

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal

www.ijoes.in

Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019

ISSN: 2581-8333

Indexed in



**A PROBE INTO THE GROWTH OF ENGLISH LEXICON BY CELTS, NORMANS
AND GERMANIC TRIBES**

Dr.Avinash.M

Assistant Professor, Department of English,
Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology,
Chennai,India

Abstract

The English language was brought to England by the Germanic tribes-Angles, Saxons and Jutes who settled in England in the 5th and 6th centuries. (A.D.401-500 & A.D. 501-600). People of three tribes called Jutes, Angles, Saxons settled in Britain during the 5th and 6th centuries. The Jutes were the first settlers. The Saxons came next and then the Angles. Because of the co-existence of Angles and Saxons, the name ‘Anglo-Saxon’ came into vogue. ‘Angles’ were called ‘Angli’ long ago. This because of “i-mutation”(UMLAUT). England was born from “ENGLÉ”

Key words: ‘Angli’, “i-mutation” Anglo, Saxons

THE CELTS: The Celts are hailed as the Father of Europe, their culture spread from Galicia in Spain to Turkey. Names of many places in Europe are derived from the Celtic inhabitants. Many of the roads once attributed to the Romans are now recognized as heavily been created by the Celts. The Celts were proud and honourable people who colonized the whole of central Europe, including Britain, and spoke a different language. The Celtic tribes lived in scattered villages. Most Celts lived in farming communities surrounded by a bank with wooden fencing and a ditch to keep out intruders and wild animals. The Celts lived in round houses with that shed roofs of straw and heather. Clothes were made of wool and dyed with natural vegetables dyes. The Celts also loved to wear jewellery made of bronze, gold, tin, silver, coral, and enamel. They ate whatever food they could grow or hunt. They were great warriors. Many Celts went into battle unprotected by helmets or armour. They often fought naked. It is believed that women fought as

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal

www.ijoes.in

Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019

ISSN: 2581-8333

Indexed in



well. They believed in many gods and goddesses, and priests called “druids”. Infact, there are still areas where Celtic language remain widely spoken and these include parts of the British Isles and Brittany in France.

The origin of the Celts remains shrouded in mystery, but what is known is that they spread throughout Europe because of their large scale migrations. Around 900 B.C

because of shortages in food and available land, some Celts migrated to Germany, Austria and Italy. In 51 B.C., Julius Caesar conquered Gaul, where the Celts had settled and divided into Roman provinces. This resulted in a gradual mingling of the Roman and Celtic cultures. The Celts gradually migrated to Transylvania and Dalmatia and intermingled with the native people. They pushed into Greece as far as Asia Minor. One land settled in Turkey, and named this area Galatia. The Celts first burst into recorded history in the writings of the ancient Greeks and Romans in about 500B.C. but they were by then already a mighty and widespread people.

The Celts were a group of people known from early 2nd millennium B.C., who advanced to political and cultural leadership in western and central Europe between 1200B.C, and 400B.C. The Celtic language is a sub-family of Indo-European languages. Irish, Welsh, Scots, Gaelic, Manx and Breton languages belong to the Celtic group.

THE VIKINGS: They came from three countries of Scandinavia-Norway, Sweden and Denmark. They came to Europe during the period between A.D.700 and A.D.1100. During this period many Vikings left Scandinavia and travelled to other countries, such as Britain and Ireland. The Vikings travelled in medium sized sailing ships. Norwegian Vikings settled in Ireland and Greenland. Swedish Vikings entered Russia. Danish Vikings went to France and founded Normandy. The Vikings were great warriors, traders and sailors. They had contacts with people of Africa, Arabia and Asia. For nearly 300 years, the Vikings sparked fear in their enemies.

THE NORMANS: Around 1000A.D. the French kings permitted the Vikings to settle down and live in France. They were called the Normans, which is short of NORTH-MEN, because they came from the North. The part of France where they lived is called NORMANDY today.

In A.D. 1066, William, the Duke of Normandy put together a huge army of 6000 men along with several hundred ships and invaded England. At the Battle of Hastings, he defeated another rival for the throne. William was crowned the King of England. William the conqueror took away all the land from the English church officials and Nobles and gave it all to his Norman friends.

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal
www.ijoes.in **Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019** **ISSN: 2581-8333**



William set up a council of Norman Nobles and bishops. By A.D.1200 the Great Council was called Parliament. It is called so to this day. England's first Norman King William-1 was born in France, and was the Duke of Normandy. He was a cousin of the King of England, Edward, the confessor. Early in 1066- Edward died, Harold, Earl of Wessex was crowned King of England. William was furious because during A.D.1051, Edward had promised him that he would get the throne of England. Harold had also agreed to support William. Hence, William invaded England on 14th Oct in A.D.1066. Harold was killed. His army was defeated. William was victorious on Dec 25-1066 (Christmas day), William was crowned the King of England. Norman aristocracy became the new Governing class and many members of the English aristocracy, including Bishops were replaced with Normans. William brought about many changes. A complete census was ordered. A record was ordered. A record was kept in called "Dome's day Book". William built many Castles, including the Tower of London. He changed the language of the court to Norman French. The relationship of the various languages belonging to the Indo-European family is shown by the tree-chart depicted above.

