

The Cambridge History of the
English Language

剑桥英语史

第五卷

(世界各地的英语)

Edited by Robert Burchfield

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THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

VOLUME V *English in Britain and
Overseas: Origins and Development*

EDITED BY

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GENERAL EDITOR'S PREFACE

Although it is a topic of continuing debate, there can be little doubt that English is the most widely spoken language in the world, with significant numbers of native speakers in almost every major region – only South America falling largely outside the net. In such a situation an understanding of the nature of English can be claimed unambiguously to be of world-wide importance.

Growing consciousness of such a role for English is one of the motivations behind this History. There are other motivations too. Specialist students have many major and detailed works of scholarship to which they can refer, for example Bruce Mitchell's *Old English Syntax*, or, from an earlier age, Karl Luick's *Historische Grammatik der englischen Sprache*. Similarly, those who come new to the subject have both one-volume histories such as Barbara Strang's *History of English* and introductory textbooks to a single period, for example Bruce Mitchell and Fred Robinson's *A Guide to Old English*. But what is lacking is the intermediate work which can provide a solid discussion of the full range of the history of English both to the Anglicist who does not specialise in the particular area to hand and to the general linguist who has no specialised knowledge of the history of English. This work attempts to remedy that lack. We hope that it will be of use to others too, whether they are interested in the history of English for its own sake, or for some specific purpose such as local history or the effects of colonisation.

Under the influence of the Swiss linguist, Ferdinand de Saussure, there has been, during this century, a persistent tendency to view the study of language as having two discrete parts: (i) synchronic, where a language is studied from the point of view of one moment in time; (ii) diachronic, where a language is studied from a historical perspective. It might therefore be supposed that this present work is purely diachronic.

But this is not so. One crucial principle which guides *The Cambridge History of the English Language* is that synchrony and diachrony are intertwined, and that a satisfactory understanding of English (or any other language) cannot be achieved on the basis of one of these alone.

Consider, for example, the (synchronic) fact that English, when compared with other languages, has some rather infrequent or unusual characteristics. Thus, in the area of vocabulary, English has an exceptionally high number of words borrowed from other languages (French, the Scandinavian languages, American Indian languages, Italian, the languages of northern India and so on); in syntax a common construction is the use of *do* in forming questions (e.g. *Do you like cheese?*), a type of construction not often found in other languages; in morphology English has relatively few inflexions, at least compared with the majority of other European languages; in phonology the number of diphthongs as against the number of vowels in English is notably high. In other words, synchronically, English can be seen to be in some respects rather unusual. But in order to understand such facts we need to look at the history of the language; it is often only there that an explanation can be found. And that is what this work attempts to do.

This raises another issue. A quasi-Darwinian approach to English might attempt to account for its widespread use by claiming that somehow English is more suited, better adapted, to use as an international language than others. But that is nonsense. English is no more fit than, say, Spanish or Chinese. The reasons for the spread of English are political, cultural and economic rather than linguistic. So too are the reasons for such linguistic elements within English as the high number of borrowed words. This History, therefore, is based as much upon political, cultural and economic factors as linguistic ones, and it will be noted that the major historical divisions between volumes are based upon the former type of events (the Norman Conquest, the spread of printing, the declaration of independence by the USA), rather than the latter type.

As a rough generalisation, one can say that up to about the seventeenth century the development of English tended to be centripetal, whereas since then the development has tended to be centrifugal. The settlement by the Anglo-Saxons resulted in a spread of dialect variation over the country, but by the tenth century a variety of forces were combining to promote the emergence of a standard form of the language. Such an evolution was disrupted by the Norman

Conquest, but with the development of printing together with other more centralising tendencies, the emergence of a standard form became once more, from the fifteenth century on, a major characteristic of the language. But processes of emigration and colonisation then gave rise to new regional varieties overseas, many of which have now achieved a high degree of linguistic independence, and one of which, namely American English, may even have a dominating influence on British English. The structure of this work is designed to reflect these different types of development. Whilst the first four volumes offer a reasonably straightforward chronological account, the later volumes are geographically based. This arrangement, we hope, allows scope for the proper treatment of diverse types of evolution and development. Even within the chronologically oriented volumes there are variations of structure, which are designed to reflect the changing relative importance of various linguistic features. Although all the chronological volumes have substantial chapters devoted to the central topics of semantics and vocabulary, syntax, and phonology and morphology, for other topics the space allotted in a particular volume is one which is appropriate to the importance of that topic during the relevant period, rather than some pre-defined calculation of relative importance. And within the geographically based volumes all these topics are potentially included within each geographical section, even if sometimes in a less formal way. Such a flexible and changing structure seems essential for any full treatment of the history of English.

