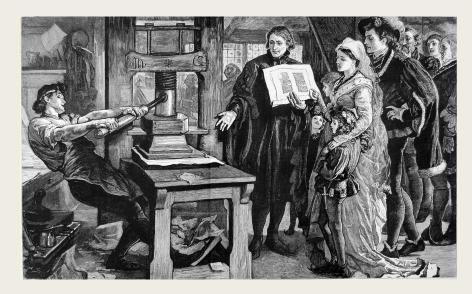
PREFACE TO ENEYDOS BY WILLIAM CAXTON

Biography

- Caxton was the first English printer and a translator and importer of books into England.
- He was born in around 1422 in Kent. He went to London at the age of 16 to become an apprentice to a merchant, later moving to Bruges, the centre of the wool trade, where he became a successful and important member of the merchant community.
- The duchess of Burgundy encouraged Caxton to translate 'The Recuyell of the Histories of Troye' from French to English.
- In the early 1470s Caxton spent time in Cologne learning the art of printing. He returned to Bruges in 1472 where he and a Flemish calligrapher set up a press.
- In 1476 Caxton returned to London and established a press at Westminster, the first printing press in England. He printed more than 100 books in his lifetime, books which were known for their craftsmanship and careful editing.



fann thola I fatyffpe enery man and fo to do coke an ola the and redd thezin/and certapnly the englefft was foru de anobrood that I oud not well Bnar fand it. And also mp lora ablot of Westmynster as a selective to me late certa; py suprences thereton in ola encloffe for to wouce it in to our englesse now Blid And certapnly it was wecton in fuch tople that it was more loke to outch than enalliffe I coude not reduce ne brynge it to be Bnærftonæn/ And cez: tapply our langage not Bfed Barpeth ferce from that. Whi che was Bled and spoken whan I was borne for we en: alpff men forne Bnær the compnacyon of the mone. Which is neuez fteofafte/But euez Wauerpnae/Weppnae o; ne featon/ and Waneth a opfcreafeth another featon/ Olno that compn engly ffe that is spoken in one there Barveth from a nother. In to moch that in my dayes happened that certapy marchantes were in a thip in tample for to have Tapled ones the fee into zelance/and for lacke of topno thei tarped atte forland, and wente to lande for to refreshe them And one of theym named fleffeld a mercer cam in to an boths and aned for mete, and freepatty he anno after encrys And the good topf an there, that the out frehe no fren: The . And the marchaut was angry for he alfo oud frese no frenste. But wold have have egges and the Bnærttoæ hym not and thenne at laste a nother says that he wolce have excen/then the good topf fayo that the Bneet too hom Wel/Loo What show a man in these dayes now theyer, ear ges or epren/ certaphly it is hard to plante enery man/ by cause of oguersite a change of langage. Afor in these dayes enery man that it in ony reputacyon in his coutre, well Bt ter his compnycacyon and maters in such maners a ter: mes/that felbe men fhatt Bnderftond theym! Alno fom ho:



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The preface to the Eneydos

- 'And specyally he axyed after eggys. And the good wyf answerde that she coude speke no frenshe. And the marchaunt was angry for he also coude speke no frenshe but wold haue hadde egges and she vnderstode hym not. And thenne at laste a nother sayd that he wolde haue eyren. Then the good wyf sayd that she vnderstood hym wel'
- 'Loo what sholde a man in thyse dayes now wryte egges or eyren? Certaynly it is harde to playse euery man by cause of dyuersite and chaunge of langage'
- 'Therfor in a meane bytwene bothe I haue reduced and translated this sayd booke in to our englysshe not ouer rude ne curyous but in such termes as shall be vnderstanden by goddys grace'

The orthography of Early Modern English

- The orthography of Early Modern English was fairly similar to that of today, but spelling was unstable.
- Early Modern English orthography had a number of features of spelling that have not been retained:
 - (u) and (v) were considered as not two distinct letters but as still different forms of the same letter. Typographically, (v) was frequent at the start of a word and (u) elsewhere. Also, (w) was frequently represented by (vv).
 - (i) and (j) were also still considered not as two distinct letters, but as different forms of the same letter: hence ioy for joy and iust for just.
 - The letter \(\phi\) was still in use during the Early Modern English period but was increasingly limited to handwritten texts. In Early Modern English printing, \(\phi\) was represented by the Latin \(\cap Y\). Thorn had become nearly totally disused by the late Early Modern English period
 - A silent (e) was often appended to words. The last consonant was sometimes doubled when the (e) was added: hence manne (for man) and runne (for run).
 - ⟨y⟩ was often used instead of ⟨i⟩

The grammar of Early Modern English. Pronouns

		Nominative	Oblique	Genitive	Possessive
1 st person	singular	Ι	me	My/mine	mine
	plural	we	us	our	ours
2 nd person	Singular informal	thou	thee	Thy/thine	thine
	Plural or formal singular	Ye, you	you	your	yours
3 rd person	singular	He, she, it	Him/her/it	His/her/his	His/hers/his
	plural	they	them	their	theirs

Verbs

- The number of weak verbs is increasing due to French borrowings.
- The number of strong verbs is decreasing more and more.
- The decay of the system of strong verbs is marked by the elimination of the differences between the singular and plural past stems.
- New verbal forms are appearing, including Gerund and Continuous.
- The development of analytical forms with do

Vocabulary

- A number of words that are still in common use in Modern English have undergone semantic narrowing.
- The main sources of borrowing are Latin and French covering 60% of the new words. Words with Germanic origin in contrast, make only 20% of the Early Modern English lexis. Latin contributes the majority of loan words throughout the Early Modern English period and thus, it outdoes the French borrowings.
- It is surprising that merely 1% of the new words are drawn from Greek since antiquity played a dominant role in the cultural life of the Renaissance. The reason for this low percentage may be due to the fact that "many Greek loans were filtered through Latin or French, and Latin loans through French".