THE GERMANIC TRIBES AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON EUROPEAN CIVILIZATIONS: The origin of the Germanic people was in the fog shrouded forests of the North and Baltic seashores of Europe. The Germanic people descended from explorers, who settled in extreme Northern Europe and spoke a language that was a fusion of an Indo-European tongue and the language if the Northern Megalithic culture. These two cultures, the Indo-European and Northern Megalithic, met and fused in Northern Europe sometime around 1600 B.C.

The Germanic god was called "THOR" Germanic tribal migration started in the Mid4th century (A.D.350). This led to the break -up of the Romans empire. All these groups developed separate dialects. This was the basis for the difference among Germanic languages down to the present day. The Germanic people made a great impact on the development of ancient Europe, particularly through their interactions with the Romans empire. Today, the descendants of the ancient Germanics or Teutons are mainly to be found in Germany, Austria, and German speaking Switzerland as well as in England, the Netherlands, Flemish, and German, speaking Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Ireland.

VISIGOTHS\OSTROGOTHS: Germanic tribes who lived in what is now Scandinavia- during 3rd century A.D (A.D 201-300).

LAMBARDS { A GERMANIC TRIBE }

FRANKS {A GERMANIC TRIBE }

OLD ENGLISH: The English spoken in England before the Normans conquest is called Old English. It differed greatly from our present language in pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar. A passage of English written in the period of King Alfred is Unintelligible to a modern reader. Like Latin and Greek, old English had a complicated system of inflexions. Nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, etc., had many different forms according to their grammatical relationship. The vocabulary of old English was almost purely Germanic. There was very little borrowing from other languages.

BASIC ENGLISH: Simplified English is known as Basic English. This system was tried to make teaching and learning easier. Its purpose was to make English a world language. By using Basic English anything can be expressed in a few words. There were only 850 head-words in Basic English. Writers found it difficult. This system was a failure. Basic English had very simple rules but it was practically useless.

ANGLIC: Anglic was a term coined by Professor Zachrisson. It was an attempt to rule spelling be according to the pronunciation. He thought this will be of international use. “Anglic” was tried to make foreigners learn English easily. For example- writing in ‘thru’ for ‘through’, ‘tak’ for ‘talk’, ‘nife’ for ‘knife’, etc., But ‘Anglic’ has been rejected by most of the countries. This re-spelled English experiment was a failure.

GOTHIC: Gothic was the language of the Gothe, who invaded the Roman Empire.

OLD HIGH GERMAN :This was the ancestor of modern German.

VERNERS LAW: The second change in words that took place during the first century A.D. is called **VERNER’S LAW**. Philologist Karl Verner discovered this in 1875. According to Verner, $\backslash p \backslash t \backslash$ and $\backslash k \backslash$ of the Germanic became $\backslash b \backslash d \backslash g \backslash$ in the Indo-European.

For example: ‘hunt’ in Germanic became ‘hund’ in English. Voiceless consonants became voiced if they preceded the main stress in the word “hundred” the main stress is on the syllable ‘red’. Before that we have the letter ‘d’ which is a voiced consonant. This is called Verner’s law. This change in the consonant system is believed to have taken place during the first century A.D.

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)

An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal

www.ijoes.in

Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019

ISSN: 2581-8333



ð is voiceless Fricative \d\ its voiced stop. The word ‘hundred’ was pronounced ‘hundred’ long ago. Because of the consonants change, it became ‘hundred’ because the main stress is on ‘red’ and the letter before ‘red’ is ‘d’, which is voiced. This is another explanation by some linguistics. However, it is called ‘Verner’s law’ because of Karl Verner.

GRIMMER’S LAW: Grimm’s law refers to the great consonants change which took place during 1000B.C. it is also called the first sound-shifting. The philologist Jacob Grimm(1785-1863) explained that consonant sounds in Old English changed as follows in Modern English.

OLD ENGLISH	MODERN ENGLISH
bh dh gh	b d g
b d g	p t k
p t k	f o h

Hence – ‘bhrata’ of Sanskrit became ‘brother’. ‘decam’ of Sanskrit became ‘ten’. ‘pita’ in Sanskrit became ‘father’.

