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The French Phonetic Impact on English

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Abstract

The Normandy conquest to England represented a shift in power from the Anglo-Saxon into French or Norman possession. It sheds great effects on people's life. This shift undoubtedly made a great influence or impact on English in considering that languages are channels for the interaction of cultures and habits. Hence, English was influenced by Latin descendants which reflected by Old French, Old Norse and later the Anglo-Norman variety. This paper tackles French phonetic impact on English which made crucial changes in each spelling and pronunciation by which English shifted from old to middle era. Moreover, by French conventions, some consonants and their literary representations were added to English by loanwords. Vowels were reduced, lengthened or diphthongized by certain processes or phonetic environments. The modifications and merges appeared in the Middle English phonemes were nearly the main inputs for Present- Day English.

Key words: Middle English, orthography, adaptation, French, grapheme, phoneme.

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التأثير الصوتي الفرنسي على اللغة الانكليزية

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المستخلص:

غزو نورماندي لإنجلترا مثل تحولاً في السلطة من الأنجلو - سكسونية إلى الملكية الفرنسية أو النورماندية ، فقد ألقى بآثار كبيرة على حياة الناس. كان لهذا التحول بلا شك تأثير كبير على اللغة الإنجليزية في اعتبار أن اللغات هي قنوات للتفاعل بين الثقافات والعادات. ومن ثم ، تأثرت اللغة الإنجليزية باللغات التي تنحدر من اللاتينية تعكسها اللغة الفرنسية القديمة والإسكندنافية القديمة ولاحقاً مجموعة الأنجلو نورمان. تتناول هذه الدراسة التأثير الصوتي الفرنسي على اللغة الإنجليزية والذي أدى إلى تغييرات مميزة على كل من البنية الحرفية والنطق حيث من خلالهما انتقلت اللغة الإنجليزية من العصور القديمة إلى العصور الوسطى. علاوة على ذلك ، من خلال العادات اللغوية الفرنسية ، تمت إضافة بعض الحروف الصحيحة ورموزها الحرفية إلى اللغة الإنجليزية عن طريق الكلمات المستعارة. تم تقليل أحرف العلة أو إطالتها أو إضعافها من خلال بعض الحالات النطقية أو بيئات صوتية معينة. كانت ظواهر التعديلات والدمج التي ظهرت في اصوات الإنجليزية الوسطى تقريباً المدخلات الرئيسية للغة الإنجليزية الحالية.

الكلمات الدالة: الانكليزية الوسطى، الاملاء، التكيف، اللغة الفرنسية، الرمز الحرفي، الفونيم.

List of symbols and Abbreviations

AL	Anglo-Latin
AN	Anglo-Norman
F.	French
ModE	Modern English
EME	Early Middle English
EModE	Early modern English
OE	Old English
OF	Old French
L	Latin
PDE	Present-Day English
NF	Norman French

< >	Orthographic representation
□	Alternates with
≈	Approximately the same as
<	Previous stage / the input of a change
>	Next diachronic stage / the output of a change.
[]	Phonetic Representation

1- Introduction

From 1042 onwards, Norman-French was being spoken in English court while common people could not be affected; they kept speaking their native language. French remained the court language for officials and had a special social status. Gradually the two languages English and French mixed together to give what is called Middle English. In other terms it yielded what is known as Anglo-French tongue form which English descended (Smith, 2019:19). There are two dates which truly mark the major turning point in the influence of French on English after 1066. The first is at 1204 when king Philips of France seized the Norman estates barons whose allegiance was king John of England and imposed on them to choose between France and England. The second date is at 1348 when the Black Death began to sweep across England and it probably accelerated many social changes for some years. Before 1024 the dialect of Normandy was the prestigious variety for those in England who kept close contact with their fellow countrymen .To sum up the influence of French on English, the followings are clearly to be possible outcomes(William, 1975: 83):

- 1- Norman French was spoken by a vast majority of French invaders and colonists.
- 2- After 1100, Norman French was practiced and spoken by most upper class and native Englishmen.
- 3- It was also the language of that middle –class commercial Englishmen who dealt with the Normans in the trading matters.
- 4- It also became the official language of middle-class management personal on the large estates who were under service of French lords as supervisors of English serfs.

Since the political reins of Britain passed into the hands of Norman landlords, upper clergy and administrative officers, this remarkable influence maintained strong cultural and linguistic ties. And people, who had access to writing and leisure to engage in any literary activity, actually had little or no English. In other words, English was no longer the primary language of record nor the language of upper-class literary entertainment, learning, law or administration. These activities were carried out either by Latin or Anglo-Norman. AN was considered as a variety of Old French which was spoken in England from the time of the conquest to approximately the middle of fiftieth century (Minkova, 2014: 10). Active political and cultural contacts with Continent in the fourteenth century assured that French continued to be the language of prestige and

culture. By that time, there were two types of French in England home-grown Anglo-Norman vernacular and Old French which were both development of vernacular Latin (ibid: 12).

