

Concise

Oxford

English-Chinese Dictionary

牛津现代
英汉双解词典

增补版

Extended Edition

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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Della Thompson 主编

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牛津现代英汉双解词典

出版前言

外研社于2000年引进出版了英文版《牛津英语小词典》(*Little Oxford Dictionary*)、《牛津袖珍英语词典》(*Pocket Oxford Dictionary*)和《牛津简明英语词典》(*Concise Oxford Dictionary*)。这三部词典是世界上最权威的词典系列之一,素以“释义准确、可靠、简明”著称于世。我国著名英语专家许国璋、王佐良、王宗炎、李赋宁、危东亚、熊德轸、丁往道、胡壮麟等教授均对这个词典系列给予了高度评价。2000年至2002年,外研社和牛津大学出版社联合组织国内英语专家对这个词典系列进行了翻译,外研社将在全国出版发行该词典系列的简体汉字本,牛津大学出版社(中国)有限公司计划在香港等地出版发行这个词典系列的繁体汉字本。《牛津英汉双解小词典》于2002年2月出版,而《牛津袖珍英汉双解词典》作为这个系列中的第二本也已于2002年5月与读者见面,《牛津现代英汉双解词典》(考虑到国内读者对这样一部大型词典定名为“简明”词典可能会有所不解,所以我们将中文书名更改为“现代”词典)是这个系列中份量最重的一部词典,经过翻译和编辑们的艰苦努力终于问世。本词典是根据第9版修订本(*Revised Ninth Edition*)翻译而成,收词多达120,000余条,并附有大量的用法说明及词源信息。本词典权威可靠,精美实用,是外研社重点词典项目之一。希望它能成为广大英语学习者的良师益友。

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本文试图做三件事情：一、介绍原版《牛津词典系列》的资料来源和编辑方针；二、指出《系列》的特色和优点；三、展示外语教学与研究出版社所加的汉语释义的要点和作用。

本文所说的《牛津词典系列》分为三级：中大型，*Concise Oxford Dictionary*，简称 *COD*，适合大学生及更高水平的人使用；中小型，*Pocket Oxford Dictionary*，简称 *POD*，适合大学生及中级英语学习者使用；小巧型，*Little Oxford Dictionary*，简称 *LOD*，适合中学生及初级英语学习者使用。



外语教学与研究出版社与牛津大学出版社达成协议，将在中国出版《牛津英汉双解词典系列》。下面以 *COD* 第 9 版为主脑，谈谈它的几个突出的优点。

1. 利用包括 1 亿单词的英国国家语料库 (The British National Corpus) 和牛津词典编辑部自有的电脑控制引语汇编 (computerized collection of selected citations) 及其他电脑控制词典文本 (computerized dictionary texts)，资料来源浩如烟海，因此覆盖面积极其广大，同时又能及时发现当代英语的各种演变。

2. 注意世界上多个英语国家(英国、美国、加拿大、澳大利亚、南非等等)的语言特点，兼收并蓄，不陷于一孔之见。

3. 关注当代因科技迅猛发展而产生的大量新词，尽量吸收。

4. 调查各英语国家、各地区、各社会阶层的语言习惯，在一些重要词目中加上用法说明 (Usage)，分别予以介绍。

5. 卷首有专文讲英语史，从古英语到中古英语到现代英语的种种演变，读者在此可以一览无遗。

6. 卷末有多种附录，都很有用，例如 1 平方英尺等于多少平方分米，摄氏 21 度等于华氏多少度，在这里都可以查到。



我们已经了解 *COD* 的整体内容，现在让我们看看，在什么地方此书异于或超越同类辞书。在下面，我们试把它与 *Webster's New World College Dictionary* (1999, 简称 *WNW*) 比较。*WNW* 在规模上与 *COD* 相当，是美国极负盛名的大学生常用工具书，美国联合新闻社 (*The Associated Press*) 和《华尔街日报》(*The Wall Street Journal*)、《纽约时报》(*The New York Times*) 等主要报社都指定其为社内使用的词典 (official dictionary)。

只要对比一下，就发现下面这些事实。

1. 在收词方面，*COD* 比 *WNW* 大。请看：

类别	词	COD	WNW
政治	dream ticket	✓	—
	Euro-rebel	✓	—
	placeman	✓	✓
	rainbow coalition	✓	—
	spin doctor	✓	✓
生态学	greening	✓	✓
自然科学和医学	blue box	✓	—
	hyperspace	✓	✓
	repetitive strain injury	✓	✓
	wormhole	✓	✓

2. 在释义和举例方面, COD 也比 WNW 胜一筹。我们随便抽出 4 个常用词来比较, 这 4 个词是 eat, drink, nice 和 terrible。

eat up

WNW

1. to consume all of (eat up your broccoli)
2. [Informal] to respond to with avid, uncritical interest or delight
(2 条释义, 举 1 个例)

