

**SRI AKILANDESWARI WOMEN'S COLLEGE,  
WANDIWASH**

# **HISTORY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**Class:IIUG English**

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## Lecture contents

- ▶ Section-1: Indo-European family of Languages
- ▶ Section-2: Growth of English Vocabulary
- ▶ Section-3: History of Dictionary
- ▶ Section-4: Contribution of Latin Influence
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# Old English or Anglo-Saxon (449 - 1066 CE)

The Celts lived in **England** when the Romans invaded.



The Romans finally left England in 410 CE as the Roman Empire was collapsing



Then the West Germanic tribes arrived to England



The Angles  
The Saxons  
The Jutes  
The Frisians

- This language is similar to modern *Frisian*
- Today approximately 400,000 people speak Frisian

= { The Celts moved north leaving the main area of Britain = {



## Middle English (1066 - 1500 CE)



- The Norman Conquest

*French-speaking* William, Duke of Normandy

- Old English began to change with the influence of the new *French speaking* Norman aristocracy

- New vocabulary:

Beef, pork, and veal = cow, pig, and calf

French

English



## Early Modern English (1500 - 1650/1700 CE)



- The Renaissance – Revival of scholarship: Greek and Latin classics
- William Shakespeare – 3000 Latin based words



- Age of Exploration and discoveries:
  - Products from the New World: Tobacco, Chocolate, Potato
- King James Bible – 1<sup>st</sup> Book printed in English
- William Claxton –The Press



**These printed materials helped to standardize the language**  
**GRAMMAR AND SPELLING!**

## Late Modern English (1800 to 2010)



- Rise of technology
  - Industrial revolution - nuclear, airplane, horsepower
  - Internet



- Growth of the British empire and current expansion of the American influence on the world

- Neologisms from other languages:
  - Shampoo and pajamas
  - Canyon and Ranch
  - Hamburger and Rocket





# Indo-European languages

- In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, scholars used to call the group "Indo-Germanic languages".
- However when it became apparent that the connection is relevant to most of Europe's languages, the name was expanded to Indo-European.
- An example of this was the strong similarity discovered between Sanskrit and olden spoken dialects of Lithuanian.



# The Indo-European Language Family

A family of languages that were spoken by an important part of Europe and Asia.

Identified in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The IE family contains about 140 languages, which are classified into 11 subgroups.

Of the 11 subgroups, one of them is Germanic, where English comes from.

The **concept** is **linguistic**; the **term** is **geographic** (easternmost: *India* and westernmost: *Europe*)

# Indo-European family

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- ❑ **It refers to a family of languages which by about 1000 bce were spoken over a large part of Europe and parts of southwestern and southern Asia**
- ❑ **Compared with the other 150 to 200 families of languages in the world, the IE is smaller**
- ❑ **It contains about 140 languages**

## The Anatolian Branch

- This branch includes the language of the **Hittite** civilisation which once ruled central Anatolia, fought the Ancient Egyptians and was mentioned in the Christian Bible's Old Testament. Other languages were **Lydian** (spoken by a people who ruled the south coast of Anatolia), **Lycian** (spoken by a Hellenic culture along the western coastal regions), **Luwian** (spoken in ancient Troy) and **Palaic**.
- All languages in this branch are extinct.

# The Illyric Branch

- Another single language branch. Only **Albanian** (called **Shqip** by its speakers) belongs to this branch. It has been written in the Latin script since 1909; this replaced a number of writing systems including Greek and Arabic scripts. Albanian has many avoidance words. Instead of saying **wolf**, the phrase **may God close its mouth** is used. The definite article is shown by a suffix: **BUK** (bread) **BUKA** (the bread). Many noun plurals are irregular.
- There are two dialects that have been diverging for 1000 years. They are mostly mutually intelligible. **Geg** is spoken in the north of Albania and Kosovo (Kosova). **Tosk** is spoken in southern Albania and north west Greece.
- The ancient **Illyric** and **Mesapian** languages, spoken in parts of Italy, are considered by some to be an extinct member of this branch.



