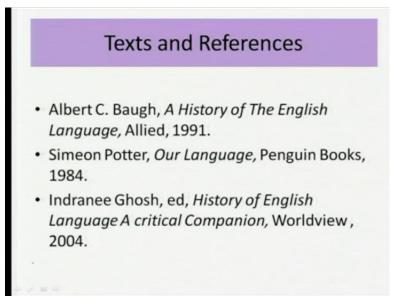
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Module - 02 History of the English Language Lecture - 08 Old English

Welcome back to NP-TEL, The National Program on Technology Enhanced Learning. You have been with us for whole module that was introductory in the nature, module that dealt with various aspects of nature that are of particularly, of contemporary interest, for instance, like international English, the globalization of English, world Englishes, the rise of cultural studies, etc, We are now in the second module. In fact, this is the second lecture in this module. The first lecture being general introductory in nature, sorry, and this lecture is entitled old English. Now, this may be today, for many of you only, of certain historical interest or for some of you, maybe get by understanding the development of English from the time on the Anglo-Saxons.

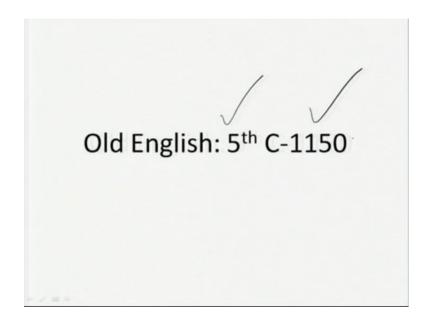
In the first module, we had a lecture entitled the English language in which, many of the things that we, or some of the things that we are going to talk about in this module, already addressed. What we today is look at the beginning of this English language, and you would be; those of you who are not yet acquainted with would be really surprised to see how different this so called old English was, when compared to even, early modern English or modern English, or contemporary English or Englishes as we know then, today. You have learnt by now, at least, this; that English belongs to the Indo-European group of languages in the lecture on the English language we had, dealt with some of these pieces of information.

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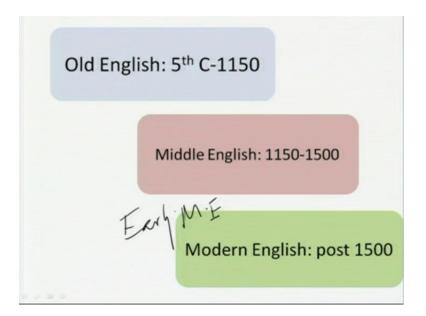
Today, let us look if only at from a curiosity, from a historical curiosity and historical linguistic curiosity about the English language and its, sort of, antecedents, right. So, welcome then, again, to what I hope is going to be an interesting module on development of language that is used by so many, today. As always, let us look at the texts that are going to be with us at this essay, and I must say that the I am looking at some of the more well established texts; texts that are still used today, used as text books in particularly, under graduate English major courses in different parts of India and also, abroad. The first text is, and I am sure many of you are acquainted with the name of Professor Albert C. Baugh, AC Baugh's book, A History of The English Language, which has now been through several editions. Simenon Potter's beautifully written Our Language, published by penguin books. I have also included an edited volume, edited by Indranee Ghosh, entitled History of English Language A critical Companion. So, as with so many of my lectures, what I am going to do is I am going to bring in extracts from these books, and then, explain those extracts as we begin to talk about the phase of English known as old English, fine.

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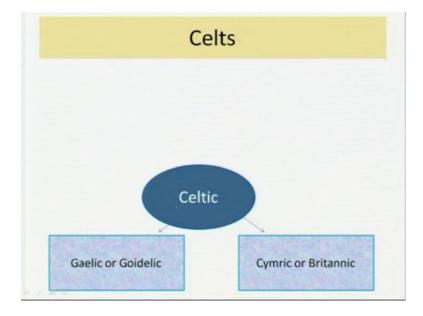


Despite of few differences, very minor, almost trivial differences indeed, it is usually, an established fact today that historically, we ascribe the period from the middle of; please look at the slide; from the middle of the 5th century to the middle of the 12th century, as the time or duration of the kind of English that we call old English, today. So, it is from the 5th century to somewhere, around 1150; the 12th century; that we call the time or the period of old English.

