

Language is speech, not writing (the primacy of speech):

- i. *language is vocal*
- ii. *all languages first developed as speech*
- iii. *mother tongue is acquired in spoken form*
- iv. *this is a natural order*
- v. *oral approach/oral presentation precedes graphic form*
- vi. *natural order: listening, speaking, reading, writing*

Teach the language and not about the language:

- i. *a revolt against the grammar rules*
- ii. *written language differs from the spoken language*
- iii. *not see the forest/wood for the trees*

A language is what its native speakers say, not what someone thinks they ought to say

- i. accordingly, "Linguistics describes, it does not prescribe"¹.

A language is just like a living organism:

- i. *undergoing changes: changes, grows, expands, dies*
- ii. *dead languages*
- iii. *developed/cultivated/polished/refined languages*

Language is conventional:

- i. *the outcome of conventions*
- ii. *transmitted from generation to generation orally, also known as "cultural transmission"*
- iii. *evolutionary*

Language is a social activity:

- i. *a product/property of social groups*
- ii. *society is an institution*
- iii. *no society, no language: "Between 1880 and 1907 fifty-three universal languages were proposed. ... Today it is all but forgotten"², mainly due to the lack of social support, recognition, and acceptability.*

Language is productive and creative (open-endedness):

"While you may inherit brown eyes and dark hair from your parents, you do not inherit their language. You acquire a language in a culture with other speakers."³

¹ Borbala Richter, *First Steps in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics*, p. 20

² Albert C. Baugh, p. 6. A Man-made language is also known as Artificial Language/Invented Language/ Proposed Language/ Restricted Language; some examples are Esperanto (devised in 1887), Volapuk, Fortran or LISP, and BASIC (British, American, Scientific, International, Commercial) English, devised by C. K. Ogden in the 1920s.

³ George Yule, *The Study of Language*, p. 24

1. **Proto-Language:** "An unattested language from which a group of attested languages are taken to be historically derived."⁴
2. **Philology:** "[From Greek *philologia* love of language]. The traditional study of language, which reached its peak as *comparative philology* in the later 19c. overshadowed in the 20c by its offspring Linguistics, it continues in a more muted fashion, sharing much with the subdiscipline *historical linguistics*, and focusing particularly on the evolution of languages, especially in terms of their groupings ('families') and their elements."⁵
3. **"Philology.** (Gk. 'love of learning and language') The word used to refer to the study of literature; it is now used as a general term for the study of language."⁶
4. Philology is "[u]sed in English both of the scholarly study of literary texts (e. g. 'classical philology', 'modern philology') and in the same sense as 'historical linguistics' or 'linguistics' in general."⁷
5. **Diachronic:** "(Gk. 'through time') A term invented by Saussure in his influential Course in General Linguistics (1915) to designate the study of language through its developing history. This has been the characteristic approach to language by nineteenth-century philologists. The historical approach is distinguished from the other way of investigating language, the 'synchronic', which involves the very different task of examining language as a system in use at a particular moment in time."⁸
6. Diachronic means having "to do with changes over time. Thus a diachronic account of a language deals with its history, a diachronic theory deals with the nature of historical change in general, and so on."⁹
7. "The branch of linguistics that deals with LANGUAGE CHANGE is called DIACHRONIC or HISTORICAL linguistics."¹⁰
8. "Diachronic studies, ..., examine the historical development of a language, taking into consideration changes it has undergone over time."¹¹
9. **Synchronic:** "At a single moment in time. A synchronic description of a language is accordingly an account of its structure either at present or at some specific moment in the past, considered in abstract from its history."¹²
10. "Synchronic studies involve investigating a language in its present form as it is currently spoken and written. A synchronic study of English would focus on Contemporary English: the current version of English spoken around the world."¹³

⁴ P. H. Matthews, *Oxford Concise Dictionary of Linguistics*, p. 301

⁵ Tom McArthur, *Oxford Concise Companion to the English Language*, p. 440

⁶ Martin Gray, *A Dictionary of Literary Terms*, p. 218

⁷ P. H. Matthews, *Oxford Concise Dictionary of Linguistics*, p. 275

⁸ Martin Gray, pp. 85—86

⁹ P. H. Matthews, p. 96

¹⁰ Borbala Richter, *First Steps in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics*, p. 84

¹¹ Charles F. Meyer, *Introducing English Linguistics*, p. 20

¹² P. H. Matthews, p. 367

¹³ Charles F. Meyer, *Introducing English Linguistics*, p. 20

11. **Panchronic:** "(Study, phenomenon) not restricted to specific points in time. Thus, variously, of universal properties of language, of patterns of change recurring across languages, of features of a specific language that are constant over long periods, etc."¹⁴
12. **Ancestor Language:** "An earlier language from which one or more later languages are descended."¹⁵
13. **Daughter Languages:** "Any of the later languages that develop separately from a single earlier language": French and Spanish are daughter languages in relation to Latin.¹⁶
14. **Language Family:** "A group of languages that have developed from a single ancestor: Indo-European of which English is one of many members."¹⁷
15. **Romance Languages:** "Languages descended from Latin are called 'Romance Languages'; they are Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, Provencal, French, Romansch, etc."¹⁸
16. **Germanic Languages:** This group of languages includes German, English, Dutch, Flemish, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, and Icelandic.
17. **Proto-Indo-European (PIE):** "The unrecorded ancestor of the Indo-European family of languages, thought to have been spoken around 6, 000 years ago, probably somewhere in western Asia or eastern Europe."¹⁹
18. Indo-European (IE) is "a postulated ancient language which may have been spoken in north-eastern Europe or near the Black Sea between c.3000 and c.2000 BC and can now only be reconstructed from its descendants."²⁰
19. "... We call it the 'Indo-European', and the Indo-European languages are, of course, descended from a remote ancestor called 'Proto-Indo-European', or PIE. We think PIE was spoken around 6, 000 ago, probably somewhere in eastern Europe, possibly in southern Russia" ²¹
20. It is thought that Proto-Indo-European "was the original form (*proto*) of a language which was the source of modern languages in the Indian sub-continent (Indo), and in Europe (*European*)"²².
21. The Indo-European family of languages "includes most of the languages of Europe and of India, and so is usually called 'Indo-European'"²³.
22. "When we notice that 'father' corresponds to Dutch 'vader', Gothic 'fadar', Old Norse 'faoir', German 'vater', Greek 'pater', Sanskrit 'pitar', and Old Irish 'athir', or that English 'brother' corresponds to Dutch 'broeder', German 'bruder', Greek 'phrater', Sanskrit 'bhratar', Old Slavic 'bratu', Irish 'brathair', we are led to the hypothesis that the languages of a large part of Europe and part of Asia were at one time identical."²⁴
23. "The parent tongue from which the Indo-European languages have sprung had already become divided and scattered before the dawn of history."²⁵

¹⁴ P. H. Matthews, p. 262

¹⁵ P. H. Matthews, p. 18

¹⁶ P. H. Matthews, p. 86

¹⁷ P. H. Matthews, p. 126

¹⁸ C. L. Barber, *The Story of Language*, p. 69

¹⁹ R. L. Trask, *Language: The Basics*, p. 225

²⁰ Tom McArthur, p. 276

²¹ R. L. Trask, p. 114

²² George Yule, *The Study of Language*, p. 214

²³ C. L. Barber, p. 82

²⁴ Albert C. Baugh, *A History of the English Language*, p. 17

²⁵ Albert C. Baugh, p. 20

24. "PIE is considered to have vanished soon after 2, 000 BC without leaving written records."²⁶
25. "IE ceased to exist sometime soon after 2000 BC, having diversified into a number of increasingly distinct offspring as a result of migration and natural linguistic changes. One of these offspring is known to scholars as *Primitive Germanic*, which like the original IE has left no written records. The Germanic-speaking peoples appear to have moved from the IE homeland to what is now Scandinavia and northern Germany," ²⁷
26. "There are considered to be about thirty such language families [descended from PIE] which have produced the more than 4, 000 languages in the world."²⁸

The Indo-European Languages:

27. "The language family, or family of families, of which English is a member, along with other European languages such as French, German, Russian, and Spanish, and Asian languages such as Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, and Persian, as well as the classical languages Greek, Latin, Pali, and Sanskrit."²⁹
28. "Family of languages including, at historically its western limit, most of the languages spoken in Europe and, at its eastern limit, those of all but the southern part of the Indian subcontinent."³⁰
29. "A large group of historically related languages that includes many of the languages of northern India and Iran and most of the languages of Europe."³¹

PLACE OF ORIGIN OF THE INDO-EUROPEANS:

30. "... the place from which the dispersal [of Indo-Europeans] started is still very much anybody's guess."³²
31. "...the movements of the early Indo-Europeans were very complicated, with many successive and overlapping waves of immigration and conquest."³³
32. "... the Indo-Europeans were not living in any of the advanced cultural centres of the ancient world, such as Mesopotamia, the Mediterranean basin, or the Indus Valley. When they appear in such places it is as intruders from outside."³⁴
33. "... we may assume that the original home was in that part of the world in which the languages of the family are chiefly to be found today, and we may omit from consideration Africa, Australia, and the American continents because we know that the extension of Indo-European languages in these areas has occurred in historical times."³⁵
34. "History and its related sciences, anthropology and archaeology, enable us to eliminate certain other regions, such as the British Isles and the peninsulas of Southern Europe."³⁶
35. "In general, we may be fairly sure that the only regions in which it is reasonable to seek the original home of the Indo-European family are the mainland of Europe and the western part of Asia."³⁷

²⁶ Tom McArthur, *Oxford Concise Companion to the English Language*, p. 294

²⁷ Tom McArthur, p. 276

²⁸ George Yule, p. 214

²⁹ Tom McArthur, p. 294

³⁰ P. H. Matthews, p. 177

³¹ Adrian Akmajian, *et al.*, *Linguistics: An Introduction to Language and Communication*, p. 580

³² C. L. Barber, p. 86

³³ C. L. Barber, 87

³⁴ C. L. Barber, p. 85

³⁵ Albert C. Baugh, p. 32

³⁶ Albert C. Baugh, p. 32

³⁷ Albert C. Baugh, p. 33

36. "... the Indo-European languages generally have a common word for 'winter' and for 'snow'. It is likely that the original home of the family was in a climate that at certain seasons at least was fairly cold."³⁸
 37. "... it is not certain that there was a common word for the sea."³⁹
 38. "there is no common Indo-European word for sea or ocean or fishing."⁴⁰
 39. "It seems that rivers and streams were common, but there is no word for the sea or ocean, so they were apparently an inland people."⁴¹
 40. "The original community was apparently an inland one."⁴²
 41. It is likely that the original home of the Indo-Europeans was somewhere in North-Eastern Europe; the mainland Europe, or in Western Asia.
 42. "Still more instructive is the evidence of the fauna and flora known to the Indo-European community. 'There are no anciently common Indo-European words for elephant, rhinoceros, camel, lion, tiger, monkey, crocodile, parrot, rice, banyan, bamboo, palm, but there are common words, more or less widely spread over Indo-European territory, for snow and freezing cold, for oak, beech, pine, birch, willow, bear, wolf, otter, beaver, polecat, marten, weasel, deer, rabbit, mouse, horse, ox, sheep, goat, pig, dog, eagle, hawk, owl, jay, wild goose, wild duck, partridge or pheasant, snake, tortoise, crab, ant, bee, etc.'"⁴³
 43. "The general view today, therefore, is that the original home of the Indo-Europeans was somewhere in Europe. Three main areas in Europe have especially been championed: (i) Scandinavia and the adjacent part of northern Germany; (ii) the Danube valley, especially the Hungarian Plain; and (iii) the steppes of the southern Ukraine, north of the Black Sea."⁴⁴
- SOMETHING ABOUT THE CULTURE OF THE INDO-EUROPEANS:**
44. It seems that the Indo-Europeans were polytheistic people; they were aware of annual cycles, heavenly bodies and phenomena, the concept of barter, weaving, and pottery.⁴⁵
 45. "The family was a vital group, from father and mother to son and daughter, and their home was the village. A patriarchal society seems to be reflected in the prominence of names for male relatives."⁴⁶
 46. "The linguistic evidence suggests that this family [of the Indo-Europeans] went by male descent, and that when a woman married she went to live with her husband's family;" a lot of words are found for the husband's relatives, "but no such common words for the wife's relatives".⁴⁷
 47. "... people of very different races and cultures can come to be native speakers of Indo-European languages; such speakers today for example include Indians, Greeks, American Negroes, Russians, Mexicans, and Englishmen."⁴⁸

³⁸ Albert C. Baugh, p. 33

³⁹ Albert C. Baugh, p. 33

⁴⁰ C. L. Barber, p. 98

⁴¹ C. L. Barber, p. 94

⁴² Albert C. Baugh, p.33

⁴³ Albert C. Baugh, p. 33

⁴⁴ C. L. Barber, p. 95

⁴⁵ Tom McArthur, p. 295

⁴⁶ Tom McArthur, p. 295

⁴⁷ C. L. Barber, p. 94

⁴⁸ C. L. Barber, p. 85

48. "The Indo-European languages are spoken today in many cultures that until recently have had completely unrelated heritages. And to judge by the large variety of people who have spoken these languages from early times, it is quite possible that the people of the original Indo-European community already represented a wide ethnic diversity."⁴⁹

SOMETHING ABOUT THE ERA OF THE INDO-EUROPEANS:

49. "The era of IE is usually dated from c. 3,000 BC until shortly after 2, 000 BC."⁵⁰
50. "It seems likely, therefore, that the dispersal of the Indo-Europeans must have begun by 2, 000 BC, and that it may have begun a good deal earlier."⁵¹
51. "Indo-European, for instance, is thought to date back to approximately 4000 BC (perhaps earlier)."⁵²
52. Many theories about "the date and place of the original 'Indo-Europeans'" have been proposed.⁵³
53. "It is customary to place the end of their common existence somewhere between 3, 500 and 2, 500 BC."⁵⁴
54. Indo-European languages constitute "the most extensively spoken group of languages in the world"⁵⁵.
55. The Indo-European family is the largest language family in the world in terms of total number of speakers: there are about 1.7 billion native speakers of Indo-European languages.⁵⁶
56. "A commonly cited estimate is that the world's languages number between 4, 000 and 5, 000, with half of the world's population speaking Indo-European languages."⁵⁷
57. "In terms of numbers of speakers, Chinese has the most native speakers (close to 1 billion), while English (about 350 million) is more widely used in different parts of the world. Spanish has close to 300 million native speakers, Hindi has 200 million and Arabic and Russian have about 150 million each."⁵⁸
58. "The individual language with the most speakers is Mandarin Chinese. The most common second language—that is the language learned most frequently as a foreign language—is currently English."⁵⁹
59. "Altogether, well over a thousand million people speak an Indo-European language as their mother tongue; of these, well over three hundred million a Germanic language; nearly three hundred million a Romance language, about two hundred and fifty million an Indian language."⁶⁰
60. "The view that similarities among certain languages of Europe and Asia resulted from common origin had attracted scholars for several centuries."⁶¹

⁴⁹ Albert C. Baugh, p. 32

⁵⁰ Tom McArthur, p. 294

⁵¹ C. L. Barber, p. 86

⁵² Charles F. Meyer, *Introducing English Linguistics*, p. 24

⁵³ Tom McArthur, p. 294

⁵⁴ Albert C. Baugh, p. 32

⁵⁵ Tom McArthur, p. 294

⁵⁶ William O'Grady, et al., *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction*, p. 236

⁵⁷ Adrian Akmajian, et al., *Linguistics: An Introduction to Language and Communication*, p. 333

