

English: A Tale of Two Languages

Do you recognize this?

We the folk of these Bound Lands, to shape a better bond do hereby set up rightness, bring forth homeland good will, give for the shared safekeeping, push forward the welfare of all, and grasp the blessings of freedom to ourselves and our offspring, do put through and set up this set of laws for the Bound Lands.

We the folk of these Bound Lands to shape a better bond do hereby set up rightness, bring forth homeland good will, give for the shared safekeeping, push forward the welfare of all, and grasp the blessings of freedom to ourselves and our offspring, do put through and set up this set of laws for the Bound Lands of America.

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, do hereby establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

*Anglo-Saxon Words in
U.S. Constitution*

*a
and
blessings
do
for
hereby
in
more
of
our
ourselves
the
this
to
we
welfare*

16 unique words

*Latin Words in
U.S. Constitution*

<i>common</i>	<i>posterity</i>
<i>constitution</i>	<i>promote</i>
<i>defense</i>	<i>provide</i>
<i>domestic</i>	<i>secure</i>
<i>establish</i>	<i>states</i>
<i>form</i>	<i>tranquility</i>
<i>general</i>	<i>union</i>
<i>insure</i>	<i>united</i>
<i>justice</i>	
<i>liberty</i>	
<i>ordain</i>	<i>22 unique words</i>
<i>order</i>	
<i>people</i>	
<i>perfect</i>	

Content vs. Function Words

with apologies to Lewis Carroll

'Twas brillig and the
slithy toves

Did gyre and gimble in
the wabe.

All mimsy were the
borogoves,

And the mome raths
outgrabe.

Swath brilliant lep id
slimey toads

Nan sit lep settle alph
se wave.

Ir lively twiz id
marmadukes,

Lep id frogs songs
regave.

Open and Closed Class Words _G

- Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, *-ly* Adverbs are Open Class (Content) Words
 - in speech, they retain stress on their prominent syllables
- Prepositions, Conjunctions, Auxiliaries, etc. are Closed Class (Function) Words
 - in speech, their stress is reduced

Open and Closed Class Words

Open Class

- new words are easily coined: *email, updraft*
- participates in the morphology of English: *emails, emailed*
- includes Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, *-ly* Adverbs

Closed Class

- new words are added after centuries of shift: *after*
- do not have inflected or derived forms
- includes Prepositions, Conjunctions, Pronouns, Determiners, Auxiliaries

Which words did English Borrow?

- English freely borrowed open-class (content) words like *people*, *constitution*, *united*, *states*
- It rarely borrowed closed-class (function) words like *is*, *the*, *at*, *she*

Some Statistics

- 20% - 30% of English words are from Anglo-Saxon
- The rest have been borrowed, most directly from Latin or indirectly through the Romance Languages
- Over 90% of the words in the Academic Word List come from Latin, Greek, and French (Coxhead, 2000)

Excerpts from Children's Literature

When do Latinate forms appear?

Course Outline

- Week I: How did English get this way?
- Week II: What effect does it have on our learning of the language?
 - What are the differences between Anglo-Saxon and Latin?
 - Do these diffs make Latin harder to learn once you know Anglo-Saxon