The transition from OE to EME nearly occurred in 11th century. According to this crucial transition, English became colored with Latin words throw French or the standard NF that added to English words like: royal, regal, warden, and guardian (Qreshat, 2019: 186). Speakers of English who were educated and had leisure to be participants in literary or scribal activates, were often proficient in AN and L. Their social status and continental literary traditions created conditions for lexical borrowing. By the end of ME era, French or Romance borrowings that survived in the language of documents, the absorption of new vocabulary proceeded with important phonological changes in the native lexicon, attritions and the loss of final unstressed vowels. Respectively borrowing and internal changes rendered cases for introducing new prosodic template which is known as the Romance stress rules that are controlled by a different set of constrains (Kemenade and Los, 2006 : 112-113).

2. French Phonetic Evidence

In language contract phenomena which includes borrowing and that is considered as an impact over languages, there is a possibility of non-linguistic factors crossing phonology and should be put into consideration. Borrowing might be resultant of an emotionally changed social issues, social constraints and pressures that may have an impact on the phonological level. Thus in some situation adapting a language sound system may be insulting or obligatory (Goldsmith and et-al , 2019: 754). However, sounds change begin in a one spreading and merging with other forms or modifications even sometimes interrupted by irregularities. In addition to geographical dialects, there are sounds and specific pronunciations that spread within a social class and spread to another. Another complication is that speakers of particular social classes within specific geographical dialect vary their pronunciation according to their social context where they find themselves in (William 1975: 334).

In favor of borrowing influence, Learned (1992: 709) testifies that:

“The appearance of a French word in an English document at a certain date does not prove that it was current among the unlettered populace at that date; while the phonetic development recorded in a document is evidence that the word was so current, because phonetic developments being usually at the bottom of the social order and take a long time to take recognition in writing.”

Consequently, the following fields of words were borrowed from French during the 19th century (Smitha N. , 2019 :50):

- 1- Words related to food like: restaurant, menu, chef, fondant...etc.
- 2- Words which are involved in dressing or clothing such as: rosette, fichu, profile, and crepe.
- 3- Words that are related to literature and art as in: literature, cliché, prestige renaissance, baton, matinee, motif, macabre.
- 4- Diplomatic words like: attaché, prestige, impasse, charged, affairs, debacle, raison, d’etre and rapprochement.
- 5- Military words, as in: barrage, communiqué, chassis.

Such a consequence above and probably earlier, is supposed to be applied by nativization of those loans. Nativization in this respect, implements the models which propose that the process is brought about through the characterization of speech production in favor of phonological process. That is, adapter of a loanword or a segment start with underlying representation that contain the non-native element and probably

because they are bilingual. Then through repertoire, repairs are made to those non-native segments to avoid the production of marked or illicit segments (Calabrese and Wetzels, 2009: 68-69). Hence, the more evidence there is for a given constraint in favor of the number of items to which the constraint applies, the more confident phonologists can be to identify the shape of phonological constraint. A language reaction to loanword inputs containing foreign sound or structure gives the possibility to reveal a lot about the phonology of that language. In broader perspective, investigating loanwords adaptation is mostly significant that they give an ample room to the range of phonological constraints functioning (Goldsmith, 2011: 752).

3- French Influence on Orthography and Pronunciation.

Word-based typological patterns were considered as an important generalization in ME. So, derivational patterns like: -able can be found with words allow-able, understand-able, believe-able, chant-able, acy, -ate as in pirate-piracy, obstinate-cy and similarly the string (-ant -ancy) in sergeant sergeancy, innocent- innocency the later with (-ent-ncy) are all brought by French literacy. And the same consideration for -al which operates with -ic like accidental, societ-al, terrestr-ial (Kemenade and Los, 2006: 166-167).

Consequently writing of ME witnessed a great deal of experimentation like the scribes which attempt to represent or signify folks' native language including the entire historical repertoire. This repertoire was practiced through AF, AL or even OE conventions of literacy. Thus, spelling and choice of lexis and even syntax were all affected by such firstly, degree of inventiveness and secondly, texts transfers and rather their translation from F. L. or earlier forms of English (ibid: 423). The evolution of F. loanwords in ME, whether they were rhymed with OE roots or being independent for example stems ending with (-oune), (-ues), (-aile),(-ent) and others, testifying brought new processes of articulations or in rather particular term rendered copying phonemicizations added to ME phonemes (Mevis, 2019:81).

3.1 Spelling

For a century after 1066, written English continued to be used for occasional official purposes after spoken F. had been widely used instead of English as the real language of everyday government and law. In the thirteenth century written, F. began to replace L. as the official language of characters, deeds, wills, and so on. The influential significance of spoken and written NF had rendered a linguistic criterion for upper- middle class membership. Thus, bilingual Normans started to look for words that are associated with government, culture and entertainment, would prefer to use F. words in their English speech (William, 1975: 84). Simultaneously, the Norman scribes disregarded traditional OE spelling and simply spelled language as they heard it. Instead, they use NF conventions that made many changes ought to emerge in English spelling. (Barber and e-tal, 2000:161).

