Contents

,

Abbreviati	ons, special signs and phonetic symbols used in this book	7
Introductio)n	11
1.	Some aspects of the history of the language community from the Anglo-Saxon invasion of Britian to the end of the Middle Ages	
1.1.	The formation of 'Anglo-Saxon' England	16
1.2.	The Christianization of the 'Anglo-Saxons'	21
1.3.	The Viking invasions of 'Anglo-Saxon' England	22
1.4.	The Norman Conquest and its effects on the linguistic situation in England	23
2.	'Variation in language': origin and development, or the evolution of a differentiated language system	
2.1.	Pre-Old English	31
2.2.		32
2.3.	Middle English	34
2.4.	Modern English, with special consideration of Early Modern English.	38 -
2.5.	National variants	47
3.	Historical changes in the sphere of lexis	
3.1.	General remarks	48
3.2.	The intake of words of other languages into the lexicon of English	49
3.2.1.	Lexical borrowing from Latin	50
3.2.2	The impact of French upon English	57
3.2.3.	The Scandinavian influence on the English language	63
3.2.4.	Loaning from Low Dutch	65
× 3.2.5.	Borrowings from other languages	67
3.3.	The passing out of use of native words	6 9
3.3.1.	The importance of the inherited Germanic lexical material in present-day	
	English	69
3.3.2.	The losses among old native words	71
3.4.	Semantic change	76
- 3.4.1.	Motivating forces	76
3.4.2.	Major categories of semantic change	80
3.4.2.1.	'Specialization' and 'generalization'	81
3.4.2.2.	'Semantic shift': substitution, re-grouping, and expansion	87
3.4.3.	Other types of semantic change	90 ,
3.4.3.1.	Association of an existing form with a new, figurative meaning	90
3.4.3.2.	Euphemistic use of lexical items (euphemizing)	92
3.4.3.3.	Semantic changes involving gain or loss of evaluative meaning components	93
3.4.3.4.	Changes affecting the 'stylistic meaning' of words	96
3.4.4.	Loss of one or more meanings of a word	97
3.4.5.	Semantic differentiation of originally synonymous (or partially synonymous)	' oo ''
	native words and loan words	98
3.5.	The problem of 'hard words' in English	102

Contents

X

X

X

38 540 402

l.	Aspects of the morphological and syntactic development of English	-
	Changes in the marking of syntactic relations	105
.1.	Marking in the earliest developmental stages of English	105 105
.1.1.	The change-over to (predominantly) analytic marking of syntactic relations	110
.1.2.	Loss of 'concord'	114
.1.3.	Other changes affecting the category of nouns	115
1.2.	The abandonment of 'grammatical gender'	115
.2.1.	The development of the number marking inflectional forms of nouns	118
1.2.2.	The 'genitive' and the 'analytic prepositional construction with of'	121
4.2.3.	The development of verb inflection in English	127
1.3.	Marking for 'person' and 'number'.	127
4.3.1.	'Simplification' in 'tense marking'	135
4.3.2.	Reduction of the number of 'ablaut' vowels in the tense forms of 'strong' verbs	136
4.3.2.1.	Increases in the frequency of occurrence of 'regular' past tense (and second	
4.3.2.2.	participle) forms through the formation of new, 'weak' forms of originally	
	'strong' verbs and integration of borrowed verbs into the 'weak class'.	140
1222	The evolution of 'irregular' past tense forms of 'weak' verbs	143
4.3.2.3. 4.4.	Further elaboration of the verb system: the development of 'compound' verbal	1 10
4.4.	forms	145
4.4.1.	The development of compound tense-forms: the periphrastic future	145 146
4.4.1. 4.4.2.	The growth of the 'expanded form' in English	151
4.4.2. 4.4.3.	The evolution of the 'Perfect' in English	151 154
4.4.3. 4.4.4.	The history of the passive constructions in English	159
4.4.4. 4.5.	The development and spread of do as a semantically empty auxiliary in inter-	107
4.5.	rogative and negative clauses	166
5.	Phonological changes	
5.1.	 Major vowel changes in Old and Middle English 	174
5.1.1.	The Old English vowel system in comparison to the protolanguage from which	
	both English and German developed	174
5.1.2.	The development of the Germanic diphthongs $ au $ and $ eu $	177
5.1.3.	• Developments in the direction of an elimination of vowel quantity as a phonemic	
	feature in English	179
5.1.4.	* Decrease in the number of contrastive units in the vowel system: the disap-	
	pearance of short and long $ y $	184
5.1.5.	Phonological changes affecting the syllable-structure of words in English: the	
	reduction and loss of vowels in final unstressed syllables	185
5.2.	Some divergent consonantal developments in English and German	188
5.2.1.	The 'split' of the Germanic velar stops $ k $ and $ g $ into velar and palatal variants	
	and their further development	188
5.2.2.	Non-weakening of Germanic $ p $ and $ t $ in English	192
5.2.3.	The disappearance of the voiceless fricatives $[c]$ and $[x]$ from the (southern)	
	English consonant system	19
5.3.	The 'Great Vowel Shift'	19:
5.3.1.	The early stages: changes in the sub-system of Middle English long vowel	
	phonemes without loss of phonological oppositions	19
5.3.2.	The later stages: losses of phonological contrast in the vowel system of Modern	
5.3.3.	(Standard) English	19
	The question of the 'moving factors'	19
Appendix:	On the present state of Middle English dialectology (by Michael Benskin).	20
A DOPUNTY '	On the present state of whome English dialectology (by Michael Ronskin)	20