COD

1. eat or consume completely
2. use or deal with rapidly or wastefully (eats up petrol; eats up the miles)
3. encroach upon or annex (eating up the neighbouring states)
4. absorb, preoccupy (eaten up with pride)
(4 条释义, 举 4 个例)

drink

WNW

1. to take liquid into the mouth and swallow it
2. to absorb anything as if in drinking
3. to drink alcoholic liquor, sometimes specify as a matter of habit or to excess
(3 条释义, 不举例)

COD

1. a. swallow (a liquid) b. swallow the liquid contents of (a container) c. swallow liquid, take draughts (drank from the stream)
2. take alcohol, esp. to excess (I have heard that he drinks)
3. (of a plant, porous material, etc.) absorb (moisture)
4. bring (oneself etc.) to a specified condition by drinking (drank himself into a stupor)
5. (usu. foll. by *away*) spend (wages etc.) on drink (drank away the money)
6. wish (a person's good health, luck etc.) by drinking (drank his health)
(6 条释义, 举 5 个例)

nice

WNW

a generalized term of approval meaning variously;

- a) agreeable, pleasant, delightful
- b) attractive, pretty
- c) courteous and considerate
- d) conforming to approved social standards, respectable
- e) in good taste
- f) good, excellent

(列举多种释义,但不说明与什么词搭配)

COD

1. pleasant, agreeable, satisfactory
2. (of a person) kind, good-natured
3. *iron.* bad or awkward (a nice mess you've made)
4. a. fine or subtle (a nice distinction) b. requiring careful thought or attention (a nice problem)
5. fastidious; delicately sensitive
6. punctilious, scrupulous (were not too nice about their methods)
7. (foll. by an adj., often with *and*) satisfactory or adequate in terms of the quality described (a nice long time; nice and warm)
(1. 指出反义用法; 2. 指出与别的词的搭配方式; 3. 7 条释义, 举 6 个例。)

terrible

WNW

1. causing terror; fearful; dreadful
2. extreme; intense; severe
3. [Informal] very bad, unpleasant disagreeable, etc.; a general term of disapproval

(3 条释义, 不举例)

COD

1. *colloq.* (a) dreadful, awful (the accident was terrible) (b) (as an intensifier) very great or bad (a terrible bore)
2. *colloq.* very incompetent (terrible at tennis)
3. (*predic.*) *colloq.* ill (he ate too much and feels terrible)
4. (*predic.*; often foll. by *about*) *colloq.* full of remorse (I feel terrible about it)
5. causing terror; fit to cause terror; formidable
(5 条释义, 举 5 个例)

从上面所引各例可见, WNW 的主要目的在于说明一个词的意思, 以便读者理解文义, 而不在于帮助读者使用这个词。COD 则两者兼顾, 而且举例有多个类型, 又切合读者的需要。比如, “我听说他是个酒鬼”, 可以说 “I have heard that he drinks alcoholic liquor to excess.”, 但未免文绉绉, 远不如 “I have heard that he drinks.” 那么干净利落。

三

看了上文, 读者对 COD 的整体特色和—些词目的优点已经有所了解, 现在让我们看看, 外研社组织了国内二十来位学者给 COD、POD 和 LOD 加上汉语释义, 主要目的是什么, 对哪些人最有帮助?

细读汉语释义 200 条之后,我发现它对各种水平的英语学习者都有帮助,对我这样的英语老教师也有帮助。但是我想,最大的受益者应该是从事教学工作、传媒工作和翻译工作的人。

书内汉语释义可以分为 3 类:

1. 科学名词、专门术语,一般人不知道,必得有专家译出,才能准确清楚。例如:

saccharin	糖精
salicylic acid	水杨酸,邻羟基苯甲酸
saltpetre	硝石,钾硝,硝酸钾
sal volatile	碳酸铵
sand martin	灰沙燕
sarcoma	肉瘤
scrofula	瘰疬;痲子颈,老鼠疮

2. 涵义丰富的单词和术语、口语、俗语、文学用语、典故和比喻,一般人找不到相应的译法,要由行家来酌定。例如:

scab	工贼
scruff	邋遢鬼
sandman	睡魔
scarlet woman	荡妇;妓女
sale of work	义卖
scorched earth policy	焦土政策
make oneself scarce	溜走;偷偷离开
have a screw loose	精神不大正常;乖僻
take with a pinch of salt	不大相信;半信半疑
saving your presence	恕我冒昧

3. 一个英语单词可以有多种译法,但这些译语各有微妙的涵义差异和不同的搭配方式,词典把它罗列出来,我们行文时便可以从容选择,把自己的意思表达得恰如其分,或者使修辞效果更好。例如:

scandal	恶意诽谤;背后诋毁
scatty	心猿意马的;杂乱无章的
sally	妙语,俏皮话,戏谑语
scold	大声斥责,怒斥
sarcasm	嘲笑,讽刺,嘲讽,挖苦
scowl	皱眉;蹙额

