

ENG501 SHORT HANDOUTS

MIDTERM

Lesson 01 to 20

(ENG501) History of English Language

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Lesson 01

INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE

Topic 001: What is Language?

What is language?

Answer: Language is a method of human communication, either spoken or written, involving the use of words in a structured and conventional manner.

How is the term "language" used in various ways?

Answer: The term "language" is used in various ways, including as a set of words and their pronunciation understood by a community, a means of communicating ideas through signs, sounds, or gestures, and a formal system of signs and symbols.

What does "cultural transmission" mean in relation to language?

Answer: Cultural transmission refers to the process by which individuals acquire a language within a particular culture, as opposed to inheriting it genetically.

Define language and explain its significance as a method of human communication.

Answer: Language is a structured and conventional method of human communication, involving the use of words either spoken or written. It serves as a means of expression and understanding among communities. Language enables individuals to convey ideas, thoughts, and feelings effectively, promoting social interaction and cultural transmission.

Discuss the various ways in which the term "language" is defined and used.

Answer: The term "language" is defined in multiple ways:

According to Merriam-Webster, it's the words, pronunciation, and methods of combining them understood by a community.

It's a systematic means of communicating using signs, sounds, gestures, or marks.

It includes formal systems of signs and symbols with rules for expression transformation.

It refers to the form of verbal expression and specific style.

It encompasses vocabulary belonging to different arts or fields of knowledge.

It can also refer to specific words within laws or regulations.

Topic 002: Features of Language

What is displacement in language?

Answer: Displacement is the ability of language to discuss things beyond the immediate present, such as times, places, and people not currently present.

What is arbitrariness in language?

Answer: Arbitrariness refers to the lack of inherent connection between a linguistic form (word or symbol) and its meaning.

Explain the concept of productivity in language.

Answer: Productivity is the ability of language to create new expressions and novel utterances, allowing for an infinite potential for communication.

Explain the concept of displacement in language and provide an example.

Answer: Displacement in language refers to the ability to communicate about times, places, and people beyond the current context. An example is discussing a future event or describing a location that is not physically present.

Describe the feature of arbitrariness in language and its implications.

Answer: Arbitrariness refers to the lack of inherent connection between linguistic forms and their meanings. Words don't naturally resemble the objects or concepts they represent. This feature emphasizes the cultural and conventional nature of language, as different languages use different forms to represent the same concepts.

What is the concept of productivity in language, and why is it significant?

Answer: Productivity is the ability of language to generate new expressions and novel utterances. This creative capacity allows humans to form an infinite number of unique sentences and ideas using a finite set of linguistic elements. It enables language to adapt to new situations and express complex thoughts.

Explain the role of cultural transmission in language acquisition.

Answer: Unlike physical traits, language isn't inherited. People acquire language through exposure to their cultural environment. Language is passed down from one generation to the next within a particular cultural context, allowing for the sharing of knowledge and values.

Elaborate on the concept of duality in language structure.

Answer: Duality in language involves two simultaneous levels: the physical level of producing individual sounds and the abstract level of creating sentences and meanings. This dual nature enables humans to combine basic sounds into complex structures to convey a wide range of ideas.

Topic 003: Elements that Make a Language

What is the most basic element of a natural language?

Answer: The most basic element of a natural language is its words.

How is grammar defined beyond just rules of structure and usage?

Answer: Grammar is seen as a way to describe recurring language patterns and how these patterns function in different cultures and subcultures.

How does grammar help words in language?

Answer: Grammar dictates the order of words and introduces changes in their form to provide temporal or relational information.

Describe the role of words in a language and how they convey meaning.

Answer: Words are fundamental elements of language that represent concepts. While words may not directly resemble their meanings, their meanings are understood through shared conventions. When words are used, they symbolize the concepts they represent, facilitating communication between speakers.

Explain the evolving nature of grammar and its significance in language.

Answer: Grammar encompasses rules for word order and form that provide additional context and meaning to words. It is more than just structure and usage; it describes recurring language patterns and their functions in different cultures. Grammar helps convey temporal and relational information within sentences.

How do speech and writing work together to convey information effectively?

Answer: Knowledge of words and grammar enables the creation of organized word groups. These, combined with contextual cues, offer valuable information to recipients, aiding effective communication. Speech and writing, as complementary forms of language, allow for diverse means of expression and communication.

Topic 004: Birth and Life of a Language

Is there a consensus on the origin of human language?

Answer: No, there is no consensus on the origin or age of human language.

What does "language birth" refer to?

Answer: "Language birth" refers to a stage in the divergence process where a language variety becomes distinct from its ancestor due to cumulative changes.

How do languages change and adapt to social, political, or environmental shifts?

Answer: Languages change by allowing speakers to creatively adapt to new circumstances, leading to successful changes that spread intuitively.

Discuss the challenges in determining the origin and age of human language.

Answer: The origin of language remains debated due to the absence of conclusive evidence. Languages evolve organically and continuously, adapting to changes in society, politics, and the environment. The emergence of new linguistic varieties occurs gradually, making the concept of "language birth" more of a process than a distinct moment.

Explain the concept of cumulative accretion in language evolution.

Answer: Cumulative accretion refers to the gradual accumulation of linguistic differences that lead to the emergence of distinct language varieties. Over time, these variations accumulate and differentiate languages, marking them as separate entities, regardless of external influences.

Topic 005: Growth and Death of a Language

Why do languages sometimes die out?

Answer: Languages can die out due to competition from other languages or changes in social, political, or environmental factors.

How is language extinction determined?

Answer: Determining language extinction can be complex, as some languages may appear extinct but continue to have limited usage and revival.

Give examples of dead languages that have transformed into something else.

Answer: Classical Latin, Classical Greek, and Old Icelandic are examples of dead languages that have evolved into different forms over time.

How do social, political, and environmental changes influence language evolution?

Answer: Changes in society, politics, and the environment create gaps in language usage, prompting speakers to creatively adapt to new circumstances. This adaptation leads to language evolution, which can involve the spread of successful changes among speakers.

Explain the concept of language death and revival.

Answer: Languages may die out due to competition from other languages, leading to a decline in native speakers. The determination of when a language becomes officially extinct can be complex. In some cases, languages experience revivals, as seen with the Cornish language, where efforts to preserve and use it have led to its continuation.

Discuss the transformation of dead languages and their continued influence.

Answer: Dead languages, such as Classical Latin, Classical Greek, and Old Icelandic, may no longer be spoken as originally, but they continue to impact modern languages, cultures, and fields of study. These languages transform into new forms and often leave a lasting legacy despite no longer being in common use.

Lesson 02

WHAT DO WE STUDY IN THE HISTORY OF A LANGUAGE?

Topic – 006: Origin of a Language

What is the ancient part of the brain that humans share with all vertebrates related to sound production?

Answer: The ability to produce sound and simple vocal patterning (e.g., hums, grunts) appears to be in an ancient part of the brain that is shared with all vertebrates.

When do researchers believe spoken language may have developed, and how does it compare to written language?

Answer: Spoken language is believed to have developed between 100,000 and 50,000 years ago, well before written language, which emerged about 5,000 years ago.

Why is it challenging to find direct evidence or artifacts related to early human speech?

Answer: Despite traces of earlier periods of life on earth, there is no direct physical evidence or artifacts related to the speech of distant ancestors, making it challenging to understand how language originated.

What are some theories about the divine sources of human language in various religious traditions?

Answer: In various religious traditions, there are theories about divine sources for human language, such as God creating language according to biblical tradition or language coming from deities in Hindu and other traditions.

How does the ability to produce sound and simple vocal patterning relate to the origin of language, and what evidence suggests this?

Answer: The ability to produce sound and vocal patterns is ancient and shared with vertebrates. However, this isn't human language. Some type of spoken language likely developed between 100,000 and 50,000 years ago, but direct evidence is absent. Speculation on language's origin exists due to the lack of physical evidence.

What are some theories regarding the sources of the origin of language? Explain the Natural Sound Source and the Social Interaction Source.

Answer: The Natural Sound Source suggests that language sounds could echo natural occurrences or emotional cries. The Social Interaction Source proposes that human sounds developed through physical effort, especially during interaction.

Describe the potential connection between manual gestures and the origin of language.

Answer: Some theories suggest manual gestures could have been a precursor to language, implying a physical adaptation source.

What is the significance of the genetic source in relation to the origin of language?

Answer: Babies are born with a relatively higher larynx, allowing them to breathe and drink simultaneously. This could relate to language development, but its exact role remains unclear.

Topic – 007: Family of a Language: How Does the Family Matter?

Who observed the similarities between Sanskrit and other languages, leading to the concept of a common ancestor for languages?

Answer: Sir William Jones, a British government official in India, observed the similarities between Sanskrit and other languages, suggesting a common ancestor for languages.

Question 6: How is the concept of a language family hypothesized?

Answer: The concept of a language family is hypothesized based on similarities existing in records of languages believed to be descendants of a common ancestor.

Explain Sir William Jones' observation about Sanskrit and its implications on language families.

Answer: Sir William Jones observed that Sanskrit shares similarities with Greek and Latin, suggesting a common ancestor for languages from different geographical areas. This common ancestor is hypothesized based on shared features.

What is the concept of a language family, and how do languages within a family evolve?

Answer: A language family consists of related languages sharing a common ancestor. Languages within a family evolve through divergent development, where gradual changes in usage lead to divergence and eventually new independent languages.

Topic – 008: Stages in the Development of a Language

Question 7: How does language change occur in adjacent villages speaking the same language?

Answer: Language change takes place through usage in adjacent villages speaking the same language, resulting in slow changes that may not be identical between villages.

What leads to the divergence of languages according to the concept of divergent development?

Answer: The divergence of languages occurs when people from a common language community migrate to different regions and are no longer in constant contact, leading to increased differences in language over time.

Illustrate the process of language divergence with an example of two adjacent villages.

Answer: In adjacent villages, language changes occur gradually through usage, leading to divergence. If villagers migrate and lose contact, divergence accelerates. Eventually, the languages spoken in the two villages become independent.

How does the concept of related languages connect to the development of a language family?

Answer: When languages evolve independently from a common parent language, they are related. This process of development can be represented as a family tree. Romance languages, for instance, share a common origin in Latin.

Topic – 009: Language Families & Family Trees: Examples

What term is used to describe groups of related languages, and how many languages are estimated to exist in the world today?

Answer: Groups of related languages are called "language families," and there are over six thousand different languages in the world today.

How can a language give rise to further languages through divergent development?

Answer: A language can give rise to further languages through a continuation of the divergent development process, resulting in a complex family of languages with various branches.

Explain the concept of language families and the relationship between languages within a family.

Answer: Language families consist of groups of related languages. Divergent development can lead to new languages, and some languages are more closely related than others within the same family.

Provide examples of language families and their interconnections.

Answer: Semitic languages, like Arabic and Hebrew, are related, with Arabic being a South Semitic language. These languages are also connected to the Hamitic family. A common ancestor language likely existed for Semitic and Hamitic languages.

Topic – 010: Future Possibilities of the Growth of a Language

What factors influence the future development of a language?

Answer: The future development of a language is influenced by various factors, including social, technological, and cultural changes.

How does the status of English in the present relate to its predicted status in the future?

Answer: The present status of English as a widely spoken global language has implications for its future status and its relationship to future languages and dialects.

What factors influence the future development of a language, and how does the past precedence of language growth play a role?