‘ABLAUT” (vowel graduation):Vowel gradation which took place during the Old English period is also called “ablaut”. This term was coined by German Philologist Jacob Grimm. sing\sang\sung-vowel sounds are \i\ \æ\& \A\. (write/wrote/written// // and /i/. Each vowel sound in a series is called “grade”. So, we call it ‘vowel’ gradation. (variation of vowel sounds for grammatical purpose).

UMLAUT OR ‘i-MUTATION’:“mus” was singular. Plural was “musiz”. Because of front mutation V(2)became ‘y’. Hence in old English the plural was “mysiz”. Later “iz” was lost. “mys” remained. In modern English it has become “mice” (mouse is singular today-but ‘mice’ is plural. This is i-mutation or ‘Umlaut’

INFLUENCE OF LATIN: The Romans ruled England from A.D.43 to A.D.477. Hence their language Latin influenced English to great extent, even before the old English period (A.D.700

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal

www.ijoes.in

Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019

ISSN: 2581-8333

Indexed in



to A.d.1100). The peak period of borrowing was A.D.1550 to A.D.1650- though the influence continued during the old English period, Middle English period and also during the Modern English period, English has borrowed a lot of words from Latin.

Before the old English period – street, wine, butter, pepper, cheese, silk, pound, mile, mint, etc., During the old English period ‘bishop’, ‘minister’ etc., During the middle English period ‘client’, ‘memorandum’, ‘conviction’, ‘executor (law & court terms)’, ‘distillation’, ‘comet’, ‘equator’, dissolve (medical) & scientific words), adoption, conflict, imagination(abstract-nouns).

During the modern English period “spieces”, “genius”, “radius”, “specimen”, “apparatus”, focus, lens, antenna, circus, virus entered from Latin. By the influence of Latin “h” was added to “unable” “onour”, “abit”. “e” was added to ‘sent’ to make ‘scent’/ scissors.’p’ was added to ‘receipt’ and we got ‘receipt’.

A number of words used by us today area of Latin origin- December, sonnet, duet, malaria, monkey, solo, stanza, umbrella, vermicelli, volcano, etc., ‘etcetera’ itself is from Latin which means and “others”.

SCANDINAVIAN INFLUENCE: Scandinavian language belong to the North Germanic group of PIE(Proto-Indo European languages). The major Scandinavian languages are Norwegian, Swedish and Danish. The Scandinavians were also called ‘Vikings’. From A.D.787 to A.D.871 and from A.D.1061 to A.D.1042, Scandinavians ruled England for 110 years. Hence, their language exerted an influence on English. ‘brauð’ is today ‘bread’ in English. The words “law” and “egg” are Scandinavian.

Most of the words beginning with “sk” and “sc” today are of Scandinavian origin- skirt, sky, skin, skill, skip, scare, scrub, skull, scale, etc., - “leg” and “neck” are also Scandinavian Nouns like ‘knife’, ‘bag’, Verbs like ‘get’, ‘give’, Adjectives like ‘loose’, ‘ugly’ are Scandinavian.

GREEK INFLUENCE: The English letters A to Z are called ‘Alphabet’. This itself is from the Greek words “Alpha” and “Beta” the first and the second letters in Greek. Because of Renaissance and the invention of the printing machine, a lot of Greek words entered the English language.

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal
www.ijoes.in **Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019** **ISSN: 2581-8333**



‘Pan’ was a Greek Goddess. She had a scary look. From her name we got the word ‘Panic’. ‘Haemo’ means ‘blood’ in Greek. “Globe” means “ball”. By the fusion of these two words we have “haemoglobin”.

The word “Grammar” itself is from the Greeks word “gramma”. Logic, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, music, etc., are from Greek.

By the influence of Greekdrama we got words like “drama”, “theatre”, comedy, tragedy, climax, character, episode, scene, protagonist, dialogue, prologue, epilogue, etc., From “gnosis” which meant knowledge we have “diagnosis”. “Athlete” and “atom” are also words from Greek

FRENCH REVOLUTION: It started with the Norman conquest in A.D.1066 by William the conqueror. The Normans were actually Scandinavian Vikings who had settled in Northern France. Gradually they became French people. Hence, English life, culture and language were largely influenced by French. This went on for nearly two centuries. Many French words entered even during the Modern English period.

The French were the masters and the English men worked under them. So, words like chef, champagne, cuisine, chauffer, cutlery, crockery, boil, fry, grill, roast, butler, toast, supper, dinner(words related to food and beverages) entered from French. “Mouton” became “mutton”. Beef and Pork are from French. ‘Rendezvous’ used today to mean “venue” meeting place is from French. Other loan words are merci(mercy), curt(court), were(war) with spelling change. The words prayer, duke, judge, fashion, cruelty, ballet, soup, canteen, liquor, fiancée, resume, restaurant, are other examples.