One question that came up as this project began was the extent to which it might be possible or desirable to work within a single theoretical linguistic framework. It could well be argued that only a consensus within the linguistic community about preferred linguistic theories would enable a work such as this to be written. Certainly, it was immediately obvious when work for this History began, that it would be impossible to lay down a 'party line' on linguistic theory, and indeed, that such an approach would be undesirably restrictive. The solution reached was, I believe, more fruitful. Contributors have been chosen purely on the grounds of expertise and knowledge, and have been encouraged to write their contributions in the way they see most fitting, whilst at the same time taking full account of developments in linguistic theory. This has, of course, led to problems, notably with contrasting views of the same topic (and also because of the need to distinguish the ephemeral flight of theoretical fancy from genuine new insights into linguistic theory), but even in a work which is concerned to provide a

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unified approach (so that, for example, in most cases every contributor to a volume has read all the other contributions to that volume), such contrasts, and even contradictions, are stimulating and fruitful. Whilst this work aims to be authoritative, it is not prescriptive, and the final goal must be to stimulate interest in a subject in which much work remains to be done, both theoretically and empirically.

The task of editing this History has been, and still remains, a long and complex one. As General Editor I owe a great debt to many friends and colleagues who have devoted much time and thought to how best this work might be approached and completed. Firstly, I should thank my fellow-editors: John Algeo, Norman Blake, Bob Burchfield, Roger Lass and Suzanne Romaine. They have been concerned as much with the History as a whole as with their individual volumes. Secondly, there are those fellow linguists, some contributors, some not, who have so generously given of their time and made many valuable suggestions: John Anderson, Cecily Clark, Frans van Coetsem, Fran Colman, David Denison, Ed Finegan, Olga Fischer, Jacek Fisiak, Malcolm Godden, Angus McIntosh, Lesley Milroy, Donka Minkova, Matti Rissanen, Michael Samuels, Bob Stockwell, Tom Toon, Elizabeth Traugott, Peter Trudgill, Nigel Vincent, Anthony Warner, Simone Wyss. One occasion stands out especially: the organisers of the Fourth International Conference on English Historical Linguistics, held at Amsterdam in 1985, kindly allowed us to hold a seminar on the project as it was just beginning. For their generosity, which allowed us to hear a great many views and exchange opinions with colleagues one rarely meets face-to-face, I must thank Roger Eaton, Olga Fischer, Willem Koopman and Frederike van der Leek.

With a work so complex as this, an editor is faced with a wide variety of problems and difficulties. It has been, therefore, a continual comfort and solace to know that Penny Carter of Cambridge University Press has always been there to provide advice and solutions on every occasion. Without her knowledge and experience, encouragement and good humour, this work would have been both poorer and later. After the work for Volume I was virtually complete, Marion Smith took over as publishing editor, and I am grateful to her too, not merely for ensuring such a smooth change-over, but for her bravery when faced with the mountain of paper from which this series has emerged.

Richard M. Hogg

VOLUME EDITOR'S PREFACE

As was to be expected, a volume of this complexity has taken a long while to prepare. The procedures followed were the same as those that worked well in other volumes. As the first drafts of chapters arrived they were circulated for comment to the volume editors and to the writers of other chapters in this volume. The results, though time-consuming and sometimes challenging, were always beneficial, and I would like to record my thanks to all those who helped in this way.

It should be emphasised that contributors to this volume were not required to follow strict guidelines in the way in which they presented their findings. Any such attempt would have been doomed to failure, since the subject matter is so diverse and the scholarly evidence available in each area so markedly unequal.

It comes as no surprise that one work above all was found by the contributors to be a central point of comparison and a landmark for all future scholarly research into the pronunciation of present-day varieties of English: this seminal work is J. C. Wells' *Accents of English* (Cambridge University Press, 3 vols., 1982).

For their invaluable comments on the glossary of linguistic terms I am grateful to John Algeo, Laurie Bauer, John Holm, Jeffrey Kallen and Derrick McClure. Some other scholars gave welcome advice on particular entries.