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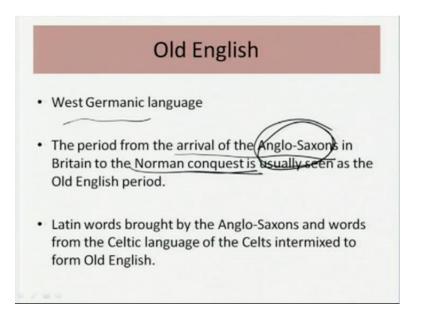
So, this is what we have also seen earlier. Let me again, look at this, so that, we can place the different historical phases of the English, the development of the English language, the old English; 5th century to 1150, middle English; some 1150 to 1500. Modern English is post 1500; for some also, add an intermediate stage before modern English known as early modern English, but we can, safe to say that these are the three phases of the English language development.



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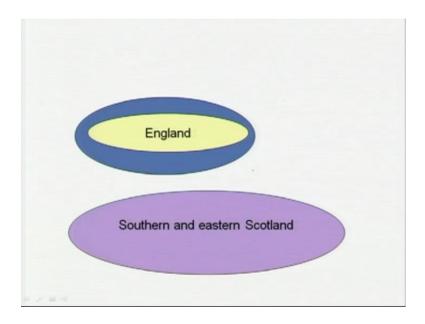
Now, we also came across this that the original inhabitance; one can today use such a term; inhabitance were before the coming in of the Anglo-Saxons; the inhabitance were the Celts, and the Celtic language; please look at the slide; the Celtic language may be divided into Gaelic or Goidelic, and Cymric or Britannic, right. So, before old English propel, we head the Celtic language.

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Now, if you ask someone what is old English; how do we characterize old English; one of the first things we have to say of course, is that it belongs to a sub branch of the Indo-European language branch, and the sub branch is known as West Germanic language. In fact, it is said that the old English, the old English phase of the English language is similar in many aspects to the German language; to modern German, compared to modern English. So, it comes from West Germanic as a language, and the period; please look at the slide; the period from; this is a very important historical event or a series of events; the period from the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons. This is a term you need learn, immediately. The Anglo-Saxons, or coming in of the Anglo-Saxons into this island. So, the period from the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons in Britain to the Norman conquest is usually, seen as the old English period. So, what was the first way in which, in the first kind of taxonomy, we had used what; we had used dates; we had said that from the 5th century to the middle of the 12th century, is designated the period of old English. Now, we look at that the designation of the period from the point of view of two conquests; two important conquests. So, the period from the arrival Anglo-Saxons to Britain to its conquest or two whole conquests by the Normans; this period is known as old English. So, the Latin words; next point; the Latin words brought by the Anglo-Saxons and words from the Celtic language of the Celts, intermixed to from old English.

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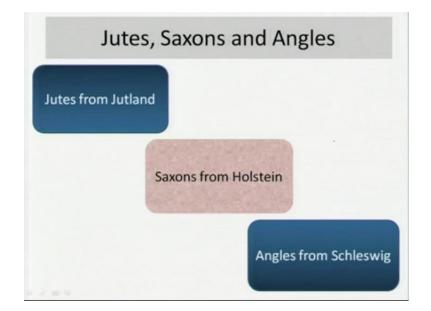
Just a while ago, remember, we learnt that there are two varieties of the Celtic language, and then, with the coming in of the Anglo-Saxons, we had; in the general way, we can say that old English contains words from these tribes, if you may use the word, European tribes, that came into Britain and the already existing Celtic language. Hence, Latin words brought by the Anglo-Saxons and words from the Celtic language of the Celts, intermixed to form old English. Now, if we look at this slide, if we look at the map of modern England, right; today's England, you would then, say that, or the United Kingdom, sorry, you would say that this old English was prevalent in most parts of England, and in Scotland; in the southern and eastern parts; so, England and the southern eastern parts of Scotland where, we would have found this old English language; prevalent. So, let us then, look at, remember, Simeon Potter's book on English language; similar text with us; let us see how he mentions; from where, we get the idea old English. (Refer Slide Time: 10:15)

