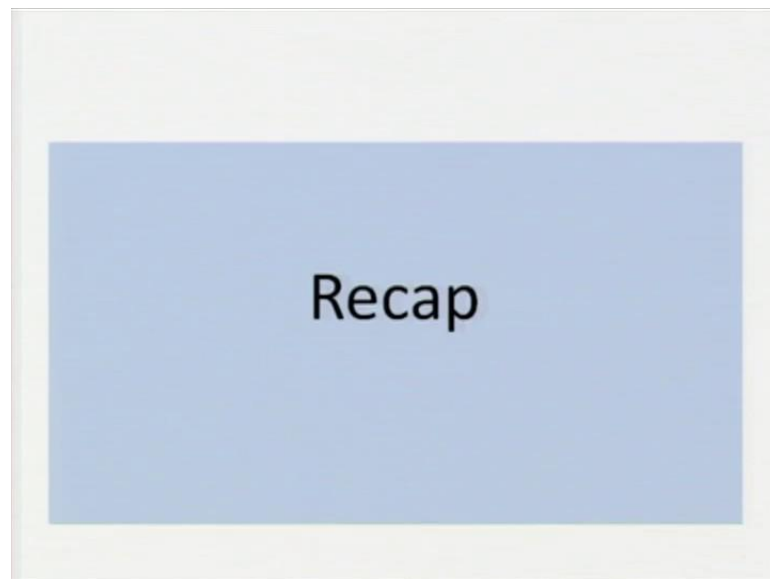


English Language and Literature
Prof. Liza Das
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
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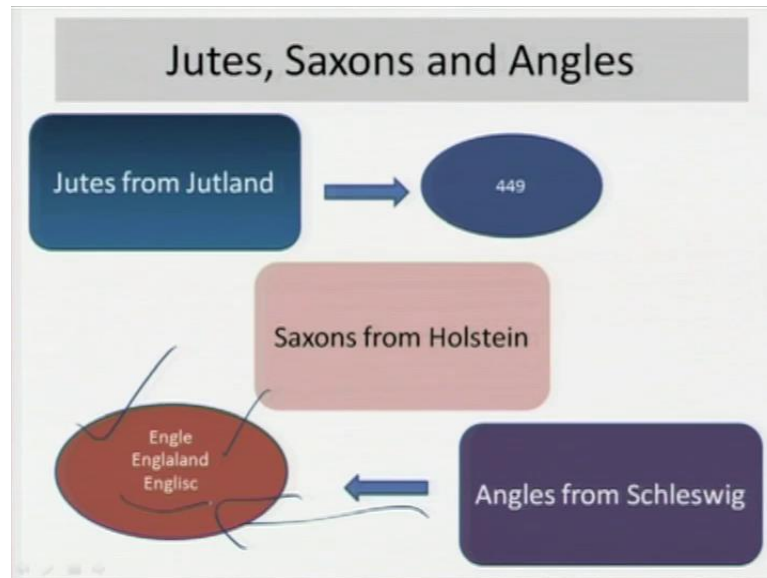
Module - 02
History of the English Language
Lecture - 09
Middle English

Welcome back to this course on English language and literature. As you are aware, we come to you with a series of lectures, in fact, four modules, comprising forty lectures in total on English language and literature. You have already seen the scope of this course, and we are in module 2 of this course, and as you are well aware, module 2 is devoted to an exploration of the history of English language. These courses are being brought to you by NP-TEL, The National Program on Technology Enhanced Learning, and the courses are by faculty, mainly from the Indian Institute of Technology and Indian Institute of Science.

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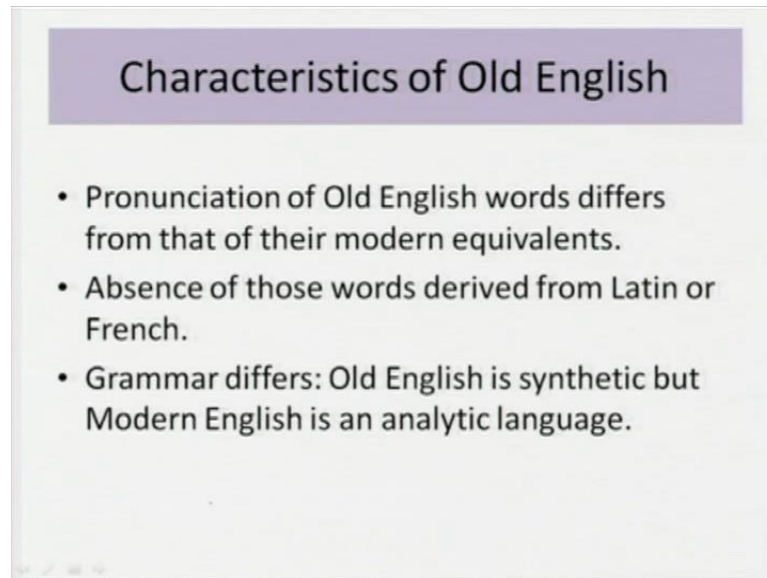


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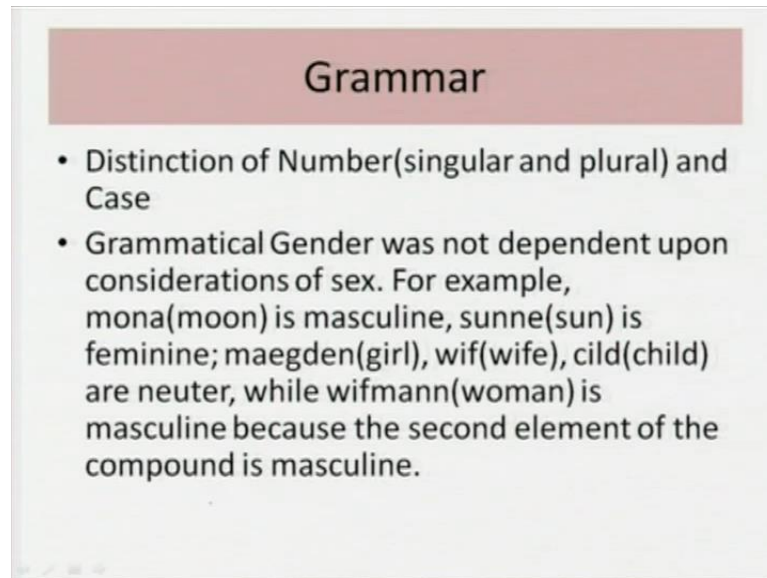
Let me remind you once again that the target audience of this course comprises students in IITs and various engineering institutes. Now, let us do a quick recap of old English which was our topic of discussion in the last lecture. Well, you would remember that whenever, we talk about the history of English language, we need to refer to three Maroding tribes from Europe; the Jutes, the Saxons and the Angles. The Jutes are supposed to have come to England from Jutland, and the Saxons from Holstein, and the Angles from Schleswig. Just a moment please. Well, you will find here that the word English had other variations, for instance, you can see that it comes from the word Angles; from the tribe of the Angles, and we have these names, for instance England, was initially called Englalund and English had this particular spelling, right. So, old English replaces as we saw in the last lecture; replaces the largely Celtic language that was there in the Britain, and we also know that once, the Jutes, the Angles and the Saxons settled in Britain, the Celtic language, moved really, to places in Cornwall, Wales and parts of Scotland, right. So, old English is the English that came about, after the use of the language that came along with the Jutes, Saxons and Angles, and we call this period is also known as the Anglo-Saxon period.

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We found that some of the characteristics of old English are as follows; that definitely, the pronunciation of old English words, differs hugely, if I may use the word; from that of their modern equivalents. You only need to go to Google images, you can look for the old English script; some of the manuscripts from Google images. For copyright reasons, I have not brought those here, but you can have a look at some of the recordings; the readings from the old English script, that they are on YouTube, for instance, you can then have an idea of how different the pronunciation is; how different the vocabulary is; that the words are, from the kind of English that we use today. Then, there is also difference in grammar; of course, old English is synthetic while, modern English is an analytical language.