Answer: Factors like cultural shifts, technology, migration, and globalization influence language development. Past precedence doesn't guarantee constant growth; languages can decline or merge due to various factors.

Analyze the predicted status of English in the future and its implications for other languages and dialects.

Answer: English's global dominance is expected to continue, affecting other languages and dialects. It might lead to linguistic homogenization and impact cultural diversity.

Lesson 03

BASIC TERMS RELATED TO LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGE HISTORY

Topic - Phonology and Historical Development of a Language (011)

What does phonology study in linguistics?

Phonology studies how sounds are organized and used in natural languages.

What does the phonological system of a language include?

The phonological system of a language includes an inventory of sounds, their features, and rules for how they interact.

What is phonological development?

Phonological development refers to forming and using speech sounds to clearly communicate language.

How does acquiring more sounds of a language affect communication?

Acquiring more sounds improves language clarity, pronunciation, fluency, and intonation.

What are the components of intonation?

Intonation involves pitch, stress, and juncture.

How is English pronunciation historically variable?

English pronunciation has wide historical and dialectal variation, with regional dialects having similar but not identical phonological systems.

How does phonological development contribute to the clarity of language communication?

Answer: Phonological development involves the acquisition and utilization of speech sounds in a language, which leads to improved pronunciation, fluency, and

intonation. As more sounds are acquired, language communication becomes clearer and more effective.

Explain the concept of intonation in phonology and break down its components.

Answer: Intonation encompasses pitch, stress, and juncture. Pitch refers to the high or low pitch of the voice while producing a sound. Stress pertains to the loudness or softness of a word, and juncture involves pauses or connections between words, phrases, and sentences.

How has English historically exhibited variations in pronunciation across different dialects?

Answer: Similar to numerous languages, English displays historical and dialectal variations in pronunciation. While regional dialects share commonalities in their phonological systems, differences exist, such as vowel reduction in unstressed syllables and distinct features for stops, affricates, and fricatives.

Topic - Morphology and Historical Development of a Language (012)

What is morphology in linguistics?

Morphology is the branch of grammar that studies the structure of words, particularly through morphemes.

Define morpheme.

A8: A morpheme is a unit of meaning that doesn't necessarily relate to word or syllable count.

What does morphology analyze in terms of words?

Morphology analyzes the structure of words, including stems, root words, prefixes, and suffixes.

Differentiate between inflection and derivation in morphology.

Inflection deals with word structure based on sentence role, while derivation creates new words with different meanings.

What is compounding in morphology?

Compounding combines different parts of speech to create complex words.

Define morphology and outline its two primary subdivisions.

Answer: Morphology is the study of word forms and their interrelationships. It is divided into inflection, which deals with word structure based on sentence roles, and derivation, which involves creating new words with varied meanings through the use of affixes.

How is the concept of 'grammar' related to morphology and syntax in linguistics?

Answer: 'Grammar' often refers to both morphology (study of word forms) and syntax (study of sentence structure) together. While morphology examines word formation, syntax focuses on the arrangement of words and phrases to create coherent sentences.

Topic - Semantics and Historical Development of a Language (013)

What does semantics study in linguistics?

Semantics studies meaning at various linguistic levels, such as words, phrases, sentences, and discourse units.

Why is studying meaning important in the history of a language?

Meanings change over time, which impacts language evolution. Changes in meaning can be motivated internally or externally.

What is semantic shift?

Semantic shift refers to changes in meaning over time without specifying the type of change.

Why is the study of meaning significant in understanding the history of a language?

Answer: The meanings of words and phrases change over time, contributing to language evolution. Semantic shifts are as common as changes in form, and understanding these shifts helps trace historical linguistic changes.

Explain the term 'semantic shift' and provide an example from Old English.

Answer: Semantic shift refers to the change in the meaning of a word over time. For instance, words like 'should' and 'would,' originally denoting past tense, have shifted in meaning, as evident in their usage in Old English texts like Beowulf.

Topic - Pragmatics and Historical Development of a Language (014)

Define pragmatics in linguistics.

Pragmatics studies how context contributes to the meaning of language, considering speaker intent and other factors.

How does pragmatics differ from semantics?

Pragmatics focuses on how meaning depends on context and intent, while semantics examines conventional meaning in a language.

What does pragmatics explain about language use?

Pragmatics explains how language users navigate ambiguity by considering factors like manner, place, and time of utterance.

Differentiate between pragmatics and semantics in the context of understanding meaning.

Answer: Pragmatics explores how context, speaker intent, inferred meaning, and other factors contribute to meaning transmission. Semantics focuses on inherent meaning within a language's structure and vocabulary.

How does pragmatics play a role in resolving ambiguity in language use?

Answer: Pragmatics addresses how language users navigate ambiguity through context, timing, and location of speech, allowing them to comprehend intended meanings that might not be explicitly stated.

Topic - Syntax and Historical Development of a Language (015)

What does syntax refer to in linguistics?

Syntax is the arrangement of words and phrases to create grammatically correct sentences.

What does the study of syntax involve?

The study of syntax involves rules, principles, and processes governing sentence structure, including word order and punctuation.

How does syntactic change relate to language evolution?

Syntactic change modifies the structure of sentences over time, affecting grammar and language change.

Define syntax and elaborate on its role in the structure of sentences.

Answer: Syntax involves arranging words and phrases to form grammatically correct sentences. It encompasses rules and principles governing word order, punctuation, and overall sentence structure.

Compare the rate of change in syntax with that of phonology and morphology.

Answer: Syntax generally evolves more slowly than phonology or morphology. It significantly influences a language's structure and characteristics, impacting sentence formation and overall expression.

Lesson 04

INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Topic 016: What is English? The Importance of English Language

How did Dr. Johnson define English in his dictionary?

Answer: Dr. Johnson defined English as "Belonging to England; thence English is the language of England."

How has the definition of English changed since Johnson's time?

Answer: In today's world, English is more than just the language of England; it has spread globally.

How do modern dictionaries extend Johnson's definition of English?

Answer: Modern dictionaries emphasize its global scope, describing it as a language spoken in various parts of the world.

What does the term 'English' encompass, and why is it important to understand its definition?

The term 'English' refers to the English language, but understanding its definition is crucial for studying its development, use, and status. Defining English helps us recognize its role in communication and society.

How did Dr. Johnson define the term 'English' in his dictionary, and how has English evolved since then?

Dr. Johnson defined 'English' as belonging to England and being the language of England. However, English has evolved beyond this definition over the centuries and has become a global language used by various communities worldwide.

How do modern dictionaries expand upon Johnson's definition of English, and what common aspect do these definitions emphasize?

A3: Modern dictionaries enhance Johnson's definition by mentioning English as a Germanic language spoken not only in the British Isles but also in the USA, Commonwealth countries, and many other parts of the world. These definitions emphasize the global scope of the language and its association with different communities.

Topic 017: English: Whose Language?

What is a growing perception about English?

Answer: A growing perception is that English is now the world's lingua franca used for global communication.

Who are the original speakers of English, and who speaks it now?

Answer: The original speakers were English people, but now it's spoken in many parts of the world by diverse communities.

How does language shape identity?

Answer: Language, including dialects and variations like American English or Australian English, influences both personal and societal identities.

Who were the original speakers of English, and how has its speakership evolved over time?

The original speakers of English were the inhabitants of England. However, English is now spoken by people across the world, making it a global phenomenon that transcends geographical and cultural boundaries.

What concept is emerging regarding English being a lingua franca, and what does it mean for its ownership and usage?

The concept of English as a global lingua franca implies that it serves as a common communication tool for individuals worldwide who don't share a mother tongue but live in a globalized society. This shifts the ownership of English from a specific group to a language used by diverse communities for international communication.

How does language shape identity, and how can English dialects influence social standing and identity?

Language, including dialects like American English or Australian English, influences not only personal identity but also societal perceptions of class and background. Language choices can reflect social status, and various dialects contribute to shaping identities.

Topic 018: Where is English Spoken Today?

How many native speakers does English have approximately?

Answer: English has an estimated 350-400 million native speakers.

What is the estimated number of people who can understand English?

Answer: Approximately 1½-2 billion people, about a quarter of the world's population, can understand English.

Which languages compete with English in terms of native speakers?

Answer: Mandarin Chinese, English, and Spanish each have around 330-350 million native speakers.

What is the current status of English as a mother tongue, and how does it compare to its usage as a common language among non-native speakers?

English ranks as the second or third most spoken mother tongue globally, with around 350-400 million native speakers. Additionally, it serves as a common language for non-English speakers, with an estimated 1½-2 billion people capable of understanding it.

Which languages have comparable numbers of native speakers to English, and how does English's popularity as a foreign language compare to other languages?

Mandarin Chinese, with approximately 800-850 million native speakers, rivals English in terms of native speakers. However, both English and Spanish have around 330-350 million native speakers each. English's popularity as a foreign language is evidenced by over 700 million people who learn it as a second language.

Topic 019: Facts and Figures about English Language

What makes English rich in vocabulary compared to other languages?

Answer: English is arguably the richest in vocabulary, with about 500,000 words listed in the Oxford English Dictionary.

What is the significance of English in global communication?

Answer: English is the medium for a majority of the world's technical literature, information storage, broadcasting, and more.

How does English relate to various forms of media and communication?

Answer: English is the language for a significant portion of mail, telexes, cables, technical periodicals, and broadcasting companies worldwide.

How extensive is the use of the English vocabulary as a mother tongue, and what distinguishes English's vocabulary richness?

Over 400 million people use English as a mother tongue, surpassed in numbers only by Chinese dialects. English boasts a vast vocabulary, possibly the richest among world languages, with around 500,000 words listed in the Oxford English Dictionary.

How does English dominate various aspects of global communication and information sharing?

English plays a central role in global communication: three-quarters of mail, telexes, and cables are in English. More than half of scientific periodicals and the world's technical content are in English. The language is crucial in navigation, aviation, broadcasting, and computer storage.

Topic 020: Significance of English Language in Pakistani Context

Why was English widely known in Pakistan during British rule?

English was the main language of administration and education under British control in the region.

How did English's neutrality impact its status in Pakistan?

Answer: English, not associated with ethnonationalist or religious movements, was considered neutral and favored by the post-independence government for unification.

What language policies were pursued in postcolonial Pakistan?

Answer: Policies alternated between promoting local languages and promoting English, with a significant shift during General Zia-ul-Haq's rule.

How did British control influence the presence of English in Pakistan, and why was its retention favored post-independence?

During British rule, English served as the main language of administration and formal education. Post-independence, retaining English was useful for unifying the newly established Pakistan, as it was ideologically neutral compared to regional languages associated with ethnonationalist and religious movements.

What were the conflicting views about English's role in Pakistan's identity, and how did governments respond?

While English was favored by the post-independence government for unification, religious parties opposed it, seeing it as a symbol of continued colonization. Successive governments attempted to develop other languages, particularly Urdu, but English remained a part of Pakistan's language policy.

Lesson 05

IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Topic 021: How to Study the History of a Language?

Why is studying languages important?

Answer: Studying languages helps us understand our underlying abilities and expressions of those abilities through specific languages like English.

What is the historical approach to studying languages?

Answer: The historical approach involves studying how languages evolved over time to understand their current state.

How does studying the history of language help explain anomalies in spelling and meaning?

Answer: By studying the history of language, we can understand anomalies in spelling and meaning that may not be apparent in present-day language usage.

What is the inherent ability of language, and how do specific languages like English manifest this ability? Why is the study of languages, particularly their history, essential?