According to Mosse (1952:7), the English scribes after the Norman Conquest continued to use the following letters:

- a, æ, b, c, d, e, f, ȝ, h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, þ, ð, u, v, x, y

But later the phonetic value of a certain number of these letters, digraphs and trigraphs as they were combined in words, changed by some additions and modifications according to F. conventions. By the end of fourteenth century the above alphabet became:

a, b, d, e, f, g, (ȝ), h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, (þ), u, v, w, x, y, z

In respect to F. generalized procedure of coping English manuscripts, there were some letters added and some disappeared. For the sake of this practice, the letter <u> was introduced to refer [ü] which OE scribe wrote with the letter <y>. Accordingly they spelled sunne (sin) (OE synn), murþ (mirth). The letter <y> was preserved to be a variant for <i>. The letter <o> was introduced to represent the sound [u] in combination of letters like m, n, u, v, w, as in comen (to come), sonne (sun), luve (love). As for the constant [ʃ], AN scribe used s(srive) or ss(ssipe). Then -sch and finally -sh as in (shrive). Such innovated model in spelling, introduced digraphs like ch- and sh- where the letter h had only a diacritical value as in -gh which represented [ç] (ibid: 10-11).

The OE letter (æ) that distinguished the front vowel /æ/ from the back vowel [a] was ceased to be used in ME and was replaced by the French letter <a> (Freeborn, 1998:108). Digraphs or trigraphs like <-sch> and <-ssh> were introduced by the F. literacy to refer to the sound of /ʃ/ (ibid : 109). Moreover, NF customs introduced some other digraphs in writing System of ME like ch, ph and th (Alego, 2010:41). The digraph <-th>, replaced OE letter þ and ð. (ibid: 116). [w] The first sound represented in <w> in words like 'wet' was written with a runic German symbol called <wynn>. After the French Conquest it was undoubtedly replaced by northern F. letters <uu> or <w> (Culpeper, 2005: 19).

There are many oddities of English spelling introduced in ME scribes and were adapted in English to fit F. spelling conventions, they can be illustrated in the following points (ibid:21):

- 1- The digraph <sh> that replaced OE (sc) as in: scrip 'ship'.
- 2- <gh> instead of (h) in a word of OE with 'right'.
- 3- <ch> in a word like OE cin 'chin'.
- 4- <wh> replaced OE <hw> in OE hwat 'waht'.
- 5- <qu> used instead of OE <cw> as in cwen 'queen'.
- 6- The digraph <ou> or <ow> replaced <u> as in hus 'house' and nu 'now' as it is compared to the pronunciation of the F. word 'vous'. The value [u:] represented by <ou> was clearly borrowed from the AN conventions (Minkova, 2014: 191).

The spellings of OE <y> with <u> that suggests the maintenance of front rounded vowels are the features of texts which originated in the West Midlands. It is commonly held that they descend from OE front vowels. The [y] and [y:] realization were imposed by F. loans phonemes (ibid: 193).

Back to history again, in the late OE <c> generally represented [k] and [ts] as cild (child), cēon (choose) and cū (cow). The sound change distributed this pattern by the effect of L. and the F. and [k] began to appear before front and back vowel as in cynng (king), cēne (keen). The letter <k> was rarely used in Anglo-Saxon old scripts, but it became much more widespread after the Norman Conquest. Consequently <k> began to represent the sound [k] in environments of following front vowels while <c> was retained before consonants and back vowels. As for the Northern French varieties, <c> was manipulated to represent two sounds [ts] and [k]. In the EME <c> sometimes represented the OE <ts> like milce (mercy) or (miltse). By the end of thirteenth century, [ts] was changed to [s] by F. and this change made <c> and <s> as alternative graphs corresponding to the spoken [s] by F. loans the letter <c> was not only taken from F. loans but also found in native forms such as 'mice' OE <mȳs>. The digraph <cw> was replaced by <qu, qw> as they are common PDE and F. alike, for instance: cwēn (queen), and cwic (quick) (Harbin and Smith, 2002: 60-61).

As for the letters <z> and <3> they were used in F. scripts from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. <3> seems to have more realizations at that time and usually replaced by <z> (ibid). On the other hand <w> was somehow confused with <y>. ME

scripts adopted various methods to differentiate the letters, for example using diacritical value over <y>, but eventually the F.<w> was the dominant one over such variations (ibid: 63). As new input or rather innovative literacy, the letters <q, k, x, z> were rarely used in OE. Then they became part of the regular inventory of spelling for the consonantal letters in some scripts of ME (Minikova, 2014:21).

The vowel representation orthography was somehow complicated with existence of foreign varieties like OF, AN and L. For instance, the digraph <ae> seen in L. words was borrowed in ME and EME. In certain phonetic environments, a stressed L. /a/ which spelt <a> became OF <ai> and leading to <ai>. As a result of F., this digraph entered ME which was later altered to /ɛɪ/ and consequently respelled in OF as <ei> as in grein <grain>. In some cases of EMDE, <-air> changed to the modern <-are>. This process was brought through L>OF >ME as in L. declarare >OF desclaireir>ME declair >declare. Another development of the L.. Letter <a> that turned into <ei> and <ey> as in L. foranus> OF forain> ME forayn/ foreyn and to PDE foreign. As ME considered the chain between L and OF, OF is the channel through which sequence like -ay is brought to ME in such a development: OF paie > ME paye > pay (Upward and Davidson, 2011:90).