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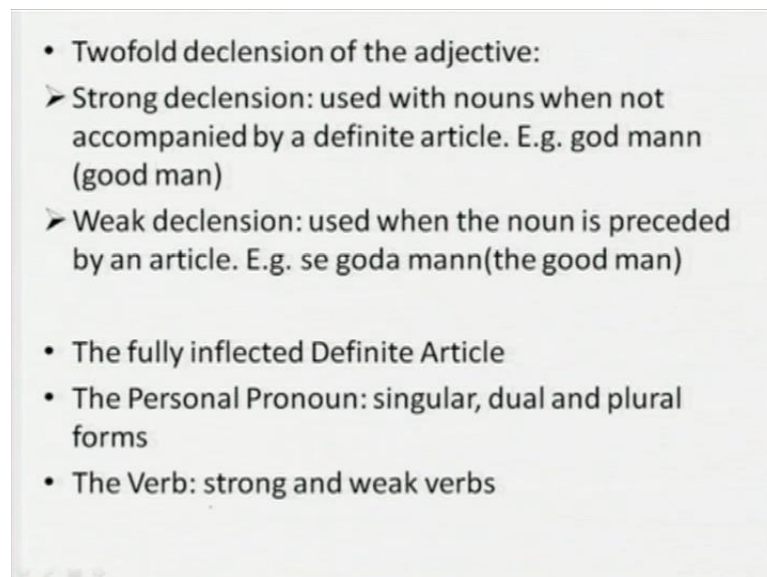


Grammar

- 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 masculine because the second element of the compound is masculine.

This is what we are going to look at in our lecture on modern English later on. For grammar also, there was a distinction of numbers; singular and plural and case, and grammatical gender was not dependent upon considerations of sex.

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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

For example, mona, moon is masculine; sunne, sun is feminine; maiden, girl, wif, child are neuter while; Wifmann, woman is masculine, because the second element of the compound is masculine. So, we saw in the last lecture how old English differs tremendously, from modern English. There is also a twofold declension, if you

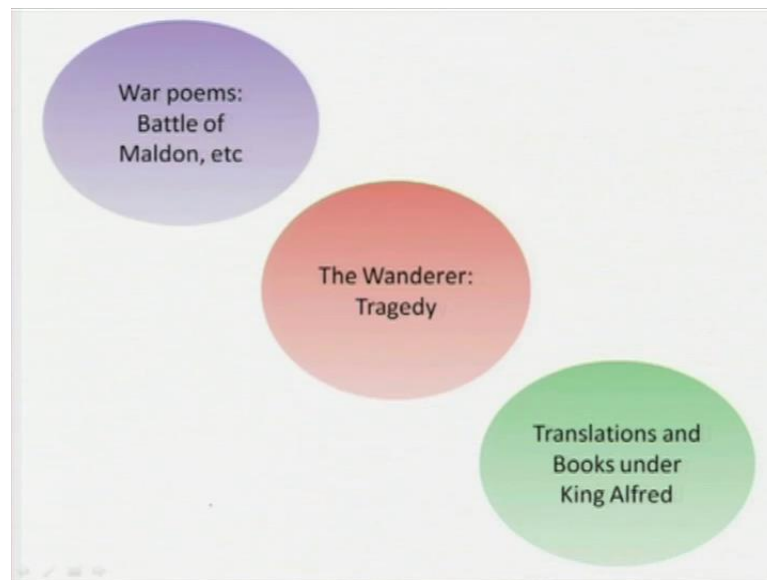
remember, of the adjective. The strong declensions used with nouns when not accompanied by a definite article; and weak declension used when the noun is preceded by an article.

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The slide is titled "Old English Literature" in a green header. Below the title is a quote: "The literature of the Anglo-Saxons is fortunately one of the richest and most significant of any preserved among the early Teutons." (Albert C. Baugh). At the bottom, there are two circles: a pink one on the left containing the text "Beowulf: Folk Epic, Deor: Poem" and a blue one on the right containing "The Seafarer: Monologue".

Next, we also looked briefly at old English literature and AC Baugh, who said that the literature of the Anglo-Saxons is fortunately, one of the richest and most significant of any preserved, among the early Teutons. One of the most well known texts is of course, Beowulf, which is Folk epic, and many of you have, at least, heard of the name, Beowulf, the Deor poem and the Seafarer. These are some of the examples we are not going into the literature part of old English; this module will be devoted only to language. When we talk about literature, most module on literature, the various ages of literature, for instance, Chaucer, beginning with the age of Chaucer, we would have occasions to look through Professor Krishna Barua, more into detail where, she also begins by talking about Beowulf, right. So, we found that there were war poems, and tragedies like the wanderer, and translations under the famous king Alfred in that period.

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So, well, let us now talk about Middle English, and let me again say that whatever, we discussed here, in this lecture is by no means, going to cover everything that may be said about middle English. I will be just pointing to some important characteristics of Middle English and some important political events that led to the rise of Middle English, and point ending with taking about important writers like Chaucer, for instance.

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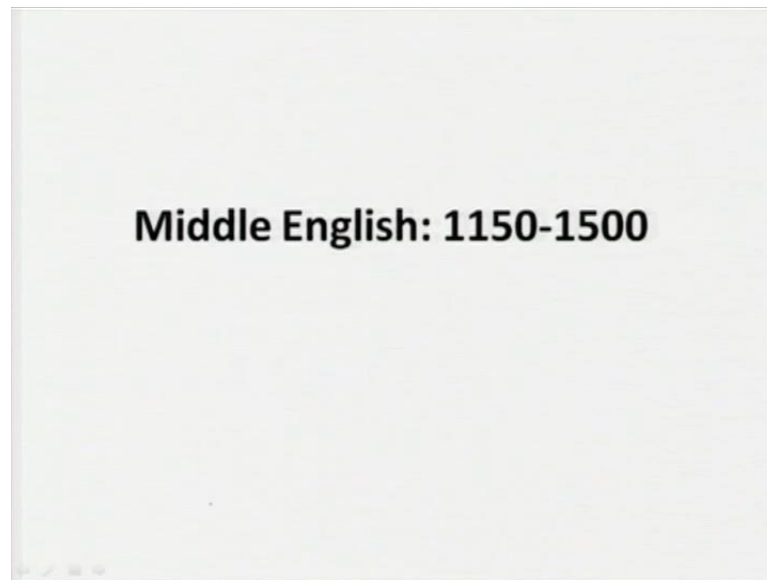
Texts and References

- Albert C. Baugh, *A History of The English Language*, Allied, 1991
- Charles Barber, *The English Language: A Historical Introduction*, Cambridge University Press, 1999
- Indranee Ghosh, ed., *History of English Language: A critical Companion*, Worldview, 2004

So, this really is, let me warn you, rather elementary in content, but this is just an introduction to a phase in the history of the English language, namely Middle English.

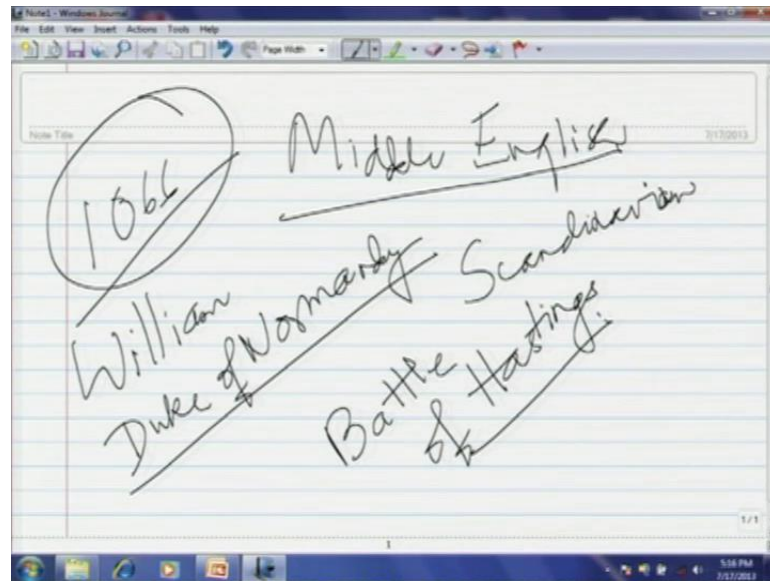
So, as with the pervious lecture, AC Baugh's book, the history of the English language, features prominently, as a source text for my lecture; so, thus, Charles Barber's the English language: A Historical Introduction by Cambridge university press and Indranee Ghosh's edited volume; History of English Language: A Critical Companion.

