



## THE EVOLUTION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE: FROM OLD ENGLISH TO MODERN ENGLISH

Mekhrangiz Komilova

National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

**Abstract:** The English language has undergone significant changes over the centuries, from its earliest form as Old English to its current iteration as Modern English. Old English was heavily influenced by the Anglo-Saxon invasion and the spread of Christianity, while Middle English was characterized by a mixture of French and Old English vocabulary. The Early Modern English period saw significant changes to the language's grammar and vocabulary, including the Great Vowel Shift and the introduction of many new words borrowed from Latin and Greek. The standardization of English spelling and grammar also occurred during this period. These changes have helped to shape the English language into the global language that it is today.

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**Key words:** Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English, Anglo-Saxon invasion, Great Vowel Shift, Latin and Greek influence, French influence, Standardization of English spelling and grammar, English literature Globalization.

## ЭВОЛЮЦИЯ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА: ОТ СТАРОГО АНГЛИЙСКОГО К СОВРЕМЕННОМУ АНГЛИЙСКОМУ

**Аннотация:** Английский язык претерпел значительные изменения на протяжении столетий, от его ранней формы как древнеанглийского языка до его нынешней итерации как современного английского языка. Древнеанглийский язык находился под сильным влиянием англосаксонского вторжения и распространения христианства, в то время как среднеанглийский характеризовался смесью французской и древнеанглийской лексики. В период раннего современного английского языка произошли значительные изменения в грамматике и словарном запасе языка, в том числе Великий сдвиг гласных и введение многих новых слов, заимствованных из латыни и греческого языка. В этот период также произошла стандартизация английской орфографии и грамматики. Эти изменения помогли превратить английский язык в глобальный язык, которым он является сегодня.

**Ключевые слова:** древнеанглийский язык, среднеанглийский язык, ранний современный английский язык, англо-саксонское вторжение, великий сдвиг гласных, латинское и греческое влияние, французское влияние, стандартизация английской орфографии и грамматики, английская литература. Глобализация.

## **ИНГЛИЗ ТИЛИНИНГ ЭВОЛЮЦИЯСИ: ЭСКИ ИНГЛИЗ ТИЛИДАН ЗАМОНАВИЙ ИНГЛИЗ ТИЛИГА**

**Аннотация:** Инглиз тили асрлар давомида, қадимги инглиз тилидаги энг қадимги шаклидан тортиб, ҳозирги инглиз тилига қадар сезиларли ўзгаришларга дуч келди. Қадимги инглиз тилига англо-саксон истилоси ва насронийликнинг тарқалиши катта таъсир кўрсатган, ўрта инглиз тили эса француз ва эски инглиз луғатларининг аралашмаси билан тавсифланган. Илк замонавий инглиз даври тил грамматикаси ва луғатида сезиларли ўзгаришларни кўрди, жумладан, катта унлиларнинг ўзгариши ва лотин ва юнон тилларидан олинган кўплаб янги сўзларнинг киритилиши. Инглиз тили имлоси ва грамматикасини стандартлаштириш ҳам шу даврда юз берди. Ушбу ўзгаришлар инглиз тилини бугунги глобал тилга айлантиришга ёрдам берди.

**Калит сўзлар:** Эски инглиз, ўрта инглиз, эрта замонавий инглиз, англо-саксон истилоси, катта унли силжиши, лотин ва юнон таъсири, француз таъсири, инглиз имлоси ва грамматикасини стандартлаштириш, инглиз адабиётининг глобаллашуви.

### **Introduction**

The English language has come a long way from its beginnings as a collection of Germanic dialects spoken by small groups of people on the British Isles. Over the centuries, it has been shaped and transformed by a variety of factors, including invasions, migrations, and global expansion. In this article, we will explore the evolution of the English language, from its earliest form of Old English to its current iteration as Modern English.

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#### **Old English (450-1100 CE)**

The earliest form of English, known as Old English, was spoken in England from around the 5th century until the Norman Conquest in 1066. It was a West Germanic language, with many similarities to other Germanic languages such as Old Norse and Old High German. However, Old English had its own unique characteristics, including a complex system of inflections and a vocabulary that was heavily influenced by Latin and Greek.

One of the most significant factors that shaped Old English was the invasion of the Anglo-Saxons, a group of Germanic tribes who migrated to England from the continent in the 5th century. These tribes brought with them their own dialects, which eventually merged to form what we now know as Old English.

### **The Main Findings and Results**

Another important influence on Old English was the spread of Christianity throughout England. Latin was the language of the church, and many Latin words and phrases were incorporated into Old English as a result. Additionally, the introduction of the Latin alphabet meant that the English language was able to be written down for the first time.

#### **Middle English (1100-1500 CE)**

Following the Norman Conquest in 1066, Old English began to evolve into Middle English. The Normans, who were of French origin, brought with them the French language and culture, which had a significant impact on the English language. Middle English was therefore characterized by a mixture of French and Old English vocabulary, as well as a simplification of the complex inflectional system found in Old English.

One of the most famous works of Middle English literature is Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, which was written in the late 14th century. The language used in

the Canterbury Tales is significantly different from Old English, but it still contains many words and phrases that are recognizable to modern English speakers.

During the Middle English period, many words were borrowed from other languages, including Latin, French, and Norse. This borrowing helped to expand the English vocabulary and create new words that are still in use today.

#### Early Modern English (1500-1800 CE)

The Early Modern English period saw significant changes to the English language, both in terms of its grammar and vocabulary. One of the most important factors that shaped Early Modern English was the Great Vowel Shift, a series of changes to the pronunciation of English vowels that occurred between the 15th and 17th centuries. This shift resulted in the pronunciation of many words being different from their spelling, which can still cause confusion for English learners today.

Another significant influence on Early Modern English was the Renaissance, which brought with it a renewed interest in the classical languages of Latin and Greek. This interest in ancient languages led to the introduction of many new words into the English language that were borrowed from Latin and Greek.

The Early Modern English period was also characterized by the standardization of English spelling and grammar. The first English dictionary, written by Samuel Johnson, was published in 1755, and helped to establish many of the spelling and grammatical rules that are still in use today.

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