⁵⁸ George Yule, p. 214

⁵⁹ Adrian Akmajian, et al., p. 333

⁶⁰ C. L. Barber, p. 84

⁶¹ Tom McArthur, p. 294

61. "Broadly speaking, it may be said that two outstanding characteristics indicate the 'Indo-Europeanness' of a language: its structure and its vocabulary": the concept of parts of speech is found in almost all the Indo-European languages; and a lot of words in different Indo-European languages could be traced to the same cognates.⁶²
62. **COGNATE**: (L. related by birth, family; having the same ancestor) a word related through the same source as another word in another language: "Haus" in German is cognate with "house" in English; or "apfel" in German is cognate with "apple" in English; hence, English and German are cognate languages, that is, descendants of the same ancestor language.
63. "Words deriving from a common ancestor, such as English *father*, German *Vater*, Dutch *Vader* and even Latin *pater*, are called COGNATE WORDS."⁶³
64. **Sir William Jones**: a British government official in the pre-partition India; he was a judge of the High Court in India; in 1786, while studying the language of ancient Indian law, he observed and concluded that there were some affinities between Sanskrit on one hand, and Latin, Greek, and German on the other hand; he concluded that all these four languages (Sanskrit, Latin, Greek, and German) might belong to a "common source", that is, they are cognate languages, or "sister languages".
65. **SANSKRIT**: (from "samskrata": well-formed, perfected) Sanskrit is the classical, scholarly language of the Indian Sub-continent; Sanskrit is the secret language of Hinduism: it enjoys the status of a liturgical or learned language among the Hindus; Sanskrit is also the scriptural language of Buddhism; Sanskrit is the oldest known member of Indo-European language family; Sanskrit is written in Devanagiri script, from left to right; as Latin influenced the European languages, Sanskrit influenced many languages in South- and South-East Asia; Classical Sanskrit "was standardized round about 300 BC, and has since been the learned language of India"⁶⁴.
66. **PHONETICS**: The general study of the characteristics of speech sounds is called *Phonetics*; it is the study of nature, production, and perception of speech sounds; description of the sounds of different languages.
67. **PHONOLOGY**: it is the study of the sound systems of individual languages; language-specific
68. **Articulatory phonetics**: how speech sounds are made, produced, or articulated.
69. **Acoustic phonetics**: the physical properties of speech sounds as waves travelling through the air.
70. **Auditory phonetics**: the perception of speech sound through the ear.
71. **Lungs**..... **Trachea** (the wind pipe) **Larynx** (the voice box; Adam's apple; vocal cords)
72. **Voiceless sounds: vocal cords open, without any vibration thereof**
73. **Voiced sounds**: vocal cords closed; with a vibration effect
74. **Stop**: consonant in whose articulation the flow of air is blocked: /p, b/
75. **Cognates**: words that have descended from a common source
76. **Labial**: a sound made with the lip(s): /p/, /b/
77. **Dental**: a sound made with the tip of the tongue in the region of the upper front teeth: /t/, /d/
78. **Velar**: a sound made with the back of the tongue against the soft palate: /k/

⁶² C. L. Wrenn, *The English Language*, pp. 13—14

⁶³ Borbala Richter, p. 86

⁶⁴ C. L. Barber, p. 82

79. GRIMM'S LAW:

- i. A statement of the relationship between certain consonants in Germanic languages and their originals in IE
- ii. First described by a Danish philologist Rasmus Rask in 1818
- iii. Then described in detail by the German philologist Jacob Grimm in 1822
- iv. Grimm tabulated a series of consonant shifts for the Germanic languages.
- v. Grimm's law is also known as "the First Sound Shifting"
- vi. Such changes probably initiated around 500 BC
- vii. "Sound law or series of sound laws by which consonants in Germanic differ systematically in manner of articulation from those of cognate forms in other Indo-European languages [Sanskrit, Latin, Greek]."
- viii. Sanskrit, Latin, and Greek may be taken as representative languages of the IE

80. VERNER'S LAW:

- i. Where Grimm's Law failed, Karl Verner, a Danish linguist, explained it in 1876
- ii. Grimm's Law failed in certain cases wherein the sound shift from "voiceless stops" to "voiceless fricatives" is concerned.
- iii. Grimm's Law failed in those words wherein the accent falls on the preceding syllable.
- iv. When the preceding vowel was unstressed the change or the sound shift further underwent as: f b; "th" or "o" d; h..... g

81. THE KURGAN CULTURE THEORY:

- i. In the wake of archaeological excavations in Russia and Ukraine
- ii. The excavations were made between the River Don and the Urals
- iii. Kurgan is a city in south-western Siberian Russia
- iv. The supposed culture evolved from 5th to the 3rd Millennium BC
- v. Marija Gimbutas is the main proponent of this theory
- vi. Marija Gimbutas says that "the Kurgan people were the original "Indo-Europeans"
- vii. The most probable location might be "in the district east of the Germanic area stretching from central Europe to the steppes of southern Russia".
- viii. "We can also only speculate about where PIE was initially spoken. The most widely accepted view of the origins of PIE is the Kurgan Hypothesis, which was originally proposed by the archaeologist Marija Gimbutas (1956). This hypothesis places the original speakers of PIE just north of the Black Sea c. 6,000 years ago. Through a series of migrations, these speakers spread their language all the way to Europe, spawning over time the various sibling languages of PIE, including Proto-Germanic."⁶⁵

82. IMPORTANCE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE:

- i. "The expansion of English to other continents began in the 17th century, with the successful colonization of the eastern seaboard of North America. Subsequently spread by colonization both directly from Britain and from the USA and existing colonies, across North America, in Australia and New Zealand, in southern Africa, and elsewhere."⁶⁶

⁶⁵ Charles F. Meyer, *Introducing English Linguistics*, p. 29

⁶⁶ P. H. Matthews, p.114

- ii. "It is important to remember, however, that the widespread use of English has little to do with the language itself but more with the fact that British colonization spread English around the world, a phenomenon that was followed by the emergence of the United States (which has the highest percentage of native speakers) as a political and economic force. Had world events been different, English might still be a language spoken only in Great Britain, where it had its origins over 1,500 years ago."⁶⁷
- iii. "English is one of approximately 6, 900 living languages in the world."⁶⁸
- iv. "In the latter 20th c. non-native users of English have come to outnumber native users, partly because of the accelerating spread of the language, and partly because of increase in population and educational opportunities in many parts of the world. Estimates of the overall number of users of English relate to the three criteria of 'English by birthright' (in the ENL territories in the 1970s estimated at c. 300m people), 'English through historical association' (in the ESL territories also c. 300m), and 'English through usually formal acquisition' (in the EFL territories c. 100m). The total of c. 700m was widely accepted in the early 1980s, but some linguists, ... have discussed doubling this total to c. 1.4bn so as to bring in anyone who uses any kind of English, extended or restricted, 'correct' or 'broken'. It is probably safe to assume that by 1990 some 10% of the inhabitants of the EFL nations were usefully familiar with English, and that around a billion people currently use it in varying degrees and for various purposes, in almost a 2—to—1 ratio of non-natives to natives."⁶⁹
- v. "The global distribution of English is often currently described in terms of English as a Native Language (ENL), English as a Second Language (ESL), and English as a Foreign Language (EFL)."⁷⁰
- vi. "English is one of the most important languages of the world. Spoken by more than 380 million people in the United Kingdom, the United States, and the former British Empire, it is the largest of the Western languages. English, however, is not the most widely used native language in the world. Chinese, in its eight spoken varieties, is known to 1.3 billion people in China alone. ... Spanish, next in size to English, is spoken by about 330 million people, Portuguese by 180 million, Russian by 175 million, German by 110 million, French by 80 million native speakers, ... Italian by 65 million."⁷¹
- vii. "The number of speakers who have acquired English as a second language with near native fluency is estimated to be between 350 and 400 million. If we add to first and second language speakers those who know enough English to use it more or less effectively as a foreign language, the estimates for the total number of speakers range between one and one and a half billion."⁷²
- viii. "The English language, which has just 379 million native speakers, is spoken at a useful level by some 1.7 billion people, according to the British Council."⁷³

⁶⁷ Charles F. Meyer, *Introducing English Linguistics*, p. 22

⁶⁸ Charles F. Meyer, *Introducing English Linguistics*, p. 20; in Nigeria, more than 500 indigenous languages are spoken (Charles F. Meyer, *Introducing English Linguistics*, p. 22)

⁶⁹ Tom McArthur, pp. 205—07

⁷⁰ Tom McArthur, p. 207

⁷¹ Albert C. Baugh, p. 3

⁷² Albert C. Baugh, p. 5

⁷³ *The Statesman*, March 13, 2019, p. 4

- ix. English is the largest (the most spoken) of the Western languages.
- x. English is used as the international lingua franca: it is used as a contact language or a link language among nations of the world.
- xi. "In the contemporary world, English serves as a lingua franca in numerous social and political situations where people require a common language. For example, English has become a lingua franca for international scientific journals and international scientific meetings—it is by common agreement the language in which scientific results are presented."⁷⁴
- xii. "Today the compulsions of learning English are no longer merely political but scientific and technological. And no longer is English the language of Great Britain only; it is the language required by the world for greater understanding, it is the most international of languages."⁷⁵
- xiii. English is a language of wider communication: used by electronic media, print media, social media, internet users, face-book, twitter, Instagram
- xiv. About 60% of the world radio stations broadcast in English
- xv. English is a library language; it is a store of knowledge, as well as a language of higher education; more than half of the world periodicals are published in English.
- xvi. English is a store of standard terminology in various subjects.
- xvii. "English dominates as the primary language of international business. An estimated 75 percent of all mail and 80 percent of computer data are written in English."⁷⁶
- xviii. "English is less loved but more used"⁷⁷; among the Muslims, Arabic is more loved, but less used.
- xix. English is the most common second language in the world.
- xx. "English is the most frequently taught foreign language in the world's schools."⁷⁸
- xxi. "In 1935, English was the official language of one-fourth of the earth's surface."⁷⁹
- xxii. English is the only "official language of more than 25 countries and functions along with others as official languages in some 35 more" countries.⁸⁰
- xxiii. English is one of the six official languages of the UNO: English, French, Russian, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic.
- xxiv. English is a language of international diplomacy, trade, and business; hence, greater world understanding could be achieved through English.
- xxv. "The world is poorer when a language dies on average every two weeks"⁸¹, mainly due the neo-imperialism of western powers, their growing soft-power, their accompanying cultural onslaught, and the resultantly rapid and aggressive advancements of English, all the grim aspects of globalization. "According to the latest figures in the Ethnologue, 516 of 6,912 languages in the world are nearly extinct"⁸².

⁷⁴ Adrian Akmajian, et al., *Linguistics: An Introduction to Language and Communication*, p. 296

⁷⁵ C. Paul Verghese, *Teaching English as a Second Language*, p.3

⁷⁶ Nancy Bonvillain, *Language, Culture, and Communication*, p. 347

⁷⁷ Albert C. Baugh, p. 4

⁷⁸ Nancy Bonvillain, p. 346

⁷⁹ Albert C. Baugh, p. 7

⁸⁰ Nancy Bonvillain, p. 347

⁸¹ Albert C. Baugh, p. 8

⁸² Charles F. Meyer, p. 42

- xxvi. 'Schneider (2003: 233) remarks that while many view English as "the world's leading language ... [an] indispensable tool for international economy, diplomacy, sciences, the media, and also individual interactions across language boundaries," others regard it as "a 'killer language,' responsible for the extinction of innumerable indigenous languages, dialects, and cultures around the globe."'⁸³

ENGLISH LANGUAGE: ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

83. **Universal Grammar:** Any system of grammar, or set of statements about grammar, which by hypothesis holds for all languages. A set of principles and parameters of grammar which, according to Chomsky, is inherited genetically by all human beings.
84. **Assimilation:** The adaptation of terms into one language from another language.
85. **The Points that Facilitate the Learning of English for the Learners:**

1) COSMOPOLITAN VOCABULARY:

- i. English is classified as a Germanic language: it belongs to the group of languages to which German, Dutch, Flemish, Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian belong; so it shares with these languages similar grammatical structure and many common words.
- ii. More than half of the vocabulary in English is derived from Latin; it means English also shares a great number of words with those languages of Europe that are derived from Latin: French, Italian, Spanish, etc.
- iii. English has an unusual capacity of assimilating outside elements:
 Words borrowed from Dutch: *brandy, cruller, landscape, measles, uproar, and wagon*
 Words borrowed from Italian: *balcony, canto, duet, granite, opera, piano, umbrella, and volcano*
 Words borrowed from Spanish: *alligator, cargo, contraband, cork, hammock, mosquito, sherry, stampede, tornado, vanilla*
 Words borrowed from Greek: *acme, acrobat, anthology, barometer, catastrophe, chronology, elastic, magic, tactics, tantalize*
 Words borrowed from Russian: *steppe, vodka, ruble, troika, glasnost, perestroika*
 Words borrowed from Persian: *jasmine, paradise, check, chess, lemon, lilac, turban, borax, spinach, caravan, dervish, divan, mogul, shawl*
- iv. So the assimilation, the adaptability, and the resultant cosmopolitan vocabulary of English with its cognates in many languages are undoubted assets.
- v. Thanks to "its extraordinary receptive and adaptable heterogeneousness, [English] has become the most mixed of languages".

2) INFLECTIONAL SIMPLICITY:

- i. **Inflection:** a process by which affixes combine with roots /lexical units to indicate basic grammatical categories: if a word is plural or singular; if it is past tense or not; if it is a comparative or possessive form

⁸³ Charles F. Meyer, p. 43

- ii. Inflection does not change the part of speech class for a word; the term originally meant “modification”
- iii. Unlike Old English, Latin, Greek, German, French, or Russian, English has only a few inflections; hence it is less complex and easily understandable.
- iv. In Old English there were “about two dozen different types of inflectional endings that could be added to nouns alone”⁸⁴.
- v. English has only eight inflectional endings: Noun: --s, --s’
Verb: --s, --ing, --ed, --en
Adjective: --er, --est

3) GENDER SIMPLICITY:

- i. Unlike the Old English and the other major European languages, English has no grammatical gender.
- ii. Grammatical gender depends on the form or type of a word and not primarily on its meaning; hence it could mislead the learner: the word used for “girl” in German, and the word used for “woman” in Old English are treated as neuter.
- iii. Grammatical gender is usually found in highly inflected Indo-European languages.
- iv. In other European languages, sometimes a discrepancy between natural gender and grammatical gender that could mislead the learner: the word used for a “girl” in German is considered as neuter.
- v. In most of the cases, English believes in natural gender distinctions
- vi. English refers only to the natural gender (male or female), or the sexless entities, or to those nouns wherein sex is irrelevant.
- vii. In English, the grammatical gender is only confined to the third person singular pronouns: personal/reflexive/genitive
- viii. In most of the cases, the pronouns “you/they/them/their” are used as genderless.
- ix. “Moon”: (German: masculine), (Spanish: feminine), (Urdu: masculine)
“the sun”: (German: feminine), (Spanish: masculine), (Urdu: masculine)
“book”: (French: masculine), (Urdu: feminine)

4) The fourth quality of English is its relatively fixed word-order.

86. LIABILITIES

Usually the following points create problems for the learners of English:

- i. The non-native speakers of English cannot express themselves idiomatically:
 - As “an idiom is a phrase whose meaning is difficult or sometimes impossible to guess by looking at the meanings of the individual words it contains”; so they are often misguided by the individual/isolated meanings of such words.
 - “All languages have their special ways of saying things.”

⁸⁴ Adrian Akmajian, et al., p. 341

- “The mastery of idioms depends largely on memory.”
- ii. Orthographic Problems:
 - Orthography is the system of spelling in a language
 - English spelling is irrational, illogical, irregular, and chaotic.
 - The learner cannot tell how to spell an English word by its pronunciation.
 - There is usually no relation between spelling and pronunciation of a word.
 - Some letters are silent in certain words: “sign”, “doubt”, “talk”, “palm”, “bomb”
 - The same letter stands for different sounds: “car”, “century”
 - The same sound is indicated by different letters/combination of letters: “rude”, “soupe”
 - Some letters have the same pronunciation but different spells and different meanings: “write”, “right”, “rite”
 - The 26 alphabets in English has to represent 44 sounds.
- iii. Pronunciation problems:
 - Spell is not a true guide to the pronunciation of a word.
 - The same pronunciation could be represented by different letters or cluster of letters: “shoe”, “sugar”, “issue”, “nation”, “suspicion”, “ocean”, “conscious”, “chaperon”
 - No principle of one symbol, one sound.

