hearted person) — from “Henry V.”

To grasp the scale of his influence: through the conciseness and resonance of the phrases and words he coined, not only did the language of the elite class gain further appeal, but this also became one of the first fundamental steps toward the diversity found in the work of subsequent writers and poets. It would not be an overstatement to say that the cross-cultural, social, and trade relations within European culture also laid the groundwork for the wide spread of English. As for the archaic words identified from this period, we may cite the following verbal suffixes as examples:

In Shakespeare's time, the conjugation of verbs differed from today. In particular, the suffixes -est (for the second person “thou”) and -eth (for the third person “he/she”) were added to the end of verbs:

- Anon — soon, shortly
- Art — are (thou art)
- Doth / Dost — does / do (thou dost)
- Hath / Hast — has / have (thou hast)
- Farewell — goodbye

The language of Jane Austen's and Charlotte Brontë's works. These two women writers created their works during the era of Great Britain's great colonial policy and are widely known for “Pride and Prejudice” and “Jane Eyre” respectively. They are

considered the most celebrated female writers of the period now taught in schools and institutes and described in many scholarly contexts as “English classical literature.”

Jane Austen is one of the classical writers who has had the greatest influence on the development of world literature and the English language. Her work modernized the school of novel-writing and brought the spoken and written style of English to an entirely new stage.

- **Simplification and vividness of speech:** In her works Austen avoided the heavy, ornate, and lengthy philosophical sentences typical of that era. She made her characters' language lively, understandable, and fluent.
- **The art of piquant irony:** Using words in a figurative sense with concealed humor (for example, the phrase “It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife”) became, precisely thanks to Austen, one of the finest examples of written expression in the English language.
- **The language of social decorum and manners:** Through Austen's works one can see how the norms of etiquette, courtesy, and the “subtle distinctions” in interpersonal relations within 19th-century English society were reflected at the level of language.

Word used by Austen	Its meaning at the time	Main meaning today
Sensible	Intelligent, level-headed, reasonable	Sensitive (often confused with the older sense)
Want	Need, lack	To wish, to desire
Discover	To reveal, to show	To find something new
Fancy	To imagine, to suppose	To like; luxurious, elaborate

Charlotte Brontë's literature and the English language of the Victorian era. Queen Victoria is regarded as the most famous female monarch in British history after Queen Elizabeth I; during her reign, science, culture, and — most importantly — the process of mechanization and industrialization, moving on from an agrarian economy, reached their peak, and, naturally, the acquisition of new colonies brought about significant changes in the language as well.

1. A sharp expansion of vocabulary (neologisms)

As a result of the industrial and technological revolution, entirely new words appeared in the language:

- Technical terms: electricity, telephone, telegraph, train.
- Everyday novelties: photography, slum (arising as a result of urbanization).

2. The standardization of language and “correct” pronunciation (RP)

Social stratification was strong during this period, so language became a key factor in determining one's status in society:

- Received Pronunciation (RP): the standard “Queen's English,” taught in Britain's upper classes and private schools, took shape.
- The pinnacle of lexicography: work on the famous Oxford English Dictionary, aimed at standardizing the language, began precisely during this period.

Charlotte Brontë (1816–1855) is one of the most brilliant and celebrated representatives of Victorian English literature. With her novel “Jane Eyre” she secured a rightful place in the treasury of world literature and is considered one of the first writers to create the image of a strong, independent woman in literature. Charlotte Brontë introduced into Victorian literature the type of “a protagonist who is plain rather than beautiful, yet possesses a strong will.” Jane Eyre is not the beautiful and helpless heroine of traditional novels, but an independent woman who has found her own way in life through her own labor and intellect. Her language stands out for its deep psychologism, precise depiction of emotions, French expressions, and biblical allusions. In her works the author skillfully employed distinctive words such as antipathy, fervid, austere, and privations to express a person's inner experiences and social condition.

Conclusion

The research conducted shows that, over the course of the historical development of the English language, its vocabulary has been continually renewed, and in this process many lexical units have become archaic and have fallen out of active use. Historical and social factors such as the Norman Conquest, the Industrial Revolution, social stratification, and the development of written literature have left deep traces in the phonetic, grammatical, and lexical layers of the language.

In the course of the study, the distinction between archaic and obsolete (completely forgotten) words was clarified: the first group of words is still used today in literature, poetry, and religious texts as a stylistic device, whereas the second group is almost never encountered in the modern language and is significant only as a historical-etymological source.

The influence of William Shakespeare's work on the English language occupies a special place: he not only introduced more than a thousand new words and expressions into the language, but also enriched verb conjugation and grammatical patterns, thereby creating a stylistic foundation for the writers of later periods.

The linguistic analysis of 19th-century writers such as Jane Austen and Charlotte Brontë showed that archaisms have undergone change not only lexically but also semantically — that is, many words (for example, sensible, want, fancy) were used in a different sense in that era, whereas today their meaning is understood quite differently. This, in turn, creates significant difficulties in reading and translating classical works.

In conclusion, archaic words represent the living history of a language; through them one can study the social and cultural environment, values, and worldview of a particular era. Studying them in scholarly depth is of great importance not only for linguistics but also for literary studies and translation studies. In future research it would be appropriate to further analyze the stylistic functions of archaisms in modern English, as well as the strategies used for translating them into other languages.

References

1. Baugh, A.C., Cable, T. A History of the English Language. — 6th ed. — London: Routledge, 2013.
2. Crystal, D. The Stories of English. — London: Penguin Books, 2004.

3. Blake, N.F. Shakespeare's Language: An Introduction. — Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002.
4. Görlach, M. Introduction to Early Modern English. — Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.
5. Copeland, E., McMaster, J. (eds.) The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen. — Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
6. Glen, H. (ed.) The Cambridge Companion to the Brontës. — Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
7. Oxford English Dictionary (OED). — Oxford: Oxford University Press.
8. Austen, J. Pride and Prejudice. — London: Penguin Classics, 2003.
9. Brontë, C. Jane Eyre. — London: Penguin Classics, 2006.
10. Rasulov, R. Ingliz tili tarixi [History of the English Language]. — Tashkent: O'zbekiston, 2015.