**HANOI OPEN UNIVERSITY**

**FACULTY OF ENGLISH AND MODERN LANGUAGES**

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**HISTORY**

**OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**Họ và tên sinh viên:PHẠM LAN HƯƠNG**

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**Gỉang viên phụ trách:**

Attachment sheet:

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**HANOI- YEAR 2012**

**PREFACE**

As far as you know,English which is an complex mix of material and cultural trends is an international language.It has great impacts on communication technology, growing economic globalsation ,scientific inquiry and major demographic shifts.Its origin is also complex and overcomes lots of development’s stages.In my writing,I will mention to 2 basic stages to form English:Old and Modern English.What are the main differences between them?(about grammar,vocabulary….).From then on,we can speculate on how the English language might develop in the future?

**CONCLUSION**

English will enjoy a special position in the multilingual society of the twenty-first century.It will be the only language to appear in the language mix in every part of the world.This,however it does not call for an unproblematic celebration by native speakers of English.Yesterday,it was the world’s poor multilingual;tomorrow it will be the global elite.So we must not be hypnotized by the fact that this elite will speak English;the more significant fact may be that,unlike the majority of present-day native English speakers,they will also speak at least one other language –probably more fluently and with greater cultural loyalty.

\*My composition is divided into 2 main sections,each followed by a summary of main points and references.

* Section 1:The origin and development of English through many stages(especially Old and Modern English).
* Section 2:The development of English in the future.

*\*How did Old English differ from Modern English?Can you explain this with reference to both grammar and vocabulary?*

Although Old English is a basic base to form and develop Modern English.But,in fact,there have been great differences between them about their origin as well as their usages(grammar and vocabulary).

The following table will show the development of English from Old to Modern English:

|  |  |  |
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| **Differences** | **Old English**  **(450-1100 AD)** | **Modern English**  **(1500-Present)** |
| ***Origin*** | \*The invading Germanic tribes spoke similar languages,which in Britain developed into what we now call Old English.  It is a West Germanic language closely related to Old Frisian. | \*Modern English (sometimes New English as opposed to Middle English and Old English) is the form of the English language spoken since the Great Vowel Shift in England, completed in roughly 1550. |
| ***Grammar*** | \*Old English had a grammar similar in many ways to Classical Latin, and was much closer to modern German and Icelandic  than modern English in most respects, including its grammar. It was fully inflected with five grammatical cases (nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, and instrumental), two grammaticalnumbers  (singular and plural) and three grammatical genders (masculine, feminine, and neuter). |  |
| **1.Morphology**   * **Noun** | \***Nouns** have endings for number, case, and gender. We already commented on the  plural *-as*, as, the dative singular *-e*, *folce* ,and the dative plural *–um*. Endings such as those on the noun *stan* ‘stone’ are themost common noun  endings.  \* **Table 1.1.** **Some Old English weak noun endings.**  *Guma(M)’man’*  **Singular**  NOM guma  GEN guman  DAT guman  ACC guman  **Plural**  NOM guman  GEN gumena  DAT gumum  ACC guman  **\*Old English noun classes**  +Like *stan*: *aþ* ‘oath’, *coss* ‘kiss’, *cyning* ‘king’, *dom* ‘judgement’, *hlaf* ‘loaf ’, *hund* ‘dog’.  +Like *word*: *bearn* ‘child’, *deor* ‘animal’, *folc* ‘people’, *gear* ‘year’, *land* ‘land’, *sceap* ‘sheep.  +Like *lufu*: *faru* ‘journey’, *giefu* ‘gift’, *racu* ‘narrative’, *sceadu* ‘shade’, and *scolu* ‘troop’  +Like *sunu*: *lagu* ‘lake’, *medu* ‘mead’, and *wudu* ‘wood’  +Like *guma*: *eafora* ‘son’, *mona* ‘moon’, *naca* ‘boat’, *nama* ‘name’.  +Like *folde*: *hruse* ‘earth’, *sunne* ‘sun’, and *hacele* ‘cloak’.  \*The ending of the **adjective** is very intricate in Old English.  . If no demon-  strative precedes the adjective in Germanic, the adjective gets a more distinctive (strong)  ending to ‘make up’ for this lack; if the adjective is preceded by a demonstrative, it gets a  less varied (weak) ending.  **\*Table 1.2.The forms of the adjective ‘good’ in Old English.**  *\*Weak:*  **Singular M F N**  NOM goda gode gode  GEN godan godan godan  DAT godan godan godan  ACC godan godan god *\*Strong*  **Singular** **M** **F** **N**  GEN godes godre godes  DAT godum godre godum  ACC godne gode god  **\*Plural** **M** **F** **M** **All**  NOM gode goda god godan  GEN godra godra godra godra  DAT godum godum godum  ACC gode goda god godan  **Adverbs** tell us about the place, time, reason, and manner of an action; they modify the verb. In Old English,they are formed by several diﬀerent endings: *-e* and -*lice* (which later becomes *-ly*):  Ex: *heofodwoþe hlude cirme*  **\*Reﬂexive pronouns**, such as *myself* and *himself*, do not occur in Old English, except  in later texts.  \***Table1.3.** **Old English Pronouns**  **Singular Dual Plural**  *First*  NOM ic wit we  GEN min unce ure  DAT me unc us  ACC me unc usic  *Second*  NOM bu git ge  GEN bin ince eower  DAT be inc eow  ACC bec inc eowic  **Auxiliaries** are not frequent in Old English. Modern English modal auxiliaries such  as *can, could, will*, and *would* are regular verbs in Old English *(wille* ‘want’)  \*The **endings on verbs** depend on the tense (past and present), the person and number (of  the subject), and the mood (imperative andsubjunctive). \*They are divided into **strong**  **and weak**, but these terms are used diﬀerently than when describing adjectives. Strong  verbs change their stem vowels in the past tense and the past participle. There are still  quite a number of strong verbs in ModernEnglish:*sing, sang, sung*; *drive, drove, driven;*  etc. Weak verbs get a regular *-ed* inﬂection: *talk, talked, talked* and *plant, planted, planted*.  \***Table 1.4**. **An Old English Strong verbs .**  **Indicative Subjunctive**  *Present*  ic drife  þu rifest  he/o drif(e)ð  we/ge/hi drifað  *Past*  Ic draf  þu drife  he/o draf  we/ge/hi drifon  *Past Participle* (ge)drifen  🡪The stem vowels in the present are long, but short in most of the past forms. This is not indicated in the paradigms. However, we can see the evidence for this in the contempo-rary pronunciation of *drive* [draiv] and *driven* [drIvәn] since the long [ij] shifted to [aj] during the Great Vowel Shift but the short [I] remained [I].  \* The present and past for two weak verbs are provided in **Table 1.5** (for the indicative mood). The subjunctive and imperative moods are only provided for *fremman* ‘do’; those of *herian* ‘praise’ are very similar. Notice the *-d-* in the past tense, a precursor to Modern  English *-ed*. |  |
| **.Adjective**   * **Adverb**   **.Pronoun**  **.Auxiliaries**   * **Verbs** |  |
|  | **Table 1.5. Old English weak verbs**  **Pre.In** **Sub** **Im**  Ic fremme ‘do’ ic herie‘praise’ ic fremme  Þu frem(e)st þu herest þufremme freme  he/heo/hit frem(e)þ he/heo/hit hereþ he/heo/hit fremme  we/ge/hi fremmaþ we/ge/hi heriaþ we/ge/hi fremmen fremmaþ  **Past**  ic fremede ic fremede  Þu fremedest þu fremede  he/heo/hit fremede he/heo/hit fremede  we/ge/hi fremedon we/ge/hi fremeden  **Past Participle** (ge)fremed and (ge)hered |  |
| **2.Syntax**  **Vocabulary** | \*Since the **subjunctive** ending is no longer common in Modern English, it might be  good to look at an example in Old English:  Ex. *Ic wille … þæt þu forgyte þæt ic þe nu secge*  I want that you-S forget-SUBJ that I you-S now say  ‘I want you to forget what I am telling you now.  \*There are also some **irregular verbs** that survive into Modern English such as *to be*,  for which the Old English paradigm is given Table 1.6.  **Table 1.6.Verb ‘’tobe’’in Old English.**  **Indicative** **Subjunctive** **Imperative**  *Present*  ic eom  þu eart/bist  he/o sie/beo  we/ge/hi sind(on)/beoþ    *Present*  ic sie/beo  þu sie/beo wes/beo  he/o sie/beo  we/ge/hi sind(on)/beoþ  *Plural*  sien/beon wesaþ/beoþ  *Past Past S* wære  ic wæs  þu wære  he/o wæs  we/ge/hi wæron  *Past P* wæren  *Future*  ic beo  þu bist  he/o biþ  we/ge/hi beoþ  *Participles* wesende/beonde/gebeon  We will start with the relatively **free word order**. There are a few rules. Usually pro-  nouns occur near the beginning of the sentence repeated here .  Ex+.***He*** *ælfrede cyninge aðas swor & gislas sealde*.  *+þæt* ***ðec*** *dryhtguma deaþ oferswiþeþ*.  \*The verb often occurs at the end, especially in subordinate or embed-ded sentences.The  verb can also occur in second position This occurs mostly in main clauses:  (*þy ilcan geare* ***for*** *se here ofer sæ*  \*The way to calculate what is called **verb-second** is to ignore the initial ‘and’, and not to  count actual words but the constituents or phrases. In ‘’*þy ilcan geare* ‘in the same  year’ forms a unit and is therefore counted as one position. Once one takes that into ac-  count, the verb *for* is in second position. Old English is, in this respect, very similar to  German and Dutch.  +There are two kinds ofquestions: *y es/no* and *wh*-questions.  \* **Pleonastic** (or dummy or grammatical) subjects, such as *there* and *it,* are frequent in  Modern English but do not occur in Old English. There is also a construction that is called  impersonal since there need not be a nominative subject.  Ex:*Hu lomp eow on lade, leofa Biowulf*  how happened you-DAT on trip, dear Beowulf  ‘How was your trip, dear Beowulf ’? (*Beowulf* 1987)  +The auxiliary verb *do* is not used in questions (or with  negation). The auxiliaries *be* and *have* occur but are infrequent.  ‘’*we … þrymgefrunon*  we … glory heard  ‘We have heard of the glory’.  +Past action is indicated through aﬃxes, such as the -*on* suﬃx for the past plural, and also  through the (aspectual) preﬁx *ge-*,. This *ge-* preﬁx still occurs in languages such as Dutch and German, but disappears gradually throughout the Middle English period  (going from *ge-* to *i/y* to nothing).Sentences can beconnected in a number of ways. Old English often uses no connec-tion or coordination with *and*, indicated in the manuscript  **\*Table 1.7.** **Synthetic and other characteristics of Old English**  **Morphology**:  a. An elaborate pronominal system as a result of case.  b. No real articles, only demonstratives  c. Nouns have endings depending on whether they are subjects or objects.  d. Adjectives agree with the nouns they modify in case, number, and gender, and are either weak or strong  e. Verbs are marked depending on whether they are weak or strong.  **Syntax**:  f. Omission of subject pronoun, prepositions, and articles  g. Relatively free word order (even though the verb and pronoun have more ﬁxed positions)  h. Limited use of auxiliaries: *He ær com* ‘He had come before’ |  |
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