Simeon Potter

"Our knowledge of it is derived from *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, which was written in Latin by the Venerable Bede about 730, nearly three centuries after the first Jutes, Hengist and Horsa, landed at Ebbsfleet in the Isle of Thanet in 449."

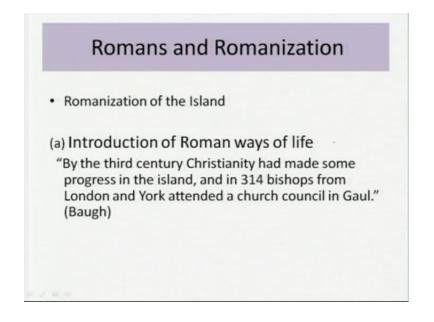
He points to one word in particular. He says, I am quoting him, he says our knowledge of it is of old English is derived from the ecclesiastical history; from this word; ecclesiastical history of the English people, which was written in Latin by the Venerable Bede about 730, nearly 3 centuries, after the first Jutes, Hengist and Horsa landed at Ebbsfleet in the Isle of Thant in 449. So, this ecclesiastical history of the English people is an important source of our knowledge of old English. Now, when we talk about the Anglo-Saxons conquest, we refer to three different tribes that invaded England. These were the Jutes, the Saxons and the Angles.

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The Jutes came from Jutland or Jatland; the Saxons from Holstein, and the Angles from Schleswig. This is known as Anglo-Saxons conquest; the Jutes, the Saxons and the angles.

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The other important factor here is also, the Romanization of the Britain; Romanization of the island. For instance, AC Baugh says that regarding the introduction of Roman ways of life, by the third century, Christianity had made some progress in the island, and in 314 bishops from London and York, attended a church council in Gaul. Next, he says about the introduction of Latin in Britain. Latin did not replace the Celtic language in Britain, as it did in Gaul. Its use by native Britons was probably, confined to members of the upper classes and the inhabitants of the cities and towns.

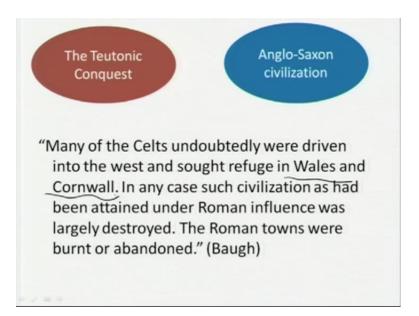
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(b) Introduction of Latin in Britain "Latin did not replace the Celtic language in Britain as it did in Gaul. Its use by native Britons was probably confined to members of the upper classes and the inhabitants of the cities and towns." (Baugh)

"To the English intruders the Celts offered neither friendship nor culture, and little by little the latter were driven westward." (Potter)

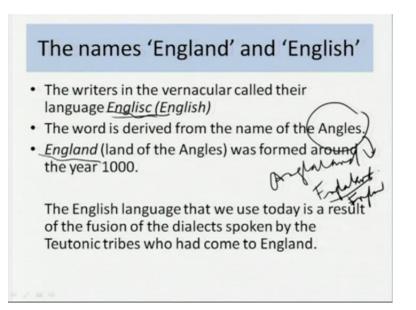
On the other hand, Potter has this information to give; to the English intruders, the Celts offered neither friendship nor culture, and little by little, the latter were driven westward. So, we find that the Celtic places to it, was limited and as Potter mentions here, they offered neither friendship nor culture, and little by little, the latter, that is the Celts, were driven more to the westward part of the island. We know that most of England and southern and western parts of Scotland are where, the old English phase of English language is today, accepted to have been extent. Then, Baugh goes on to say about the conquest.

