

# Origin, Development and History of English Language: A Study

Sweetchields Ordeniza <sup>1\*</sup>, Jolina M. Lucas <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> English Language Teacher, Philippines.

<sup>2</sup> Philippines.

\*Corresponding Author Email: <sup>1</sup>ordenizasweetchields@gmail.com

## Abstract

The study has focused on the history of the “language of English” origin and the revolution period of the “English language” considering the chronology of the “English based language”. Different variation of the “English language” also has been discussed in the study. The influence of the Latin and Scandinavian language in the “English language” also has been depicted over here. History and development of “English language” is critically evaluated here. Several types of periods are available such as: pre old period, old period, middle and modern English period. Old English Period is critically discussed in this study. The poetry and poems of that time are also mentioned in this study. Several awards are also given by British Bookseller association. This is advantageous for this Old English Period. Different periods of English language have been discussed over here. Modern English era and its contribution to the modern edge have been highlighted here.

## Keywords

“English language”, history, Modern English.

## INTRODUCTION

English is the West Germanic language originated from the Ingvaemonic language that is considered as the dominating language of the United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia and many more countries. The “English language” has a heritage value as the language belongs to the German language family [1]. A long history is present in the behind of the “English language” which also has a cultural contribution to the language. German tribes the Angels, the Saxons and the Jutes have crossed the Denmark in 5th century AD and the arrival of the German tribes; Britain citizens have been influenced by the language of the German tribes and adopt the language to communicate with the people. Considering the changes of this particular language, the language has started the journey and spread the language all over the world. Revolution of the languages has been accumulated by the people according to the comfort ability of communication.

The Improvised language of English now called the modern English and the unchanged language is called the old English which is difficult to understand by the people of the new era. The revolution of the “English language” is still in the process and the modern language is divided into the two segments, one is the early modern English and another one is the late English which is still used by the people of different countries. There are different varieties of “English language” that mesmerize the expression of the communications of human feelings. Americanism's flavour of “English language” is carrying out the heritage of origin of the “English language” [2]. Beside this, some people love to express their feelings with the Shakespeare’ English rather than using the modern “English language”. The “English language” also symbolized the unity of diverse cultures such as Spanish; French language has effectively influenced the

language of English. The chronology of the language of English can explain the improvisation of the “English language” from the origin of the “English language” to the late modern English.

**Table 1:** Chronology of “English language”

55 BC	Julius Caesar has written the “Roman invasion” of Britain	Local Inhabitants speak
AD 43	“Roman invasion” and “occupation” has considered as the beginning of Roman rule of Britain	Celtish Local Inhabitants speak Celtish
1066	William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy has established his kingdom and conquered England	Old English
1362	English replaces the law language from French along with it has been used in Parliament for the first time	Middle English
c1388	Chaucer has started writing “The Canterbury Tales”	Middle English
c1400	The Great Vowel Shift has started to revolute.	Middle English

1476	William Caxton has established the first English printing press	Early English	modern English
1604	"Table Alphabetical", the first English dictionary, has been published	Early English	modern English
1607	English first permanent settlement in the New World has established	Early English	modern English
1623	Shakespeare's First Folio has been discovered in this era.	Early English	modern English
1702	The daily English-language newspaper, "The Daily Courant", has published in London first	Early English	modern English
1755	Samuel Johnson has published his English dictionary again	Early English	modern English
1828	Webster publishes also has been published American English dictionary	Late English	modern English
1922	The British Broadcasting Corporation is founded	Late English	modern English
1928	The "Oxford English Dictionary" has been published	Late English	modern English

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Latin influence

The classical and medieval forms of the Latin language modified the "English language" remarkably and implicated a dignity to the language to express the feelings through communication. About 80% of English dictionary words are adopted by the Latin language along with 60% of English words that have the flavour of the Latin language. The collaboration of the Latin speaking Romans and the German tribes who carried out the language has enhanced the quality of the language of English with the influence of Latin language [3]. Language of modern English has a great influence from the Latin language that borrowed a revolution in the literature world and enhanced the quality of skill writing that is also highlighted in the dictionary of modern

English.

Old English is mostly influenced by the Germanic language whereas modern English is inspired by the Latin language. Romanians are one of the progressive cultural communities of the world that synchronize modern English with a dignified improvisation of the "English language" to enhance the quality of the literature background [4]. Romans brought the Latin language in Britain as a commercial language that also influenced the "English language" to follow and adopt the Latin language. Examples of the Latin words agenda, aberration, democratic, imaginary are most popular in modern English and used by people all over the world.