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Now, in talking about the Middle English period, this is one of the, I would say the rare times really, when we can pin point a certain date. If we look at a certain date as far as the beginning, how an event can really, change the trajectory of a nation; can change the trajectory of development of the language of a nation; middle English is generally, is really not one long homogenous period. You have early English; you have late Middle English, but this lecture being an elementary one; what I have done is simply refer to Middle English as one of the important periods of the English language, in the history of the English language.

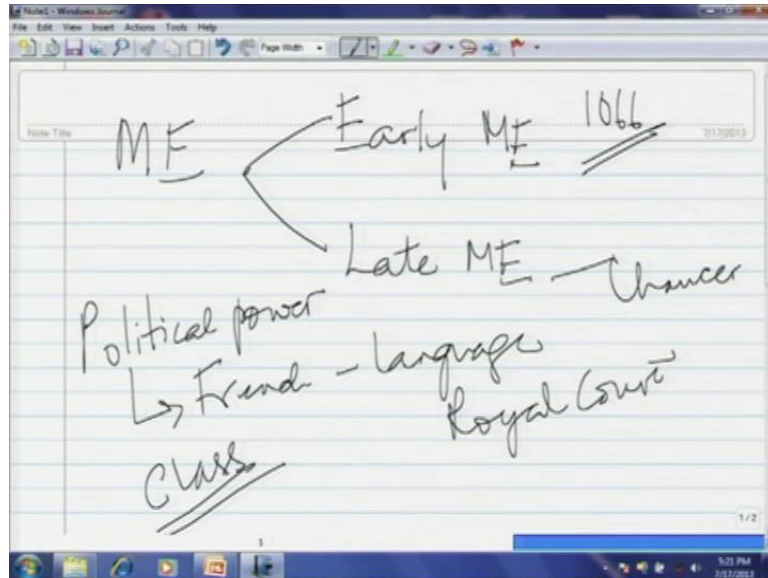
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I have gone by the usually accepted dates, 1150 to 1500; it is a long period of time, if you notice; 1150 to 1500. Well, I have said just a while ago that one can at times, when we are speaking about history of the nation or the history of the development of a language; though really, one can point to specific date or a specific event that holds tremendous influence, or it is really the core starting point, when we begin to talk about a certain period. In that, there are many scholars, who in fact, say that if you are to point to the single most important event in this discourse, then that would be 1066. Let us look at this here, please; 1066 is the date when, William who was a duke of Normandy; Normandy is a place; it is a part of modern France. William was then, the duke of Normandy. In fact, the people in that part of France preferred to call themselves, the Normans. The historians say that basically, they are part of an earlier Scandinavian intrusion, if I may use the word; intrusion into France, and people in that area chose to call themselves, the Normans. In 1066, there was an important event known as the Battle of Hastings, when William, the duke of Normandy became King William, the first of England. So, this is known as the Norman conquest of England, and this is extremely important to us because, it brings in a very important way, the French endowment into not only the language, but also into various aspects of even the culture of Britain. It was a time, when French language and culture held tremendous political power in the lives of the people. Most of this lecture here, today, would take off from this important event; that is 66, battle of Hastings, and the conquest by King William, who went on to become

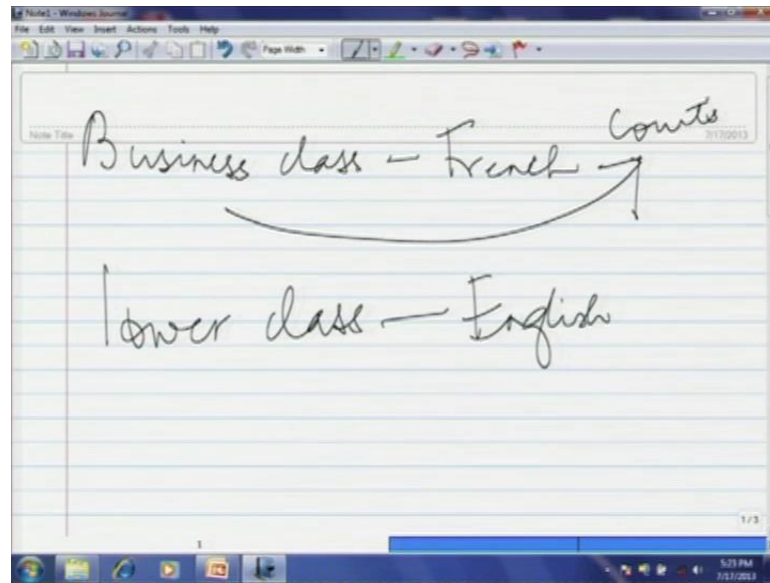
King William and erstwhile Duke of Normandy. That is why we call this a separate phase, a very important separate phase called the Middle English phase.

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One reason why, we divide Middle English into two phases; early middle English and late middle English is because of this event, the Battle of Hastings, and the subsequent very rapid growth of the prestige of the French language; middle English is really, something else and the growth of the nationalistic feeling, etc. we should be talking about later, and ending with Jeffery Chaucer and the rise of really, a national language. So, in the earlier period, however, it so happens that once, the French began to have political power, what happens is French becomes the language of the royal court. Now, once it becomes the language of the royal court, it is quickly taken up by the three most important, apart from the royalty, the important sections. For instance, this would be the time when there would be a sort of first beginnings of class, as far as language was concerned.

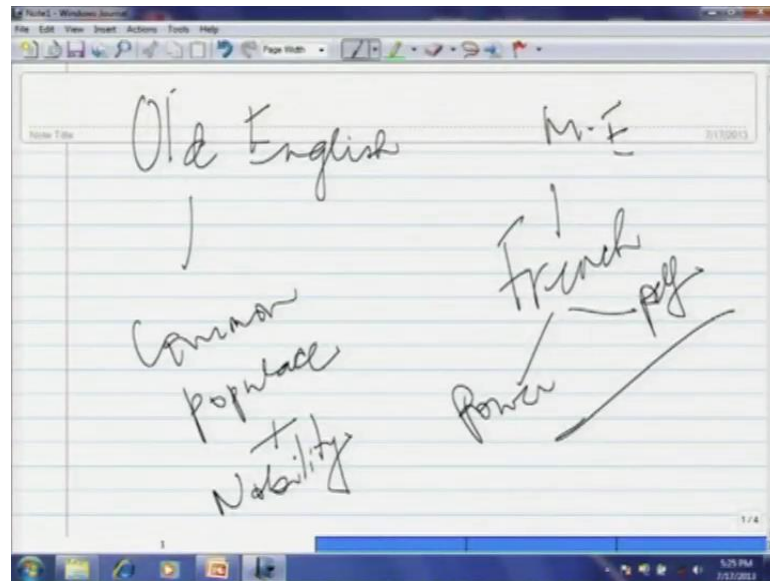
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Many scholars were of the opinion that old English did not have, at least, as compared to Middle English, the division of language based on class. There was a marked, very discernable division of the people, of the populous of Britain, based on class. For instance, it is quite logical for us to imagine that the business class, would want to learn the French language; why, because French was, as we know, the language of the royal courts, and because of the need to be connected to the royal courts, for instance; to the people like ministers, the royalty, to the people in power; it was important to business class to learn French.

