

# Table of Contents

1. Language change and language history .....	1
2. Tracing the origins of English.....	11
3. English ca. 450 to ca. 1100 (Old English) .....	21
3.1. Political and socio-cultural background .....	21
3.2. Language structure .....	29
3.2.1. Spelling and pronunciation.....	29
3.2.2. Morphology and word-formation.....	34
3.2.3. Syntax.....	42
3.2.4. Lexis and semantics.....	48
3.2.5. Regional and social distribution .....	52
3.3. Language use .....	54
3.3.1. Discourse and speech acts .....	54
3.3.2. Genres.....	57
4. English ca. 1100 to ca. 1500 (Middle English).....	71
4.1. Political and socio-cultural background .....	71
4.2. Language structure .....	76
4.2.1. Spelling and pronunciation.....	76
4.2.2. Morphology and word-formation.....	83
4.2.3. Syntax.....	90
4.2.4. Lexis and semantics.....	97
4.2.5. Regional and social distribution .....	101
4.3. Language use.....	107
4.3.1. Discourse and speech acts .....	107
4.3.2. Genres.....	110
5. English ca. 1500 to ca. 1700 (Early Modern English).....	123
5.1. Political and socio-cultural background .....	123
5.2. Language structure .....	129
5.2.1. Spelling and pronunciation.....	129
5.2.2. Morphology and word-formation.....	133
5.2.3. Syntax.....	137

5.2.4. Lexis and semantics.....	144
5.2.5. Regional and social distribution.....	149
5.3. Language use.....	152
5.3.1. Discourse and speech acts.....	152
5.3.2. Genres.....	157
6. English after 1700 (Late Modern English).....	167
6.1. Political and socio-cultural background.....	167
6.2. Language structure.....	170
6.2.1. Spelling and pronunciation.....	173
6.2.2. Morphology and word-formation.....	170
6.2.3. Syntax.....	175
6.2.4. Lexis and semantics.....	178
6.2.5. Regional and social distribution.....	182
6.3. Language use.....	185
6.3.1. Discourse and speech acts.....	185
6.3.2. Genres.....	188
7. Perspectives on present-day English.....	195
List of References.....	201