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Many of Celts, undoubtedly, were driven in to the west and sought refuge in; this is very important; Wales and Cornwall; still find the instance of language; many of the Celts, undoubtedly, were driven into the west and sought refuge in Wales and Cornwall. In any case, such civilization as had been attained, under Roman influence was largely destroyed. The Roman towns were burnt or abandoned. That is why, from the point of view of the civilizational change; if we may put it; not simply a conquest, territorial conquest, but also a civilizational; that is why, this period is extremely important; civilizational change that came over with the giving way; if I may use the word; giving way by the Celts and the destruction of the Roman influence, remarks a very important land mark in the history. Not only of the history of the English language; but also history of island, in general. So, what were the three tribes; they were the Jutes, and they were the Saxons, and they were the Angles. Do you know where the name English or England comes from? Out of the three, obviously, you would understand, you would guess that the word has its roots in the Angles.

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So, the names England and English, right; the writers in the vernacular called their language English with this spelling, right. English is derived, the word is derived from the name of the Angles and England, which is called Anglaland; see Angles from Angles; Anglaland and later, Englaland from which, shortened to England, right. So, the name England is derived from the conquering tribe called the angles.

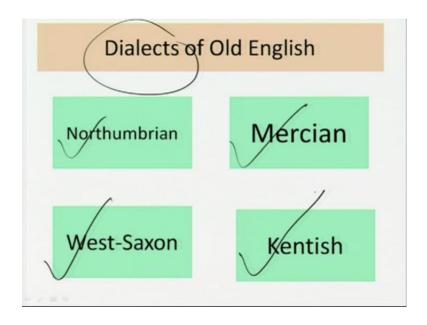
The word is derived from the name of the Angles, England that is land of the angles, was formed around the year 1000. Again, this, the year 1000 is generally accepted; it is not that there are no other scholars who claim probably, different dates near to this, but for genuine purposes, we accept the year 1000, right. The English language that we use today, is a result of; this is an important word; fusion; the result of the fusion of the dialects, spoken by these Teutonic tribes, who had come to England. So, it is a fusion of several dialects which, we are going to look at, right. An important point here, also regarding so called purity of the language; even, speaking from the political angle, from the cultural politics angle, you cannot really say that it is pure; any language is pure without the, sort of, quote unquote contaminated by any other language.

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	Iorthumbrian and Mercian: Region of the angles in the north of the Thames
• K	entish: Region of the Jutes in the southeast
• V	Vest Saxon: Region of the West Saxon
k	ingdom in the southwest
E	asis of the study of Old English: The
	nanuscripts found in the West Saxon dialect
f	orm the major part of Old English Literature.
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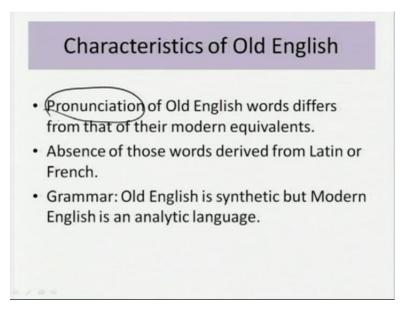
The English language itself began as a fusion, right. We know that there is Latin influence, the Celtic influence and the influence of the coming in of the Anglo-Saxons. The basis of the study of the old English on which, this other part that we are going to look at later; the basis of the study of the old English or the manuscripts that have been found in the west Saxon dialect; this forms the major part of old English literature. A bit about the literature; you can skip this slide for now.

