

## **The English Language: Evolution from Tribal to Global and Transformation from Commodification to Simplification – An Insight.**

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### **Abstract**

The present paper examines the history and ancestry of English language which was founded by the Teutonic Tribes (Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Frisians). Through tribal unifications, British migrations and colonization, Linguistic transplantations, etc., the Tribal language began to put on a Global face. The Pundits (eminent scholars/Professors) of English like F.T Wood, C.L Wren, Henry Bradley, George McKnight, E.L Barbara, Albert C Baugh, David Graddol, David Crystal etc. have spilled much ink on the rapid ‘Chameleon-like’, Python-like ‘transformation and evolution of English from primitive to cosmopolitan. The American Trade, Technology, internet, computer, have been playing such a pivotal role in our lives today. The Complexity of the Grammatical system (the irrational and illogical Gender, cumbersome inflexions etc.) have all been simplified and rationalized through Anglo Saxon Period, Middle English Period and Modern English Period. The fact that has generally been agreed by many Anglophiles is that non –Native learners or users of English outnumber and outdo the Native speakers. The positive points for this rapid and sporadic change in globalization of English is the ‘*Facility and Felicity*’. They are born out of the simplicity, flexibility, and ease, the chief characteristic features of English.

**Keywords:** Teutonic Tribes, Unifications, British Migrations and Colorizations, Linguistic Transplantations, Facility and Felicity’ Simplicity, Flexibility.

### **Introduction:**

Firstly, the Evolving of English origins, through the historical stages Old English (Anglo-Saxon) Period, Middle English and Modern English) and the sporadic changes that have arisen out, due to the Unifications, Migrations, Colonization, and the Transplanting of English in America, are laid an emphasis in this paper.

Secondly, the paper focuses on the simplification and rationalization of grammatical complexities, irrational genders system, and the inflexional system of Old English which paved the way for sea changes in the currency of use of language and evolving of changes.

Thirdly, the British transplantation of English language into America and the Colonization of many Asian, African and other countries, the English language has spread and evolved worldwide, changing it’s colours like a Chameleon. Beyond the pragmatism approach about the language and the globalization itself. It is also exposed the practical use of the English language by the popular native writers in the everyday of the human being wherever around the world.

### **Objective:**

The intent of this paper is to illuminate the anglophiles how the English Language evolved through, from the Tribal origins to the divergent Global phenomena by the simplifications, modifications, flexifications and manifestations. It is impossible to cover enormous features of evolution of the language within this huge stretch of time in such a short span of space and time; a trial is taken however.

### **Review of Literature:**

The literature cited and taken into study for fulfilling the objective of my conference paper provides me a spring board to get ahead.

Albert C Baugh, an eminent Pennsylvanian Professor of English and an authority on History of the English Language. David Crystal, a titanic scholar and a prolific writer in the English language, David Graddol, a Scholar Par Excellence in Applied linguistics, Henry Bradley, a resourceful Professor of philology and lexicography, George McKnight and many other scholars.

They have been known for their erudite scholarship and experience of teaching and writing in English Language They explored the ancestry and development of English language, Having studied their writings, I got an stimulated to write on the aspect of title, I have mentioned with the addition of my professionalism in teaching English language and literature.

### **Research Methodology:**

The method used for the production of this study was the thorough review of research articles, and the e- books related to the issue and topical strength.

In the light of the David Graddol's seminal and scholarly summation of the Globality of English was founded on the British colonial expansionism from it's place of origin to coercive colonizing and linguistic hybridizing with the culture and catering to the needs of the communication with the colonized, the tone of the paper is set.

The English language evolved through three historical periods such as Old English Period from 450 to 1100 AD, Middle English Period from 1100 to 1500 AD and Modern English Period since 1500 till to date. During it's historicity, English language came under the impact of many foreign languages.

Old English (450 to 1066) (Tribal migrations, Unifications and Grammatical complexities).

The Founding Fathers of English Language were Teutonic Tribes: Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Frisians. The arrival of these Teutonic Tribes set the ground for the history of the language in the British Isles during the 5th Century AD. The name "Britain" came from the First Tribal settlers called Celtic-speaking Tribes who were called at that time in English history as *Brythons* (*Britons*). They spoke a Celtic language. Early in the seventeenth century,

The paradigm shift in the history of English language is the emergence of the Teutonic tribal appearances in Celtic-speaking Briton. At First, *Jutes* (originated from modern Jutland) were the first Teutonic Tribes, who had set their foot into Britain and settled at the southeast of England Secondly, *Saxons* (coast of north Germany) came to settle down at south of the Thames. Thirdly, *Angles* (from the north lower bank of the Thames) settled the eastern part of the island almost to Scotland. Of all the Germanic tribes, *the Saxons* played dominant role. Despite their Germanic dialectical variations in their tribal tongues, in course of time, these petty tribal kingdoms had to unify for mustering strength which paved the way for political affiliations and *unifications*. Hence, the dialectical heterogeneity of the *Saxons*, *Angles* and *Jutes* became homogenous. Hence, these Germanic tribes: Angles, Saxons, and Jutes *politically unified* into Anglo-Saxon and began to speak a unified language called Old English or Anglo-Saxon a West Germanic language / Old English is rooted from West Germanic languages. Old English sounded similar to German, with guttural utterances and throaty sounds. Prof Henry Bradley identified the likeness between Germany and English: Vater /father, Mutter/ mother, Bruder/ brother, Schwester /sister, Haus / house, Feld/ field, Gras/ grass, Korn /corn, etc. (Bradley 1904).