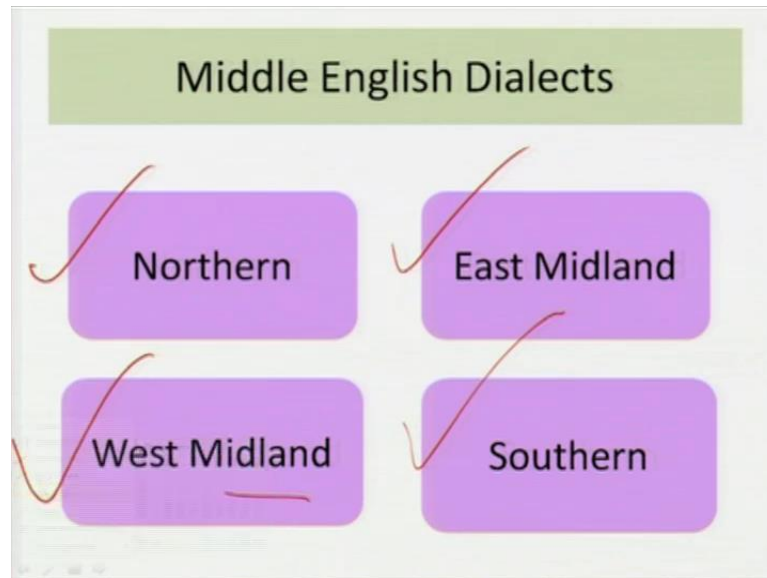
Basically, you have the ruling class and the business class; you are speaking French, and what happens to English? English is then, spoken by a class, which begins to be recognized as a lower class. So, you have the upper classes speaking; the power full classes and rich classes speaking French, and English being spoken by the lower classes. This is again, let us remember; this is more, far more pronounced with the beginning of the middle English than it was before; if at all, it was there before. The next important point that is related to this division of classes on the basis of language is another phenomenon. You have to realize that they are two languages side by side.

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One was the old English that was extent, during the time of, when William of Normandy finally, became the King William of Britain and the old English was used by, as we know, the so called common people, the common populace and also, the nobility and the people in par. Now, what happens is we know that in Middle English, French becomes the language of power and pelf; obviously, old English or English is not replaced by French, altogether. So, we would have the phenomenon of people using two languages, and of two languages, running side by side, though, in different class or different stratification of class. This was an important phenomenon, which is A; of course, we find replacement of the exiting language by a foreign language, that is French, and B; the simultaneous use, if not by the same person, however, the simultaneous use of the two languages. Really, the Middle English period could also, be viewed in two ways. You can view this as the acculturation of French and English, and you could also view it as a constant contest, which sometimes, in the earlier period at least, the French language being dominant, and towards the end of the English period; the attempts at reviving English or having English as one's national language. So, you have the juncture position of the two languages during this time.

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The Middle English dialects, some many scholars say that there are five dialects and some scholars say that there are four dialects, but at least, the important dialects were the Northern dialect, sorry, the East Midland dialect, the West Midland dialect and the Southern dialect. Remember, that the Northumbrian, Mercian, etc. were the dialects that were the chief dialects in the time of old English. So, here, in Middle English, the dialects are Northern, East Midland, West Midland and Southern dialects.

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Charles Barber

Old English did not disappear overnight at the Norman Conquest, nor did it immediately stop being written, for the West Saxon literary tradition was continued for a time in some of the great monasteries. But, in the years following the Conquest, changes which had already begun to show themselves and in less than a century we can say that the Old English period is over, and that Middle English has begun.

Let us read then, from Charles Barber whose text is one of our source texts here. He says, Barber says old English did not disappear overnight; this is the point which I had mentioned just a while ago. Old English did not disappear overnight at the Norman Conquest, nor did it immediately stop being written; obviously, in a common sense you think that language has not disappeared, just because power has been taken over by somebody else. So, old English did not disappear overnight at the Norman Conquest, nor did it immediately stop being written. For the West Saxon, literary tradition was continued for a long time in some of the great monasteries. So, the West Saxon dialect of old English was alive, and it was maintained, sustained by the great monasteries, even though, elsewhere, as far as the business was concerned, and the power was concerned, the court was concerned; the language may have been French. So, we are not to sink in an erroneous way that with the coming in of the Duke of Normandy, as King William, and along with him, so many are from the French nobility; it does not mean that old English disappeared. It is simply for convenience to which, one of the hazards are really, dividing time, according to historical time, into different periods. These are some of the hazards that we have to bear in mind. Therefore, old English did not disappear overnight at the Norman Conquest, nor did it immediately stop being written. For the West Saxon, literary tradition was continued for a time in some of the great monasteries, but in the years following the conquest, changes which had already begun to show themselves, and in less than a century, we can say; this is important; in less than a century. He did not even take hundred years for the old English period to be declared over, and for the Middle English period to have considered to have begun.

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A Period of Great Change

More extensive and fundamental changes because of the following reasons:

- The Norman Conquest and the conditions which followed.
- Continuation of tendencies that had begun to manifest themselves in Old English.

The changes affected the grammar and the vocabulary of the English language.

Further, also, scholars call this period of great change, for instance, there were more extensive and fundamental changes, because of the Norman Conquest and the conditions that followed more about this in a while; continuation of tendencies that had begun to manifest themselves in the earlier period in old English; and the changes that affected the grammar and the vocabulary of the English language; this being most important, at least, for our lecture, here.

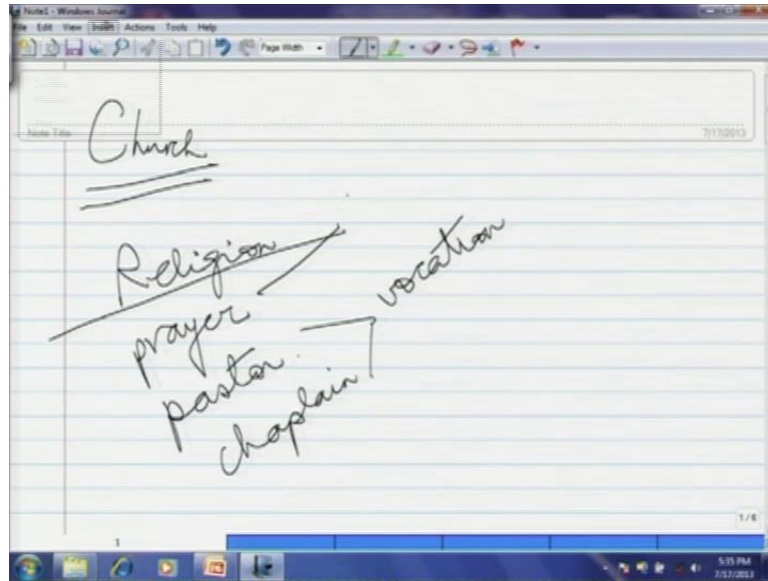
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200 English
Merchants English + French

I am going to spend some time about changes particularly in... I am going to spend some time speaking about the changes, particularly in vocabulary, with the coming in of the French language. For about close to 200 years, we see that the language of the people, common people, so to speak, remained as English. Though, there were attempts at a certain fusion, English at that time was not exactly, a language that was despised by the French. There were elements of some sort of acculturation, as I said, between French and English. For instance, the merchant class; merchants would speak both English and French, and this continued for quite some time, till the conscious development of nationalist feeling, which again happened, because of political reasons, which I am going to talk about in a while. Now, as I said, we are going to talk about; let us look at this page here; we will talk about the influence of vocabulary, because they are coming and it is very interesting to notice the patterns.

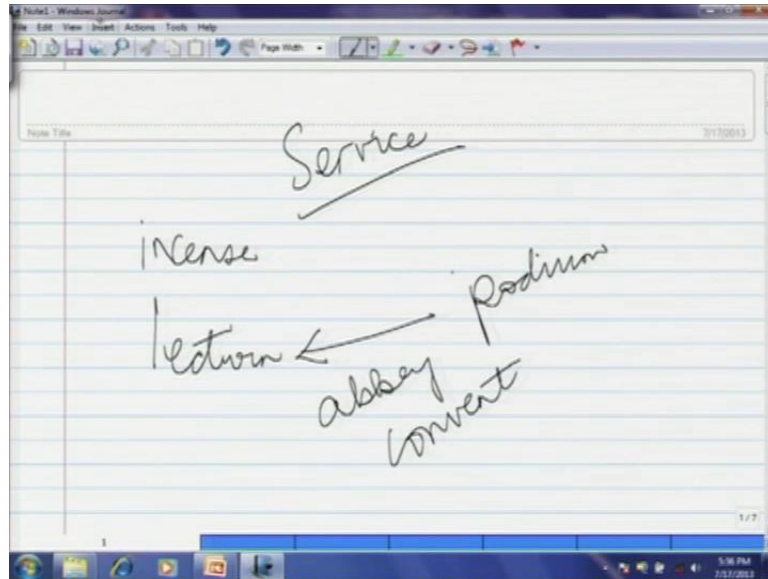
For instance, if you knew that French was the language of the court, French was the language being learnt by the business class, then which, what kind of words are going to be borrowed. Because, we know that there was lot of borrowings from the French language; so, what kind of words are going to be borrowed, and make part of the English language. Many of those words remained with us today. Now, in this list, let us look at the words that are going to come in with, what we call; the French impact on the vocabulary. Now, for instance, the church; being the third component of power, for instance, we talked about political power; we talked about the business power; and the third is the church.