Answer: Language represents the innate capacity within humans to communicate. Languages such as English are manifestations of this ability. By studying languages, we gain insights into our own nature. A historical approach to language study is valuable, as understanding the present often requires knowledge of how things evolved over time. For instance, George Bernard Shaw's orthographic joke highlights the irregularities in English spelling, which can only be comprehended through the study of language history. Even the meanings and pronunciations of words like "Cupboard" require historical context for explanation.

Topic 022: Why and How to Trace the History of English Language?

Why do linguists attempt to trace and document the history of a language like English?

Answer: Linguists trace language history to understand how languages have changed over time and to determine the extent of continuity between different language stages.

Is modern-day English the same as the English introduced to the British Isles over a millennium ago?

Answer: No, although there is continuity, modern-day English has changed considerably from its earlier forms in terms of spelling conventions and vocabulary.

Why do linguists attempt to trace and document the history of the English language? To what extent does modern-day English resemble the language introduced to the British Isles centuries ago?

Answer: Linguists trace the history of languages, including English, to understand their evolution and development. Modern English has changed considerably over time, but it maintains some continuity with its roots in Old English. While certain vocabulary is no longer commonly used, the core structure and features have transformed. The surface aspects, like spelling conventions, have undergone

significant alterations. Exploring this historical trajectory allows us to grasp the extent of change and continuity in English.

Topic 023: Are Periods in the History of English Language Fixed?

What marked the beginning of the Old English period in the history of the English language?

Answer: The Old English period began with the arrival of Angles, Saxons, Jutes, and Frisians in Great Britain in 449.

What event signaled the end of the Old English period?

Answer: The Old English period ended with the Norman Conquest of England in 1066.

What key event promoted English nationalism during the Middle English period?

Answer: The Hundred Years' War, which started in 1337 and lasted until 1453, promoted English nationalism during the Middle English period.

Question: How similar is modern English to the version spoken in the British Isles over a millennium ago? What are some key events in the Old English and Middle English periods that influenced language development?

Answer: The modern-day English spoken today has evolved considerably from the language introduced to the British Isles in the past. In the Old English period, significant events include the migration of various groups to Britain, the conversion led by Saint Augustine, Scandinavian invasions, and the reign of King Alfred. In the Middle English period, the Norman Conquest, the Hundred Years' War, the Black Death, and the emergence of a written standard English are noteworthy. These events collectively shaped the language's evolution.

Topic 024: Sample Texts from Different Periods of English Language

How can we understand linguistic change over time in English?

Answer: By comparing the same passage of text translated at different points in history, we can observe how language has changed semantically, syntactically, and orthographically.

What were the three versions of the passage from the Gospel used for comparison in this session?

Answer: The versions used were from the New English Bible (1961), the King James Bible (1611), and John Wycliffe's translation (late 14th century).

How has the English language evolved over time? Provide an example of a passage from the Bible that showcases linguistic changes and transformations at different points in history.

Answer: The English language has undergone profound changes over the centuries. To illustrate this, let's consider a passage from the Gospel, Chapter XV, which has been translated into English at various times. The first example is from the New English Bible (1961), followed by the King James Bible (1611), and lastly, John Wycliffe's translation from the late 14th century. By comparing these translations, we observe semantic, syntactic, and orthographic shifts that demonstrate the evolution of the English language.

Topic 025: Other Texts of English Language

Question: How has linguistic change occurred horizontally in English?

Answer: Linguistic change has occurred in English across different regions, resulting in variations in vocabulary, dialects, and usage.

What is the theme of the first text discussed in this session?

Answer: The first text is a 'cowboy poem' from the Arizona region, depicting two cowboys encountering the devil after leaving a bar.

How is the second text used in this session different from the first one?

Answer: The second text, a poem by Robert Alan Jamieson, showcases the differences in language usage within a specific region and community, in this case, Shetland.

How has the English language exhibited horizontal linguistic change across different regions? Provide examples of texts that illustrate linguistic variations in specific areas.

Answer: English has experienced linguistic variations across geographical regions. Text 1, a cowboy poem by Gail I. Gardner (1917), captures the unique dialect of the Arizona region. Despite some dialect-specific terms, the poem remains largely understandable. Another example is a poem by Robert Alan Jamieson, 'Varg,' from the Shetland community. This poem exemplifies how language used within distinct regions and communities, like Shetland, can greatly differ from mainstream English. These texts showcase the rich variety and diversity present in the English language. topic 021: Importance of Studying the History of English Language.

Lesson 06

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF (ENGLISH) LANGUAGE AND RELATED TERMS-PART I

Topic - 026: Types and Possibilities of Changes in (English) Language

Why does language change and evolve over time?

Answer: Language changes and evolves to meet the changing needs of its speakers due to new technologies, products, and experiences.

How do new words emerge in a language?

Answer: New words emerge in a language to describe new technologies, products, and experiences.

How does language variation occur among individuals?

Answer: Language variation occurs based on factors like age, job, education level, and country, resulting in different sets of words and constructions.

Is language becoming worse as it changes?

Answer: No, language changes don't mean it's getting worse; it's just becoming different and responding to evolving needs.

What are the reasons for the continuous evolution and adaptation of language? Provide examples of how changing needs of speakers contribute to linguistic change.

Answer: Language is in a constant state of change due to the evolving needs of its users. As the world progresses with new technologies, products, and experiences, new words are required to describe these concepts. For instance, the evolution of texting transformed language as it introduced terms like "text messaging" to distinguish it from traditional voice communication. Additionally, every individual's unique language experiences result in variations. Factors such as age, occupation, education, and nationality lead to diverse vocabulary and sentence structures. These linguistic elements from different interactions combine to create distinctive speaking patterns. It's important to note that the evolution of language doesn't imply a decline in quality; it simply reflects a shift towards uniqueness and adaptation.

Topic - 027: Synchronic Changes in Language

What is synchronic linguistics?

Answer: Synchronic linguistics studies a language at a specific point in time without considering its historical development.

How does synchronic linguistics differ from diachronic linguistics?

Answer: Synchronic linguistics focuses on one moment in time, while diachronic linguistics studies language changes over a period of time.

What does the field of synchronic linguistics focus on, and how does it differ from diachronic linguistics?

Answer: Synchronic linguistics involves the study of a language at a particular moment in time, without considering its historical development. This approach examines the language's current state, either in the present or a specific past period. It's a contrast to diachronic linguistics, which studies language changes over time.

Synchronic analysis is not concerned with language evolution but seeks to understand its structure and functioning at a specific instance.

Topic - 028: Synchronic Changes in Language Part II

What aspects of language can be analyzed using a synchronic approach?

Answer: Aspects such as grammar, syntax, semantics, and phonology can be studied using a synchronic approach.

How does synchronic linguistics relate to diachronic linguistics?

Answer: Synchronic linguistics precedes diachronic linguistics, studying language's current state before examining its historical changes.

How do synchronic and diachronic perspectives complement each other in linguistic analysis? Provide an example of a linguistic element that can be studied from both viewpoints.

Answer: Synchronic and diachronic viewpoints offer distinct yet interrelated insights into language analysis. Synchronic linguistics examines language as it exists at a single point in time, without reference to past or future stages. This approach helps understand the present state of language structures such as grammar, syntax, semantics, and phonology. An example illustrating both perspectives is the study of English verb tenses. Synchronically, one can analyze how verb tenses are used today, while diachronically, the evolution of tense forms over centuries can be explored.

Topic - 029: Tracing Synchronic Changes in English

What might a synchronic linguist study within grammar?

Answer: A synchronic linguist might study word order, negation, clause-linking, and mechanisms of change in a language system.

What does cross-linguistic comparison involve?

Answer: Cross-linguistic comparison involves investigating grammatical phenomena in various languages to identify differences and similarities.

What aspects can a synchronic linguist investigate within the scope of their study? Provide examples of grammatical phenomena that could be explored.

Answer: A synchronic linguist can delve into various aspects of language, including word order, negation, and clause-linking. They may also examine mechanisms through which language changes are introduced and spread within communities. For instance, a study might focus on cross-linguistic and typological comparisons, analyzing how different languages handle specific grammatical features. This approach can uncover both differences and commonalities among languages. Patterns of linguistic variation and typology can also be explored, shedding light on the broader linguistic landscape.

Topic - 030: National and International Context to Exemplify Synchronic Changes

How does Australian English differ from RP in terms of phonology?

Answer: While Australian English and RP have the same phonemic inventory, vowels are pronounced differently in Australian English.

What's the difference in pronunciation of the letter 'r' between GA and RP?

Answer: In GA, 'r' is pronounced in all positions, whereas in RP, it's only pronounced before vowels.

Can you name some cultural and ethnic American English varieties?

Answer: Some examples include African American Vernacular, Cajun Vernacular, Hawaiian Pidgin, Latino Vernacular Englishes, Chicano English, and Miami English.

Could you provide examples of regional and local American English varieties?

Answer: Examples include Eastern New England, Boston, Rhode Island, Southeast Super region, and Midland.

How does phonological variation demonstrate synchronic differences in English? Provide examples of phonological distinctions between Australian English and Received Pronunciation (RP), as well as between American and British English.

Phonological differences highlight synchronic variations in English. For instance, Australian English and RP share the same set of phonemes, but their vowel realizations differ significantly. In Australian English, vowels like /a/ and /e/ are closer compared to RP, resulting in distinctive pronunciations that might be confusing to English speakers. Similarly, American and British English exhibit phonological disparities, such as the pronunciation of the sound /r/. In General American (GA), /r/ is pronounced consistently, while in RP, it is limited to preceding vowels. Moreover, the lesson lists various cultural, ethnic, regional, and local varieties of American English, showcasing the diverse linguistic landscape within the United States.

Lesson 07

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF (ENGLISH) LANGUAGE AND RELATED TERMS-PART II

Topic 031: Diachronic Changes in Language

What is diachronic linguistics, and who introduced this concept?

Answer: Diachronic linguistics is the scientific study of language change over time, introduced by Ferdinand de Saussure.

What are the principal concerns of diachronic linguistics?

The principal concerns of diachronic linguistics include describing and accounting for observed changes in particular languages and mapping the shifts and mutations of languages over centuries.

What is diachronic linguistics, and who introduced this concept?

Diachronic linguistics, as introduced by Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure, is the scientific study of language change over time. This approach focuses on describing and accounting for observed changes in particular languages, essentially mapping the shifts, fractures, and mutations that languages undergo over centuries.

Topic 032: Diachronic Changes in (English) Language: Some Terms

What are the key concerns of diachronic linguistics mentioned in this topic?

The key concerns include describing language changes, reconstructing pre-historic languages, developing theories about why language changes, studying the history of communities, and investigating the history of words (etymology).

What are the assumptions of the Family Tree Model in linguistics?

The Family Tree Model assumes the Regularity Hypothesis and the Relatedness Hypothesis to depict relationships between languages.

Describe the Wave Model in the context of diachronic language development.

The Wave Model suggests that linguistic changes spread like waves, affecting some languages but not others, and is essential for studying diachronic language development.

What is language contact, and what are some of its characteristics?

Language contact is the interaction between speakers of different languages leading to the transfer of linguistic features. Characteristics include being a major factor in language change and often leading to bilingualism or multilingualism.

What are the key concerns of diachronic linguistics mentioned in this topic?