结束语

孔子说:“工欲善其事,必先利其器。”随着《牛津英汉双解词典系列》的出版,广大的中国英语学习者已有利器在手,只要努力用功,成绩优良指日可待。

王宗炎
中山大学教授
博士生导师

Preface

序言

The ninth edition of the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* is 14 per cent larger than the eighth and it takes further the changes in methodology and presentation that were introduced in its predecessor. These changes were in two main areas; firstly, the use of computer technology; and secondly, the aim of making the information contained in the dictionary more accessible to the user.

《牛津简明英语词典》第9版比第8版的内容增加了14%；同时，第9版在编纂方法及表述方面均比前一版作了进一步的改进。改进主要体现在两个方面：其一，使用了计算机技术；其二，读者更容易查阅词典所含的信息。

With regard to the use of computer technology, the *COD* has benefited in this edition not only from the availability of the previous edition in the form of an electronically tagged database, but from access to large bodies of corpus and citational evidence. The British National Corpus, a database containing over 100,000,000 words of text, has been the most significant of these, together with the OUP Dictionary Department's vast computerized collection of selected citations and its other computerized dictionary texts including the twenty-volume *Oxford English Dictionary*. The gathering of evidence for new words and usages has been greatly enhanced by electronic access to these sources, and the dictionary is now able to incorporate more quickly and reflect more accurately changes that have arisen in the language since the previous edition, with additions being made to the text right up to the time of printing. As a result, this edition contains over 7,000 new words and senses in a wide variety of areas. For example, the growing availability of international cuisine in Britain and elsewhere is reflected by the use in English of terms such as *bhaji*, *fajita*, *gravlax*, *penne*, *sharon fruit*, and many others; in the field of politics we have *dream ticket*, *Euro-rebel*, *placeman*, *rainbow coalition*, and *spin doctor*; in ecology new terms such as *arcology*, *carr*, *ecocide*, *greening*, and *wind farm* have arisen; in science and medicine, *blue box*, *bronchodilator*, *Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease*, *Feynman diagram*, *hyperspace*, *nicad*, *packet switching*, *repetitive strain injury*, and *wormhole*.

在使用计算机技术方面，本版《牛津简明英语词典》不仅获益于可使用第8版的电子标签式数据库，而且也获益于可应用多个大型语料库存储的大量语料和引文。其中，最为重要的是英国国家语料库，它的数据库有1亿多个文本词汇。一起使用的还有牛津大学出版社词典部在计算机中存储的大量精选引文以及该部计算机存储的其他词典文本，包括20卷本的《牛津英语词典》。由于可以通过电子存取这些资料，新词和新用法的收集工作大为加强。现在，词典可以更迅速地收入并且更准确地反映自上一版以来语言所发生的变化，内容可以不断增加直至付梓之时。其结果是，本版增加了各个领域的新词和新义7,000条。例如，在英国和其他地方越来越容易品尝到世界各国的菜肴，这一现象反映在英语中一些名称的使用上，例如 *bhaji*, *fajita*, *gravlax*, *penne* 和 *sharon fruit* 等；在政治领域，我们有 *dream ticket*, *Euro-rebel*, *placeman*, *rainbow coalition* 和 *spin doctor*；在生态领域有 *arcology*, *carr*, *ecocide*, *greening*, *wind farm* 等新术语；在科学和医学领域，新词有 *blue box*, *bronchodilator*, *Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease*, *Feynman diagram*, *hyperspace*, *nicad*, *packet switching*, *repetitive strain injury* 和 *wormhole* 等等。

Access to large corpora has also facilitated the statistical evaluation of disputed spellings, a reassessment of the hyphenation of compound nouns and a review of the italicization or otherwise of foreign words and phrases. The general trends away from the hyphenating of compound nouns and away from the italicization of foreign words and phrases are now recorded

in the dictionary. For example, instead of being hyphenated, *aftercare*, *postdoctoral*, and *teardrop* are now usually written as one word, while *boiler room*, *hand grenade*, and *taxi driver* are usually found as separate words. Similarly, *en route*, *hoi polloi*, and *tour de force* now tend to be written in roman rather than italic script, reflecting their increased assimilation into English. In addition to these changes, some proprietary terms are now recorded in the dictionary with a lower case initial letter, also reflecting general usage (but not affecting their legal proprietary status).

