Riassunti di inglese del libro Aspects.

**Old English:**

The English language didn't originate in England but came from areas that are now Germany and Denmark. Tribes like the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes invaded Britain in the 5th century, and their language developed into Old English, spoken from 450 to 1100 AD. About half of the words we use today come from Old English.

**Old Norse:**

In the 8th century, Vikings from Denmark arrived, bringing words we use today like "th-", "fog," and "skull."

**Latin:**

The Roman invasion in 43 AD and the spread of Christianity in the 6th and 7th centuries brought many Latin words into English, especially for religious and educational terms.

**Middle English:**

In 1066, William the Conqueror invaded Britain, and French became the language of the ruling classes. This mix of French, Latin, and Old English was called Middle English, spoken until about 1500.

**Early Modern English:**

During the 16th century, people started traveling much more. The British came into contact with people from all around the world, and more and more words filtered into the language. The printing of books brought a standard spelling and grammar to a language that previously had many variations. This language is called Early Modern English. Over the centuries, the language has evolved and developed with thousands of new words coming from many different languages.

**The Spread of the English Language:**

**Why English?**

Despite being a small island, Britain managed to spread its mixed-up language across the world through colonization. British colonization introduced English to places like North America, the Caribbean, Australia, New Zealand, parts of Africa, India, and Southeast Asia. By the early 20th century, Britain controlled over a quarter of the globe, establishing English-speaking governments and industries worldwide.

After World War II, the USA emerged as a new superpower in economic, political, and military spheres, further spreading English through international communication, business, and technology. Today, English continues to be the universal business language and the language of technology.

**Esperanto or Globish?**

Esperanto is an artificial language created in 1887 to solve the international language problem. It has an easy grammar structure but is spoken by few people today.

Globish is a simplified version of English, consisting of 1,500 words and basic grammar, designed to help non-native speakers communicate more easily.

**Accents and Dialects:**

**Accents and Dialects in the UK:**

Depending on where you live, you might have a regional accent or dialect. For example, people in the south of England often speak differently from people in the north. Scotland also has its distinct accent and dialect.

**English vs. American:**

In the UK, there are many different accents and dialects. The USA also has regional accents, but British and American English differ in other ways too. For example, in the UK, we use the present perfect tense to talk about a past action that is important now, while Americans often use the past simple tense. Vocabulary differences also exist; for instance, in the UK, "holiday" is "vacation" in American English, and "pants" means "underwear" in the UK but "trousers" in the USA. However, British and American people understand each other most of the time.

**British Colonialism:**

The United States of America: The British established their first permanent settlement in North America in 1607. Over the following centuries, more colonies were founded. The American colonies declared independence in 1776, forming the United States of America.

**Bermuda:**

Bermuda was discovered by the British in 1609 and became a British colony. It served as a strategic naval base for the British.

**Australia:**

Captain James Cook claimed the east coast of Australia for Britain in 1770. In 1788, the British established their first penal colony there, where they sent convicts to live.

**The Downside of Colonization:**

The downside of colonization is also the theme of the film "Australia" (2008). It tells the story of an English aristocrat who inherits a cattle station in northern Australia just before World War II. She meets a local man and they experience the struggles of the Australian Aborigines as they try to save the station.

**The Age of Empire:**

The period between 1815 and 1924 was a time of great expansion and growth for the British Empire. It grew to be the largest empire ever known. However, most countries eventually gained independence but united into a new organization: the Commonwealth (56 independent states). The Commonwealth is an international association of former British Empire members, formally constituted by the London Declaration in 1949. The head of the Commonwealth is Charles III, who is the king in 15 member states. All these states cooperate and, to some extent, depend on the UK economically and financially.

**Icons and Institutions:**

**Posh and Becks:**

Victoria Beckham, a model, fashion designer, and ex-Spice Girl, and her husband David Beckham, a former footballer, are famous British icons known as "Posh and Becks." They are worth millions and have humble beginnings. They are also known for their charity work.

**The British Bobby:**

"Bobby" is a nickname for a British policeman, named after Sir Robert 'Bobby' Peel, the founder of the modern police force. Traditionally unarmed, British police carry a short wooden truncheon and are trusted and respected by the public.

**The Queen:**

Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne in 1951 at the age of 25. She is loved and respected for her dignity and seriousness, and she has a sense of fun, as shown by her participation in the 2012 Olympic ceremony with James Bond (Daniel Craig).

**Tea:**

One of the most famous institutions in Britain is the cup of tea. In fact, tea is definitely the national drink. Britain is the only place in the world where you can be certain of being offered tea more than once on a social visit. It’s the first thing a British person will do when you visit them at home. Tea has been a popular drink since the 17th century. Today the average Brit drinks four cups a day. Tea is served between 4 or 5 pm with milk, coffee, sandwiches, and scones. Scones are small cakes of Scottish origin, often served with cream, clotted cream, or jam, and sometimes cranberry jam.

**Magna Carta: Not Just a Document**

**What Is Magna Carta?**

Magna Carta, meaning "the Great Charter," is a medieval document issued by King John of England in 1215. It established that everybody, including the King himself, was subject to the law. It is considered one of the most important documents in the history of democracy and is a guarantee of individual freedom.

**Why Was It Created?**

King John was an unpopular king who was constantly at war with France and imposed heavy taxes on the barons. The situation escalated, leading to the barons rebelling against King John. The two sides met at Runnymede, and on 15 June 1215, Magna Carta was signed.

**What Does It Say?**

Magna Carta is often referred to as the foundation of democracy, though it initially applied to a small proportion of the population. It contained 63 clauses dealing with various issues, including the rights of the King, the ownership of land, taxation, and the justice system. It established that everyone is equal before the law.

**The Legacy of Magna Carta**

Magna Carta installed the Rule of Law, the idea that all men are equal before the law, in English society. It limited the power of authoritarian rule and cleared the way for trial by jury. Its ideas were central to the American Declaration of Independence and Constitution, and its legacy is seen in the 1948 UN Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention of Human Rights. Where Magna Carta's basic principles are denied, loss of liberty and human rights follows. Democratic societies the world over have been constructed on its principles