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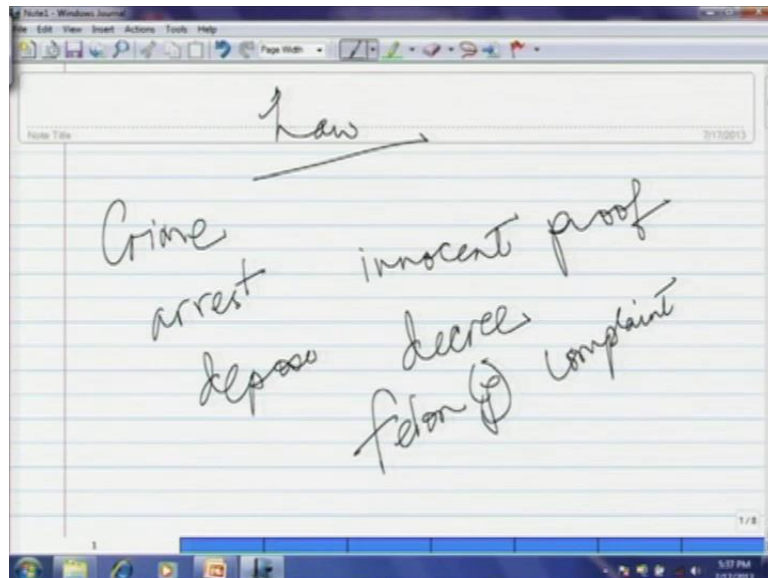
Apparently, the largest number of words that came in during this period were from the church. For instance, ecclesiastical words, like religion, prayer; words of vocation, like pastor; then, chaplain; these are some of the words that, as you see, have become part of the modern English vocabulary, that stayed with us. Also, in the church, for instance, things that are associated, here, for instance, words that are coming based on vocation, or you could say, based on status regarding to vocation in the church, and we also, have general words, like prayer; we also have words that are associated; let us see here; words that are associated with the service, church service; the words that are borrowed from French and associated with church service are, for instance; incense, lecturn.

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It is from this religious background that today, we use the word lecturn, also in academia. For instance, when a person gives a lecture from a podium; we also referred to it as a lecturn. Then, abbey, convent; these are some of the words that are to do with service, church service.

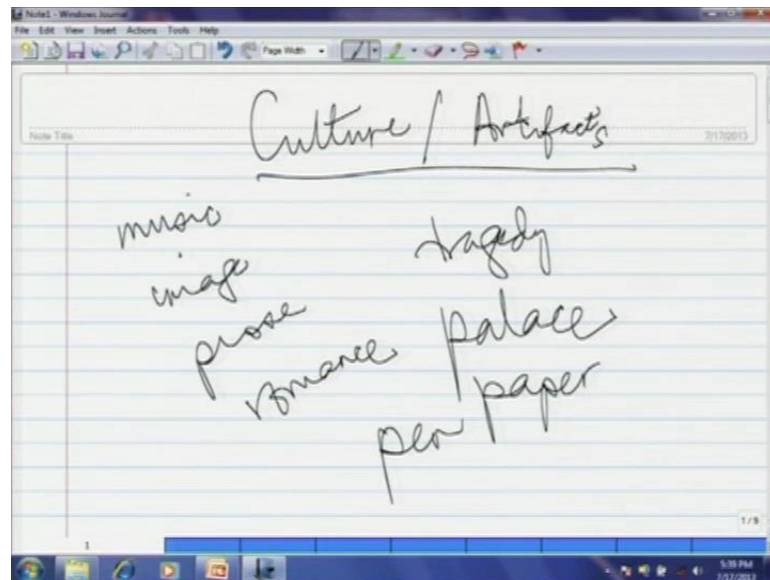
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Then, the next important domain is in the domain of law. Obviously, now, with the coming of the Normans, with the Duke of Normandy, you would have a number of words that are borrowed from the French language into the legalese; the language that

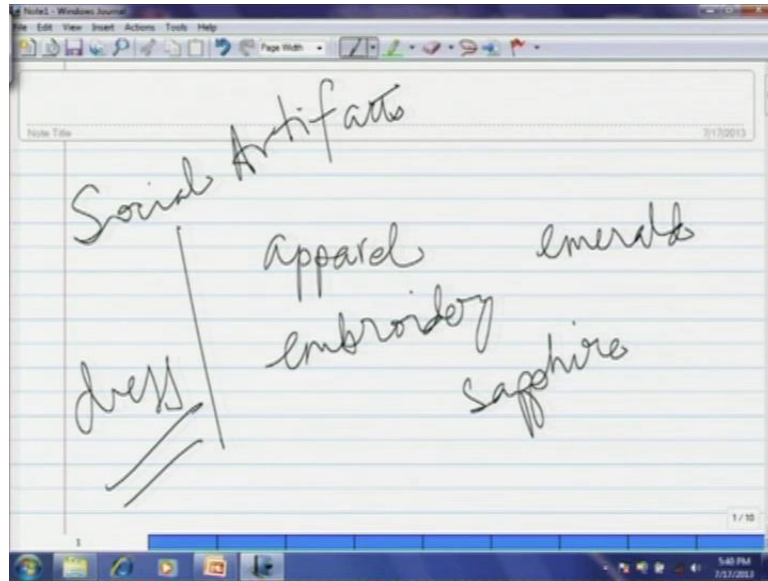
we use in the legal system. Now, let us look at some of the words here, and these are crime, arrest, depose, innocent, decree, felon; from which we have felony, proof, complaint; all these words, you would realize, are important words even, in the legal language used in our country.

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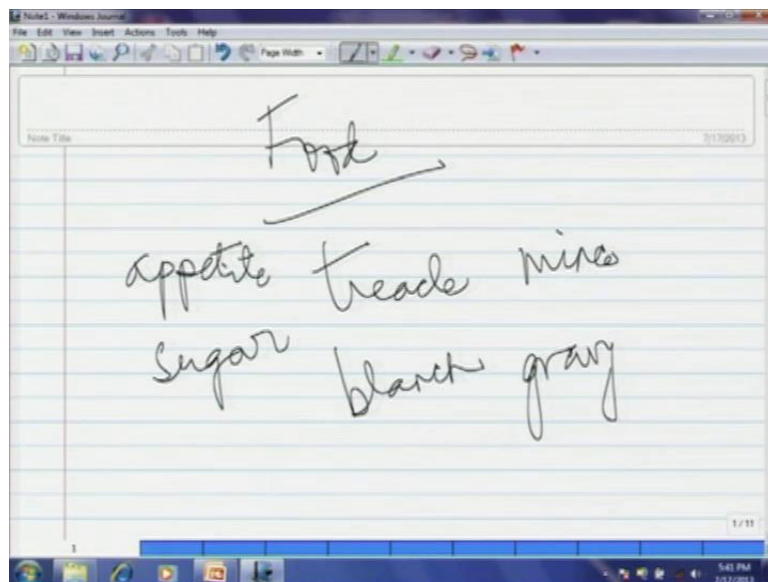
So, these are words that are borrowed from the French, with the coming in of the Normans. Next, we can look at, say, words to do with culture or culture artifacts; music, image, prose, romance, tragedy, palace, paper, pen. So, this is another domain in which, we find a number of borrowings from the French language.