73. History of English:

- I. “The history of a language can be an *internal history* (of linguistic categories such as sounds, structure, and vocabulary) and an *external history* (of geographical and social spread, attitudes toward the language, study of its features, and attempts at its regulation). Such a dual approach is useful so long as it does not ignore changes that overlap these categories, as when English borrowed heavily from French, in which attitudes (an external factor) influenced vocabulary (an internal feature.)”⁸⁵
- II. **Prehistoric period of English:** “Almost all knowledge of English before c. 600 is hypothetical, a reconstruction based on later documents in English and on earlier documents in related languages. Scholars agree, however, that the ultimate origins of English lie in Indo-European (IE), a postulated ancient language which

⁸⁵ Tom McArthur, p. 276

- may have been spoken in north-eastern Europe or near the Black Sea between c. 3000 and c. 2000 BC and can now only be reconstructed from its descendants.”⁸⁶
- III. “IE ceased to exist sometime soon after 2000 BC, having diversified into a number of increasingly distinct offspring as a result of migration and natural linguistic changes. One of these offspring is known to scholars as *Primitive Germanic*, which like the original IE has left no written records.”⁸⁷
 - IV. “The Germanic-speaking peoples appear to have moved from the IE homeland to what is now Scandinavia and northern Germany, from which they later spread in several migrations, leaving a northern branch behind, creating a small eastern branch that included Gothic, and a much larger western branch, which was the source of German, Dutch, and English, among others.”⁸⁸
 - V. **Old English:** “Several migrating tribes from northern Germany reached Britain in the early 5c speaking the mutually intelligible dialects which in their new home are now called Old English (OE) or Anglo-Saxon.”⁸⁹
 - VI. “The first written form of the language was runic letters, replaced during the conversion to Christianity of the Anglo-Saxon after 597 by the Latin alphabet, which was adapted to serve OE, making use of some runic letters and some letter shapes used by Irish scribes.”⁹⁰
 - VII. “Although OE was used as a literary medium and was the language of Anglo-Saxon chronicle, it did not seriously rival Latin as an administrative or intellectual medium, and within a century of the Norman Conquest of 1066 it was dead.”⁹¹
 - VIII. **Middle English:** “Many linguistic changes occurred in late OE, and in Middle English (ME), almost every feature of OE changed radically, so that though late ME such as Chaucer’s usage remains intelligible now 600 years later, little or nothing of OE could have been intelligible to Chaucer only 300 years after the Norman Conquest.”⁹²
 - IX. “The most striking internal development is vocabulary. Some personal pronouns changed, the feminine from OE *he* to *she*, the plural from OE *hie* to *they*, with eventually *them* and *their*. More far-reaching, however, were the borrowings, mostly from French, that transformed English from an almost wholly Germanic language to a language of mixed Germanic-Romance composition.”⁹³
 - X. “ME dialects are more numerous than OE dialects, and unregulated spelling often reflects the variations: in the late 14c, *church* appears in the North of England and in Scotland as *kirk(e)* or *kyrk(e)*, in the South-East as *cherch(e)* and *chirch(e)*, in the South-West as *church(e)*, and in the Midlands as a mixture of these forms plus *chyrch(e)*.”⁹⁴

⁸⁶ Tom McArthur, p. 276

⁸⁷ Tom McArthur, p. 276

⁸⁸ Tom McArthur, p. 276

⁸⁹ Tom McArthur, p. 276

⁹⁰ Tom McArthur, p. 276

⁹¹ Tom McArthur, p. 276

⁹² Tom McArthur, p. 277

⁹³ Tom McArthur, p. 277

⁹⁴ Tom McArthur, 277

- XI. **Early Modern English:** “Renaissance exploration added new words to the vocabulary. ... Developments in the arts and sciences produced a huge influx of words, such as *sonnet* (from Italian via French) and *sextant* (from Neo-Latin). Exploration also enhanced the stature of English by establishing the language in new territories from Africa to the Americas. The Reformation provided a further impulse to translation, not only in the sequence of English Bible translations from Tyndale (1526) to the Authorized Version (1611), but also in the translation of Greek and Roman classics.”⁹⁵
- XII. “With the accession of the Tudors to the English throne (1485), the increase of national pride promoted greater confidence in the vernacular for original writing, often expressed with an exuberance of literary style, especially in the Elizabethan age.”⁹⁶
- XIII. “The range of the language was further enlarged when James VI King of Scots became James I of England in 1603. This event not only made possible the development of a standard language, especially in writing and print, throughout Britain and Ireland and later in North America and colonies elsewhere, but brought the King’s English and the King’s Scots together in one monarch.”⁹⁷
- XIV. “The forms of Renaissance English show the effects of the Great Vowel Shift, though it was still incomplete, the development of some features of structure, such as –s for –th (*hears* instead of *heareth*)... ”⁹⁸
- XV. **Late Modern English:** “In the 18th c, the diaspora of English gained momentum. Not only was the language used almost everywhere in Britain and Ireland, to the increasing detriment of the Celtic languages, but the Crown gained Canada and India in competition with the French and supplanted the Dutch in colonizing Australia. ...Now as English spread across the globe, large numbers began to use it as a second or learned it as a foreign language.”⁹⁹
- XVI. “In turn, English gained new vocabulary from languages throughout the world: words like Nahuatl *tomato*, Eskimo *kayak*, Hindi *chintz*, now so thoroughly assimilated that they retain no echoes of their exotic origins. With increasing scope and variety came increasing attempts at regulation. In 1664, a committee of the recently formed Royal Society of London sought to propound a set of rules for English, and in 1712 Swift proposed an Academy comparable to the Academie francaise, ‘for *ascertaining* and *fixing* our language for ever’. Neither attempt succeeded.” Bailey attempted his Dictionary (1721), and “Johnson’s dictionary in 1755 laid the foundation of modern lexicography”.¹⁰⁰
- XVII. “The growth of natural sciences after 1800 produced numberless new theories and products, along with knowledge of new substances, processes, and ailments, all nameless. Many received names composed by analogy with their formulas

⁹⁵ Tom McArthur, p. 277

⁹⁶ Tom McArthur, p. 277

⁹⁷ Tom McArthur, p. 277

⁹⁸ Tom McArthur, pp. 277—78

⁹⁹ Tom McArthur, p. 278

¹⁰⁰ Tom McArthur, p. 278

(*carbon monoxide*); others were named for their discoverer (*Hansen's Disease*), by acronym (*AIDS*), or by classical borrowing (*rabies*, Latin for rage). The language of newer fields like computer science often gives technical meaning to familiar words: *Apple Mac*, *dumb terminal*, *mouse*.”¹⁰¹

- XVIII. “Among the new sciences was linguistics, the objective study of language. Emboldened by the achievements of philology in the first quarter of the 19c, scholars set aside such impressionistic views of language as Addison’s that English was distinctively ‘modest, thoughtful and sincere’. They also gave up culturally biased attempts to link Hebrew to Latin and Greek, and took account in their studies of non-Western languages such as Sanskrit.”¹⁰²

FROM CELTIC BRITAIN TO ROMANISED BRITAIN:

- 74 Julius Caesar attempted several times to conquer Britain (wherein Celts would live) from Gaul in 55BC and onwards but failed.
- 75 Julius Caesar (c.100—44BC) was a Roman statesman, General, and a dictator (49—44BC) of the Roman Empire. Gaul was an ancient region in Western Europe, consisting of what is now mainly France and Belgium: after 5th c. BC also called Transalpine Gaul.
- 76 Latin was the language of the Roman Empire.
- 77 Then in AD 43, the Emperor Claudius (10BC—AD54), emperor (AD41—54) attempted to conquer Britain and he succeeded to a great extent.
- 78 “It was in AD 43 that the Emperor Claudius decided to undertake the actual conquest of the island. ... Accordingly an army of 40,000 was sent to Britain and within three years it had subjugated the peoples of the central and southeastern regions.”¹⁰³
- 79 “The progress of Roman control was not uninterrupted. A serious uprising of the Celts occurred in AD 61 under Boudicca (Boadicea), the widow of one of the Celtic chiefs, and 70,000 Romans and Romanized Britons are said to have been massacred.”¹⁰⁴
- 80 Thereafter Britain became a province of the Roman Empire.
- 81 When the Romans conquered Britain, Romanization of the province was taken place very quickly.
- 82 Latin was spoken in some parts of Britain rather extensively for a period of about four centuries before the coming of English.¹⁰⁵
- 83 Britain remained a part of the Roman Empire till round about AD 410.
- 84 Since the Roman conquest, Roman language remained side by side with Celtic; the former was limited to the upper class, the well-to-do, and some artisans; but it could not displace Celtic.
- 85 Around AD 449 began the invasion of Britain by certain Germanic tribes—the founders of the English nation.
- 86 “English had been changing since the day the Angles and the Saxons arrived in Britain in about AD 500, and it has naturally carried on changing ever since.”¹⁰⁶

¹⁰¹ Tom Mc Arthur, p. 278

¹⁰² Tom McArthur, p. 278

¹⁰³ VU, ENG 501, p. 25

¹⁰⁴ VU, ENG, 501, p. 25

¹⁰⁵ VU, ENG 501, p. 25

¹⁰⁶ R. L. Trask, *Language: The Basics*, p. 95

- 87 For the next hundred years, bands of conquerors and settlers migrated from their continental homes—Denmark and the Low Countries.
- 88 The Venerable Bede (672/73—735), who was a Saint, an Anglo-Saxon theologian, historian, and chronologist, in his *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (731) tells us that the Germanic tribes that conquered the Romanized Britain were **the Jutes, the Saxons, and the Angles**.
- 89 These three tribes brought with them what is called a “Low German” type of language. Hence Old English or Anglo-Saxon belongs to the Low German sub-division of the Germanic group of languages and is derived from dialects spoken by the Germanic invaders of Romanized Britain.
- 90 “Who spoke Proto-Germanic, and where and when? This is not simple question, since the Proto-Germanic speakers were illiterate and left no written texts behind. But the consensus of scholars is that the language was probably spoken in southern Scandinavia around 500 BC, and that groups of Germanic speakers spread from there into northern, eastern and southern Europe, and finally a thousand years later, into Britain. The dialects spoken by these groups have diverged into a number of distinct languages, but the relatedness of these languages is still easy to see.”¹⁰⁷
- 91 It appears that the Jutes and the Angles had their homes in the Danish peninsula.
- 92 After frequent invasions, though resisted by the Celts, the Jutes came in numbers and settled on the lands of the Celts.
- 93 In AD 477, some of the Saxons landed on the south coast and established themselves in Sussex; the arrival of the Saxons settlers continued till AD 495 and extended to Wessex (the West Saxons) and the Middlesex (the Middle Saxons).
- 94 “Finally in the middle of the next century the Angles occupied the east coast and in 547 established an Anglian Kingdom north of the Humber.”
- 95 The Romans withdrew from Britain in AD 410.
- 96 **CELT:** A person who speaks a Celtic language or a descendant of such a person; the Britons, Irish, Welsh, and Highland Scots are Celts.

FROM THE ROMANIZED BRITAIN TO THE ANGLO-SAXON BRITAIN: Old-English/Anglo-Saxon Period (c.450—1150)

- 97 **SAXON:** “A member of a Germanic people that once lived near the mouth of the Elbe, and in Roman times spread across Germany from Schleswig to the Rhine. Some (the Anglo-Saxons: that is those who joined the Angles) migrated in the 5—6c. to Britain.”
- 98 “The dialect spoken by the Saxons in Southern England, in Essex (home of the East Saxons), Middlesex (the Middle Saxons), Sussex (the South Saxons) and Wessex (the West Saxons).”
- 99 “The term [Saxon] has sometimes been used instead of Old English and Anglo-Saxon, as the name of the language carried to Britain by the Angles and Saxons.”
- 100 The exact nature of the relations between the native population (the Celts) and the invaders (the Jutes, the Saxons, and the Angles) is not clear.
- 101 Wherein the Celts were few, the Anglo-Saxons remained with them in relatively peaceful atmosphere.
- 102 Many of the Celts were driven into west and they sought refuge in Wales and Cornwall.
- 103 The civilization attained under Roman influence was largely destroyed.
- 104 The Roman towns were burnt and depopulated by the Germanic invaders.

¹⁰⁷ R. L. Trask, *Language: The Basics*, p. 112

- 105 The business of the community was transacted in local assemblies and moots.
- 106 “The conversion of the English to Christianity began in about the year AD 600.”¹⁰⁸
- 107 The Germanic invaders of the Romanized Britain were heathen and the “conversion of the English peoples began with the arrival of Augustine in Kent in 597”; he had been sent from Rome, by Gregory the Great (Pope of Rome 590—604), with a band of monks to carry on the missionary work. “Latin was, of course, the language of the Christian Church”.
- 108 “The Roman Christianizing of Britain in 597 brought England into contact with Latin civilization and made significant additions to our vocabulary.”¹⁰⁹
- 109 Various tribes combined either for greater strength or under a powerful leader; thus creating small kingdoms.
- 110 The well-known seven small kingdoms: Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Kent, Essex, Sussex, and Wessex; collectively they are known as “the Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy”.
- 111 But the grouping was a loose confederation: it could not last for long.
- 112 During the early seventh century, Northumbria got political supremacy and surpassed the others in literature and learning.
- 113 During the eighth century, this leadership passed to Mercia.
- 114 Finally, Wessex (the West Saxons), under Egbert (802—39), extended its influence to almost all England and Wales.
- 115 Under Alfred the Great (849—99), King of Wessex (the West Saxons), the West Saxons got a high degree of prosperity and considerable enlightenment.
- 116 “The unification of England under the West Saxon kings led to the recognition of the West Saxon dialect as a literary standard.”¹¹⁰
- 117 “The evolution of English in the 1,500 years of its existence in England has been an unbroken one.”¹¹¹
- 118 “English was introduced in the middle of the fifth century and has a career extending through 1,500 years only.”¹¹²

THE NAMES “ENGLISH” AND “ENGLAND”:

- 119 “Early Latin writers, following Celtic usage, generally call the Germanic inhabitants of England Saxons and the land Saxonia. But soon the terms **Angli** and **Anglia** occur beside Saxons and refer not to the Angles individually but to the West Germanic tribes generally.”¹¹³
- 120 “In time, **Angli** and **Anglia** become the usual terms in Latin texts. From the beginning, however, writers in the vernacular never call their language anything but Englisc (English). The word is derived from the name of the Angles (OE Engle) but is used without distinction for the language of all the invading tribes.”¹¹⁴
- 121 “From about the year 1000, England (land of the Angles) begins to take its place. The name English is thus older than the name England.”¹¹⁵

¹⁰⁸ C. L. Barber, *The Story of Language*, p. 125

¹⁰⁹ Albert C. Baugh, p. 1

¹¹⁰ CL Barber, p. 123

¹¹¹ VU, ENG 501, p. 23

¹¹² VU, ENG 501, p. 25

¹¹³ VU, ENG 501, p. 28

¹¹⁴ VU, ENG 501, p. 28

¹¹⁵ VU, ENG 501, p. 28

122 It means “The English language of today is the language that has resulted from the history of the dialects spoken by the Germanic tribes who came to England.”¹¹⁶

123 “English mainly belongs to the Low West Germanic branch of the Indo-European family.”¹¹⁷

124 PERIODS IN THE HISTORY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE:

1. **Old English (Anglo-Saxon) Period (450—1150):** The period of full inflections: during most of this period the endings of the noun, the adjective, and the verb are preserved more or less unimpaired.
2. **Middle English Period (1150—1500):** The period of levelled inflections; various inflections of nouns, verbs, and adjectives were greatly reduced.
3. **Modern English Period (1500—to date):** The period of lost inflections; a large part of the inflections has disappeared completely.

DIALECTS OF OLD ENGLISH (ANGLO-SAXON):

125 A dialect is a “distinct form of a language (or other communication system) that differs from other forms of that language in specific linguistic features (pronunciations, vocabulary, and/or grammar), possibly associated with some regional, social, or ethnic group, but that is nevertheless mutually intelligible with them”.

126 Old English was not entirely uniform; the language of the earlier period differed from that of the later period (about AD 700).

127 Old English also differed somewhat from one locality to another.

128 In Old English times there were the four dialects: Northumbrian, Mercian, West Saxon, and Kentish.

129 Northumbrian and Mercian would be spoken in region north of the Thames, settled by the Angles.

130 Northumbrian and Mercian possessed some common characteristics and collectively known as Anglian.

131 Little is known about Kentish; it was the dialect of the Jutes in the southeast.

132 West Saxon is come across in the shape of extensive collection of texts; it was the dialect of the West Saxon kingdom in the southwest.

133 Almost all the Old English literature has been preserved in manuscripts ascribed to this region.

134 With the political supremacy of the West Saxon Kingdom, the West Saxon dialect also got a status of literary standard.

135 Thanks to its literary standard and the existent preserved manuscripts, the West Saxon is considered as the basis for the study of Old English; but the direct ancestor of modern standard English is believed to be the Anglian dialect.

136 The progress of West Saxon dialect towards the standard speech of England was cut short by the Norman Conquest (1066).