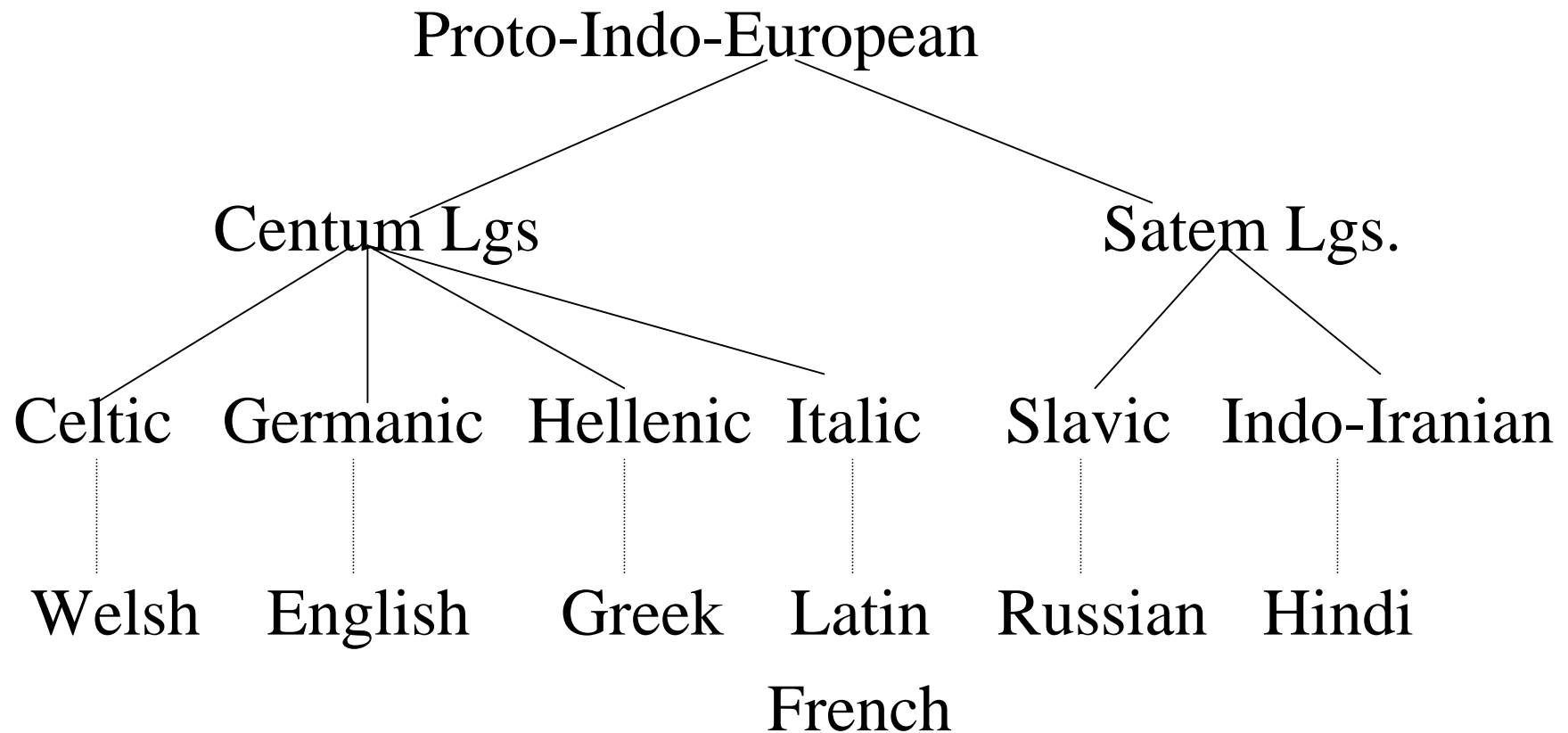
How did English get this way?

The historical and linguistic
background
of Modern English

Contacts between English and Latin/Greek/French

- English and Latin/Greek are related as cousins in the pre-history of the Indo-European languages
- Roman invasion of Britain (55 BCE-410CE)
- Norman invasion of Britain (1066 CE)
- Borrowing of scholarly words from Latin (16th-17th c.)

English and Latin/Greek are Cousins



Common Vocabulary of Indo-European Languages

<u>Sanskrit</u>	<u>Latin</u>	<u>Greek</u>	<u>English</u>
<i>pad-</i>	<i>pod-</i>	<i>ped-</i>	<i>foot</i>
<i>pitar</i>	<i>pater</i>	<i>pater</i>	<i>father</i>
<i>tanu-</i>	<i>tanaos</i>	<i>tenuis</i>	<i>thin</i>
<i>star-</i>	<i>aster</i>	<i>stella</i>	<i>star</i>
<i>*wespero-</i> <i>evening</i>	<i>vesper</i> <i>evening</i>	<i>hesperos</i> <i>evening</i>	<i>west</i>

ws Grimms' Law

The Historical Background of Old English

- 1000 B.C.E. Celts settle British Isles
- 55 B.C.E. Roman raids
- 43 C.E. Roman occupation of 'Britannia'
- 410 Romans leave British Isles
- 449 Germanic tribes defeat Celts
- 500 Arthur (a Celt) halts Germanic advance
- 597 Pope Gregory sends a mission to convert the Anglo-Saxons