The grapheme <w> and digraphs like <ou> and <oi> which later originated diphthongs like /ɔɪ/ and /aʊ/, were brought to English by F. conventions (Kruitbosch, 2018: 10). The digraph <ie> used in OE was not so clear. Later in the thirteenth century, it was one of the digraphs adopted in spelling according to F. loanwords conventions and hence represented long vowels like [e:] as in: OF bref > ME brief > PDE brief. In some other cases the digraph <eo> which used in OE, later was respelled by <ie> to represent [e:]. For example: OE freond > PDE friend (ibid: 15-16). While the digraph <ea> came to be known in English by the influence of both L. and F. . It represented the diphthong /æa/ which later was monophthongized to [æ:]. The digraph <ea> was used in ME scripts to represent <æ> of OE and the vowel [æ] which later transmitted to [ɛ:] and brought about by F. influence too (ibid: 19).

Speaking of derivatives, L. words which were either recycled in AN or not, they added some derivational suffixes represented by the following examples:

- Redeem → redemption
- Resume → resumption
- Deduce → deductive

Such process added more reinforcement to regularities inside English morphology (minkova, 2014: 218). Some surviving sequences like (-aun) and (-an) in words like: lance, lancier, gaunt, stance, gaunt, baunt, laundry, saunter, they were all rivalry between North OF and AN (ibid: 241). Hence, some derivatives of PDE were originated from the borrowing of F.. Speaking of which, they created an influential regularity in English morphology like adverbials and adjectives that end with (-ly) like: commonly, courteously, eagerly, feebly, fiercely, justly peacefully ... etc. Added to that, F. evolved many hybrid forms represented by: (F.root+ English prefix or suffix) like: chasthead (chastity), lecherness, debonairiship, poorness, spusbruche (spousebreach, adultery), becatch, ungracious (C.Baughand Gable, 2002: 166).

Norman scribes normally chose <e> or <ee> to represent words with an original /æ/ which is in fact suggests that form these two strings of vowels /æ/ moved to /ē/. As a result, words spelling with <e> or <ee> in ME were pronounced into two ways: /ē/ if they are derived from original <ē> words or from lengthened /i/ words as in ME spede /spēd/ PDE (speed) (William, 1975:338). The dialectal distribution of the loss of final (-e) in OE was encouraged by the contact with ON (Smith, 1996: 72).

Although changings in spelling were caused by the influence by F. and Norman F. orthographic conventions, it resulted in a lot of confusion in spelling and consequently ME lost some of its phonetic habits. F. scribes manifested some of their own methods of spelling without any corresponding changes in pronunciation. Thus, the sound /u/ came to be represented by the string <ou> and long /o/ by <oo> as in *hus*> *house*, and *god*> *good* (Smitha N, 2019: 21). Considerably orthography is the most influential factor that mostly led to adaptation of loanwords in languages. There are two main ways by which orthography impacts. Firstly, some loanwords adaptations are clearly carried out by reading method. That is, they are pronounced as if they were native words. This can be felt with the F. word *cul- de- sac* which is adapted to [kʌldesæk] which is clearly modified according to English pronunciation. And secondly, there may be a certain amount of standardization or in other words shifting the source language graphemes to be pronounced according to the other language rules (Vendelin and Peperkamp, 2005: 997).

3.2 Consonantal representation

The transfer to ME via loanwords from F. introduced a minimal contrastive distinctiveness first between /f / and /v / (Horbin and Smith, 2002: 44). ME sound system from a variety accents which were found in Anglo-Saxon London were colored by ON and F. (ibid: 52). The phonemicization of voiced and voiceless fricative including /f /, /v /, /s /, /z / and /θ /, /ð / is supposed to be appeared in word – initially and final positions. This change was mainly introduced by F. impact as in words like: *five*, *vine*, *seal* /*zeal*/. N. also supplied certain constant cluster such as /sk/ as in *skyrte* /*skirt* /. This cluster was found in prehistoric record of OE but later turned into /ʃ / then the word became distinct from the old form *scuryte* (ibid: 53- 54).

Because of the Norman scribes which consistently respelled OE word with voiceless /h / as <gh > or <h > and often dropped the < g> that represented the spirant allophones of /g /, it is concluded that /h / is still present in PDE (William, 1975:413). In the late of (eleventh to fourteenth century) pre- consonantal [r] was assimilated with the consonants in the following words producing rhymes: *sage*; *large*, *fors*, *clos*, *ferme*: *messme*. Thus, English was in conflict with the functional factor of ease of articulation and with considering possible prestigious pronunciation of F. words. This can accounted to the diffusion and codification of [r] loss in EMdNE (Minkova,2014: 280).

The L. /k / and /g / before /a / became /tʃ / and /dʒ/ in central F. which later created [ʃ] and [ʒ], while /k / and /g / remained so in NF. This process created doublets (i.e pairs of words that are derived from the same stem) in English such as: *catch* <(NF *cashier*) and *chase* < (from the central F. *chasier* and PDF *chaser*) (Upward and Davidson,2011: 69). As a matter of approximation and inheritance, the voiced stops of F. [b], [d] and [g] are usually pronounced to be fully voiced in the same manner to that of English (Jensen,2004:10)

