Chapter 1 : Ebook The Cambridge History Of The English Language, Vol. 2: (Volume 2)

Volume II of The Cambridge History of the English Language covers the Middle English Period, describing and analyzing developments in the languge from the Norman Conquest to the introduction of printing.

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 cen- trifugal, whereas since then the development has tended to be centripetal. 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 the language. Such an evolution was disrupted by the Norman xiv Conquest, but with the development of printing together with other more centralising tendencies, the emergence of a 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 some of which, especially 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 predefined 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. 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 xv 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: 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: One occasion stands out especially: 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 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.

Chapter 2 : Book The Cambridge History Of The English Language, Vol. 2: (Volume 2)

The Cambridge History of the English Language is the first multi-volume work to provide a full and authoritative account of the history of English. Each chapter gives a chronologically-oriented presentation of the data, surveys scholarship in the area and takes full account of the impact of current.

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Chapter 3 : Great Vowel Shift - Wikipedia

Volume II deals with the Middle English period, approximately , and describes and analyzes developments in the language from the Norman Conquest to the introduction of printing.

One of the standard works on the emergence of phrasal verbs is Kennedy He is, however, more interested in the Modern English situation than in historical developments. His historical survey pp. The latter would explain the fact noted by Strang Old English grammar had a prohibition against movement out of a prepositional phrase in the case of personal and locative pronouns. In Middle English this prohibition was lost. Van Kemenade believes that movement takes place in both cases but that P-stranding can only occur with movement of a clitic element to a non-argument position for the latter see Chomsky She shows that personal and locative pronouns, because of their different behaviour in comparison to nouns, are best interpreted as syntactic clitics. In relative pe clauses, she presupposes an empty clitic that is moved out of the prepositional phrase in order to explain the obligatory P-stranding in these clauses. The extension of P-stranding in Middle English is related mainly to two new developments: For the appearance of P-stranding in Tough-movement constructions, see van der Wurff , a. TEXTUAL SOURCES The illustrations in this chapter have been drawn from a large number of Middle English texts, early as well as late, representing a variety of dialects, although there is a clear bias towards the south east midlands, the dialect that provides us with the later standard. Below, I provide an alphabetical list of the Middle English texts used, accompanied by the name of the editor s , an indication of the date of the manuscript s used and if possible the date of the original composition in parentheses and an indication of the dialect in which the manuscript s was were written. This information has likewise been taken from the MED and from later studies or editions where appropriate. Texts marked with a dagger f occur widely in this volume and are referred to in this chapter either by a general abbreviation see pp. The Old English sources are listed after the Middle English sources below. Trqy Htrn Digby PI. Vinaver 2nd edn ca ca ca ca ca ca ca a ca ? C Hnt Proc. Bod Stonor Towmley PI. Holthausen Date a ca ca a ca ca a ca ? HomU 34 Nap 42 Judg. Godden , W. This survey, too, will take as a symbolical starting point to be used with tact. Maps â€"81 provide information on subjectâ€"verb inversion, the omission of the subject, and the relation between the use of pronomina and changes in word order. Here it is virtually equivalent to That car of yours. By their very nature, structures like would not have been recorded in older written texts. He argues likewise for the possibility of the combination passive and progressive be, which likewise has not been attested in Old English. Although one cannot disprove Lightfoot, I doubt whether this latter statement is correct. He does not take the fact into account that the perfect, passive and progressive forms were recent developments in Old English, which clearly had not become fully grammaticalised yet. Combinations of these forms within the VP are therefore not yet to be expected at this stage. Concerning the combination of modal and perfect have, he may be correct, but it is noteworthy that infinitival perfectives are also rare, if not non-existent, in Old English. They all seem to be late. Both manuscripts are written in the same west midland dialect. Notice that Present-Day English would use any in such constructions. For a different interpretation see Robinson He cannot agree with Geoghegan It seems to me that the employment of se, seo with masculine and feminine nouns must also have influenced this use of pe since the s- in these forms was soon levelled out in favour of p- see also Kivimaa Instances given in Kivimaa These varieties generally have no relative pronouns proper wh-forms but only indeclinable that. I would like to thank Roger Lass for providing me with these observations. In later Middle English one also quite often finds a bare infinitive especially in poetry ; this could be an analogy of other modal verbs, or because ought also came to be used as an impersonal verb in Middle English, which verbs regularly took the bare infinitive see below. Dare is always followed by a plain infinitive in Middle English. Instances with to not until the seventeenth century - see Visser Therfore 1 wol,go slept an houre or tweye, CT 1. Thus, he was dying becomes he was to dying. However, he gives no evidence of the kind presented here which shows convincingly that reanalysis has taken place. In all his examples the

dative noun phrase can still be interpreted as governed by the matrix verb. However, since they do not occur outside these texts and since they are all word-for-word translations of Latin accusative and infinitives, these instances should not be considered as having been generated by the grammar of Old English see Fischer For the opposite view see Kivimaa That is also regularly employed to continue the co-ordinate part of a subclause which itself was introduced by a more specific conjunction, as in: HF 43 Dubislav This seems unlikely, since in all other cases of conjunctive phrases, it was the preposition that survived whether or not followed by that , not that. The situation concerning the use of inverted word order in conditional clauses in Old English is somewhat unclear â€" see Mitchell The emphasis is on Gourdes, not on it. In and the verb be introduces what is in the subject-complement. Here the emphasis is on be or there, if present and not on the subject-complement. She calls the Old English clitics syntactic clitics because they are distinguished by position but they behave like case affixes. Consequently, they are lost i. Although he has found that weight is of influence still in Middle English, his evidence clearly shows that, especially in prose, rhythmical patterns are overruled by the syntactic need of having sentences conform as much as possible to the SVO pattern. Of the objects preceding the infinitive, half were found to be nouns, half pronouns. Of the objects following, the majority were nouns. It is difficult to [These termes, to which Strang 1 The Danish forms are generally those widespread in the dialect of the east midlands from which standard English derives, and so are more immediately recognisable as the modern forms Norwegian forms are more common in the dialects of the north and west 5. Holthausen Date a 1 ca ca 1 a ca ca 1 17 a ca ?