使用大型语料库也有助于对有争议的拼写方式做出统计评估,有助于对复合词中连字符当用与否做出重新评价,有助于对外来语和短语当用斜体抑或用其他方式处理做出思考。对复合词不用连字符以及对外来词不用斜体的总趋势如今已体现在本词典中。例如, *aftercare*、*postdoctoral* 和 *teardrop* 现在通常不使用连字符,而是写成一个词; *boiler room*、*hand grenade* 和 *taxi driver* 则通常写成两个分立的词。同样, *en route*、*hoi polloi* 和 *tour de force* 现在趋向被写成正体字而不是斜体字,这反映了它们日渐被英语吸纳。除了这些变化之外,一些专利名称词也被收入本词典中,这些词的首字母小写,以反映其一般用法(当然不会影响它们合法的专利名称地位)。

Another important feature of this edition has been the enlisting of special consultants for North American usage, which has enabled us to improve our coverage of this area and to apply geographical labels more accurately. Examples of new North American entries are *antsy*, *badass*, *ditzy*, *drywall*, *all-wheel drive*, *Latino*, *pork barrel*, *road kill*, *sweat sock*, and *upchuck*.

本版的另一个重要特点是有北美英语用法特别顾问的参与。使我们得以提高这一地区的覆盖范围,也使得我们可以更准确地运用地域标记。如新增的北美词条有 *antsy*、*badass*、*ditzy*、*drywall*、*all-wheel drive*、*Latino*、*pork barrel*、*road kill*、*sweat sock* 以及 *upchuck* 等。

Special attention has been given to the improvement of coverage in science and technology. Many terms which have become familiar outside the pages of technical books and journals have been added, especially in life sciences (including natural history) and computing, such as *accelerator board*, *biocide*, *client-server*, *flash memory*, and *ketamine* and their definitions seek to balance comprehensibility and precision.

我们着重考虑了增加科技方面的收词范围。许多科技术语已经逸出专业书籍刊物的范围而为常人耳熟能详。尤其是生命科学(包括自然史)和计算机领域的术语,都已增入本版词典中,如 *accelerator board*、*biocide*、*client-server*、*flash memory* 和 *ketamine*。对这些术语的定义,我们力求达到可理解性与准确性之间的平衡。

The aim to make the information contained in the dictionary more accessible to the user has resulted firstly in extending the policy of 'denesting' begun in the eighth edition. In this edition all compound nouns have been given their own entries rather than being 'nested' under their first element. This makes them easier to find and results in fewer extremely long entries. Attention has also been given to making etymologies clearer by minimizing the use of abbreviations and bracketed information and by the use of clearer punctuation. Usage Notes, which were previously buried within entries, have been extracted, expanded, and placed at the end of entries. A clearer style of explanation has been adopted and many more illustrative examples given.

为了使词典内容更便于读者查阅,首先使第8版的“不落窠臼”的策略得以继续扩展。在本版中,所有复合名词均单立词条而不是“栖息”在首词条之后。这样,它们更易于查找,而且减少极长的词条。同时注意尽量少用缩略语和括号信息,使用更清晰的标点符号,词源就更易于辨识了。用法说明原先隐没于词条之中,现在被提取出来,加以扩展并被置于词条之后。采用的解释更加明晰,还增添了许多例证。

Finally, the pronunciations have been thoroughly revised, giving a more up-to-date

representation of the standard British English accent (Received Pronunciation) by means of the International Phonetic Alphabet, in line with the system introduced into the *New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*.

最后要说明的是, 注音已经全面修订, 用国际音标注出了最新的标准英国英语口语 (即“标准发音”)。这与《牛津新节本英语词典》所采用的系统是一致的。

Many people were involved in the preparation of this new edition. In addition to the editorial staff already listed on page vi, we would like to thank the following for sundry advice and contributions and for help with proofreading: Judy Pearsall, David Shirt, Catherine Soanes, Angus Stevenson, Bill Trumble, Rachel Unsworth, and Maurice Waite.

许多人参与了本新版词典的编纂。除了在第 vi 页上列出的全体编辑人员之外, 我们愿在此感谢 Judy Pearsall、David Shirt、Catherine Soanes、Angus Stevenson、Bill Trumble、Rachel Unsworth 以及 Maurice Waite, 感谢他们提出的各种建议、做出的众多贡献以及在校对方面给予我们的帮助。

D. J. T.

English over Fifteen Centuries

15 个世纪以来英语的发展

Fifteen centuries of English cannot easily be summarized, but this brief account may afford some perspective to the information given in the dictionary, and help to make more sense of the strange and often unpredictable ways in which words seem to behave.

要概括 15 个世纪以来英语的发展并非易事,但是下面的简要叙述也许会为了解本词典所包含的信息提供某种视角,有助于更多地理解英语词汇所表现出的奇特而时常不可预测的演变方式。

ORIGINS 渊源

English belongs to the Indo-European family of languages, a vast group with many branches, thought to be derived from a common ancestor language called Proto-Indo-European. The words we use in English are derived from a wide range of sources, mostly within this family. The earliest sources are Germanic, Norse, and Romanic; more recently, with the growth and decline of the British Empire and the rapid development of communications, they have been worldwide.