The PDE contains many words with mute <h > which can be originated to F. As for the rhotic /r / as mentioned earlier its loss accured in ME of 15th century (Bregs and Brinton, 2012: 592-593). The sequence of sounds /zj / gained their assimilation rule of loanwords: *vision*, *occasion* and *leisure* which later resulted into [ʒ]. Accordingly, the other clusters of sounds /sj /, /tj / and /dj / are also modified to present [ʃ], [tʃ] / and /dʒ/ (ibid: 594). Moreover (Kruitbosch,2018:10) claims that the phonemes /ð/ and /dʒ/ as independent elements were introduced by F. loanwords. As the illustration is still concerned with French- inspiring spelling conventions, it also brought the plural /ts / to English which was later modified to /s / as in *estaz* > *estats* (Mevis, 2019: 80). In some cases of assimilations in medial positions like n>m before f and p as in *confort*> ME

comfort, OF nonper> ME noumpere ‘umpire’, were adapted from F. loanwords (Mossè, 1952: 41). Some consotants were developed by the virtue of F. borrowings like the case of /t / that had been modified between /s / and /n / and after final /n / or /s /. This can be obvious in OF ancient> ME ancient, OF fesan> ME feaunt ‘pheasant’ and OF train> ME tyrant (ibid: 42). Added to that, (s) which referred to phonemes [s] and [z] in plural case was also adopted from OF. It was naturally identified with <-es> and later generalized to [s] as in ‘barons>ME barōuns (ibid: 53).

3.3 Long and Short vowels

It is likely to suppose that vowels got their contrast during ME with [ā] changed to /5/. It did not interrupt the vowels system in ME and their contrast, but when short vowels was lengthened before clusters like /-ld/ and /-mb/ in open syllables, ME regained /ā / from short /a / and creating a new contrast identified with the diacritical value this can be shown in the following table (William, 1975: 338):

OE	>	EME	>	ME
u/ ū		After the change of /ā/>/5/		u/ū
o/ ȝ		u/ ū		o/ȝ
a/ ā		o/ ȝ		/5
		a /ȝ		a/ā
		after the split of		
		/a />/ā/		

OF didn’t differentiate between short and long vowels, but< a> was sometimes given a long value perhaps under the influence of OE pronunciation conventions. Later /a:/ was diphthongized to [eɪ] during the great vowel shift as in blasme > blame and masle > male (Upward and Davidson, 2011: 87). The long vowel /i:/ value is it is represented by the suffix /ee/ introduced by F. suffix /ē/ which spelled in English as: absentee, employee, escapee, referee, and trainee (ibid: 104).

Accordingly to Mossè (1952), the following points include long and short ME vowels which were added a little by little from F. and its verities loanwords:

- 1- [i] came from ON and OF ī as in sīmple in closed syllable at initial position.
- 2- [e] OF and ON source of [ē] like defēdent.
- 3- [a] was originated from ON and OF [ā] as in scāre (scare).
- 4- [o] that is found in both ON and OF [ȝ] as in þȝoh (though).
- 5- [u] > ON and OF [ū] as in OF word bāroūn (baron).
- 6- [ü] > ON [-y] and OF [ü] as in jüst, jüdge, later replaced by [u] and became: judge and just.

It is so important to recommend that some of the short vowels above were also bound to native ones of OE. As for long vowels:

- 1- [ī] resulted from ON vowels like ī and ŷ as in fīn in monosyllabic words.
- 2- [ē] or [e:] came to be familiar to English by three varieties ON, OF and AN [ē] as in pērle.
- 3- [ē] that came from OF [ē] as in a word like brēf (brief).
- 4- [ā] ON ā and OF [a].
- 5- [ō] ON [ȝ] and [au] as in ME soudier> sōdier (soldier).
- 6- [ȝ] ON ȝ as in cuckoo> ME gauk, gȝk.
- 7- [ū] ON and OF ū which found side by side with [j] as in sūre, dūke, refūsen, rūde.
- 8- [ö]> OF [ue] as in preove of ME.

9- [ũ] OF ü as in pür, fur, builden and virtue (mossē, 1952: 32-33).

In account of ME literary manuscripts, the vowels (ī, ē, ē, ā, ō, ō, ū) were adopted in two different ways by Chaucer on the one hand and Shakespeare on the other. This can be shown in the following table (Xenia, 2015: 38):

ME	Chaucer	Shakespeare	Word
ī	[fi:f]	/faɪv/	five
ē	[me:də]	/mi:d/	mead
ē	[klɛ:nə]	/ke:n/	clean
ā	[na:mə]	[ne:m]	name
ō	[go:tə]	[go:t]	goat
ō	[ro:tə]	[ru:t]	root
ū	[dun]	[daʊn]	down

The spread of vowels lowering was quite erratic or arbitrary and it was enhanced by OF and AN pronunciations of words like: mervēille > marvaille (marvel), erber > arber (arbour), persil > parsel (parsley). Hence forth, the [ɛr] referring to <-er> was preserved but represented by [-ar] earlier as in OF and AN mercant > marchand > marchand (merchant) and parfit > perfit (perfect) (Minkova, 2014: 200). In the fifteenth century spellings, the lower mid front vowel [ɛ:] was associated with <-ea> as in mean, clean, meal and meat. Whereas the upper mid [e:] was embodied in <-ie> of F. words like: brief, piece, the native word thief and the same for <-ee> as in: queen, seen, seek (ibid: 202).

