

HISTORY OF

ENGLISH

LANGUAGE

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UNIT –I

Define Language:

There are thousands of recognized distinct natural languages spoken throughout the world. This question 'what is a language?' carries with it presupposition that each of these language is a specific instance of something general. The linguist (one who studies the language scientifically) wants to know whether all natural languages have something in common not shared by other systems of communication, human or non - human. If it is such then it is right to apply to each of them the word ' language ' .

Various Definitions of Language:

1) According to Spair ' Language is purely human and non- instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols.' The definituon suffers from several defects. There is much that is communicated by language. They are not covered by the terms 'Idea', 'emotion' and 'desire'.

2) In their 'Outline of linguistic Analysis' Bloch & Trager wrote 'A language is the system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which a social group co-operates'.

This definition puts all the emphasis upon its social function. In doing so, it takes a narrow view of the role that language plays in society. The term is being used in a special arbitrariness is here a special sense. It restricts language to spoken language only. One cannot speak without using language, but one can use language without speaking (written language). Language is logically independent of speech. In all natural languages, speech is prior to writing.

3) Hall, in his 'Easy on Language' tells us that 'language is the institution whereby humans communicate and interact with each other by means of habitually used oral- auditory arbitrary symbols.'

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THE ORIGIN OF LANGUAGE

Language is something spoken, not written. Speech differentiates man from other species. We do not have any means to know anything about the origin of language.

There are no direct evidences to say and prove it. The only means we have to know the kind of language used by Julius Caesar or King Alfred the Great is the survived written documents. So the tendency of thinking a language in terms of the written or printed word has grown. Printing and writing are only substitutes for speech. Primarily language is oral. But what is said is determined by what is written.

Language is evolutionary. It is static. Change is going on constantly. When we compare the passage of Chaucer with the English that is spoken and written today, we find a lot of difference. If we go further back to Anglo-Saxon period, we find still greater difference. But there is a tendency to assume that it is a thing of the past and in all civilised countries language has set fixed except the new words to express new ideas and inventions. But this is far from truth. Change is still going on in pronunciation, in grammar and in the actual significance attached to words. What is considered 'Bad English' in one's school days is now tolerated. Words which were considered slang twenty years before are considered respectable. Reformed spellings are creeping in. This change is partly due to Americans influence through the cinema and the television and partly through B.B.C's attempt to establish a 'correct standard' for its announcers.

Speech or language is the distinguished characteristic of man. It differentiates him from other animal species. Animals also have necessary speech organs. But the species which developed mind and personalities alone developed speech. Many learned treatises have been written on the origin of language. At present four chief theories hold the field

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A. THE BOW-BOW THEORY:

According to the theory, the earliest man attempted to imitate some characteristics some of the creature or the object to which he was referring. The young child adopts a similar method of expression. The thing that distinguishes a dog from other animals is its barking. So man begins to call it 'bow-wow'. This imitative tendency is the beginning of language. The roots of some words support such an assumption. In the word 'snake' we hear the hissing sound. In the word 'wind there is an imitation of whistling of the gust among the tree-tops. The word 'water' has a liquid sound in it. In many words the onomatopoeic element has played an important role. The recent coinage words such as puff, whine, wail, whistle, babble' denote sounds of one kind or other.

B. THE DING-DONG THEORY:

This theory is usually associated with the great German scholar and philologist, Max Muller. According to this theory, the beginnings of language are to be found in the sense of rhythm which seems to be found inborn in man. This theory favours the imitation of movement rather than of sound. Observing certain rhythm in the purling of the stream or the swaying of the trees in the wind, early man 'ding-donged' phonetically to them. This theory would connect the origin of speech with the same impulse which give rise to the savage war-dance, the medieval ballads and the sea- chantien.

C. THEPOOH-POOH THEORY

'Pooh-pooh' is an exclamation implying contempt or disgust. Frequent use of this expression has given the status of a verb (pooh-pooh = to decry). This theory traces all forms of speech utterance back to emotional interjections evoked by pain, surprise, pleasure, wonder etc

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These could have been similar to brute noises at the early stages and had got refined in our rational language. This theory underlies the origin of all languages.

D. THE GESTURE THEORY

This theory was advanced by Wilhelm Wundt. Later it was re-stated by Sir Richard Paget in his book Human Speech'. The earliest method of communication was by sign and gesture made with hands. Such a language was natural and spontaneous. Even today we resort to it when we beckon to a person when we try to speak with someone whose language which we do not understand. Every gesture of the hand is accompanied by a corresponding movement of the tongue, the lips or the jaws. In the course of time the hand gesture was displaced by the corresponding tongue, lip or jaw or gesture. Thus man passed from sign-language to spoken language. When we speak the words I, me, the lips are drawn in towards the speaker and for the word you' the movement is towards the person addressed.

The above four theories themselves seem most satisfactory. Each theory is correct only upto a point. Speech was the result of a combination of theories rather than any particular theory. It is improbable that the question is ever solved. It is a problem for anthropologists and psychologists.

2-INDO-EUROPEAN FAMILY OF LANGUAGES

The term family' refers to those languages that share common characteristics. Languages having common characteristics belong to one family. They all descended from a common parent.

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The world languages are classified under eight families.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Sino-Tibetan | 2. Indo-European |
| 3. Dravidian | 4. Afro-Asiatic |
| 5. Niger-Congo | 6. Malaya-Polynesian |
| 7. Nishadha languages | 8. Khosian dialects |

The **English language** belongs to Indo-European family of languages. We cannot provide historical evidence to prove that English is descended from Indo-European family. But similarities of certain sounds and the meaning of words lead us to conclude that all the languages in the Indo-European family must have descended from a common parentage. The ancestors of the languages of the Indo-European family must have lived in one place and then diverted to different directions for various reasons such as in search of new pastures, new place of their livelihood. Their language assimilates with the local characteristics so that the parent language assumes new character.

Sanskrit in the Indian language and the other European languages have similarities in vocabulary. So the linguistic researchers gave the term Indo-European to these languages. They point three areas which must have been the home of the Indo European. 1. Scandinavia and the northern part of Germany. 2. The Hungarian Plains and the steppes region in the Southern part. Of Ukraine. 3. The north of the Black sea. There is a lot of controversy about the home of the Indo-Europeans (Aryans). The opinion is certain. The Indo-Europeans invaded the Indian sub continent and came to the northern part of India around 2000 BC. Another opinion prevails that the home of the Aryans was India and they left the land around 8000 B.C and return around 2000 B.C.

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INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

There are eleven Indo-European groups of languages of which two groups of languages Anatolian and Tocharian extinct. The remaining nine groups exist.

1 - INDIAN

The Indo-European language in the Indian context is Sanskrit and Prakrit. Sanskrit is representing the literary language. The Prakrit is accounting for dialects. The earliest of the Sanskrit division is Vedic Sanskrit. It prevailed between 2000 B.C and 1500 B.C. It is the language of the four Vedas. A strong grammatical system in Sanskrit evolved in 4th Century B.C. It helped the language to attain literary status. This is called **Classical Sanskrit**. Sanskrit is held as the mother of all north Indian languages and the language of Lanka-Sinhalese. In the 6th Century B.C Pali, a Prakriti dialect rose to literary status. From the Prakriti dialects a number of North Indian and Pakistani languages evolved. A mixture of Arabic and Persian is called **Hindustani**. **Romany** is the **language of the gypsies** of the north-west India. During the course of their nomadic ventures around 5th century A.D they carried it to the various parts of the world.

2. IRANIAN

Today's Iran is formerly known as Old Persian region. There evolved two languages. A) Old Persian B) Zend. The nomadic north Indian population mixed up with the Persians. Together evolved to the central parts of China and then to the Southern parts of the Russian region. Then they mingled up with the Latvians. Then the features of Sanskrit entered Lettic. Afghan Pushtu, Beluchi, Kurdish and a host of dialects account for the linguistic varieties in the Iranian group.

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3. ARMENIAN

Initially it was thought that the Armenian language was a part of the Iranian group. Later it was understood that it is an independent language of the Indo-European family. Old Armenian is the language of the Christian scripture. It is known as *literary Armenian*. It is known to the outside world from the 5th century A.D onwards. It has similarities with Iranian. There is no grammatical gender in the language. It prevails in the region between the south of Caucasus mountains and the Eastern end of the Black sea.

4. ALBANIAN

It is known to the outside world from the 17th century A.D. This is the language of ancient Illyria. It is spoken in the region North west of Greece. This language is of mixed character with Latin, Turkish, Greek and Slovene. Its southern variation is known as **Gheg**. Its northern variation is **Tosk**.