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It is important to know that there was no one variety of old English. There were; it is today, recognized that there were four. It is accepted that there are four dialects or variants of old English. Now, we know that the word dialect today, of course, was contested, and dialects today, are claimed to be languages. Nevertheless, this is how we look at it from the conventional point of view. This lecture and the other lectures in this module, finally, down to modern English is I am going by the conventional way in which, this has been accepted and I am not really, getting into the politics of the history of the English language. We dealt with lot of dialects. In contemporary times that may the debate was more dense; there are many Englishes. Here, in this module, I am generally following as I mentioned in the beginning; such texts as AC Baugh or ones by AC Baugh and Simeon Potter. This is the accepted history, and hence, I am using words like dialects. So, there were four dialects of old English.

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These are the Northumbrian dialect, the Mercian dialect, the Kentish dialect and the West-Saxon dialect, right. Look at this; the Northumbrian, Mercian, West-Saxon and the dialect from Kent. So, these are the four variants; if I may use the word; of old English prevalent during the time. So, what are the characteristics then, of the English language during the time of old English? So, very basically, here, the characteristics of old English may be enumerated as follows. One is of course, a very different pronunciation; so, first point is regarding pronunciation. The pronunciation of old English words, differ from that of their modern equivalents. There is an absence of those words derived from Latin or French, and is a relative absence, and the grammar; old English is synthetic, but modern English is an analytic language. So, what are the three characteristics of old English; it is not that there are no other characteristics, but one of the first things you would notice, at least, is that pronunciation and script, are very different from the English that we use today.

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Grammar Distinction of Number(singular and plural) and Case Grammatical Gender was not dependent upon considerations of sex. For example, mona(moon) is masculine, sunne(sun) is feminine; maegden(girl), wif(wife), cild(child) are neuter, while wifmann(woman) is maculine because the second element of the compound is masculine.

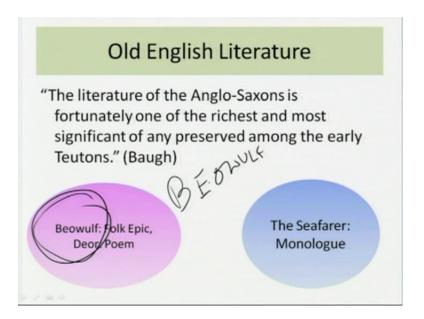
In grammar, there is a distinction of number, singular and plural and case. Grammatical gender was not dependent upon considerations of sex. For instance, mona moon is masculine; sunne son is feminine; maegden girl; wif wife; cild child are neuter; while wifmann woman is masculine, because the second element of the compound mann is masculine. This is another case of gender; there are several differences that we find from modern English. Then, I will quickly read through the other features, which are important as we study old English look at old English.

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- · Twofold declension of the adjective:
- Strong declension: used with nouns when not accompanied by a definite article. E.g. god mann (good man)
- Weak declension: used when the noun is preceded by an article. E.g. se goda mann(the good man)
- The fully inflected Definite Article
- The Personal Pronoun: singular, dual and plural forms
- The Verb: strong and weak verbs

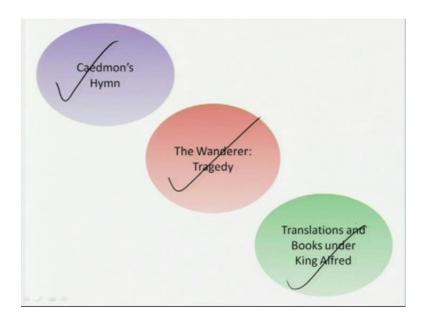
The Two fold declension of the adjective, the strong declension used with nouns, when not accompanied by a definite article, for instance, god mann or good man. Then, there is a weak declension used, when the noun is preceded by an article, for instance, the or se, goda mann or the good man. Then, the personal pronoun is singular or dual; it is singular, plural and dual form, that we did not use today, and the presence of strong and weak words.

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Now, coming to old English literature, the literature of the Anglo-Saxons' period in England is considered to be a very rich literature, right. As Baugh mentions, the literature of the Anglo-Saxons is fortunately, one of the richest and significant of any preserved, among the early Teutons. This is a text; look at this slide; this word or name, title of a text that many of you are familiar with; the text is Beowulf; if you can see this properly, Beowulf.