In this context, diachronic linguistics involves several key concerns. These include describing language changes, reconstructing pre-historic languages, developing general theories about the reasons behind language changes, describing the history of communities, and studying the etymology, or history, of words.

Explain the Family Tree Model and its underlying assumptions.

The Family Tree Model is an early attempt to illustrate the relationships between languages. It is based on two fundamental assumptions: the Regularity Hypothesis and the Relatedness Hypothesis. These assumptions suggest that languages evolve and share common ancestors, much like branches on a family tree.

Describe the Wave Model and its significance in diachronic language development.

The Wave Model proposes that linguistic changes spread like waves, affecting some languages but not others and gradually spreading to nearby languages. This model is essential for understanding and studying the diachronic development of a language, as it helps explain how changes propagate through linguistic communities.

What is language contact, and what are some of its characteristics?

Language contact is a social and linguistic phenomenon in which speakers of different languages interact, leading to the transfer of linguistic features between these languages. Some characteristics of language contact include its role as a major factor in language change and the tendency for prolonged contact to result in bilingualism or multilingualism.

Topic 033: Tracing Diachronic Changes in English-Examples

How does syntactic change differ from other linguistic changes, and why is it described as "drift"?

Syntactic change unfolds slowly, sometimes taking centuries, and is described as "drift" due to its slow and imperceptible nature.

Differentiate between synthetic and analytical languages, and what has happened to English over time?

Synthetic languages use inflectional change for grammatical relationships, while analytical languages use word order. English has transitioned from being synthetic to analytical over time.

What was the role of gender in Old English, and how does it differ from modern English?

In Old English, gender applied to words and their case. Modern English no longer uses grammatical gender, relying on biological gender for pronouns like him, her, and it.

How does syntactic change differ from other linguistic changes, and why is it described as "drift"?

Syntactic change unfolds slowly over extended periods, sometimes taking hundreds of years to complete. It is often described as "drift" in linguistics because it involves a gradual and almost imperceptible change in a specific direction, affecting the syntax or sentence structure of a language.

Differentiate between synthetic and analytical languages, and explain how English has evolved over time.

Synthetic languages convey grammatical relationships through inflectional changes within words, while analytical languages use word order to express these relationships. English has transitioned from being a synthetic language to an analytical one over time, with a shift from inflectional changes to a greater reliance on word order.

What role did gender play in Old English, and how does this differ from modern English?

In Old English, gender applied not only to words but also to their case. Modern English, on the other hand, no longer uses grammatical gender except for pronouns such as him, her, and it, which are based on biological gender. This difference reflects a shift from synthetic to analytical language features in English.

Topic 034: Diachronic Changes: Some Examples from History

What is semantic change in linguistics, and why is it significant?

Semantic change is the evolution of word usage, where a word's modern meaning becomes radically different from its original usage. It is significant in understanding how language evolves.

What is semantic change in linguistics, and why is it significant?

Semantic change in linguistics refers to the evolution of word usage, often to the extent that the modern meaning of a word becomes radically different from its original usage. It is significant because it helps us understand how language evolves over time and how word meanings shift and adapt.

Topic 035: Marking the Axis Synchronically and Diachronically

Define "synchronic" and "diachronic" with respect to linguistics.

In linguistics, "synchronic" refers to analyzing something at a specific point in time, while "diachronic" refers to analyzing something through a timeline, tracing its historical changes.

What is the Greek etymology of the terms "synchronic" and "diachronic"?

Both terms have Greek origins, with "chron" coming from Greek "khronos," meaning 'time,' and "syn-" meaning 'together' and "dia-" meaning 'through.'

Define "synchronic" and "diachronic" in the context of linguistics, and explain their Greek etymology.

In linguistics, "synchronic" refers to the analysis of something at a specific point in time, while "diachronic" pertains to analyzing something through a timeline, tracing its historical changes. These terms have Greek origins, with "chron" deriving from the Greek "khronos," meaning 'time.' The prefix "syn-" means 'together,' and "dia-" means 'through,' both of which describe different approaches to analyzing linguistic phenomena in relation to time.

Lesson 08

MAIN STAGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Topic 036: Why Study the History of English Language

Why should the history of English be studied?

The history of English should be studied because it remains the most important and influential language globally, with a rich history of adaptability and resilience.

What historical events showcase the significance of English?

English played crucial roles in British colonialism, the Industrial Revolution, and the digital revolution, making it a dominant global language.

How does English demonstrate its flexibility?

English absorbs vocabulary from various cultures, showcasing its adaptability and continued vitality.

Why should the history of English be studied?

The history of English should be studied because it remains the single most important and influential language in today's world. Throughout history, it has played pivotal roles in various significant events. For example, English-speaking Britain was the leading colonial nation in the 17th and 18th centuries and the leader of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the late 19th and 20th centuries, English-speaking America emerged as the leading economic power and played a key role in the electronic and digital revolution of the late 20th century. Furthermore, English has demonstrated remarkable flexibility and resilience, absorbing vocabulary from diverse cultures. Its continued vitality is evident in the diversity of its worldwide variations today.

Topic 037: Approaches to Studying the History of English

What are the varied approaches to studying the history of English language?

There are books and websites with diverse purposes, readerships, and levels of detail, ranging from technical to brief summaries.

Why is it important to trace the development of English language?

Tracing English's evolution from one stage to another helps understand its historical progression.

Are the divisions in the history of English language arbitrary?

Yes, the divisions between periods in English language history are arbitrary and a matter of convenience.

What are the varied approaches to studying the history of English language?

There are numerous books and websites that offer various approaches to studying the history of the English language. These approaches cater to different purposes, readerships, and levels of detail. Some sources provide minute and technical

details, while others offer concise one-page summaries. The diversity of available resources reflects the multifaceted nature of studying the history of English language.

Topic 038: Division of Early Stages in English Language History

When does the recorded history of the English language begin?

The recorded history of English begins in the British Isles after the English separated from their Germanic cousins.

What is the origin of English as a language?

English originated from Anglo-Frisian dialects brought to Britain by Germanic invaders and settlers from northwest Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands.

What marks the transition from Old English to Middle English?

The transition is marked by grammatical changes around 1100 and pronunciation changes around 1500, with the Norman conquest of England in 1066 playing a significant role.

When does the recorded history of the English language begin?

The recorded history of the English language begins not on the continent where its speakers once lived but in the British Isles, where they eventually settled. During the period when the language was spoken in Europe, it was referred to as pre-Old English. It was only after the English separated themselves from their Germanic cousins that their speech was recognized as a distinct language, and records of it began to emerge.

What is the origin of English as a language?

English is a West Germanic language that originated from Anglo-Frisian dialects. These dialects were brought to Britain between the mid-5th and 7th centuries AD by Germanic invaders and settlers from what is now northwest Germany, west Denmark, and the Netherlands. This marked the beginning of the English language as we know it today. The Middle English period, which spans from 1100 to 1500, represents a significant transitional phase between Old English and early Modern English, characterized by both grammatical and pronunciation changes.

Topic 039: Division of Later Stages in English Language History

What characterized the Early Modern English period?

The Early Modern English period (1500-1800) was a time of revolutionary development, laying the groundwork for English to become a global language.

How did late Modern English expand geographically?

Late Modern English (1800 to Present) expanded globally through British colonization, empire-building, and American influence in world affairs.

What characterized the Early Modern English period?

The Early Modern English period, spanning from 1500 to 1800, was transformative for both England and the English language. This era witnessed revolutionary developments that paved the way for English to become a global language. Notably, the late 18th century saw the American Revolution, which led to the establishment of the first independent nation of English speakers outside the British Isles. Additionally, in 1788, English settlement began in Australia near modern-day Sydney, further expanding the reach of the language.

Topic 040: Future of the English Language

What is the current stage of the development of the English language?

English is a global language, widely used and recognized around the world.

What possibilities exist for the future of English?

English has various varieties, and its future development raises questions about whether it should be a single language or multiple varieties.

What role will science, technology, and media play in the future of English?

These factors will continue to influence the development and global spread of English.

What is the current stage of the development of the English language?

Currently, English is a ubiquitous language with a global presence. Its status as a dominant language requires no further evidence, as it can be observed in various contexts worldwide.

What possibilities exist for the future of English?

The future of the English language presents a range of possibilities and challenges. English has diversified into numerous varieties, including American English, British English, and various South Asian English dialects such as Pakistani, Indian, and Indonesian English. This diversity raises questions about whether English should be considered a single language or if its various forms should be recognized as separate varieties. The role of science, technology, and media will continue to shape the language's future development, with both driving forces and factors pulling in different directions. However, it is clear that English will remain a prominent language in the future.

Lesson 09

INTRODUCTION TO OLD ENGLISH: BIRTH OF ENGLISH- PREHISTORIC TO GERMANIC HISTORY

Topic 041: The Language in England Before English

What is the estimated duration of the Stone Age in England?

The Stone Age in England is thought to have lasted until about 2000 B.C.

What distinguishes the Paleolithic Age from the Neolithic Age in England?

The Paleolithic Age is characterized by earlier Stone Age inhabitants, while the Neolithic Age represents a later period with a higher culture.

What were some characteristics of the Paleolithic humans in England?

Paleolithic humans in England were short of stature, had low foreheads, and lived in open areas or caves.

What were the two divisions of Celtic languages in England?

The two divisions of Celtic languages in England were the Gaelic or Goidelic branch and the Brythonic branch.

Which language was spoken in England for about four centuries before the arrival of English?

Latin was spoken rather extensively in England for about four centuries before the arrival of English.

What is known about the earliest inhabitants of England prior to the introduction of the English language, and how is their classification based on archaeological evidence?

Prior to the introduction of the English language, our knowledge of the earliest inhabitants of England is derived solely from archaeological evidence, particularly material culture. These inhabitants are classified based on the types of material remains that characterized their successive stages of development.

Topic 042: The History of Roman Conquest

When did the Emperor Claudius undertake the conquest of Britain?

Emperor Claudius undertook the conquest of Britain in A.D. 43.

What happened during the uprising of the Celts in A.D. 61?

During the uprising in A.D. 61, led by Boudicca, approximately 70,000 Romans and Romanized Britons were massacred.

Who advanced the northern frontier of Roman control to the Solway and the Tyne?

The Roman Governor Agricola (A.D. 78–85) advanced the northern frontier of Roman control to the Solway and the Tyne.

How long was the district south of the northern boundary wall under Roman rule?

The district south of the northern boundary wall was under Roman rule for more than 300 years.

When did Emperor Claudius initiate the conquest of Britain, and what challenges did the Roman campaign face in subjugating the island?

Emperor Claudius initiated the conquest of Britain in A.D. 43. The Roman campaign faced significant challenges, including the need to subdue various indigenous groups, resistance, and uprisings. A notable uprising in A.D. 61, led by Boudicca, resulted in the massacre of many Romans and Romanized Britons. Despite such challenges, the Romans eventually extended their control across most of what is now England.

Topic 043: Romanization of the Island

What evidence suggests the Romanization of Britain?

Evidence of Romanization in Britain includes the presence of Roman roads, towns, Roman houses, baths, temples, and the use of Roman dress, ornaments, pottery, and glassware.

When did Christianity begin to make some progress in Roman Britain?

By the third century, Christianity had started to make some progress in Roman Britain, and by A.D. 314, bishops from London and York attended a church council in Gaul.

When did Romanization in Britain come to an end?

Romanization in Britain came to an end in the fifth century.

What are some key pieces of evidence that demonstrate the process of Romanization in Britain under Roman rule?