Celtic Words borrowed into Old English

- Place names: *London, Leeds, Kent*
- Rivers: *Avon, Thames*
- Geographical descriptions: *dune, down, dun (the color), bannock*

The Celts were conquered by the Anglo-Saxons and their power was broken. So the small number of Celtic words borrowed into English is not surprising

The Historical Background of Old English (2)

- c. 700 Caedmon's Biblical poetry
- 731 Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (in Latin)
- 722 *Beowulf* composed *
- c. 800 Cynewulf's *Lives of the Saints*
- 871-901 King Alfred repels Danes
commissions *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* *
(in English)
- 9th-11thc. Viking invasions

Latin Words borrowed into Old English

- while tribes were still in mainland Europe
bank, mint, mouse, cheese
- from Celts after Anglo-Saxon invasion
ceaster (Westchester) Latin castra ('camp'), port
- through Christianity after 597 A.D.
 - *abbot, alms, altar, angel, anthem, ark, candle, canon, chalice, cleric, disciple, epistle, hymn, martyr, mass, noon, nun, offer, organ, palm, pope, priest, provost, rule*
 - *beet, lentil, pear, radish, doe, oyster, lobster, mussel, cook*
 - *pine, balsam, lily, marshmallow, plant*
 - *school, master, notary*

Linguistic Effects of Latin on OE

- Latin introduced into English
 - a modest vocabulary (see previous slide)
 - a system of writing
 - a tradition of written literature

Old English (OE) (449 - 1066)

How English worked
before it met up with Latin

English Irregular Plurals & Verb Forms

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Modern English

Prehistoric Old English

goose *geese*

gos *gosiz*

tooth *teeth*

toth *tothiz*

foot *feet*

fot *fotiz*

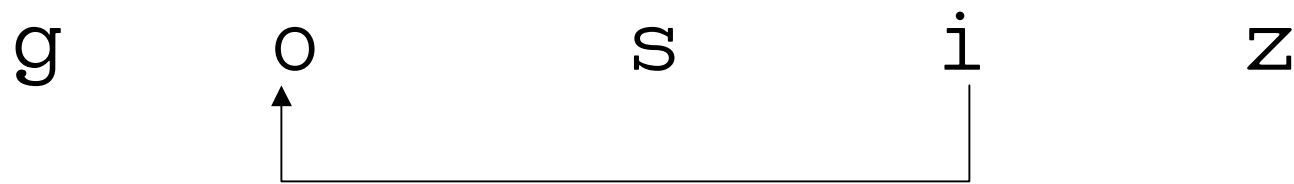
fill *full*

full *fulljan*

deem *doom*

doms *domjan*

Evolution of the Irregular Forms



- The front feature of the vowel in -iz spread to the root vowel o
- When the first vowel became a front vowel, the plural was distinguished from the singular by this vowel and the -iz dropped away.

