# NEW ENGLISH

Lecture 8

**Chancery Standard**, a form of London-based English, began to become widespread, a process aided by the introduction of **the printing press** into England by **William Caxton** in late 1470s.

- The language of England as used after this time, up to 1650, is known as Early Modern English.
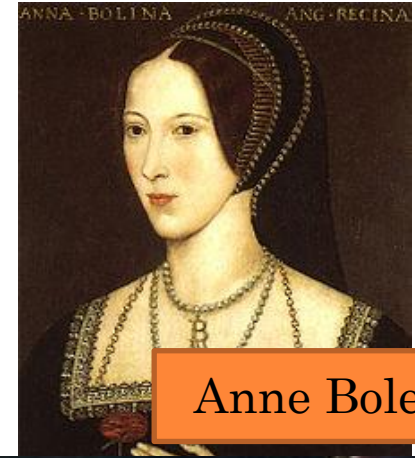
# THE AGE OF CHANGES

# ANGLICAN CHURCH

Catherine of Aragon

Henry VIII

Anne Boleyn

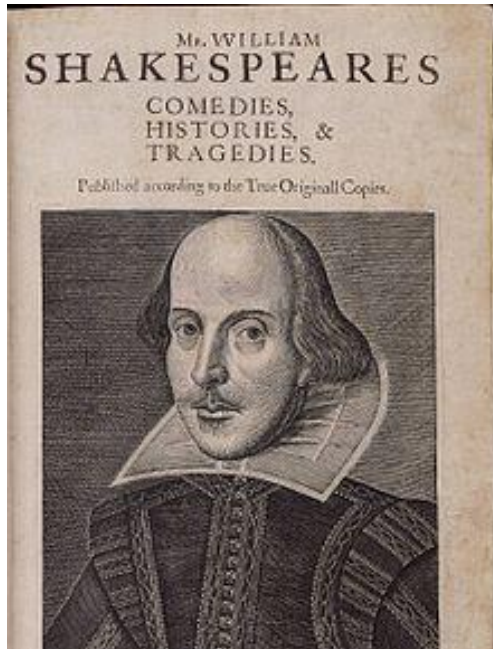Mary Queen of England
(Bloody Mary)

Pope Leo X

Elizabeth I

# Elizabethian Age

- Since 1558
- Defeated Spanish Armada

- Britain became a super
  economic power
- Colonies, Age of Explorations

# 2. Phonology of NE. Great Vowel Shift

- Loss of unstressed –e

*Eg. sune >sun; lo$^u$wen >lo$^u$ve; lokode > lokod*

- **e,o** – narrowed;
- **i:, u:, a:** - diphthongized;
- **e: >i:** see;
- **e: >i:** sea;
- **o: >u:** do, moon;
- **i: >ai** child;
- **u: >au** house;
- **o: >ou** stone;
- **a: >ei** take, name;
- **!!! These changes were not reflected in spelling because the spelling system had been already fixed.**

- GVS:
- Did not take place before d, t, Ɵ, v in nouns. Eg. friend;
- The changes e: >i: is sometimes arrested by the preceding –r. eg. great;
- In some words e: >i:, but then > ai. Eg. choir (OE cwer);
- Long vowels in words borrowed later remained unchanged. Eg. police, machine;
- Before labial consonants u: remained unchanged. Eg. room, droop.

## NEW LONG VOWELS WERE FORMED.

- At the end of the XVII century:
  **æ+r** – arm /a:/; æ+l+labial – calf /a:/;
  **æ+voiceless fricative** – after /a:/;
  **æ+voiceless sibilant** – glass /a:/;
  **a+r** (in French borrowings) – car /a:/.
- In the XVI-XVII centuries:
  **o:+r** – floor /o:/;
  **au+l** –all /o:/;
  **au+x** and **au+ɣ** - taught /o:/;
  **u+r** – court /o:/;
  **o+voiceless sibilant** – law /o:/;
  **ou+x** – bought /o:/;
  **w+ar** –warm /o:/.
- In the XVII century:
  **u+r** – burden /ɜ:/;
  **e+r** – earnest /ɜ:/;
  **i+r** –first /ɜ:/; **w+o+r** – word /ɜ:/.

## NEW SHORT VOWELS WERE FORMED:

- **a** could become **æ** (XVI) like in the word 'man', or it could become **short o**(XVII) following **w**, like in the word 'was'.

- **a** would become **æ** after **w** and before **x, g, n** – 'wax'.

- **u:** became **short a** – 'glove';

- **o:, u:** would become **u** and later transform into **short a** when followed by **d, Ө, n, r** – 'blood';

- **u:** would transform into **u** and later short **a** before **x** – 'rough' and in words of French origin – 'trouble';

- **short a** became **u** between bilabial and after labial consonants – 'full', 'pull'.