### **Grammatical Complexities:**

A perusal of OE (Alfred's English) leads us to an irrational and illogical genders system, known as 'grammatical' gender. Even the unsexed are sexed and the sexed are neutered. For instance, hand was feminine, foot was masculine, while maiden, wife, and woman were neuter. The genders in Old English were grammatical, rather than the natural forms found in Present Day English

Another Grammatical Complexity is Old English was a fully inflected language. The nouns, pronouns, adjectives and determiners were inflected. To indicate person, number, tense and Verbs were also inflected. The Complexity of Grammar in Old English is apparent in Modern German also.

The wonder that can be thunderously stressed upon was the obscure Old English gave rise to four distinctive dialectal varieties of English in the old English Period itself. They were *Mercian*, *Northumbrian* (known collectively as Anglian), *Kentish*, and *West Saxon*. Each of these dialects arose independently with the Petty Tribal kingdoms which underwent transformation and offered us a Pretty Global English.

Middle English: (1100-1500) – (Simplification of Grammar & Frenchification of English)

The Norman invasion and Conquest of Britain in 1066 by William the Conqueror had a tremendous impact on English language and life. English was Frenchified giving rise to a variety of French called Anglo-Norman. A huge influx of Norman words flooded into Old English. The period from 12th mid –15th century is “a period of considerable linguistic variety & rapid transition” (McDowall 1989).

The Frenchification of English is evident in the fact that Norman French became the official language. Massive French borrowings were apparently used. Stephen Gramley (2012:) identified French borrowings in Fashion, Art & literature, Learning, Law & Administration, and Military. English degenerated to vulgar, language of the common It is often mentioned that words expressing various kinds of meat are of French origin while the words expressing animals are of Germanic origin, e.g. beef –cow, pork– pig, and sheep-mutton. David Graddol says “French is regarded as having negative effect on English and it has been cast as in the role of villain” (page 123). It was an "Age of great changes" (Baugh 1993). The irrational Gender system was replaced with the Natural Gender and the inflexional system was replaced by Prepositional system. Modern English (1500–1650): Impact of Renaissance - The language of Shakespeare. English language has been developing by leaps and bounds since early 1500. It has come contact with different languages by massively borrowing and loaning words from/to other languages. Mohit K Ray (2004), a scholar in Linguistics, opines that the English is the most copious, heterogeneous and varied in vocabulary. It may further be explained that English has enlarged it's vocabulary by devouring words from it's colonial expansionism. The Germanic linguistic elements have fallen in disuse. During the Renaissance Period, Caxton's Printing Press inaugurated a new era of the development and standardization of English Language with the sporadic changes in Grammar, vocabulary, spelling and Pronunciation. English in the Modern period has been prone to *flexibility* in usage. For instance, the words such as *cook*, *cheat*, *fire* etc. can be used as both a noun and a verb. A trend to create new words by Affixation (addition of prefixes or suffixes e.g. -ness, -tion, un-, etc. The exodus of native English speakers from the British Isles to North America in the Early17th century was a turning point in the history of evolution of English. As a result of migration and transplantation, English had a close contact not only with the users of varied forms of English which were similar to their own, but also with those who spoke different varieties of the language.

William Shakespeare was a praised as wordsmith because of his genius and mastery of English language. He himself coined many words. In fact, he also made a liberal use of verbed nouns: "But indeed, if you find him not within this month, you shall nose him as you go up the stairs into the lobby." (Hamlet) – Robusto Dec 13 '13 at 21:54. Prof George McKnight (2010) strongly emphasized in his book the trend of verbing Shakespeare Nouns was set up by him. Shakespeare's use of English for dramas are foolproof evidences. Bradley said bravely that Shakespeare used “Bold phrases” in his dramas, which came into currency of usage in English. This has had a tremendous impact on the students, speakers (both Native & Non Native), readers and writers in English.

### Conclusion:

It's been observed and emphasized by many that there is a Facility (flexibleness) and Felicity (the Joy of Anglophiles) in using English. Prof Peter Stevens has foreseen the worldwide reach of English to greater heights, which can never be reached by any language. English stands outstandingly Tall in

All. It goes without saying that English is already an incontestable lingua franca. John Algeo (2010) speaks with the predictability that the English speakers worldwide may exceed one billion.

Taking scholarly cues from divergent Pundits of English language referred in Review of literature especially an erudite Prof Baugh, it can be concluded that the world wide spread and use of English language is characterized by adopting new word power, adapting to newer times and climes and assimilating them into newest cultures.

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