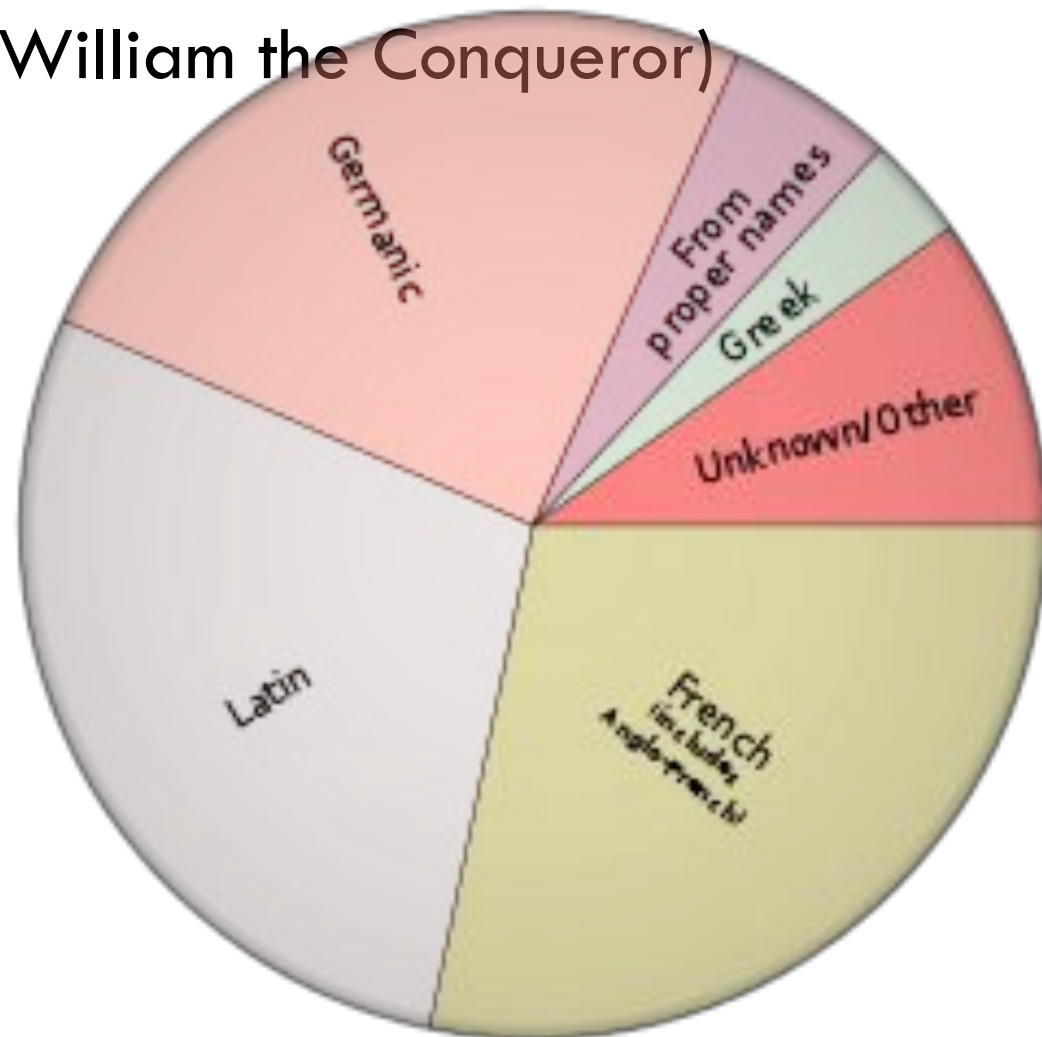


DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENGLISH VOCABULARY FROM OLD ENGLISH PERIOD

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Influence of other languages

- 1) French (because of William the Conqueror)
- 2) Latin
- 3) Germanic
- 4) Greek
- 5) From proper names
- 6) Unknown



- The Old English vocabulary was almost purely Germanic; except for a small number of borrowings, it consisted of native words inherited from PG or formed from native roots and affixes. Native OE words can be subdivided into a number of etymological layers coming from different historical periods. The three main layers in the native OE words are: common IE words; common Germanic words; specifically OE words

French borrowing

- French borrowings of the later periods differ greatly from the loan-words adopted in ME. They mainly pertain to diplomatic relations, social life, art and fashions. Most of them have not been completely assimilated and have retained a foreign appearance to the present day:
- 1) words like 'genre' and 'restaurant' have analyzed vowels and a French spelling;
- 2) police, fatigue, marine receive the stress on the last syllable and are pronounced with long [i:]

French borrowing

- To this day nearly all the words relating to the government and administration are French by origin: people, country, court, nation, office, parliament. A large number of French words pertain to the Church and religion: abbey, Bible, glory, pray, saint, sacrifice. French loan-words are referring to house, furniture, architecture: castle, column, palace, table, design, ornament. Many French loan-words belong to the domain of entertainment: cards, dance, leisure, pleasure, sport, partings.

Germanic influence

- The common Germanic layer includes words which are shared by the most Germanic languages, but do not occur outside the group. This layer is smaller than the layer of common Old English words. They originated in the common period of Germanic history, when Teutonic tribes lived close together. Semantically these words are connected with nature, with the sea and every day life: *eorþe*, *scrēap*, *macian*.
- The specifically OE layer contained the words which did not occur in other Germanic or non-Germanic languages. These words were few, if we include here only the words whose roots have not been found outside English: *clipian* (call), *brid* (bird).

The Scandinavian Settlements

- From the middle of the ninth century large numbers of Norse invaders settled in Britain, particularly in northern and eastern areas, and in the eleventh century the whole of England had a Danish king, Canute. The distinct North Germanic speech of the Norsemen had great influence on English, most obviously seen in the words that English has borrowed from this source. These include some very basic words such as *take* and even grammatical words such as *they*.

The Scandinavian Settlements

- The common Germanic base of the two languages meant that there were still many similarities between Old English and the language of the invaders. Some words, for example *give*, perhaps show a kind of hybridization with some spellings going back to Old English and others being Norse in origin.
- Nowadays the total number of Scandinavian borrowings in English is estimated at about 900 words, about 700 of them belong to Standard English.

Latin influence

- The Latin language continued to be used in England. Its main spheres were the church, the law court and academic activities. Latin words were borrowed in all historical periods.
- In the 16th -17th c. Latin was the main language of philosophy and science. Its use in the sphere of religion became more restricted after the Reformation and the publication of the English version of the Bible.