英语属于印欧语系这个具有众多语支的庞大语群,据认为印欧语源于一种称作原始印欧语的普通原种语。我们所用的英语词汇来源广泛,其中多数来自于印欧语系。最早来源于日耳曼语、斯堪的纳维亚语和古罗马语;嗣后,随着英帝国的崛起与衰落以及通讯的迅速发展,英语词汇的来源已经世界化了。

It is difficult to be sure exactly what we mean by an 'English' word. Most obviously, words are English if they can be traced back to the Germanic language of the Anglo-Saxons, who settled in Britain from the fifth century. From this time are derived many common words such as *eat*, *drink*, *speak*, *work*, *house*, *door*, *man*, *woman*, *husband*, *wife*. The Anglo-Saxons displaced the Celtic peoples, whose speech survives in Scottish and Irish Gaelic, Welsh, Manx, and Cornish. Little Celtic influence remains in English, except in names of places and rivers.

要彻底弄清我们用“英语”这个词所要表达的意思非常困难。最为明显的是,只要词语可以追溯到自公元 5 世纪起在不列颠岛上定居的盎格鲁—撒克逊人所说的日耳曼语,那么这些词语就属于英语。许多常用词汇,如 *eat*, *drink*, *speak*, *work*, *house*, *door*, *man*, *woman*, *husband* 和 *wife* 等都出自这一时期。盎格鲁—撒克逊人驱走了凯尔特人,而凯尔特人的语言在苏格兰语、爱尔兰盖尔语、威尔士语、曼克斯语和康沃尔语中幸存了下来。除地名、河流名称外,现在的英语中几乎看不到凯尔特语的影响。

Anglo-Saxon Britain continued to have contact with the Roman Empire, of which Britain had formerly been a part, and with Latin, which was the official language throughout the Empire and survived as a language of ritual (and for a time also of learning and communication) in the Western Christian Church. After the mission of St Augustine in AD 597, the Christianized Anglo-Saxons built churches and monasteries, and there were considerable advances in art and learning. At this time English was enriched by many words from Latin, some of which are still in use, such as *angel*, *disciple*, *martyr*, and *shrine*. Other words were derived from Latin via the Germanic languages, for example *copper*, *mint* (in the sense of coinage), *pound*, *sack*, and *tile*, and others were ultimately of oriental origin, for example *camel* and *pepper*.

盎格鲁—撒克逊时期的不列颠仍旧保持着与罗马帝国的联系,此前不列颠曾是罗马帝国的一个组成部分;拉丁语作为整个罗马帝国的官方语言,作为西方基督教会礼仪语言(一度也是学术和交际语言)而留存下来。公元 597 年圣奥古斯丁开始在英国传教后,皈依基督教的盎格鲁—撒克逊人修建了教堂和修道院,在艺术和学术方面有了很大的进步。此时,英语由于吸收许多拉丁语词汇而丰富了,有些词至今仍在使用,如 *angel*, *disciple*, *martyr* 和 *shrine*。有些词则由日耳曼语间接源自拉丁语,如 *copper*, *mint* (意为 coinage), *pound*, *sack* 和 *tile*。另一些词则最终源自东方,如 *camel* 和 *pepper*。

The next important influence on the vocabulary of English was the Old Norse language of the Danish and other Scandinavian invaders of the ninth and tenth centuries, collectively called Vikings. They occupied much of the east side of England, and under Cnut (Canute) ruled the whole country for a time. Because Old Norse was also a Germanic language (of a different branch from English) many words were

similar to the Anglo-Saxon ones, and it is difficult to establish the extent of the Old Norse influence. However, a number of Norse words are identifiable and are still in use, such as *call*, *take*, and *law*, names of parts of the body such as *leg*, and other basic words such as *egg*, *root*, and *window*. Many more Norse words are preserved in some dialects of the east side of England, and especially in place names.

对英语词汇产生重要影响的另一种语言是 9 至 10 世纪被统称为北欧海盗的丹麦和其他斯堪的纳维亚入侵者的斯堪的纳维亚语。他们占据了英格兰东部的大部分地区,而且在克努特的领导下曾一度统治了整个英格兰。由于古斯堪的纳维亚语也是日耳曼语言(不与英语同支),许多词汇与盎格魯撒克逊语的词汇相似,所以很难确定古斯堪的纳维亚语究竟在多大程度上对英语产生了影响。然而,一些古斯堪的纳维亚词汇仍清晰可辨,而且至今仍在使用,如 *call*、*take*、*law* 和 *leg* 等表示身体部位名称的词以及其他一些诸如 *egg*、*root* 和 *window* 等的基本词汇。许多古斯堪的纳维亚语词语仍留存于英格兰东部的一些方言中,特别是地名。