CHARACTERISTICS OF OLD ENGLISH (ANGLO-SAXON):

¹¹⁶ VU, ENG 501, p. 28

¹¹⁷ VU, ENG 501, p. 28

- 137 Usually there would be long vowels in Old English; such long vowels of Old English have modified considerably in the later English: stan: stone; rap: rope; halig: holy; hlaf: loaf; gan: go; bat: boat; ban: bone
- 138 Some of the words in Old English have undergone contraction in the later English: sawol: soul; faeger: fair; heafod: head
- 139 These spells of the Old English and their contraction in Modern English indicates a shift from complexity towards simplicity.
- 140 In Old English, the two characters “p” and “o”, known as “thorn” and “eth” respectively to represent the sound of “th”, as in the words “theatre” or “then”; both “p” and “o” are no longer used.
- 141 “the letter *p*, called ‘thorn’, was used in Old English to spell the sounds we now spell *th*.”¹¹⁸
- 142 In Old English, the sound of “sh” would be represented by “sc”, as in “scep” (sheep), “fisc” (fish), “Englisc” (English), “disc” (dish) or “sceotan” (shoot).
- 143 Unlike the later English, the Old English had assimilated very few Latin (Latin had influenced Anglo-Saxon to some extent because Latin was language of the Roman Empire) and almost no French words (because there was no cultural or linguistic contact with the speakers of French).
- 144 The vocabulary of Old English was almost purely Germanic; in the later English, the large part of such a vocabulary has disappeared; almost 85% of such a vocabulary has vanished.
- 145 Unlike the Modern English, Old English was a synthetic language: with too much inflections, and resultantly, without any fixed word-order.
- 146 “Often the gender of Old English is quite illogical”: grammatical gender, instead of the natural/biological gender, was one of the characteristics of Old English; in Old English, neuter objects are not necessarily neuter: “stan” (stone): masculine; “mona” (moon): masculine; “wif” (wife): neuter; “wifmann” (woman): masculine
- 147 Like other Germanic languages, a twofold declension would be used for adjectives in Old English: the weak declension, when the noun would be preceded by a definite article or demonstrative or possessive pronoun; and the strong declension, when there would be no such preceding definite article, demonstrative, or possessive pronoun: “god mann” (good man), but “se goda mann” (the good man); such inflections of adjectives in Modern English have completely vanished.
- 148 In Old English, the definite article “the” would be inflected differently for singular, plural, masculine, or feminine nouns.
- 149 Apart from singular and plural numbers for personal pronouns, Old English was also characterized with dual number—a set of forms for two people/things.
- 150 Though Old English was devoid of the assimilated Latin and French words, it was characterized with resourcefulness and flexibility: the capacities for bending old words to new uses by prefixes, suffixes, derivatives, and compounds.
- 151 Thus Old English had a remarkable capacity for derivation and word formation from the same root. “It was more resourceful in utilizing its native material than Modern English which has come to rely to a great extent on its facility in borrowing and assimilating elements from other languages.”
- 152 “In Old English *v* was simply a variant of *f*, but the introduction of numerous French loanwords established it as a separate phoneme.”¹¹⁹

¹¹⁸ R. L. Trask, *Language: The Basics*, P. 93

¹¹⁹ Borbala Richter, p. 89

153 Another characteristic of Old English is the abundance of self-explaining compounds: “These are compounds of two or more native words whose meaning in combination is either self-evident or has been rendered clear by association and usage.” Examples from Modern English: green-house, rail-way, sewing-machine, one-way traffic, writing-desk, sitting-room, sleeping-bag, boiling-point, freezing-point, etc. Examples from Old English: “eorpcraeft” (geometry), “fiscdeag” (fish-dye, purple), “earhring” (ear-ring).

154 Old English used a lot of prefixes and suffixes to form new words from the already existent roots: the Old English prefix “wip” (with) would be used with more than 50 Old English verbs; of such 50 odd verbs, only the verb “wipstandan” (withstand) has come down to Modern English.

155 Old English is also characterized for the liberal use of synonyms, especially in poetry:

Battle: the play of swords

Warrior: the shield bearer

The king: leader of hosts; the giver of rings; the victory-lord

Boat: the sea-wood; the wave-courser; the carved-stem; the foamy-necked ship

The sea: the whale-road; the rolling of waves; the water’s back

156 **Old English syntax:** Syntax is the “study of grammatical relations between words and other units within the sentence”.

157 “Syntax concerns the construction of phrases and clauses, for instance, the word order which is very important, the agreement between subjects and verbs, etc.”

158 Most of the Old English/Anglo-Saxon language would be in “paratactic style”—“parataxis” is an ancient term for coordination, applied especially to that of clauses or sentences. Parataxis means “side by side”; it is the placing of clauses, sentences, or propositions side by side without connecting words, conjunctions, coordinators, or subordinating words: Tell me, how are you? Old English/ Anglo-Saxon was prominently paratactic.

159 **Hypotaxis:** (under arrangement) a syntactic relationship between dependent and independent construction; such a relationship is made explicit by connectives like “however”, “because”, etc.

160 **Syntactic Language:** “A syntactic language is one that indicates the relation of words in a sentence largely by means of inflections”.¹²⁰

161 **Analytic Languages:** “Languages that make extensive use of prepositions and auxiliary verbs and depend upon word order to show other relationships are known as analytic languages. Modern English is an analytic, Old English a synthetic language.”¹²¹

OLD ENGLISH/ANGLO-SAXON LITERATURE:

162 Literature indicates a lot about the evolutionary journey of a language.

163 “The language of a past time is known by the quality of its literature.”

164 “It is in literature that a language displays its full power, its ability to convey in vivid and memorable form the thoughts and emotions of a people.”

165 “The literature of the Anglo-Saxons is fortunately one of the richest and most significant of any preserved among the early Germanic peoples.”

166 Literature is considered “the language mobilized, the language in action”.

167 The Old English/Anglo-Saxon literature could be divided into two kinds:

- i. The local pagan literature coupled with the oral literature brought by the Germanic invaders.

¹²⁰ Albert C. Baugh, p. 50

¹²¹ Albert C. Baugh, p. 50

- ii. The Christian/ecclesiastical literature introduced with the advent of Christianity in the end of the sixth century.

168 So the Old English literature is an amalgamation/mixture of both pagan and Christian (ecclesiastic) elements: the local and the exotic/foreign elements.

OLD ENGLISH/ANGLO-SAXON POETRY:

169 *BEOWULF*:

- The greatest single work of Old English literature
- A folk epic
- A poem of about 3,182 lines of four-stress alliterating verse
- A narrative of heroic adventure
- Beowulf, a young warrior, is hero of the poem; hence an eponymous hero
- Grendel, a monster, that has played a havoc in the kingdom of Hrothgar
- Beowulf succeeds to kill Grendel and its mother, another sea monster
- Later on, Beowulf himself became a king but was killed while fighting another fire-breathing dragon
- The poem exhorts the lesson of physical endurance, unflinching courage, honour, duty, and loyalty
- “The Angles brought the story of ‘Beowulf’ with them to England in the sixth century, and there somewhere after AD 700 the poem was made.”
- “... the hero and the setting have nothing to do with England. Though the Angles brought the story to England, it is not even about the Angles, but about the Scandinavians.”
- *Beowulf* has been divided into two parts: the first part deals with Beowulf’s visit to the court of King Hrothgar of Denmark. “The aging Hrothgar had long been plagued by a man-eating monster, Grendel, who came regularly to the King’s great hall of Heorot to prey on his warriors, and it was to slay the monster that Beowulf came to Denmark.”
- The second part takes place after a period of fifty years when Beowulf has long been king of the Geats—probably the now southern Sweden.

170 “More than half of Anglo-Saxon poetry is concerned with Christian subjects. Translations and paraphrases of books of the Old and New Testament, legends of saints, and devotional and didactic pieces constitute the bulk of this verse.”

171 Other Anglo-Saxon poetry has been found in the shape of short pieces; in such pieces, the Anglo-Saxon poets have described their feelings of war, exile, sea, hardships of life, ruined cities, and of minstrel life.

172 “The religious poetry uses the same verse and vocabulary as the stories of the heroes. The church was using the old pagan poetry in the new fight for Christianity.”

173 “Named poets connected with this Christian tradition are rare and indeed we know of only two. Of the first, Caedmon, something is recorded of his life but next to nothing of his work. Of the second, Cynewulf, we know nothing of his life but we can identify at least some of the poems on religious subjects” : *Julana*, *Elene*, *Christ*, and *The Fates of the Apostles*.

174 Other shorter pieces (poems) of Old English literature are:

- i. *Widsith* (The Far Traveller): a poem about the wandering of a poet through the courts of Germanic kings.

- ii. *The Wanderer*: a tragedy in the medieval sense
- iii. *The Seafarer*: a monologue wherein the perils, hardships, and dangers of sea have been described
- iv. *The Ruin*: a story wherein a ruined, depopulated city, with its towers, stone halls, courts, and baths, has been described.
- v. *The Battle of Brunanburh*: celebrating patriotic fervor
- vi. *The Battle of Maldona*: a war poem
- vii. *Deor*
- viii. *The Wife's Lament*
- ix. *The Husband's Message*: these three poems depict a sorrowful, fatalistic life.
- x. *The Andreas*
- xi. *The Phoenix*: a poem wherein the mythological bird has been considered as a symbol of the Christian life.
- xii. *Christ and Satan*: describes the expulsion of Satan from Paradise

175 The Germanic invaders of the Romanized Britain were heathen and the "conversion of the English peoples began with the arrival of Augustine in Kent in 597"; he had been sent from Rome, by Gregory the Great (Pope of Rome 590—604), with a band of monks to carry on the missionary work. "Latin was, of course, the language of the Christian Church".

176 "Few traces remain of heathen religious poetry. What we have are popular *charms* or incantations for securing fertility of the fields or immunity from witchcraft, and even these have plainly felt the influence of later Christianity."

177 "Old English literature is the literature of men, not of women."¹²²

OLD ENGLISH/ANGLO-SAXON PROSE:

178 "The Anglo-Saxon invaders of Britain brought with them their own poetry [Germanic/Scandinavian poetry], but there is no evidence of their having possessed any literary prose tradition. The development of Old English prose does not therefore go back to earlier Germanic origins, as poetry does: it takes place wholly in England, and largely as a result of the Christianization of England." So prose developed later than poetry in Old English/ Anglo-Saxon literature.

179 "In the development of literature, prose generally comes late. Verse is more effective for oral delivery and more easily retained in memory. ... English possessed a considerable body of prose literature in the ninth century, at a time when most other modern languages in Europe had scarcely developed a literature in verse."

180 Aldhelm (d. 709, the bishop of Sherborne) and the Venerable Bede (673—735) are considered as the precursors/forerunners of Old English prose; both wrote in Latin; Bede is well-known for his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, written in Latin.

181 Alfred the Great (849—99) was a soldier, strategist, scholar, educator, and administrator; he became king of Wessex at the age of twenty-two.

182 Alfred had a lot of Latin works translated into Old English/Anglo-Saxon:

A translation of Gregory's *The Pastoral Rule*

A translation of Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*

¹²² George Sampson, *A Concise Cambridge History of English Literature*, pp. 4—5

A translation of the Spanish Orosius's *History of the World*

183 A translation of Boethius's *The Consolation of Philosophy*

184 Aelfric's translations: *Homilie*: composed of two volumes, each with forty sermons, translated from Latin

Saints' Lives

Grammar

185 A homily is a sermon-like discourse (spoken or written), a short lecture, intended to be morally edifying.

186 Wulfstan (d. 1023, Archbishop of York): he wrote *Sermon of the Wolf*

THE CELTIC INFLUENCE ON OLD ENGLISH (THE LOCAL INFLUENCE ON ANGLO-SAXON):

187 Except in certain areas, the Anglo-Saxon invaders did not completely eliminate the native Celtic population; in some of the areas, the contact between the two peoples must have been constant; in such a few areas, both the Celts (the natives) and the Anglo-Saxons (the invaders) lived in cordial atmosphere and remained on intimate terms with each other for generations; "many of the Anglo-Saxons chose Celtic mates"; this resulted in a corresponding mixture of their languages.

188 The little influence of Celtic on Anglo-Saxon/Old English can be ascribed to three reasons:

First, a familiar environment for the Anglo-Saxon invaders in both the mainland Europe as well as in newly settled England; so no need for coining new words or assimilating the already existent Celtic words for the flora, fauna, or new ideas they encountered in

Second, little or no hybridization: no contact was there among the vernaculars.

Third, thanks to its religious and cultural influence, the attraction of the Latin language for both the Celtic speaking people (the natives) and the Anglo-Saxons (the Germanic invaders) was greater as compared to their mutual attraction for each other.

189 The substantial evidence of Celtic influence upon Old English could be found in place names:

- i. Name of the Kingdom "Kent" is traced to the Celtic word "canti" (meaning unknown).
 - ii. Names used for the two Northumbrian kingdoms of "Deira" and "Bernicia" have been derived from Celtic tribal names.
 - iii. "Devonshire": the first element is name of a Celtic tribe "Dumnoni".
 - iv. "Cornwall": means "Cornubian Welsh"
 - v. "Cumberland": means "land of the Cumry or Britons".
- During the Romanized period, certain place-names that are traced to the Celtic origin are:
- vi. "London": a word of Celtic designation (origin unknown).
 - vii. The first syllables in "Winchester", "Salisbury", "Exeter", "Gloucester", "Worcester", "Lichfield" are traced to Celtic.
 - viii. "Durovernum": (earlier name of Canterbury) is traced to Celtic

190 The greatest number of Celtic names are found in the names of rivers, hills, and their surroundings:

- i. Thames, Avon, Exe, Esk, Usk, Dover, Wye (River names).
- ii. "Cumb": (meaning a deep valley): Duncombe, Holcombe, Winchcombe.

191 "Outside of place-names, however, the influence of Celtic upon the English language is almost negligible. Not more than a score of words in Old English can be traced with reasonable probability to a Celtic source."

192 Two categories of words apart from place-names:

- i. Words learned as a result of the contacts between the natives and the Anglo-Saxons; such words were transmitted orally.
- ii. Words introduced by the Irish missionaries in the north; such words were learned words—ecclesiastical words

193 Personal English names of Celtic origin:

Alan, Donald, Duncan, Eileen, Gavin, Ronald, Sheila, MacDonald, Cameron, Douglas.

194 “If the influence of Celtic upon Old English was slight, it was doubtless so because the relation of the Celt to the Anglo-Saxon was that of a submerged culture and because the Celt was not in a position to make notable contributions Anglo-Saxon civilization.”

LATIN INFLUENCE OF THE ZERO PERIOD (CONTINENTAL BORROWING):

195 The period before the invasion of the Germanic tribes (the Angles, the Saxons, the Jutes) upon the Romanized England.

196 This period covers and it is limited to the socio-economic and political status of the Germanic tribes within the Roman Empire—the empire established by Augustus in 27 BC. Augustus (63 BC—AD 14) was the first Roman Emperor (27 BC—AD 14); he was the grandnephew of Julius Caesar; at its peak, the Roman Empire included Western and Southern Europe, Britain, Asia Minor, North Africa, and the Eastern Mediterranean; in AD 395, the Empire was divided into the Eastern Roman Empire and the Western Roman Empire.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS:

197 During the 4th century, the Germanic population within the Roman Empire is estimated as several millions.

198 Within the Roman Empire, the Germanic population had got an access to almost all social ranks and strata: from slaves to commanders in Roman army.

199 Majority of the Germanic population inhabited the northern frontier of the Roman Empire: stretched along the Rhine and the Danube.

200 “Close to the border was Treves, in the third and fourth centuries the most flourishing city in Gaul.”

201 Both the Germanic and the Roman traders frequented each other areas.

202 “Such intercourse between the two peoples was certain to carry words from one language to the other.”

203 Even before the invasions of the Germanic tribes, several hundred Latin words had been assimilated by various Germanic dialects; it indicates the extensive intercourse between the Germanic tribes and the Romans.

204 “The first Latin words to find their way into the English language owe their adoption to the early contact between the Romans and the Germanic tribes on the continent”—all of Europe except the British Isles.

205 “Latin was not the language of a conquered people. It was the language of a highly regarded civilization, one from which the Anglo-Saxons wanted to learn ... while still occupying their Continental homes.”

206 “In medieval times, the vernaculars of Europe were overshadowed by Latin, the language of spiritual truth, learning, and debate.”¹²³

¹²³ Tom McArthur, p. 575

207 LATIN WORDS IN ENGLISH:

- i. During their contacts with a higher civilization, the Germanic peoples, at their Continental homes, had adopted words for new concepts.
- ii. Words related to war: “camp” (war), “segn” (banner), “pil” (pointed stick), “weall” (wall), “pytt” (pit), “straet” (road, street), “mil” (mile).
- iii. Words related to household articles: “cytel” (kettle), “mese” (table), “scamol” (bench), “cycene” (kitchen), “cuppe” (cup), “disc” (dish), “cucler” (spoon), “line” (rope), “gimm” (gem).
- iv. Words related to trade: “mynet” (coin), “mynetere” (money-changer), “pund” (pound), “seam” (loan), “ceap” (bargain), “win” (wine), “eced” (vinegar), “flasce” (flask, bottle).
- v. Words related to construction: “cealc” (chalk), “copor” (copper), “tigel” (tile).

LATIN INFLUENCE OF THE FIRST PERIOD: LATIN THROUGH CELTIC TRANSMISSION

- 208 It is the period of Romanized Britain: when Britain remained as a province of the Roman Empire and the Celts had been subjugated by the Romans.
- 209 Too little influence of Latin on English during this period.
- 210 It is due to the brief period of Roman occupation of the Celtic Britain and the invasions of the Germanic tribes, and the resultant disorder, lawlessness, and the ravages of wars.
- 211 Such things militated against the spread of Latin or a close contact between Latin and the Anglo-Saxon dialects.
- 212 As the Roman province of Britain was situated at a peripheral position, the Old English/Anglo-Saxon and Latin did not remain in a close contact for long.
- 213 Some words: “port” (harbor, town), “castra” (camp), “munt” (mountain), “torr” (tower).

