



MIDDLE ENGLISH AND PHONETIC FEATURES



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Abstract: *The Middle English period (1150–1500 AD) represents a critical phase in the evolution of the English language, particularly shaped by the Norman Conquest of 1066. This period witnessed profound phonological, grammatical, and lexical changes. The influence of Norman French introduced a wealth of loanwords, especially in the areas of law, governance, and culture, while the Great Vowel Shift marked significant alterations in the pronunciation of vowels. Additionally, grammar simplified, with the reduction of inflectional endings and the standardization of word order. These transformations laid the foundation for Modern English, setting the stage for further linguistic developments.*

Keywords: *Middle English, Phonological Changes, Lexical Borrowings*

Аннотация: *Период Среднеанглийского языка (1150–1500 гг.) является критическим этапом в эволюции английского языка, особенно сформированным Нормандским завоеванием 1066 года. В этот период произошло значительное изменение фонологии, грамматики и лексики. Влияние нормандского французского языка привнесло множество заимствованных слов, особенно в области права, управления и культуры, в то время как Великое смещение гласных привело к значительным изменениям в произношении гласных. Кроме того, грамматика упростилась, с сокращением флексийных окончаний и стандартизацией порядка слов. Эти трансформации заложили основу для современного английского языка и подготовили почву для дальнейших языковых изменений.*

Ключевые слова: *Среднеанглийский язык, Фонологические изменения, Заимствованные слова*

Annotatsiya: *O'rta ingliz tili davri (1150–1500 yillar) ingliz tilining rivojlanishidagi muhim davrni tashkil etadi, ayniqsa 1066 yildagi Norman istilosi ta'siri ostida. Ushbu davrda fonologiya, grammatik va leksik o'zgarishlar yuz berdi. Norman fransuz tilining ta'siri orqali, asosan huquq, boshqaruv va madaniyat sohalarida ko'plab so'zlar ingliz tiliga kirib keldi. Shuningdek, Katta unli o'zgarish (Great Vowel Shift) ingliz tilining talaffuzini sezilarli darajada o'zgartirdi. Grammatik jihatdan esa, so'zlarning o'zgarish shakllari kamaydi va so'z tartibi standartlashtirildi. Ushbu o'zgarishlar, zamonaviy ingliz tilining poydevorini yaratdi va keyingi lingvistik rivojlanishlar uchun zamin yaratdi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *O'rta ingliz tili, Fonologik o'zgarishlar, Leksik qarzarlar*





MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS

The Middle English period (1150–1500 AD) represents a critical phase in the evolution of the English language. Following the Old English period, Middle English was significantly shaped by the Norman Conquest of 1066. This event led to the introduction of Norman French as the language of the ruling class, the court, and legal institutions, creating a bilingual society where Old English and French coexisted.

The Norman Conquest: The introduction of French vocabulary, especially in legal and administrative contexts, profoundly impacted English. Many French words were adopted into the English language.

Bilingual society: English-speaking commoners and French-speaking elites lived side by side. This bilingual environment fostered significant cross-linguistic influence, particularly in terms of vocabulary.

Anglo-Saxon heritage: Despite the Norman influence, Old English continued to impact everyday speech and structure, providing a foundation for the evolution of Middle English.

During this period, the language underwent significant changes, including the gradual loss of inflectional endings, simplification of sentence structure, and the adoption of many French and Latin loanwords.

The phonology and grammar of English underwent profound transformations during the Middle English period, setting the stage for the development of Modern English.

Vowel shifts: One of the most important phonological developments during this period was the Great Vowel Shift, which began in the late Middle English period and continued into Early Modern English. This series of changes affected the pronunciation of long vowels, altering the sounds of words and leading to the development of a more modern English phonetic system.

Consonant simplifications: In Middle English, there was a simplification of consonant sounds. For example, the "h" sound was dropped in many words, and unstressed syllables were often lost. This helped streamline the language and contributed to its easier pronunciation.

Simplification of inflections: Old English had a complex system of noun declensions and verb conjugations. Middle English marked a shift toward simpler grammatical structures. Many cases of nouns and verbs were reduced, and the language moved towards a more fixed word order (e.g., subject-verb-object).

Development of word order: Middle English saw the emergence of a more rigid word order, which eventually became characteristic of Modern English. This shift helped standardize sentence structures, making them clearer and more efficient.

Middle English is particularly notable for its substantial lexical expansion, much of which came from French, Latin, and other languages. The borrowing of words during this period enriched the English lexicon, especially in fields such as law, religion, governance, and the arts.





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French borrowings: Due to the dominance of the French-speaking Norman rulers, many words related to law (e.g., "court," "jury"), government (e.g., "parliament," "council"), and culture (e.g., "courtly," "noble") entered English.

Latin borrowings: Latin continued to be the language of the Church and intellectual life. Words from Latin influenced religious terminology (e.g., "altar," "bishop") and philosophical or academic discourse (e.g., "doctrine," "philosophy")

Germanic roots: While French and Latin enriched the English vocabulary, many basic words continued to come from Old English and other Germanic sources, preserving the core structure and vocabulary of the language.

In conclusion The Middle English period represents a transformative era in the history of the English language. The phonological shifts, grammatical simplifications, and lexical expansions that took place during this time laid the groundwork for Early Modern English. The influx of French and Latin words, coupled with the political and cultural changes of the time, helped shape a language that was increasingly recognizable as the precursor to the English we speak today. Through these developments, English became more streamlined, diversified, and capable of expressing a wide range of ideas, setting the stage for the linguistic evolution that would follow in the Early Modern English period.

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