The process of Romanization in Britain is evident in various aspects, including the construction of major Roman roads, the presence of Roman towns with houses, baths, temples, and theaters, the adoption of Roman dress, ornaments, utensils, pottery, and glassware, as well as the use of heating apparatus, water supply, mosaic floors, and painted stucco walls in Roman houses. The spread of

Christianity and the adoption of Latin language and customs also reflect the influence of Roman culture in the region.

Topic 044: The Latin Language

Did Latin replace the Celtic language in Britain?

No, Latin did not replace the Celtic language in Britain to the extent it did in Gaul.

Who are believed to have spoken Latin in Roman Britain?

Members of the upper classes, some inhabitants of cities and towns, and possibly artisans in some localities are believed to have spoken Latin in Roman Britain.

When did the use of Latin in Britain begin to decline?

The use of Latin in Britain likely began to decline after 410, around the time when the last Roman legions were officially withdrawn from the island.

Did Latin entirely replace the Celtic language in Roman Britain, and who primarily spoke Latin in this period?

Unlike in Gaul, Latin did not entirely replace the Celtic language in Roman Britain. Latin was primarily spoken by members of the upper classes, some city dwellers, and possibly artisans in certain localities. Graffiti found on tiles and pottery suggests that Latin may have been familiar to some members of the artisan class. However, Latin was not spoken by the entire native population and did not replace Celtic to the same extent it did in some other Roman provinces.

Topic 045: Germanic Conquest and Anglo-Saxon Civilization

In what year did the invasion of Britain by Germanic tribes, leading to the English nation's founding, traditionally begin?

The invasion of Britain by Germanic tribes, traditionally believed to be the founding of the English nation, began around the year 449.

According to Bede, which Germanic tribes conquered England?

According to Bede, the Germanic tribes that conquered England were the Jutes, Saxons, and Angles.

What is the Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy?

The Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy refers to the seven kingdoms established by various tribes in England, including Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Kent, Essex, Sussex, and Wessex.

Who held political supremacy in Northumbria during the early seventh century?

During the early seventh century, Northumbria gained political supremacy among the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in England.

Which Wessex king played a significant role in extending influence over England?

King Egbert (802–839) of Wessex played a significant role in extending Wessex's influence over England, leading to his overlordship over the country.

What significant event marked the beginning of the English nation's formation around the year 449, and how did this event shape the course of British history?

Around the year 449, the invasion of Britain by Germanic tribes, including the Jutes, Saxons, and Angles, marked the traditional starting point for the formation of the English nation. This event had a profound and lasting impact on the course of British history, leading to the displacement of native populations, the emergence of Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, and a significant shift in the linguistic and cultural landscape of the region.

Lesson 10

SOME HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT OLD ENGLISH

Topic – 046: The Names: English and England

What did the Celts initially call their Germanic conquerors?

The Celts initially called their Germanic conquerors Saxons.

When did the terms Angli and Anglia start to appear in reference to the Germanic tribes in England?

The terms Angli and Anglia started to appear alongside Saxons, referring to the West Germanic tribes generally.

What is the origin of the word "English"?

The word "English" is derived from the name of the Angles (OE Engle) but is used for the language of all invading tribes.

Which term, "English" or "England," is older?

The term "English" is older than the term "England."

Why do some believe that England took its name from the Angles?

England might have taken its name from the Angles to distinguish it from the Saxons on the continent and due to the early supremacy of the Anglian kingdoms.

Topic – 047: Time Period of Old English

What is the main time period referred to as "Old English"?

The main time period of Old English is from 450 to 1150.

Why is the period from 450 to 1150 sometimes called the "period of full inflections"?

It's called the "period of full inflections" because during most of this period, the endings of nouns, adjectives, and verbs were preserved relatively intact.

What follows the Old English period in the development of the English language?

The period following Old English is known as Middle English, spanning from 1150 to 1500.

Topic – 048: Facts & Events of Old English Period

Which parts of England did the Anglo-Saxons occupy by 700 AD?

By 700 AD, the Anglo-Saxons had occupied most of England, with exceptions in Cornwall, a part of southern Scotland, and Wales.

What evidence suggests limited Celtic influence on Old English?

Limited Celtic influence on Old English is evident as only a small number of Celtic words were incorporated into English, primarily in place names.

How did the Anglo-Saxons and Britons eventually regard themselves?

The Anglo-Saxons and Britons eventually regarded themselves as one people, with terms like "Engle" applied to all Germanic settlers in Britain.

Topic – 049: Historical Facts and Events of Old English (continuation)

How did political union develop in early England?

In early England, there were numerous petty kingdoms, and political union developed gradually as different kings established sovereignty over other kingdoms.

Who was the king responsible for finally unifying England?

The king of Wessex is credited with finally unifying England.

How did the unity of England remain durable in later centuries?

The unity of England remained durable even when kings from different backgrounds, including Danish and Norman French, ruled, signifying a strong sense of national identity.

Topic – 050: Writing System of Old English

What facilitated the use of the Roman alphabet for writing in England?

The conversion to Christianity introduced the Roman alphabet for writing in England.

What form of writing did the Anglo-Saxons use before adopting the Roman alphabet?

Before adopting the Roman alphabet, the Anglo-Saxons used runes for short inscriptions.

What is the significance of the runic symbols in Old English?

Runic symbols, such as 'p' ('wynn'), were used in Old English alongside the Latin alphabet to represent certain phonemes.

How did Christianity influence the writing system of the Anglo-Saxons?

Christianity introduced the Latin model of writing to the Anglo-Saxons, leading to the use of the Roman alphabet.

What are some examples of pre-Christian traditions that persisted in Old English?

Pre-Christian traditions in Old English include the names of days of the week and place names derived from pagan deities.

Lesson 11

FEATURES OF OLD ENGLISH: PRONUNCIATION AND VOCABULARY

Topic 051: Pronunciation of Old English

What were the differences in vowel and consonant sounds between Old English and Modern English?

In Old English, vowel and consonant sounds were quite different from Modern English.

How did Old English represent vowel sounds, and what was the unique vowel symbol?

Old English used six vowel symbols: a, e, i, o, u, and y, along with the seventh symbol 'ash.' These represented both long and short vowels.

What term describes the processes by which Old English pronunciation evolved?

The pronunciation of Old English evolved through processes of assimilation.

What were the differences in vowel and consonant sounds between Old English and Modern English?

The vowel and consonant sounds in Old English were notably different from Modern English. Old English had a single phoneme consisting of voiced and voiceless allophones, whereas Modern English has two separate phonemes. This difference in phonetics resulted from assimilation processes in prehistoric Old English.

How did Old English represent vowel sounds, and what was the unique vowel symbol?

Old English used six vowel symbols (a, e, i, o, u, and y) along with a seventh symbol called 'ash.' These symbols represented both long and short vowels, and the 'ash' symbol was unique to Old English.

Topic 052: The Vowel Sounds of Old English

Did Old English use diphthongs, and if so, how were they represented?

Old English did use diphthongs, which were represented by digraphs such as 'ea, eo, io, and ie.'

Topic 053: Some More Features of Pronunciation of Old English

How did Old English use double consonants differently from Modern English?

In Old English, double consonant symbols didn't indicate vowel length but rather represented a double or long consonant sound, as opposed to Modern English's use to indicate short vowels.

What characters did Old English use to represent the 'th' sound, and how do they differ from modern usage?

Old English used 'þ' (thorn) and 'ð' (eth) to represent the 'th' sound, which is no longer used in Modern English.

How did Old English use double consonants differently from Modern English?

Old English used double consonants differently from Modern English. In Modern English, double-consonant symbols indicate a preceding short vowel, while a single consonant symbol indicates a long or diphthong vowel. However, in Old English, the use of a single consonant symbol didn't indicate vowel length; it was used differently. For example, 'writen' and 'copor' had short vowels, but they were spelled with single consonants.

What characters did Old English use to represent the 'th' sound, and how do they differ from modern usage?

Old English used 'þ' (thorn) and 'ð' (eth) to represent the 'th' sound, which is no longer used in Modern English.

Topic 054: Introduction to Vocabulary of Old English

How did Old English primarily expand its vocabulary?

Old English expanded its vocabulary primarily through compounding words rather than borrowing.

What is the fundamental difference between an affix and a compound word?

An affix is a bound morpheme, while a compound word is formed by joining two or more free morphemes.

How did Old English primarily expand its vocabulary?

Old English primarily expanded its vocabulary through compounding words, where two or more free morphemes were combined to form new words. This was distinct from borrowing words from other languages.

What is the fundamental difference between an affix and a compound word?

The fundamental difference between an affix and a compound word is that an affix is a bound morpheme, while a compound word is formed by joining two or more free morphemes.

Topic 055: Characteristics of Vocabulary of Old English

Which concepts and institutions contributed to borrowings in Old English vocabulary?

Borrowings in Old English vocabulary were particularly influenced by concepts and institutions related to Christianity, which borrowed words from Latin and Greek.

What impact did the Norman Conquest have on the Old English vocabulary?

The Norman Conquest introduced French into England, leading to the replacement of much of the Old English vocabulary, especially in literature and learning, with words borrowed from French and Latin.

How can we distinguish between the language of the earliest written records and later literary texts in Old English?

The language of the earliest written records (about A.D. 700) in Old English differs from that of later literary texts, with the latter showing the influence of Norman Conquest and the introduction of French.

Lesson 12

THE GRAMMAR OF OLD ENGLISH

Topic 056: Features of Grammar of Old English

What is hypotactic style in Old English syntax?

Hypotactic style in Old English syntax involves a high proportion of long sentences with subordination to express grammatical and semantic relationships.

What is paratactic style in Old English syntax?

Paratactic style in Old English syntax features shorter sentences with a higher proportion of principal clauses and fewer subordinate clauses.

How did Old English's inflectional system affect word order?

Old English had greater flexibility in word order compared to Modern English, thanks to its inflectional system.

What is the significance of syntactic style in a language?

Syntactic style in a language is important because it reflects how grammatical and semantic relationships are expressed. It can vary from a hypotactic style with many subordinate clauses to a paratactic style with shorter sentences and more principal clauses. In Old English, the inflectional system allowed greater word-order flexibility than in Modern English.

Topic 057: Nouns and Pronouns in Old English

How many cases did the Old English noun have?

The Old English noun had four cases, indicating distinctions of number (singular and plural) and case.

What are the two main types of declensions for Old English nouns?

The two main types of declensions for Old English nouns are the vowel declension and the consonant declension, also known as the strong and weak declensions.

Did Old English have a dual number for pronouns?

Yes, Old English had a dual number for pronouns, in addition to the singular and plural forms.

How did Old English nouns inflect to indicate number and case?

Old English nouns inflected to show distinctions in number (singular and plural) and case. They had four cases, and the endings varied among different nouns, falling into categories like the vowel and consonant declensions.

Topic 058: Adjectives and Articles in Old English

What is the strong declension of adjectives used for in Old English?

The strong declension of adjectives in Old English is used when adjectives are not accompanied by a definite article or similar word.

When is the weak declension of adjectives used in Old English?

The weak declension of adjectives in Old English is used when adjectives are preceded by a definite article, demonstrative, or possessive pronoun.

Did Old English possess a fully inflected definite article?

Yes, Old English had a fully inflected definite article similar to German.

How did adjectives in Old English decline, and when were they considered strong or weak?