LATIN INFLUENCE OF THE SECOND PERIOD: THE CHRISTIANIZING OF BRITAIN

- 214 Gregory (c. AD 540—604), Pope (590—604), came across a few English boys to be sold as slaves in Rome.
- 215 Gregory enquired about their provenance, and planned to send some missionaries to Britain.
- 216 Accordingly, he assigned the task to Augustine (d. AD 604), a Roman Catholic monk, and later on the first archbishop of Canterbury.
- 217 Augustine, with a band of forty monks, landed in the Kingdom of Kent in 597; a small number of Christians were already there in Kent.
- 218 The King of Kent, Aethelberht, cooperated with Augustine and his monks as the former’s wife Queen Bertha was a Christian; consequently, King Aethelberht was also converted to Christianity within three months.
- 219 “Within a hundred years of the landing of Augustine in Kent all England was Christian.”
- 220 “The introduction of Christianity meant the building of churches and the establishment of monasteries. Latin, the language of the services and of ecclesiastical learning, was once more heard in England.”
- 221 “Schools were established in most of the monasteries and larger churches”; such schools utilized the services of great teachers, imported from the Continental Rome, and they started to teach Latin with missionary zeal.
- 222 Such great teachers included Theodore of Tarsus (a Greek bishop), Hadrian (an African by birth), Aldhelm, and Benedict.

223 “They were abundantly learned in sacred and profane literature, they gathered a crowd of disciples ... and together with the books of Holy Writ, they also taught the arts of poetry, astronomy, and computation of the church calendar.”

224 THE EARLIER INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIANITY ON THE VOCABULARY OF OLD ENGLISH/ANGLO-SAXON:

225 The Latin borrowings of the Second Period could be divided into two groups: the one group represents words that were borrowed early and that had found their way into English literature by the time of Alfred. The second group contains words of a more learned character first recorded in the tenth and eleventh centuries with the introduction of religious revival.

226 The words borrowed from Latin during the Second Period include *abbot, alms, altar, angel, anthem, Arian, ark, candle, canon, chalice, cleric, cowl, deacon, disciple, epistle, hymn, litany, manna, martyr, mass, minister, noon, nun, offer, organ, pall, palm, pope, priest, provost, psalm, psalter, relic, rule, shrift, shrine, shrive, stole, subdeacon, synod, temple, tunic, school, master, Latin, gramatic, verse, meter, gloss, notary, circle, legion, giant, consul, talent.*

227 Similarly words of clothing and household use include: *sock, silk, cap, purple, chest, mat, sack*

228 Names of certain trees, plants, or herbs: *pine, aloes, balsam, fennel, hyssop, lily, mallow, marshmallow, myrrh, rue, savory, plant*

229 It could be concluded from the above-mentioned words “that the most typical as well as the most numerous class of words introduced by the new religion would have to do with that religion and the details of its external organization”, though “a few words relating to Christianity such as ‘Church’ and ‘bishop’ were borrowed earlier.”

230 But the flourishing influence of the Church and Latin was badly affected by the Danes “who at the end of the eighth century began their ravages upon the country”; they destroyed most of the monasteries and churches in Northumbria, Mercia, and elsewhere.

231 Moreover, the less worthy, incapable, and incompetent clergy was also responsible for such a deteriorating influence. “We hear much complaint about immoderate feasting, and drinking and vanity in dress. In the religious houses discipline became lax, services were neglected, monasteries were occupied by groups of secular priests, many of them married; immorality was flagrant. The work of education was neglected, and learning decayed.”

232 Apart from King Alfred, three religious leaders shouldered the task of reformation during the second half of the tenth century: Dunstan (archbishop of Canterbury, d. 988), Oswald (bishop of Worcester, d. 992), and Athelwold (bishop of Winchester, d. 984); the former two had been to the Continent.

233 As a result of the Reformation, “the secular clergy were turned out of the monasteries and their places filled by monks pledged to the threefold vow of chastity, obedience, and poverty.” These reformatory efforts are known as “the Benedictine Reforms”.

234 Benedict (c.AD 480—c. 543) was an Italian monk; later on he was made as a Saint; he was the founder of the Benedictine order.

INFLUENCE OF THE BENEDICTINE REFORMS ON ENGLISH:

235 As a result of the renewed literary activity, in the form of the Benedictine Reform, a new series of Latin importations took place; unlike the earlier Christian borrowings that were mostly

ecclesiastical, the new series of importations consisted of “words of a less popular kind and expressing more often ideas of a scientific and learned character”.

236 Nevertheless, some of the religious words included in this importation included *alb, Antichrist, antiphoner, apostle, canticle, cantor, cell, chrism, cloister, collect, creed, dalmatic, demon, dirge, font, idol, nocturn, prime, prophet, Sabbath, synagogue, troper*

237 Literary and learned words include *accent, brief, decline, history, paper, pumice, term, title*

238 Plants’ names include *celandine, centaury, coriander, cucumber, ginger, periwinkle, cedar, cypress, fig, laurel*

239 Medical terms include *cancer, paralysis, circuladl, plaster*

240 Names of certain animals include *aspide, camel, lamprey, scorpion, tiger*

241 In some cases, the Anglo-Saxons did not always borrow the Latin words; in such cases, the already existent words were applied for new things and new concepts: *God, heave, hell, patriarch, martyr*

242 The Latin words were borrowed for those things and concepts that were entirely new for the Anglo-Saxons; hence they had no equivalent for such new things: *pope, bishop, priest, monk, abbot*

243 “The Latin influence of the Second Period was not only extensive but thorough and marks the real beginning of the English habit of freely incorporating foreign elements into its vocabulary.”

244 Thus such a free incorporation/assimilation/borrowing/receptiveness/receptivity of the Old English/Anglo-Saxon could be considered as a precursor/forerunner/harbinger of its highly receptive, flexible, adaptable, and heterogenous nature—the qualities that are active even today; hence, the resultant cosmopolitan and heterogenous vocabulary of English.

245 THE SCANDINAVIAN INFLUENCE ON OLD ENGLISH/ANGLO-SAXON:

246 **SCANDINAVIA:** region in Northern Europe including Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, and the Faeroe Islands.

247 Besides Celtic and Latin influences, English underwent a third foreign influence at the end of the Old English Period: the Scandinavian influence.

248 During the eighth century, the Scandinavian nations “began a series of attacks upon all the lands adjacent to the North Sea and the Baltic. Their activities began in plunder and ended in conquest”.

249 The Swedes established a kingdom in Russia; the Norwegian colonized parts of the British Isles, Iceland, Greenland, Labrador, Newfoundland, and the Faeroe Islands; the Danes founded the dukedom of Normandy and finally conquered England.

250 These conquests reached to the climax when the Danes captured the throne of England, conquered Norway, and ruled most of the Scandinavian region from their newly established English capital.

251 Such Scandinavian sea rovers and pirates who ravaged the coasts of Europe and who achieved such unusual achievements, during the 8th, 9th, and 10th centuries, are commonly known as the **VIKINGS**.

252 The ravages, plunders, and piratic activities of the Vikings continued between 750 and 1050.

253 The Vikings consisted of Swedes, Norwegians, and Danes.

254 The term “Viking” means “the creek dweller or pirate”; (Old English “wicing”).

255 The probable reasons for their expansionist and imperialist designs might be overpopulation, a region of poor natural resources, their custom of leaving the inheritance only to the eldest son, the resultant frictions between the eldest and the deprived younger sons, the exiled life of the

deprived younger ones, and their desires to carve out inheritances for themselves and hence advance their fortunes.

256 The Scandinavian invasions of England could be divided into three stages:

- i. 787—850: small scaled plundering attacks were made; monasteries and towns near the coasts were destroyed by the Northmen; sacred vessels of gold, silver, jeweled shrines, costly robes, and valuables were carried off; some of the English people were captured and made slaves; small isolated bands carried on such attacks.
- ii. 850—878: large attacking armies of the Northmen; widespread plunders; the arrival of a Danish fleet of 350 ships in 850; Canterbury and London were captured; West Saxon army resisted the Northmen; East Anglia was captured (866); York was captured (867); the East Anglian King Edmund was killed (869); King Alfred resisted the Northmen; a treaty was made between Alfred the Great and Guthrum of the Danish army; accordingly, the Danes withdrew from Alfred's territory (West Saxon), but they could not be compelled to leave England.
- iii. 878—1042: a period of political adjustment and assimilation; invasions of the Danes continued; Alfred's son Edward the Elder (900—925) and grandson Athelstan (925—939) continued their resistance against the Danes; Athelstan got the upper hand in the Battle of Brunanburh (937); by the middle of the century, in the Danish populated areas of England, English rule was restored.

257 In 994, Olaf, King of Norway, joined hands with Svein, King of Denmark and they attacked London; thus the Northmen's invasions assumed an official character.

258 In 1014, Svein and his son, Cnut, succeeded to defeat Aethelred, the English King; the latter was exiled and the English throne was captured; thereafter, England was ruled by the Danish kings for the next twenty-five years.

259 In the wake of the Danish conquests, a large number of Scandinavians, mostly the Danes, and then Norwegians, settled permanently in England; their large number could be deduced from the large number—1400—of Scandinavian place names; most of the Scandinavian settlers settled in the north and east of England, and in the district of the Danelaw.

260 The Scandinavian elements in the English population were so much considerable, substantive, and incontestable that the English kings took them into consideration while devising their policies later on.

261 Many of the Scandinavian settlers embraced Christianity, assimilated the English ways of life, and their relations with the Anglo-Saxons were not always hostile.

262 The Scandinavian influence prevailed especially on five boroughs—Lincoln, Stamford, Leicester, Derby, and Nottingham.

263 RELATION OF THE TWO LANGUAGES:

264 With the passage of time, some of the Scandinavian settlers became bilingual, others used Danish or Norse (in some parts of Scotland as late as the seventeenth century), while others gave up their language at all.

265 The most notable Scandinavian influence could be observed in place-names: more than 1400 place-names are traced to Scandinavian languages: *Grimsby, Whitby, Derby, Rugby, Thoresby*, (-by a Danish word, means "farm, town"); more than 600 such names ending in -by can be found.

266 Words having -thorp ending (*thorp*: village): *Althorp, Bishopsthorpe, Gawthorpe, Linthorpe*; such names are more than 300.

267 Names with *–thwaite* (an isolated piece of land): *Appleshwaite, Braithwaite, Cowperthwaite, Langthwaite, Satterthwaite*.

268 Names ending in *–toft* (means: a piece of ground): *Brimtoft, Eastoft, Langtoft, Lowestoft, Nortoft*; about 100 such place-names are found.

269 A large number of such place-names, traced to Scandinavian origins, are found in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Cumbria, Norfolk, and the Danelaw.

270 Some personal names ending in *–son*: *Stevenson, Johnson*

271 Apart from place-names, the following words are also traced to Scandinavian origin: *axle-tree, band, bank, birth, boon, booth, brink, bull, calf, crook, dirt, down, dregs, egg, fellow, freckle, gait, gap, girth, guess, hap, keel, kid, leg, link, loan, mire, race, reef, reindeer, rift, root, scab, scales, score, scrap, seat, sister, skill, skin, skirt, sky, slaughter, snare, stack, swain, thrift, tidings, trust, want, window, awkward, flat, ill, loose, low, meek, muggy, odd, rotten, rugged, scant, sly, tattered, tight, weak*

272 The Scandinavian influence on Old English is not limited only to nouns, verbs, and adjectives; Scandinavian influence could also be observed on the Form words—pronouns, prepositions, adverbs

273 **FORM WORDS/FUNCTION WORDS/GRAMMATICAL WORDS/FUNCTOR**: a word such as a preposition, conjunction, or an article that has little semantic content of its own and chiefly indicates a grammatical relationship; opposite to “content word”

274 The pronouns *they, them, their, both, same* are Scandinavian.

275 The prepositions *till, to, fro*, the phrase *to and fro* are of Scandinavian origin.

276 The adverbs *aloft, athwart, aye* (ever), *seemly, hepen* (hence), and *hwepen* (whence) are all derived from Scandinavian.

277 In certain areas, both the English and the Scandinavian words were retained with a little or no difference of meaning or use, as in the following pairs (the English word is given first): *no: nay; whole: hale; rear: raise; from: fro; craft: skill; hide: skin; sick: ill*

278 Inflection of the *–s* third person singular in present simple tense, and the participle ending *–ing* are also attributed to Scandinavian influence. Majority of the words borrowed from the Scandinavians are generally pronounced with *sk*: *sky, skin, skill, scrape, scrub, bask, whisk, skirt*

279 According to an estimate, supported by substantial evidence, at least 900 words are traced to Scandinavian origin.

280 SCANDINAVIAN LANGUAGES:

- i. A group of languages in northern Europe
- ii. The Scandinavian languages belong to the Germanic family of languages
- iii. The Scandinavian languages include Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, Finnish, Icelandic, and Faroese
- iv. The Scandinavian language is also known as *Old Norse* or *Norn*
- v. Norn was spoken in Scotland until the 17—18th centuries
- vi. Invasions of the Scandinavian Vikings are better known “simply because it was later, and took place in the full light of history”.

THE DANELAW:

Danelaw is a historical name given to the part of England in which the laws of the Danes held sway and dominated the Anglo-Saxon laws; it contrasted the “West Saxon law”, and the “Mercian law”; the areas

included in the Danelaw comprised northern, central, and eastern parts of Anglo-Saxon England. The Danelaw came into existence as a result of the agreement between Alfred the Great and the Danish warlord Guthrum, signed in 878; this treaty was formalized in 886 and the boundaries were demarcated; it was agreed that both the English and the Vikings would live peacefully. Accordingly, the areas included in the Danelaw were subjected to Danish law. "In addition the Danes agreed to accept Christianity, and Guthrum was baptized."

THE NORMAN CONQUEST AND THE SUBJECTION OF ENGLISH (1066—1200): Beginning of the end of Old English/Anglo-Saxon Period

281 French flourished and the English language receded to the background for nearly 200 years.

282 **Normandy**: on the Continental side, the northern coastal district of France, extending some 75 miles back from the English Channel.

283 The name "Normandy" has been derived from the bands of the Northmen (Scandinavians) settled in the northern coastal areas of France during the ninth and tenth centuries.

284 An agreement was signed between Rollo, the leader of the Danes in Normandy, and Charles the Simple, King of France, in 912.

285 Accordingly, the right of the Northmen (Scandinavians) to occupy this part of France was recognized; while Rollo recognized the French King as his overlord; hence, Rollo became the first duke of the Normans.

286 In the following century, the dukedom of Normandy got political ascendancy and "overshadowing at times the power of the king of France".

287 "Readily adopting the ideas and customs of those among whom they came to live, the Normans had soon absorbed the most important elements of French civilization."

288 The Normans accepted Christianity and the Scandinavian language disappeared rapidly in the Norman capital.

289 "In the eleventh century, at the time of the Norman Conquest, the civilization of Normandy was essentially French, and the Normans were among the most advanced and progressive of the peoples of Europe."

290 In 1002, the Saxon king Ethelred the Unready (978—1016) (in England/Britain) had married a Norman princess; later on he was exiled by the Danes; took refuge with his brother-in-law, the Duke of Normandy.

291 Ethelred's son, Edward the Confessor, (also heir to the English crown), was brought up in France; thus he was more French than English.

292 The Danish line in England was died out in 1042 and Edward was restored to the throne from which his father had been driven.

293 Edward brought to England a number of his French friends; thus the way was paved for French influence in the English court.

294 During Edward's 25 years' reign (1042—66) French atmosphere prevailed in the English court; most of England was divided into a few large districts, each under the control of a powerful earl; Godwin was the most influential of all those earls.

295 When Edward died childless/issueless in January 1066, Godwin's son Harold was elected as King of England.

296 But the Duke of Normandy, William, who was a second cousin of Edward the late, resented Harold's occupation of the English throne, and considered himself a deserving candidate/heir of the English throne.

297 William was an exceptionally able person; was the son of his father by a tanner's daughter of Falaise, thus tainted of illegitimacy; he succeeded the dukedom of Normandy at the age of six; faced a lot of problems; resisted the rebellious barons; but thanks to the support of his sincere and devoted regents, he surmounted all those problems and was rightly described as William the Great.

298 As William constantly nurtured the thoughts for the English throne, he got the support of his barons by promises of liberal rewards; thus he came to terms with his rivals and enemies on the Continent; he also sought blessing of the Church for the upcoming English invasion; "As a result of these inducements, the ambitious, the adventurous, and the greedy flocked to his banner from all over France and even other parts of Europe"; and in September 1066 William landed at Pevensey, on the south coast of England, with a formidable force.

299 William succeeded to defeat Harold and won the famous battle of Hastings—a city in Sussex, SE England, on the English Channel.

300 William was crowned as King of England on December 25, 1066.

301 After William's coronation, England became "the Anglo-Norman/Anglo-French England".

AFTERMATH OF THE NORMAN CONQUEST:

302 A new nobility was introduced in England.

303 "Many of the English higher class had been killed on the field at Hastings. Those escaped were treated as traitors, and the places of both were filled by William's Norman followers."

304 Thus the Old English/Anglo-Saxon nobility was practically wiped out.

305 "In 1072, only one of the twelve earls in England was an Englishman, and he was executed four years later."

306 "For several generations after the Conquest the important positions and the great estates were almost always held by Normans or men of foreign blood."

307 Similarly, ecclesiastical/church posts in England were occupied by monks/priests brought over from Norman houses.

308 Merchants and craftsmen from the Continent also settled in the Anglo-Norman England in considerable numbers.

309 French towns were established near the English towns at Norwich and Nottingham.

310 As "the governing class in both church and state was almost exclusively made up from among them [the Normans], their influence was out of all proportion to their number".

