



Changes in the System of the English Vocabulary

Etymological Characteristics of the English Words

- ▶ **common IE words** : words used in all IE languages
- ▶ **common Germanic words** : words not used outside the Germanic languages family
- ▶ **specifically OE words**: words not used outside the Old English language

Common IE Words in OE

**Terms of kinship: modor, fæder, dohtor,
broþor, sunu**

- ▶ Compare to Greek : **pater, meter**
- ▶ Compare to Latin: **pater, mater, frater**
- ▶ Compare to Sanscrit : **sunu**

Common IE Words in OE

Natural phenomena : mona, niht, treo, woeter, fyr

- ▶ Compare to Greek : mene, drus
- ▶ Compare to Ukrainian : ніч, дерево, вода
- ▶ Compare to Sanscrit : nakt, dru

Common Proto-Germanic Words :

Words found in Germanic group only: hand, sand, eorpe, grene, steorfan

- ▶ Compare to OHG : hant, sant, erda, gruoni, sterban;
- ▶ Compare to Icelandic : hond, sandr, graen

Specifically English Vocabulary

Words not found in other languages : *clipian*,
brid;

Words coined in Old English : *wifman*

Old English Poetic Vocabulary

beorn

masc. *man, noble, warrior*

eafora

masc. *son, heir*

freca

masc. *warrior*

guma

masc. *man, warrior*

hyse

masc. *young man*

ides

fem. *woman, lady*

mago

masc. *son, young man*

mægð

fem. *maiden, woman*

nipðas

masc. *men*

rinc

masc. *man, warrior*

secg

masc. *man, warrior*

wiga

masc. *warrior*

Old English Poetic Vocabulary

beadorinc

masc. *battle-warrior*

fyrdrinc

masc. *army-warrior*

gumrinc

masc. *man-warrior*

gūþrinc

masc. *war-warrior*

heaðorinc

masc. *war-warrior*

hererinc

masc. *army-warrior*

hilderinc

masc. *war-warrior*

magurinc

masc. *son-warrior*

særin

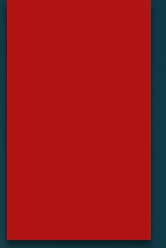
masc. *sea-warrior*

Borrowings in Old English

Celtic loan-words in the OE vocabulary :

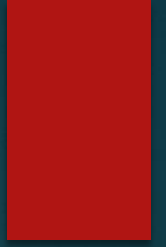
- ▶ Place names : Kent, Deira, Bernicia, York, Downs, London,
- ▶ Names of rivers : Ouse, Esk, Exe, Avon; Thames, Stour, Dover

Borrowings in Old English



- ▶ ***Latin Borrowings in Old English:***
- ▶ Alphabet;
- ▶ First period : cyse, plante, disc (dish), catte, candel, cetel;
- ▶ Second period: abbot, angel, canon, tunic, temple, shrine

Word Building in Old English



- ▶ *Affixation*
- ▶ *Compounding*
- ▶ *Sound interchange*
- ▶ *Word stress*

The Middle English Vocabulary

Scandinavian influence : *anger, bag, cake, dirt, flat, fog, husband, leg, neck, silver, skin, sky, smile, Thursday, window; happy, ill, low, odd; raise, seem, take, want*

French influence (first period) : *baron, noble, dame, servant, messenger, feast, instrel, juggler*

French influence (second period) : *art, painting, sculpture, music, beauty, curtain, couch, chair, cushion, screen, lamp, apparel, habit, gown, peace, enemy, arms, battle, combat, attorney, bill, petition, complaint*

The word building in Middle English

- ▶ The use of native affixes with borrowed stems
- ▶ The use of borrowed affixes with native stems
- ▶ Coining new words out of foreign elements

Conversion in Middle English

annoy (1230) - *to annoy* (1250)

account (1260) - *to account* (1303)

comfort (1225) - *to comfort* (1290)

Conversion in Early New English

Conversion from verbs to nouns : *contest, grasp, push, scream, award, brew, convert, produce, stew, cheat, pry, sneak, bend, dip, lounge, goggles, rattle, spring*

Conversion from nouns to verbs : *bottle, channel, garrison, pocket, gun, net, trumpet; commotion, gesture, paraphrase, serenade, brick, glove, mask, bundle, group, pulp, butcher, mother, nurse, usher*

Conversion from adjectives to verbs : *dirty, empty, numb, obscure, idle, mute, shy, swift.*

Borrowings in Early New English

Borrowings from Latin : *fungus: fungi, cactus: cacti/cactuses*

Borrowings from French : *decision, intuition, trophy, pioneer, pilot, colonel, indigo, vase, vogue, genteel, scene, machine*

Borrowings from Spanish : *cask, anchovy, sherry, cargo, renegade, booby, creole, desperado, armada, embargo*

Borrowings from Italian : *artichoke, parmesan, regatta, frigate, traffic, ballot, bankrupt, carnival, sonnet, lottery, duel*

Borrowings from Dutch : *easel, sketch, landscape, hose, scone, dock, dollar, yacht, wagon, snuff, filibuster, split*

Etymological doublets

- ▶ *deduce, deduct* ← *deducere*
- ▶ *discus, disc/disk, dais, desk, dish* ← *discus*
- ▶ *species* ← from Latin *species*

- ▶ *spice* ← from Old French *espice* ← from Latin *species*
- ▶ *status* ← from Latin *status*
- ▶ *estate* ← Old French *estat* ← from Latin *status*

The Variants of the English Language

- ▶ British English
- ▶ American English
- ▶ Australian English
- ▶ Canadian English