

英语词汇学课程课件

课件名称：英语词汇的发展

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Chapter 2

The Development of the English Vocabulary

英语词汇的发展

➤ **Objectives:**

- Introduce the history and the general characteristics of English;
- Let students know the growth of contemporary English vocabulary and the modes of vocabulary development

➤ **Teaching focus:**

- the Indo-European language family
- three phases of the historical development
- general characteristics of English
- three sources of contemporary English vocabulary
- modes of vocabulary development

2.1 The Indo-European Language family

- The Indo-European language family is made up of most languages of Europe, the Near East, and India.
- The classification of Indo-European language family :
 - According to various degrees of similarity and their geographical distribution, the surviving languages of Indo-European language family fall into 10 principal groups, which can be grouped into an Eastern set and Western set.

The Eastern set:

1. Balto-Slavic 波罗的斯拉夫语族 (**the biggest one**)

- Prussian 普鲁士语
- Lithuanian 立陶宛语
- Polish 波兰语
- Czech 捷克语
- Bulgarian 保加利亚语
- Slovenian 斯洛文尼亚语
- Russian 俄罗斯语

2. Indo-Iranian 印伊语族

- Persian 波斯语
- Bengali 孟加拉语
- Hindi 北印度语
- Romany 吉普赛语

3. Armenian 亚美尼亚语族

- Armenian

4. Albanian 阿尔巴尼亚语族

- Albanian

The Western Set

1. Hellenic 希腊语族

- Greek

2. Celtic 凯尔特语族

- Scottish 苏格兰语
- Irish 爱尔兰语
- Welsh 威尔士
- Breton 布列塔尼语
- Pictish 皮克特语

3. Hittite 希泰语族

4. Tocharian 叶火罗语族

Norwegian 挪威语

Icelandic 冰岛语

Danish 丹麦语

Swedish 瑞典语

5. Italic 意大利语族 (5 romance languages)

- Portuguese 葡萄牙语
- Spanish 西班牙语
- French 法语
- Italian 意大利语
- Rumanian 罗马尼亚语

6. Germanic 日耳曼族

- English 英语
- German 德语
- Dutch 荷兰语
- Flemish 弗来芒语
- Scandinavian languages



2.2 Three Phases of the Historical Development

- For each phase of the development, the following points must be made clear:
 - Time range
 - Features of English
 - Social and historical events that influenced English greatly

Old English (450-1150)

- Three questions for discussion:
 1. Who were the earliest inhabitants on the British Isles?
 2. What are included in Germanic tribes?
 3. What does England mean and why was the country called England and the language English?
 4. What is the feature of Old English?

1. The first peoples known to inhabit the land were Celts.
2. The Germanic tribes include Angles, Saxons, and Jutes. They were first allies of Celts to fight against Picts and Scots, but then they became new conquerors.
3. Angles, Saxons and Jutes all have their dialects. The Saxons were numerically superior to the Angles, the latter were influential enough to impose their name on the whole.
4. Old English are almost monogeneous and entirely Germanic with only a few borrowings from Latin and Scandinavian. It was a highly inflected language, of which nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs had complex systems of endings or vowel changes or both.

