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01 Origin and Landmarks in the History of English

Introduction :

English is a worldwide language. English is a world [west Germanic language] of the Indo-European family of languages. Today English is thought to be one of the most important languages in the world. There are many reasons why English is so important. One of the reasons is that English is spoken as the first language in many countries where English is spoken as the first language. Even in countries where English is not the native language. People use it for business and tourism. It is today considered as business language.

Today all know English as a global language of communication but what about the origin and history of English. It is also very important to know about the origin and history of English language.

Origin and Position of English language..

English belongs to the Indo-European family of languages and is therefore related to most often languages spoken in Europe and western Asia from Iceland to India. The English language of today has resulted from the history of the dialects. Spoken by the Germanic tribes who conquered England during fifth and sixth century in Christian era English belongs to the Low west Germanic branch of the Indo-European family.

Thus, It belongs with the dialects of the lowlands in the west Germanic era. This implies in the first place as it shares certain characteristics common to all the Germanic language.

History of English Language:

The History of the English language really started with the arrival of three Germanic tribes who invaded Britain during the 5th Century. These tribes the Angles, the Saxons, and the Jutes, crossed the north sea, from what today is Denmark and northern Germany, and established themselves in the south and east of the Island, gradually taking control of the whole of it.

The Jutes settled on the lands of the Celts in Kent. The Saxons landed on the south coast and established themselves in Sussex, Wessex, Essex and Middlesex and the Angles settled in East Anglia. The Angles came from "England" and their language was called "English", from which the words "England" and English are derived.

Development of English:

The growth of English dialect into a world language has remained uninterrupted during the past 1500 years of its existence in England. However its history is conveniently divided into three periods on the basis of certain characteristics and certain special developments that have taken place within each period.

Landmarks of English Language

- 1) Old English Period
- 2) Middle English Period
- 3) Modern English Period.

① Old English Period :-

The period since 1500 is known as Modern English Period.

The period up to 1150 is known as old English. It is found to be the period of full inflections because during this period the ending on the noun, the objective and the verb are kept intact.

Old English Period is also called as Anglo-Saxon Period. The first epic work of English language is Beowulf. It was written in 8th century. It speaks about Danice Prince. It take place at Danice Beowulf author is unknown. This period is characterized by Homogeneous. That means English language was pure unmixed. This is all about old English Period.

② Middle English Period :-

The period from 1150 to 1500

is known as Middle English. It is called the Period of levelled inflections. Because during this period the inflections become greatly reduced.

Middle English Period started with Norman occupied the England and ended with transitional period. In this period articles are introduced. Chaucer wrote "Canterbury tales" in this period. And Pronunciation is based on

Q3) Modern English Period :

The period since 1500 is known as Modern English Period. It is called the period of large number of original inflexions of the language disappear. William Caxton introduced Printing Press in 1476. The Constantinople occupied by Turks By the end of 16th century universally accepted English language as one of the standard language of the world. Many Italians words brought by Suryati and Surrey in England. Modern English Period is opposed to old English period and Middle English Period.

Conclusion :

English is the most spoken language in the world. English holds a huge part in the language family. Besides all the importance of English language. It is not a one day phenomena. It makes the people keep in touch although. They have different language and come from different country. Finally believe or not English cannot be separated from human life.

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2. Characteristics of English Language.

Introduction :

English is a global language. Among the different languages of the world, English is the most widely spoken and written languages of the world. Today, English occupies the prestigious place of an International language. It is utilized by the largest number of the people of many nations in all the five Continents in the world.

The reason, which comes to our notice is that, it is not due to the qualities of reasons for its worldwide popularity. The other obvious reason is that English speaking nations, like England and America have made it prominent. However, no language can become so important, unless it has some outstanding and special characteristics for its phenomenal growth and popularity.

Important characteristics of English Language:

1. Extraordinary Receptiveness and adoptable Heterogeneousness.

2. Simplicity and Inflection.

3. Fixed Word Order

4. Minimum Inflection.

5. New Varieties of intonation

6. Use of Periphrasis

7. Growth of Intonation.

1. Receptiveness

1. Extraordinary Receptiveness and adoptable Heterogeneity:

The first outstanding characteristic of English language is Extraordinary receptiveness and adoptable Heterogeneity. This is regarded as extra-ordinary feature of the language. It has accepted and adopted words from Asian, European African, Indian, Japanese, Chinese and other languages. English has kept open door policy of accepting words from classical languages like Latin, Greek and Sanskrit.

Heterogeneity means mixed form or the lack of purity. English language contains words from so many other languages that it has become the most mixed language. Original words from other languages have crept into English. Some words have retained their original meanings and some words have changed their meanings. The spellings and pronunciations have also changed.

Example: The word 'Tour' from French has become "Tower" in modern English.

2. Simplicity and Inflections:

The next important characteristic of English is its simple Inflection. Inflection means that it can indicate the relationship of words into a sentence with only the minimum of change in their shapes.

In this regard we can quote that [Chinese] has the minimum inflexions but in other European languages, there are still inflexion. However, English has lost number of inflexion. Example India - Indian, Big - Bigger.

3] Fixed Word Order :

Another characteristics of English language is its fixed word order. This arrangement becomes necessary for proper relationship of the words in a sentence, and to avoid ambiguity. The place of each word in a Sentence decides its relationship to others.

4] Minimum Inflection : -

Inflection can happen across several word classes, such as verbs, nouns, pronouns, and adjectives. The inflection of Verbs is most common and is called Conjugation, whereas the inflection of all other word classes is called declension. Inflection is a process of word formation in which a word is modified to express different grammatical categories such as tense, case, Voice, aspect, person, number, gender, mood, animacy and definiteness.

5] Use of Periphrases :

In English language there is a very significant use of periphrases. Periphrases mean round about ~~s~~ ways of words. It is possible to say the something in many different ways in English.

Periphrases is a very important quality of any language; because it makes the language rich and varied.

6 Development of Intonation:

The last but the significant quality of English is the great development of intonation to express different shades of meanings. Intonation can easily change the meaning of a sentence completely. Intonation can be described as the pitch and intensity or the tone of the voice.

Conclusion:

The English Language has made the world a global village by giving. Population knows English is recognized as an important language for international communication and trade also English has became the necessary tool for mobility and social economic success in the present day world.

The English Languages has more characteristics. Some of characteristics mentioned here. English language is a worldwide language. It is not a one day phenomena. It took much of time and influenced by other languages like Latin, Greek and French etc.