# 3. Consonants

## 1). Voicing of voiceless fricatives

- Voiceless **s, ϴ, f, tʃ** became voiced in unstressed syllables;

- **S >z, ϴ>ð** in auxiliary verbs, endings, pronouns, adverbs, prepositions and conjunctions. Eg. his, is, stones, this, with;

- **f>v** in words of French origin. Eg. active, passive;

- **tʃ>dʒ** in words of French origin. Eg. knowledge;

- voiceless remained voiceless in stressed monosyllabic words. Eg. geese;

## 2) Loss of x, x', ɣ

- **X' >i** before t. eg. night;
- **x>u** before t. eg. brought;
- **ɣ** in finality.eg plow;
- **x>f** in some words. Eg. rough;

## 3) vocalization of r

- **a+r >a:** after a final vowel before a consonant. Eg. arm;
- **o+r >o:** after a final vowel before a consonant. Eg. corn;
- short **e, i, u+r >ɜ:**. Eg. bird;
- long **e:,i:, u:+r >ɛə, iə, uə**. eg. bear, poor;

# 4). simplification of consonant clusters

- **mb>m**
- **mn>m**          in finality     Eg. lamb, damn, miln;
- **ln>l**
- **stl, stn, ftn, stm, ktl, ktn, skl > sl, sn, fn, sm, kl, kn, sl** – Eg. castle, often.
- **ndʒ, ldʒ>nʒ,lʒ**. eg. strange;
- **dns, nds, ndm, ndk >nʒ, nm, nk**. Eg. Wednesday;
- **k, g** lost before n. eg. knee;
- **w** lost before r. eg. wrong.

# 5). Rise of new sibilants when followed by /j/ dental t, d, s, z palatalized:

- **s+j>ʃ**     - delicious;
- **z+j>ʒ**   - pleasure;
- **t+j>tʃ**   - nature.

# 3. GRAMMAR

## 1. The Noun

- In NE the –en ending in Pl began to disappear. It practically disappears and the Northern trait **–s** for Plural began to be used with many new nouns and even some old nouns by analogy.

- But sheep-sheep which go back to a-stem declension, neuter gender and the nouns of the type foot-feet, mouse-mice which go back to the root-stem declension. There are also some remnants of the weak declension. Eg. children, oxen.

- In the XVII-XVIII centuries a new graphic marker of the Genitive Case appears, though it is used only in writing; in speech the forms are homonymous. Plural –s and Genitive 's underwent voicing of fricatives and loss of unstressed vowels in final syllable: ME bookes /bokes/ - NE books /buks/.

- In the XVII century 's becomes to be used only with active nouns.

## 2. The Pronoun

- In the XVII-XVIII centuries 'ye, you, your' are generally applied to individuals. Thou becomes obsolete in standard English though it is still found in poetry, religious discourse and some dialects.

- You and ye fall together in Nominative and Objective cases, these are syncratic forms.

- new possessive pronoun 'its' in 1598 on the analogy with the Genitive case of nouns.

- The forms 'his' and 'others', 'ours' and 'yours' appeared.

- In the XVII-XVIII centuries the two variants of possessive pronouns arose 'mine and my'. They split into 2 distinct forms which different syntactic functions: conjoined (usually used with a noun) and absolute (functioning independently).

- appearance of the reflexive pronouns. They appeared from the corresponding free word combinations, and have an emphatic function.

## 3. The Adjective

- the adjective becomes an entirely uninflected part of speech and looses all the forms of agreement with the noun.

# 4. The Verb

- tendency of strong verbs to pass into the class of weak
- Weak verbs – standard or regular: 'seize', 'bow', 'look', 'climb', 'help', 'swallow', 'wash', 'fare'.
- The reverse process was rare, in NE 3 verbs: 'wear', 'dig', 'stick' became strong or irregular, among them also some borrowings: 'take' (Scand), 'strive' (Fr), 'thrive' (Scand).
- mixed verbs appeared which can have weak and strong forms
- Preterite-Present are named not according to their historical tradition but according to their meanings. Modal – they express 'mood' state of the person, the attitude of the speaker to some action
- In the age of Shakespeare, the phrases with shall/will occurred in free variation. They can express 'pure' futurity and different shades of modal meanings. Phrases with shall/will outnumbered all other ways of indicating future. In the 17th century 'will' was used in the shortened form 'll but it can stand for 'shall' as well. In 1653 John Wallace for the first time formulated the rule about the regularity of using shall/will depending on the person.

- Passive voice forms continued to grow and its different tense forms develop. The wide use of passive constructions in the 18th-19th centuries testifies to the high productivity of the passive voice constructions.

- not until the 18th century that the continuous forms acquired their specific meaning (incomplete process of limited duration). Only at this stage the continuous made up a new grammatical category of aspect.

- New forms of subjunctive mood appeared. In the course of the 18th-19th centuries 'should' became the dominant auxiliary for the first singular and plural and 'would' for the third person. Subjunctive mood remained fairly common.

- Past Perfect and Past Simple were used in free variation. Later they began to be discriminated by the category of time co-relation.