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Further, we will also talk about fashion or social artifacts; apparel, embroidery, emerald, sapphire; these are the some of he words that come from; the word dress; these are words that belong to the domain of fashion.

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Next, food; there are several foods, words, in the vocabulary that are borrowed from French, and among these are appetite, sugar, treacle, blanch, mince, gravy, etc. Now, when we look at these borrowings, when we look at the number of French words that have been; what are the other domains that we looked at? We looked at the culture,

intellectual production; we looked at food; we looked at the fashion; we looked at dress; we looked at law, for instance; for a person to know this for the first time, would find it tremendously interesting that so many of the words, that we call English words; appetite, treacle, the words in law for instance, church for instance, laws of government; that is something that I have missed out; we will talk about that in a while; words of government for instance; all these words are words that are actually, not English; these are words that have been borrowed from French, following the Norman Conquest.

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Decay of Inflectional Endings

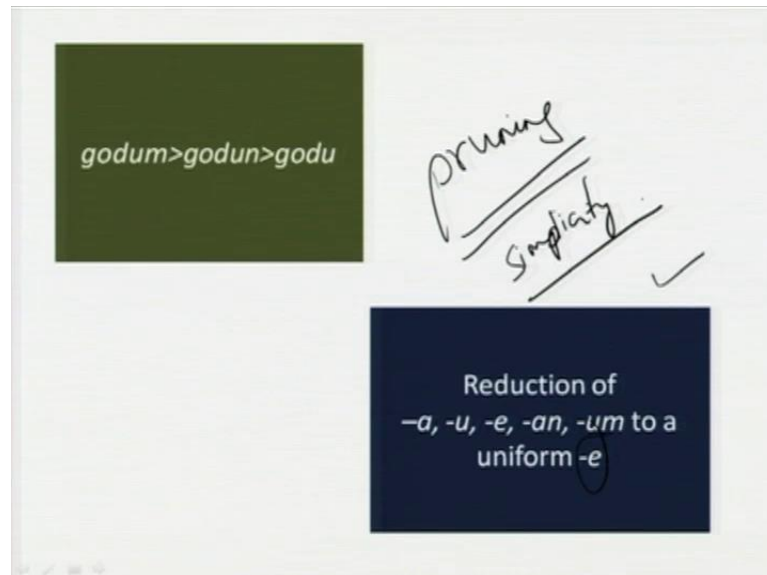
In English grammar, the changes ^{leveling} were mostly general reduction of inflections. Endings of the noun, adjective and to some extent verb were altered in pronunciation in a way that these almost lost their distinctive form and hence their usefulness.

The grammar of the English language was reduced from a highly inflected language to an extremely analytical one.

Next, if you look at the grammar, the most important points that are to be denoted here, is that in English grammar, the changes were mostly, the general reduction of inflections or endings. Let us read from here. In English grammar, the changes were mostly general reduction of inflections, endings of the noun, adjective, and to some extent, verb, were altered in pronunciation, in a way that these almost lost their distinctive from, and hence, their usefulness. The grammar of the English language was reduced from a highly; this is more important; the grammar of the English language following the Norman Conquest, was reduced from a highly inflected language to an almost, extremely analytical one. When you compare the scripts of old English and middle English; this is one of the first things that is going to strike, as I said; go to look it up in the Google images; look it up in the YouTube; you will find one of the first thing that strikes you is that there is a certain leveling out, and it removes, or it does away with the inflectional system. So, as a result of this, what happens is prepositions become very important; prepositions become

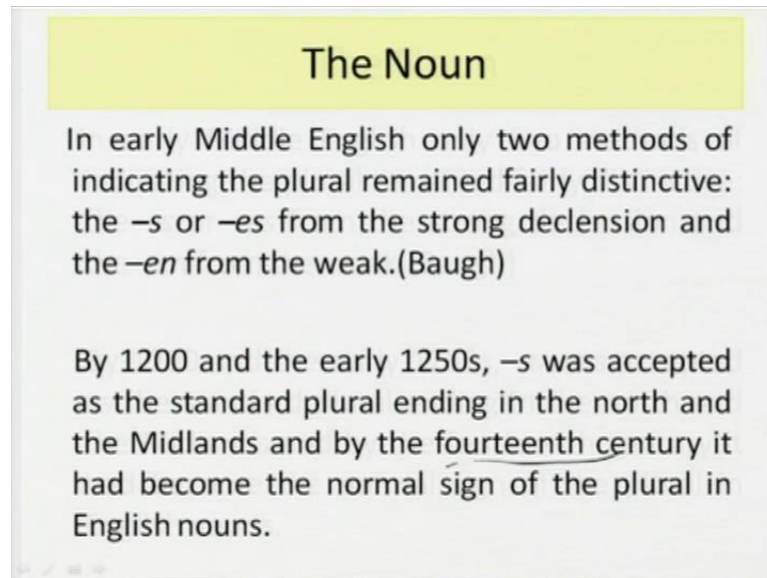
important; word order becomes important, and there is a replacement of grammatical gender, which is natural gender.

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We looked at the gender just a while ago. Strong words became regularized, and the strong-weak adjective disappeared as a result of the loss of inflectional endings. This image shows you how, there was the loss of inflection, and here, you will find those reductions in these endings; a, u, e and um to a uniform e. So, it is perhaps, from this period, from Middle English that the characteristics of English as being; remember, I think, we will be talking about this in one of our lectures; is the simplicity of the language.

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The Noun

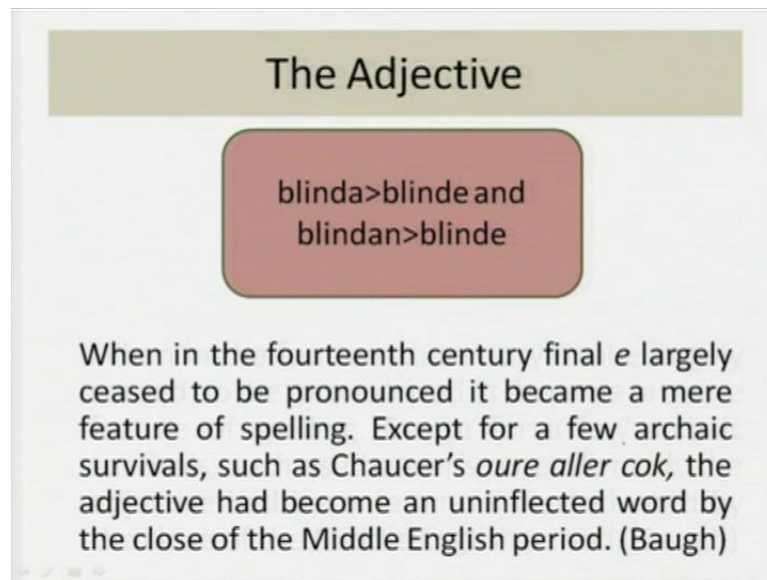
In early Middle English only two methods of indicating the plural remained fairly distinctive: the *-s* or *-es* from the strong declension and the *-en* from the weak.(Baugh)

By 1200 and the early 1250s, *-s* was accepted as the standard plural ending in the north and the Midlands and by the fourteenth century it had become the normal sign of the plural in English nouns.

So, we may even use a word from agriculture or gardening here, which is pruning of the inflectional endings and reducing it to simplicity; this is one of the most important characteristics of change from old English to Middle English. Now, AC Baugh, whose texts; history of the English languages, seminal text here, which is published long ago, but still remains one of the most important words here. He says that in early Middle English, only two methods of indicating the plural remained, fairly distinctive; the ending *s* or *es* from the strong declension, and the *en* from the weak.

By 1200 and the early 1250's, the ending *s* was accepted as the standard plural ending in the north and the midlands, and by the 14th century, it had become the normal sign of the plural in English nouns. With the loss of other inflections finally, things are streamlined. For instance, the *s* ending in plural is one of the most common, and one of the most important replacements of other inflections. Also, for instance, we have already seen the adjective also, getting the *e* endings from the previous forms.