Adjectives in Old English exhibited a twofold declension system: strong and weak. The strong declension was used when adjectives were not accompanied by a definite article or similar words, while the weak declension applied when they were.

Topic 059: Verbs in Old English

How many simple tenses did Old English verbs distinguish through inflection?

Old English verbs distinguished only two simple tenses through inflection: present and past.

What are the two main classes of verbs in Old English?

The two main classes of verbs in Old English are weak and strong verbs.

How did strong verbs in Old English differ from weak verbs in terms of vowel changes?

Strong verbs in Old English often had different vowels in the present tense, past tense, and past participle, while weak verbs typically had consistent vowels in these forms.

How did Old English verbs differ from Greek and Latin verbs in terms of inflection?

Old English verbs had a simpler inflectional system compared to Greek and Latin verbs. Old English verbs had only two simple tenses by inflection (present and past), and they lacked inflectional forms for the passive voice, unlike Latin or Greek.

Topic 060: Overall Language System in Old English

How were prefixes and suffixes used in Old English?

Prefixes and suffixes in Old English were used to form new words from existing ones, modify root ideas, and were particularly important in verb formation.

What language does Old English's use of prefixes resemble?

Old English's use of prefixes resembles modern German in word formation.

How were prefixes and suffixes employed in Old English?

In Old English, prefixes and suffixes were extensively used for word formation. They were used to create new words from existing ones, modify root meanings, or extend the root idea. This practice was similar to modern German and played a significant role, especially in verb formation.

Lesson 13

Sir Zahid

DISCUSSION ON SAMPLES OF OLD ENGLISH

Topic 061: Old English Literature: Phonology & Morphology

What is the significance of Old English literature among early Germanic people?

Old English literature is the richest and most significant among early Germanic peoples, showcasing both pagan and Christian traditions.

How did the reintroduction of Christianity influence Old English literature?

The reintroduction of Christianity at the end of the sixth century influenced Old English literature, resulting in the coexistence of both pagan and Christian traditions.

Why is the literature of the Anglo-Saxons considered the richest and most significant among early Germanic peoples?

The literature of the Anglo-Saxons is regarded as the richest and most significant among early Germanic peoples because it represents a blend of two traditions - pagan and Christian. It showcases the full power of the language and its ability to convey thoughts vividly and record emotions. This literature was brought to England by Germanic conquerors and influenced by the reintroduction of Christianity in the sixth century. Both the pagan and Christian traditions constantly overlay in Old English literature.

Topic 062: Old English Literature: Semantics & Syntax

In Old English, what were the singular and plural forms of "you"?

In Old English, "thou" and "thee" were singular forms of "you," while "ye" and "you" were plural.

What happened to the usage of "thou" and "thee" in Middle English?

In Middle English, "thou" and "thee" gradually dropped out of use in everyday speech, replaced by "ye" and "you" for both singular and polite addressing.

How did relative clauses work in Old English?

Old English used "te," "se," or a combination of both for relative clauses, with "te" serving as "who" or "which."

How did the usage of pronouns like "thou," "thee," "ye," and "you" change from Old English to Middle English?

In Old English, "thou" and "thee" were singular pronouns, while "ye" and "you" were plural. However, during Middle English times, a custom arose of using "ye" and "you" as a polite or deferential way of addressing a single person. This usage gradually spread, causing "thou" and "thee" to drop out of everyday speech and

eventually disappear. The shift from "thou" to "you" for both singular and polite addressing is a notable linguistic change.

Topic 063: Old English: Sample 1 & Discussion

What is the focus of the hands-on experience in this topic?

This topic focuses on analyzing an Old English text with different examples.

Why did Old English poetry have a large stock of conventional diction?

Old English poetry required alliteration, leading to a large stock of conventional diction with numerous words for warriors, weapons, and other elements.

What does this topic offer in terms of hands-on experience with Old English?

This topic provides a hands-on experience of analyzing an Old English text with various examples. It allows students to delve into Old English vocabulary and explore the nuances of the language.

Topic 064: Old English: Sample 1 & its Features

What does this topic primarily discuss and examine?

This topic discusses and examines phonological features and their representation in Old English texts.

What is the main focus of this topic related to Old English?

The primary focus of this topic is to discuss and examine the phonological features and their representation in Old English texts. It aims to provide a deeper understanding of the linguistic aspects of Old English.

Topic 065: Towards Middle English: The Norman Conquest (1066-1200)

What is the significance of the prologue of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle?

The prologue of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle is a historical record of important events written in the ninth century.

How long is Britain island according to the text?

According to the text, Britain island is eight hundred miles long.

What languages are referred to as "brittisc" and "wilsc" in the text?

"Brittisc" and "wilsc" refer to the Celtic tribes that inhabited Britain, and they essentially represent the same language - Brito-Welsh.

How does the prologue of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle relate to the history of the English language?

Answer: The prologue of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, written in the ninth century, is significant for understanding the history of the English language. It offers a word-for-word translation of early English text and provides insights into the languages spoken in Britain at the time. The mention of "brittisc" and "wilsc" in the text refers to the Celtic tribes inhabiting Britain, shedding light on the linguistic diversity and historical context of the period.

Lesson 14

**MOVING TOWARDS MIDDLE ENGLISH: THE
NORMAN CONQUEST**

Topic 066: The Norman Conquest (1066-1200)

Who were the Norsemen and Normans?

The Norsemen and Normans were two different groups of non-English speakers of Scandinavian origin.

What is the origin of the Norman Conquest in 1066?

The Norman Conquest in 1066 was led by William the Conqueror from Normandy.

How did the Norman Conquest influence the English language?

The Norman Conquest significantly impacted the English language, introducing French elements and changing its course.

What might English have been like if William the Conqueror had not succeeded?

Without the Norman Conquest, English may have retained more Germanic features and vocabulary.

How did the events of history affect the word stock of the English language?

The Norman Conquest added a significant number of French words to English, making it seem more like a Romance language.

How did the Norman Conquest in 1066 shape the English language?

The Norman Conquest of 1066, led by William the Conqueror, significantly influenced the English language. It introduced a substantial number of French loanwords and changed the course of English development. Without this conquest, English might have retained more of its Germanic characteristics and vocabulary.

What might English have looked like if William the Conqueror had not succeeded in the Norman Conquest?

Had William the Conqueror not succeeded, English would have likely followed a path similar to other Germanic languages, maintaining more inflections and a predominantly Germanic vocabulary. The enormous influx of French words that characterizes modern English vocabulary would have been absent.

Topic 067: Origin of Normandy & Norman Settlement

Where is Normandy located, and how did it get its name?

Normandy is on the northern coast of France and got its name from North-men who settled there in the ninth and tenth centuries.

How did the Normans adopt French civilization in Normandy?

Normans readily embraced French culture, including its military, law, Christianity, and language.

What was the state of Norman civilization at the time of the Norman Conquest?

At the time of the Norman Conquest, Norman civilization was heavily influenced by French culture.

How did William the Conqueror become King of England?

William the Conqueror became King of England after winning the Battle of Hastings and being crowned on Christmas Day in 1066.

How did the Normans assimilate French civilization in Normandy?

The Normans readily embraced French culture in Normandy. They adopted French military practices, incorporated key elements of Frankish law, accepted Christianity, and even built Norman cathedrals. Over time, they abandoned their Scandinavian tongue and adopted the French language.

What was the state of Norman civilization at the time of the Norman Conquest?

At the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066, Norman civilization was predominantly French in character. This was a result of extensive contact and interaction between Normandy and France, leading to a strong French atmosphere in the region.

Topic 068: Use of French Language and Literature

How long did French remain the language of the upper classes in England after the Norman Conquest?

French remained the language of the upper classes in England for approximately 200 years after the Norman Conquest.

How did the French language spread among the English population?

French spread through intermarriage, association with the ruling class, and social distinctions.

What language did the masses in England primarily speak during this period?

The masses in England primarily spoke English during this period.

How did the French language spread among the English population?

The French language spread through various means, including intermarriage, association with the ruling class, and social distinctions. It was largely the language of the elite, while the masses continued to speak English.

Topic 069: The Attitude Toward English

What was the attitude of the governing class in England towards the English language?

The governing class in England showed a preference for French over English, but it wasn't necessarily hostile to the English language.

What was happening with the English language until 1200?

Until 1200, English was not being cultivated and was considered the language of a socially inferior class.

Why were the king and upper classes indifferent to the English language?

Their constant involvement in continental affairs made French more useful, leading to their indifference towards English.

What was the attitude of the governing class in England towards the English language?

The governing class in England displayed a preference for French over English, but it wasn't necessarily hostile to the English language. However, English was considered an uncultivated tongue and the language of a socially inferior class.

What was happening with the English language until 1200, and why were the king and upper classes indifferent to it?

Until 1200, the English language was not actively cultivated by the ruling class and the upper classes. Their constant engagement in continental affairs made the use of French more practical. This indifference toward English was rooted in the utility of French in their activities.

Topic 070: Fusion and Diffusion of French and English

How rapidly did the fusion of Normans and English take place?

The fusion of Normans and English was rapid, especially during the reign of Henry I.

What evidence supports the rapid fusion of French and English in England?

Evidence includes Norman nobles identifying with England, founding monasteries, and choosing to be buried in England.

What was the language of the court and upper classes, and what language did the masses speak?

French was the language of the court and upper classes, while the masses spoke English.

When did the upper class begin to learn English, and how widespread was knowledge of French?

The upper class began to learn English over time, and French knowledge was more widespread among the upper class.

Lesson 15

THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ENGLISH IN MIDDLE ENGLISH

Topic – 071: Changes After 1200 & Loss of Normandy

What led to the re-establishment of English in the Middle English period?

Changing conditions after 1200.

What important event occurred in 1204 that affected England's possessions abroad?

The loss of Normandy.

How did the loss of Normandy contribute to the re-emergence of English?

It shifted England's focus from its continental possessions to becoming a nation.

What role did the Hundred Years' War play in the re-establishment of English?

It marked the culmination of anti-foreign sentiments in England.

When did French cease to be a prominent language in England?

In the fifteenth century.

What were the changing conditions after 1200, and how did they lead to the re-establishment of English during the Middle English period?

The changing conditions after 1200 were instrumental in the re-establishment of English in the Middle English period. These changes included England's loss of important possessions abroad, particularly the loss of Normandy. As the nobility gradually relinquished their continental estates, a sense of rivalry developed between England and France, culminating in the Hundred Years' War. During the century and a half following the Norman Conquest, French had been the language of the English upper class. However, its maintenance became increasingly artificial in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Social and economic changes affecting the English-speaking population were also occurring, leading to the gradual return of English into universal use during the fourteenth century, ultimately causing French to disappear in the fifteenth century.

Topic – 072: Nobilities & French Reinforcement

How did the loss of Normandy affect the nobility in England?

It raised questions about their allegiance to England or France.

What decree in 1204–1205 accelerated the separation of interests between English and Norman nobles?

The decree by the king of France confiscating lands.

What did the king of France declare regarding people with possessions in both England and France in 1244?

They had to choose allegiance either to France or England, relinquishing their properties in one of the countries.

When did the nobility of England fully embrace English as their language?

After 1250, when they had no significant interests in France.

How did French reinforcement occur in England during Henry III's reign?

Foreigners, mostly from the south of France, settled in England.

What were the consequences of the loss of Normandy on the English nobility, and how did it affect their allegiance?