### Scandinavian influence

Old English and Old Norse language combination have been influenced by the Scandinavian invasions and settlement in the eighth and ninth century that impacted the "English language". 46% of the words in English have the flavour of Scandinavian influence considering the present day English lexicon. The Scandinavian "language of English" has been mostly influenced by the grammar of modern English including the noun, pronouns, verbs and adverbs [5]. Strengthening the grammatical perspectives of the modern language of English has a great contribution of the Scandinavian influences. Vocabulary improvisation of the language also has been impacted by the Scandinavian language that enhances the speaking and writing ability of the common people and the schools are also adopting the language to teach the students to strengthen the roots of the children's English.

Revolution in the daily life of the English based language has a remarkable influence on the Scandinavian language. The Norwegian language, considering the Scandinavian language is mostly used in the language of English as the Norwegian language is the easiest and accessible language to learn [6]. The origin of the English and Norwegian languages both originated from the Germanic language therefore they are infinitely similar with each other. 60% of daily words of the English based language are rooted from the Old Norse which is considered as the Scandinavian language. The core language family of the English, Swedish, Norwegian and Danish are the same as a result they share various similarities in English literature.

### Norman influence

Norman language has an embraced word effect on the English word and expression of feelings. 30% of modern English vocabulary is impacted with the French language considering the Norman language. The Anglo Saxons tribe's language, the old English has been replaced with Latin language first by the Normans and Anglo Norman language formation has been done in the English literature. The Norman French language became the official language of England [7]. Influence of the Norman French language in the English vocabulary is clear with the replacement of English words into French words in the vocabulary. Revolution in the

language of Britain administrative, law and literature has been driven by the Norman language influences. The conquest of Norman has brought change in the linguistic, cultural and political landscape of England that also spread the influence of the Norman language in the “English language”.

Royal dignity of the Norman language has an effective approach in the formation of the “English language”. Henry IV was the first king who had taken an oath in the “English language” which was influenced by the Norman language. Up gradation of the “English language” followed by the Norman language has become a revolutionary act of the Norman Conquest that has impacted the English vocabulary of the modern era [8]. “Surrender”, “Occupy”, “majesty” is the most popular Modern English words that came from Norman French words. In 11th century Normandy, William, the king after the battle of Hastings brought the French language to England. Trading language of England has been influenced by the Norman French language that became the royal dignified language in England after some decay. Syntax and the Anglo Saxon Germanic language based vocabulary have been impacted by the French language with determined positive effect that has been carried out in the future as modern “English language”.

### **French influence**

Sociolinguistic factors have influenced the adoption of the French language in the “English language”. Affixing of native and foreign words has influenced the “English language” considering the French language. Most influential impact of the French language on the “English language” has considered the syntactic, morphological and semantic effects that enhance the quality of the English literature as well. The Norman Conquest of 1066 has highlighted the arrival of the Anglo-Norman rulers that mostly impacted the “English language” with the flavour of French language [9]. The Anglo-French language has more influential effects on modern English literature along with language than the centre French language. The first French word adopted in the “English language” was the Crown which was derived from the French word Coronation in 1388.

The lexical expansion is one of the important consequences of the French language adoption that has increased the popularity of the “English language”. 30% of the “English language” has borrowed from French words and enriches the vocabulary of English with quality [10]. Personal competence also has been enhanced by the French words adoption in the “English language”. Royalty and dignity of the French language and its impacts on the “English language” has considered the language as the dominant language in England along with the official language of speaking and writing in Britain. French and Latin influence in the “English language” are much more impacted than any Other Germanic language. Moreover, 10000 words in English vocabulary are borrowed from the French language. New words innovations in the “English language” also have been influenced by the French enactment.

The language was first inspired by the French language in 1066. The “French language” also has been considered as the romance language which was derived from the language of ancient Rome. Original French language is 27% similar to the language of english as the origin of both languages is the Germanic language. The motive of the “English language” to adopt the French influence is to enhance the quality of the language along with simplifying the accent to speak that can elaborately express the feelings in words [11]. Understanding the words helps to learn the lessons and French influenced “English language” meet the objectives of the English literature.