5. BALTO-SLAVIC

Prussian, Lettic and Lithuanian are Baltic languages. Prussian extinct. There is an inter relatedness between Lettic and Sanskrit. The Slavic languages have two groups- the south eastern and the western. Russian, Bulgarian and Illyrian belong to the South eastern group. Czech or Bohemian, Polish, Serbian or Wen belong to the Western group.

6. ITALI

The Latin dialect belongs to this group. It is the literary language of ancient Rome. It is known to us from about 300 B.C. There were some other languages in the Italian region. They are Ligurian, Etruscan, Messapian, Oscan, Venetic and Umbrian. Since the Romans were dominant, their language Latin was also dominant. There are two variations in Latin. They are 1. Vulgar 2. Classical. French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese were born of vulgar Latin.

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7. HELLENIC

It is so called from the Hellenes, the inhabitants of Hellas. The Greeks always designated themselves by the name Hellas. The dialects belong to the Hellenic family are a) Aeolic b) Doric c) Ionic d) Attic. Out of Attic descended common Greek known as **Demotic Greek** and the language of literature and intellectuals is known as **Classical Greek or Pure Greek**.

8. CELTIC

The Celtic population was spread in Spain, Portugal, France, West Germany, Northern Italy and England. The Celtic Branch includes three groups

a) **The Gallic:** It is little known to us through names quoted by Greek and Latin authors or through inscriptions and coins.

b) **The Brittonic:** It includes the Welsh, the Cornish and the language spoken in North West France.

c) **The Gaelic:** It includes the Irish, the Scotch, the Gaelic and the language spoken in the north of Ireland.

9. GERMANIC/TEUTONIC

English language belongs to this branch together with German, Dutch, Finnish and the Scandinavian languages. The oldest representative of this branch is Gothic. It is preserved in a partial translation of the Bible by Bishop Ulfilas who lived from 310 A.D to 381 A.D. Old Norse is Scandinavian. It was a single speech until 1000 A.D. Frisian is known from the 14th century A.D. The other languages under this group date from the seventh to ninth centuries.

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From the above information it is clear that English is a member of the Indo-European family. It belongs to the Germanic / Teutonic group. It was introduced into Britain by the nomadic tribes from Germany. It is essentially a Low German dialect. We could not use the terms English or England in connection with the language before the mid of the fifteenth century.

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TEUTONIC GERMANIC LANGUAGES

There are four principal characteristics of the Teutonic / Germanic languages.

CONSONANTAL CHANGE OR THE FIRST GREAT SHIFTING OF CONSONANTS:

a) The consonantal system operating in the Indo - European family of languages is not so well preserved as in Sanskrit, Greek and Latin.

b) Considerable regularity is found in all other languages of the family but not in Teutonic.

c) There are many words which have similar meanings and some resemblances in form while in other respects they differ from English words.

THE GREAT CONSONANT SHIFT (OR) GRIMM'S LAW

a) Factors Led to Grimm's Law

A majority of the languages of Europe and parts of Asia possessed the same characteristics. This truth was found out by philologists only after they recognised Sanskrit by the end of 18th century and early 19th century.

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Erasmus Rask (1787-1832), a Danish philologist extended an explanation relating to the Indo European consonants and their presence in Sanskrit, Latin, Greek and Germanic. Rask's contemporary Jakob Grimm (1785-1863), a German philologist took this explanation and discovered further that the consonantal changes in Germanic were methodical and with a certain law of change. This discovery was made in 1822. It was called **Grimm's Law**.

b) Nature of Grimm's Law

Latin, Greek and Sanskrit are the best representatives of India. European and English is the best representative of the Germanic languages. This distinction does not affect the basic fact that English is an Indo-European language. Grimm's law points out the changes which the Germanic explosive consonants underwent when the language was at its primitive stage, some hundred years before the Christian era.

c) Grimm's identification of Germanic Consonantal changes

1) Indo European voiced open stop sounds 'bh,dh,gh' were changed in Teutonic into voiced stop 'bdg'

Examples

a) Indo-European 'bh' becomes 'b' in Germanic

Skt. bhū becomes Eng. be

Skt. bhratar becomes Eng. Brother

b) Indo-European 'dh' becomes 'd' in Germanic.

Skt. madhya becomes Eng. middle

Skt. rudhira becomes Eng. red

c) Indo-European 'gh' becomes 'g' in Germanic.

Skt. (g)hansa becomes Eng. goose

Skt. (g)hu becomes Eng. gut

Indo-European voiced stop sounds 'b,d,g' underwent change in Germanic as voiceless stop sounds 'p,t,k'

a) Indo-European 'b' becomes 'p' in Germanic.

L. lubricus becomes Eng. slip

Skt. Sabar becomes Eng. sap

b) Indo-European 'd' becomes 't' in Germanic.

Skt. dam becomes Eng. tame

Skt. padam becomes Eng. foot

c) Indo-European 'g' becomes 'k' in Germanic

Gk. genos becomes Eng. Kin

L. gelu becomes Eng. Cold

Indo-European voiceless stop sound 'p,t,k,kw' underwent change in Germanic to voiceless open sounds.

'f,th,h,wh'

a) Indo-European 'p' becomes 'f' in Germanic

L. pedem becomes Eng. foot

Skt. para becomes Eng. far

b) Indo-European 't' becomes 'th' in Germanic.

L. tari becomes Eng. three

Skt. traya becomes Eng. three

c) Indo-European 'k' becomes 'h' in Germanic.

Gk. kuon becomes Eng. hound

d) Indo-European 'kw' becomes 'hw' in Germanic

L. quis becomes Eng. who

(‘q’ represents 'kw' sound)

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GRIMM'S LAW' HANDICAP

Grimm's law proves that,

- a) the Germanic region got mixed up with alien tribes or
- b) the Germanic people would have lost the Indo-European sound system because of migration.

Grimm's law did not affirm the absence of consonantal sound changes in the medial or final positions of some words.

Grimm's law was not operative in certain situations.

i) If Indo-European 'p' or 'k' was followed by 't', the 't' did not change so that from the combination 'pt, kt' we have the Teutonic 'ft, ht'.

ii) 'p, t, k' remained unchanged in Teutonic, if preceded by an 's' in Indo-European.

VERNER'S LAW

Grimm's law had certain shortcomings. To overcome these shortcomings of Grimm's Law a supplementary law became necessary. This supplementary law is known as **Verner's Law**. It was named after its discoverer Karl Verner who published his investigations in 1875.

According to Verner, initial consonants and those protected by the accent in Indo-European and early Teutonic suffered no shift or variation in sound.

Verner's Law points out that the Indo-European 'p, t, k(kw)' which became 'f, th, h(kw)' according to Grimm's Law in Germanic underwent a change into voiced spirants 'v, dg(gw)' in Germanic itself.

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(e.g) a) Indo-European 'p' became 'f' according to Grimm's law became 'v' according to Verner's Law.

Skt. Upari becomes (OE)ufor (Grimm's Law) becomes over (Verner's Law).

L. septem becomes OE. seofan (Grimm's Law) becomes seven (Verner's Law).

b) Indo-European t becomes th' according to Grimm's law becomes 'd' according to Verner's law.

Gk. kratos becomes OE. harthus (Grimm's Law) becomes hard (Verner's Law).

L.centum becomes OE. hund (Grimm's Law) becomes hundred (Verner's Law).

c) Indo-European k' becomes h' according to Grimm's Law. This becomes 'g' according to Verner's Law.

OE. teuhon becomes tng. (This is a rare example)

Change by Substitution or Rhotacism.

The process of substituting one sound for another is called Rhotacism. This sound change provides easiness in Pronunciation. In the Anglo - Saxon and in Modern English the verb 'freeze' had four forms.

froesan	(present)
freas	(past)
fruron	(past pl)
forun	(participle)

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According to Verner, the medial 'z' sound as present in froesan ('s' sound was 'z' sound in Anglo-Saxon became 'r' by substitution in the last two forms- fruron and froren. In Modern English the 'r' becomes 'z'.

2. The Teutonic Accent of Words

In the Indo-European parent language, the accent was free or variable. The stress often changed in the same word from the root to the ending and back again. This free accent is best preserved in Sanskrit but less in Greek. Normally the Teutonic accent rested on the root syllable of a word, but in nouns and adjectives and in verbs, derived from either it rested on the first syllable of the word, whether it was a root or a prefix.