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# The Latin Branch

- Also called the **Italic** or **Romance Languages**.
  - These languages are all derived from **Latin**. Latin is one of the most important classical languages. Its alphabet (derived from the Greek alphabet) is used by many languages of the world. Latin was long used by the scientific establishment and the Catholic Church as their means of communication.
  - **Italian** and **Portuguese** are the closest modern major languages to Latin. **Spanish** has been influenced by Arabic and **Basque**. **French** has moved farthest from Latin in pronunciation, only its spelling gives a clue to its origins. French has many Germanic and Celtic influences. **Romanian** has picked up Slavic influences because it is a Latin Language surrounded by a sea of Slavic speakers.
  - Portuguese and Spanish have been separate for over 1000 years. The most widely spoken of these languages is Spanish. Apart from Spain, it is spoken in most of Latin America (apart from Portuguese speaking Brazil, and a few small countries like Belize and Guyana).
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# The Celtic Branch

- This is now the smallest branch. The languages originated in Central Europe and once dominated Western Europe (around 400BC). The people migrated across to the British Isles over 2000 years ago. Later, when the Germanic speaking Anglo Saxons arrived, the Celtic speakers were pushed into Wales (**Welsh**), Ireland (**Irish Gaelic**) and Scotland (**Scottish Gaelic**).
- One group of Celts moved back to France. Their language became **Breton** spoken in the Brittany region of France. Breton is closer to Welsh than to French.
- Other Celtic languages have become extinct. These include **Cornish** (Cornwall in England - now being revived), **Gaulish** (France), **Cumbrian** (Cumbria), **Manx** (Isle of Man - another language being revived), **Pictish** (Scotland) and **Galatian** (spoken in Anatolia by the Galatians mentioned in the Christian New Testament).
- Welsh has the word order **Verb-Subject-Object** in a sentence. Irish has the third oldest literature in Europe (after Greek and Latin).

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# The Slavic Branch

- These languages are confined to Eastern Europe.
  - In general, the Catholic peoples use the Latin alphabet while the Orthodox use the Cyrillic alphabet which is derived from the Greek. Indeed some of the languages are very similar differing only in the script used (**Croatian** and **Serbian** are virtually the same language).
  - One of the oldest of these languages is **Bulgarian**. The most important is **Russian**. Others include **Polish**, **Kashubian** (spoken in parts of Poland), **Sorbian** (spoken in parts of eastern Germany), **Czech**, **Slovak**, **Slovene**, **Macedonian**, **Bosnian**, **Ukrainian** and **Byelorussian**.
  - The Slavic languages are famed for their consonant clusters and large number of cases for nouns (up to seven). Many of the languages have three **numbers** for verbs: **singular**, **dual** and **plural**. Macedonian has three definite articles indicating distance; all are suffixes: **VOL (ox)**, **VOLOT (the ox)**, **VOLOV (the ox here)**, **VOLON (the ox there)**.
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# ***Language***

It can be defined as the method of human communication, either spoken or written, consisting of the use of words in a structured and conventional way.

A language is a structured system of communication.

The scientific study of language is called **Linguistics**.



# ***Word***

A single distinct meaningful element of speech or writing, used with others (or sometimes alone) to form a sentence or convey an idea.

## Old Words put into New Use

- Words with certain meaning undergo a change as time moves on evolving new meanings
- ‘Pedant’ – meant ‘a school master’ (at the time of Shakespeare) but now it means ‘a person who shows his learning’
- ‘Literary’ meant ‘something related to alphabet’ (at the time of Dr. Johnson) but now it means ‘anything related to literature’

## Two ways for the increase of Vocabulary

- Borrowing Words from Foreign Languages
- Formation of New Words

# Different Processes of Word Formation

- ❖ **Compounding / Composition**
- ❖ **Affixation / Derivation**
- ❖ **Shortening / Clipping / Abbreviations**
- ❖ **Acronymy / From Initials**
- ❖ **Old Words put into New Use**
- ❖ **Autonomasia / From Names**
- ❖ **Syncopation**
- ❖ **Telescoping**
- ❖ **Metanalysis**
- ❖ **Portmanteau Words**
- ❖ **Back Formation**
- ❖ **Deliberate Coinages**
- ❖ **Imitation / Onomatopoeia**
- ❖ **False Etymology**
- ❖ **Slang Terms**