The reflex of West Saxon /ā/ was spelt as <a> in the north but <o> everywhere else. It is traditional and for the sake of approximation to correlate the <o> spellings with rounded ME /ɔ:/ . In the north, OE [ā] seems in the spoken mode to have undergone a fronting of /a:/. West Saxon ō was fronted to /ø:/ in ME northern dialects and with spelling of <ui>. These serious modifications and developments for these vowels resulted from the interaction of ON with OE (Horbin and Smith, 2002: 57). Although the vowel <u> appeared in many EME texts, the reflexes of [ū] were frequently spelt <ou> and <ow> as in: þou(though)(ibid:63). In conclusion, the main sources of the [ɔ] and nearly most monophthongs of ME are OE, ON and OF. The borrowed ME jolie (jolly) may refer to such a vowel like [ɔ] (Minkova, 2014: 242).

3.4 Diphthongs

Due the F. crucial influence with remarkable changes that took place by the process of diphthongization of long vowels, emergences or mutations of some short front and back vowels, OE /e/ became /ɪ/ and /o/ turned into /u/ like : /fet/ □ /fit/ and /fod/ > /fud/. The long vowels of values /a:/, /ɪ/ and /u/ changed into diphthongs like /eɪ/, /aɪ/ and /aʊ/ as in (Smitha N., 2019: 21):

eɪ > name > neim

i: > ai > fir > fair

u: > au hus > house

In general many of the diphthongs that are inherited from ME were changed into monophthongs in ModE. The only two which remained were /ɔɪ/ and /uɪ/. The diphthong /ɔɪ/ was brought to English by F. borrowings like: choice, joy, noise, toy, while /uɪ/ was the typical of AN dialect which was used in words like: join, boil, coin, point, poison, and toil (Bregs and Brinton, 2012: 590).

The major transfer from OE to ME concerning vowel system was crystalized by diphthongs. Diphthongs of OE were monophthongized and appeared with other sounds during the process of transition. New diphthongs emerged in the system of ME vowels

accounted to the vocalization of some consonants and borrowings from F. According to the Chaucer the following changes are to be considered (Horbin and Smith, 2002: 49):

-[aɪ] < ai, ay, ey as in day, grey..etc.

-[ɔɪ] < oi, oy> as in goye (joy), poynt (point).

Some ME diphthongs were co-existed together and originated from both OE and OF with its varieties as shown in the following taxonomies:

- 1- [eɪ] > ON ai, ei, ey, OF ai and AN ei as in veiker (weak), þeir (they), nei (nay), wei and wai.
- 2- [ɪu] resulted from both OE iw and OF eu as in ME dew, fewe.
- 3- [aʊ] > OF and ON [au] as in sauʒ, cause.
- 4- [ɔɪ] > only OF as in joie (joy).
- 5- [ou] > both ON [au] and OF [ou] as in: soule and þaugh (Mossē, 1952: 33).

Jespersen (1912:103) initiates that F. words participated in all sound changes which took place in English since they were adapted. Hence, words with the long [i] sound have had it diphthongized into [aɪ] as in: fine, price and lion. The long [u] that was written <ou>, became [aʊ] as in OF espouse (Mod F. ēspouse), ME spouse which originally pronounced [spuze] and in PDE [spauz]. The early diphthongization of OF and AN [a] + palatal obstruents to the diphthong [aʊ] in words like: daunger (danger), chaunge (change), ruange (range) and chaumber (chamber), resulted in ME monophthong [a:]. Later it was the input for the diphthong [eɪ] through GVS (Minkova, 2014: 241). J. Smith (2007: 148) pinpoints that the diphthongs [eɪ] and [ɛɪ] type of pronunciation continued to be perceived from OF and AN as they were relative to [ɛ:].

The evidence for the diphthongization of [u:] is confound by the effect of the sequences <ou> and <ow> of F. origin (Minkova, 2014: 203). In addition diphthongs that are formed through glide vocalization Like: [aj], [ej], [aw], [iw] resulted in [ju] later. [ew] and [ow] were of OF, ON and AN origins and they were absorbed in the native set of diphthongs. This can be shown in the following illustrations (ibid: 208-209):

- hreinn → rein
- sweinn → swain
- þei → they
- grain → [aj]
- rain → [aj]
- faut → fault → [aw]
- beute → beauty [ew]
- dew, du → du
- duc → duke [ju]

By the diversity of the dialectal resource like ON, OF and AN, ME diphthongal system witnesses two kinds of merges represented by front- gliding diphthongs and back- gliding:

- 1- front- gliding diphthongs:
 - a- [ej], [æj] > [aj] → [ɛj] > [ej] (way, grey).
 - b- [oj], [uj] > [oj] (voice, point).
- 2- Back- gliding diphthongs:
 - a- [iw] > [ju] and [ew] → into [ju] (new, dew).
 - b- [ow] (know).
 - c- [ɒw] (thaw)
 - d- [uw] (fowl).

4. Modern English Pronunciation

Historically speaking, in the fifteenth century following the death of Chaucer was considered as a turning point. That is because English underwent greater phonological changes and innovations to pronunciation. Despite of those changes, spelling was naturally preserved. After William Caxton's death in 1491, printers who followed him based their spelling not on the pronunciation current in their day, but instead on late medieval manuscripts (Algeo, 2010: 141).