OE Vowel Lengthening

- OE had short and long vowels

god *God*

gōd *good*

ac *but*

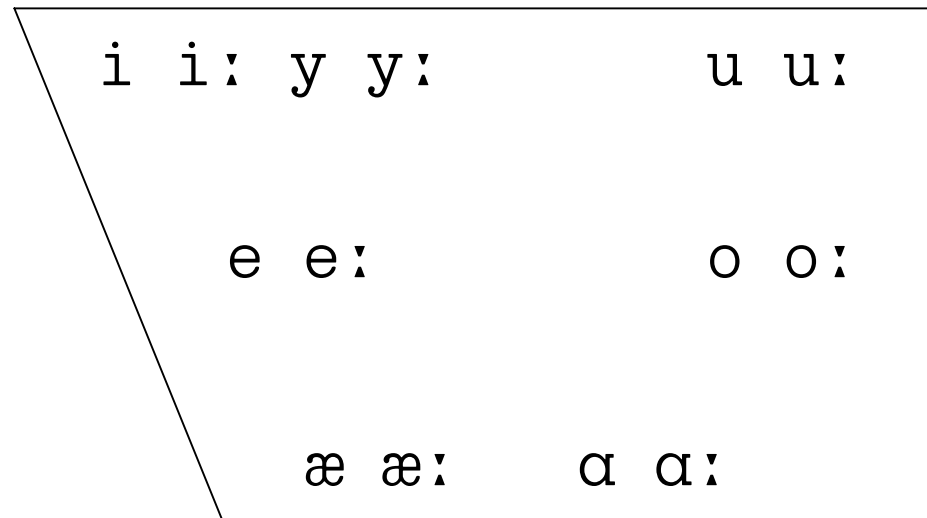
āc *oak*

is *is*

īs *ice*

Old English Vowel Chart

Pure vowels:



Diphthongs:

dēop *deep*

heofon *heaven*

ēast *east*

nearu *narrow*

OE Consonant Lengthening

- OE had short and long consonants

bed *prayer*

bedd *bed*

lȳt *little*

lȳtt *bow* (3rs sing pres)

man *one* (indefinite pronoun)

mann *man*

Consonant Length in Mod English

- It is difficult to borrow into a language that has length as a differentiator of meaning
- Consonant length is phonemic only across morpheme boundaries

home aid

home made

lamp ad

lamp pad

book ace

book case

ws: Stress

Stress in Old English (1)

- Nouns & Adjectives: stress on 1st syllable

lé o da (*people*)

ánd-fengness (*reception*)

bí-spell (*proverb*)

gó da (*good*)

cræf tiʒ (*skilled*)

stress on first syllable

Stress in Old English (2)

- Verbs

fín dan (to find)

pánc i an (to thank)

ze có re ne (chosen)

be lí ef an (to believe)

for 3í e fan (to forgive)

Stress on first syllable of root

Stress in Old English (3)

- Compounds

lár hus *(school)*

bóc cræftiȝ *(learned)*

súnd wudu *(swimming wood)*

gód spellere *(evangelist)*

Stress on first syllable

Stress in Old English (summary)

- Old English stress was simple
- Stress on first syllable except for verbal prefixes
- Heavy stress on first syllable led to reduction of final syllable vowels by 10th c.
- Final syllables were dropped in Middle Eng.
be lí ef an became be líeve

OE Word Formation (Inflections)

3rd Singular Personal Pronouns

	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.
Nominative	hē	hēo	hit
Genitive	his	hīe	his
Accusative	hine	hiere	hit
Dative	him	hiere	him

OE Word Formation (Inflections)

3rd Plural Personal Pronouns (*they, their, them*)

	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.
Nom	hīe	hīe	hīe
Gen	hiera	hiera	hiera
Acc	hīe	hīe	hīe
Dat	him	him	him

OE Word Formation (Inflections)

- Nouns, Adjectives, Articles were also inflected

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
Nom	þæt scip <i>the ship</i>	þā scipu
Gen	þæs scipes	þāra scipa
Acc	þæt scip	þā scipu
Dat	þāem scipe	þāem scipum

Inflection makes borrowing more difficult.

OE Verb Inflections

OE verbs were inflected for

- Tense: singþ *sings*
 sang *sang*
- Person: singe *I sing*
 singest *you sing*
 singþ *s/he sings*
- Number: singe *I sing*
 singap *we sing*
- Mood: singap *we sing*
 singen *we would sing*

Strong and Weak Verbs

- A strong verb forms its past tense and past participle by changing the vowel of its root form: *sing, sang, sung*
- OE maintained a set of strong verbs from Indo-European: *singan, sang, 3esungen*

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Strong, irregular forms make borrowing difficult

- A weak verb forms its past tense and past participle by adding a [t],[d], or [əd], spelled -ed in PDE: *love, loved, loved*
- OE, as a Germanic language, also had weak verbs: *lufian, lufode, lufod*

Major Word Formation Types in Old English

- Derivational Affixation

cræftiƷ cræft, iƷ

ūncuƷ ūn, cuƷ (*uncouth*)

- Compounding

lagu-cræftiƷ sund-wudu

- Borrowing

candel (L. *candela*) *candle*

cappel (L. *cappa*) *chapel*

cirice (Gr. *kyriakos*) *church*

Word Loss

While Old English added many words to the lexical stock through affixation, compounding, and borrowing, it also lost many words for various reasons.