3. A two-fold Declension of Adjectives

In the Teutonic languages every adjective might be declined with two sets of ending according to its use. The strong form was employed when the adjective was used in the predicate relation. The adjective took the weak form when it was used as a substitute.

4. The Verbal System

The German verbal system is different from that of Indo-European languages in many respects. Grimm divided the Germanic verbs into two distinct classes.

a) In strong verbs the vowel variation as in sing, sang, sung, ring, rang, rung indicates tense-change. This series of vowel variations is called **Ablaut Series**.

b) Weak verbs are derived from other words. (e.g) the verb 'work' from the noun 'work'. Tense change occurs in these weak verb by the simple addition of -d, -ed, or -t to the verb.

(e.g) walk, walked: in the Indo-European parent language there is an elaborate system of verb-conjugations. This is not so in Teutonic languages. They have a simplified verbal system with only two tenses, the present and the past. They made up the deficiency arising out of this system with the help of auxiliary verbs and compound tenses. This adds force, fire and flexibility to the Teutonic languages.

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SYNCHRONIC VARIATION AND DIACHRONIC CHANGE

A language is like a living being. It undergoes changes and exhibits variety of characteristics in a given time and over a period of years, decades and centuries. The citizens of the same country have regional variations among themselves in their habits and customs. Likewise a language exists in various forms with reference to its pronunciation, vocabulary, usage etc.

The variations of a language observed in a particular age or period of time are called **Synchronic Variations**. The changes of a language observed over the ages due to various influences are called **Dichronic Changes**. Dichronic Changes are the historical development of a language.

I-mutation :

I- mutation took place in early Anglo- Saxon itself. The word ' mutation merely means change and it's called I mutation because the change was caused due to the influence of vowel I (or sometime j)

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In Early Anglo- saxon vowels in accented syllables were modified through the influence of an I or j in the next syllable the I or j subsequently disappearing .The vowels affected were ā,x,ō,ū,ā,x,ō,eā,iō. All anomalies regarding certain doubts why the plural of foot is feet and foets and goose is gees and not geeses,and speaking of man's strength instead of strength are explained by I mutation. The result of the process as they are seen in English of the present day may be classified unclear live heads.

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(i) Mutated Plurals:

A number of Nouns in the old English formed their Plurals by the addition of the Inflexion eg: Too (a tooth) earliest plural too I as a result a i- mutation become two hence giving modern plural teeth. The word mus (a mouse) made the plural musiz which by i - mutation become mus (giving the present day form mice)

(ii) Mutated Abstract nouns derived from adjective:

To form abstract noun from adjective the Anglo- Saxon added - iru which later dropped the final u and become - or Lang (long) became langiru(longness) by I mutation became lenger giving the modern length .

(iii) verbs derived by mutation from cognate nouns:

Certain verbal infinitives were formed by Anglo- Saxons by the addition of - Jan to a noun. Dom (Judgement) - dominant (to make a judgement) by I mutation become demand and so we get doen. (Eg) brood become breed by I mutation food become feed by i- mutation.

(Vi) Verbs derived from adjectives by mutation:.

The term jan was added to certain adjective to give verbs. Full gave jan by I mutation became tyllan giving the modern fill.

(V) Mutated comparative and superlative degrees of adjective:

About the only remaining traces of these are the words elder and eldest the comparative and superlative degrees of old. The Anglo- Saxon suffixes for two degrees were - (ra (Comparative later becoming the Modern er and ist (superlative) which developing into present day - est . This eald (dd) would naturally give elder and eldest as the descendants of the old English comparative and superlative.

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Short Questions:

1. What is meant by Language?
2. What are the Theories of Language?
3. What is meant by Grimm's Law?
4. What is meant by Verner's Law?
5. Define I-Mutation.

UNIT –II
THE OLD ENGLISH PERIOD (OR)
THE ANGLO SAXON PERIOD

There are three main stages in development of English language. The first is the Old English (Anglo- Saxon) period. It extends from 600A. D to 1100 A.D. This is followed by the Middle English period from 1100A. D to 1500 A.D. The Modern English period runs from 1500 onwards.

The earliest inhabitants of British Islands were Britons. The language was a form of Celtic. The islands were under the occupation of Romans from 55 B.C to 410 A. D. The Britons regarded the Romans as protectors. Then the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, tribes from North Germany conquered the islands. Then the tongue of the Invaders became the tongue of Britain. Then Britain came to be called as England. The language they spoke was Anglo - Saxon. Now- a- days the term Old English is used. It was not a single homogeneous language. There were a number of dialects. Of all the dialects the West- Saxon (the dialect of Wessex) became very important because it was the most highly civilized of all the Kingdoms and most of the literature of the period was written in dialect. The early poem '*Beowulf*' a number of translations of religious works, historical poems, riddles, charms, medical treatises and the historical record started by King Alfred were written in Anglo Saxon. The English of today is descended from the language of Wessex.

The Anglo Saxon alphabet had two additional letters representing the sounds - th and -dh. It had a very complicated grammar.

a) Gender

The gender system was irrational. They classified the words 'foot, stone, moon and door' as masculine the words 'Sun, hen and hand ' as feminine and the words 'maiden, wife girl and child ' as neuter. Regarding gender classifications arbitrariness was prevailed.

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b) Noun

Nouns were declined variously depending upon cases and their number. In the Modern English the singular form is 'horse' and plural form is 'horses' in the nominative accusative and Dative Case, but 'horse's' in Genitive are Possessive case. To achieve simplicity, the change is made only in the possessive case in Modern English. But the changes is complicated in old English. In Old English 'stan' means 'stone'. Stan is singular and 'stannus' is plural in both Nominative and Accusative cases. But 'stane' is singular and 'stana' is plural in Possessive Case. In old English strong declension (change in the form regarding case, number and gender) was characterised by vowel ending and weak declension by consonant ending.

c) Adjectives

The adjectives that change in forms to show its grammatical function elaborately. The adjective 'glad' had the following forms- 'glead, glaedre, glaedne, gladra, gladur, glades, gladun, gladena, glada, gladan. These forms were used in accordance with number, Case and Gender both in strong and weak positions. The endings of adjectives -ira, -ra characterized the comparative forms, the -ist, -ost, or -est endings characterized the superlative forms.

d) Definite Articles

In modern English the definite article 'the' remains unchanged. But in Old English it changes depending upon the gender, Number and Case.

e) Personal Pronouns

In Old English pronouns change variously according to Number. Gender and Case much to the confusion of the speakers themselves. There is no reason for these varied changes. The only reason is that Anglo - Saxon grammar was arbitrary. In old English a system of reference to the involvement of exactly two persons (I person and II person) existed. This was called dual number.

f) Verbs

In old English there was only two tenses - present and past and only two kinds of verbs strong and weak or strong verbs were characterized by the shifting of vowels of the root

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vowel system. This is as vowel gradation or an ablaut. The weak verbs were marked by dental or an additional syllable

Strong Verb - drifan (drive) – draf (drove) –drifon (driven)

Weak Verb - libban (live) – lifde (lived)- gelifd (lived)

In old English weak verbs were numerous but strong verbs were less. This is due to the fact that strong verbs were original English and weak verbs were foreign borrowings. The verbs in Anglo- Saxon had four forms - the singular for the first and third persons the plural form and the past participle. Persons the plural form and the past participle.

The weak verbs were formed in the past tense by the addition of -ede,-ode, or -de endings and the past participle by the addition of -ed, -od or - d endings.

lufian (love)- lufode(loved) gelufod (loved)

fremusan (perform) - fremede(performed)-gerfremed (performed)

LITERATURE

Initially, the Old English writers produced in Literature by means of translation. Then they started writing their own literature. It was about their travel and religious experiences. The only one great poem in old English was 'Beowulf'. It is an epic poem. it is about the heroic and venture of a young Warrior Beowulf killing yeah great Master. The theme of the poem is deviant when it is compared with the present day standards. War, sea and ruined cities where the subject matter of shorter pieces of writing. Caedmon was the English poet of the Anglo - Saxon period. '*Widsith, Deor, The Wanderer, The sea farer, Battle do Brunan Burgh, Battle of Maldon, Juliana and Elene, Christ, Andreas, Guthlac, The Phonix, Judith, Christ and Satan*' are some important poems in Old English. The authorship of the first six poems is unknown '*Juliana and Elene*' is attributed to Cynewulf. The remaining poems were written by different poets and much is not known about them. There was no printing in those days. So poetic medium was preferred to prose because it was found convenient for oral delivery and retention in memory. Old English possessed a considerable body of prose literature in the ninth century when most of the modern languages in Europe hardly developed, a literature in verse.

