



LNG2211

English Morphology

Term 2/2022

Department of English

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



UNIT 9

Historical Sources of English word formation

Hello!

I am Aj Annie!

Napasri Suwanajote

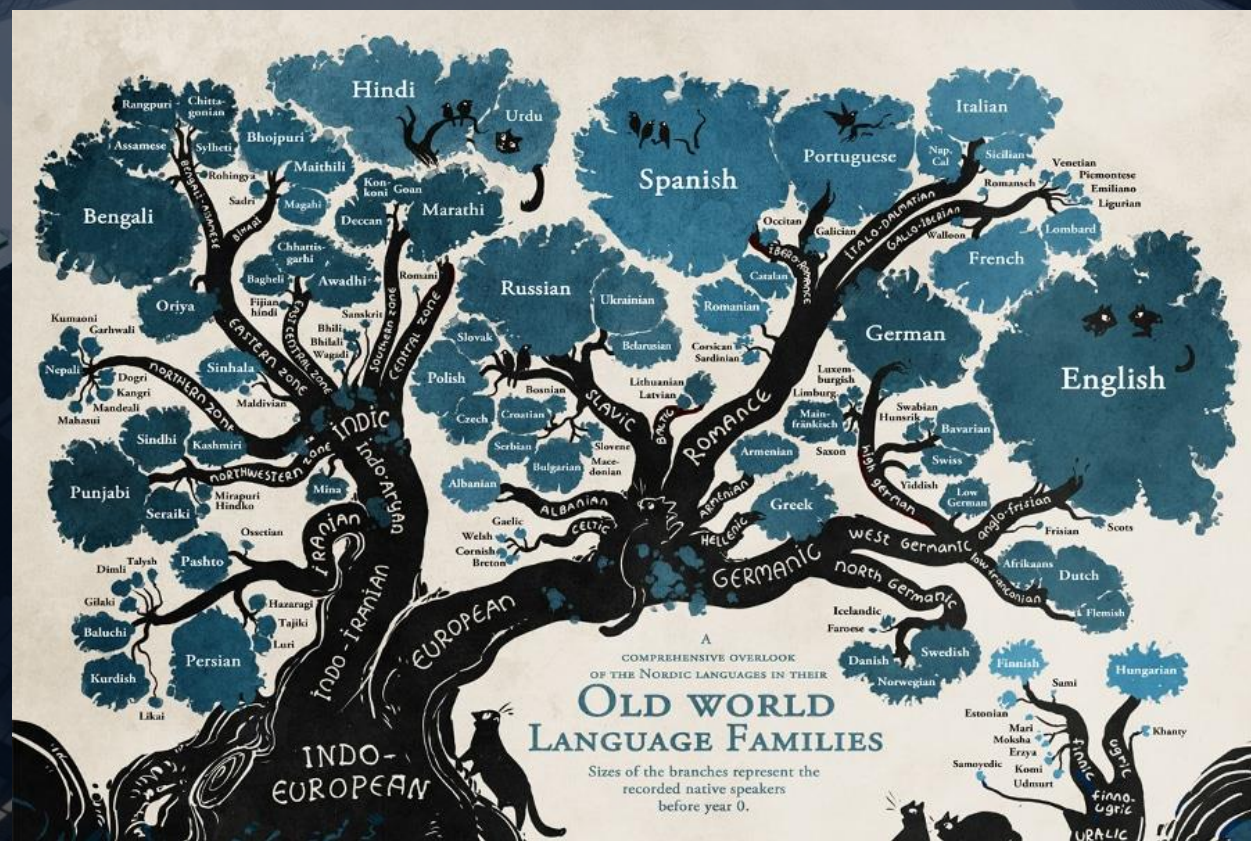
napasri.su@ssru.ac.th





History of English

The English language belongs to the **West Germanic branch** of the **Indo-European family** of languages. The closest undoubted living relatives of English are Scots and Frisian. Frisian is a language spoken by approximately half a million people in the Dutch province of Friesland, in nearby areas of Germany, and on a few islands in the North Sea.





