

FAN, TA'LIM, TEXNOLOGIYA VA ISHLAB CHIQARISH
INTEGRATSIYASI ASOSIDA RIVOJLANISH ISTIQBOLLARI
NOMLI III ILMYI ONLAYN KONFERENSIYA

THE HISTORICAL PERIODS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

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Abstract. This article focuses on the history of the English language, its origin and the periods of the development. The English language has gone through distinct periods throughout its history. The Latin and Scandinavian languages influenced on the English language. Different aspects of the language have changed throughout time, such as grammar, vocabulary, spelling. There are several periods of the development of the English language: old, middle and modern English periods. This article highlights all of these periods. The literary works of these periods are also explored in this article.

Key words: The English language, periods, history, development, Old English, Middle English, Modern English.

Introduction

Today, English is spoken by an estimated 1.5 billion people around the world, making it one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. English is also the language of international communication and is used in business, education, and tourism. English is the West Germanic language originated from the Ingvaemonic language that is considered as the dominating language of the United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia and many more countries. The “English language” has a heritage value as the language belongs to the German language family. The earliest forms of English were spoken by the Anglo-Saxons, who lived in England in the 5th century. The Anglo-Saxons were Germanic tribes from Scandinavia and Germany. They brought with them their own language named Old English. German, Dutch and Frisian are closely related to West Germanic language in English. History of “English language” is divided into some segments such as: “Old English”, “Middle English” and “Modern English” periods.

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Main part

There are three main divisions in the history of the English language:

The Old English period (5th-11th centuries);

Middle English period (11th-15th centuries);

Modern English period (16th century to present).

The Old English period began in 449 AD with the settlement of three Germanic tribes: the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes. They settled in the south and east of Britain. The Anglo-Saxons had their own language, called Old English, which was spoken from around the 5th century to the 11th century. This is the oldest variant of “English language” in literature. The age of “English language” is nearly about 1600 years.

Old English grammar had a complex system, with five main cases (nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, instrumental), three genders (masculine, feminine, and neuter), and two numbers (singular and plural). The most famous examples of Old English literature is the epic poem Beowulf, which was written sometime between the 8th and 11th centuries. “Beowulf” is one of the oldest and longest Germanic epics.

The Old English period ended in 1066 with the Norman Conquest. However, Old English continued to be spoken in some parts of England until the 12th century. After that, it was replaced by Middle English.

Middle English Period (1100-1500)

The second stage of the English language is the Middle English period, which was spoken from around the 12th century to the late 15th century. As mentioned above, Middle English was spoken after the Norman Conquest of 1066, when the Normans conquered England. The development of “English language” considering the Middle English period development has been followed by the arrival of Norman French in Britain along with the impact of Old Norse on the “English language” has focused in this period of time. As a result of the Norman Conquest, French became the language of the ruling class, while English was spoken by the lower classes. This led to a number of changes in the English language, including a reduction in the number of inflections and grammatical rules.

Middle English is often divided into two periods: Early Middle English (11th-13th centuries) and Late Middle English (14th-15th centuries). The Early Middle English period began in 1066 with the Norman Conquest and was greatly influenced by French, as the Normans brought with them many French words

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that began to replace their Old English equivalents. The most noticeable changes were in the vocabulary of law and government. Many Old English words related to these domains were replaced by their French equivalents. For example, the Old English word for a king was *cyning* or *cyng*, which was replaced by the Norman word we use today, *king*. The Norman Conquest also changed the grammar of Old English. The inflectional system began to break down, and words started to lose their endings.

The Late Middle English period began in the 14th century and continued until the 15th century. During this period, the English language was further influenced by French. One of the most famous literary work of Middle English literature is *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer, which was written in the late 14th century. Chaucer was the first major writer in English, and he helped to standardize the language. For this reason, Middle English is also frequently referred to as Chaucerian English. The 12th to 15th century has been covered up with the Middle English era and “*The Canterbury Tales*” by Geoffrey Chaucer has become a significant symbol of Middle English literature. French influence can also be seen in the vocabulary, with many French loanwords which were introduced into English during this time. Middle English was also influenced by the spread of Christianity, with many religious terms which were borrowed from Latin.

Modern English Period (1500-present)

After Old and Middle English comes the third stage of the English language, known as Modern English, which began in the 16th century and continues to the present day. The Early Modern English period, or Early New English, was spoken after the use of the printing press in England in 1476, which meant that books could be mass-produced, and more people learned to read and write. As a result, the standardization of English continued. The Renaissance (14th-17th centuries) period had a significant impact on English literature. During this time, the English language borrowed many Greek and Latin words.

The King James Bible, which was first published in 1611, also had a significant impact on the development of Early Modern English. The Bible was translated into English from Latin and Greek, introducing many new words into the language.

The British Empire (16th-20th centuries) had a significant impact on the English language. English became the language of commerce, science, and politics, and was spoken around the world by British colonists. This led to the development of many different varieties of English, known as dialects. The revolution of

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English literature in the “modern English era” has been followed by William Shakespeare, the father of modern English. One of the most famous examples of Early Modern English literature is William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*, which was first performed in 1597. To this day, William Shakespeare is considered the greatest writer in the English language.

The final stage of the English language is called as Modern English, which has been spoken from around the 19th century to the present day. Modern English has its roots in Early Modern English, but it has undergone several changes since then. The most significant change occurred in the 20th century, with the introduction of mass media and technology. For example, new words have been created to keep up with changing technology, and old words have fallen out of use. However, the core grammar and vocabulary of the language have remained relatively stable.

Conclusion

To sum up, English is the most widespread language in the world with significant number of speakers in almost all the countries and several aspects of the English language have changed throughout the history, such as grammar, vocabulary, spelling in the development of the English language. There are several periods of the English language: old, middle and modern English periods. The earliest period of English was known as Old English, which was spoken until around the 11th century. Middle English emerged after the Norman Conquest of 1066, and it was spoken until the late 15th century. Modern English began to develop in the 16th century, and it has continued to evolve since then. Standardization of the English language has been started by the arrival of the Modern English era. William Shakespeare is considered as the father of “Modern English literature”. The lexicon of English language is a mixture of Germanic (Old English and Scandinavian), Greek, Latin and French languages.

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