The loss of Normandy brought about significant consequences for the English nobility. It raised the question of whether many nobles owed their allegiance more to England or France. After the Norman Conquest, many nobles held lands in both countries, creating an interlocking aristocracy. However, the decree of 1204–1205 by the king of France, which confiscated the lands of several great barons, accelerated the separation of their interests. Families with estates on both sides of the Channel were compelled to give up one or the other. Some divided into branches or preferred their larger holdings in England, leading to the English nobility no longer considering itself tied to France after 1250. The use of French by the nobility diminished.

Topic – 073: English & French in the 13th Century

What language did the upper classes predominantly speak in the thirteenth century?

French.

How did French shift from a mother tongue to a cultivated tongue in this period?

It was supported by social customs, business, and administrative conventions.

When did English start becoming a language of general use among the upper classes?

By the middle of the thirteenth century.

How did literature change regarding language in the thirteenth century?

Works in French were translated into English.

What happened to the knowledge of French among English nobility in this period?

It became scanty, and some nobles spoke English as their mother tongue.

How did the language preferences of the upper classes change in the thirteenth century, and what factors contributed to these changes?

In the thirteenth century, the upper classes predominantly spoke French, as they had in the previous century. However, the reasons for using French were different. French transitioned from being a mother tongue inherited from Norman ancestors to a cultivated tongue. This shift was supported by social customs, business, and administrative conventions. Simultaneously, English was making steady advances. By the mid-century, when the English nobility had completed their separation from French interests, English started becoming a language of general use among the upper classes. English words were adopted into the language, and literature was translated from French to English. By the end of the century, some children of the nobility spoke English as their mother tongue, necessitating the teaching of French through English glosses. However, the knowledge of French, even among those who attempted to use it, remained limited.

Topic – 074: The Hundred Years' War

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When did the long period of open hostility between England and France, known as the Hundred Years' War, begin?

In 1337.

What prompted Edward III to claim the French throne and invade France?

France's interference in England's efforts to control Scotland.

What were the significant English victories during the Hundred Years' War?

Crécy (1346) and Poitiers (1356), followed by Agincourt (1415).

What marked the beginning of the end of English success in the Hundred Years' War?

The exploits of Joan of Arc in 1429.

How did the Hundred Years' War contribute to the disuse of French?

Answer: It reinforced the animosity between England and France and led to a decline in the use of French in England.

Q4: What events led to the long period of open hostility between England and France known as the Hundred Years' War, and what were its notable outcomes?

The Hundred Years' War, spanning from 1337 to 1453, emerged from the severed connection between England and the continent that had occurred over the centuries following the Norman Conquest. Edward III's claim to the French throne and his invasion of France were prompted by France's interference in England's efforts to control Scotland. Notable English victories at Crécy (1346) and Poitiers (1356) initially fueled English patriotism. However, this period of success was followed by reverses and long truces. In the reign of Henry V, England enjoyed another brief period of success, especially with the victory at Agincourt (1415). Still, this success waned after Henry V's death, and Joan of Arc's exploits (1429) marked the beginning of the end for England. The Hundred Years' War contributed to the disuse of French in England, reinforcing animosity between the two countries.

Topic – 075: The Rise of the Middle Class

What factors helped English recover its prestige during the Middle English period?

Improvement in the condition of the masses and the rise of a substantial middle class.

What event in 1349 had a significant impact on the laboring classes and the English language?

The Black Death.

Why did mortality from the Black Death affect the lower social orders the most?

Poor living conditions, hygiene, and limited access to medicine.

What was the result of the labor shortage caused by the Black Death?

An increase in wages.

How did the rise of the middle class benefit the English language?

The middle class contributed to the importance of English as their language, leading to social and economic changes.

What factors contributed to the recovery of the English language's prestige during the Middle English period, and how did the rise of the middle class impact it?

English language regained prestige during the Middle English period due to several factors. One crucial factor was the improvement in the condition of the masses. Villeinage was declining among the rural population, and fixed money payments replaced days' work. An event that greatly accelerated these changes was the Black Death in 1349, which caused a labor shortage due to high mortality rates, resulting in increased wages. The rising economic importance of the laboring class, who primarily spoke English, contributed to the language's significance.

Lesson 16

Sir Zahid

MIDDLE ENGLISH IN 14TH AND 15TH CENTURIES

Topic 076: General Adoption of English - 14th Century

Why did the general adoption of English in the 14th century occur?

It occurred due to the impact of the Black Death, which spread rapidly in monasteries and resulted in monks who spoke English replacing those who didn't.

How did the death of forty-seven monks and abbot St. Albans in 1349 contribute to the spread of English?

Their replacements were English speakers, accelerating the spread of the language.

What shift in language use occurred among writers during this period?

Writers shifted from using French to English.

Who were the primary speakers of French during this time?

French was mainly spoken by the educated classes and the French themselves.

Why did the general adoption of English in the 14th century occur?

The general adoption of English in the 14th century occurred due to several factors. One significant factor was the impact of the Black Death, which led to the rapid spread of English within monasteries. The death of forty-seven monks and the abbot at St. Albans in 1349 accelerated this spread because they were replaced with monks who were speakers of English. Additionally, there was a shift among writers from using French to English during this period.

Topic 077: English in Law Courts - 14th Century

What language was commonly used in law courts until 1362?

French was the language commonly used in law courts until 1362.

Which groups of people were known for speaking French during this period?

Lawyers, church officials, and the educated classes commonly spoke French.

When did the Chancellor first address Parliament in English?

The Chancellor opened Parliament with a speech in English in 1362.

When did English start to intrude into legal proceedings?

English began to intrude into legal proceedings in 1356 when the mayor and aldermen of London ordered proceedings to be conducted in English.

Topic 078: English in the Schools - 14th Century

What language had replaced English as the language of schools shortly after the Conquest?

French had replaced English as the language of schools.

When did English start to be used in schools again?

After 1349, English began to be used in schools, and by 1385, it had become a common practice.

Topic 079: Increasing Ignorance of French - 15th Century

What was the level of proficiency in speaking French among nobles in the fifteenth century?

By the fifteenth century, speaking French fluently was considered an accomplishment, and some nobles could not speak French.

What reasons were given for writing letters in English during this time?

People found English clearer than Latin or French for letter writing.

How did English ambassadors describe the use of French in negotiations with the French king?

They complained that French was as unknown to them as Hebrew and asked to use Latin instead.

What was the situation regarding the understanding of Latin and French by the end of the fifteenth century?

Latin and French were not widely understood, and there was a need for a "Secretary in the French language" among government officials.

Topic 080: French: Language of Culture and Fashion

What were the three reasons given by John Barton for Englishmen learning French in the fifteenth century?

First, to communicate with neighbors in France. Second, because many laws were in French. Third, because gentlemen and women wrote to each other in French.

What were the roles of French as a language in culture and fashion during this period?

French was the language of culture, fashion, style, and sophistication.

How has the perception of French as a language of privilege evolved over time?

This perception was strengthened in the eighteenth century and still exists in the minds of many people today.

What were the three reasons given by John Barton for Englishmen learning French in the fifteenth century?

In the fifteenth century, John Barton provided three reasons for Englishmen to learn French. First, it would enable them to communicate with their neighbors in the realm of France. Second, many laws were written in French. Third, gentlemen and women commonly corresponded with each other in French.

How has the perception of French as a language of privilege evolved over time?

The perception of French as a language of privilege has endured over time. While it was the language of culture, fashion, style, and sophistication in the past, this perception was further solidified in the eighteenth century and remains ingrained in the minds of many people today.

Lesson 17

FEATURES OF MIDDLE ENGLISH: WRITING AND PRONUNCIATION

Topic 081: Use of Middle English in Writing

Why was Latin primarily used for written communication in the Middle English period?

Latin was mainly used due to historical habits, its international character, and its perceived stability compared to modern languages.

When did French start challenging Latin's dominance in written matter in England?

French began to challenge Latin's dominance in the fifteenth century.

When did English succeed in displacing both Latin and French in written communication?

English began to displace Latin and French in the mid-fifteenth century, around 1450.

Why was Latin primarily used for written communication in the Middle English period?

Latin was the preferred language for written communication in the Middle English period for several reasons. Firstly, it was a historical habit formed during a time when the majority of people who could write at all could only write in Latin. Secondly, Latin had an international character, making it suitable for communication across borders and cultures. Lastly, there was a perception that Latin was a stable and fixed language, while modern languages were seen as variable, unregulated, and in a constant state of change.

Topic 082: Middle English Literature

What language was most commonly understood by the upper classes during the Middle English period?

French was the language best understood by the upper classes.

What types of literature were predominantly available in English during the Middle English period?

Most literature in English from this period, around 1150-1250, was predominantly religious in nature.

Who is considered the greatest English poet before Shakespeare, and what is he famous for?

Geoffrey Chaucer is considered the greatest English poet before Shakespeare, known for "The Canterbury Tales."

Who is considered the greatest English poet before Shakespeare, and what is he famous for?

Geoffrey Chaucer, who lived from 1340 to 1400, is considered the greatest English poet before Shakespeare. He is renowned for his work "The Canterbury Tales," which offers a matchless portrait gallery of contemporary types and a diverse anthology of medieval literature through its various tales.

Topic 083: Changes in Pronunciation: Middle English

How do Old English (OE) spellings differ from Modern English spellings in terms of phonetics?

Old English spellings were phonetic, reflecting how words sounded, whereas Modern English uses more conventional spelling.

Why is Middle English phonology somewhat speculative?

Middle English phonology is speculative because it's based on written records, and dialects varied significantly over time and place.

How do Old English (OE) spellings differ from Modern English spellings in terms of phonetics?

Old English (OE) spellings differed significantly from Modern English spellings in terms of phonetics. OE spellings were primarily phonetic, meaning words were spelled based on how they sounded. There was no standardized system, and words were written according to their pronunciation, leading to variations in spelling.

Why is Middle English phonology somewhat speculative?

Middle English phonology is speculative because it relies on written records, and these records show that Middle English dialects varied greatly over both time and place. Unlike Modern English, Old English spellings were phonetic rather than conventional, making it challenging to precisely reconstruct pronunciation.

Topic 084: Middle English: Changes in Vowel Sounds

What happened to vowel length during the transition from Old English to Middle English?

Vowel lengthening occurred in Late Old English, but in many cases, these vowels were shortened again during the Middle English period.

Under what conditions did vowel lengthening not occur in Middle English?

Vowel lengthening did not take place if the vowel was immediately followed by a third consonant, as seen in words like "child" and "children."

What happened to vowel length during the transition from Old English to Middle English?

During the transition from Old English to Middle English, vowel length underwent changes. While some vowels were lengthened in Late Old English, many of them were shortened again during the Middle English period. However, long vowels persisted in some dialects, especially before consonant groups like 'ld,' 'mb,' and 'nd.'

Under what conditions did vowel lengthening not occur in Middle English?

Vowel lengthening did not occur in Middle English when the vowel was immediately followed by a third consonant. This explains the difference in vowel length between words like "child" and "children." Additionally, some words like "wind" retained short vowels due to analogy with words like "windmill," where the third consonant prevented vowel lengthening.

Topic 085: Comparison of OE & ME Spellings

Why did English spelling undergo significant changes during the transition from Old English to Middle English?

English spelling changed due to the Norman Conquest, which introduced new spelling conventions influenced by Norman French.

What impact did the Norman scribes have on English spelling during the Middle English period?

Norman scribes spelled English words as they heard them, leading to the emergence of many spelling changes not reflected in Old English.

