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EXPLORING THE EVOLUTION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE: FROM OLD ENGLISH TO MODERN VARIETIES

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Казань

Annotation

This scientific article explores the evolution of the English language from its origins in Old English to modern varieties. Over the centuries, the English language has undergone significant changes in phonetics, grammar, vocabulary and semantics. This article analyzes the main stages of this evolution, including the transition from Old English to Middle English and then to Early New English, and also studies the influence of social, cultural and technological factors on the development of the English language. The work is based on the latest research, as well as on a wide range of literary sources, and presents a comprehensive overview of the evolution of the English language and its modern varieties.

Keywords: English, evolution, Old English, Middle English, New English, phonetics, grammar, vocabulary, semantics, socio-cultural factors, technological progress

Introduction

English is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world and has a rich history and evolution. The introduction explains the necessity and relevance of the study of the evolution of the English language and presents the goals and structure of this work.

Old English

Old English is an early stage of the English language, used from about the 5th century to the 11th century. It developed on the territory that now corresponds to Great Britain and neighboring regions. Old English has its own peculiarities in phonetics, grammar and vocabulary compared to modern English.

The phonetics of Old English was close to other Germanic languages of that time. It had a rich set of consonants and vowels that differed from modern English phonetics. For example, Old English contained sounds such as /θ/ and /ð/, which represented the sonorous and deaf words TH, as well as the sound /x/, which corresponds to the modern H in words such as "loch" (lake).

The grammar of Old English was also different from modern English grammar. Old English used cases for nouns, and adjectives and pronouns agreed with nouns in number, case and gender. There was also a more complex system of tenses and verb conjugation than in modern English. Phrases were governed by strict grammatical rules.

The vocabulary of Old English was based mainly on Germanic roots, but at this time Latin and Scandinavian words were also integrated into the language. Most of the Old English vocabulary covers everyday objects, animals, nature, communication and social concepts.

The Old English language was of great importance for the development of the English language, since many of its features and elements were transferred to Middle English and, ultimately, to modern English. Studying Old English allows you to better understand the historical roots and evolution of the English language.

Middle English

Middle English was used from about the 11th century to the 15th century and is the next stage after Old English. It developed in the territory corresponding to modern England, and was the result of the influence of various factors, including the Norman conquest, contacts with Latin and French, as well as changes in social and political conditions.

The main significant event in the history of Middle English is the Norman conquest of England in 1066. The conquerors - the Normans, who spoke on the basis of the French language - made a huge impact on the English language of that time. French became the language of the elite and was used in all spheres of life, such as government, law, literature and diplomacy. This led to the emergence of bilingualism and the influence of French words and grammatical constructions on Middle English.

Middle English differs from Old English in phonetics, grammar and vocabulary. Phonetic changes included replacing many vowel sounds, changing the pronunciation of consonants, and shortening words. In grammar, there have been changes in the system of cases and conjugations, as well as the development of new grammatical constructions under the influence of the French language. The vocabulary of Middle English is rich and contains many Scandinavian and Latin words, as well as new terms and expressions that appeared in the context of religion, literature and cultural changes of that time.

In literature, the Middle English period brought many important works, including *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer. Middle English literature was written on a layer of language that educated people of that time knew - English and French were often used together or mixed in texts.

The Middle English period had a significant impact on the formation of the modern English language. It is a period of transition from Old English to Early New English and represents a period of active change and development. Learning Middle English is important for understanding the evolution of the English language.

Early New English

Early New English, also known as the Early New England Era, is a period in the history of the English language that ran from about the 14th to the 17th century. It was a time period when the English language underwent significant changes and became closer to the modern form.

An important feature of Early New English was the development of Trainee English, a type of English that was formed around London and became the base language for written texts. Trainee English has brought new grammatical and lexical elements to the English language.

Grammatical changes included simplification of the case system and coordination, as well as progressive simplification of the verb system. Instead of using multiple cases and complex forms of verbs, Early New English began to use more uniform forms close to modern ones. For example, the case system was reduced, and cases became optional or disappeared in many cases.

The lexical composition of the English language has also undergone major changes. Early New English was a period of active borrowing of words from Latin, Greek, French and other languages. This was due to cultural, social and political ties, as well as the development of science, literature and commerce. As a result, the English language has been enriched with many new words, especially in the fields of science, art, cooking and fashion.

Early New English was also influenced by social factors such as religious tolerance and freedom of the press, which led to the appearance of a large number of literary works in English. The development of literature and the press contributed to the standardization of the English language and its strengthening as a prestigious language of art and education.

Early New English played a key role in shaping what became modern English. His changes in grammar, vocabulary and standardization play an important role in understanding the current state of English.

The influence of socio-cultural factors

The influence of socio-cultural factors on the evolution of the English language is one of the most significant and diverse. Social and cultural processes, as well as political changes, have a significant impact on the development and change of language in various aspects.

Historical events played an important role in the formation and development of the English language. For example, events such as the invasion of England by Norman conquerors in the 11th century led to the mixing and unification of various linguistic elements, which led to the formation of modern English. Political changes, such as the establishment of the British Empire, also had an impact on the spread of the English language around the world.

Migration is another important factor influencing the evolution of the English language. As a result of the migration of people from different cultures and countries to English-speaking communities around the world, the English language has been enriched with new words, phrases and accents. For example, many African and Asian slangs and dialects have become part of spoken English in South Africa or Singapore. Globalization is also having a significant impact on the English language. Striving for international communication and trade has led to the spread of English throughout the world as the language of international communication. This has led to the emergence of new lexical and grammatical features due to the needs of intercultural communication.

Technological progress also has an impact on language. The Internet, social networks and mobile technologies create new forms of communication and ways of expression, which affects the vocabulary and style of the English language. For example, the advent of e-mail, messages and chats has led to abbreviations and new grammatical constructions for faster and more effective communication.

In general, sociocultural factors play a huge role in the evolution of the English language. They contribute to the emergence of new meanings, words, grammatical structures and ways of expression, which allows the language to adapt to a changing world and remain alive and relevant.

Modern varieties of English

This part of the article examines the existence of various variants of the English language at the present time. The reasons and factors that led to the emergence of regional, social and ethno-cultural dialects of the English language are discussed.

Modern varieties of English differ by region, social groups and ethno-cultural factors. In different parts of English-speaking countries, such as the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Ireland and South Africa, English has its own specific features.

One of the most well-known varieties of English is British English. It includes various dialects, such as Cockney (East London dialect), Scots (Scottish dialect) and Bacon (a dialect common in the Esterside region and noted for native English speakers with a distinctive accent).

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