**Title: EARLY MODERN ENGLISH (1500-1800)**

**1**
EARLY MODERN ENGLISH (1500-1800)
**2**
1476 William Caxton starts printing in Westminster, however, the language he uses reflects the variety of styles and dialects used by the authors whose work he prints.
1485 Tudor dynasty established start of period of (relative) political and social stability.
1491 or 1492 Richard Pynson starts printing in London his style tends to prefer Chancery Standard, the form of English used by government.
c. 1509 Pynson becomes the king's official printer
From 1525 Publication of William Tyndale's Bible translation (which was initially banned).
1539 Publication of the Great Bible, the first officially authorised Bible in English, edited by Myles Coverdale, largely from the work of Tyndale. This Bible is read to congregations regularly in churches, familiarising much of the population of England with a standard form of the language.
1549 Publication of the first Book of Common Prayer in English, under the supervision of Thomas Cranmer. This book standardises much of the wording of church services. Since attendance at prayer book services was required by law for many years some have argued that the repetitive use of the language of the prayer book helped to standardize modern English
**3**
1557 Publication of Tottel's Miscellany.
c. 1590 to c. 1612 William Shakespeare's plays written they are still widely read and familiar in the 21st century.
1607 The first successful permanent English colony in the New World, Jamestown, is established in Virginia. The beginnings of American English.
1611 The King James Bible is published, largely based on Tyndale's translation. It remains the standard Bible in the Church of England for many years.
c. 16401660 Period of social upheaval in England (the English Civil War and the era of Oliver Cromwell).
1651 Publication of Leviathan by Thomas Hobbes.
1662 New edition of the Book of Common Prayer, largely based on the 1549 and subsequent editions. This also long remains a standard work in English
1667 Publication of Paradise Lost, by John Milton.
**4**
Historical background - Renaissance

* After the decline of French in the Middle English
period, a new English standard began to develop.
* Two factors where highly influential in this
process
* 1. economic and cultural centre within the
East- Midlands triangle of Oxford-Cambridge- Londo
n.
* 2. introduction of the printing press.

**5**

* The Early Modern English period saw the
continuation of these processes and the
increasing social status of English as an effect
of printing and other far-reaching social,
political, religious, and cultural changes in the
Renaissance.
* In a nutshell, English established itself as a
standard language in the Early Modern English
period, but it was still in search of its
identity.

**7**
The Renaissance - a short definition

* The period of Early Modern English is known as
the Renaissance.
* The English Renaissance lasted from about 1500 to
1650.

**8**
But what does Renaissance mean?

* Name for this historical era simply means
rebirth it was coined by the French historian
Jules Michelet and was later used by Jacob
Burckhardt, a Swiss historian.
* The notion of rebirth triggered a great number of
cultural and political changes that mark the
progression towards modern life.

**9**

* These changes concern the structure and
organization of society, peoples world-views and
national identity, the organization of religious
life, and the development of literature and art.

**10**

* The Mid.Eng social system was based on the model
of feudalism and was centred around the three
estates of nobility, clergy, and peasants.
* In Early Modern English (EME), there was
tremendous political, economic, technological and
social change.
* These changes influenced the growth of
* English language by leaps and bounds.

**11**

* The Renaissance constituted the basis for the
Spanish and Portuguese exploration and
colonization of the Americas and Africa. Both of
these sea powers brought enormous riches from
these far-away continents to Europe.

**12**
The protestant reformation

* In the domain of religion, the Renaissance period
saw the conversion of England into a Protestant
country.
* By 1539. English translation of bible flourished
in the churches.
* Queen Elizabeth 1 ascended the throne in 1558.

**13**

* Since she was a Protestant and the head of the
Church of England, she made England a Protestant
country.
* She faced a battle with Mary Tudor who tried to
restore Catholicism in Britain.

**15**
The Elizabethan Age

* The reign of Elizabeth, however, was not only
stained by bloody battles and death but also a
period of a golden age of literature and poetry,
music, and architecture the Elizabethan Age.
* Elizabeth herself was a very well-read queen
* and promoted many cultural and academic
* activities.

**17**

* It is this period where the studies of modern
English literature started.
* The period was shaped by authors such as
Shakespeare, Spenser, Marlowe, or Jonson, who all
established landmarks in English literature.
* Shakespeare, obviously the most celebrated of
these authors had a considerable impact on the
English language.

**18**
The growth of the United Kingdom

* The golden age of English literature and music
indicates that English society was on its way of
increasingly developing a strong sense of
national identity.

**19**

* Renaissance people started to focus on their own
national identity. The social, scientific, and
religious changes supported this growing sense of
national individuality.
* Thus, the Renaissance established the cultural
and political basis for the development of modern
nation states.