Reasons for Word Loss

- Words become so short as to be non-distinct
ēa - river, stream
- Sound changes make 2 words non-distinct
læt an - let, lett an - hinder, delay
- Cultural and technological changes
ofweorpan - to stone to death
- Taboos
gewitan - to go away, to die

Reasons for Word Loss

- There are no true synonyms; words compete for the same semantic spot
weorðan lost its spot to *become*, from Old Norse and *be* in the passive
- Dialect merging
ātorcoppe, lobbe, spiðra (*dialectal words for 'spider'*)
- Prestige
French *journey* replaced OE *sip*
French *people* replaced OE *lēode*

Word Formation in English

(a digression)

The Building Blocks of Language

- Sound (Phonetics and Phonology)
- Word Formation (Morphology) ← *our main interest*
- Sentence Formation (Syntax)
- Meaning (Semantics)

Morphology

the rules of word formation

- The study of the structure of words
- Words are made up of one or more morphemes
- Morphemes cannot always be identified as separate words

in *unhappy*, *happy* is a word, but *un-* is not

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The Inflectional Morphemes of Modern English

<i>dogs, mens</i>	noun plural
<i>girl's</i>	noun sg. possessive
<i>girls' men's</i>	noun pl. possessive
<i>keeps</i>	verb 3rd sg. present
<i>keeping</i>	verb present participle
<i>waited, kept</i>	verb past tense
<i>waited, known</i>	verb past participle
<i>older, better</i>	adjective comparative
<i>oldest, best</i>	adjective superlative

English Inflectional Morphemes

- are always suffixes (attach at the end of a stem)
- do not change meaning or part of speech of the stem
(*want, wants, wanted*)
- typically occur with all members of some large class
(most nouns have a plural)
- occur after all derivational suffixes (*establishmentarians*s)

English Derivational Morphemes

- can attach at the beginning (prefix) or end (suffix) of a stem
- typically occur with only some members of a class of morphemes (*-hood* occurs with only a few nouns)
- change meaning or part of speech

happy, unhappy

luck, lucky (N, Adj)

- occur before the inflectional suffixes

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Major Word Formation Types in Modern English

- Derivational Affixation
reboot, email, hacker
signal, contemplative, glamorous
- Compounding
download, offline, upbeat, cell phone
bittersweet, rainbow, hanger-on
- Conversion
a table *to table a motion*
separate tables *to separate the eggs*

Morpheme Death

- the decomposability of a word may be lost over time

daisy < *dæges eage* (*day's eye*)

alive < *on lif* (*in life*)

husband < *hús* house + late OE. *?bónda*,
ON. *bóndi*, peasant owning his
own house and land

Morphemes per Word across Languages

Chinese - one word one morpheme

Ni men ti hua wo pu tu tung.

you plural possessor language I not all understand

Eskimo - one word many morphemes

niuvittiugiattugiaqaniga.

niuvitti -u -giattu -giaqa -ni -nga

*clerk be go to have to propositional his
nominalizer*

Middle English (ME) (1066 - 1509)

The first large linguistic invasion
from the Romance languages

The Historical Background of Middle English

- Beginning
1066 William Duke of Normandy invades;
defeats the Anglo-Saxons at the
Battle of Hastings
- End
1509 Henry VIII becomes King

There are 3 subperiods of ME in which English
declined, then rose, then supplanted French

ME: 1st Historical Period

- Anglo-Saxon nobility were wiped out at Hastings
- Norman French nobility replaced English nobility
 - > government, education, arts, social life are conducted in French
- the feudal system was imported from France
- peasants became bound to the land
 - > little communication among English speakers
 - > dialect differences become greater, weakening the language

ME: 1st Historical Period (cont.)