311 "People accepted the new order as something accomplished; they accepted it as a fact and adjusted themselves to it."

312 Inter-marriages took place between the two peoples and a sort of spiritual federation was also made.

THE TWO LANGUAGES (ENGLISH AND FRENCH) AFTER THE CONQUEST OF 1066

313 "Members of the new ruling class [the Normans] were sufficiently predominant to continue to use their own language."

314 "The Norman Conquest imposed a French-speaking ruling caste on England, with the result that Anglo-French developed as the literary language of the highest social classes and Anglo-Saxon

(now rapidly developing into that stage of the English language known as Middle English) was for a period relegated to the lower classes.”¹²⁴

315 “For 200 years after the Norman Conquest, French remained the language of ordinary intercourse among the upper classes in England.”¹²⁵

316 “French, therefore, was the language of the upper classes and the court, and it remained so for a full two centuries.”¹²⁶

317 Initially, French would be used only by people of the Norman origin; but later on, as inter-marriages took place, numerous people of English extraction also started to learn the new language, mostly as a symbol of status because it was the language of the upper/ruling class.

318 As the new Norman rulers of England were also the dukes of Normandy, a close connection existed through these years between England and the Continent; such close links across the English Channel promoted the continued use of French in England.

319 The new Norman rulers of England had an emotional attachment with Normandy; hence they often spent a great part of their times there: William the Conqueror and his sons were in France for about half of their respective reigns: Henry-I (1100—35) passed more than 17 years of his reign in France; Henry-II (1154—89) spent nearly two-thirds time of his reign in France; “except for Henry-I, no English king until Edward-IV (1461—83) sought a wife in England, it is easy to see how continentally minded English royalty was; resultantly, only French was flourished in the English court while English was relegated.

320 Resultantly, English was considered as an uncultivated, unrefined, unpolished, a layman tongue, and hence “the language of a socially inferior class”.

321 Similarly, the English nobility was composed mostly of Anglo-French aristocracy that contracted continental marriages, owned estates in France, and hence frequented the French areas across the English Channel.

322 So, attitude of the King and the upper classes towards the English language was characterized with utter indifference; they did not cultivate and promote English because “their constant concern with continental affairs made French for them much more useful”.

323 “French was the language of the court and the upper classes, English the speech of the mass of the people.”¹²⁷

324 “... a knowledge of English was not uncommon at the end of the twelfth century among those who habitually used French; that among churchmen and men of education it was even to be expected; and that among those whose activities brought them into contact with both upper and lower classes the ability to speak both languages was quite general.”¹²⁸

325 All these points indicate that French culture had taken firm roots on English soil and important works in French language were written in England under the direct patronage of the court.

326 THE ANGLO-FRENCH LITERATURE (written in the Anglo-Norman England)

327 French literature flourished at the English court in order to cater for the special tastes and interests of the royal family members (from Normandy), the patrons, and the noble patronage. William the Conqueror’s daughter Adela, and his son Henry-I, who married successively two

¹²⁴ David Daiches, p. 31

¹²⁵ Albert C. Baugh, p. 103

¹²⁶ CL Barber, p. 151

¹²⁷ Albert C. Baugh, p. 110

¹²⁸ Albert C. Baugh, p. 112

queens that liberally supported the poets. It was at the instance of the Queen that Philippe de Thaun wrote his *Bestiary* wherein he has described nature of various animals.

328 Another contemporary poet Geoffrey Gaimar wrote *History of the English* in French verse.

329 Samson de Nanteuil wrote *Proverbs of Solomon*

330 Wace wrote *Roman de Brut* and *Roman de Rou*

331 Robert Grosseteste's *Le Chasteau* (an allegorical poem)

332 *Voyage of St. Brendan*

333 Anglo-French chroniclers:

334 A number of romances, verse stories, verse narratives were also written

335 Marie de France (a female author), born in France but wrote in England; she wrote *Lais* dedicated to King Henry-II.

336 *The Worcester Fragments* (consists of remnants, pieces, and fragments)

337 *Debate between the Body and the Soul*

338 *Orrmulum* (1200) by an Augustine canon named Orm or Ormin

339 *Poema Morale* (Moral Poem), a late twelfth-century 400-lines versified sermon

340 *The Owl and the Nightingale* (1200): an anonymous poem in octosyllabic couplets

341 *Mystere d'Adam*: a mystery play, written about 1150

342 The Anglo-Saxon alliterative line was retained (most of the Anglo-Saxon poetry has been written in alliterative verse: four heavy stressed syllables; the first three shared the initial consonant).

343 Most of the above-mentioned works were written during the 12th and 13th centuries.

344 Most of those works were written at the inspiration of the royal family members and hence dedicated to them.

345 Mostly, works of devotion, and edification, saints' lives, religious and didactic literature, allegories, chronicles, and romances were written.

346 **The Revival of Latin:** "Besides French and English there was Latin, the learned language of Christian civilization. Latin had also, of course, been the learned language in Anglo-Saxon times, and it was only the dearth of good Latinists in England that led to the use of Anglo-Saxon in serious didactic literature."¹²⁹

347 "The ecclesiastical reforms introduced into England by the Normans restored Latin as the language of serious didactic works and thus did grave harm to the tradition of English literary prose"¹³⁰ during those days.

348 "The Norman clerics who took over the local and national administrative positions in England after the Conquest introduced Latin as the language of official communication and historical record and English historical prose did not emerge again until the time of the Tudors"¹³¹ (1485—1603).

349 The Anglo-Saxon literature differs from the Middle English literature in the sense that the former was mainly heroic poetry, while the latter was mainly composed of verse romances; **heroic poetry:** sterner in mood, more realistic in treatment, deals with life-like heroes; **romances:** escapist, less realistic, deals with marvelous, the strange, and the supernatural.

FRENCH INFLUENCES ON ENGLISH VOCABULARY:

¹²⁹ David Daiches, p. 37

¹³⁰ David Daiches, p. 37

¹³¹ David Daiches, p. 47

350 After the Conquest of 1066, English remained the language of the country, but French of the Norman kind became that of the government and hence quickly became a necessity for the masses.

351 “The Church, the law-courts, the pleasures of the aristocracy, trade with the Continent, the art of war—all these and much else became Norman French in terminology.”¹³²

352 “Naturally, with the centuries of French dominance in Church matters, many French terms of religious significance were taken into English, some of which have remained.”¹³³

353 “Because of its geographical position and cultural prestige, France has exported many words to its neighbours; of these English has absorbed the highest proportion.”¹³⁴

354 Norman-French would be widely used in Wales, Scotland, and Ireland until the thirteenth century.

355 “The *Chanson de Roland*, an epic poem about the emperor Charlemagne’s army in Spain in the 8th century, was the first major literary link between Britain and France. The poem was sung by the Normans at the Battle of Hastings (1066)”.¹³⁵

356 Later on in 1530, the first grammar of French language was written in England by John Palsgrave, entitled as *Lesclarcissement de la Langue Francoyse*.¹³⁶

357 “The influx of French vocabulary into English as well as the simplification of its inflectional system have led some to claim that English underwent creolization during this period as a result of contact with French.”¹³⁷

358 **LAW FRENCH:**

- i. The form of Anglo-French used in England in judicial proceedings, pleadings, and law-books after the Norman Conquest; it is considered as the original language of the English courts after the Norman Conquest.
- ii. Law French was an archaic and fossilized form of Norman French used until the eighteenth century in the courts of England. In 1362, French ceased to be a language of pleading, but its legal use was not officially abandoned until 1731. As a result of the Law French, names of most legal rules, many crimes, legal actions, processes, and institutions are French in origin and used in English even today: *amerce, implead, malfeasance, tort, attorney general, court martial, fee simple, malice aforethought, bailiff, coroner, judge, jury, plaintiff, arson, felony, libel, perjury, slander, trespass, bail, bill, decree, evidence, fine, forfeit, gaol/jail, penalty, pillory, plea, prison, punishment, ransom, sentence, suit, summons, verdict, justice, court, accuse, crime*

359 A great number of French loan words came into English during the Middle English period when French had died out in England.

360 Though in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, French was the unchallenged language of the upper classes in England, the number of words borrowed by English was not so much.

361 During the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries a lot of French words were adopted and assimilated by English.

¹³² C. L. Wrenn, p. 53

¹³³ C. L. Wrenn, p. 55

¹³⁴ Tom McArthur, p. 240

¹³⁵ Tom McArthur, p. 240

¹³⁶ Tom McArthur, p. 240

¹³⁷ ¹³⁷ Charles F. Meyer, *Introducing English Linguistics*, p. 33

- 362 The Scandinavian words had spread down from the Danelaw, whereas French words spread from London and the court; moreover, the Vikings had mixed with the English on more or less equal terms, while the Normans treated them as their subordinates; so the Scandinavian loan words were not so much uncommon for the English as the French words were uncommon.
- 363 Titles of ranks were mostly taken from the French: *sovereign, prince, peer, duke, marquis, count, baron*
- 364 Words related to administration: *government, crown, state, parliament, council, chancellor, nation, people, country*
- 365 Ecclesiastical words: *religion, service, Savior, virgin, saint, relic, abbey, friar, clergy, parish, prayer, sermon*
- 366 Military terms: *armour, battle, castle, tower, war*
- 367 Words related to arts and fashion: *fashion, dress, costume, apparel, art, beauty, colour, paint, column, music, chant, poem, romance*
- 368 Abstract nouns: *cruelty, obedience, courtesy, mercy, charity*
- 369 The aristocratic life style of the Normans in England could be inferred from the fact that things of the people usually retained English names, whereas upper-class objects often have French names: *house* (English): *manor* and *palace* (French); *man, maid* (English): *butler, servant* (French); domestic animals (*calf, ox, swine, sheep*) became *veal, beef, pork, mutton* at the Norman lord's table.
- 370 Similarly, some Germanic words have more formal synonyms that are traced to French, and hence considered more refined and official:
 English words: *folk, hearty, holy, doom, stench*
 French synonyms: *people, cordial, saint, judgement, perfume*
- 371 As the Normans (that had settled in England after the Conquest of 1066) spoke a Northern French dialect, "the early French loan words [receiving during the eleventh and twelfth centuries] were taken from Norman; in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, when the great bulk of the borrowings were made, it was Central French [the metropolitan dialect of Paris] that was fashionable, and it was from this dialect that the words were taken"¹³⁸.
- 372 Some of the early loan words also include *garden, market, hour, wages*
- 373 In some cases, a word was borrowed in its Norman form, and then borrowed again later in its Central French form, thus we have both the forms in Modern English:
 Anglo-Norman: *catch, cattle, warden, wage*
 Central French: *chase, chattel, guardian, gage*
- 374 French-English hybrid words (French stems with English prefixes or suffixes): *ungracious, preaching, gentleness, faithless, beautiful*
- 375 Thanks to the French connection and the resultant hybrid vocabulary, it is said: "English is sometimes a twofold language in which people can 'answer' or 'respond' and 'begin' or 'commence' to seek 'freedom' or 'liberty'."
- 376 Some other examples of near-synonym pairs: *kingdom/realm, sight/vision, snake/serpent, ask/demand, bit/morsel, heel/talon, illegible/unreadable*; such pairs of words are known as "Bisociation"¹³⁹.

¹³⁸ C. L. Barber, p. 164

¹³⁹ Tom McArthur, p. 240

377 BISOCIATION: “The occurrence in a language of pairs of words with similar meanings, one member of each pair being native to that language (such as everyday English ‘sight’), the other being a loanword from an influential foreign source (such as ‘vision’, a loanword from Latin through French).”¹⁴⁰

THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ENGLISH (1200—1500)

378 It means the revival of the English language, and the consequent decline of French, after the loss of Normandy in 1204

379 “French might have remained permanently in use in England. But shortly after 1200 conditions changed. England lost an important part of its possessions abroad. The nobility gradually relinquished their continental estates.”¹⁴¹

380 Rivalries developed between England and France.

381 Anti-French tendencies developed in England.

382 The socio-economic position of the English-speaking areas in England also turned over a new leaf.

383 Antagonism and rivalries increased between the two nations (the English and the French); those rivalries developed into open and armed confrontation between King John of England (1199—1216) and King Philip of France (1180—1223); the latter invaded Normandy and thus the English King was deprived of his duchy of Normandy in 1204.

384 “The first link in the chain binding England to the Continent was broken in 1204 when King John lost Normandy.”¹⁴²

385 So the severance of ties/linkages between England and France and the loss of Normandy was a blessing in disguise for the English language: the King and the nobles were now forced to look upon England as their first concern; resultantly, an opportunity was provided for the flourishing of the English language.

386 Most of the nobility also declared their allegiances either to the King of England or to the King of France; they retained their estates only on one side of the English Channel.

387 Though a large number of the foreigners from the Continent infiltrated into England, mostly through matrimonial ties of the royal family members, during the long reign of Henry—III (1216—72), anti-foreigners’ sentiments also seared and national/patriotic feelings were encouraged: a vigorous policy of “England for the English” was launched.

388 During the thirteenth century, the upper class continued to speak French language because French was considered a cultivated, refined, polished, and standard tongue supported by social customs and business and administrative conventions.

389 But “by the middle of the century, when the separation of the English nobles from their interests in France had been about completed, English was becoming a matter of general use among the upper classes”¹⁴³.

390 By the end of the thirteenth century, English would be spoken as a mother tongue by the children of the English nobility.

391 It is during the thirteenth century that relatively a large number of French words were borrowed and assimilated by the English language as French loan-words.

¹⁴⁰ Tom McArthur, p. 79

¹⁴¹ Albert C. Baugh, p. 116

¹⁴² Albert C. Baugh, p. 116

¹⁴³ Albert C. Baugh, p. 123

392 Though French would be used in the English Parliament, the law-courts, and in public negotiations, at the close of the thirteenth century, it fell into a decline since then, and a perfect use and understanding of the French language was not so much common in England.

393 “The spread of English among the upper classes was making steady progress ... and we may feel quite sure that the mother tongue of the children of the nobility in the year 1300 was, in many cases, English.”¹⁴⁴

394 “The tendency to speak English was becoming constantly stronger even in those two most conservative institutions, the church and the universities.”¹⁴⁵

395 Certain attempts were made to arrest/check the decline of French in England.

396 Another reason for the continuous decline of the French language (the Norman dialect thereof) in England was that it was no longer a standard dialect, “it [had] gradually developed into something quite different from any of the continental dialects”. Thus it had relegated to a provincial/peripheral status; so the Anglo-French/Norman-French was no longer a standard, up-to-the mark and accepted dialect of French as compared to the other French dialects spoken on the Continent: *Norman*, *Picard* (in the northeast), *Burgundian* (in the east), and *the Central French* of Paris (the *Parisian*, the metropolitan French dialect); as the last was language of the French court, so it was considered more refined.

397 MAGNA CARTA (The Great Charter):

During the thirteenth century, the situation at home in England was also not peaceful; due to the increasing military expenses, the accompanied burden of taxation, the loss of Normandy, the discontented Norman barons (then settled in England) King John (1199—1216) had to face a rebellious nobility and a mass unrest; consequently, he was forced to sign “Magna Carta” on June 15, 1215; accordingly, certain civil and political liberties were granted to the English subjects, powers of the English crown were curtailed, and a limited monarchy was envisioned for England.

398 THE HUNDRED YEARS’ WAR (1337—1453):

- i. The growing feelings of antagonism between England and France culminated in a long period of open hostility and armed conflicts that were started in 1337 and continued till 1453.
- ii. The main reason for this long-drawn-out war was, *inter alia*, the active interference of France in England’s effort to control Scotland.
- iii. Such an interference infuriated Edward—III, the English King (1327—77); he put forth a claim to the French throne, and invaded France.
- iv. Initially, the English armies succeeded to gain victories at Crecy (1346), at Poitiers (1356), and at Agincourt (1415); but later on, they were defeated and England lost all its possessions in France except Calais.
- v. This protracted, long-drawn-out war further alienated peoples of the two countries, the gulf between them was further widened, and their feelings of animosity, antagonism, hatred, and rivalry for each other were further increased.
- vi. Most of the Englishmen thought that French was the language of an enemy country; so they disliked the French language and expressed their displeasure against it.
- vii. Consequently, “the Hundred Years’ War is probably to be reckoned as one of the causes contributing to the disuse of French” in England.

¹⁴⁴ Albert C. Baugh, pp. 125—26

¹⁴⁵ Albert C. Baugh, p. 127

THE BLACK DEATH:

399 In the summer of 1348, plague broke out in the southwest of England, spread rapidly over the rest of the country.

400 It was known as “the Black Death” and reached to its devastating climax in 1349.

401 It killed around 50 million people or 60 percent of Europe’s entire population.

402 As usually, the poor suffered a lot than the rich.

403 Mortality was the greatest among the lower social classes.

404 Resultantly, a shortage of labourers/workers occurred.

405 Accordingly, a sharp increase in wages was also seen.

406 Most of the villeins also escaped, and the tenants (cotters) left the lands in search of higher wages; resultantly, the feudalism of the Mediaeval Ages also broke down.