# Different Types of Compounding

Noun + Noun – Cupboard, Railway, Bookcase, Waterproof

Adjective + Noun – Black Bird, Hotbed,  
Tablecloth, Colorblind



Noun + Adjective – Grass Green



Verb + Noun – Pickpocket

# Compounding / Composition

- Two or more words are combined to produce a new word (meaning)
- The Compound word expresses its meaning from that of any of its components



# Affixation / Derivation

- ❑ New words are formed by adding suffixes or prefixes to the root of the word
- ❑ Started from the Anglo-Saxon times
- ❑ Many suffixes are of French origin



# Slang Terms

- ✓ Term was first used in 1756
- ✓ Use of informal words and expressions that are not considered standard in the speaker's language (believed to be used by thieves, smugglers and the underworld)
- ✓ Never gained social acceptance until the 18<sup>th</sup> century

‘chap’ (dealer in stolen goods)

“kidnabbing”

‘pinch’ (to steal)

‘shabby’ (poor clothes)



# Imitation / Onomatopoeia

- Oldest method of word formation
- Existed in all languages
- A word that imitates or suggests the source of the sound that it describes

croak, flash, click, roar, cuckoo



# Syncopation

- Elision of Vowels or Consonants in rapid speech resulting in the formation of new terms



Perambulator



Prambulator



Pram

-dom (freedom, kingdom)



-ship (worship, friendship)

-less (careless, useless)

-ness (loneliness, kindness)

-ism (socialism, Marxism, Fascism)

-ment (government, movement)



# Autonomasia / From Names

✓ Origin of words related to certain names and titles

‘maudlin’ – means ‘self-pityingly or tearfully sentimental’ →

**Mary Magdalene**  
(female disciple of  
Jesus)





# Metanalysis

- Extended form of ‘Telescoping’/reanalysis
- Happens due to careless pronunciation
- Consonant of one word gets attached to the vowel at the beginning of the next word

‘a nickname’ was evolved from ‘an ickname’

‘an apron’ from ‘a napron’

‘an umpire’ from ‘a numpire’



# Telescoping

- ❖ Extension of Compounding
- ❖ Two or more words are combined to form a new word but with the elision of a few sounds

“to do on” becomes “to don”

“to do off becomes “to doff”

# Back Formation

- English words with false appearances – words ending with well-known suffixes
- New Words are formed by removing the supposed suffixes

Greedy – ‘y’ = ‘Greed’



Gloomy – ‘y’ = ‘Gloom’



Melos + Drama =  
Melodrama

Motor + Hotel = Motel





# False Etymology

- ❖ New words formed through mistaken notions regarding their etymology
- ❖ Anglo-Saxon 'Iceland' became 'Island' after 1546 (not from French *isle*)
- ❖ "picnic" - not an abbreviation of "pick a nigger", (French *piquénique*)
- ❖ "buck" to mean "dollar" - not from referring to African slaves as "bucks" (male deer) when trading. "Buck" was originally short for "buckskin"
- ❖ "Woman" - not from "woven from man". It came from the old English "wifmann"

# Historical Trace of Dictionary making in English

## 4.2 “Hard” words

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The story started in **1600** the beginning of the **Renaissance age (The Elizabethan age)** when Latin took on a new significance because **scholars** started to rediscover the **Roman literature** which was mainly in Latin through publication in the original language and through translations into English.

## Hard word dictionaries continued to expand:

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Edward Phillips' *The New World of English Words of 1658* contained around 11,000 entries, which had increased to 17,000 by the fifth edition in 1696, the year of Phillips' death. Elisha Coles' *An English Dictionary of 1676* expanded his headword list to 25,000, largely by adding dialect words, old words from Chaucer and Gower, and canting terms. The canting terms were thieves' slang words, and Coles justifies their inclusion as follows:

'Tis no Disparagement to understand the Canting Terms: It may chance to save your Throat from being cut, or (at least) your Pocket from being pick'd



## Thomas Blount's *Glossographia*

1656

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**Glossographia**: or a Dictionary, Interpreting all such Hard Words, Whether Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Italian, Spanish, French, Teutonick, Belgick, British or Saxon; as are now used in our refined English Tongue.

