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**THE INFLUENCE OF FOREIGN INVADERS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

We can’t imagine our life without language. Language as everything that was developing during the human’s history has its own history. It greatly depends on the history of a nation it belongs to. Philologists are interested in studying languages and learning more about the English language. The term [philology](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/philology) is derived from the [Greek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language) φιλολογία (philologia), from the terms φίλος (philos), meaning "love, affection, loved, beloved, dear, friend" and λόγος ([logos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logos)), meaning "word, articulation, reason".

English has developed several main types during it’s history:

* Old English (500 – 1100) – It was a typical language, with a purely Germanic vocabulary, and a few foreign borrowings, but it displayed specific phonetic peculiarities.
* Middle English (1100 – 1500) - Although this period was rather short the language changed greatly and was different from Old English in many characteristics.
* Modern English (1500 - ...) loss of inflexion.
* Early New English (1476 – 1660) – this period is a sort of transition between two outstanding epochs: the age of Chaucer and the age of Shakespeare.
* Normalization Period (1660 – 1800) – this age witnessed the establishment of norms which can be defined as received standards recognized as correct in the given period.
* Late NE/Mod E (including 1800 – present day English) – by the 19th century English had achieved the relative stability and the classical language of literature was strictly distinguished from the local dialects.

A little should be said about the settlement of the British Isles.

Britain has not always been an island.

50 000 B. C. – the first settlers arrived. They looked similar to modern people but were shorter and had a lifespan of 30 years.

10 000 B. C. – a new group of people (hunters, gatherers, fishers) arrived. They followed the herds of deer that provided them with food and clothes.

5 000 B. C. – at the end of the Ice age the lowlands became covered with water, the English Channel appeared and Britain became an island. It was heavily forested.

3 000 B. C. – the Iberians People crossed the English Channel in boats.

2 400 B. C. – The «Beaker Folk» came from the east of Europe and settled in the south east of Britain.

1 000 B. C. – The Picts came from the Continent and settled mainly in Scotland. The language of the Picts is a mystery. The scientists can easily split it into words and read but can't decode it.

700 B. C. – The Celts arrived from Central Europe or further East. The Celts continued to arrive from Europe for the coming 700 years.

The britonic Celts gave the country its present-day name – Britain. Linguistic traces: there are a lot of place-names of the Celtic origin Torr-high rock, Pylle -creek, Avon - water, Thames, Dover, York, Kent, London (llyn-lake, dyn-fort).

Then the Romans arrived to the British Isles.

55 B. C. - Julius Caesar attacked Britain. In 54 B. C. – there was the 2nd attempt to attack Britain. In 43 A. D. – Emperor Claudius conquered Britain and it became a province of the Roman Empire.

The only area that caused much trouble was Calledonia (Scotland).

The Romans brought reading and writing skills and the Latin language. But only town-dwellers spoke the language of the Romans while in the village the Celts used their Celtic Dialects.

There are a lot of place-names of the Roman origin with –castrs (castle) Chester, Lancaster, Leicester; -wich Norwich, Greenwich; -port Devonport.

The words that were taken during the trade relations. For example: wine, pear, pepper. And during the Christianization: mass, school, priest, devil.

The Roman soldiers left Britain in the early 5th A. D. The powerful Germanic tribes started to arrive in Britain. These Germanic tribes pushed the celts to Cornwall, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

The Anglo-Saxons spread Christianity. Nobody knows how Christianity first reached Britain but the Celts were already Christians when the Anglo-Saxons came. Some scientists say that the Celts were converted to Christianity by the Romans but others sustain that the Celts became Christians well before Christianity.

Linguistic traces of Anglo-Saxon invaders:

- names of the days of the week (after the Germanic gods) Friday- the goddess of nature and love Freya; Wednesday - the goddess of kings, Tuesday – the god Thor

- geographical names with «–ham» (Birmingham, Nottingham) -ton (Southampton, Kingston)

The 8th and the 9th c. witnessed the arrival of the Scandinavians to the British Isles. The term 'Viking’ means pirates. They came from Norway and invaded at first only the British Isles. In 865 they raided Britain.

10th c. - the king Canute (Vikings' king) became the king of England and England became a part of the Northern Empire. After his death in 1035 Britain became politically independent due to Edward the Confessor (a Saxon).

The Scandinavian dialects belonged to the Germanic group, Old English dialects have some Scandinavian elements.

1. Words beginning with «sk» (sky, skirt, skin)
2. the system of personal pronouns (they, them, their)
3. the form «are» of the verb «to be»
4. the ending –s- for Present Simple, 3-rd person singular (in verbs) (he makes, she gives).
5. the system of personal names ending on –son-: Davidson, Richardson, Jefferson.
6. there are more than1500 words of Scandinavian origin in ModE: sister, bad, fog, cake, get, again etc.

The influence was felt in 2 spheres:

vocabulary – law, husband, loose, root, sky, smile, want;

morphology – the verb system was expanding.

Semantic Fields

* everyday life (cake, raft, skirt, birth, dirt, fellow, root, window, to die, etc.);
* military (knife, fleet, etc.);
* legal matters (law, husband, etc.);
* some pronouns and conjunctions (they, their, them, both, though, etc.);

essential notions (N. scar, anger; V. to call, to take, to want, to kill, to cast, to scare; Adj. happy, ill, weak, wrong; Pron. same, both; Prep till, fro, etc.).

After the death of Edward the Confessor the Anglo-Saxons proposed their own king – old Godwinson for the throne, but William (who was supposedly appointed the successor vard) didn't want to give up the throne. So he got a big army and went to England.

1066 - The Battle of Hastings took place. William won the battle and got the name William the Conqueror. He became the king of England and was crowned in Westminster Abbey. It laid an important tradition: all kings and queens were crowned there.

The Normans were the Vikings who settled in Northern France and soon started to speak French and became Christians.

The English language was influenced, but it survived. Nevertheless, it had a lot of French words: judge, navy, enemy, army, prison, court.

Originally they were also Germanic tribes, but having won the territory of France, they practicaly assimilated with the people of France and took its high culture and language.

1. French is the language of upper classes.
2. Many synonyms appeared: Eg: language (Fr) – tongue (Engl);

lange, huge (Fr) – great (Engl)

1. French effected all aspects of life: = Government and administration: nation, people. = Legislation: eg.: judge, court. = Military term: navy, war. = Literature and arts: music/ = Education: ink, college. = Fashion: dress. = Trade, profession: tailor, grocer. = Religion: pray. = Cooking: roast, fry, boil. 75% of words have survived in NE.

After the Norman Conquest:

* French became the official language of administration. It was also used as a language of writing and teaching as well as Latin.
* English was the language of common people in the Midlands and in the north of England.
* Celtic dialects were still used by the Celtic population in the remote areas of the country.

Actually, during the presence of the Normans the country experienced the period of bilingualism (French and English were both used in the country).

The Norman and the English drew together in the course of time and intermixed. French lost its popularity due to the fact that it was not the language of the majority and could not be used to communicate with local people. English regained its leading position with time and became accepted as the official language.

Thus in the 14th c. English becomes the language of literature and administration.

*Список литературы*

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