CORSO DI LAUREA IN
COMUNICAZIONE INTERLINGUISTICA APPLICATA
ALLE PROFESSIONI GIURIDICHE

Modulo di Lingua Inglese 1 2019-20

Lesson 2 - 16 March 2020

Origins of English

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Development of England

Original inhabitants were various Celtic tribes:

Britons (red)

Picts (blue)

Goidelics (green)

All spoke Celtic languages

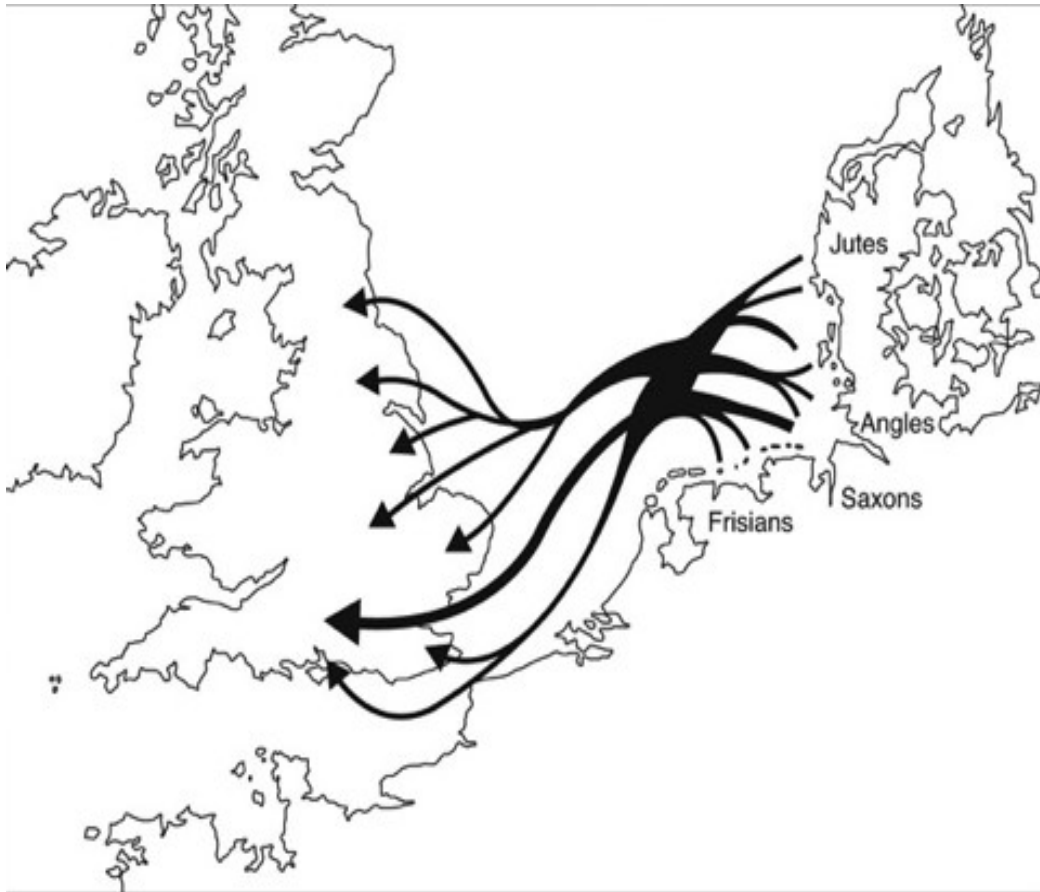Britons = Brittonic/Brythonic

Development of England

ROMAN BRITANNIA about 410
Roman army camps   Iceni   Native Briton tribes

Roman invasion: Julius Caesar (54-55 BC), Claudius AD 43

Roman rule continued until the early 5th century

Scotland (Caledonia) and Ireland (Hibernia) remained outside the Roman Empire

Development of England

Anglo-Saxons

- First settlers after the Romans:

  - Angles
  - Saxons
  - Jutes
  - Frisians

Development of England

- Viking (Denmark and Norway) expansion and settlement during the 9th Century

- Dominant forces: Danelaw and the Kingdom of Wessex (Alfred the Great)

- Anglo-Saxon dialects to the South and Anglo-Norse dialects to the North

- Kingdom of England (927) results from victory in battles and the unification of the kingdoms under Aethelstan (grandson of Alfred)

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Development of England

Norman Conquest

- Battle of Hastings (1066) shown in Bayeux Tapestry

- William the Conqueror defeats Harold and becomes King of England

- The monarch and aristocracy speak Norman French, while Anglo-Saxon English is used by the population

Old English

'English' developed as a spoken language under the Anglo-Saxons, replacing Brittonic and Latin