EModE revealed its self to be a period of massive changes specially Great Vowel Shift. One of those remarkable changes is that the one which refer to the loss of the palatal and velar allophones of /h/, /ç/ and [x] which were also counterbalanced by the establishment of the phonemes /ɜ/ and /ŋ/ I addition few numbers of clusters were simplified by the dropping of their first or second member and particularly /wr/, /kn/ and /ŋg/ or by assimilation of two phonemes into one single consonant as in the case of /zj/, /sj/, /tj/ and /dj/. As for vowels, long monophthongs continued to change and gave rise to the appearance of qualitative differences between short and long vowels (Bergs and Brinton, 2012: 602) Freeborn(1998:302) describes GVS (Great Vowel Shift) in terms of a 'drift upwards' of the long vowels with the close or high vowels [i:] and [u:] to produce diphthongs like [əɪ] and [əʊ] and eventually [aɪ] and [aʊ]. Although the diphthongization of long vowels took place after 16th century, there were no words with long back vowel [a:]. (ee) words were pronounced with [i:], [ea] words with [e:] or [ɛ:] the ones with (oo) were usually articulated with [u:] and the sequence (oa) words with [o:]. In term of MdnE measure, there was considerably some irregularities and varieties, that many words with diagraphs like (ea) and (oo) were pronounced with either long or short vowel. Such a diversity demanded an urging regularities and some kind of standardization (ibid:316).

In the investigation of the phonology of both OE and ME, numerous examples of the interaction between vowel quality were pointed as in OE wudu [wudə] > ME [wo:də]. Vowels like other phonemes; they have different allophonic realization depending on their phonetic and prosodic environments. Since such a diversity of phonetic contexts demands new mergers, as ModE got the following forms of vowels originated from ME (Minkova, 2014: 237):

- 1- The vowel [ɪ] kept as it is in its final form till the PDE as in fish, king.
- 2- The ME [ɛ] kept in words like the PDE /e/ as in bed, kept.
- 3- The F origin ME [a] which replaced OE æ gave a diversity of short and long vowels like [æ:], [a], ɒ >> (:), [a:] and even [eə]
Which probably came from [æ:] in certain environment. This divergent interaction can be found in words of PDE like: happen, wand, quarter, after, last.
- 4- ME [ɔ] resulted into two allophones in PDE, [ɒ] and [ɔ:] as in: hop, rotten, jolly, lost, port.
- 5- The ME /ʊ / was kept in PDE and generated two short forms /ə/ and /ʌ/ as in: hurt, love, us, flood (ibid:237)

6. Methodology and Discussion

In the current study, there are two possibilities to provide the satisfactory informative illustrations about the changes of sounds for the French loanwords after being adopted or changed according to English phonological and phonetic system. The first possibility is a general assumption which may trace and compare sounds of some French loanwords with the modifications that changed their stems in English depending upon the genetic similarities among languages. And the other speculation, which is

simply part of the first assumption, is to consider the origins of those words and their spelling or literacy in languages which were in contact with English from Latin, Old French, Middle English and then into Modern English depending upon the available information provided about the words and investigating the phonetic or phonological substitutions of foreign phonemes with English ones. It might hypothesize that a typological phonetic or phonological entity is found to prove that a sound is differently perceived or substituted in the host language in accordance with the speakers of that language adaptive strategies.

6.1. Discussion

1-The word (maille) came from the Latin form (maglia) then into Old French as (maille), meaning (mesh of a net). This can be explained in the following table:

Latin	Old French	Middle English	Modern English
maglia [mæliə]	maille [meɪ] male Modern French: malle [mæl]	maylle	mail [meɪl]

The word (maille) is adopted in English according to the common pronunciation of Old English form (mæ̃l). It can represent a shift from [a, æ] to the diphthongization of [eɪ]. Somehow to be more certain about the shift, it requires to assume that the diphthong [ay] was shifted to [eɪ]. Concerning the word (maille), it is also being originated from the Latin form (macula) which came to be pronounced as (maylle) in Middle English for the modern form (mail).

2. escape: running away

Latin	Old French	Middle English	Modern English
Cuppa excappper	Schape chape Modern French: échapper	eschaper	Escape [ɪskeɪp]

It is obvious from the information provided above in the table that English came to have (-sch) and (-ch) diagraphs by the influence of French which later changed or substituted by (-sc) as was a diffusion or ease of pronunciation for (-sch). As for (-ch), it obviously represented [k] in some environments which is undoubtedly changed to (c) in this word.

3.manoeuvre : meaning to manipulate

Latin	Old French	Middle English	Modern English
Manu-operāre	manoeuvre Modern French: manœuvre	manouren	maneuver [mænu:və] manoeuvre

The word manifests miscellaneous vowels changes in each stage of borrowing due to its adaptation forms both in French and English. First, the vowel [æ] was substituted by [o] and that was common in Middle English to see [æ:] or [a:] replaced by back vowels like [u] or [o]. And secondly, it is adopted in Middle English as (manouren) when [ue]

changed to the form [ou]. The crucial shifts concerning this word can be summed up in the followings:

-u > ue > ou > eu or oe

As French imposed its spelling and some pronunciation conventions, later (-eu) and (-oe) became as common conventional strings which stand for the vowel [u:].