407 A social unrest and discontent was spread, that culminated in the Peasants’ Revolt of 1381

THE PEASANTS’ REVOLT (1381):

408 The first great popular rebellion in English history

409 Caused by the imposition of an unpopular tax: a poll tax: also known as head tax or capitation, that is levied on every adult without reference to their income or resources; it is usually a fixed amount of money.

410 It lasted for less than a month, and failed as a social revolution

411 Also known as Wat Tyler’s Rebellion or the Great Rising

412 The main factor behind the Revolt was the Statute of Labourers (1351) which attempted to fix maximum wages during the labour shortage following the Black Death.

413 The King’s lieutenants who were behind the proposed, but resented, tax policy were beheaded; Simon Sudbury, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was one of them.

414 When Richard—II realized the sensitivity of the uprising, he was forced to promise cheap land, free land, and the abolition of serfdom and forced labour.

415 Though the Rebellion was failed as a social revolution, it checked the Crown’s ambitions of arbitrary taxation.

THE EMERGING BOURGEOISIE:

416 During the fourteenth century, the socio-economic condition of the masses was improved; a substantial rise in the middle class was observed; and the way was paved for an emerging bourgeoisie.

417 A new class of craftsmen also emerged, their population increased rapidly; new towns were built; they established their own guilds, and they would locally administer their affairs.

418 Resultantly, the socio-economic conditions and the life-standard of the laboring class, the peasants, and the craftsmen became higher.

419 As “the importance of a language is largely determined by the importance of the people who speak it”¹⁴⁶, a conducive environment was created for the restoration of the English language.

420 “Such changes in the social and economic life benefited particularly the English-speaking part of the population, and enable us better to understand the final triumph of English in the century in which these changes largely occur.”¹⁴⁷

THE DECLINING INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH:

¹⁴⁶ Albert C. Baugh, p. 130

¹⁴⁷ Albert C. Baugh, p. 131

421 As the church would use only Latin and French languages for ecclesiastical services, it had militated against the revival of English.

422 When John (1199—1216) came into conflict with the Pope on the question of the appointment of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the latter excommunicated the former.

423 The Pope also instigated the French King to invade England.

424 Later on King John submitted to the Pope and recognized him as his overlord in 1213.

425 The Lollard Movement was another opposition, the first in importance, to Catholicism in England during the 14th and 15th centuries.

426 John Wycliffe (1320—84) played a leading role in the Lollard Movement.

427 The temporal overlordship of the Pope was definitely repudiated in England.

428 The Pope also lost the important advantage of being able to fill the bishoprics in England with his own nominees.

THE RESTORATION OF ENGLISH UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT:

429 “At the beginning of the fourteenth century English was once more known by everyone.”¹⁴⁸

430 When Edward—III (1327—77) called a meeting of the Parliament in 1337, ahead of his incursion on France, his representative addressed the parliamentarians in English.

431 In 1362, the Chancellor opened the Parliament for the first time with a speech in English.

432 In 1388 and onwards, most of the guilds started to submit their reports and returns in English.

433 In 1399 when the impeachment proceedings against Richard—II (1377—99) was started by the English Parliament, the articles of accusation were read in English as well as in Latin.

434 Henry—IV’s (1399—1413) speeches claiming the throne and later accepting it were delivered in English.

435 As shortly after the Conquest (1066), French had replaced English as the language of schools, but during the re-establishment period, certain school-masters were made responsible for English education at Oxford; consequently, “after 1349 English began to be used in the schools and by 1385 the practice had become general”¹⁴⁹.

436 At the beginning of the 14th century many nobles could not speak French.

437 “Ignorance of French must have been quite common among the governing class in England from the beginning of the fourteenth century.”¹⁵⁰

438 During the 15th century, both Latin and French were discontinued for writing purposes and English was adopted.

439 “French is the first language in England to dispute the monopoly of Latin in written matter. In the fifteenth century, English succeeds in displacing both. In private and semi-official correspondence, French is at its height at about 1350. The earliest English letters appear in the latter part of the century, but there are few before 1400. After 1450, English letters are everywhere the rule.”¹⁵¹

440 After 1450, majority of the people in England would correspond in English.

441 More and more members of the ruling families also started to have their wills written in English: The wills of Henry—IV, Henry—V, and Henry—VI are all in English.

442 During the 15th century, various bodies of the local government in England also started to adopt English for record keeping.

¹⁴⁸ Albert C. Baugh, p. 131

¹⁴⁹ Albert C. Baugh, pp. 138—39

¹⁵⁰ Albert C. Baugh, p. 140

¹⁵¹ VU, (ENG 501), p. 46

- 443 During the 15th century, the proceedings in English Parliament also started to be conducted in English: "The statutes themselves are generally in Latin down to about 1300, in French until the reign of Henry—VII. In 1485 they begin to appear in English alongside of French, and in 1489 French entirely disappears."¹⁵²
- 444 "A charter of Royal proclamation was first issued in both English and French together in the year 1258; and in little more than another hundred years Parliament (whose name is another word of French origin) decreed that its proceedings should be held in English."¹⁵³
- 445 "In 1362 the king's speech at the opening of Parliament was made in English, and in the same year an Act was passed making English the official language of the law courts instead of French, though their records were to be kept in Latin."¹⁵⁴
- 446 "The greatest strong hold of French in England was perhaps the King's court; but when Henry—IV seized the throne in 1399, England, for the first time since the Norman Conquest, acquired a king whose mother tongue was English."¹⁵⁵
- 447 'Middle English, which started at the end of the 11th century, was ushered in by the political event known as the Norman Conquest in 1066. The Normans were French-speaking people, who, after defeating the English at the battle of Hastings, took over all political power in Britain. As a result, the English-speaking aristocracy was replaced by a French-speaking one. This created a totally new sociolinguistic situation for English, which continued to be spoken as "the language of the people" but lost its earlier status as the language of the royal court, the law, etc. still, the necessity of communication between the ruling Normans and the oppressed Saxons led to the gradual emergence of a new form of language, neither Anglo-Saxon, nor French, but a new English language, which in time became the language of a nation comprising the descendants of both Saxons and Normans.'¹⁵⁶

MIDDLE ENGLISH LITERATURE:

- 448 The literature written during the re-establishment period (1200—1500) also represents the changing fortunes of English; English language underwent great changes during that period.
- 449 Prior to the re-establishment period, rewards for the English writers were very rare.
- 450 English was mostly used for religious, admonitory, or didactic literature from 1150 to 1250; that is why this period is known as "the Period of Religious Record".
- 451 From 1250 when English was adopted by the upper class members, English became a medium for romances to cater for the literary taste of the nobles/upper class.
- 452 "Literature was a channel in the Middle English Period and in the fifteenth century it became the principal source for this transfer. In fact, Middle English literature was based directly on French originals so it had French words."¹⁵⁷
- 453 A lot of translations were also made from French into English.
- 454 The period from 1250—1350 is known as "the Period of Religious and Secular Literature" in English: apart from the already existent religious literature, secular literature also flourished in this period.

¹⁵² Albert C. Baugh, p. 142

¹⁵³ CL Wrenn, p. 54

¹⁵⁴ CL Barber, p. 157

¹⁵⁵ CL Barber, p. 159

¹⁵⁶ Borbala Richter, pp. 92—93

¹⁵⁷ VU, (ENG 501), p. 53

455 The period 1350—1400 is known as “the Period of Great Individual Writers”:

Geoffrey Chaucer (1340—1400)

William Langland (c. 1331—c. 99)

John Wycliffe (1320—84): lecturer in Theology at Oxford

456 All these writers “constitute a striking proof of the secure position the English language had attained”¹⁵⁸.

457 Fifteenth century is also known as a Transition Period between Chaucer and Shakespeare; prominent English writers of this century are:

John Lydgate (c. 1370—1449)

Hoccleve

John Skelton (c. 1460—1529)

Hawes

Sir Thomas Malory (d. c. 1471)

William Caxton (c. 1422—91)

The Scottish Chaucerians:

William Dunbar

Gavin Douglas

Robert Henryson

They were the Middle Scots poets and imitated Chaucer in their use

of Rhyme Royal

458 Some anonymous works of this period: *Pearl*, *Purity*, *Patience*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, *King Horn*, *Havelok and the Dane*

MIDDLE ENGLISH DIALECTS:

459 During the Middle English Period, there was no recognized literary standard.

460 Middle English, especially in its written form, is characterized with great variety in the different parts of England: both inter-county, as well as intra-county dialectal variations existed.

461 Most of the writers would write in their own regional variety.

462 “In Chaucer’s age the English language was still divided by dialects, though London was rapidly making East-Midland into a standard language.”¹⁵⁹

463 The major dialects of the Middle English:

- i. **The Northern dialect:** subdivided into Scots and Northern English; offshoots of the Northumbrian dialect of Old English/Anglo-Saxon
- ii. **The East-Midland dialect:** descended from the Mercian dialect Old English; it was dominant in the Danelaw district; later on, the East-Midland dialect developed as the standard language of England
- iii. **The West-Midland dialect:** descended from the Mercian dialect of Old English; it was dominant in the parts of England ruled by King Alfred
- iv. **The South-Eastern dialect:** descended from the Kentish dialect of Old English
- v. **The Southern dialect:** sub-divided into Central Southern and South Western; descended from West Saxon of Old English

464 The Northern and the East-Midland dialects are characterized with Scandinavian loan words, and these dialects remained limited only to the Danelaw area.

¹⁵⁸ Albert C. Baugh, p. 144

¹⁵⁹ Ifor Evans, p.31

465 The West-Midland dialect is characterized with French loan words.

466 The East-Midland dialect also accepted a lot of French loan words; later on, the East-Midland dialect, as a metropolitan dialect of London, became as the standard language of England.

467 Dialectal differences are more noticeable between Northern and Southern dialects; the Midland dialects occupy an intermediate position.

468 The “ch” sound of the Southern dialects was “k” in the Northern dialects: *bench/benk*, *church/kirk*

469 Initial “f” and “s” would be pronounced as “v” and “z” in the Southern dialects: *vor/for*, *vrom/from*, *vox/fox*.

470 “In fact, Middle English has more in common with Modern English than its immediate ancestor Old English.”¹⁶⁰

THE RISE OF STANDARD ENGLISH/LONDON ENGLISH:

471 Towards the end of the 14th century, the East-Midland dialect won general recognition as a standard language in both speech and writing.

472 It was the East-Midland district of England that contributed most to the formation of this standard.

473 The East-Midland dialect would be spoken in the metropolitan area of London.

474 The Midland dialect possessed an intermediate position between the extremities of the North and the South: the Northern dialect was more radical; while the Southern dialect was more conservative.

475 The East-Midland district was the largest and the most populous of the major dialect areas.

476 Moreover, the East-Midland and the adjacent areas of Middlesex, Oxford, and Norfolk were also politically more advanced.

477 The great universities of Oxford and Cambridge, that had developed into important intellectual centers in the 14th century, were also situated in

478 As compared to Oxford, Cambridge University contributed a lot to the rising standard of the East-Midland/London English, as the former is situated away on the border area between the Midland and the South.

479 “By far the most influential factor in the rise of standard English was the importance of London as the capital of England. ... London was, and still is, the political and commercial center of England. It was the seat of the court, of the highest judicial tribunals, the focus of the social and intellectual activities of the country.”¹⁶¹

480 “London English took as well as gave. It began as a Southern and ended as a Midland dialect.”¹⁶²

481 “The history of Standard English is almost a history of London English.”¹⁶³

482 How the hold of Latin was broken and English emerged as a standard language: (i) Ethnic and cultural unification. (ii) The growth of vernacular literatures. (iii) The invention of movable type¹⁶⁴

¹⁶⁰ ¹⁶⁰ Charles F. Meyer, *Introducing English Linguistics*, p. 33

¹⁶¹ Albert C. Baugh, p. 181

¹⁶² Albert C. Baugh, p. 181

¹⁶³ Albert C. Baugh, p. 181

¹⁶⁴ *Oxford Concise Companion to the English Language*, pp. 575—76

483 “The new standard language that arose in the late Middle Ages was based on the East Midland dialect.”¹⁶⁵

484 “One of the universities, Cambridge, was in this area, and the other not too remote from its borders.”¹⁶⁶

485 It was also one of the fertile, and rich agricultural areas of England.

486 The Midlands are highly industrialized region of central England and this region is composed of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, Worcester, and Hereford.

487 “It was only with the growth of London as the center of commercial, political, legal, and ecclesiastical life towards the end of this century [the 14th century] that there began to emerge the dialect of educated Londoners as a widespread medium of written expression which was to become later the literary English we know. London’s very heterogenous population, drawn from all over the country, developed a kind of mixed dialect of the educated and commercial classes distinct from the local tongue of the streets whose modern direct descendant is ‘Cockney’. The comparative nearness of the universities of Oxford and Cambridge (the only two in the country), with their similarly very mixed educated ‘foreign’ population, help further to develop this new dialect of which London was the center into something wider and more influential.”¹⁶⁷

488 In 1476, William Caxton (c. 1422—91) set up his printing press at Westminster; then John Lettoun set up another press in London in 1480; more and more books were printed in English; thus a “shift from an oral to a print culture”¹⁶⁸ was materialized; consequently, the spread of London English (metropolitan English, formerly known as the East-Midland dialect) was accelerated many fold.

MIDDLE ENGLISH: CHANGES IN GRAMMAR

489 Old English was a highly synthetic language, whereas the Middle English became an analytic language.

490 The changes “in the grammar reduced English from a highly inflected language to an extremely analytic one”¹⁶⁹.

491 The inflectional endings of the noun, adjective, and the verb, indicating number, case, or gender, were reduced.

492 The final *-m* was changed to *-n*; and later on it was also dropped.

493 In most of the nouns, the *-s* inflection replaced the *-es* or *-en* to indicate plurality.

494 The inflectional endings of adjectives, indicating case or number (singular or plural) of the noun, were also reduced.

495 Though the reductions were not so much noticeable in the case of pronouns, the demonstrative pronouns were reduced only to *this*, *that*, *these*, *those*.

496 The dual number of Old English was lost.

497 As the Germanic verbs in Old English/Anglo-Saxon were mainly strong verbs—that changed their inside vowels for past and past participle, with the assimilation of verbs from other languages, the strong verbs were greatly reduced in number: nearly one-third of such strong verbs related

¹⁶⁵ C. L. Barber, p. 160

¹⁶⁶ C. L. Barber, p. 160

¹⁶⁷ C. L. Wrenn, pp. 26—27

¹⁶⁸ Charles F. Meyer, *Introducing English Linguistics*, p. 33

¹⁶⁹ Albert C. Baugh, p. 146

to the Old English were lost at the beginning of the Middle English Period. "Today more than half of the Old English strong verbs have disappeared completely from the standard language."¹⁷⁰

498 With the passage of time, many strong verbs were made weak verbs through.....

499 As the irregularity of strong verbs constitutes a difficulty in language, the loss of such verbs is considered a positive point of Middle English.

500 With the loss of many inflectional endings, grammatical gender was also disappeared, first in the north, then in the south.

501 The disappearance of inflectional endings resulted in an increased use of prepositions in the Middle English.

502 In the Middle English, the medial *gh* of Old English ceased to be pronounced.

503 Many nouns ending in *-ung* in Old English, changed to *-ing* in Middle English: *leornung*: *learning*

504 Old English had many inflections, but only two tenses: a present, and a past; 'The future tense with "shall" and "will" is established in Middle English.'¹⁷¹

505 "As the inflectional system decayed, other devices were increasingly used to replace it. For one thing, word order became more important, and more rigid."¹⁷²

506 "Another device was the increased use of separate words to perform the functions formerly carried out by inflexions. For example, prepositions like 'in', 'with', and 'by' came to be used more frequently than in Old English."¹⁷³

507 The orthography (spelling system) of the Middle English also changed to a great extent: A number of new consonant symbols were introduced; a new symbol "g" was introduced; alongside "f", "v" for voiced sound was introduced; "z" was introduced beside "s"; "O" and "p" were replaced by "th"; in some of the Old English/Anglo-Saxon words, the "y" was replaced by "i": *kyng* became *king*. Similarly, the Old English combination "sc" was replaced with "sh" in the Middle English: *Fisch* became *fish*

MIDDLE ENGLISH: CHANGES IN VOCABULARY

508 Before 1400, the organic character of the Old English "vitally changed through the gradual loss of its inflections. The changes in vocabulary were much less radical. After 1400 this order was reversed. The modifications in grammar were slight; the developments in vocabulary were very great"¹⁷⁴.

509 "The most striking fact about the vocabulary of the fifteenth century is the rapid supersession of native words by others mainly of French origin."¹⁷⁵

510 So the French influence is much more direct and observable upon the vocabulary of Middle English.

511 As English represented such a culture that was regarded as inferior, it received, borrowed, and assimilated a lot from French.