- England is united for the first time under William
 - > Languages of the Danelaw, Wales, and Cornwall are supplanted
- the last great *Germanic* invasion of England; the Normans (Norsemen) were actually Germanic
 - > Norman French was influenced by Germanic

ME: 2nd Historical Period

- 1204 King John loses Normandy to France
 - Nobles had to choose lands in France or England
 - > those who chose England were more likely to speak English
 - > education, government now conducted in English
- Pilgrimages became popular
 - > brought English speakers from different dialects together

ME: 3rd Historical Period

- 1348 the Black Death begins
 - the plague killed 1/3 of the English population
 - workers became scarce
 - feudal system broke up as workers traveled to find better work
 - > break down of dialect differences

ME: 3rd Historical Period (cont.)

- 1337-1453 Hundred Years War with France
(Joan of Arc)
 - France is the enemy
 - > French no longer spoken in England
- 1476 William Caxton introduces printing press in London
 - > rise of a London dialect standard

Lexical Borrowing from French (11-12th c.)

- Titles: *baron, count, duke, marquis, peer, prince, sovereign*
- Administration: *council, country, crown, government, nation, people*
- Law: *accuse, attorney, court, crime, judge, justice, prison*
- Religion: *clergy, parish, prayer, relic, religion, saint*
- Military: *armor, battle, castle, tower, war*
- Arts: *art, beauty, chant, color, column, music, paint, poem*
- Fashion: *apparel, costume, dress, fashion*

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Stress Change in ME

OE	ME
Márc̄hes	of Márc̄h
rótan	to the róote
wátere	in lícour

- Cases that were marked by unstressed endings in OE were marked by unstressed prepositions in ME.
- Articles (unstressed *the, a, an*) were introduced
- stress bearing syllable shifted from beginning of phrase to end of phrase.

Shift in Perceived Rhythm from OE to ME

háef.dě sě gó.dǎ zé.ǎ.tǎ lé.ǒ.dǎ

cém.pǎn zě.có.rě.ně þárá þě hě cé.nǒs.tě
dactylic

whǎn thǎt áp.rǐll wǐth hǐs shóu.rēs sóotě

thě dróghtě ǒf márch hǎth pércěd tǒ thě róotě
iambic

Middle English Morphology

Prepositions

OE Prepositions

æfter, *æf* *before*, *æt*, *be* *by*
binnan *within*, būtan *without*,
for, fram, mid *with*,
of *from*, ofer, on *on/in*,
oþ *until*, tō, þurh,
ymbe *about*, under, wiþ
against

ME Prepositions

OE prepositions plus:

above, according to,
around, along, among,
because, behind, beneath, beside,
between, during, except, in, into,
out of, pending, unto, etc.

- Why would a language bring in so many prepositions?

Prepositions Replaced Dying Noun Inflections

<u><i>Singular</i></u>	<u><i>Strong Masc</i></u>	<u><i>Weak Masc</i></u>
<i>Nominative</i>	hund	name
<i>Genitive</i>	hundes	names
<i>Accusative</i>	hund	name
<i>Dative</i>	hund	name

- Nouns were no longer distinguished on the basis of gender
- The only distinct case was the genitive (possessive)

Prepositions Replaced Dying Inflections

<u>Plural</u>	<u>StrongMasc</u>	<u>Weak Masc</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	hundes	names
<i>Genitive</i>	hundes	names
<i>Accusative</i>	hundes	names
<i>Dative</i>	hundes	names

Why did English lose inflections?