In the Saxon kingdom of Wessex, King Alfred (871–99) and his successors did much to keep English alive by using it (rather than Latin) as the language of education and learning; by the tenth century there was a considerable amount of English prose and verse literature. Saxon and Danish kingdoms existed side by side for several generations, and there was much linguistic interaction. One very important effect on English was the gradual disappearance of many word-endings, or inflections, leading to a simpler grammar. This was partly because the stems of English and Norse words were often very close in form (for example, *stan* and *steinn*, meaning ‘stone’), and only the inflections differed as an impediment to mutual understanding. So forms such as *stāne*, *stānes*, etc., began to be simplified and, eventually, eliminated. The process continued for hundreds of years into Middle English (see below).

在西撒克斯的撒克逊王国,阿尔弗雷德国王(871 至 899 年)及其后继者们通过把英语(而不是拉丁语)作为教育和学术语言,不遗余力地维持英语的活力。至 10 世纪,用英语写作的散文和诗歌文学已有相当的数量了。撒克逊人的王国与丹麦人的王国并存了数个世代,语言的相互影响亦不罕见。对英语产生的一个非常重大的影响是许多词缀或者曲折变化逐渐消失,导致了英语语法的简化。导致这一演变的部分原因是英语与古斯堪的纳维亚语的词干在形式上往往非常接近(如 *stan* 与 *steinn*, 意为“stone”),阻碍人们相互理解的仅仅是词缀的不同。于是,诸如 *stāne*、*stānes* 之类的形式开始简化,终至消失。这一过程持续了数百年时间,直至中古英语时期(见下)。

THE NORMAN CONQUEST 诺曼征服

In 1066 William of Normandy was crowned King of England. The arrival of the French-speaking Normans as a ruling nobility brought a transforming influence on the language. French, as one of the Romance languages, has its roots in the spoken or ‘vulgar’ Latin that continued in use until about AD 600. For two hundred years after the Norman Conquest, French (in its regional Norman form) was the language of the aristocracy, the lawcourts, and the Church hierarchy in England. During these years many French words were adopted into English. Some were connected with law and government, such as *justice*, *council*, and *tax*, and some were abstract terms such as *liberty*, *charity*, and *conflict*. The Normans also had an important effect on the spelling of English words. The combination of letters *cw-*, for example, was standardized in the Norman manner to *qu-*, so that *cwēn* became *queen* and *cwic* became *quik* (later *quick*).

1066 年,诺曼底公爵威廉加冕英国国王。讲法语的诺曼人来到英国成了贵族统治者,给英语带来了脱胎换骨的影响。作为罗曼诸语的一个分支,法语产生于直至约公元 600 年仍在使用的口语或“粗俗”拉丁语。诺曼征服后的 200 年期间,法语(以其地区性的诺曼语形式)是英格兰贵族、法庭和教会阶层的语言。这些年间,许多法语词汇进入了英语。有些词汇与法律和政府治理有关,如 *justice*、*council* 和 *tax*; 有些是抽象词汇,如 *liberty*、*charity* 和 *conflict*。诺曼人对英语拼写也产生了重要影响,如字母组合 *cw-* 依照诺曼方式标准化为 *qu-*, 因此 *cwēn* 变成了 *queen*, *cwic* 成了 *quik* (后来成为 *quick*)。

This mixture of conquering peoples and their languages—Germanic, Scandinavian, and Romance—has had a decisive effect on the forms of words in modern English. The three elements make up the basic stock of English vocabulary, and different practices of putting sounds into writing are reflected in each. The different grammatical characteristics of each element can be seen in the structure and endings of many words. Many of the variable endings such as *-ant* and *-ent*, *-er* and *-or*, *-able* and *-ible* exist because the Latin words on which they are based belonged to different classes of verbs and nouns, each of which had a different ending. For example, *important* comes from the Latin verb *portare*, meaning ‘to carry’ (which belongs to one class or conjugation) while *repellent* comes from the Latin verb *pellere*, meaning ‘to drive’

(which belongs to another). *Capable* comes from a Latin word ending in *-abilis*, while *sensible* comes from one ending in *-ibilis*, and so on.