512 A limited number of words, roughly 900, had been borrowed from French until 1250, but henceforward, a lot of more French words were borrowed.

¹⁷⁰ Albert C. Baugh, p. 151

¹⁷¹ C. L. Barber, p. 178

¹⁷² C. L. Barber, p. 177

¹⁷³ C. L. Barber, p. 178

¹⁷⁴ *A Concise Cambridge History of English Literature*, p. 142

¹⁷⁵ *A Concise Cambridge History of English Literature*, p. 143

513 A large number of the words borrowed from French were thoroughly popular in character: words current in the everyday French spoken in England.

514 "A further calculation shows that the total number of French words adopted during the Middle English period was slightly over 10 000. Of these about 75 percent are still in current use."¹⁷⁶

515 The assimilation of French words was accepted so readily that a lot of Old English words were affixed, as prefixes, suffixes, or compound-parts, to the borrowed words; consequently, the vocabulary of Middle English was increased:

Gentle: gentlewoman, gentleman, gentleness, gently

Faith: faithless, faithful, faithfully, faithfulness, faithfully

516 For examples of the French loan words related to almost every field of life and borrowed during the Middle English Period, the students should consult pp. 156—74 of their text book by Albert C. Baugh, please.

THE RENAISSANCE PERIOD (1500—1650)

517 The changing conditions during the 16th century that influenced the spread of English language included:

- i. Invention of the Printing Press
- ii. Universal education
- iii. The rapid means of communications
- iv. The growth of specialized knowledge
- v. The growing sentiments of language identity among various nations

518 Such factors and actors acted as radical forces for vocabulary of English: vocabulary of English language was promoted and its pace towards a cosmopolitan status was increased.

519 But the same factors acted as conservative forces for grammar: the status quo was preserved; various grammatical rules were more solemnized; the existing status of grammar was preserved; some of the grammatical rules were even discarded/simplified: reduction of inflections, disappearance of grammatical gender, the loss of dual number

520 During the 16th century, almost all the languages, better to be described as vernaculars, faced three problems: (i) The problem of recognition (ii) The problem of a uniform orthography (iii) The problem of a versatile and enriched vocabulary

THE PROBLEM OF RECOGNITION:

521 At the dawn of the Renaissance, it was thought that "Latin and Greek were not only the key to the world's knowledge but also the languages in which highly esteemed poetry, oratory, and philosophy were to be read"¹⁷⁷.

522 It was believed that the classical languages had attained perfection, while the vulgar tongues/vernaculars seemed immature, unpolished, and limited in resource.

523 It was argued that the vernaculars could not express the abstract ideas, the refined feelings, and the range of thought embodied in the ancient languages.

524 So English had to face a stiff competition and a tough opposition.

525 "The real force behind the use of English was a popular demand, the demand of all sorts of men in practical life to share the fruits of the Renaissance."¹⁷⁸

¹⁷⁶ Albert C. Baugh, p. 165

¹⁷⁷ Albert C. Baugh, p. 190

¹⁷⁸ Albert C. Baugh, p. 191

526 Such a popular demand was soon satisfied: a large number of translations virtually poured from the press during the 16th century.

527 So English had to contest with Latin, but “the contest between Latin and English had a commercial side. The market of English books was naturally greater than for Latin”¹⁷⁹.

THE PROBLEM OF ORTHOGRAPHY:

528 In order to rectify the chaotic spell system of Middle English, Richard Mulcaster did a praiseworthy work; in his *Elementaire* (1582), Mulcaster emphasized custom or usage for orthographic reforms.

529 The following writers worked as precursors to Mulcaster in this regard:

- i. Thomas Smith: *Dialogue Concerning the Correct and Emended Writing of the English Language* (1568)
- ii. John Hart: *A Method or Comfortable Beginning for All Unlearned, Whereby They May Bee Thought to Read English* (1570)
- iii. William Bullokar: *Book at Large* (1580)

THE PROBLEM OF ENRICHMENT:

530 The Revival of Learning—the Renaissance—also influenced almost all the vernaculars/vulgar tongues.

531 “The scholarly monopoly of Latin throughout the Middle Ages had left the vernaculars undeveloped along certain lines.”¹⁸⁰

532 Thanks to the vigour of the Renaissance, the Classical literature and the Classical languages—Latin and Greek—were re-discovered, and a lot of loan words were taken, especially in the fields of literature, medicines, and other specialized fields of knowledge.

OPPOSITION TO BORROWING IN ENGLISH: ANTI-LOAN CAMPAIGN

533 Certain people opposed the ever increasing tendency of borrowing and receptivity on part of the English language.

534 They wanted to keep their language pure and unmixed; they described loan words as “strange”, “pedantic”, and “inkhorn” terms.

535 Sir John Cheke, Sir Thomas Chaloner, Thomas Wilson, and Ascham were prominent in the anti-loan campaign.

536 The anti-loan campaigners severely criticized the borrowing tendency and the readily receptivity of English; they described the other languages as “strange languages”, “oversea language”, “outlandish English”, “English Italianated”

537 “The opposition to inkhorn terms was at its height in the middle of the sixteenth century.”¹⁸¹

538 **INKHORN TERM:** also known as “inkpot term”: Archaic: an obscure and ostentatious word usually derived from Latin or Greek; mainly used in written language.

539 There were also certain people “who approved of judicious importations”.

540 They argued “it is indeed the ready way to enrich our tongue, and make it copious, and it is the way which all tongues have taken to enrich themselves”.

541 “It is familiar among best writers to usurp strange words.”

542 Most of the Latin words were infiltrated English vocabulary through the medium of writing.

¹⁷⁹ Albert C. Baugh, p. 192

¹⁸⁰ Albert C. Baugh, p. 201

¹⁸¹ Albert C. Baugh, p. 207

543 Unlike the Scandinavian and French loan words, almost all the loan words from Latin were imported by churchmen and scholars.

544 Individual writers also performed important role in the importation of Latin loan words: Sir Thomas Elyot and Sir Thomas More are among them.

545 The Middle English also retained some of the loan words in their original form, while other underwent change: the Latin loan words “climax”, “appendix”, “epitome”, “exterior”, “delirium”, and “axis” are still in their original form. Examples of the adapted (modified) loan words are: “conjectural” (L. *conjectural*—*is*), “consult” (L. *consult*—*are*), “exclusion” (L. *exclusion*—*em*), “exotic”, (L. *exotic*—*us*)

546 During the Middle English, some words were re-introduced from other languages, but with a different meaning.

547 During the Middle English, some words were borrowed; but they were rejected, or replaced by other loans, before long; thus such rejected or replaced words remained in use for a very short time: “uncouncellable”: totally rejected; “Anacephalize”: (Greek: to sum up) was replaced by “recapitulate” (Latin); “Deruncinate”: (to weed) was replaced by “eradicate”

548 According to an estimate, around 12 000 words were inducted/added to the English vocabulary during the Middle English Period.¹⁸²

549 So much Latin words were borrowed that the Middle English Period is also known as the Fourth Period of Latin influence.

MIDDLE ENGLISH: CHANGES IN PRONUNCIATION

550 During the 15th and 16th centuries, great changes took place in pronunciation.

551 So much changes took place in pronunciation that Shakespeare’s pronunciation differed considerably from Chaucer’s.

552 No significant changes took place in the consonants.

553 The “w” followed by “u” sound and preceded by a consonant, was lost: “swa” (Old English)..... so

554 “sc” became “sh”: *scip* (Old English) *ship*

555 The changes in the consonants in the transition from Middle to Modern English were also relatively unimportant. For example, the “w” was lost in words like “sword” and “two”; the final “b” was lost in words like “climb”, “comb”, and “lamb”; words like Middle English “fader” and “hide” became Modern English *father* and *hither*; and the [c] sound (pronounced rather like the “ch” in German “Licht”) was lost in words like “light”, “eight”, “height”, and “high”. There were also a number of small changes in the course of the early Modern English period: in the 17th century, for example, the initial “k” sound was lost in words like “knee” and “knight”, and the “t” sound was lost in words like “castle”, “bristle”, “Christmas”, and “soften”¹⁸³.

THE GREAT VOWEL CHANGE:

556 The sound change started in around 1400 and ended in around 1600.

557 It is the biggest series of changes between Middle and Modern English.

558 The long vowels underwent considerable changes from Old English to Middle English.

559 During the 14th century, the long vowels had the continental value: “a” would be elongated as in the word “father”; “e” would be pronounced like the “e” in “there”, or the “a” in “mate”.

560 During the 15th century, such long vowels were considerably changed.

¹⁸² Albert C. Baugh, p. 216

¹⁸³ C. L. Barber, p. 199

561 All the long vowels came to be pronounced with a greater elevation of the tongue and closing of the mouth.

562 The short vowel “ae” became “a”: “*craeft*” (Old English) *craft*

563 In certain words, “y” became “i”

564 Short vowels (a, e, i, o, u) became unchanged.

565 The long vowel “a” changed to “Q”

DR SAMUEL JOHNSON (1709—84): poet, lexicographer, and critic

566 Dr Johnson had his “A Dictionary of the English Language” published in 1755.

567 It was published in two volumes.

568 Dr Johnson had worked single-handedly, on the Dictionary for seven years.

569 For the first time, his Dictionary explained the English vocabulary in a comprehensive manner.

570 It followed a standard method of spelling.

571 Thousands of quotations have been given to support explanation of words.

572 He had made it his mission to clear the English language from irregular combinations, licentious idioms, and colloquial barbarisms.

573 He wrote about the purpose of his Dictionary “to fix the English language. ... to preserve the purity, and ascertain the meaning of our English idiom”.

574 It is believed that Dr Johnson’s Dictionary performed the role of an academy.

575 He also stated that his Dictionary aimed facilitate an ever-lasting and fixed pronunciation.

576 Dr Johnson was considered as a dictator, an authority, a corner-stone, and a stabilising force in the realm of the English language.¹⁸⁴

577 Dr Johnson’s Dictionary is considered the greatest landmark in the development of lexicography.

578 Johnson’s definitions are considered as really clear, scholarly, and effective.

579 His Dictionary became a standard work and was regarded to be a model and a standard for English spelling.¹⁸⁵

580 Johnson addressed his Dictionary to the Earl of Chesterfield.

581 Johnson’s Dictionary had also some ludicrous etymologies.

582 It was not a perfect and flawless work.

583 Traces of prejudice and caprice could be found in it.

584 Most of the definitions explained in the Dictionary are based on personal view points—Johnsonian.

585 Johnson’s other works:

- i. *A Voyage to Abyssinia by Father Jerome Lobo* (1735), a translation
- ii. *London* (poem)
- iii. *Vanity of Human Wishes* (a poem)
- iv. *Irene* (a tragedy)
- v. *The Rambler* (a periodical)

JONATHAN SWIFT (1667—1745): Irish poet and satirical prose-writer

586 In 1712, Jonathan Swift addressed a letter to the Earl of Oxford, the Lord Treasurer of England.

587 The letter was published under the title: “A Proposal for Correcting, Improving, and Ascertaining the English Tongue”.

¹⁸⁴ Albert C. Baugh, pp. 256—58

¹⁸⁵ C. L. Wrenn, p. 99

- 588 Swift was not satisfied with the then situation of the English language and described it as “extremely imperfect”, suffering from “daily corruptions”, suffering from “multiplied abuses and absurdities”, and violating “every part of grammar”.
- 589 Swift proposed the establishment of a group of wise persons to take concrete steps for the rectification and advancement of the English language.
- 590 In this connection, Swift suggested to imitate the steps taken for the advancement of the French language.
- 591 Swift’s proposal intensified the demand for the establishment of an *Academy*.

KEY EVENTS IN THE OLD ENGLISH PERIOD:

- 43 The Emperor Claudius decided to undertake the actual conquest of the British Isles.
- 410 The approximate date at which the last of the Roman legions were officially withdrawn from the island.
- 449 Angles, Saxons, Jutes, and Frisians began to occupy Great Britain.
 - 597 Saint Augustine of Canterbury arrived in England to begin the conversion.
 - 730 The Venerable Bede produced his Ecclesiastical History of the English people, recording the early history of the English people.
 - 787 The Scandinavian invasion began with raids and in 865 they occupied northeastern Britain and began a campaign to conquer all of England.
 - 871 Alfred became king of Wessex, retaking the city of London, securing the kingship of all England for himself and his successors, and producing or sponsoring the translation of Latin works into English.
 - 991 The English were defeated at the Battle of Maldon.
 - 1000 The manuscript of the Old English epic *Beowulf* was written about this time.
 - 1016 Canute became king of England, establishing a Danish dynasty in Britain.
 - 1042 The Danish dynasty ended with the death of king Hadicanute, and Edward the Confessor became king of England.
 - 1066 Edward the Confessor died and was succeeded by Harold, last of the Anglo-Saxon kings, who died at the Battle of Hastings while fighting against the invading army of William, duke of Normandy, who was crowned king of England on December 25, 1066.
- KEY EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE ENGLISH PERIOD (1100—1500):**
- 1066 The Normans conquered England, replacing the native English nobility with Anglo-Normans and introducing Norman French.
 - 1204 King John lost Normandy to the French, beginning the loosening of ties between England and the Continent.
 - 1258 King Henry iii issued the first English-language royal proclamation since the Conquest.

- **1337** When Edward III called a parliament to advise him about his claim to the throne of France, the lawyer addressed in English, although French was still the usual language of Parliament.
- **1337** The Hundred Years' War began and lasted until 1453, promoting English nationalism.
- **1348—50** The Black Death killed an estimated one-third of England's population.
- **1349** English began to be used in the schools and by 1385 the practice had become general.
- **1362** French was the language of lawyers and the law courts down to 1362.
- **1362** The Statute of Pleadings was enacted, requiring all court proceedings to be conducted in English.
- **1362** The Chancellor opened Parliament for the first time with a speech in English.
- **1381** The Peasants' Revolt as the first rebellion of working-class people.
- **1388** Parliament required all guilds to submit a report in English.
- **1400** Geoffrey Chaucer died, having produced a highly influential body of English poetry.
- **1430** The Chancery Office (where legal records were deposited) began record-keeping in a form of East Midland English, which became the written standard of English.
- **1476** William Caxton brought printing press to England.
- **1497** John Cabot sailed to Nova Scotia, foreshadowing English territorial expansion.

KEY EVENTS IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD (1500—1800):

- **1525** William Tyndale translated the *New Testament* into English for the first time; "an event that led to his being burned at the stake, since it was considered sacrilegious for the bible to exist in any language other than Greek or Latin"¹⁸⁶.
- **1534** The Act of Supremacy.
- **1549** The Book of Common Prayer was adopted and became an influence on English literary style.
- **1558** At the age of 25, Elizabeth I became Queen of England.
- **1590—1611** William Shakespeare wrote the bulk of his plays.
- **1600** The East India Company (the British Raj in India)
- **1604** Robert Cawdrey published first English dictionary.
- **1607** Jamestown, Virginia, was established as the first permanent English settlement in America.
- **1611** "the King James Version of the *Bible*, the first legal translation of the *Bible*."¹⁸⁷
- **1642—48** The Puritan Revolution overthrew the monarchy and established a military dictatorship which lasted until the Restoration of King Charles II in 1660.
- **1660** The Royal Society was founded to promote scientific knowledge.
- **1670** Hudson's Bay Company started trade settlements in Canada.
- **1688** The Glorious Revolution
- **1702** The first daily newspaper, *Courant*, was published in London.
- **1719** Daniel Defoe published *Robinson Crusoe* which is sometimes identified as the first modern novel in English.
- **1755** Samuel Johnson published his *Dictionary of the English Language*.
- **1775—83** The American Revolution resulted in the foundation of the first independent nation of English speakers outside the British Isles.

¹⁸⁶ Charles F. Meyer, *Introducing English Linguistics*, p. 34

¹⁸⁷ Charles F. Meyer, *Introducing English Linguistics*, P. 34

- **1788** The English first settled Australia near modern Sydney.
- KEY EVENTS IN THE LATE MODERN PERIOD: 1800—to present (A time of expansion in geography, in speakers, and in the purposes for which it is used.)**
- **1805** Battle of Trafalgar and British naval supremacy.
- **1806** The British occupied Cape Colony in South Africa.
- **1828** *Noah Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language* was published.
- **1840** In New Zealand, sovereignty was given to the British Crown.
- **1857** A proposal at the Philological Society of London led to the work that resulted in *the New English Dictionary* (1928), reissued as *the Oxford English Dictionary*.
- **1861—5** The American Civil War abolished slavery.
- **1898** The four-month Spanish-American War, and the United States as a world power.
- **1906** The first public radio broadcast was aired.
- **1914—18** World War I
- **1922** The British Broadcasting Company was established.
- **1927** The first motion picture with spoken dialogue, *The Jazz Singer*, was released.
- **1936** The first high-definition television service was established by the BBC.
- **1939—45** World War II
- **1947** British India was divided into India and Pakistan.
- **1983** The Internet was created.
- **1992** The first Web browser for the World Wide Web was released.