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This was due to the support extend and interest exercised by King Alfred, the great. He started translating works from Latin. Pope Gregory 's *'Pastoral Care', ' Bede 's', 'Ecclesiastical History of the English people ane Boethius' , ' The Consolation of Philosophy '* were some of the Latin works. King Alfred translated into Old English Prose. He arranged to compile the important events in the history of England. It was called '*Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* ' . Wulfstan's '**Sermon to the English**' is a good testimony to the development of prose in Anglo-Saxon. It is an appeal for political and ethnical reformation.

Phonology

There was no set system of phonology in Old English. All letters were given this sounds.

Vocabulary

The vocabulary of Old English was gloomy and depressing. In due course the Celtic, Latin and Scandinavian languages influenced Old English a lot.

5.THE MIDDLE ENGLISH PERIOD

Introduction

The conquest of England by William Normandy in 1066 had a profound influence upon the English language. Upto that time English was more or less a pure tongue with a sprinkling of Latin, Celtic and Danish words. Then it became hybrid language.

Historical Happenings

Before the Norman invasion the English language had come into contact with the French. In 1002, the West Saxon King Alfred's grandson Aethelred had married a French princess. He had sent his son, later became Edward the Confessor, to school in France.

When he returned he brought many French friends and courtiers with him. Norman - French was spoken at the English court from 1042 onwards. It became the language of Law Courts and of the learned profession. But still ninety percent of the population still spoke Anglo- Saxon (English). Gradually those two languages mingled to give the Middle English.

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The process was completed by about 1300. There came a number of English translation of French literary works. From the middle of the eleventh century upto about the year 1200 nothing had been written in English. After 1200, came a wealth of written works of all types. Each man wrote in the language of his own part of the country as it was spoken. They had developed amongst those who had little contact with anyone outside their own district. Then the dialect of East Midland occupied a position in the middle English. It was spoken in and around London Oxford and Cambridge also used it. Thus it became the language of scholarship. Chaucer and number of prominent writers also employed it. Thus it became, a literary dialect. Finally Caxton printed his earliest books in it. So by about 1450 English had become synonymous with 'East Midland'. During the transition Period there were considerable doubts in the minds of writers about the correct and accepted form of a number of words. In the first five lines of the '*Prologue to the Canterbury Tales*' the word 'sweet' was represented by 'swete' and 'swoote' and the present participle ending is '-ing' in one place and '-yng' in another place.

To study the evolution of the language during the Middle English period, the following four different aspects have to be considered

- a) Grammatical Changes
- b) Changes in Pronunciation
- c) Changes in Spelling
- d) Changes in and additions to Vocabulary

In all these, there was a double process at work.

- i) the actual development which have taken place independently.
- ii) there was the influence of the French elements.

A) GRAMMATICAL CHANGES

Grammatical changes were in the direction of simplification. This tendency had started in late old English itself.

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In most dialects became a stock plural termination for the majority of nouns. But the Midland dialects showed a predilection for **-es**. **-es** was the plural termination for French words also. Chaucer uses **-es** for the most part, though he has plurals in even today the real survival is oxen, children, breathern etc.

'**-en**' became the regular ending for the infinitives of verbs in the early Middle English period. later it was preceded by the preposition '**to**'. Chaucer used it as (e. g) to rhyden out, to seeken, to tellen yow etc. Then the ending **-en** was dispensed with first in the southern districts and alter in others. French verbs would not have the inflexion **-en** as a mark of infinitive. This influence may have hastened the loss of the termination in English.

Another important characteristics of Middle - English Grammar which made for greater simplification was the reduction of inflexions. This is noticeable in the nouns. In the nouns all distinction cases disappear except the genitive or possessive cases. The possessive case was indicated by the termination **-es**. Now the termination of **-s** is used. In Middle-English the genitive form was originally limited to masculine and neuter genders. The feminine gender did not have genitive form. (e.g) Lord's day but Lady day. The genitive form of Thursday was Thursday's from the god Thor, but for Friday it was only Friday from the goddess Freija.

The definite article '**the**' was used for all genders, numbers and cases. Chaucer, Gower and Wycliffe all used this undeclined form which had become well established. In old English there was no relation between gender of a noun and the sex of the thing it represented; but by the middle of the twelfth century we find that gender had become dependent upon meaning. In the southern parts of England the older system of genders was retained until the early Fourteenth century; but gradually it gave way to the simpler system.

The indicate third person singular the ending **-th** was used in the Southern and **-s** in the Northern side. Chaucer used the Standard English of the age, but the two forms 'hath' and 'doth' survived long.

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The use of the auxiliary 'do' was an important development in the Middle English. It was occasionally used in Anglo-Saxon. In the Middle-English period it was regularly used. Word order was not so important in Anglo-Saxon as Middle or Modern English it became quite necessary in order to make the sense clear and to remove confusion in sentences. Without your fixed and reasonable word - order the sense would have become nonsense. One of the devices used was the greater use of prepositions.

B-CHANGES IN PRONUNCIATION

Pronunciation solely relates to the spoken language. so it is difficult to get define evidence. The different geographical location lent local colourings to Middle English. This was because of the difference in pronunciation. The prime Middle English happened to be the Northern, the Midland, this South Western and the South Eastern. The later Middle English poet Chaucer adapted the East Midland dialect in his writings. The long 'a' of Old English in such words as ham, stan, etc. became long 'o'. It was a often represented by a double 'o' (hoom). It was pronounced the same as it is today in the words 'home, stone 'etc. These are the direct descendants of Middle English. This change had started in old English and affected in Middle English. But wherever the accentuation was uncertain the poets deliberately have chosen the older form for the sake of metre.

Another phonetic development which had commenced in the late Old English period and was completed in the Middle English was the lengthening of the short vowels when they stood in open syllables (In **open syllable** the vowel is not followed by a consonant as in so, we, she etc.) and the shortening of the long vowels when they stood in closed syllables (A **closed syllable** is closed or stopped by a consonant after the vowels as in man. grammar etc.) Thus by the end of the thirteenth century all vowels in open syllables were long and almost all vowels in closed syllables were short. In the rule concerning the lengthening and shortening of vowels there were certain exceptions.

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a) according to the rule the word 'friend' to be pronounced with a long vowel but the lengthening did not take place because the first syllable was an unstressed one. Shortening also took place in Middle English if the combinations 'nd, mb, id ' were followed by a third consonant. So 'child 'goes to wear long vowel and 'children' has a short one.

b) In a tri syllabic word, the vowel of the first syllable was shortened even that syllable was an open one. Then we have holy day (two words). holiday (one word).

c) As per the rule laid down, vowels before the combination 'st' were normally short in Middle English as in best, rust etc. but in a number of Modern English words the vowel is long before their combination as in 'fast, priest, ghost ' etc.

In certain words, as 'r' and 's ' came to change its position? This is known as 'metathesis' The Old English verb 'to burn' was 'beornan'. It gave the two forms 'bernan' and 'brennan' in Middle English.

C- CHANGE IN SPELLING

After the Norman Conquest, French became the language of the court and the elite people. School children were taught to read write French instead of English. So they were accustomed to French spelling traditions. They tried to introduce those traditions into English. The long 'n' began to be written as 'on'.

Thus 'hus' and 'mus' were written as 'hous' and 'mous' respectively. The long 'o' was represented by 'oo' as 'hoom' for 'home', 'foo' for 'foe' and 'coom' for 'come' .

'c' was pronounced hard before a back vowel and soft before a front vowel. it was indicated by writing it 'k'. 'c' was pronounced with the present day 'ch' sound. The original Old English 'cild' become 'child' in Middle English. 'ch' is pronounced like 'k' as in 'character, chronic, chorus' etc.

'g' in Old English was pronounced as 'y'. 'Gearn' in Old English became 'Year' in Middle English. Likewise the original 'sc' became 'sh'. Thus 'scip' became 'ship'.

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Through French influence, a new soft 'g' before front vowels with the phonetic value 'J' was introduced as in front vowels the 'g' was written '**gu**' as in 'guide, guest, guild' etc.

Under the French influence '**cw**' in Words was replaced by 'qu'. Thus '**cwen**' became '**queen**'.

Certain words of French origin which had an initial unstressed 'e' immediately before 's' like 'estraunge' tended to lose it giving 'straunge' which later became 'strange'.