Also the Terms of Divinity, Law, Physick, Mathematicks, Heraldry, Anatomy, War, Musick, Architecture; and of several other Arts and Sciences Explicated.

With Etymologies, Definitions, and Historical Observations on the same.

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Blount, lawyer by profession, borrowed extensively from other dictionaries, both monolingual and bilingual, but he also included words that he had come across in his reading or that he had heard spoken around him in London. Blount's definitions vary in length, from single words to extensive explanations, but his singular innovation was the introduction of etymologies and 'historical observations'. The etymology consists of the word in the original language in brackets after the headword, e.g.

***Deprehend*** (*deprehendo*) *to take at unawares, to take in the very act.*

***Depression*** (*depressio*) *a pressing or weighing down.*

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The '**historical observations**' are included in the explanation and are sometimes rather **fanciful**, e.g.

***Hony-Moon**, applied to those married persons that love well at first, and decline in affection afterwards; it is hony now, but it will change as the moon.*

**Henry Cockeram's *The English Dictionarie*  
1663**

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It was the first to use '**dictionary**' in its title.

Part of the expansion of Bullokar's *English Expositor* in 1663 involved extensive borrowing from a third hard-word dictionary

Cockeram acknowledged his debt to Cawdrey and Bullokar because his work depended on their previous work.



**Henry Cockeram's *The English Dictionarie*  
1663**

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**The English Dictionarie:** or, An Interpreter of hard English Words.

Enabling as well **Ladies and Gentlewomen**, young **Schollers, Clarkes, Merchants**, as also **Strangers** of any Nation, to the understanding of the more difficult authors already printed in our Language, and the more speedy attaining of an elegant perfection of the English tongue, both in reading, speaking and writing.



## Monolingual Dictionaries

What is the difference between monolingual and bilingual dictionaries??

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The first monolingual English dictionary is considered to be **Robert Cawdrey's *A Table Alphabeticall*** of 1604, which contained in fuller book form the kind of list that Philemon Holland had appended to his translation of Plutarch. The title page of Cawdrey's dictionary declares it to be:

## The appearance of bilingual dictionaries

When do you think was the beginning of bilingual dictionaries???

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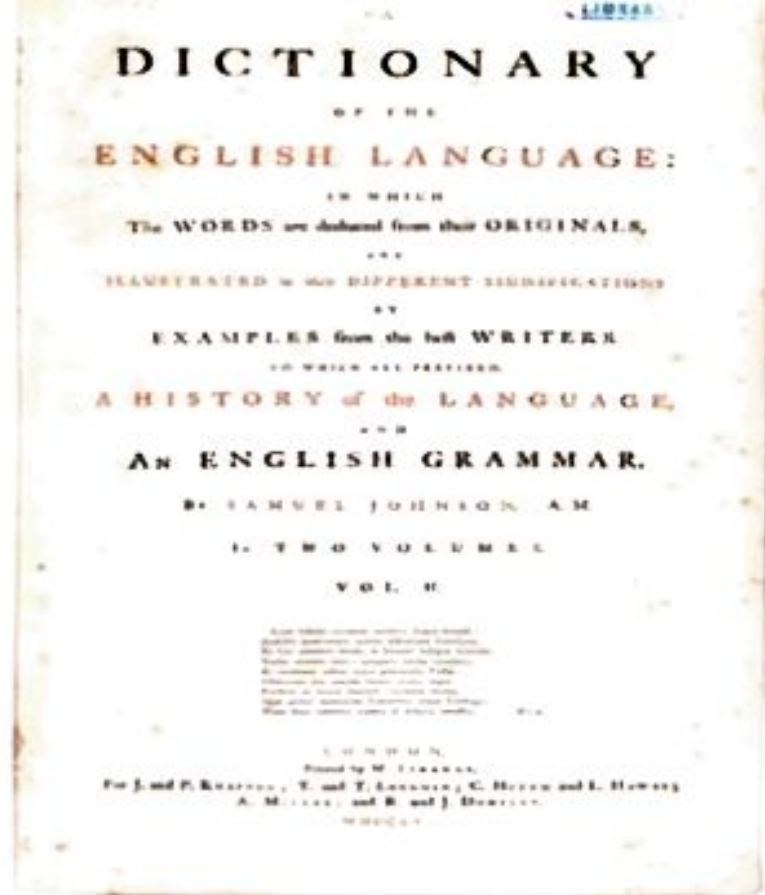
The Renaissance period saw not only the revival of the classical languages of Rome and Greece, but also a flourishing interest in the vernacular (low standard) languages of Europe. This interest, prompted by increasing travel, resulted in a number of **bilingual dictionaries**: for French and English, Italian and English, Spanish, English and Latin