4. **riches** : meaning wealth and power:

Latin	Old French	Middle English	Modern English
Rēx	richeise richesse riche [ʁiːʃ]	ryche into: riche	rich [rɪʃ] riches

Concerning the shift and adaptation from Latin into French, the uvular [x] might have been attenuated to the French [ʃ], because the word itself begins with uvular French [ʁ] resembling or near in the place of articulation to [ɣ] as a fricative uvular. As for the suffixes (-esse) or (-eisse), they were reduced to the plural form (-es) as it is mentioned by Mosse (1952). After the word being borrowed in English, it is more likely to see that it is pronounced and recorded with [y] which later substituted with [i].

5-**choice** : meaning an option

Latin	Old French	Middle English	Modern English
-	chois Modern French: choix	choys chois cois	choice [tʃɔɪs]

It is significantly vital to mention that before the digraph (-ch) was adopted or brought to English by French spelling conventions, (-c) represented the palato-alveolar [tʃ], that the (-c) in (cois) and (chois) was recorded to stand for [tʃ] as it is also originated in Old English. In addition, Middle English apparently appeals to substitute the vowel [i] in the adopted diphthong [oi] with [y] as in the case of the word (point) representing the modern form (point).

6. **hay**: meaning dry grass

Old English	Old French	Middle English	Modern English
hēġ hīġ	hā hē Old Norse: hey and also: haie	haye	hay [heɪ]

According to the stems collected about the origin of this word, Old English form (hēġ) seems to have a vocalic environment represented by a silent [ġ] which serves as a semi-diphthong in combination with [ē] and [ī]. In case of considering Old Norse forms or its new literal norms (hey) and (haie) gave the initiation to shape Middle English (haye) and one might reconsider the following shifts:

-ē or ī > ey > ai > ay

The vowels [ī] and [ē] appeal to the frontal diphthongization as they are being paralleled according to features of qualitative trajectory for [ay] ([eɪ]).

7. **nephew** : meaning son of one's brother or sister.

Latin	Old English	Old French	Middle English	Modern English
nepōtem	nefa	nveu and also Old Norse : nevu or nevo	neve nevu nevew	Nephew [nefju:]

First hand, English came to have the distinction between [f] and [v] under the influence of Old French conventions following the forms (neveu) or (nevo) as it is recorded in Middle English and might lead to the assumption that [f] of Old English was substituted with [v] by French. Moreover, the vowels [ew], [u:] and even [o] are likely to substitutive in Middle English and it is more common to see that (-ew) stands for [u:] in PDE.

8. island : meaning : a piece of land which is completely surrounded by water.

Latin	Old French	Middle English	Modern English
Insula	ile	yle ile	Island [aɪlənd]

The word (île) is pronounced with what is compatible and nearly the same as the vowel [i:] in contemporary French. It makes sense that it was undoubtedly adopted as [i:] to be diphthongized to [aɪ] later according to Great Vowel Shift standards. Concerning Middle English, most of the times the vowel [i] is being simply substituted with [y] to have (yle). Following the standards of GVS, the following shifts might be necessary to illustrate:

-[î] > [e:] > [i:] > [aɪ]

The vowel [e:] might be redundant in this shift but it is a measure to pass the trajectory to the diphthong [aɪ].

5. Conclusions

Shifts of power and historical political influence like the one related to King Philip's siege of barons estates have the major impact to impose French over English society which represented a turning point in the reshaping of linguistic form of English at that time and specially phonetic and phonological developments. Direct or indirect contacts with Norman or the French invaders who spoke ON, OF or even AN which were crystalized by either commercial, political or social factors, presented many phonetic and phonological new conventions borrowed from F. via vocabulary that added a considerable amount of letters not to mention their phonetic representations. Speaking of which, a remarkable amount of graphemes, diagraphs or even trigraphs were added to English like: k, ts, a, ie, -qu, ou, ow, -wh which substituted the OE -hw, ai, ei, -ey, oi, -oy, -ie, -aile, -are or air, -ch, -ss, -oo, sh, and -th. Consequently, some derivational suffixes found their way to English stems like: -ly, -ic, -ate and -cy. In respect to the borrowed forms from French into English, they were modified to be pronounced according English constraints as in the case of adopting [i] into [y], [ai] which is obviously of French origin and being adopted into [ey] or [ay] and the vowels [eu] and [ew] which later monophthongized to [u:]. Such a remarkable change in spelling had rendered a revolutionary change to pronunciation for both consonants and vowels of ME. That is, the new graphemes and diagraphs impose kinds of generalizations within the phonetic system of English and led to the appearance of contrastiveness among phonemes as in the case of /f/ and /v/, /ʃ/ and /ʒ/ and /s,z/. The

historical and in the same time environmental assimilation of the F origin /j/ with phonemes like /z/, /s/, /d/ and /t/ invented /ʃ/, /ʒ/, /dʒ/ and /tʃ/. In certain contexts, the phoneme /k/ was replaced by OE /c/ in ME. Concerning vowels, the F. origin /a/ was first used to replace [æ] in OE. Short and long values for [u], [e] and [o] which were represented by diacritical distinctive features also brought to English by OF and ON and eventually came to be known as [e], [e:], [ɔ], [o:], [u] and [u:]. And there were five diphthongs which were inherited from OF and some varieties during ME era, they are: [ei], [oi], [ou], [iu] and [au].

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