History of English

The history of the English language has traditionally been divided into three main periods:

- **Old English (450-1100 AD)**
- **Middle English (1100-circa 1500 AD)**
- **Modern English (since 1500)**

Over the centuries, the English language has been influenced by many other languages.



Old English (450 - 1100 AD):

During the 5th Century AD, three Germanic tribes (Saxons, Angles, and Jutes) came to the British Isles from various parts of northwest Germany and Denmark. These tribes were warlike and pushed out most of the original, Celtic-speaking inhabitants from England into Scotland, Wales, and Cornwall. One group migrated to the Brittany Coast of France, where their descendants still speak the Celtic Language of Breton today.



Old English (450 - 1100 AD):

Through the years, the Saxons, Angles, and Jutes mixed their different Germanic dialects. This group of dialects forms what linguists refer to as Old English or Anglo-Saxon.

The word "English" was in Old English "Englisc", which comes from the name of the Angles. The Angles were named from Engle, their land of origin.



Old English (450 - 1100 AD):

Before the Saxons, the language spoken in what is now England was a mixture of Latin and various Celtic languages, which were spoken before the Romans came to Britain (54-5BC). The Romans brought Latin to Britain, which was part of the Roman Empire for over 400 years. Many of the words passed on from this era are those coined by Roman merchants and soldiers. These include *win* (*wine*), *candel* (*candle*), *belt* (*belt*), *weall* (*wall*).



Old English (450 - 1100 AD):

The influence of Celtic upon Old English was slight. Very few Celtic words have lived on in the English language. But many of the place and river names have Celtic origins: *Kent, York, Dover, Cumberland, Thames, Avon, Trent, Severn.*





Old English (450 - 1100 AD):

The arrival of St. Augustine in 597 and the introduction of Christianity into Saxon England brought more Latin words into the English language. They were mainly concerned with the naming of Church dignitaries, ceremonies, etc.

Some, such as *church*, *bishop*, *baptism*, *monk*, *eucharist* and *presbyter* came indirectly through Latin from Greek.



Old English (450 - 1100 AD):

Around 878 AD Danes and Norsemen, also called Vikings, invaded the country and English got many Norse words into the language, particularly in the north of England. The Vikings, being Scandinavian, spoke a language (*Old Norse*) which, in origin at least, was just as Germanic as Old English.



Old English (450 - 1100 AD):

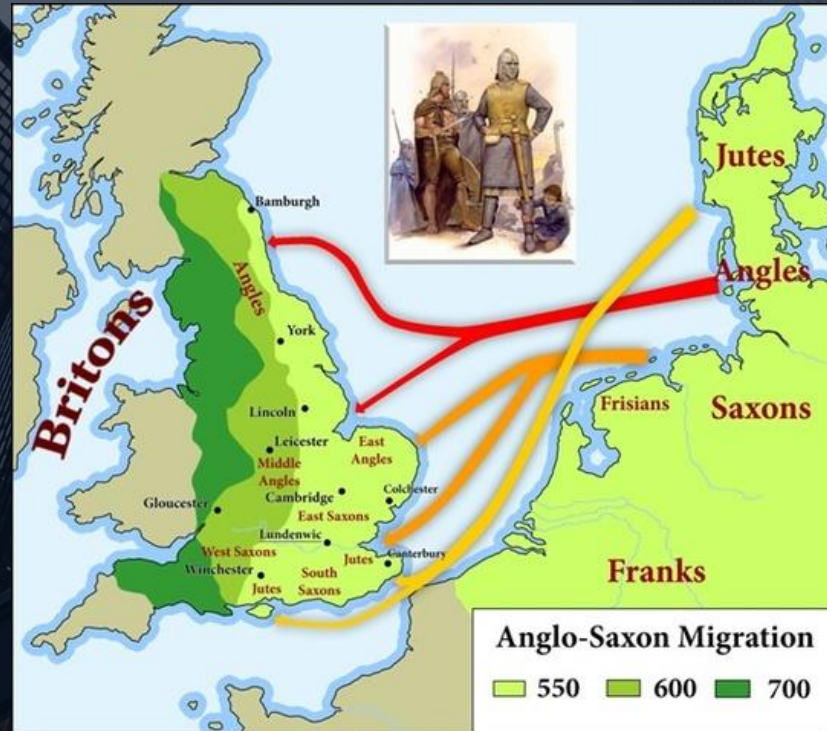
Words derived from Norse include: *sky, egg, cake, skin, leg, window (wind eye), husband, fellow, skill, anger, flat, odd, ugly, get, give, take, raise, call, die, they, their, them.*