Chapter 4 : The Cambridge History of the English Language Volume 2 part 7 pdf

The Cambridge History of the English Language is the first multi-volume work to provide a comprehensive and authoritative account of the history of English from its beginnings to its present-day worldwide use.

The overall effects of OSL can be summed up by the following examples: The effect on the vowel-quality systems overall can be illustrated this way southern vs northern inputs as in This basic configuration remained stable until the seventeenth century. This is merely an artefact of the narrative. While the developments in 2. Indeed, there is evidence for the combinative changes leading to the new diphthongs in Old English spellings as early as the eleventh century Colman , and a strong likelihood of Scandinavian loans with closing diphthongs of a non-Old-English type coming in quite early. Diphthongal spellings appear sporadically throughout the elev- enth and twelfth centuries, increasing and stabilising in the thirteenth; it seems likely that the basic Middle English system was established in its final form by around The new diphthongs from native sources on borrowings see below arise by two related processes, both involving original postvocalic consonants: The principles are simple and natural: Both these diphthongisations result in the neutralisation of vowel length: The Middle English length system did not allow for diphthongal length contrasts of the Old English type, e. Middle English allowed only monomoric simple and bimoric two-piece complex nuclei. The main native sources of the new Middle English diphthongs are shown below; conventionally spelled Old English forms are given for identification. Note that, as above, both diphthongisation processes may give the same output: The southern development of OE [a: Thus given neutralisation of length as described above , the history of [a: Diphthongs in borrowed words, and later native developments as well, increased the incidence of some of the new clusters. In line with these developments, the Old English high vowels in the relevant environments generally give Middle English long high vowels: There were further developments in some cases: The phonological effects of these diphthong formations go beyond the addition of new nucleus types to the system. The other major addition to the diphthong inventory comes from Roger Lass French though with some later additions from other sources. The Anglo-Norman dialect accounting for the bulk of French loans had two diphthongs of a distinctly non-Germanic type: With this French contribution, then, we can assume for non-northern Middle English of around the diphthong system 18a below, and around the reduced system 18b: It is one of the rare cases there are perhaps only two others of any consequence â€" see 2. A more characteristic treatment is that of Scand. The borrowing from French is atypical behaviour: It is the only Middle English diphthong that has undergone no major change since its first appearance. Structurally, it participates in no productive or even marginal morphophonemic alternations of the kind entered into by the other long vowels and Phonology and morphology diphthongs, e. This is indeed true by and large of the south-east and southeast midlands, but elsewhere such vowels are alive and well. And many varieties both in England and abroad South Africa, New Zealand have a mid front rounded slightly centralised [0: The early loss â€" and continued absence â€" of such vowels is a southeastern mainland English phenomenon. The loss of these vowels in the ancestor of the southern standard by with one possible exception: We can begin by recapitulating the history up to the end of Old English see 2. In the south-west, west midlands and much of the central midlands, on the other hand, both front rounded categories remained unchanged into Middle English, and in one form or another persisted into the fifteenth century - as well as being added to by instances of the same vowels in French loans. Thus we have essentially three types of treatment of the Old English front rounded vowels, and three main patterns of distinctiveness and merger. We can illustrate this for the long vowels as follows: This complex evolution and movement of forms has implications for 54 Phonology and morphology the emerging London standard; London being where it is, the total speech community contained speakers of all three types, and south- eastern including Essex and southwestern forms apparently remained available for a long time. Early London is southwestern: Absence of a rhyme is at best weak evidence for its non-existence: But it is at least curious. At least this is the case for London. Front rounded vowels, however,

do appear once more - this time unambiguously - in a dialect from which they had apparently already been lost. This is in the north and outside my direct remit here, but it is important for two reasons: Some of the more interesting rhymes in fact show no respelling: Rolle see Jordan Phonology and morphology 21 l: For various quantitative changes that affected not primarily the vowels themselves but their distribution and the inventory of legal syllable types, see section 2. Indeed, the consonant system has as a whole remained relatively stable since Old English times. Except for the major restructuring discussed in this section, most of the consonant changes have been low level: That is, these changes were probably syntactic in origin, first occurring in connected speech The point is that both are essentially the same, even if the strong syllable is on the left in one case and the right in the other: III Roger Lass 2. Throughout Middle English the.

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Chapter 6 : The Cambridge History of the English Language Volume 2 part 1 pdf - TÃ i liá»‡u text

in bird, hurt and the like. The early loss â€" and continued absence â€" of such vowels is a southeastern mainland English phenomenon. The loss of these vowels in the ancestor of the southern standard. /sama/ > [sa:ma] (On the change of final vowels.

Chapter 7 : Cambridge History of English Literature 2: The End of the Middle Ages by Adolphus William Wa

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