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There is also the seafarer, then Caedmon's hymn, the tragedy, the wanderer and the translation and books, under its very famous king known as king Alfred. So, if you get a question like, name a few couple of importance texts of old English literature; you would first, of course, mention Beowulf; talk about Caedmon's hymn among others and also, refer the translations that taken place under king Alfred.

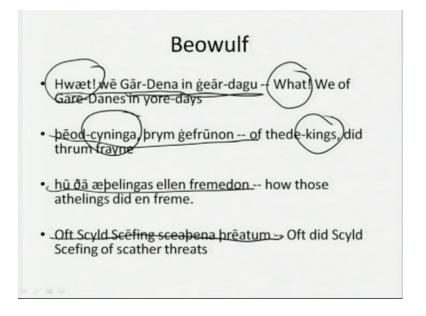
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Now, this is, I have actually taken it, this has been taken from the Wikipedia; I must acknowledge this here. Look at this script of old English. If you look at this script here,

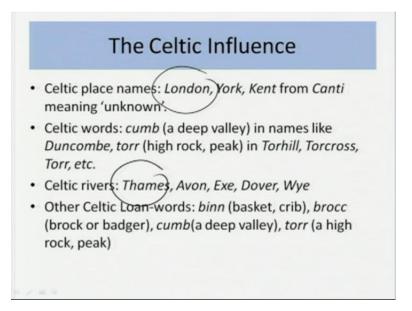
and if you look at the spellings, there is nothing here; I am sure that you are able to read this. This is an instance or this is an example of old English script, and then, in general, its language, and this is how the old English looks like.

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Then, I have also taken this from the Wikipedia, which is if you look at some lines from Beowulf, from poem Beowulf, look at this is the language in which, it has been written; an old English. If you look at the Hwaet, this is the corresponding modern variant of that. Then, this is another version, right. If we look at king; this is again, these are again, some other, right, some other examples from Beowulf. As you can realize, obviously, this is an English that surely, neither you nor I or anyone, who is not familiar with old English or trained in reading of old English; we are never going to be able to decipher this kind of script or language. So, what the list go back again, the Celtic influence; what did we learn in the beginning? There are two variants or two types of Celtic that were used during, just before the coming in of the Anglo-Saxon and the Jutes.

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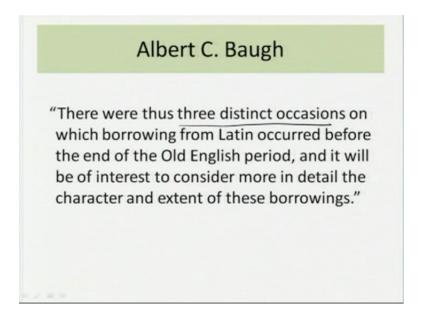
So, there are certain words form the Celtic language that has remained with us. It is not that we do not have that Celtic language formed only towards ways of Cornwall. There are certain words that have remained. For instance, Celtic place name; I am going to go through the list here, if you look at this slide. Celtic place names, like London, York, Kent from Canti, meaning unknown; these are the names that have remained. There are certain words; cumb, a deep valley, in names like duncombe, torr, high rock, peak in torhill, torross, torr, etc. and names with Celtic rules, for example, Celtic rivers like Thames, Avon, Exe, Dover and Wye. You can imagine the two most famous words really, and look at England, London and Thames are from Celtic, and other Celtic loan words, for instance, binn, basket, crib, brocc or badger, cumb, a deep valley, and torr, which we have already talked about. So, this whole thing or issue about the purity of the language or that language is Anglo-Saxon and at that time, when it comes only from the influence of Angles, Saxons and Jutes is really, a misconception. In every language in the world, we will find reminisce of the previous languages, and in different parts of a single country, we will find that in some areas, there are the influence more of the old language, that was there. There is a lot of variety, when we, even if we look at old English.