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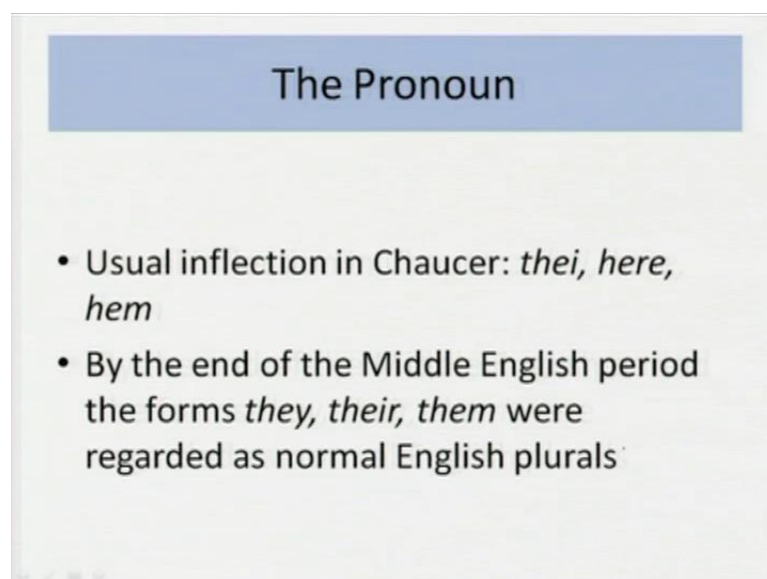


The Adjective

blinda>blinde and
blindan>blinde

When in the fourteenth century final *e* largely ceased to be pronounced it became a mere feature of spelling. Except for a few archaic survivals, such as Chaucer's *oure aller cok*, the adjective had become an uninflected word by the close of the Middle English period. (Baugh)

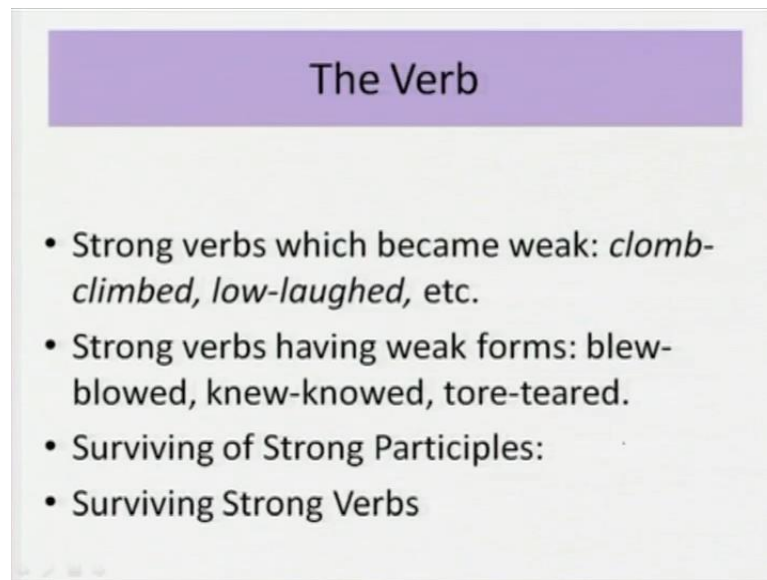
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The Pronoun

- Usual inflection in Chaucer: *thei, here, hem*
- By the end of the Middle English period the forms *they, their, them* were regarded as normal English plurals

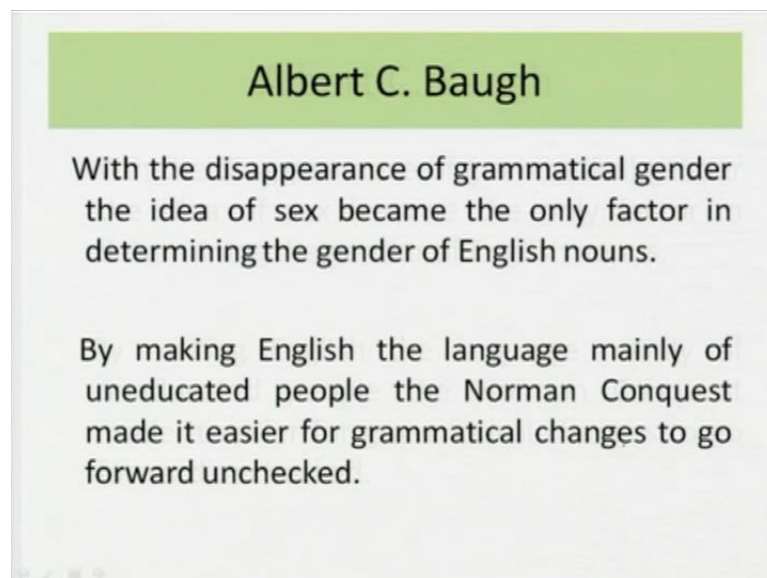
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The Verb

- Strong verbs which became weak: *clomb-climbed, low-laughed, etc.*
- Strong verbs having weak forms: blew-blown, knew-knowned, tore-teared.
- Surviving of Strong Participles:
- Surviving Strong Verbs

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Albert C. Baugh

With the disappearance of grammatical gender the idea of sex became the only factor in determining the gender of English nouns.

By making English the language mainly of uneducated people the Norman Conquest made it easier for grammatical changes to go forward unchecked.

Also, with the pronoun, we just kept this, here; the verb. Now, Baugh further, says with the disappearance of grammatical gender, the idea of sex became the only factor in determining the gender of English nouns. If you recall, because of the ending in woman, in wiffmann, because the ending was masculine; it was considered masculine. Now, with the disappearance of the grammatical gender, now comes in the idea of sex, as the only factor in determining the gender of English nouns where, woman becomes feminine; not masculine, as it was in old English.

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French Influence on the Vocabulary

English represented an inferior culture and this was one of the factors involved for the influence of French words upon the English language.

...a stream of French words poured into English with a momentum that continued until toward the end of the Middle English period. In this movement two stages can be observed, an earlier and a later, with the year 1250 as the approximate dividing line."(Baugh)

So, Baugh says for that by making English language mainly, of uneducated people the Norman Conquest made it easier for grammatical changes to go forward, unchecked; this is also an important aspect. Now, we talked a while ago on the French influence on the vocabulary, and we would look here, what Baugh has to say; his comments on the French influence on the vocabulary. English represented an inferior culture and this was one of the factors, involved for the influence of French words upon the English language. Why English was considered an inferior culture? Because the culture of royalty; the culture of business, and eventually, the culture of church, began to be dominated by the French culture, which led on to the ready acceptance of words, borrowed from the French language. We saw a while ago that the English was used by the so called common man while, the French language; people, for reasons of social climbing, people would learn French, and particularly, people who were moving from the lower middle classes to the merchant business class, had to hobnob, so to speak, with people in the court, and the church, and the royalty; had to learn the French language. English, as Baugh says, represented an inferior culture and this was one of the factors involved for the influence of French words upon the English language. He says a stream of French words poured into English the momentum that continued until toward the end of the Middle English period. He too, is making this difference between early Middle English and later Middle English.

Now, a stream of French words poured into English with a momentum that continued until toward the end of the Middle English period. In this movement, two stages can be observed; an earlier and a later with the year 1250, as the approximate dividing line, and which you have seen now, why like particularly, early 13th century was an important watershed, dividing line between early middle English and later, or late middle English.

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- Earlier borrowings (prior to 1250):
baron, noble, dame, servant, messenger, story, rime, lay, etc
(roughly 900 in number)
- Later borrowings (post 1250):
Governmental and administrative, ecclesiastical, legal, and military, and familiar words of fashion, food, art, learning, medicine, etc.

So, earlier borrowings, Baugh says, prior to 1250, were words like that baron, noble, dame, servant, messenger; usually, the scholars agree that numbers are around 900, and later borrowings that were governmental and administrative, ecclesiastical, legal and military, and familiar words of fashion, belonging to the domain of fashion; food, art learning, medicine, etc. which is something we have seen earlier. This is important why, because these are markers of class division. Look at the words, like servant, as compared to noble or baron. Look at the word, messenger; these are words that are indicative of class division, and as I said, it is to Middle English that we have to look, if you really have to look at the beginnings or at least, part of the beginnings of the class system in Britain.

