

## **Lecture 10 The New English Period. General Characteristic.**

The NEP begins in the 15th century. So the NEP is the period from the 15th century up to our time. There are subdivisions here: - early NE, which is the period of the development of the E nation as a nation from the political point of view and the period of the formation of the uniform literary language and of the establishing of the literary norm. Unlike the borderline between the ancient times and the Old English Period, and the borderline between the Old English Period and the Middle English Period when there were some cataclysms, battles and so on, the borderline between the Middle English Period and the NEP is not so historically marked. There were no cataclysms, nevertheless some very important events and particular events took place in the country and new conditions came into play. As early as the 13th century within the feudal system new economic relations began to take shape. The villeins were gradually superseded by copy-holders (пожизненные арендаторы).

The New English Period generally refers to the period from the late 18th century to the present, often overlapping with what is called Late Modern English (1700–1900) and 20th–21st Century English.

It is characterized by rapid vocabulary growth, global spread, standardization, and diversification.

This period reflects the influence of industrialization, globalization, and technology on the English language.

Industrial Revolution (18th–19th centuries): New inventions, technologies, and industries introduced specialized vocabulary. Examples: steam engine, locomotive, telegraph, electricity. Urbanization led to social changes and new expressions reflecting city life and work.

British Empire Expansion: English spread across North America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania, becoming a global language. Contact with other languages introduced loanwords and contributed to regional varieties of English.

20th Century and Globalization: English became the language of science, diplomacy, international trade, and media. Technological advancements (radio, television, computers, the internet) accelerated the spread of English worldwide.

3. Linguistic Characteristics: Massive expansion due to scientific, technical, and global influences. Borrowings from many languages:

Indian English: bungalow, pajamas, shampoo

African languages: zebra, gumbo

American English: skyscraper, hamburger, jazz

Neologisms and slang became more common, especially in popular culture and digital communication.

New industries and trade began to develop; new crafts appeared and these very new crafts began to be separated from agriculture. Together with the decay of the feudal system, the development of new relations within the feudal system, the development of new industries and crafts new social groups into being: artisans, rich merchants, owners

of workshops, money lenders - they were typical of the capitalist system. It couldn't but change the situation in the country in all its spheres. The most crucial periods were the 15th and the 16th centuries. A new mode of production developed rapidly, new industries sprang into existence. The development of industry required new resources and new markets. So it was a period of great projects, of great maritime projects. All this changes influenced the cultural situation in the country: different regions of the country, which had been isolated before, were brought together through commerce, transportation, trade. It stimulated the necessity to have greater contacts and a uniform language.

They had heated discussions as to how the language should develop. There were 3 main groups of opinions:

1) the language can borrow as many words from other languages as possible => it would enrich the language.

2) strongly against borrowings: English should remain a monosyllabic language as it was

3) «leave the language as it is and let it develop by itself» (это не цитата!). Unification: it was a period of normalization, which achieved not by itself, but through the activity of many people. As to the spelling, they were trying to work out certain general fixed rules of spelling, but at the beginning of the NEP the spelling varied from writer to writer yet. For example, Sir John Cheke doubled his vowels to mark their length. The first grammars and the first comprehensive and fundamental dictionaries appeared. Bullokar «Brief Grammar for English». New genres sprang into existence during the early NEP: the genre of newspaper - Still and Edison - they started newspaper in England. Sentimentalism, realistic novels began to develop. It was then that the novel was born. (публ 17-18 вв.).

The Middle English Period. The Main Sound Changes.

Grammar and Syntax:

Mostly stabilized, with fixed SVO order, auxiliary verbs for tense, and regularized agreement.

Some flexibility in informal and digital registers (e.g., abbreviations, hashtags, emoji usage).

4. Social and Cultural Influence: English became the primary medium of global communication, science, business, and entertainment.

There is additionally a difference between American and British usage in the word school. In British usage "school" by itself refers only to primary (elementary) and secondary (high) schools and to sixth forms attached to secondary schools—if one "goes to school", this type of institution is implied. By contrast an American student at a university may talk of "going to school" or "being in school". US law students and medical students almost universally speak in terms of going to "law school" and "med school", respectively. However, the word is used in BrE in the context of higher education to describe a division grouping together several related subjects within a university, for example a "School of European Languages" containing departments for

each language and also in the term "art school". It is also the name of some of the constituent colleges of the University of London, for example, School of Oriental and African Studies, London School of Economics.

Among high-school and college students in the United States, the words freshman (or the gender-neutral term frosh or first year), sophomore, junior and senior refer to the first, second, third, and fourth years respectively. For first-year students, "frosh" is another gender-neutral term that can be used as a qualifier, for example "Frosh class elections". It is important that the context of either high school or college first be established or else it must be stated direct (that is, She is a high school freshman. He is a college junior.). Many institutes in both countries also use the term first-year as a gender-neutral replacement for freshman, although in the US this is recent usage, formerly referring only to those in the first year as a graduate student. One exception is the University of Virginia; since its founding in 1819 the terms

"first-year", "second-year", "third-year", and "fourth-year" have been used to describe undergraduate university students. At the United States service academies, at least those operated by the federal government directly, a different terminology is used, namely "fourth class", "third class", "second class" and "first class" (the order of numbering being the reverse of the number of years in attendance). In the UK first-year university students are sometimes called freshers early in the academic year; however, there are no specific names for those in other years nor for school pupils. Graduate and professional students in the United States are known by their year of study, such as a "second-year medical student" or a "fifth-year doctoral candidate."

