

Evolution of English Language from Anglo-Saxon to Post-Modern Times

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Abstract

The stages or the periods of the English literature have several transitions regarding the development of the English language from the old period to the modern period of the literature. The revolution is the development journey of every period of English literature including novels, poetry, prose, theatres, and many others. There were the gradual transitions of imaginative freedom and the exuberant gaiety of renaissance to artificial cheer. The periods are not so much exclusive and absolute in their timeframes and they often overlap. These phases were characterized by certain literary movements and literary figures of English literature. The English language has become the most spoken language globally and it is spoken around 90 countries as the official language or the semi-official language. It is believed that in the world over a billion people are learning English currently and it is the most remarkable thing and aspect that the spread of the English language globally has been the extent in every part of the countries. The increase in the development of the English language helps in communicating to the people in other parts of the countries, easy to travel, developing the television and radio sector as there are different types of English language is mixed. The new and innovative words have been borrowed from different countries such as German, French, Arabic, Nepali, even Spanish for hanging and developing and by these thousands of new innovative words are arriving every month and every year. By this, the English language and the English literature is going on developing day by day and upgrading.

Keywords

Africa, Dutch, Greek, Literature, modernization, Sanskrit.

INTRODUCTION

In the history of the English language, there are three periods which are divided for the discussion of evolution and they are the old period, middle period and the modern period. The old period of the English language is the arrival of the settlers from West Germanic in southern Britain and they brought the varieties which can produce modern Dutch, Frisian and German languages. According to [9] (2018), there is the grammatical change that occurred in the 11th century and 14th century in the middle period as it also changed the syllabus of pronunciation occurring mainly at the end of the words. The modern period of English is regarded as the introduction of the printing of books at the end of the 15th century that developed a variety of the English language.

In the current scenario, the English language is the most essential part globally and this language continues by changing in all the linguistic levels that are both in the varieties of non-standard and standard in respect to the modern technologies of communication and contact with the other languages of the world. This research aims to figure out the evolution of the English language from old times to post-modern times.

ORIGIN OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

English language is the language of West Germanic and is mainly originated from England, it is the language dominant in the United Kingdom, united states, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia and many other island nations of the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea. According to [3] (2021), English is also

the official language of the Philippines, India, Singapore and various sub-African countries, including South Africa. It is chosen as the first foreign language in most of the countries globally and it is positioned as the language of the global accent. The English language belongs to the family of Indo-European language and it is related to most spoken languages in western Asia from India to Iceland and Europe. According to [8] (2021), modern English is fully uninflected and the words of the English language are being slowly simplified from the various forms that are found in the Greek, Sanskrit, Latin, German and Russian languages.

The English language has two different types of basic characteristics; they are vocabulary openness and flexibility. According to [3] (2021), flexibility has been growing for the last few centuries and the words differentiated by verbs or nouns are formally distinguished in the forms and now they are used as verbs and nouns often. Vocabulary openness implies both in the admission of the words from the other language and creating new derivatives and compounds.

Three phases of English language

The history of the English language has occurred in three stages and they are:

1. **Old English** language that is influenced by the German tribes from 450 AD
2. The **middle English** language is developed in the influence of French after 1066 AD
3. The **modern English** language was developed around 1500 AD and is spoken nowadays.

The old English is derived from Denmark, Germany and three tribes of Germany such as Saxons, Jutes and Angles. Through these years, the tribes of Germany are mixed with

different their Germanic dialects and these groups of dialects refer to linguistics as the Anglo-Saxon or Old English.

The Middle English language started developing from 1066 AD and the French started ruling this language class. By 1200 AD, there was a change in the language as it was the most spoken language instead of writing for 300 years and again the use of the old English language came back but adding up with various French words ([5], 2020). The modern English language started developing in 1500 AD and it was started by the process of printing books, the book that was printed first became the first retailer of the printed books. Printing Press was invented and these books were printed that were available for more people as the books were cheaper and many people read to learn.

METHODOLOGY

The research has its different characteristics and it is defined as its success to the way of the completion of the research. This research needs a perfect design, approach and philosophy for completing it and the *secondary qualitative* type of data has been collected for this study. During the revolution of the industries in England, some technical words which are now entered into the English language as the creation of the inventors with various machinery and products. The language continues to develop and change with thousands of new words that are arriving every month, every year but also with the borrowing of the new words from various countries, the English remain the same as the Anglo-Saxon of the old English language ([2], 2017). The English grammar is also Germanic, that is the three genders (she, he and it) and the set of simple verb tenses.

FINDING AND ANALYSIS

Given below Figure1, describes the total revolution of the English language starting from the old English language that is in 450 AD to the late modern English language that is in the 1900 AD or at the present. The English language has gradually upgraded day by day with formations of the new words including the nouns, verbs and borrowing from the other languages from the different countries ([1], 2020). The literature section is the reflection of the society as several changes have occurred in the society of the English language, from the earlier period to the modern period, which has marked a sign in the English literature. There are different periods in English literature that are fully appreciated with the simultaneous knowledge and skills of political history and English society ([7]. 2019). The up-gradation of English literature covers almost five centuries or more, that includes the contribution of the writers, the styles of their writing in most of the genres, across various periods.