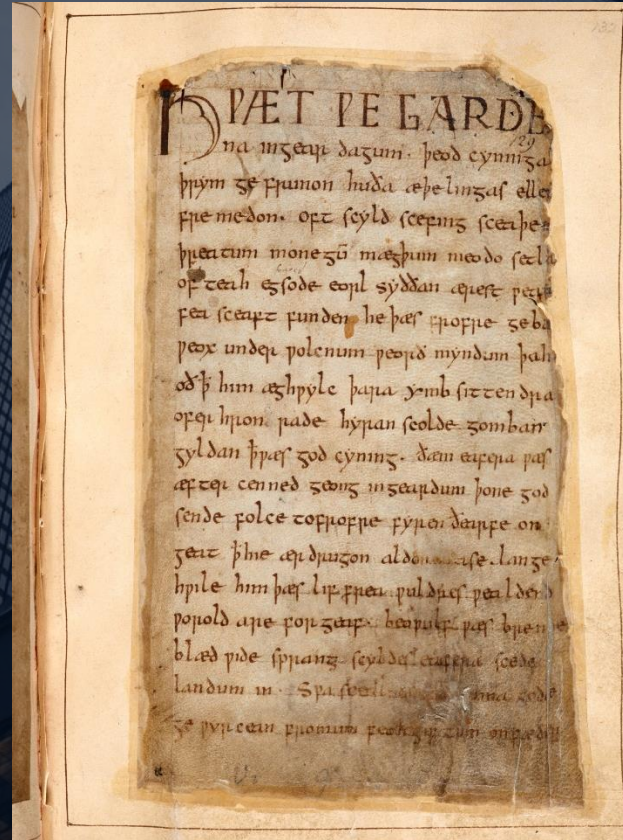
Old English (450 - 1100 AD):

Several written works have survived from the Old English period. The most famous is a heroic epic poem called "**Beowulf.**" It is the oldest known English poem, notable for its length - 3,183 lines. Experts say "*Beowulf*" was written in Britain more than one thousand years ago. The name of the person who wrote it is unknown.

In the 5th century, people roughly where Germany is today in mainland Europe moved across from the Saxon area of Germany. The language in Britain became Anglo - Saxon, which is Old English.



Beowulf: a poem written in Old English





Middle English (1100-circa 1500 AD):

After William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy invaded and conquered England in 1066 AD with his armies and became king, he brought his nobles, who spoke French, to be the new government. The Old French took over as the language of the court, administration, and culture. Latin was mostly used for written language, especially that of the Church. Meanwhile, the English language, as the language of the now lower class, was considered a vulgar tongue.

William the Conqueror





Middle English (1100-circa 1500 AD):

By about 1200, England and France had split. English changed a lot because it was mostly being spoken instead of written for about 300 years. The use of Old English came back, but with many French words added. This language is called Middle English. Most words embedded in the English vocabulary are words of power, such as *crown*, *castle*, *court*, *parliament*, *army*, *mansion*, *gown*, *beauty*, *banquet*, *art*, *poet*, *romance*, *duke*, *servant*, *peasant*, *traitor* and *governor*.



Middle English (1100-circa 1500 AD):

Because the English underclass cooked for the Norman upper class, the words for most domestic animals are English (*ox, cow, calf, sheep, swine, deer*) while the words for the meats derived from them are French (*beef, veal, mutton, pork, bacon, venison*).





