**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 theplural *-as*, as, the dative singular *-e*, *folce* ,and the dative plural *–um*. Endings such as those on the noun *stan* ‘stone’ are themost common nounendings.\* **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 aless varied (weak) ending. **\*Table 1.2.The forms of the adjective ‘good’ in Old English.***\*Weak:***Singular M F N**NOM goda gode godeGEN godan godan godanDAT godan godan godanACC 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 godanGEN godra godra godra godraDAT 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, exceptin 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 suchas *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 (ofthe subject), and the mood (imperative andsubjunctive). \*They are divided into **strong****and weak**, but these terms are used diﬀerently than when describing adjectives. Strongverbs change their stem vowels in the past tense and the past participle. There are stillquite 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 ModernEnglish *-ed*. |  |
| **.Adjective*** **Adverb**

**.Pronoun****.Auxiliaries*** **Verbs**
 |  |
|  | **Table 1.5. Old English weak verbs****Pre.In** **Sub** **Im**Ic fremme ‘do’ ic herie‘praise’ ic fremmeÞu frem(e)st þu herest þufremme fremehe/heo/hit frem(e)þ he/heo/hit hereþ he/heo/hit fremmewe/ge/hi fremmaþ we/ge/hi heriaþ we/ge/hi fremmen fremmaþ**Past**  ic fremede ic fremedeÞu fremedest þu fremedehe/heo/hit fremede he/heo/hit fremedewe/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 begood 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 eomþu eart/bist he/o sie/beowe/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/gebeonWe 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.Theverb 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 tocount actual words but the constituents or phrases. In ‘’*þy ilcan geare* ‘in the sameyear’ 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 toGerman 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 inModern English but do not occur in Old English. There is also a construction that is calledimpersonal 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 withnegation). 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 alsothrough 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 demonstrativesc. 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 stronge. Verbs are marked depending on whether they are weak or strong.**Syntax**:f. Omission of subject pronoun, prepositions, and articlesg. 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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