West Saxon and Mercian dialects became the most dominant

Influence of Old Norse in the areas under Danelaw

First written texts in 'English':
- Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (from 890)
- Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People (Latin original 731; translated into Old English 890-930)
- Beowulf (975-1025)

Middle English

Language developed after the arrival of the Normans until around 1500

Increasing influence of Norman French/Anglo Norman

Disappearance of Old English verb inflections and grammatical gender

Changes in pronunciation: Great Vowel Shift (from 1400)

Changes in spelling based on London Chancery Standard influenced by invention of printing press (Gutenberg, 1439; Caxton, 1476)

Use in literature: Chaucer, Canterbury Tales, 1400

Modern English

Early Modern English
- From the Tudor period, beginning 1485

- Most influential texts in Early Modern English:
  - Works of Shakespeare (1564-1616)
  - Bible translations: King James Bible (1611)

Development of Modern English
- From the 17th century
  - Consolidation of the language forms used today
  - Expansion of use of the language through colonisation (Americas) and the establishment of the British Empire (India, Africa, Australasia)

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Word Origins

Anglo-Saxon

- Basic vocabulary
- Short, mono-syllabic words
- Verbs describing basic processes (often irregular)
- Comparatives with 'er'
- Raw materials (food nouns refer to the animal)
- Simple processes

Word Origins

French

- More complex vocabulary
- Longer, multi-syllabic words
- Verbs describing sophisticated processes (often regular)
- Comparatives with 'more'
- Food nouns refer to the meat
- Language of political, military, economic authority; culture
- False friends emerge though different development of words:
  - actually, eventually
  - premises
  - sensible

Word Origins

Latin/Greek

- Specialised vocabulary (semantic fields): religion, law, medicine, arts, science
- Perception of greater difficulty in pronunciation, spelling and understanding
- Often used deliberately to impress socially, maintain distance, establish groups/elites, etc.
- Some deliberate re-spelling in English to reflect Latin roots:
    - fact, transport, excite, debt

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Word Frequency

Shorter Oxford English Dictionary
- 64% of words from French/Latin/Greek
- 26% from Anglo-Saxon

4000 most frequent words
- 51% Germanic
- 48% French/Latin
- hardly any Greek

12 most frequent verbs in Longman's Corpus:
- say, get, go, know, think, see,
- make, come, take, want, give, mean

Legalese

AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE
(LEGALESE)

The present Agreement is stipulated by and between X, of the one part, and Y, of the other part, on 18 April 2016.

WHEREAS:

(1) Y was employed by Z as a broker for a period up to and including March 2016.

(2) Some disputes have arisen between Z and various parties in relation to certain transactions carried out by Y and X was engaged by Z to represent it in relation to such disputes.

(3) X intends to engage Y to assist in relation to the aforesaid disputes and litigation arising therefrom and Y is desirous of providing such assistance.

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Y will make himself available to X and Z to assist them with respect to the aforesaid disputes and litigation. Such assistance shall include, but shall not be limited to, providing opinion and factual information, assisting in the analysis and preparation of any evidence.
2. X will pay to Y all his expenses in providing such assistance. All such expenses must be authorised by X and Y shall provide receipts therefor.
3. X will pay to Y the sum of _____ per hour for his time in assisting in relation to the disputes. Y will invoice X at the end of each month.
4. Y will keep confidential all information and documents provided to him and will take no copies and give no such documents to any other person and will refrain from divulging any information about the litigation to any person other than X or Z, unless obliged to do so by law.
5. The present agreement shall be governed by Italian law.
6. The present agreement shall enter into force when each party hereto exchanges a faxed or original copy of these presents signed on its behalf.

X

_____

Y

_____

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Lambarth: Chapter 2

Lawyers:

- Solicitor
- Barrister
- Attorney
- Judge

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Lambarth: Chapter 2

Solicitor:

- Degree (usually in law, or with conversion course)
- Vocational training (law school)
- On-the-job training
- Like a GP (General Practitioner)
- All areas of law – preparation of litigation

Lambarth: Chapter 2

Barrister:

- Degree (usually in law, or with conversion course)
- Vocational training (law school)
- On-the-job training
- Like a medical consultant (senior specialist)
- Represents client in litigation in court

Lambarth: Chapter 2

Attorney:

- American term for lawyers

Lambarth: Chapter 2

Judge:

- Preside over court cases and pass final sentence (possibly following jury decision)
- Those if higher courts have a legal background
- Those is lower (magistrates') courts are members of the public (Justices of the Peace)

Next Lesson

Monday 23 March 2020 (15.00-16.30)

Preparation:

- Read Lambarth Chapter 3: Criminal and Civil Law
- What is 'Legalese' and what are the typical characteristics?