- maximum number of IE endings was never realized in OE
- stress on root syllable led to reduction and loss of final, inflected syllables
- OE had a *comparatively* fixed word order
- loanwords had to be adapted to English
Norman French only had the singular/plural distinction

ME Morphology: Verbs

- ME retained the 7 strong classes of verbs
rise/rose/risen, creep/crept/crept, sing/sang/sung
- ME retained the weak class of verbs
- ME added separable verbs (common in Old Norse but not in OE):

At nyght were come in to that hostelrye

he first bigan/to riden out

and whan he myghte out-bryinge/The nexte word

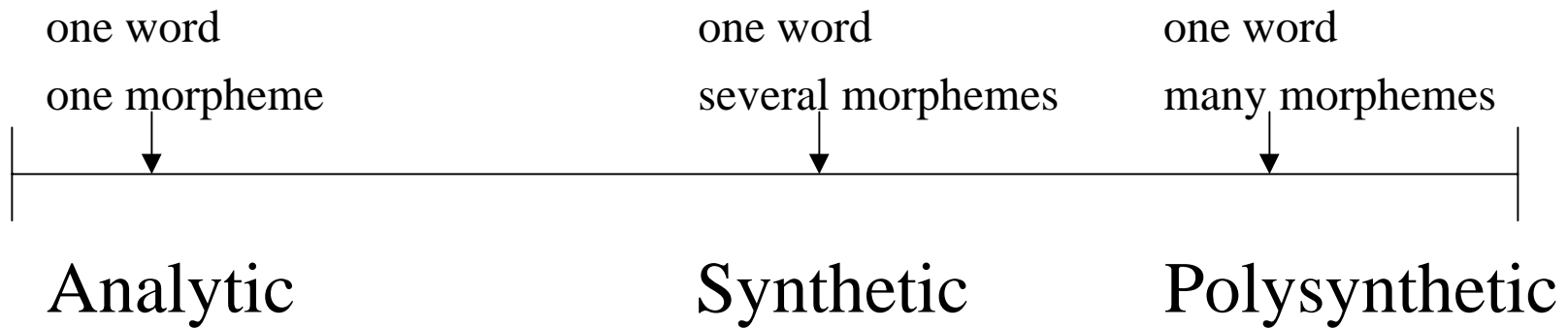
ME Morphology: Verbs (2)

- ME greatly increased the number of periphrastic verb phrases
swa bēoþ þā fyrmestan ytemeste
so *the first shall be last.*

þā þā menn slēpon
While the men were sleeping

þās ytemestand worhton āne tīd
These last have worked one hour

Morphology Summary



- In ME, English shifted towards the analytic
- Analytic languages borrow words more easily

ME Summary

- Borrowing from Norman French pushed English to lose most of its inflections
- Loss of inflections made English open to easy borrowing

Chaucer. The Canterbury Tales. 1400

Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote
And bathed every veine is swich licour
Of which vertue engendred is the flour;
Whan Zephirus eek with his sweete breeth
Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
The tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
Hath in the Ram his halve course yronne . . .
Thanne longen folk to goon on pigimages,

Language Change

(a digression)

- Semantic Borrowing
- Sources of Language Change
 - Social
 - Linguistic

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Semantic Borrowing

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- Vocabulary that refers to the immediate family, body parts, daily needs and routines is known as core vocabulary.
- Languages do not borrow their core vocabulary from other languages.

Social Sources of Change

- Splitting of a language community
 - > separate dialects (*dialects of vulgar Latin*)
 - > separate languages (*Spanish, French, Italian, Roumanian*)
- Contact with other languages through
 - invasion (*Vikings & French changed English*)
 - commerce (*Pidgin and Creole languages*)
 - immigration (*NYC English?*)

Social Sources of Change (2)

- Pressures within a community to imitate
 - a prestige form
 - a form that identifies the speaker as part of a group by
 - race
 - social class
 - gender

Linguistic Sources of Change

- Minimization of Articulatory Effort
 - *greasy* [grisi] → [grizi]
it's easier to pronounce a sequence of voiced sounds
 - *always* [ɔlweɪz] → [ɔweɪz]
 - *it's hard to shift from rounded [ɔ] to unrounded [ɪ]*
- mitigated by Perceptual Effort
 - if you lose differences between sounds, it may become too difficult to distinguish them
 - *It was awful. It was all full.* are hard to distinguished in an [ɪ]-drop dialect.

