

THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE ON THE BRITISH ISLES.

The purpose of the article is the presentation of the irregularity of the English spelling system from the point of view of historical linguistics, modern orthography and, methodology.

It is well known that English was not regularized before it was standardized. As a consequence, "(...) 20% of the words have irregular spelling and 10% do not fit any logical pattern whatsoever" [4:78]. The widespread impression that English spelling is 'chaotic' and 'unpredictable' is based on such famous sentences as "*though the rough cough and hiccough plough me through, I ought to cross the lough*".

It is difficult to arrive at a firm figure for the amount of spelling irregularity in a language, because people differ over which words to include in the study.

In one USA study, "a computer analysis of 17,000 English words showed that about 50% could be spelled correctly on a phonological basis and that 84% were spelled according to a regular pattern, and that only 3% were so unpredictable that they would have to be learned totally by writing"[2:68].

Languages, like cultures, are rarely sufficient into themselves. The necessities of intercourse bring the speakers of one language into direct or indirect contact with those of neighboring or culturally dominant languages. The intercourse may be friendly or hostile. Whatever the degree or nature of contact between neighboring peoples, "it is generally sufficient to lead to some kind of linguistic interinfluencing". Frequently the influence runs heavily in one direction. The language of a people that is looked upon as a center of culture is naturally far more likely to exert an appreciable influence on other languages spoken in its vicinity than to be influenced by them. English borrowed an immense number of words from the French of the Norman invaders, later also from the French of Isle de France, appropriated a certain number of affixed elements of derivational value (e.g., *-ess* of *princess*, *-ard* of *drunkard*, *-ty* of *royalty*), may have been somewhat stimulated in its general analytic drift by contact with French, and even allowed French to modify its phonetic pattern slightly (e.g., initial *v* and *j* in words like *veal* and *judge*; in words of Anglo-Saxon origin *v* and *j* can only occur after vowels, e.g., *over*, *hedge*). But English has exerted practically no influence on French.

The simplest kind of influence that one language may exert on another is the "borrowing" of words. When there is "cultural borrowing" there is always the likelihood that the associated words may be borrowed too. English language is enhanced with such words as: *bishop* and *priest*, from Latin; *sk-* words such as *skill*, *skirt* and *sky*, from Scandinavia; *piano*, *pizza* and *balcony* from Italy; *chair*, *government* and *towel*, from France; *fiesta* and *siesta*, from Spain; *orchestra*, from Greece; *boomerang*, from Australia; *vodka*, from Russia; and *igloo*, from the Arctic.

Standard English is what is agreed upon in history. At one time, double negatives were permissible but today they are unacceptable. Language emerges over the course of history.

The history of the English language is intriguing. Many long words were shortened when they entered the English language. *Fan* comes from the Latin word *fanatics*. The English have put words together to make "nonsense words" such as the word made famous in the Walt Disney Mary Poppins movie, *supercalifragillistcexpialladocious*" (5: www.bctf.bc.ca).

The history of the language provides many reasons for the irregularities of English spelling.

English was one of the first non-Latin / non-Greek languages to develop a writing system of its own. Early English spelling was very consistent and predictable. The basic fact is that, in the Anglo-Saxon period, an alphabet of 24 graphemes (the Latin alphabet, plus four new symbols) had to cope with a sound system of nearly 40 phonemes. Later *i/j* and *u/v* were distinguished, and *w* was added, but many sounds still had to be signaled by combinations of letters.

Continental Normandy was gradually conquered by France. In 1399 Henry IV was the first king after more than three centuries to claim the throne of England speaking English rather than Norman French. English then became the official language of England once more. English writing had to be rediscovered. During the intervening centuries the English language had changed. The peasants had done away with most of the Latin grammar rules which English had before the Conquest, and which many other languages still have. The language had also acquired many different words and sounds from Norman French. The clerks who had the job of re-inventing a writing system for English had only written in French or Latin before. They mostly continued to spell according to French rules

(*double, couple, route, sure, centre*).

In the late 16th and early 17th centuries, many new loan words entered English from such languages as French, Latin, Greek, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

A widely cited figure is that English is about 75-80% regular. On the other hand, the 400 or so irregular spellings are largely among the most frequently used words in the language, and this promotes a strong impression of irregularity, which in turn creates a huge problem for all dyslexics [3:43].

People will come to understand that the English system of spelling is basically logical, with rational and historical explanations for its differing patterns.

English often spells identical sounds in several different ways. Spellers have to learn and remember which alternative spelling is used in each one of them. There are no rules for deciding when use which. This takes many years of learning, practice and testing.

Most learners are not fully aware of all the problems with English spelling. They confuse the language with its traditional orthography and have a misplaced reverence for the antiquated spellings preserved in the dictionary. On having a spelling error pointed out, the linguist Andrew Jackson once remarked, "It is a poor mind that cannot think of more than one way to spell a word" [1:56]. Spelling is difficult, according to the linguist Harry Shaw [1:78] because "the correct spelling of many words does not even approximate the sounds being represented". Laubach [1:78] called English "the world's worst spelled language".

So, we may conclude that the irregularities of the English spelling system have been formed due to various conquests of different tribes and civilizations, which influenced both cultural and linguistic development of the citizens of the British Isles.

References

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PHONETIC PECULIARITIES OF REFLECTING THE HARMONY OF THE MAN AND THE NATURE IN ROBERT FROST'S POETRY "ACQUAINTED WITH THE NIGHT".

Poetry is something very special that steals deeply into our hearts and stays inside our minds for a long time. Poets throughout the ages have defined their art, devised rules for its creation, have touched all possible topics and this perfect virtuosity seems to reach the top of its development. At the end of the 19th century, famous French poet Stephane Mallarme wrote: "Poetry is the purification of the language of the tribe"[5; 27].

Among different trends in literature, rather respectable place is given to the romantic poetry about the eternal connection of the personality and the nature. At the beginning of the 20th century, American poet William Carlos Williams mentioned, that those poems are written in a language so natural "that cats and dogs can understand them"[4; 37].

Poetry of Romanticism is somehow special. It's notable for tenderness, harmoniousness and perfection. It always awakes strong, deep and high feelings – those ones, which are considered to be the sense of human being's existence.

Robert Lee Frost, the outstanding American poet, is one of the most vivid representatives of the epoch of Romanticism.

Frost's poetry is closely connected with New England, which gave him deep inspiration for the creation of the immortal art. Nature and rural surroundings became for Frost a source for insights into deeper design of life. He once said: "Literature begins with geography" [4; 36].

Poetic works of Robert Lee Frost are noted for their plain language, conventional forms and graceful style. Frost is considered to be a direct and straightforward writer. While he is never obscure, he cannot always be read easily. His effects, even at their simplest, depend upon a certain slyness for which the reader must be prepared. While reading Frost's poems the influence of the nature on his personality is easily felt. All his works are very optimistic. They give the reader hope, strength and