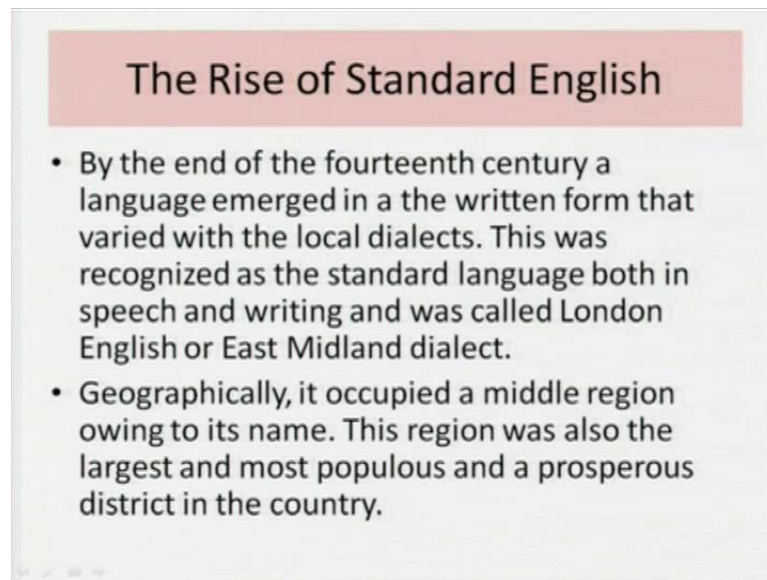
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Examples

- Governmental and Administrative words: *government, governor, administer, crown, state, empire, subject, rebel, tax, alliance, prince, princess, duke, minister, noble, manor, slave, servant, peasant, etc.*
- Ecclesiastical words: *religion, theology, sermon, sacrament, baptism, communion, confession, prayer, vicar, friar, hermit, miracle, mystery, devotion, faith, creator, charity, mercy, pity, obedience, adore, sacrifice, convert, ordain, etc.*

So, what are these governmental and administrative words; this is something that is left out; we talked about ecclesiastical, food, fashion, etc. The governmental and administrative words are the word, government itself, the governor, administer, crown state, empire, subject, rebel, tax, alliance, prince, princess, duke, minister, noble, manor, slave, servant, peasant, etc. these are; for person studying this from a political angle, would find this a most interesting data. Again, the division of the people into slave, servant, peasant, and words like manor, and it is said that these were some of the words, borrowed from the French language, and you find this really, infused into so many different domains. I would like to quickly end by taking about the rise of Standard English. This again, happened with the loss of Normandy, which led to interestingly, the reestablishment of English.

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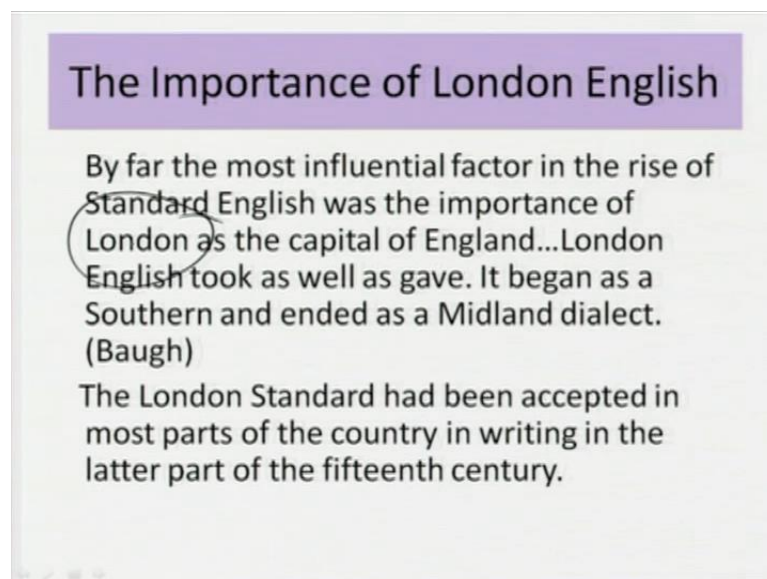


The Rise of Standard English

- By the end of the fourteenth century a language emerged in a written form that varied with the local dialects. This was recognized as the standard language both in speech and writing and was called London English or East Midland dialect.
- Geographically, it occupied a middle region owing to its name. This region was also the largest and most populous and a prosperous district in the country.

In around 1204 or 1205, Normandy was lost by the royalty in Britain, and with the loss of Normandy, came about subsequently, a feeling of nationalism. Events like the loss of holdings, which you find happened by the end of the 13th century in England, would lead to the gradual loss of prestige of the language. Then, there are many other reasons like finally; person like Jeffery Chaucer could determine the growth and establishment of a kind of language, of English, which was known as the national language; more about this in Professor Barua's lecture on the age of Chaucer.

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The Importance of London English

By far the most influential factor in the rise of Standard English was the importance of London as the capital of England... London English took as well as gave. It began as a Southern and ended as a Midland dialect. (Baugh)

The London Standard had been accepted in most parts of the country in writing in the latter part of the fifteenth century.

Finally, we will end with the importance of London English. By far, as mentioned by Baugh, by far the most influential factor in the rise of Standard English, was the importance as London as the capital of England. London English took, as well, as gave; it began as a southern and ended as a midland dialect. The London standard had been accepted in most parts of the country in writing, in the latter part of the 15th century. So, by the time, just before Shakespeare, we already have a language in place with a standardized dialect, which enabled the flowering of the English language, so to speak, in the hands of great writers, like Shakespeare, like Ben Johnson, Christopher Maluf, for instance.

The back ground to deflowering a language is this; that the late middle English, the growth of nationalist feeling, if you may call it, the separation of the English nobility from the French nobility around 1204, 1205; and by 1250, really, as I said, French being almost regarded as a foreign language; so important as a foreign language. This is the historical background to great works, and the person who figures most prominently, here is Jeffery Chaucer, and you are aware of the famous tales. These are the words that finally, went on to bring back the English language.

However, it was, sort of, already infused with French vocabulary, and however, its earlier inflectional system being diminished a lot; this is the new language, so to speak, or the standardized London standard of language, that was established and forms the backdrop to the next age, which is modern English. So, we end here today, and one of the most important things, important questions, which may be posed here, is about the Battle of Hastings, and the Norman Conquest, and what happened with the coming of the Norman French, or what changes happen? You should always, mention the importance of the class factor that even as far as language is concerned, we find new terms being borrowed from the French, and terms that are indicators of class status, terms like noble, for instance, like servant, like peasant. Apart from that, you may want to learn up some of the words that came with the Norman Conquest, for instance, like get a question like the Norman Conquest led to the borrowing of several words from French, in various domains; name those domains and give examples of those words; Then, we would talk about domains like government and administrative domain, like ecclesiastical domain of the church; then, of the business class, and terms leading to cultural life in general, for instance, fashion, food; terms which lead to class; these are some of the domains that you

build up like an inventory and learn up the respective words that fall into these, and show how, law was the other important domain, we talked about, and show how these words continued to be some of the most important words.

So, how do you have words in law, without using the word, crime, for instance, without using the word, for instance, without using the word, complaint or complainant for instance. So, that English, by now is truly a language that is what linguists call a borrowing language. By now, it is a language, which is borrowed heavily from the French language. And the middle English period; remember, we are talking about at an elementary level; the Middle English period is largely, the tale or story of two things. One is the Norman Conquest, the importance and prestige of French language and French culture. Second part is the diminished prestige of French, with the coming in of the spirit of English nationalism, following the loss of Normandy by the royalty in Britain. I also forgot to mention the Black Death, which led to the death of many people in Britain, with the labor class, working force becoming important, because of the lack of positive of labor. What kind of words were; what language was used by the working class? The language used was English.

So, again, now, more than the business class, we have, following the Black Death, the language of the working class being important, and finally, the establishment of the standard London dialect, finally, through Jeffery Chaucer, and through literature, finally, establishment reinstatement of the English language. So, let us end here. In the next lecture, we shall be talking about early modern English.

Thank you.