D - CHANGE IN VOCABULARY

The changes and the additions to the English vocabulary during the period from 1100 to 1500 were greater and more important than in the Anglo - Saxon period. The main influence came from the Norman invasion conquest. The existence of two languages side by side gave rise to synonyms one from the native tongue and the other from the Norman French. Gradually, the two become differentiated in meaning or usage.(e.g) '**wed**' is

The native term means '**to give a ledge**' and '**marry**' is the French form 'to mean 'to become a husband'. In modern English the two words are identical in meaning. '**Marry**' is frequently used and 'wed' is provincial journalistic. Something of the same distinction exists between the adjectives '**kingly and royal**' or between the nouns '**child and infant**', '**male and repast**'

In Modern English one word is used for a living animal and another word for the meat that comes from it after it is killed. The word for the living animal is a native word and the word for its meat is a French origin. Thus '**sheep**' is a native word while it was living, but as soon it was killed and dressed by French cooks it became '**mutton**'(from French Mouton = sheep). Similarly we have '**pig and fork**', 'cow or bullock and beef' '**calf and veal**'.

The feudal and Manorial systems are usually associated with the name William the Conqueror. A number of words such as '**domain**, castle, baron, livery etc., were derived from these systems. the Centre of a '**district**' was the '**ville**' under the Manorial system the laborers who worked on the Manorial estate were known as the '**villeins**' and the collection of hovels in which they lived was eh '**village**'

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The Normans also established the beginnings of the Modern English legal system. the official language of the law courts until the Middle of the fourteenth century was French. They include '**justice, curfew, judge, jury, verdict, Commission, licence, prison, prisoner, punish, plaintiff etc.**

The medieval ecclesiastical system was highly organised than the Anglo - Saxons. The Anglo - Saxons had known the English words 'priest and bishop' To denote the the various offices in the church the French terms were adopted. Thus we get 'abbot, abbess, cannon, curate, cardinal, friar, deacon, archdeacon' etc. The English word 'Church' was used for a building associated with worship. But the words '**chapel,cathedral, abbey, convent, chantry, altar**' are all French derivations. The words '**service, clerk, clergy, parish, apostie, conscience, confession, penance, prayer**' even the word '**religion**' are of French derivations. All the terms connected with '**chivalry**' except '**knight**' could be Norman - French words.

The older and fundamental '**occupations**' were Smith, the Shoe maker, the cook and the miller, but for luxury trade, we get the French names, 'the draper haberdasher, and the jeweller'.

Medieval scholarship and learning to was instrumental in bringing many new words into the language. Most of the words were of French origin and few of them came from the East. Once category includes a large number of abstract terms are '**mercy, pity,charity,beauty humility, courtesy,repentance**' etc.and their corresponding adjectives.

The **science of astrology** which flourished in the Middle Age has supplied a number of words.

Another Influence in introducing fresh words into the language was **the crusades**. Thus a number of words of Arabic for Eastern origin appear in the English language from the middle of the thirteenth century '**Algebra, azure,scarlet,orange**' and the names of the eastern animals such as the '**elephant, panther, crocodile**' etc. They are of Arabic and Eastern origin.

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It was during the Middle English Period. **surnames** were first adopted by English men. The custom had started in France as early as 1000.AD. For long they were used only by the upper classes, but the custom gradually spread. Originally surnames were nick names to distinguish one Dick from another Dick. The nick names died with the persons who bore them. But in course of time they became hereditary to establish one's lustfull succession to an estate before it could be passed on. Surnames were derived from the various source . They might refer to some personal characteristics as Whitehead, Goodman, and Longfellow or they might come from occupation as Tyler, browman, banker, Fletcher (arrow maker) or from **place - names** as Attwater, Attwood, Fields and or from genealogical Origins such as Johnson, Jackson, Wilson, Robinson. It is concluded that more than a hundred years were required, after the Norman Conquest, to provide everybody with a surname and more than half of them were of the local class and not hereditary.

Impact of Renaissance And Reformation On the Growth of English Language

In 1455 Constantinople upto now (hither to) the seat of European learning fell to the Turks and the scholars who where there fled to western Europe bringing with then their. Libraries as much they could transport and rescue they settled in Germany and Italy and Stated that intelluctual (power of thinking or clever) awakening in Europe, which is Known as Renaissance. It had influnced Language and literature and we Consider it the beginning of the modern age in the history of English Language.

It was classical Renaissance and mainly a Latin one. Hence our Vocabulary Contains words of latin origin. Latin was not unknown to clergy and monks. A Large part of the church. Service will conducted in Latin. It had very Little effected on the native tongue. It came to be regarded as a Scared medium of expression.

Word of Latin Origin:

Confession honour, melody these words were, first Latin then came Into French and now in English. Many of these new scholars made their homes. In Italy. Italian words started making appearance in the language. At first they were used only by the scholars. Later they were popularised.

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Reformation.

Then followed the Reformation as if Nas. religious and political had its effect upon the Language. The bitter religious controrersies gave rise to many New words.

Puritanism:

Piritans made then appearance in 1567. They are people adopted to Strict living and often there was an Outcome of an exaggerated earnestness about their religion all these are reffected in the words and their predecessors. The alvanist added to the Language. Example of some words Saintly, reprobrate (tested and rejected).

Translation of bible:

It was an important factor of the reformation first it was done by Tyndale in 1526 and more important was the Authorised version of the bible in 1611. They second one was more accepted and used till how this translation had a set of influence on the style of writers and also played a major role in shaping the language it has introduced new words.

From Tyndale - Congregation - Orthodox church. Coverdale - loring - kindness.

Authorised version did not Introduce new words but helped in preserving old ones.

The contribution of Shakespeare :

The works of Shakespeare and that of his Contemporaries not only reflect.

The Renaissance and Protestant Reformation but also the growing national consciousness.

The Voyage of Discovery:

It opened new lands and brought men into touch with foreign parts.

The inventions of Printing:

It had a great influnce on the Language.

(i) It tended to establish a standard Language.

(ii) It Several to Popularize new words.

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(iii) It tended to fix spelling about which there was a lot of uncertainty. All the factors Renaissance, Reformation, Authorised version of the Bible, Voyages, Printing had a great influence on the Language.

Effect on Vocabulary:

The factors gave rise to a number of synonyms by which it was easy to distinguish the meaning which other was not possible. In many instances we find the words falling into three groups: one from native root, one from French and one from Latin. All have the same idea but are used in different ways.

E. g: Royal

Royal

(Suggests the pomp, splendour and Majesty of Kingship)

Kindly

(Quality of King)

Amiable Amicable friendly.

Changes in Pronunciation :

1) Short 'a' lengthened before the consonants s, f and th giving us the modern 'ā' in words, both, father, chaff, task, master, shaft etc.

2) This lengthening also took place in words like palm, calm, half, calf.

3) Long 'ā' in words like Cake, dame, fame, all become 'ei' Eg: change, danger, safe,.

Long 'i' as in see after diphthongisation became 'ai'.

Eg: fire, wire, light, ride, blind, wife, etc.

THE RISE AND GROWTH OF STANDARD ENGLISH

Is there any Standard in a language? If it exists, is it not theoretical rather than real. Is it possible to fix a Standard or pretend that one does or can exist? The opponents of Standard English argue that a Standard speech is an artificial speech and therefore it is unstable and without vitality. The '**Standard**' speech is being confused with 'standardised' speech. There could be no '**standardised**' speech but there can be '**Standard speech**'.

Definition

There is generally an accepted form of English that every educated person aims at speaking from whatever part of the country or from whatever social class he comes. Though it does not impose strict uniformity, it stands above the various regional dialects, and the people who speak this are intelligible to each other as they would not be if they spoke in their local variants. This is called **Standard English**. H.C Wyld in his '**Short History of English**' defined Standard English as that which was 'spoken within certain social boundaries, with an extraordinary degree of uniformity, all over the country'. **According to Daniel Jones** the Standard English is based on two things i) the English of Southern England. i) the language of the cultured and educated classes of that region.

Reasons for the Cultivation of Standard English

In the Anglo-Saxon period, the dialect of Wessex attained the dignity of literary dialect because the Wessex had a cultured and scholarly King Alfred the Great.

In the Middle English period, Chaucer and a number of contemporary writers gave the East Midland dialect a literary prestige and Caxton used the same dialect for his early printed works.