**20**
Political expansion

* England began expanding overseas possession.
* To the east, its colonies expanded to India.
* To the west, it reached North America in 1584.
The first permanent settlement was in Jamestown,
* This took place during the reign of King James I

**21**

* James was the first king of the four countries of
the British Isles.
* It was during this phase that England started to
become an international power.
* However, in 1707 the United Kingdom was finally
established.

**22**

* The Union Flag of the United Kingdom of England
and Scotland

**23**
The growing status of English

* During the Early Modern English period, the
status of English was extended dramatically.
After the decline of French in the mid-14th
century, English became the language of
administration and government. Latin, however,
remained the high-prestige lingua franca of
learning and wisdom.
* By the end of the Early Modern English period,
English pushed Latin out of the sociolinguistic
scene becoming itself the language of science.

**24**

* This increase in status, along with the political
development of England establishing trade and
colonies all over the globe, constitutes the
historical basis for English becoming a
world-wide language and a lingua franca of
business and science.
* All of the above mentioned historical changes led
to the predominant status of English as the only
H-language in Great Britain.

**25**
The influence of printing

* The introduction of the technique of printing
must be regarded as a landmark in the spread of
written English.

**26**

* In the 150 years following the introduction of
the printing press, nearly 20000 books appeared.
Thanks to the printing press, books could be
produced more efficiently, and thus more people
got access to written texts.
* Printing, however, would not have been
influential, if no market had existed for the
dissemination of printed books. Printing was, of
course, subject to economic constraints the
books had to be sold to make printing a
flourishing business.
* Printers found a great number of customers in
the new merchant middle class, people who were
interested in learning and had the money to buy
books.

**27**

* The potential readership for books thus included
the upper and middle classes the classes that
were literate or increasingly became so.
Illiteracy was very high among the lower classes
and women.
* The new middle class were not learned people and
had no knowledge of Latin. They spoke vernacular
English and thus also wanted to read English
books.

**28**

* The increased availability of affordable English
books further increased the readership of these
books, which, consequently, increased the demand
for further books. In other words, printing
enhanced learning, which, in reverse enhanced
printing and the spread of written English.
Moreover, in the 16th century, pamphlets emerged
as an early form of mass media and around 1620,
the first newspapers appeared.

**29**

* Printing promoted the standardization process
since books had to be written in a style that
made them accessible to a large audience from
different dialect backgrounds. Thus, a number of
spelling rules had to be established by mutual
convention. As a result, a rudimentary
orthographic system emerged.

**30**
The age of bibles

* The Early Modern period is also called the Age of
Bibles since in this period an massive number of
Bible translations appeared.
* Many discussions about gospel were made
accessible to the public by the reformers and
people themselves became interested in reading
the word of God.

**32**

* Most people attracted by Protestantism were of
humble origin and did not have classical
education in Latin. They spoke English only.
* Consequently, Bible translations were needed.
English Bibles raised the prestige of English in
general, whereas Latin was despised by many as
the language of the Pope.

**33**

* Among others, influential English Bibles such as
the Tyndale Bible, the Great Bible, the Geneva
Bible, or the Bishops Bible were written. In
1611, the King James Bible also known as the
Authorized Bible - was issued. This official
translation was worked out by 54 translators who
followed strict translation guidelines. The
translators aimed at a dignified and somewhat
archaic style. Therefore, the language
represented in this Bible is conservative.
Nevertheless, the many Bible translations provide
a very important corpus of written evidence on
the state of English in the Early Modern period.

**34**
The influence of Shakespeare

* In contrast to the many Bible translations,
Shakespeares writing supplied English with a
great number of innovations.
* Shakespeare was one of the central figures to
promote the new genre of drama, which developed
out of medieval mystery and miracle plays. These
plays were originally performed during church
festivities and dramatized Biblical stories.
* In the 14th and 15th centuries these plays came
to be performed in front of churches on the
marketplace.

**35**

* Theatres and cultural activities centers began to
take place in 1574.
* This was the period of Shakespeare (1564-1616)

**37**

* On the basis of these older forms of performance,
a new form of drama was established during the
reign of Elizabeth I. The plays written by
Marlowe, Shakespeare, and Jonson were performed
by professional actors in public theatres
* Of course, Shakespeares Globe Theatre was the
most important and celebrated venue.

**38**

* Shakespeare wrote his plays as a basis for the
performance, but not to be published for readers.
* The plays belonged to the drama company, which
did not want them written down because it wanted
people come to the performance.

**39**

* Later his plays were published as a 'quarto'
edition.
* However, this edition was not edited by
Shakespeare himself but by company actors after
the performance. Only seven years after
Shakespeares death the plays appeared as more
carefully prepared 'folio' edition.

**40**

* The editions show that the language used by
Shakespeare was highly innovative. Through the
celebrated status of his works, a great deal of
this innovation flowed into the lexicon of
present day English. These Shakespearean
influences are known as Shakespearean Firsts.