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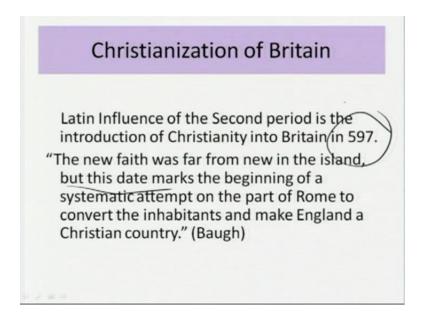
Then, the Latin influence; those that acquiring the considerable number of Latin words, evidences of a long Roman rule and additional Latin words that were acquired by the Celts, reintroducing of Christianity by Roman missionaries resulted in an extensive adoption of Latin elements.

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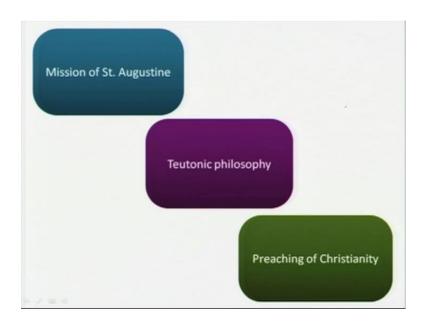
Also, the Latin elements are, which were taken earlier, acquired by the Celts have also remained uncharacterized some pause, at least, in old English. Now, regarding these borrowings, let me the quote from AC Baugh's book; A History of the English Language; Baugh said there were thus, three distinct occasions on which, borrowing from Latin, occurred before the end of the old English period. It will be of interest to consider more in detail; the character and extent of these borrowings. Of course, since, AC Baugh's work; lot of work has been done, lot of established work, of course, on this influence, particularly mentioned these three distinct of occasions in Latin words; Latin had an influence to which, happened before the end of the old English period.

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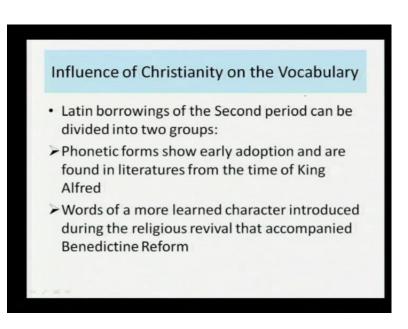
Regarding Latin influence again, the Latin influence of the second period is the introduction of Christianity in Britain in 597, and Baugh says the new faith was far from new in the island, but this date marks, this date 597, this date marks the beginning of a systematic attempt on the part of Rome to convert the inhabitants, and make England, a Christian country, right.

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This, you can refer here, to the mission of St Augustine; then, the genuine philosophy of the Teutons and the active preaching of Christianity.

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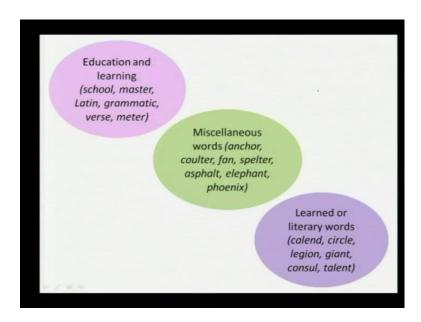
Now, the influence of Christianity on the vocabulary; we find that Latin borrowings of the second period of Christianity can be divided into two groups; phonetic forms that show early adoption and are found in literatures, from the time of king Alfred; and words of a more learned character, introduced during the religious revival that accompanied Benedictine reform.

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Now, for instance, early borrowings that we can refer to, which have stayed with the English language are church, the word church itself; then, bishop. Then, words that survive, may also included are abbot, disciple, epistle, hymn, temple; names of the articles like cap, sock, silk, purple, chest, mat, sack; words denoting food and plants; for example, beet, cauls, lentil, millet, oyster, doe, plant and mallow.