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a) The influence of printing was one of the most influential factors making for the emergence of Standard English. But it could not influence pronunciation. It stabilised spelling, grammar,

syntax and vocabulary within limits. But dialects were still used in speech.

b) The particular dialect that was the 'official' dialect of printing attained to a respectability and a prestige. It happened that the East Midland dialect was that spoken, with slight modifications, in London and the political consolidation of England

c) The influence of the 'Authorised Version of the Bible' (1611) must also be taken into consideration.

d) Dr. Johnson's dictionary performed a double service. i) it reduced the chaotic spelling system. ii) it distinguished between

'reputable' and 'low' words.

e) The increased social contact which modern methods, the advent of wireless, television, of travel have brought in and the widespread of reading and education amongst all classes influence the education of Standard English.

f) The implicit in the belief that to get on well in the world one must take care to speak good English. The speaking of non Standard English. Places a outside the social class in person question. Standard English confers on its speaker a certain social prestige.

In the matter of evolution of Standard English we owe the common wealth period. It ses face against country affectation and cultivated a dignified mode of speech. For two centuries the upper middle class were the backbone of England and the most important class socially as well as politically. Their religions and moral outlook influenced English life and the character of their and speech influenced the future development of the language.

England never had an '**Academy of Letters**'.

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Towards the end of this **seventeenth century** many writers felt that there was a need to have an academy so that some standard of language and vocabulary could be fixed by an authoritative body. It was felt strongly to define once for all. What was to be considered good English and giving a ruling on what were admissible into polite language and were to be regarded as slang. When Johnson undertook the compilation of his dictionary he considered that such a project was not feasible and he opposed the establishment of an Academy.

But the dictionaries of the **eighteenth century** attempted to lay down an approximate standard. They not only distinguished between what words might be used and what might not, but also marked accent and vowel quantities in order to give a guide to pronunciation. The eighteenth century was the great classical age of English letters. It laid down rules to which literature was expected to conform and it sought to do the same for language. It believed that Dictionary and the grammar book should be the authorities on correctness. Writers tried to establish for England a style and diction worthy of their country and its traditions as the style and diction of Latin were worthy of the tradition of Rome. The eighteenth century was deficient of philosophical knowledge. Latin and Greek owed their vitality and the immortality of their literature to the fact that they had been standardised and the desire to do the same for the language and literature of England was the main motive behind the attempts to establish a Standard English. Matthew Arnold also rejected the idea of having an Academy as the French Academy, a sovereign organ, but he was in favour of an influential centre of correct information.

The **nineteenth century** was the great period of English expansion and empire building as commercial development. The vocabulary was considerably enlarged through foreign contacts, and by the development of science and social theory.

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This was the age when so many of our **-isms** were born. But side by side then arose a movement for the purification of the language. A renewed reference for **'the Bible'** and **'Bible English'** was a mark of the period. To them (the Victorians) **'the Bible'** became not only a book of devotion but a text-book for Scholars. Many a writers like Ruskin was steeped and saturated in its style and phraseology. The people were taught that 'the Bible' was on value not only for its religious and, oral precepts but also because it was written in the best, the simplest, the purest and the most euphonious English of all time. Before the middle of this century **'Germano Phile tendency'** was grown through the study of the German philosophers and the writings of Carlyle and finally through the Queen's marriage to a German prince. The classical tradition still dominated the educational system from the grammar school onwards.

The movement towards 'a purer' English is seen most markedly in Tennyson, the representative poet of the age. William Morris was also a purist. He disliked innovations in language as in social life. Even he suggested that such well established words as **'omni bus'** and **'dictionary'**, should be replaced by **'folk wain'** and **"word book"**. This purist movement may have had a sobering influence on the development of the language. Morris drastic reforms were foredoomed to failure and all his coinages proved abortive. Tennyson was still regarded as a poetic eccentricities and never absorbed into the spoken tongue or even into the diction of written prose. A few words like **'hand book'** for **'manual'** and **'foreword'** for **'preface'** have survived, but even they have not ousted the alternative terms.

Of recent years there has been a reaction against the idea of Standard English. There arose an interest in **'U'** and **'non U'** English..

'U' stnds for **'Upper Class'**. **'Non 'U'** stands for **'non upper class'** (the rest of us).

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mirror' is non-U (except driving mirror); looking glass is U"

coverlet is non-U; 'counterpane is U

'Radio' is non-U; 'wireless' is U;

Non-U speakers 'take a bath' but U speakers 'have a bath'. A U speaker will refer to a lounge in a hotel or a club, but not in house.

Prof. Allan Ross, of the university of Birmingham, Contributed an article in 1954 to the philological journal. Later a shortened version was appeared in 'Encounter. Then only interest in the subject was aroused. Miss Nancy Mitford joined in the discussion. There was a good deal of argument and controversy for a while. The article was not an indicator of what is correct and what is incorrect. Today we scarcely hear it discussed.

Short Questions:

1. What are the Characteristics of Old English?
2. What are the Characteristics of Middle English?
3. What are the Impact of Renaissance and Reformation of English Language?
4. How the Language be standardised ?
5. What are the Reasons for the Cultivation of Standard English

UNIT-III

Change of Meaning (OR) Semantic Change

Words are devices and they are used for humour expression and the words are changed under different circumstances words do not have any independent meaning of their own. Words make sense only when used in a particular contexts. There branch of linguistics. That deals with meaning is called semantic.

In the history of English language there are different methods in finding out how the original meaning of words underwent a change. The following are came off the methods by which change of meaning was affected

1. Generalisation

By this process a term which had a specialized or restricted meaning become a general term.

i) (E.g) The term box originally meant the name of a tree and it's wood.

Today even plastic, metal light iron in are associated with box.

(ii) The word Tragedy was associated only with drama. Today it has been generalised.

2) Specialization:

This is the opposite process of generalization words which had general meaning and became restricted to be particularly meaning

i) (E. g) The word towel signifies a bird soon This general term took up a specialised meaning

(ii) (E. g) The word deer once meant a wild animal. Slowly its meaning was restricted and it referred to one particular animal.

3) Extension or Transference:

Certain words underwent the process of both generalisation and specialisation and at the same time carry both. That is the basic meaning was retained and along with that there was an extended meaning.

(E. g) i) Wire has a basic meaning of a metallic filament but it also means of wires.

ii) To give ring (telephone), To drop a line (letter) has generalised as well as restricted

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4) The Association of Ideas:

The word vulgarity (which means a crowd) which basically means search behaviour is expected from a crowd. It developed into the present meaning as the behaviour of a crowd is not often much refined.

Another example dilapidated the literary meaning is unstone which means unstone building can be in a decay. Which means ruined. Today we not also dilapidated books clothes and even gentleman. A number of words in English vocabulary have assumed such associated meanings.

5) Polarisation or colouring:

Certain words acquired distinctive colouring and emotional significance. This colouring may last forever or may be lost after sometimes.

(E. g) To propagate was the name of committee of Roman Catholic. Its means got extended. The indicate mission or publicity on behalf any other cause ever other than religion.

After the war started in 1914. It witnessed a change in meaning the word was used to denote exaggeration or False news. As the aim of propaganda was to mislead and deceive the public

6) Loss or distinctive Colouring:

There are some words in English that have undergone this type of meaning change. The word Christian Methodist and Methodism were originally terms of derision. After the unpopular views tied down. These words have lost their distinctive.

Colouring similarly the word brave convey. They idea of postful. Only recent it has bought its colourisation which means courageous.

7. Metaphorical Application :

Under those heading the common metaphorical use is not considered. But the concern is on a limited number of expressions whose metaphorical use has not been realised or considered. These from two categories.

i) These were the literal still preserved. So that the metaphorical application constitutes what is virtually a new meaning or new word.

(E. g) Keen, Sharp, bright, Volatile

ii) The metaphorical sense had altogether taken up the place of literal sense.

(E. g) Sad, Silly

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Sad original meaning was dull later it came to be known as sober or serious. It's metaphorical application denoting full of thought or seriousness and through extension the present day meaning full of sorrow was attained.

8.Euphemism :

Euphemism is a figure of speech by which the real nature of something unpleasant is given a less offensive name.

<u>Euphemism</u>	<u>General nature</u>
Cemetry (grave yard)	Sleeping place
Under taker (grave digger)	One who had under taken some kind of fast
Accident father(deadly)	A happening something attributed to take.
Insane	Unhealthy

9) Prudery :

By this method expressions are employed in place of their common equivalence.

(E. g) Paying guest is used instead of Boarder.

Financier is used instead of money lender.

10) Removal of meaning

Earlier grocer meant Retail saler but today it means impatient.