Literature, film, music, and digital media have all contributed to the cultural influence of English worldwide.

Vowels: 1)The Great Vowel Shift (с большой буквы). It was rather lengthy: 15th century - part of the 17th century. It affected all the long vowels. All the long vowels tended to become more high, more narrow and more front. Those that were narrow enough turned into diphthongs. a>ei (это объясняет необычное звучание английского алфавита Aa [ei]) e (открытый) e (закрытый) i>ai o (открытый) > ou o (закрытый) > u: u>au

Pronunciation: Regional accents exist, but prestige forms like Received Standard English (RSE/RP) and General American (GA) dominate formal communication.

Pronunciation changes continue with global influence and mass media.

2).The shortening of «u» (до великого сдвига): a) the earlier (the 15th century); 'u' was shorted before the dental sounds [t, d] e.g.: blood, flood; b) the later (the 18th century); 'u' was shortened before [k] e.g.: took.

3). The development of the short 'a': (in a close syllable) hag – ə (before 'l') hall – o: (preserved by [w] was labialised) what – a before a combination of consonant ask – a:

4)The development of the long 'e': e>e (short) before [d, t] - dental sounds; bread (но в mean (i: по шифту). 5)Delabialization of the short 'u': u>^ blood - bl[^]d 6)The formation of new diphthongs which have [нетральный] for the glide: [iə], [eə], [uə]. «a

vowel + r» - it's called vocalization of 'r', but: her [h ɜ: ] here [hi ]; in ME her = here = [her] => if the vowel was short, the resulting sound was a long vowel; if the vowel was long, the resulting sound was a diphthong.

Consonants: 1)the development of the sound [h], but there were also [x], [x'] (= в немецком [ , ]) both the hard and the soft [ ] in the middle of the word were dropped causing the lengthening of the preceding vowel thought, taught [x] (in ME) light: ME [lixt] > [lit] > NE [lait] dropped 2)Vocalization of 's' (see vowels) 3)voicing of fricatives (Verner's law in NE) fricatives [s] and [ ] were voiced, when they were preceded by an unstressed vowel: his [z], tables [z], game cats [z] (но это слово прошло уже вторичную ассимиляцию), exhibit [z] y̅ exhibition [s] 4)the development of the combinations [tj, sj, dj, zj] in borrowed words (mostly French) into fricatives [ , ] and affricates: precision [ʒ], decision [ʒ].

Standardization through dictionaries, style guides, and education has coexisted with diverse regional and international varieties, allowing English to be both uniform and adaptable.

#### 5. Key Features of the New English Period:

1. Global spread: English is used internationally in trade, diplomacy, science, and media.

2. Vocabulary expansion: Rapid growth due to industrialization, colonization, and technology.

3. Standardization: Grammar, spelling, and pronunciation largely stabilized; dictionaries and education reinforced norms.

4. Variety and adaptability: Multiple regional and international forms coexist with standard varieties.

5. Influence of media and technology: Modern communication and digital platforms continue to shape vocabulary, style, and usage.

The New English Period represents the modern, global stage of English, characterized by dynamic growth, flexibility, and widespread influence. English has become both a standardized global language and a living, adaptive medium that continues to absorb new words, styles, and cultural influences. This period demonstrates the balance between linguistic standardization and innovation, reflecting social, technological, and cultural changes in the modern world.

The process of the formation of the uniform language was further supported by printing. The first printer was William Caxton (the second part of the 15th century). He founded the first printing house (before that all written matter was written in hand). Caxton printed his first book in 1476 in the London dialect which strengthened it. At first glance it may seem that the process of the development of the national language was a peaceful process, but in reality it was a painful process. Many people, who were more or less concerned with writing: writers, scholars, had their hands in the development of the language.

The New English Period, spanning from the late 18th century to the present, represents the modern, global stage of the English language. It is characterized by rapid vocabulary expansion, largely due to industrial, technological, and scientific developments, as well as contact with other languages through colonization and globalization. Standardization of grammar, spelling, and pronunciation has allowed English to function as a prestige language in formal communication, education, and media, while diverse regional and international varieties reflect its adaptability and cultural integration. The influence of digital technology, media, and global communication continues to shape English, making it a dynamic, evolving language that balances linguistic standardization with innovation. Overall, the New English Period demonstrates how social, cultural, and technological factors drive language

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How did the Industrial Revolution contribute to the expansion of English vocabulary during the New English Period?
2. In what ways did the British Empire and global contact shape regional and international varieties of English?
3. How has Received Standard English (RSE) influenced formal communication and education in the modern era?
4. What role has digital technology and media played in changing vocabulary, style, and communication patterns in contemporary English?
5. How does the New English Period illustrate the balance between standardization and linguistic innovation in a global context?