

The Cultural Influence Behind the Evolution of English

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Abstract:

Modern English has been in use since the early fifth century in England. The English language has undergone many changes and evolutions over time. Several factors have influenced these changes, including historical events, migration, and cultural invasions. English itself has borrowed many words from other languages and various civilizations, such as Latin, Norse, and French, resulting in a rich and diverse vocabulary. This article discusses the evolution of the English language and the cultural factors that have influenced it throughout different historical periods. This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach, focusing on data analysis from various aspects, including history, linguistics, and literature. This approach analyzes how cultural influences have contributed to the development of English vocabulary over time. The findings of this study indicate that cultural influences on the evolution of the English language can be observed through various supporting aspects, such as linguistic borrowings from other languages. Additionally, globalization and technology also play a role in the development of English, leading to the emergence of new terms and vocabulary. This article further emphasizes that English is an adaptive language that continues to evolve in response to social and cultural changes.

Keywords: language evolution; culture; vocabulary; globalization; linguistic borrowing

INTRODUCTION

The story of the evolution of English is a complex and eventful one involving culture, politics, and technological advancement. Historical events such as invasion, colonization, and globalization have changed English since the early fifth century. English has evolved through religious changes, literary movements, and technological advancements. English is a language that evolves and is shaped by its people.

Cultural relations have long had the power to change language. For example, the historical event of the Norman Conquest changed French vocabulary to English, while much of the vocabulary and syntax had been abandoned by the Norse invasion. English has adapted to recent global educational and technological trends. According to Raja et al. (2022), the role of English as an international language influences the acceptance and adaptation of foreign languages. Similarly, adaptive technology and artificial intelligence

have influenced English education, creating new terms and styles (Liang et al., 2023; Chen, 2023).

Bax (2003) provides a framework for understanding how digital tools—such as Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL)—influence language evolution, especially vocabulary and usage. Bourekache and Kazar (2020) emphasize how mobile-based learning media not only support English language acquisition but also introduce learners to culturally embedded forms of language. More than that, as evidenced in Dovchin’s (2016) study of Mongolian Facebook users, social media influences English use both informally and formally. The fusion of language and culture in these online spaces reveals how English is being reshaped by new forms of communication.

Therefore, the purpose of this study is to explore how cultural influences have contributed to the evolution of English. By analyzing historical and contemporary cultural contexts, this article investigates how English adapts across space and time through qualitative descriptive analysis.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method to explore the influence of culture on the evolution of English. Data sources include peer-reviewed articles, historical linguistic texts, and scholarly research focusing on language contact, education, and digital communication. This approach allows for an in-depth analysis of linguistic change from a cultural perspective, focusing on semantic shifts, vocabulary borrowing, and adaptation to modern communication practices.

DISCUSSION

The evolution of English is closely tied to the cultural influences that have shaped it throughout history. These cultural elements, from historical invasions and migrations to globalization and digital technology, have significantly affected the vocabulary, structure, and usage of English. This section discusses five major cultural influences on the development of English.

Cultural and Historical Influences

A number of historical cultural interactions have shaped the English language, each leaving its own grammatical imprint. The Viking invasions were one of the first and most important influences, as Old Norse gave English numerous common words like sky, egg,

knife, and window. Through prolonged interaction, trade, and marriages, these words naturally made their way into the language.

The Norman Conquest in 1066, which introduced French into English law, government, and culture, was another pivotal moment. Consequently, several French-derived phrases were incorporated into English, especially in the fields of law (justice), politics (administration), royalty (royalty), and gastronomy (beef). Many Latin and Greek phrases were later adopted into English throughout the Renaissance, particularly in scholarly and scientific contexts. These additions highlight the influence of cultural factors on the expansion of English vocabulary, including power, education, and intellectual movements (Kaan et al., 2018; Mitsuya et al., 2013).

Communication and Borrowing

Across Cultures English development has been greatly impacted by intercultural communication, particularly in multilingual and multicultural contexts. According to Dalib et al. (2019), interactions between various student populations cause English to naturally blend with regional linguistic traits. These exchanges encourage English words to be borrowed, altered, and reinterpreted to suit certain cultural situations.

Loanwords are often used to address communication and cultural needs. For example, Arabic grammatical patterns are frequently used in Arab nations to adapt English loanwords (Zibin, 2019). This illustrates the fluidity of cultural identification in influencing language evolution in addition to localizing English terminology. English does not spread evenly; rather, it adjusts to local customs, beliefs, and communication practices, as demonstrated by instances like borrowing.

Globalization and English as an International Language

English is becoming the most widely used language for worldwide communication in domains including business, science, technology, and education as a result of globalization. Because of its global position, English is constantly interacting with a wide variety of cultures, which has an impact on how the language is spoken and understood in various places. According to Raja et al. (2022), many people in Indonesia view.

English as a worldwide ability that is impacted by popular culture, digital media, and international educational trends, rather than merely as a foreign language. Localized variations of English, such as Spanglish (Spanish-English), Singlish (Singaporean English), and Japlish (Japanese-English), are emerging as the language spreads throughout the

world. These hybrid forms demonstrate how regional cultures impact English's meanings, structure, and pronunciation.

Effects of Digital Culture and Technology

The advent of digital technology has drastically altered the English language. The rapid spread and evolution of languages have been propelled by social media, online educational platforms, and artificial intelligence. Bax (2003) and Bourekache & Kazar (2020) emphasize that CALL (computer-assisted language learning) resources help learners cultivate new language habits and vocabulary.

Dovchin (2016) noted that Mongolian users on Facebook frequently blend English phrases into their posts, thereby merging cultural and linguistic aspects in online communication. This trend illustrates the influence of digital platforms on code-switching and the creation of new informal varieties of English. Likewise, the rise of artificial intelligence and machine translation tools has been explored by Liang et al. (2023) and Ilin (2024) have contributed to the introduction of specialized vocabulary and innovative communication strategies within English learning settings.

Linguistic adaptability and cognitive flexibility

English demonstrates exceptional adaptability, both in terms of language and cognition. According to Simmonds et al. (2011) and Shiller et al. (2022), bilingual individuals can seamlessly shift between different language systems, illustrating the brain's flexibility in managing cultural symbols. This bilingual flexibility promotes the evolution of English within a multicultural environment.

Moreover, the acquisition and use of the English language are shaped by the individual's background in their native language. Research by Mitsuya et al. (2011) revealed that English production differs according to the speaker's first language and highlighted the connections between culture, thought, and pronunciation. This lends support to the notion that English evolves not in isolation but rather through ongoing interaction with the speaker's cultural and linguistic context.

In conclusion, the evolution of the English language is deeply intertwined with the cultural shifts surrounding it. From past conquests to contemporary globalization and technological advancements, culture persistently alters the framework, lexicon, and role of English. This transforms English into more than merely a language; it represents a dynamic manifestation of global cultural diversity and transformation.

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