**42**
EME Lexicon

* EME lexicon was significantly enriched in
response to the expansion of Britain as a
superpower, improvements in communication, and
contribution from Shakespeare.
* Many new words were created and borrowed from
other countries

**43**
New concepts - new words
**44**

* The lexicon of Early Modern English, was greatly
enriched for more reasons than poetic innovation.
* Due to international trade and exploration,
English speakers made contact with speakers of
others languages who brought objects, substances,
plants, animals, etc. and corresponding concepts
to the continent from the Americas and Africa.
* These concepts were not known to European people
before therefore, they needed labeling. The most
simple thing to do in this case is to borrow the
label used in the original donor language. In
this way, a great many new words entered the
English vocabulary via Spanish, Arabic, Dutch,
Italian, etc.

**45**
The influence of scientific writing

* There was a further realm of exploration and
innovation that led to the creation of many new
concepts science.
* Since the lingua franca of science was Latin
(interspersed with Greek terminology), a great
number of loan words entered English from there.
* Borrowing became particularly intensive when
English started to replace Latin as the language
of science by the end of the 17th century.

**46**

* It is significant, for instance, that Newton
wrote his Principia Mathematica in Latin (1685)
* But later published his Optics in English.

**48**
The "Inkhorn Controversy"

* The influx of non-English, especially Latin,
vocabulary was not generally appreciated by all
speakers of English. Language purists such as
Thomas Wilson opposed this development fiercely
by disclaiming the use of these words as a matter
of snobbish intellectuals, so-called inkhorn
writers. Wilson stated

**49**

* Among all other lessons this should first be
learned, that wee never affect any strange
ynkehorne terms, but to speake as it is commonly
received neither seeking to be over fine, nor
yet living overcarelesse, using our speeche as
most men doe, and ordering our wittes as the
fewest have done. Some seeke so far for
outlandish English, that they forget altogether
their mothers language. And I deare sweare this,
if some of their mothers are alive, thei were not
able to tell what they say and yet these fine
English clerkes will say, they speake in their
mother tongue, if a man should charge them for
counterfeiting the Kings English.
* Thomas Wilson (The Arte of Rhetorique, 1553)

**50**

* Others, however, regarded this process more
positively by highlighting the importance of
those words for the English language. One of the
proponents in favour of loan words was George
Pettie

**51**

* Wherefore I marueile how our english tongue hath
crackt it credite, that it may not borrow of the
Latine as well as other tongues and if it haue
broken, it is but of late, for it is not vnknowen
to all men how many woordes we haue fetcht from
thence within these fewe yeeres, which if they
should be all counted inkpot termes, I know not
how we should speake any thing without blacking
our mouthes with inke for what woord can be more
plaine then this word plaine, and yet what can
come more neere to the Latine?
* George Pettie (Preface to The ciuile
* conuersation of M. Steeuen Guazzo, 1581)

**53**

* The Inkhorn Controversy, basically just being a
dispute about what good English is and how good
English should be spoken, nicely reflects the
sociolinguistic status of English in the Early
Modern English period.

**54**

* For most educated people, Latin still had the
aura of the stylistic and rhetorical role model.
If anything sensible should be written in
English, it should follow the prestigious model
of Latin.
* On the other hand, English was in the process of
becoming much more self-confident and not
dependent on the lexical support of Latin.

**55**

* In other words, the Inkhorn controversy reflects
the search for a strong English linguistic
identity, but it also shows that this linguistic
identity had always been subject to influences
from a great number of other languages.
* Moreover, the statements show that English was in
search for linguistic authority because a
generally acknowledged standard had not been
established yet.

**56**
Overview
**57**
LINGUISTIC DEVELOPMENTS

* By EME, the structure of the standard language
was very close to Present Day English (PDE)
* There were still some changes taking place such
as Great Vowel Shift (GVS), morphology, syntax,
consonants and vowels
* But the variation from PDE is considered slight

**58**
Two important linguistic changes

* 1- The Great Vowel Shift
* The Standard British English arose from GVS.
* The changes that took place is the set of long
vowels
* The table below summarizes these changes in
chronological order.

**60**

* Although it is difficult to reconstruct the
actuation of this sound change, it is probable
that its origin lay in sociolinguistic variation
and stratification in the London area of the
early 16th century.

**61**

* For lower class speakers there seemed to be a
tendency to use long mid-close vowels in words
where long mid-open vowels would be expected in
London Middle English
* Thus, this pronunciation change can be regarded
as a push mechanism

**62**

* 2- "Do" - the origin of the dummy auxiliary
* The development of the dummy auxiliary do
reflects the process of grammaticalisation, i.e.
the process of a content word acquiring the
status of a grammatical function word. In the
grammar of PDE, do must be used as a content less
grammatical operator in the following contexts
* a) Negation I do not know. b) Question Do
you know? c) Question-tag You know, do you? d)
Emphatic do I do know this.