Middle English (1100-circa 1500 AD):

The most famous example of Middle English is Chaucer's "**The Canterbury Tales**," a collection of stories about a group of thirty people who travel as pilgrims to Canterbury, England. The portraits he paints in his Tales give us an idea of life in fourteenth-century England.

GEOFFREY
CHAUCER

*The
Canterbury
Tales*



And whan I sawgh he wolde never fine
To reden on this cursed book al night,
Al sodeinly three leves have I plight
Out of his book right as he redde, and eke
I with my fist so took him on the cheeke
That in oure fir he fil bakward adown.
And up he sterte as dooth a wood leon
And with his fist he smoot me on the heed
That in the floor I lay as I were deed.
And whan he swagh how stille that I lay,
He was agast, and wolde have fled his way,
Till atte laste out of my swough I braide:
"O hastou slain me, false thief?" I saide,
"And for my land thus hastou mordred me?
Er I be deed yit wol I kisse thee."



Modern English (1500 to the present):

Modern English developed after William Caxton established his printing press at Westminster Abbey in 1476. Johann Gutenberg invented the printing press in Germany around 1450, but Caxton set up England's first press. The Bible and some valuable manuscripts were printed. The invention of the printing press made books available to more people. Books became cheaper and more people learned to read. Printing also brought standardization to English.



1476

NEAR THIS PLACE
WILLIAM CAXTON SET UP
THE FIRST PRINTING PRESS
IN ENGLAND

THIS STONE WAS PLACED HERE
TO COMMEMORATE THE GREAT
ASSISTANCE RENDERED TO
THE ABBEY APPEAL FUND BY
THE ENGLISH SPEAKING PRESS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

1954







Modern English (1500 to the present):

By the time of Shakespeare's writings (1592-1616), the language had become clearly recognizable as Modern English. There were three big developments in the world at the beginning of the Modern English period:

- 1) The Renaissance
- 2) The Industrial Revolution
- 3) The British Colonialism



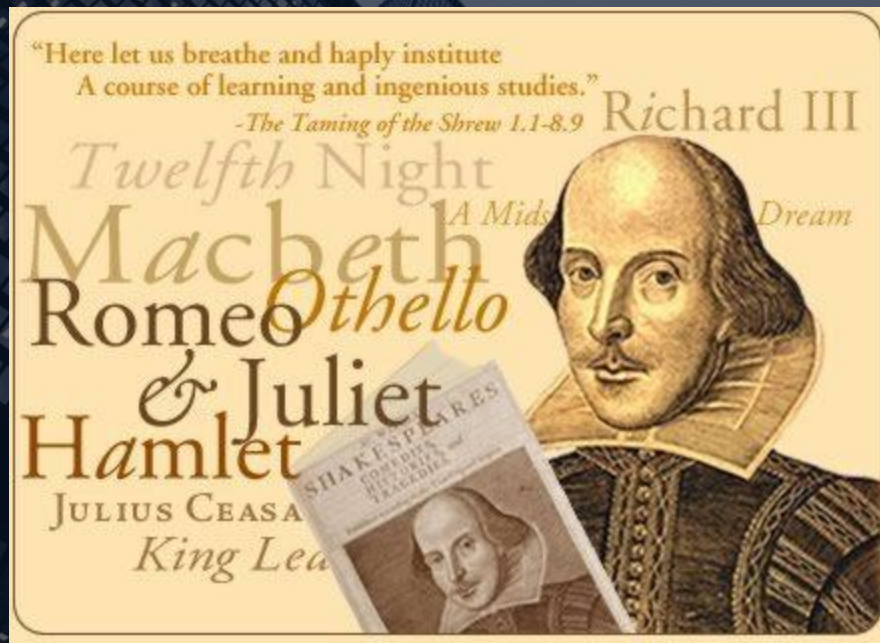
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Modern English (1500 to the present):





The English Renaissance

It was during the English Renaissance that most of the words from Greek and Latin entered English. This period in English cultural history (early 16th century to the early 17th century) is sometimes referred to as "the age of Shakespeare" or "the Elizabethan era", taking the name of the English Renaissance's most famous author and most crucial monarch, respectively.