## **HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF “ENGLISH LANGUAGE”**

### **Pre Old English Period**

Prehistoric stage of English is developed between 5th-century and 7th century. English plays an essential role in literature to gain several types of concepts. The Beginning of pre Old English period is located by these West Germanic inhibitors also considered as “Indo- European linguistic heritage”. Several types of innovative words and phrases are implemented at that time to smooth literature concepts to everyone. “Indo-European” and “Proto-Germanic morphological structure” is provided with help of this pre old English period [12]. Pre Old English period helps to maintain phonological and morphological changes of literature in a successive manner. Pre old English period vocabulary is unmixed and pure. One can easily express new ideas and thoughts with help of several new words and phrases.

### **Old English Period**

German, Dutch and Frisian are closely related to West Germanic language in English. History of “English language” is divided into some segments such as: “pre period of English language”, “old English edge”, “Middle era of English” and “modern time of English” period. Old English Period lies between 5th century AD-1066 AD. Anglo-Saxon is also known as Old English Period. This is the oldest variant of “English language” in literature. The age of “English language” is near about 1600 years. Several types of Epic poem and Newell Codex are also included in this particular period. “Beowulf” is one of the oldest and longest Germanic epics [13]. “The Wandered”, “The Seafarer”, “The Battle of Malden” and “The Dream of the Road” are also included in this period. Two known poets from this particular time are “Caedmon” Christian poet and “Cynewulf”. Four manuscripts of this particular period are “Exeter Book”, “Junius Manuscript”, “Vercelli Book” and “Beowulf manuscript”. Legal case based writings, medical issues and religious context and translations are also included in this Old English period. Literary awards are given annually to writers who live in the United Kingdom.

Awards are given mainly in five categories such as: first novel, novel, biography, poetry and children’s. The British booksellers association mainly awarded those poets. British

corporation is also initially sponsored in this old English period. Costa Book awards are given in this particular period. Several types of novels, poetry and biography are written in the old period of English [14]. The overall tendency in making literature of the old edge of English, which has also been popularly known as the Anglo-Saxon period has been focused on elaborating the history and the culture of England and Anglo-Saxon tribes within literature. It has been focused on making literature where the lead protagonist has obtained an empirical power within the literature and describes the entire glorified actions of them [15]. The overall writing process of the Anglo-Saxon or Old English literature have well evidently showcased the entire picture of the livelihood process and kingly lifestyles of the high class people while making a superior aesthetic value. The old English literature has provided the initial assistance for the growth of English literature in upcoming years.

### **Middle English Period**

The Middle English period started at 1150 CE and ended around 1450 CE. Identification of Middle English has been difficult as the period is the connection of the old English and modern English era. In this period, many old English grammars has been corrected or disappeared from the English Vocabulary. Simplification and transformation of the English words have been prioritized in this era. The revolution of “English language” considering the Middle English period development has been followed by the arrival of Norman French in Britain along with the impact of Old Norse on the “English language” has focused in this period of time [16]. Middle English period has been of Vikings population have been influenced the Middle English era. Momentous changes have taken place in the Middle era of English as the extensively and fundamental activities of “English language” has been accelerated. The transformation of the “English language” started its journey in the Middle English age and created an exclusive place in the literature with royal dignity.

Grammatical revolution in “English language” has been executed in this period and heterogeneous characteristics of the Middle time of English have been shown considering the colonization of the different language influences such as Latin, French, and Scandinavian. The 12th to 15th century has been covered up with the Middle English era and “The Canterbury Tales” by Geoffrey Chaucer has become a significant symbol of Middle English literature [17]. Modification of English grammar with a simplified approach was the prior motive of the Middle English era. Reduction and inflections in Old English grammar words have been highlighted in the Middle English era. The demographical, political and religious upheavals were the main cause of the collapse of the Middle English era. Dialects of the “Middle English period” are the Kentish, “Southern”, “Northern”, “east midland” and “West midland”. Standardization of the documents and printing language in England has enforced the evolution of Middle English into modern English.

More well documentation including the shifting of vowels has been prioritized the evolution of middle to modern English that ended the era of the middle English period and started the modern English period. The Middle English era has been acted with a revolutionary approach in the literature which basically depends on the language and voice, heroes and heroines, gender, myths, sexuality, monsters, imagination, religion and generic. “Sir Gawain and Green Knight” is considered as the masterpiece of literature in the Middle English era and it was composed in the 14th century’s end [18]. The invasion of the Ottoman Empire and end of the “Middle English period” has taken place simultaneously.