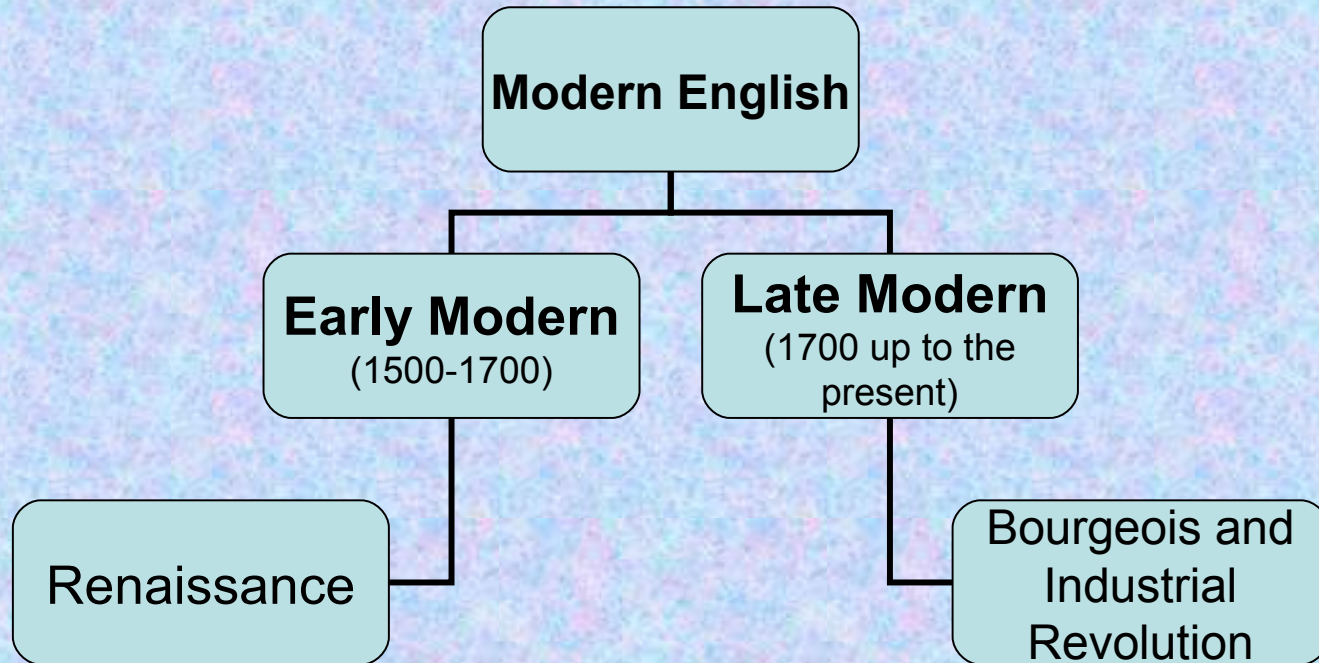
Middle English (1150-1500)

- **The Norman Conquest and its influence on England**
 - A new and larger continental culture was brought to England.
 - It forced on England “The national idea”.
- **The situation of the simultaneous existence of three languages:**
 - English ---- a despised language used by boors and serfs
 - French ----- Those in power, including those who held political or social power and those in powerful Church positions.
 - Latin ----- Those who want to make a living as a scribe and those in churches

- **Features:**

- A period of great changes, changes more extensive and fundamental than those that had taken place at any time before and since.
- Steady erosion of the Old English inflectional systems: endings of nouns and adjectives marking distinction of number and case and often of gender lost their distinctive forms.

Modern English(1500 up to the present)



A comparison of three phases

Old English	A period of full endings
Middle English	A period of leveled endings
Modern English	A period of lost endings

2.3 General Characteristics

1. Receptivity, adaptability and heterogeneity
 - Variety, heterogeneousness with foreign elements
2. Simplicity of inflection:
 - Old English is a synthetic language
 - Modern English is an analytic language
3. Relatively fixed word-order

2.4 Foreign Elements in the English Vocabulary

- The major contributors to English are Latin, Greek, French and Scandinavian.
- The students are asked to study this part by themselves and get to know the major foreign elements that contributed to the development of English.

2.5 Growth of Contemporary English Vocabulary

- Three main sources of new words:
 - Rapid development of modern science and languages
 - Social, economic and political changes
 - The influence of other cultures and languages

2.6 Modes of Vocabulary Development

1. Creation
 - The formation of new words by using the existing materials
2. Semantic change
 - An old form takes on a new meaning
3. Borrowing:
 - Borrowed words constitute six to seven percent of all new words.

Assignment

Questions:

1. Why should students of English lexicology study the Indo-European Language Family?
2. What characteristics of English make the English language heterogeneous?
3. Account for the popularity of English in the present world from a linguistic perspective.
4. Describe the characteristics of contemporary vocabulary.
5. What are the major modes of vocabulary development in contemporary English?