**Dr. Samuel Johnson**  
(1709 – 1784)

Poet, Essayist, Literary Critic,  
Biographer, Editor and a

**Lexicographer**



**Dictionary published in 1755**  
**40,000 Words**

*LATIN LOAN WORDS IN  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE*



## THE HISTORY

With the **Christianize of Britain in 597 A.D** begins another phase of Latin borrowing to define the new conceptions, new religion, new ideas, and new faith.

After **Constantine's victory** of Britain. Latin was made the **church's official language**. Prayer and Services were conducted in Latin.

# SOME FAMOUS LATIN LOAN WORDS

- formula
- genius
- honor
- immortality
- judge
- kitchen
- Audio (technical)
- Bacteria (technical)
- church
- colour
- data
- emperor
- et cetera
- feminine

## IN THE RENAISSANCE PERIOD

In the Renaissance the Latin words flood into English texts in overwhelming proportion. Firstly, they are twain **influenced by French and Latin**. Secondly, **native words** and French words are **remodelled into closer resemblance with their Latin origins**.

## LATIN INFLUENCE ON ENGLISH

Latin influence on English language is heralded by **England's contact with the Latin civilization**. In the old English we find much of the Latin words associated with agriculture and war. Words like **camp** (battle), **segn** (banner), **pil** (pointed stick), **mil** (mile) are early borrowing words.

## IN THE PRESENT-DAY SCENARIO

In the present-day scenario of the **technical and scientific English**, Latin shares with Greek the honour of being the source of rich host of new coinages. Words like 'coaxial', 'fission', 'interstellar', '**neutron**', 'mutant', '**penicillin**', '**radium**', '**spectrum**', 'sulfa' etc have become an integral part of the English technical vocabulary.



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# What is a Global Language?

- A global language, is a language spoken internationally, which is learned by many people as a second language, the most popular one being English.

## What are the dangers of a global language?

1. *Linguistic Power*- People who don't have English as their mother tongue, but have it instead as their second or foreign language, will have a disadvantage in front of those, who do have it as a mother tongue.
2. *Linguistic Demise*- An introduction of a global language might lead to discrimination of other languages. Losing a language equals losing identity.
3. *A Feeling of Loss*- A worry that if we only had one language, they would feel "poor" when it comes to expressing feelings and emotions in a language that is not their mother tongue.
4. *Threat of Social Clash*-The use of one single language in a community is no guarantee for social harmony or mutual understanding.

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## Why do we need a Global Language ?

Global Languages are mainly used as a way to better communicate with others . The government , law , court , media , educational system master the official language in order to be more interact towards each other .

English is now the language most widely taught as a foreign language , it is spoken in over 100 countries.

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There are two main ways in which this can be done:

- Firstly, a language can be made the official language of a country ,to be used as a medium of communication in such domains as government, the law courts, the media, and the educational system.
- Secondly, a language can be made a priority in a country's foreign-language teaching , even though his language has no official status .



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5. *Threat of Losing Identity*- It is important for people to remember their roots, and language is a very integral part of one's identity. English is closely linked to the British and the American cultures and history and is therefore not a "neutral" language. People whose languages are being lost because of the dominance of the English language, may lose their identities.





# Countries best at English as a second language

The English Proficiency Index 2016