I should also like to place on record my special thanks to two Cambridge University Press editors: to Penny Carter, who drew me into the project and governed its fortunes with exemplary enthusiasm and efficiency until she moved to another department in the Press; and to Judith Ayling, who gave me excellent advice and unfailing guidance during the later stages of the editorial process. I am also indebted to Jenny Potts, who brought her considerable copy-editing skills to bear on the complex typescripts of the contributors to this volume.

Robert Burchfield

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The index was compiled by Fiona Barr. Juhani Klemola, University of Joensuu, deserves special mention for his reading of the proofs of chapter 5 after the death of Ossi Ihalainen.

ABBREVIATIONS

AES	<i>Atlas of English Sounds</i> (ed. E. Kolb <i>et al.</i> Berne : Francke, 1979)
Afrik.	Afrikaans
AL	Aitken's Law
AmerE	American English
AND	<i>Australian National Dictionary</i> (see p. 327)
AUMLA	<i>Journal of the Australasian Universities Language and Literature Association</i>
AustE	Australian English
aux	auxiliary
C	consonant
CCDE	<i>Corpus of Contemporary Dialects of England</i> (see p. 589)
CE	Creole English
CV	consonant followed by vowel
DOST	<i>Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue</i> (see p. 92)
DSAE: Hist.	<i>Dictionary of South African English on Historical Principles</i> (In preparation. See pp. 443; 616: Silva 1990)
Du.	Dutch
EDD	<i>English Dialect Dictionary</i> (ed. J. Wright, London : Oxford University Press. 6 vols. 1898-1905)
EDG	<i>English Dialect Grammar</i>
EDS	<i>English Dialect Society</i>
EFL	English as a foreign language
ESc.	Early Scots
ESL	English as a second language
GenAm.	General American

List of abbreviations

GIE	General Indian English
GVS	Great Vowel Shift
HRT	high rising tone
IE	Indian English
Ir.	Irish
Kh.	Khoisan
LAE	<i>Linguistic Atlas of England</i> (ed. H. Orton <i>et al.</i> London: Croom Helm, 1978)
LAS	<i>Linguistic Atlas of Scotland</i> (see p. 92)
L1	first language
L2	second language
MCC	Miskito Coast Creole
ME	Middle English
ModE	Modern English
ModSc.	Modern Scots
MSc.	Middle Scots
Ng.	Nguni
NLW	National Library of Wales
NZE	New Zealand English
OE	Old English
OED	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
ON	Old Norse
Osc.	Older Scots
P	Portuguese
PDE	Present-Day English
RP	Received Pronunciation
SAE	South Asian English
SAEP	South African English Pronunciation
SAfrDu.	South African Dutch
SAfrE	South African English
SED	<i>Survey of English Dialects</i> (ed. H. Orton <i>et al.</i> Leeds: Arnold, 1962-71)
SND	<i>Scottish National Dictionary</i> (see p. 92)
So.	Sotho
SSE	Scottish standard English

ST	Sotho-Tswana
StE	standard English
SVO	subject + verb + object
TMA	tense, modality and aspect
Ts.	Tswana
VP	verb phrase
VSO	verb + subject + object
WE	Welsh English
Xh.	Xhosa
Zu.	Zulu

1.1 Variety and diversity

1.1.1 *Varieties of English: some introductory remarks*

The essays in this volume give an account of the history and development of a number of distinct and highly diversified varieties of English – varieties that, in varying degrees, are recognisably different from one another and from standard British and standard American English. Most people would have little difficulty in identifying the English-speaking region in which the following sentences might be heard:

Ye'll be dain wi't afore I win hame, will ye no?

There's tall you are!

I'm after missing the bus (I have just missed the bus)

The ooms and oopes of the plainland

without having to turn to the Scottish, Welsh, Irish and South African English chapters that follow. But few people could describe in any systematic way how the separate constituents of these sequences of words came to be emblematic of the varieties they represent.

It should be borne in mind that speakers of local forms of English are often unaware that others regard their speech as in any way unusual. Martyn Wakelin, in his book *The Archaeology of English* (1988), for example, cites a conversation between Lady Constance Charterley and her husband's gamekeeper Mellors, who, although having been a lieutenant in the Indian Army, used 'broad Derbyshire' when it suited him:

"Appen yer'd better 'ave this key, an' Ah mun fend far 'oods some other road." (*Perhaps you had better have this key, and I must make provision*

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This volume is dedicated to the memory of Professor Ole Sjaastad, who died on 15 September 1993 from injuries sustained in a road accident in Finland. At the time of his death his chapter had nearly been completed and the volume was on the point of going to press.

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