How did the introduction of new consonant symbols affect Middle English spelling?

The introduction of new consonant symbols, like "g" for certain stops, marked a significant transition in Middle English spelling from Old English.

Why did English spelling undergo significant changes during the transition from Old English to Middle English?

English spelling underwent significant changes during the transition from Old English to Middle English due to the Norman Conquest. The Normans introduced new spelling conventions influenced by Norman French, disregarding traditional English spelling. This led to many changes that had not been reflected in Old English spelling, resulting in a marked shift in the appearance of written English.

Lesson 18

THE GRAMMAR OF MIDDLE ENGLISH

Lesson 18 THE GRAMMAR OF MIDDLE ENGLISH

Topic – 086: Middle English: A Period of Change

What marked the Middle English period in terms of language changes?

The Middle English period was marked by extensive and fundamental changes in the English language.

What contributed to these changes, besides the Norman Conquest?

Some changes were a continuation of tendencies from Old English, and the Norman Conquest accelerated the process by removing conservative influences.

What were the main types of changes during the Middle English period?

The changes primarily affected grammar and vocabulary.

How did Middle English grammar change during this period?

Middle English grammar changed from a highly inflected language to an extremely analytic one.

What happened to the English vocabulary during Middle English?

The Middle English period saw the loss of a large part of the Old English word-stock and the addition of thousands of words from French and Latin.

What were the main types of changes that occurred during the Middle English period?

The main types of changes during the Middle English period primarily affected grammar and vocabulary. Grammar underwent significant changes, reducing English from a highly inflected language to an extremely analytic one. Vocabulary changes involved the loss of a large part of the Old English word-stock and the addition of thousands of words from French and Latin.

Topic 087: Nouns & Pronouns in Middle English

What were the two methods of indicating the plural in early Middle English?

In early Middle English, the two distinctive methods of indicating the plural were '-s' and '-en.'

How did the '-s' plural become predominant in Middle English?

The '-s' plural gradually became predominant in Middle English and replaced the '-en' plural in most dialects by the 14th century.

How did the decay of inflections affect pronouns in Middle English?

The decay of inflections simplified pronouns, making them less dependent on formal indications of gender and case.

What happened to the demonstrative pronoun forms in Middle English?

Middle English simplified demonstrative pronouns from the numerous Old English forms 'sē, sēo, þæt' to 'the' and 'that,' with 'those' (tho) surviving into Elizabethan times.

How did the methods of indicating the plural in early Middle English evolve?

In early Middle English, there were two methods of indicating the plural - '-s' and '-en.' Initially, it was difficult to predict that the '-s' plural would become the almost universal sign of the plural. Until the thirteenth century, the '-en' plural was favored in the south but was gradually replaced by the '-s' plural, which became predominant across most of England by the 14th century.

Topic 088: Adjectives in Middle English

How did Middle English adjectives change in terms of forms?

Middle English adjectives saw the leveling of forms, with the nominative singular extended to all cases of the singular and the nominative plural to all cases of the plural.

What was the consequence of this leveling of adjective forms?

The consequence was that in the weak declension, there was no longer any distinction between singular and plural adjectives.

How did Middle English adjectives change in terms of forms?

Middle English adjectives experienced a leveling of forms. The nominative singular form was extended to all cases of the singular, and the nominative plural was applied to all cases of the plural. As a result, in the weak declension, there was no longer any distinction between singular and plural adjectives.

Topic 089: The Middle English: Strong and Weak Verbs

What happened to the strong conjugation of verbs in Middle English?

The strong conjugation of verbs in Middle English suffered serious losses, with many strong verbs disappearing.

How were new verbs typically conjugated in Middle English?

New verbs formed from nouns and adjectives or borrowed from other languages were regularly conjugated as weak verbs.

What led to the application of weak verb patterns to historically strong verbs in Middle English?

The lower classes largely spoke this language, which was away from the restraining influences of education and literary standards, leading many to apply weak verb patterns to strong verbs.

What significant changes occurred in the conjugation of verbs during the Middle English period?

During the Middle English period, the strong conjugation of verbs suffered serious losses. Nearly a third of the strong verbs in Old English disappeared early in the Middle English period, with around ninety of them leaving no traces in written records after 1150. New verbs formed from nouns and adjectives or borrowed from other languages were regularly conjugated as weak verbs. Furthermore, the lower classes' language, which was less influenced by education and literary standards, led many to apply the pattern of weak verbs to some historically strong verbs.

Topic 090: Loss of Grammatical Gender

How was grammatical gender determined in Old English?

In Old English, grammatical gender was not often determined by meaning but by the concord of strong adjectives and demonstratives.

What happened to grammatical gender during the Middle English period?

The decay of inflections led to the elimination of grammatical gender in Middle English, with distinctive gender-indicating inflections disappearing.

How did grammatical gender function in Old English, and what happened to it during the Middle English period?

In Old English, grammatical gender was not often determined by meaning but rather by the concord of strong adjectives and demonstratives. These distinctive endings generally showed, at least in the singular, whether a noun was masculine, feminine, or neuter. However, the decay of inflections in Middle English led to the elimination of grammatical gender. The weakening of inflections and the confusion and loss of the old gender proceeded in a parallel course, albeit more rapidly in the North, where inflections dropped earlier. In the South, gender distinctions lingered longer due to a slower decay of inflections.

Lesson 19

VOCABULARY OF MIDDLE ENGLISH AND MOVING TOWARDS STANDARDIZATION

Topic 091: Middle English Syntax

How did leveling of inflections affect Middle English syntax?

Leveling of inflections in Middle English made syntactic and semantic relationships previously signaled by word endings ambiguous.

What shift in language structure characterizes the transition from Old English to Middle English?

The shift from highly synthetic Old English to highly analytic Middle English marks this transition.

How is the development of Middle English seen in the Peterborough Chronicle?

The Peterborough Chronicle, written from 1070 to 1154, shows a loss of inflections followed by a rigidity of word order, illustrating the development of Middle English.

Topic 092: Middle English Vocabulary

What was the influence of French on Middle English vocabulary?

French had a direct influence on Middle English vocabulary, leading to a considerable transfer of words between the two languages.

What areas of life were most influenced by French vocabulary in Middle English?

French had a significant impact on fashion, meals, social life, government, law, army, navy, art, medicine, literature, and science vocabulary in Middle English.

Topic 093: Borrowings in Middle English

How did the popularity of French words differ from Latin borrowings in Middle English?

French words were popular and widely used in everyday speech, while Latin borrowings were less popular and mainly entered through written language and learned circles.

Which century saw a proliferation of Latin borrowings in Middle English?

The fourteenth and fifteenth centuries were especially prolific in Latin borrowings.

Topic 094: The Rise of Standard English

What geographical region played a crucial role in the development of Standard English?

The East Midland district, especially around London, played a vital role in the formation of Standard English.

Why was the East Midland region influential in the development of Standard English?

The East Midland region represented a linguistic compromise, was populous, and hosted prestigious universities, making it less conservative than the South and less radical than the North.

Topic 095: Importance of London Standard

What factors contributed to the importance of London as a linguistic and cultural hub in the development of Standard English?

London's significance was due to its roles as the political capital, commercial center, judicial hub, and the focus of social and intellectual activities.

How did London's constant migration influence the English language?

The constant migration to London led to the mingling of other languages with the London idiom, resulting in reciprocal language influence.

When did the London standard become widely accepted in most parts of England, and what played a significant role in its dissemination?

By the latter part of the fifteenth century, the London standard was accepted, primarily in writing, and the introduction of printing in 1476 played a crucial role in its dissemination.

Lesson 20

DISCUSSION ON SAMPLES OF MIDDLE ENGLISH

Topic 096: Middle English Sample and its Features

What are the predominant features of Middle English, as represented by Chaucer's language?

Predominantly East Midland with some Southern and Kentish features.

Give an example of a phonological change in Middle English as seen in Chaucer's writing.

The change of OE 'ā' to 'ō,' e.g., 'goon' for 'go.'

What Middle English text is commonly used to represent the dialect of London at the end of the fourteenth century?

Chaucer's language.

What is the dialect represented by Chaucer's Middle English?

Chaucer's Middle English predominantly represents the East Midland dialect of London at the end of the fourteenth century. It also contains some Southern and Kentish features, with Kentish features being slightly more prominent in Chaucer's work compared to non-literary London documents of the same period.

Topic 097: Middle English Sample Discussion

Which Middle English text from Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales is used for examination in this topic?

A text from Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales from 1387.

Mention a Middle English phonological feature observed in the selected text.

The unrounding of OE to 'i,' as seen in "swich."

What influence from the South is evident in the text?

The loss of '-n' in words like "unknown" and "write."

What are some linguistic features found in this Middle English text, such as the unrounding of OE to 'i' and the influence of Kentish 'e'?

This Middle English text exhibits linguistic features like the unrounding of Old English to 'i', as seen in words like 'swich'. Additionally, there's the influence of Kentish 'e', for example, in 'lest' (Old English 'lyst').

Topic 098: Activity Based on Sample

What is the source of the text used in this session to exemplify the features of Middle English writings?

The source is from East Midland, Cable, T. (2013), "Baugh and Cable's A History of the English Language."

Provide a translation of the Middle English passage about "cethegrande" (whale).

The cethegrande (whale) is a fish, the greatest that is in water; so that thou wouldst say, if thou saw it when it floats, that it was an island that set on the sea-sand.

Where is the text source used in this session from, and what is its purpose?

The text source used in this session is from East Midland, specifically from 'Baugh and Cable's A History of the English Language' by Thomas Cable (2013). It is used to exemplify the features of Middle English writings.

Topic 099: Phonological and Morphological Features: Middle English

What is characteristic of early Middle English phonology?

It is not easy for modern readers due to its early Middle English phonological features.

Explain the plural forms used in the passage and their relation to Old English.

The passage uses -(e)s for plurals, but some words, like "tumbes" and "snakes," deviate from Old English plural forms. An exception is "halechen," derived from OE "hālgan."

Can you explain the transition from Old English to Middle English in terms of spelling and plural forms?

In the transition from Old English to Middle English, spelling changes are evident. For instance, 'a' is still used for Old English 'ā', 'th' is used alongside thorn and eth, and 'w' is represented by both 'wynn' and 'uu'. Regarding plural forms, there is a shift from the Old English plural forms to the use of -(e)s, but some words retain the -en ending, like 'halechen' from Old English 'hālgan'.

Topic 100: Middle English: Semantics and Syntax

What are the pronouns used for the third-person plural in Middle English?

The pronouns are "hi," "heom," and "her(e)," not the Scandinavian "they," "them," and "their."

Provide an example of V–S–O word order found in the Middle English text.

"Then seized they the people" is an example of V–S–O word order.

What are some significant differences between Middle English and Old English inflections?

Middle English inflections are greatly reduced compared to Old English. Adjectives have almost lost all their endings, and the definite article is usually 'te' or 'the,' unlike Old English's fully declined forms. Middle English also shows a transition in the use of prepositions and inflections.

How does Middle English differ from both Old English and modern English in terms of grammar and inflections?

Middle English differs from both Old English and modern English in terms of grammar and inflections. While it exhibits some similarities to Old English, such as the use of 'te' or 'the' for the definite article, it has significantly reduced

inflections, particularly in adjectives. Pronouns like 'hi', 'heom', and 'her(e)' are used instead of the Scandinavian forms 'they', 'them', and 'their'.

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