



HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
DEPT. OF ENGLISH
S. HARRIS

VOCABULARY (PRE-MIDTERM)

MORPHOLOGY & PHONOLOGY

Affix (prefix,, suffix); Stem; Root; Morpheme; Phoneme; Semantics; IPA notation (vowel space and consonants) and identification; Vowel grades

TAXONOMY

Cognate languages; loanword; dialect; Inflectional, Agglutinating, and Isolating languages; Satem; Centum; Celtic; Italic; Germanic (East, West, North); Old High German; Low German; Old Norse; Frisian; Dutch

Issues

1. Jones, Grimm, Bopp, and the philological method
2. The role of stress in language change.
3. Sources for our knowledge of Germanic languages.
4. European language families.

CHANGE

Pejoration; Amelioration; Broadening; Narrowing; Loan Word; Coinage; Clipping; Acronym; Blend; Portmanteau; Alphabet; Lenition; Aphaeresis; Apocope; Syncope; Cluster reduction; Metathesis; Vowel breaking; Assimilation; Umlaut

PROTO-INDO EUROPEAN TO GERMANIC. Inflection, Gmc /k/ → OE [k], [ch]; Gmc /g/ → OE [g], [ȝ], [j]; Gmc /sk/ → OE [sh]; Gmc /gg/ → OE [dj]; New phonemes; Double consonants (e.g. <dd>); Gmc /h/ → OE [h], [ç], [x]; OE <hw>, <kn>, <gn>; Breaking; Palatal Diphthongization; I-Umlaut; Bishop Ulfilas; Prosody; Pitch vs. Stress; laryngeal; Grimm's Law; Verner's Law; Morphological effect of umlaut;

Issues

1. West Gmc breaking
2. Social mechanisms of language change (why shift accent?)
3. I-umlaut, I-umlaut, I-umlaut

OLD ENGLISH.

Sources of lexicon; phonological inventory; Analogy; dialect pressure; Germanic Stress Rule; ablaut; rhoticism; umlaut, nominative, dative, accusative, genitive, singular, plural; Runes & Futhorc (Thorn, Eth, Wynn, Yogh, Asc); quantitative vowel distinction; plain adverb; alphabet change; digraphs (sh, ch, dg, wh, gu); loss of inflection; phonemic changes (f/v, s/z); loss of long consonants; initial h → ø; ge → y or i; apocope of unstressed consonants; y unrounds; new diphthongs; allophones of /g/; ic → I; unrounding of /y/; intrusive b, d, t; <k> distributed for <c>; /mb/ → /m/; diphthong smoothing; epenthetic schwa; long and short vowels; plain adverb; allographs; u → o (e.g., *son*); thorn <þ> → <th>; loss of inflection; role of prepositions; prosody; grammatical gender; strong verbs; weak verbs; perfective tense; levelling; shall vs. will; infinitive and passive infinitive; negatives; negative contractions; synthetic vs. analytic; Dialects (West Saxon, eWS > IWS, Anglian [Mercian, Northumbrian], Kentish)

History & Culture

Bede; Augustine; Caedmon; Cynewulf; Ælfric; Wulfstan; 597 AD; 449 AD; 1066 AD; 4 Codices of Anglo-Saxon poetry (Junius, Exeter, Vercelli, Vitellius A.xv); Old English Meter; oral formulaic theory; Literary Dialects vs. Spoken language; Literacy; Liturgy; Charms; Benedictine Reform;

Issues

1. Reason for increase in phonemic inventory
2. Quantitative distinction between long and short vowels
3. Epigraphy, manuscripts, and regularization of spelling
4. Weakening of strong verbs
5. Reasons for the loss of inflections