Linguistic Sources of Change (2)

- Functional load - the communicative job done by a particular linguistic form
 - forms with a high functional load are less likely to change
 - forms with a low functional load are more likely to change
 - forms which are well-integrated into the linguistic system* are less likely to change (e.g., /θ/ vs. /ð/)

*fit into a larger pattern

Linguistic Sources of Change (3)

- Analogy - the generalization of a pattern to irregular forms

Irregular forms tend to become regular, depending on their functional load

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Sources of Language Maintenance

- an acknowledged standard

What speakers do we hold up as the standard?

- a written form

English moved toward a standard with the introduction of the printing press into London in 1476

- a high level of contact among the speakers

But speakers still identify linguistically with their subgroup(s)

Early Modern English (EME) (1509-1800)

The second large linguistic invasion
from the Romance languages

EME: The Rise of English

O, good my lord, no Latin!

I am not such a truant since my coming

As not to know the language I have liv'd in.

*A strange tongue makes my cause more
strange, suspicious;*

Pray, speak in English.

-William Shakespeare

Caxton's Printing Press (1476)

- froze English spelling
- slowed the rate of language change
- the presses were located in London
 - > rise of the London dialect
 - > regional dialects were not written down
- books became available to lower classes
- lower classes knew only English
 - > created a need for translation
 - > led to borrowing from Latin, Greek, French
- writers no longer required a rich patron

The English Renaissance (15th-16th centuries)

- revival of interest in classical learning
- translations of Plutarch, Plato, Virgil, Ovid, Homer
- English prose style modeled on Latin
- *Lyly's Grammar* (1540) - first Latin grammar in English
 - > Latin grammar became the model for English grammar books: "A nounce is the name of a thinge, that may be seene, felte, heard, or understande"

The Protestant Reformation (1500's)

- belief that people should read the Bible themselves
 - > King James Bible (1611)
- Church (Latin) monopoly on education was broken
- transfer of responsibility for education from church to state

The Rise of Nationalism

- Elizabeth I was excommunicated by Rome in 1570
 - > rejection of Latin as a literary language
 - > sense of Englishness
 - > pride in the English language
 - > conscious desire to produce a national literature

Spenser's *Faerie Queene* (1590)

The Enclosures (16th-17th centuries)

- tenants evicted for more pasture use for wool trade
- tenants drifted to cities
 - > further dilution of regional dialects
- rise of a middle class
 - > linguistic handbooks to ‘improve’ speech

Codifying a Changing Language

The Monolingual Dictionary

- a Modern English Phenomenon

- Speakers of OE and ME had no use for an English-to-English dictionary
 - prior to the borrowing of Latin and Greek words, English had a much smaller word stock
 - prior to writing
 - spelling was not standardized
 - people exercised their memories more
- The increasing word stock in EME brought dictionary creation

English-to-English Dictionaries

- 1604 Robt. Cawdrey. *A Table Alphabeticall*
list of 1200 rare & borrowed words
- 1656 Thos. Blount. *Glossographia*
first to give word origins
- 1702 John Kersey. *A New English Dictionary*
first to include everyday words
- 1747 Samuel Johnson. *A Dict. of the Engl Lg*
first to use illustrative quotations

Latinate Borrowing

- Until the 16th c. Latin was the language of scholarship. Bacon, Newton, Milton all wrote in Latin.
- English lacked the vocabulary for the learning introduced in the Renaissance.
- The rising middle class did not have the time or interest to master Latin itself.
- So borrowing from Latin was the easiest route.

A Sampling of Lexical Borrowings from Latin (1500-1650)

- **Anatomy:** *aural, dental, lingual, labial, digital, manual, pedal, visual, oral, cerebral, mental, cardiac, sanguine*
- **Astronomy:** *lunar, solar, terrestrial, stellar*
- **Government:** *military, domestic, urban, regal*
- **General science:** *analysis, data, experiment, formula, machinery, mechanics, molecule, nucleus, organic, ratio, structure*
- **Zoology:** *avian, feline, canine, equine, bovine, human, masculine, feminine*