征服者与征服者的语言——日耳曼语、斯堪的纳维亚语和罗曼语——之间的混合对现代英语的词汇产生了决定性的影响。这三种成分构成了英语词汇的主体，而将声音融入书写的不同做法各个成分之中也都有所反映。各个成分独特的语法特点在许多词汇的结构和后缀中清晰可见。许多可变的词尾共存，如 *-ant* 与 *-ent*、*-er* 与 *-or*、*-able* 与 *-ible*，这是因为它们所基于的拉丁语属于不同类别的动词和名词，而各个类别又有其不同的词尾。如 *important* 源自拉丁动词 *portare*，意思是“to carry”（属于一个类别或变形），而 *repellent* 源自拉丁动词 *pellere*，意思是“to drive”（属于另一类别）。*capable* 源自一个以 *-abilis* 结尾的拉丁语词汇，而 *sensible* 则源自一个以 *-ibilis* 结尾的拉丁语词汇，等等。

MIDDLE ENGLISH 中古英语

Middle English, as the English of c. 1100-1500 is called, emerged as the spoken and written form of the language under these influences. By the reign of Henry II (1154-89) many of the aristocracy spoke English and the use of French diminished, especially after King John (1199-1216) lost possession of Normandy in 1204. Many Anglo-Saxon words had disappeared altogether; for example, *niman* was replaced by the Old Norse (Scandinavian) *taka* (meaning 'take'), and the Old English *sige* was replaced by a word derived from Old French, *victory*. Other Old English words that disappeared are *ādil* (disease), *lof* (praise), and *lyft* (air; compare German *Luft*).

在这些因素的影响下，大约公元 1100 至 1500 年出现的英语口语及书面语被称作中古英语。至亨利二世（1154 至 1189 年）统治期间，许多贵族都讲英语，法语的使用日渐萎缩，尤其自英王约翰（1199 年至 1216 年）1204 年丧失诺曼底后情况更是如此。许多盎格鲁-撒克逊词汇全然消失，如 *niman* 被古诺尔斯语（古斯堪的纳维亚语）*taka*（意为“take”）所取代，古英语 *sige* 被一个源自古法语的词语 *victory* 所代替。消失的古英语词汇还有 *adl* (disease)、*lof* (praise) 和 *lyft* (air; 比较德语 *Luft*)。

Hundreds of the Romance words were short simple words that would now be distinguished with difficulty from Old English words if their origin were not known: for example, *bar*, *cry*, *fool*, *mean*, *pity*, *stuff*, *touch*, and *tender*. Sometimes new and old words continued in use side by side, in some cases on a roughly equal footing and in others with a distinction in meaning (as with *doom* and *judgement*, and *stench* and *smell*). This has produced pairs of words which are both in use today, such as *shut* and *close*, and *buy* and *purchase*, in which the second word of each pair is Romance in origin and often more formal in connotation. This mixture of types of words is a feature especially of modern English. For many meanings we now have a choice of less formal or more formal words, the more formal ones in some cases being used only in very specific circumstances. For example, the word *vendor* is used instead of *seller* only in the context of buying or selling property. Many technical words derived from or ultimately from Latin, such as *estop* and *usucaption*, survive only in legal contexts, to the great confusion of the layman.

数以百计的罗曼语词汇既短小又简单，如果不知其渊源，现在很难将它们与古英语区分开来，如 *bar*、*cry*、*fool*、*mean*、*pity*、*stuff*、*touch* 和 *tender*。有时，新旧词汇同存并用，时而地位相当，时而意义相异（如 *doom* 与 *judgement*，*stench* 与 *smell*）。由此产生了若干至今仍同时在使用的成双成对的词，如 *shut* 与 *close*，*buy* 与 *purchase*，每对词中的后者源自罗曼语，而且在涵意上往往也更正式些。不同类型词的混合是现代英语尤为显著的一个特点。对于许多意义而言，我们既可选择稍欠正式的词语，又可选择较为正式的词语，但较为正式的词汇在某些情况下仅用于非常特殊的场合。例如，只有在财产买卖的语境中，*vendor* 才被用来代替 *seller*，许多技术词汇直接或间接来源于拉丁语，如 *estop* 和 *usucaption*，它们仅存于法律语境中，使外行人一头雾水。

PRINTING 印刷业

There was much regional variation in the spelling and pronunciation of Middle English, although a good measure of uniformity was imposed by the development of printing from the fifteenth century. This uniformity was based as much on practical considerations of the printing process as on what seemed most 'correct' or suitable. It became common practice, for example, to add a final *e* to words to fill a line of print. The printers - many of whom were foreign - used rules from their own languages, especially Dutch and Flemish, when setting English into type. William Caxton, the first English printer (1422-91), exercised an important but not always beneficial influence. The unnecessary insertion of *h* in *ghost*, for example, is due to Caxton (who learned the business of printing on the Continent), and the change had its effect on other words such as

ghastly and (perhaps) *ghetto*. In general, Caxton used the form of English prevalent in the south-east of England, although the East Midland dialect was the more extensive. This choice, together with the growing importance of London as the English capital, gave the dialect of the South-East a special importance that survives to the present day.