Table 1: Revolution of English Language

Key Dates	Periods of the English Language
450-1150	Old English
1150-1500	Middle English
1500-1700	Early Modern English

Key Dates	Periods of the English Language
1700-1900	Modern English
1900-present	Late Modern English

(Source: [10], 2019)

The Middle English language resulted in the modification of the Anglo-Saxon dialects that were spoken in 1066 AD and at that time the English literature has a rank among all the famous works based on modernization of the English literature. This century was also witnessed by the poetic talents of Scotland and the prose of this period of English literature used in travel literature, romance and many others. It was the century and the age of miracle, morality plays and medieval drama with ballads and popular lyrics ([12], 2021). The late century of Middle English is stimulated by the replacement of the English from French courtly literature including the cyclic and religious drama, romances and ballads. The early modern period of the English language was the time of development of English literature as the period marked a commercial expansion, changing the outlook with the growth of the nationalist feeling. According to [6] (2020), the development of the English language has an enormous effect across the world. From the old English language to the post-English language they reached to all concerns to the various countries as the people are interacting with their neighbours, natives and some new innovative words are added to the vocabulary skills of the English language.

Two Elements in Modern English

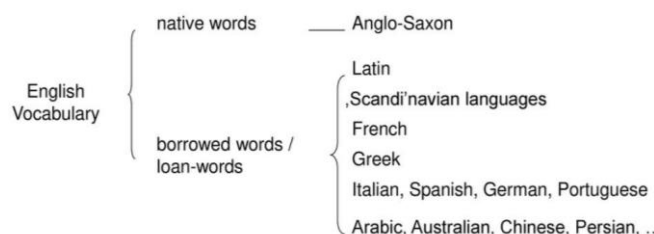


Figure 1: Element borrowing from modern English
(Source: [4], 2021)

It was the greatest age of English literature, especially in the drama sections because of the remarkable writers like Marlowe, Shakespeare, Johnson, Bacon and Spencer. According to [4] (2021), this was the rich period of English literature as various patterns and themes carried out from the previous ages gave a beginning to the growth of the modernization of English literature given in Figure 3. Coming to modern English literature, this was a romantic period as the writers of this period are varied and there are many but all of them tend to give some features that are common which was part of the romantic atmosphere of English literature. There was a fast development and contributions of the literary magazines which was the landmark of this age and in this age, many romantic writers like Wordsworth, Blake, Southey and many others died at a young age. The novels that are realistic and psychological

have introduced the subtle part of the novel to view it, the refined and reserved characters and the delicacies intangible to the motives. According to [11] (2017), these things have not been attempted in any other English novel and the modern novel writers employed the technique of consciousness and this technique also helped the novel writers to reveal all the characters fully and completely that develop the main characters. The novel writers were too frank and free to write about sexual matters besides being psychological and realistic.

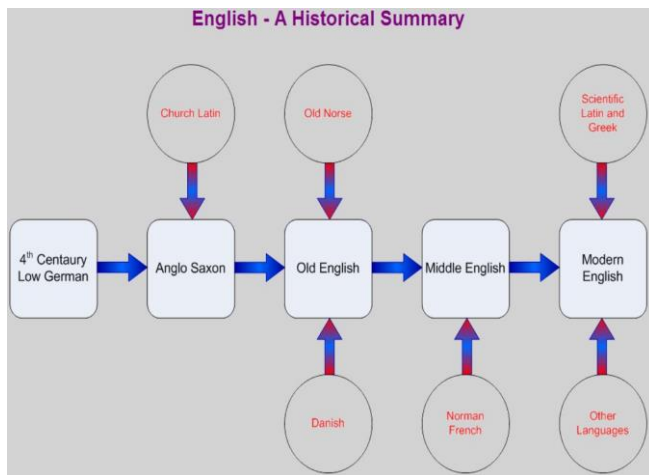


Figure 2: Origin of the English Language
(Source: [11], 2017)

Now coming to the last period of the development of English literature, the most typical feature in this century of English literature is the experimental quality of the literature that is thought to be in the living condition of the new modernized world. The technical innovations that took place in all the three genres broke away from all the traditions of this century in theatres and poetry, breaking all the conventions and all the old forms. The tendency of dominating the English literature from 1945 having irony, favouring the clarity, scepticism and the no-nonsense tone that is evident in the work of the poets is following now. The adverse reaction is against philosophical and aesthetic radicalism in the favour of reassertion of the traditional modes of expression. There is the power of the dramas or the English theatres in 1950 that took the shape of kitchen-sink drama that deals with the social conflict and working-class life.

CONCLUSION

English literature has been explored successfully in the psychological and social realities of the conditions of humans across the various phases of development. The English literature is fully characterized by continuing the interest in the experimental techniques and the assimilation of the other literature and disciplines. The writers of modern English literature continue to reinvent, produce remarkable works, reformulate, and phenomenon pool simultaneously adding them to the miscellaneous. The English literature mainly includes reality-based stories that are having realistic themes

and strong characters, in this era the poetries and the novels are having the themes of racism, wars, family, identity search for goodness in humanity and home. The evolution that has occurred in English literature is the successful journey in the development and array of remarkable compositions.

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