SHAKESPEARE’S CONTRIBUTION:According to eminent philologist Simeon Potter, Shakespeare’s vocabulary was limited to nearly 25000 words only. Within this limit, he coined many words and expressions which we use even today.

By adding French prefix “en” Shakespeare coined words such as “enact”, “enmesh”, “endeared”, etc., By adding the prefix “un”, he coined words like unavailable, unvalued, etc.,

The word “incarnadine” in “Macbeth” was his coinage. Macbeth says the Green Sea will become red if he dips his bloody hands in it. “Lonely” and “laughable” are also his coinages.

Certain phrases and expressions used by him are being used by us today in general contexts. For example “mind’s eye”, “tale told by an idiot”, “to be or not to be” etc., The expressions “outlive” and “outnumber” are also his contributions. “Shelley outlived Keats” means Shelley lived after Keats death.

THE INFLUENCE OF MILTON: John Milton (1608-1674) was 8 years old when Shakespeare died. Milton has also enriched the English language with beautiful poetic expressions & phrases. Milton was the root for “Anglic” Spelling according to pronunciation. He dropped the letter “e” in many words like “heavn” (heaven), “forbidn” (forbidden) etc., He used “iland” for “island” dropping the unwanted “S”.

Milton wrote “sovrán” for “sovereign”. Today we find Americans using ‘color’, ‘honor’, ‘thru’ ‘center’, etc., but the credit goes to Milton who advocated such reforms.

N words ending with ‘d’ Milton preferred ‘t’ sound and used “walkt” for “walked”, ‘mist’ for ‘missed’.

The word ‘Pandemonium’ to mean ‘great confusion’ was coined by Milton. This word is being widely used by us today.

WORDS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES:

- a) Carrot, beetroot, chow-chow, (from Portugal)
- b) Nukkal /Peas/Radish(from France)
- c) beans/cabbage/cauliflower(from Britain)
- d) chillies/pineapple/potato/tomato/papaya
- e) chillies (from central & South America)
- f) Lady’s finger (south Europe)
- g) Beetroot (South Europe)
- h) cauliflower(from Italy to France to India).

Carrot(from Afghanistan).

Cabbage (Greece to Scotland to Britain to India).

Tomato declared as vegetables in the U.S.(1893)- not a fruit.

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal

www.ijoes.in

Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019

ISSN: 2581-8333

Indexed in



Tomato (Portuguese)

Tomato from Portugal to Italy (“pomodoro” in Italy =golden apple)

VARIOUS OTHER FACTORS: Dictionaries- Oxford, Cambridge, Orient Longman & Lifco are some of the pioneers who helped the growth of English language. Spelling rules have been standardised. Bi-lingual dictionaries all over the world have enriched the level of learning.

THE ELAECTRONIC MEDIA: Advancement in science & technology have given us radio/television/compact video discs and computers. English is available at the click of the mouse instantly. The tinsel world’s contribution(movie-world) is also tremendous. subtitled English movies, English T.V. News channels, modern device of communication such as E-Mail/ mobile phones/ facebook/ twitter/ web-sites and internets have made learning of good English too easy.

THE ROLE OF THE ACADEMIC WORLD: Offer of English major at U.G. and P.G. level all over the worlds, E-publishing industry, book-fairs, leading newspapers such as ‘The Hindu’ and ‘The Times of India’, hundreds of periodicals and journals have also played and are still playing a major role in glorifying English language.

References:

- AnhLiminDhnn1. "What Are the Importance of English Language in This Modern World" StudyMode.com. 03 2013. 2013. 03 2013 .
- Crystal, David. English as a Global Language. Cambridge University Press: London, 2003:4.
- Krishnaswamy, N. English teaching In India. 1994. Madras: T.R.publications pvt Ltd., Samelson, William. English as a second Language. Virginia: Reston Publishing Company, 1974.

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal

www.ijoes.in

Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019

ISSN: 2581-8333

Indexed in



-
- Shoaib, Aand Dorneyi, Z (2005) 'Affect in life-long learning: Exploring L2 motivation as a dynamic Process' in Benson, P and Nunan, D (eds), Learners' Stories (pp. 22–41). Cambridge: University of Cambridge.
 - Warriar, S. (2007). World depends on India's technical skills: Nasscom chairman. Retrieved December 30, 2010 from <http://www.rediff.com/money/2007/jun/04inter1.htm>
 - Widdowson, H. 1983. Learning Purpose and Language Use. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Author Bio note:

Dr.Avinash.M has been working as an Assistant Professor for the Department of English, Sathyabma Institute of Science and Technology. He has expertise in ELT. He is a I Rank Holder in UG and PG degree. He is an IELTS & BEC Trainer for his Institution. He is a Research Supervisor & also coordinator of the English Literary club of his institution.