中古英语的拼写和发音仍存在相当程度的地区差异,尽管自 15 世纪以来印刷术的发展为词汇的统一定下了很好的尺度。这种统一既基于印刷过程中的实际需要,又基于当时似乎最“正确”或适宜的标准。例如,为了凑满一行印刷文字,在词尾加上字母 e 成了司空见惯的做法。在英语排版时,印刷商们——其中外国人不在少数——使用各自语言的规则,尤其是用荷兰语和佛兰芒语的规则。英国的第一位印刷商威廉姆·卡克斯顿(1422 至 1491 年),在这方面起了重要但并非全然有益的作用。例如,将毫无必要的 h 插在 *ghost* 中的始作俑者便是卡克斯顿(此人在欧洲大陆学会了印刷术),这一变化还影响到其他词汇,如 *ghost* 和(也许) *ghetto*。一般而言,卡克斯顿使用的是盛行于英格兰东南部的英语,尽管当时英格兰中部方言用得更为广泛。这一选择,加之伦敦作为首都的重要性与日俱增,赋予东南部方言特殊的重要性,这种状况一直延续至今。

PRONUNCIATION 发 音

At roughly the same time as the early development of printing, the pronunciation of English was also undergoing major changes. The main change, which began in the fourteenth century during the lifetime of the poet Chaucer, was in the pronunciation of vowel sounds. The so-called ‘great vowel shift’ resulted in the reduction of the number of long vowels (for example, in *deed* as distinct from *dead*) from seven to the five which we know today (discernible in the words *bean*, *barn*, *born*, *boon*, and *burn*). It also affected the pronunciation of other vowels; the word *life*, for example, was once pronounced as we now pronounce *leaf*, and *name* was pronounced as two syllables to rhyme with *farmer*. In many cases, as with *name*, the form of the word did not change, and this accounts for many of the ‘silent’ vowels at the ends of words. The result of these developments was a growing difference between what was spoken and what was written.

几乎就在印刷业早期发展的同时,英语发音也经历着重大变化。主要变化始于诗人乔叟所处的 14 世纪。所谓的“元音大转换”导致长元音(如 *deed* 的元音音长与 *dead* 的不同)由 7 个减少到现在我们所知道的 5 个(从 *bean*, *barn*, *born*, *boon* 和 *burn* 中可见一斑)。“元音大转换”也影响到其他元音的发音,如 *life* 曾一度与现在 *leaf* 的发音相同,*name* 曾作为双音节词发音,与 *farmer* 同韵。在很多情况下,正如 *name* 一样,词形并没有变化,这就解释了为什么词尾会有许多“不发音”的元音。这些变化结果导致英语口语与书写之间的差别日益增大。

THE RENAISSANCE 文 艺 复 兴

The rediscovery in Europe of the culture and history of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds exercised a further romanizing influence on English which blossomed in the Renaissance of the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries. Scholarship flourished, and the language used by scholars and writers was Latin. During the Renaissance, words such as *arena*, *dexterity*, *excision*, *genius*, *habitual*, *malignant*, *specimen*, and *stimulus* came into use in English. They are familiar and useful words but their Latin origins sometimes make them awkward to handle, as, for example, when we use *arena*, *genius*, and *stimulus* in the plural. There was also a tendency in the Renaissance to try to emphasize the Greek or Latin origins of words when writing them. This accounts for the *b* in *debt* (the earlier English word was *det*; in Latin it is *debitum*), and *l* in *fault* (earlier *faut*; the Latin source is *fallere* fail), the *s* in *isle* (earlier *ile*; *insula* in Latin), and the *p* in *receipt* (earlier *receit*; *recepta* in Latin). Some words that had gone out of use were reintroduced, usually with changed meanings, for example *artificial*, *disc* (originally the same as *dish*), and *fastidious*.

欧洲重新发现古希腊和古罗马的文化与历史,给英语带来了进一步拉丁化的影响,这一影响在自 15 世纪至 17 世纪的文艺复兴中达到了顶峰。学术研究欣欣向荣,而学者们和作家们使用的语言却是拉丁语。在文艺复兴时期,拉丁词汇 *arena*, *dexterity*, *excision*, *genius*, *habitual*, *malignant*, *specimen* 以及 *stimulus* 开始在英语中使用。这些词耳熟能详,非常有用,但作复数时,其拉丁语词源却有时令人棘手,难以对付。如 *arena*, *genius* 和 *stimulus*。在文艺复兴时期,书写中还有一种强调词的希腊语或拉丁语词源的倾向。这就解释了为什么 *debt* 中有 *b* (早期英语为 *det*, 拉丁语为 *debitum*)、*fault* 中有 *l* (早期英语为 *faut*, 拉丁语为 *fallere*, 即 *fail*)、*isle* 中有 *s* (早期英语 *ile*, 拉丁语 *insula*) 以及 *receipt* 中有 *p* (早期英语 *receit*, 拉丁语 *recepta*) 等。有些原已废弃的词汇,现又得到重新起用,通常意义已经变化,如 *artificial*, *disc* (原义同 *dish*) 以及 *fastidious* 等。