

# WayScience



16th International Scientific  
and Practical Internet Conference

«Modern Movement of Science»  
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16th International Scientific and Practical Internet Conference "Modern Movement of Science" devoted to the main mission of the International Electronic Scientific and Practical Journal "WayScience" - to pave the way for development of modern science from idea to result.

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- philological sciences;
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- chemical sciences;
- biological sciences;
- physical and mathematical sciences;
- other professional sciences.

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**THE EVOLUTION OF THE ENGLISH FROM OLD ENGLISH TO MODERN ENGLISH****Snopko Katerina**student of the 1<sup>st</sup> course speciality: law enforcement  
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At the moment, English is the most widespread and in-demand language in the world. It acts as the global language of science, business, and culture. It developed throughout its existence, which began in the 5th century. Its development was largely influenced by Latin, French and Scandinavian languages. The language itself belongs to the Germanic branch of Indo-European languages. A lot of time has passed since the beginning of its creation, the evolution of the English language took place, that is, a complex and multifaceted process that reflected the social, political and cultural changes that affected this language. This report will examine the key stages of this development, as well as the historical factors that contributed to the changes in phonetics, vocabulary, grammar, and made the English language as we know it today.

**Old English.** As already mentioned, it all started in the 5th century. The English language at that time was called Old English. It was spoken by the Anglo-Saxons and their descendants in today's England, southern and eastern Scotland from about the 5th to the 11th century. Old English is also called the Anglo-Saxon language. This language was closer to modern German and Icelandic than to modern English. It had a rather complex grammar, which is significantly different from the language we use now. It had five cases (nominative, accusative, genitive, dative and instrumental), three grammatical numbers (singular, dual and plural) and three grammatical genders (masculine, feminine, neuter). The dual is inherent only in the first and second persons and referred to a group of two. Adjectives, pronouns, and sometimes adverbs agreed with the noun in case, number, and gender. Personal verbs agreed with the subject in person and number. Nouns had numerous declensions (similar to Latin, ancient Greek or Sanskrit). Verbs had nine main conjugations, each with numerous subtypes, and a considerable proportion of irregular verbs. The main difference from other ancient Indo-European languages, in particular Latin, is only two types of grammatical tense (compared to six tense-aspect forms of Latin) and the absence of a synthetic passive voice (although it is present in Gothic) [1, p.38].

The Old English language was not unchanged: for 700 years of its use, from the migration of the Anglo-Saxons to Britain in the 5th century and until the end of the 11th century, the time of the Norman conquest, it underwent changes and foreign language influence. About 85 percent of Old English words have fallen out of use, but those words that have survived have become the basis of the vocabulary of modern English.

**Middle English.** The Middle English period witnessed a series of events that included both the interaction of different languages and cultures, and a series of events that led to the interaction and assimilation of people who spoke different dialects, ultimately leaving a significant imprint on the language. Middle English was spoken from the 11th to the 15th century. This was the period when English absorbed the rich vocabulary of French and Latin through Old French, particularly its Old Norman dialect. At the beginning of the 15th century English supplants French from the main spheres of state and political life and becomes dominant in the country. At this time, dialects of the Old English language still exist in England, the features of which are reflected in written records, especially from the 13th century [2, p.45].

The 14th century in England was quite tragic: in 1348, London was practically devastated by an epidemic of plague known as the Black Death and subsequent outbreaks of bubonic plague (1360). In addition, several years were quite poor, which caused famine. The Hundred Years' War with France, which was going on at the time, was also consuming human resources. All these events led to the fact that, according to various sources, the population of England decreased by 30-50%. Naturally, in cities with a higher population density, epidemics took more people than in villages. All these reasons led to a labor shortage in London. It is clear that the new workers, who spoke their native dialect, moved to London from the most densely populated regions of the country with no sources of income. According to the census of 1377, the north-eastern lands, where there were not enough jobs, were just that case. So, by the 15th century, the London dialect changed its dialectal orientation from the southwest to the northeast [3, p. 42].

Thanks to the northern and east-central dialects of Middle English, there was a simplification of the declension system for nouns. Over time, the phonetic, lexical and grammatical features of these dialects penetrated into the London dialect and, ultimately, into the literary language. Although Norse influence on northern dialects occurred in the late Old English period, its effects became apparent in the London dialect 300-500 years after Norse influence.

**Early Modern English.** The revolutionary changes in the English language of that period were associated with the influence of the European cultural Renaissance and the rapid growth of the British Empire from the 15th to the 18th century. The result was a wide lexical enrichment of the language due to the communication of the English with many peoples of the world and a significant simplification of grammar. The development of Modern English owes much to the invention of the printing press, which regularized and popularized spelling and grammatical rules, and what is known as the Great Vowel Shift, which changed the pronunciation of the spoken language into a form more recognizable today [4, p. 63]. The beginning of this process is attributed to approximately 1400. The result of these processes was a clear fixation of the rules of grammar and spelling in New English, a general standardization of the English language. The basis for language standardization was the London dialect, which was spoken by the majority of the administrative and cultural (literary) elite of the British Empire. Thanks to this, already in 1604, the first dictionary of "standard" English was published [5, p.56].

**Modern English.** The modern English language has existed since the 18th century to the present day. It has undergone significant changes due to colonialism, globalization and technological progress. Important features of modern English are the simplification of grammar, a large number of borrowings from other languages and the wide use of new words and slang, because the media, the Internet, social networks and mass culture have a significant influence on the modern English language, which contributes to the constant evolution of vocabulary. Now it has numerous variants such as British, American, Australian, Indian and others. Various forms of electronic communication, such as text abbreviations, are also actively developing. At the moment, English is spoken by approximately 2 billion people, and it is an official language in fifteen countries.

So, the evolution of the English language took place under the influence of historical, social and cultural changes, starting from ancient times and up to the present day. Today, the English language is a global means of communication that continues to adapt to new realities. Thus, this language remains a living language that is constantly evolving, reflecting the needs and values of modern society.

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