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**Comment on the linguistic situation of medieval England in the light of the following texts:**

After the Norman Conquest in 1066, French Norman brought their own language into Great Britain. French was taught to the Norman elite and their children, while the peasants “*but low people keep to English and to their own language still*”.

This describes the linguistic situation, where French was the language of prestige while English was kept alive by the low ranks of society.

People chose to speak French in order to achieve a high status in society, while they still used English in informal contexts “*for unless a man knows French, people take little account of him*”. Socially, French had a highly regarded, while English was considered a low language.

There was some critic about using a foreign language French for daily use in the Court and the nobility: “*that don’t hold to their own speech*”. But related to this, there is also a defence of the bilingualism: “*for the more a man knows, the more he is worth*”.

This document reflects the situation of both languages spoken at the same time, in the same community, but in different social contexts, creating a situation of diglossia. There was a peaceful coexistence, resulting in a deep influence in the language, such as the vast amount French borrowing on English.