The Industrial Revolution

England began the Industrial Revolution (18th century) and this had also an effect on the development of the language as new words had to be invented or existing ones modified to cope with the rapid changes in technology.



The Industrial Revolution

New technical words were added to the vocabulary as inventors designed various products and machinery. These words were named after the inventor or given the name of their choice (*trains, engine, pulleys, combustion, electricity, telephone, telegraph, camera* etc).



The British Colonialism

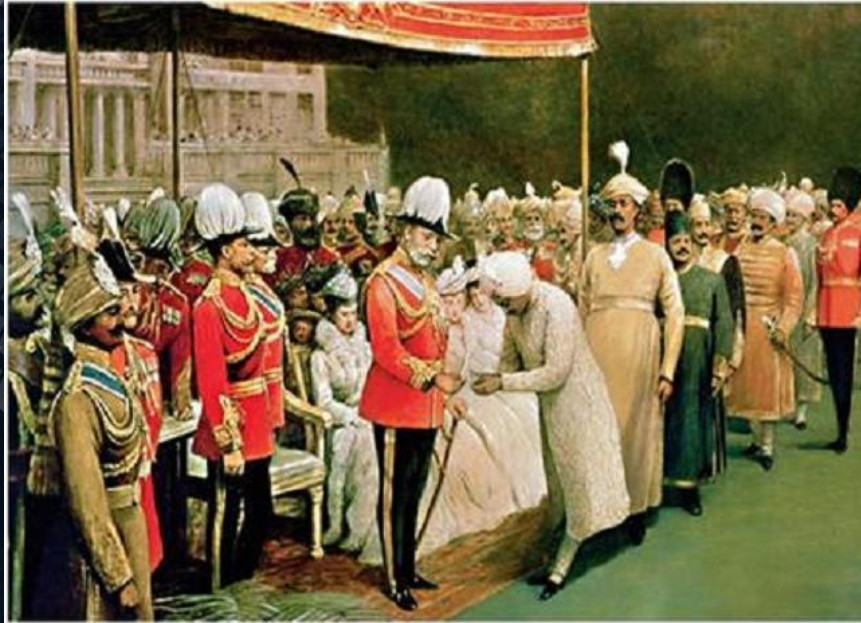
Britain was an Empire for 200 years between the 18th and 20th centuries and English language continued to change as the British Empire moved across the world - to the USA, Australia, New Zealand, India, Asia and Africa.



The British Colonialism

They sent people to settle and live in their conquered places and as settlers interacted with natives, new words were added to the English vocabulary. For example, '*kangaroo*' and '*boomerang*' are native Australian Aborigine words, '*juggernaut*' and '*turban*' came from India.

The British Colonization of India





American English and other varieties

English colonization of North America and the subsequent creation of **American English**. Some pronunciations and usages "froze" when they reached the American shore. In certain respects, some varieties of American English are closer to the English of Shakespeare than modern Standard English is.



American English and other varieties

Some "Americanisms" are actually originally English: English expressions that were preserved in the colonies while lost at home (e.g., *fall* as a synonym for autumn, *trash* for rubbish, and *loan* as a verb instead of lend).

The American dialect also served as the route of introduction for many native American words into the English language. Most often, these were place names like *Mississippi* and *Iowa*.



American English and other varieties

Spanish has also been great influence on American English. *Mustang*, *canyon*, *ranch*, *stampede*, and *vigilante* are all examples of Spanish words that made their way into English through the settlement of the American West. Fewer words have entered American English from French and West African languages.



American English and other varieties

Likewise, dialects of English have developed in many of the former colonies of the British Empire. There are distinct forms of the English language spoken in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, and many other parts of the world.

English speaking countries in Asia



Well done!
Congratulations!



Unit completed!



Questions?

We can discuss in class or
contact me via **LINE** or **Email**



See you next week!