11) Proper misunderstanding :

Mistakenly connecting one word with a totally different word had often resulted in the change of the original meaning.

(E. g) Too demean it's literary meaning was too conduct. But by connecting this word to the adjective mean and making 'de' a prefix. The meaning becomes occur.

12. Proper Names becoming ordinary parts of speech.

The word dunce is the name of a medieval Philosopher.

These methods that show the change of meaning are not clear cut classes. Words have undergone more charges. There had been several situation that have created these different methods to denote change of meaning.

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Word Formation(or) Growth of vocabulary:

The Modern English Language has descended from Anglo - Saxon that contain around 1400 words. The English today is the richest Languages with the most extensive vocabulary. Oxford dictionary contains 4, 00, 000 words and Johnson records about 48, 000 words.

The richness of a Language is due to historical factors readiness to absorb words from foreign tongues due to new inventions, fashions, religious controversies and social changes. Literally writers also introduced by their imagination and innovation.

F. T. Wood list '19' Major ways which helped the formation of words. They are

1. By Imitation.
2. Extension of meaning.
3. A word of one part of speech used as another.
4. By adding prefixes and suffixes
5. By Abbreviation
6. Syncopation
7. Telescoping
8. Fission
9. Portmanteau
10. Initial becoming
11. Back formation
12. Corruption or Misunderstanding
13. False Etymology
14. Slang terms becoming part of vocabulary
15. Words derived from proper
16. Other words are compared
17. Conscious and Deliberate coinage.
18. Borrowing from foreign Language
19. Neologism.

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1. Imitation (Onomatopoea)

Man Started expressing themselves through imitation. This is the most elementary method of word making most of the word that describe some sounds belong to this Imitative nature.

Eg. Bang, pop, giggle.

Besides Imitation Onomatophic or Suggestive principle gave words.

Eg. Slither has a slippery suggestion words the awe and awful remained exclamatory 'oh'.

2. Extension of Meaning

By this process an older word is given a new significance.

Eg. Literary formerly means Alphabetical but now its meaning has been associated with Literature and Learning.

3. A word of one part of speech used as another.

The same word can be used as a verb, noun, adjective or any other part of speech.

Eg. The word but it can be used as a verb and a noun.

But me, no bits.

4. By addition of prefixes and suffixes

Wireless is derived from wireless telegraphy old English made good use of prefixes and suffixes. It is a very old method of word formation.

Eg. Kingdom, Worship, dancing, basement, English are words derived from Latin abbreviation.

5. By Abbreviations

Abbrevating lengthy words or expression is another universal practice in forming new words.

Abbrevation	Expanded form
Mathe	Mathematics
Exam	Examination
Mob	Mobile Vulgus
Chap	Chapman
Piano	Painoforte

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6. Syncopation

This is the process by which vowels are elided and the Consonants on either side of it join together resulting in the loss of syllable.

Eg. Else, Hence, once were pronounced as two syllables.

7. Telescopy

In this process two words are combined into one.

Eg. 1SS7

NEWS- North, East, West, South.

8. Meta Analysis.

It is a reanalysis in this process.

Athome becomes At home

Flashing eye becomes Flashing guy.

Science and becomes science and arts.

9. Portmanteau words.

Words are formed by Combination of parts of two different words.

Eg. Tragic Comedy.

It is the Combination of Tragedy and Comedy.

10. Initial Becoming

When we say " He is a B. A or he is a M. A". We mean that the is a Bachlor of Arts or Master of Arts.

11. Back formation

The may be a word of one part of speech or another put together deliberately or by mistake form new word.

Eg. To sidle is a back formation. To sidle is a verb form the adverb siddling.

12. Corruption or Misunderstanding.

Foreign terms may be corrupted or Mispronounced and form new words.

EG: Good bye is the corrupter form of God be with you.

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13. False Etymology

The words in English have been formed by some mistaken ideas regarding Etymology.

Eg: The word Posthumous was originally spelt as posthumous meaning coming after in order of time. The second half 'Humours' was falsely associated to have been connected with death and burial.

14. Slang terms become part of vocabulary

Many words that were regarded vulgar or low because they were mostly employed with thieves and smugglers. But today those words became everyday Language and were spoken even by educated people.

Eg: Shabby, Kidnap

15. Word derived from proper

The verb to lynch had the term lynch law and originated from judge lynch put of death.

16. Other words are Comparative

Without a loss of syllable a single word is formed by the combination of words.

Eg. Weekdays, Goldfish, Black Board

17. Conscious and deliberate coinage

To name new invention or discovery words were coined.

Eg: Oxygen, Hydrogen, Geology, Microscope were coined from Greek

Radiation, Proprietor were coined from Latin.

18. Borrowing From foreign Languages

English has borrowed widely from many Languages starting from Celtic Language. English Languages had borrowed from German, French, Greek, Latin, Arabic, Sanskrit and many of the Languages.

19. Freak Formation

Majority of Freak terms are coined for a particular occasion and immediately forgotten.

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SYLLABLE

The syllable is the minimum unit of speech and they utterance auditorily divides itself into syllables. A typical syllable in English consist of a vowel with one or more alone or of a vowels with one or more consonants. A vowel is the nucleus and a consonant is the marginal element of a syllable i. e a consonant occur a either in the beginning or at the end of a syllable.

(E. g) Pick it consists of two marginal elements | p | and | k | which are consonants and of a nucleus | i | which is a vowel.

It is also possible to have two or three consonants before and after the nucleus.

(E. g) School | sku: | There are two consonants | s | and | k |

Some syllables are made of nucleus alone

(E. g) eye or | i |

But in words of more than one syllable in English the nucleus can also be a consonant.

(E. g) | n | and | i | in the second syllable apple and button.

It is also possible to explain the syllable in terms of pulmonic aggressive air stream mechanism. In the production of speech the air from the lungs does not came out in a continuous stream at a consonant pressure. The muscles of the chest push the air out in small puffs at the rate of approximately five times

second and each puffy of air produces a syllable. Each movement of the muscles of the chest is know as chest pulse. In order to produce a stressed syllable are in forced chest pulse is used.

The English word president has three syllables | prez-i-dent |. In this first one is a stressed syllable and it is on the arrangement on stressed and Unstressed syllables and the way they follow one another that the rhythm of a language depends.

The structure of a syllable can be represented by the formula CVC; C-a standing for consonant and V for Vowel.

(E. g) Of same common structure of syllables from English.

The structure of the exemplication the,

Syllable	Of other structure	nucleus
V	I oreye Ji	Ji
CV	See si	i :

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VC	eat i : t	i :
	Add Je d	Je
CCV	true tru:	U:
VCC	end end	e
CVC	pit pit	i
CCVC	stick stik	i
CCVCC	spend spend	e
CCVCCC	twelfth twelfθ	e
CCVCCCC	twelfths twelfθs	e

It is on the basis of the number of syllables the words are classified into monosyllabic, disyllabic and polysyllabic words. There are restrictions on the kinds of elusters. That can occur in initial and final positions in the syllable. When syllables combine into larger units the suprasegmental features like the stress and pitch enter into meaningful patterns.

The syllable is the minimum unit of speech. Any utterance auditorily divides itself into syllables.

Types of syllables :

Mono-syllable

Di-syllable

Tri- syllable

Poly- syllable

Five- syllable

In a syllable the nucleus will always be a vowel especially in a mono - syllable.

(E. g) M a n

/ Mθen /

1) Words of two syllables:

1.First syllable is stressed 'captain.

2.Second syllable is stressed

e ' xact

a ' way

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2) Words of three syllables :

First syllable is stressed

'terrible

Second syllable is stressed

Ex 'pensive

ba 'nana

Third syllable is stressed

Perso'nal

3. Words of four syllables

First syllable is stressed

'definitely

'criticism

Second syllable is stressed.

ne 'gotiate

tra 'ditional

Third syllable is stressed

sentimental

Impolitely

4) Compound words

'tape - recorder

'post - office

Second element is stressed

Short - 'sighed

waste - 'paper.

STRESS

Stress:

The degree of force with which speaker pronounces a sound or a syllable is called stress stresses are of two kinds word stress sentence stress

Word stress:

If an English word has more than one syllable one of them stand out and said with greater force of breath than other syllables and this syllable is said to have a word accent or primary stress any other prominent syllable is said to be weakly stressed.

The primary stress is indicated by the mark | ' | just above and front of the syllable.

(E. g) Se ' lection, ' captain.

The secondary stress is indicated by the same stress mark put below and in front of the syllable that carries it weak stresses are not marked.