### **Modern English Period**

The “Early Modern English period” started the journey in 1450 and gradually the late modern English era developed in the 1800 BC which still remains. Literature history has entirely changed in the early 1900s and the process was going on till the 1940s. The linguistic definition of “modern English” is the time period of 1400 to the present era considering the categorization of the “early modern English” and “late modern English period” [19]. The increasing popularity of modern English is dependent on the characteristics of modern English that highlights the vocabulary and orthographical insights of modern English. Analogical creation ability of modern English has introduced new words to modern English literature. The composition capability of modern English literature has a reflection on the affixation that has been reversibly impacted the modern English characteristics.

Revolutionary enactment of modern English in the vocabulary and syntax of English grammar has changed the conception of English literature. Evolvement of modern English started from the beginning of the “Tudor period” and continued the process till interregnum and restoration of England. The British Empire had started to spread modern English as a dominant language of England considering the colonies and geopolitical surface of England. Revolution of English literature in the “modern English era” has been followed by William Shakespeare, the father of modern English [20]. Fictional themes were the basic pillar of modern English Literature which was exploring the alienation, transformation, consumptions and the relativity of truth in the literature. Every movement of modern English literature has a vintage value considering modernism and postmodernism significantly. International communication has been driven by the modern “English language” that encourages the progress of society.

Importance of modern English has impacted the people to reach the goal considering the personal and professional aspect. “Glamping”, “lookalike”, “Handover”, are examples of Modern English words which have influenced modern literature remarkably. Modern trends of literature have impacted the modern English period considering the Dadaism stream of consciousness, futurism, cubism, expressionism and imagism [21]. Modern English literature also has prioritized individualism, experimentation,

formalism, symbolism and absurdity to enhance the quality of the English literature along with setting a standard for English literature to maintain the progression of the revolution in English literature. The combination of the Latin, French, Dutch and Afrikaans language has influenced the modern “English language” that also impacted the culture of Britain.

The rich history of modern English has carried out the influence on other countries' languages. Modern English is enriched with the influence of Latin Germany and French language. Colonization of the language along with the cultures has defined the scenario of the “early modern English era” and the current period of time to evaluate the depth effect of the revolution of “language of English” in the “Modern English age”.

### CONCLUSION

The “language of English” has a long history that has impacted the English literature of the current era. The origin of the language is based on the arrival of “Germanic tribes” Saxon, Angels and Jutes in 5th century AD in Britain. Revolution of the “English language” has been gradually developed with the comfort ability of the communities. Gradually development of language has been explained in the chronology of the language Different influences of the “English language” also have been discussed over here considering the Latin influence, Scandinavian influence, Norman influence and the French influence. 60% of English words are flavoured with Latin influence that reflects on the dictionary words of “English. Modern English” is highly influenced by the Latin language whereas the old English is mostly inspired by the Germanic language. The Eight and Nine century has been influenced by the Scandinavian “English language” that reflects on the old “English language”.

Vocabulary improvisation started the journey followed by the Scandinavian “English language” which enhanced the speaking and writing skills of the common people in England. Mostly the daily used words are influenced by the Scandinavian language which increases the popularity of the “English language”. The Norman language and the French language simultaneously impacted the “English language” and created a royal dignity for the “English language” that has a vintage value of the language. The English period has been divided into specifically time periods according to the revolutionary act of the language. The 5th to 7th century has been considered as the pre old English period which helps to maintain the phonological and morphological changes in the English literature in successive manner.

1066 AD has explored the Old English period when several Germanic epics have been composed such as “The Wandered”, “The Seafarer”, “The Battle of Malden” and “The Dream of the Road”. The longest old English poem “Beowulf” also has been composed in the “old English era”. The Middle period started its journey in the 1150 CE and ended in the 1450 CE. It is a connector between the “Old

English period” and “Modern English” era. Transformation of the “English language” has started the journey in a extensively and fundamental manner. The Middle English period has a heritage value as the “The Canterbury Tales” by Geoffrey Chaucer explored the heterogeneous characteristics of Middle English literature. Modern English period began in 1450 BC and continues the journey till now. The characteristics of the “Modern English” period have increased the popularity of the language considering the vocabulary and orthographical insights of the language.

Evolution of English grammar including syntax, vocabulary has been emphasized in this era that impacted the Britain Empire. The popularity of the “language of English” has been declared the language as the official language of Britain. In recent days international communication has been influenced by modern English literature that helps to reach the goal of personal and professional aspects. Standardization of the “language of English” has been started by the arrival of the Modern English era. William Shakespeare is considered as the father of “modern English literature” and the time period has created an epic history in English literature.

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