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Again, regarding education and learning; school, master, Latin, grammatical, verse, meter; and miscellaneous words like anchor, coulter, fan, spelter, asphalt, element

phoenix; and learned or literary words like calends, circle, legion, giant, consul and talent; this is influence of Latin. So, these are some of, for beginner introductory course, this is enough to know about old English, and what I will do now, instead of a recap; I will try and initiate a question answer sort of a section, a discussion. From all these discussion on old English, for instance, what are the most important points, which can come to you in the form on questions? If you are asked; what is the generally accepted date or period duration of old English, then you say that the old English period phase of the English language is supposed to be from 5th century, particularly, the middle of the 5th century to the middle of the 12th century. Precise dates are, of course, from the 5th century to 1150; that is the period of old English, right.

Again, what are the three generally accepted periods of the English language, in general; the history of the English language; these are of old English, middle English and modern English. We also have mentioned that early modern English is also, a phase that is added by history, right. Then, the next question we may ask is what is the sub branch, and that is the sub branch of old English? We know that eventually, English comes obviously, from the Indo-European language, falls into the Indo-European group of languages, but what is the sub branch; that we can refer to old English comes from West Germany. The next question would be if you do not look at the dates, from the point of view of the historical events, which order two important land mark events, right, which, sort of, encapsulates the old English period. Then, you would say that there are two important events, which mark the beginning of the old English and the end of the old English. These are the Anglo-Saxons conquest of the island, and on the other extreme is the Norman conquest. Following that again, the next question is what, who are the Anglo-Saxons are, you say, that are group of Maroting tribes that invaded England, and these were the Jutes, the Angles and the Saxons.

Now, if you get a question like where does the word England come from; the word England comes from the word name of one of these tribes, which is the Angles, and we first had Anglaland and Englaland, and finally, England. So, England owes its name to one of these three tribes, right. Then, the next question is if we have to identify those areas in which, old English was most prevalent, which are the areas? Before that, we know that the language extinct was Celtic, but we also known that Celtic came to be more or less replaced by old English, and the Celts, as mentioned by AC Baugh and

Potter that the Celts offered neither friendship nor culture, and they, sort of, migrated towards the western parts. Then, the answer would be England; most of what we call as England today, and the southern and eastern parts of Scotland. This is the area that we may identify today, as the area in which, old English was most prevalent. Then, for instance, if you are asked a question like what are the dialects of old English; that there are four dialects of old English, and these dialects are Northumbrian, Kentish, Mercian and West Saxon.

Then, when you are given a script of old English, what are the things that you are going to immediately mark, or what are the things that immediately, come to your attention that has been very different from modern English. Of course, are the spellings and the pronunciation of the script; remember, we have seen a script from Beowulf, one of the most important, perhaps, three most important Anglo- Saxon texts, and we found how difficult it would have been for us, without any training to understand those words. So, the grammar is synthetic while, modern English is analytic, and we also find the absence of French words. Then, we also find, as far as number is concerned, we find the presence of not just singular and plural, but also, something called the dual, right. Then, another question may be post two; name any two of the most important texts from old English literature, and we may site the examples of the Beowulf and Caedmon's hymn as the two most important texts from old English literature.

Then, what are the names that have remained from Celtic and Celtic influence, which are important words today, and we know that these are place names, or names of river, for instance like Avon, Thames; place names like London, Europe, and Kent, etc, are from Celtic; and words like cumb, a deep valley, and names like beginning with Torr, for instance, Torr means as you know, peak or a high rock; you have Torrhill, Torrcross, etc. One of the final questions would be about the Latin influence; the Latin influence, particularly, came even today, it was also in those; words like, even today, the words that came from at eclistiatical practices; words like for instance, church, words like church, words like bishop, right; hymn, temple, episel, abbott, disciple and names also of articles like silk, sock; names denoting foods like beet, plant, mallow, etc. Then, we also have words coming from education and learning like school, master and the Latin itself, dramatic, etc. These are for a course that is introductory in nature that is being taught in English in certain engineering colleges and IIT's in India. This is according to my thinking; this is enough for us to be acquainted with the old English literature. In the next class, we are going to look at the next phase, which is called the middle English phase of literature.

Thank you for now.