Sentence Stress:

Words may be classified into two categories content words and structural words the former includes nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs while the latter, articles, prepositions, conjunction, auxiliary verbs and pronouns. In an English sentence it is normally the content words that are stressed in speech the phenomenon of certain types of words in a spoken sentence being more prominent than the rest is called sentence stress the words in a sentence that are to be stressed are called sentence stress.

Spelling Reform

English spelling meaning notoriously different and foreigners learning English are bewildered by the difference between spelling and pronunciation. The reason for this difficulty in spelling is because of the constant changes little while pronunciation. changes day by day.

Another reason for the variety of English spelling is that more than one system of spelling conventions have been at work some of our spelling conventions go back to old English and others were introduced by French scribes.

Thus Mouse and mice have different spelling

'S ' is the native spelling

'C 'is the French spelling

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By the French influence this spelling 'th' was used to represent [θ] [ð] heard in thin and then respectively. Influence of foreign spelling convention should be more strongly marked in loan words.

There is 'ph' instead of 't' in many words of Greek origin.

(E. g) Telephone, Philosophy.

Another reason why English spelling does not always present a true pronunciation is due to the influence of dialects.

Rules that can be applied for spelling

1) One symbol i.e., a letter of the alphabet or combination of letters may represent several different sounds and one sound may be represented by several symbols.

(E. g) The letter 's' has different sounds in the following words. This, These, sugar and the sound which is normally represented by Sth is represented by S.

Here there is not only the source of difficulties in spelling but also the reflection of spelling of the varied Origins of English vocabulary to this principle we can apply words of same sound with different spelling.

(E. g) Knight-- night, flower --flour, see-- sea, read --reed, of --off, to-- too.

2) Since English is a language with long stresses, vowels of an unstressed syllable are almost blurred in normal pronunciation. The unstressed syllable in the following words are marked in the same way.

(E. g) beggar, baker, Author, Arthur,

It is impossible to distinguish interaction between stressed suffixes. -able and -ible, -ance and -ence, -ant and -ent.

3) Certain spelling changes may occur at a point where a suffix is added to a word.

a) Final 'e' which is mute in modern English is dropped before a suffix beginning with a vowel.

eg. dropped ('e' silent)

b) when a monosyllable ends in a single vowel or consonant. The consonant is doubled before the suffix beginning with a vowel.

(E. g) Sad - Saddist.

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When a dissyllable or polysyllable ends with a single vowel or a consonant is doubled only if the final syllable is stressed.

(E.g) Occur -Occured, but in happen - happening

C) Final unstressed 'Y' (vowels) is changed before a suffix beginning with a vowel except.

(E. g) happy- happiness

Luxury - luxurious but in

Hurry - hurrying

These are given deliberately as firm rules, but to all of them there are exceptions.

There are certain words that are characterising by consonant symbols which are not sounded by modern pronunciation are more rarely, have a sound that is not normally associated with them they are often quoted as English spelling vagaries but they do not give trouble to the ordinary literate.

i) Words : which have the symbol 'gh' which is mute or has 'F' sounds

(E. g)Though, through, cough, rough.

ii) The symbols 'K' and 'g' are retained before 'n'

(E. g) Knife, knot, know, knight, gnat, etc.

iii) The symbols 'h' and 'w' there is nothing left of the 'w' sound when 'h' takes change

(E. g) Who, whole.

IV) In same native words the 'I' sound is omitted. Usually with lengthening of the preceding vowels.

(E. g) Calf, half, alms, could and would

V) Final 'b' is silent in few native words after 'm'

(E.g) Lamb, comb, climb, clumb, numb, limb

It might imagined that borrowing from other languages are an unfamiliar language is the course of spelling difficulties. The fact is that the difficulties are not due to the above mentioned factor and not serious. The problem is we currupt them in spelling or pronunciation. We tend to remember their native spelling and pronounce them the best as we can.

Realising consonant:

The first consonant of a word is i. e. is the first letter of a word is a consonant is called realising consonant.

Arresting consonant:

If the last letter of a word is a consonant then it is called an arresting consonant.

Syllabic consonant :

The syllabic consonants are consonants that act as vowels.

(E. g) Button

Button But - ton

C-V-C CV C

In the first part there is vowel BACV In the second part in the consonant acts as vowels

Consonant cluster:

Consonant clusters are consonants that follow continuously after the nucleus vowel but the syllable should not be broken

(E. g) tempts

CVCCC

Abutting consonants:

These are consonants that occur together in different syllables of a word.

(E.g) Member Mem – ber

CVC C

Open syllable (consonant)

The syllable that ends with a vowel is called an open syllable

Closed syllable (consonant)

The syllable that ends with a consonant is called a closed syllable.

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Intonation:

Intonation is the variation that takes place in the pitch of the voice in connected speech.

Intonation Group Tonic Or Intonation Group:

Even the shortest and simplest Utterance will be said with some degree of pitch rise and fall. The place and amount of rise and fall will give extra information any one tune will run over a certain Limited stretch of page which may or may not correspond to a sentence

(E. g) i) Is he coming today - has only one tune.

ii) If you don't mind. I 'll come tomorrow called intonation group.

Tonic or Nucleus:

In each intonation group there will be one syllable which is stress. The main change of pitch rising, falling rising and falling. Falling and rising heard on this syllable. This syllable is called Tonic or nucleus.

By varying the tonic syllable within the information group the meaning of the group is changed.

(E. g) John went fishing yesterday.

If John is selected as the tonic the meaning is that John not bill went.

If yesterday is selected as the tonic becomes that he went yesterday not today.

If fishing is selected as the tonic it indicates that fishing was the activity rather than swimming.

Thus intonation is an integral part of the way in which we convey meaning.

The basic tunes are,

(a) The low fall:

The voice on the tonic syllables starts at a low pitch and falls to a slightly lower pitch. This is indicated by a mark before the appropriate syllable.

Cheese.

b) The high fall:

Here the voice starts at a high pitch but then falls to a lower pitch.

' Cheese

c) The rise fall:

Here the voice starts on a mid pitch rises slightly and then falls again. This is indicates.

^ cheese

d) The fall rise:

Voice first falls and then rise to a mid or fairly high pitch. cheese

e) The Low rise:

Voice starts on a low pitch and rises slightly.

f) The high rise:

Voice starts at a mid or high pitch and rises even higher.

Fall

Rise

Low fall ----->Chinese

Fall rise ----->chinese

High fall-----> `Chinese

High rise ----->'chinese

Rise fall---->^Chinese

Low rise---->Chinese

STRONG AND WEAK FORMS:

Strong Form:

A strong form is used when a word is said in isolation.

(ie) A word in a sentence to be stressed.

Weak Form:

A weak form is used more often than the strong forms.

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(ie) A word in a sentence are not to be stressed.

Most people prefer to weak formsthan strong.

Example	Word	Strong	Weak
Pronoun	me	\mi\	'mi\
Verb	am	\ðem\	/ðm\
Preposition	at	\ðet\	\ðt\
Conjunction	but	\bðit)	\bðt\
Articles	an	\ðen\	\ðn\

Word	Strong form	Weak form
the	ði:	ði
a	Ei	ə
us	ʌ s	ðs
to	Tu:	Tu
but	Bʌ t	bðt
saint	sðint	.snt
was	wðs	wðz
shall	sðel	ʃl
that	ðet	ðt
am	ðem	ðm

Syntax:

The study of ordering and arranging of words in sentence is called syntax.

In old English (O.E) Inflexions indicated the case endings of the nouns, adjectives and pronouns and also their genders but the question off mood was to be decided by syntax

Another function of Syntax is certain words like 'and', the 'at' cannot be explained as such until they are used in the sentences such words all called kenemes only Syntax decides the roles of these words therefore Syntax is the study of ordering and arranging of words to render meaningful sentences only then words pleremes.

A language is considered to be living or dead depending upon their use living forms re those which still may produce new usages or developments.

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(E. g) Suffix - ness can be used to form an number of abstract nouns ever from strange adjectives.

i) browned off - gives browned off - ness

ii) Suffix- ize can create verb of the nouns and adjectives.

Soviet - Sovietize

National - nationalize

Thus syntax of a language can be looked in the light of all that can be learnt of its history. This is called diachronic approach. The method of approach that isolates. The present stage of language and tries to study it without the possibility of having a know of past history is called synchronic.

Short Questions:

1. What are factors involved in change of meaning?
2. How the Vocabulary be developed ?
3. Define syllable .
4. Define stress
5. Define syntax.

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