

FINAL EXAMINATION

June 8, 2000

(Two Hours)

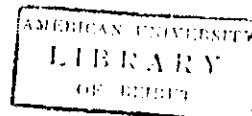
Answer the first question and four of the five questions that follow.

1. Mark the following statements as TRUE or FALSE: (28 points)

- a. _____ English has five vowel sounds only; these are [a], [e], [i], [o], and [u].
- b. _____ The main characteristic of human communication is its creativity and versatility.
- c. _____ One major feature of Early Modern English is the establishment of a unified spelling system and unified grammar rules that all writers abided by.
- d. _____ Pairs of words such as *food* and *good*, *reprove* and *love*, *grace* and *grease*, used in Shakespeare's poetry, are indications of earlier pronunciations of these words.
- e. _____ English, unlike other Germanic languages, developed a preterit tense form with a dental suffix, /d/ or /t/.
- f. _____ The loss of inflections made it possible for English to have a variable word order.
- g. _____ *Kyne* is an older form for *cows*.
- h. _____ In normal conversations, British speakers start utterances with higher intonation than American speakers do.
- i. _____ In early Modern English, two personal endings remain in active use, namely, *-es* for the third person and *-est* for the second person.
- j. _____ Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* helped establish the London dialect as the standard dialect in English.
- k. _____ The term "Strong verbs" in Old and Middle English corresponds to the term "irregular verbs" in Modern English.
- l. _____ Unlike other vowels, diphthongs have remained stable throughout the history of the English language.
- m. _____ Writing *would have* as *would of* is an example of spelling pronunciation.
- n. _____ *Inkhorn terms* are Latin words and expressions used in English by speakers who feel that such usage makes them sound sophisticated.

2. Answer the following questions briefly and illustrate with examples.

- a. How have the attitudes of dictionary makers and school masters in the 18th Century affect the development of the English language?
- b. How do language historians account for the fact that French words entered English in such large numbers during the Norman domination of England?



- c. What kind of changes did the "political correctness" movement effect in the English language?

3. Explain the linguistic changes that have taken place in Middle and Modern English as illustrated by the following examples:

<u>Old English</u>	<u>Middle English</u>	<u>Modern English</u>
wīf	wȳf	wife
blōd	blood	blood
ūt	out	out
gōd	good	good
fēdan	fede	feed
hām	hoom	home
clawu	clawe	claw

4. Define 10 of the following 16 terms, and give examples of each:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. Metathesis | i. Subjunctive mood |
| b. Loan words | j. Slang |
| c. Semantic specialization | k. Echoic words |
| d. Folk etymology | l. Prescriptive grammar |
| e. Amelioration | m. Ideographic writing |
| f. Received pronunciation | n. Social dialect |
| g. Functional shift | o. R-less speech |
| h. Aphetic forms | p. Language family |

5. "When two languages come in contact, mutual borrowing of words and expressions takes place. The nature and extent of borrowing depend on various factors --cultural, religious, military, and political -- that govern the contact between the two languages."

Illustrate this statement by referring to the borrowings into English from any language that you are familiar with.

6. i. Mark each item below with one or more of these time periods: Old English (OE), Middle English (ME), Early Modern English (EMO), and Contemporary English (CE).

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| _____ a. <i>Hamlet</i> | _____ g. Anglo-Norman |
| _____ b. Inkhorn terms | _____ h. St. Bede |
| _____ c. London standard | _____ i. Ms |
| _____ d. Ebonics | _____ j. <i>Canterbury Tales</i> |
| _____ e. <i>His-</i> genitive | _____ k. Johnson's Dictionary |
| _____ f. Celtic words | _____ l. <i>buddy</i> for <i>friend</i> |

ii. Name four features of Old English that are not in use in Modern English.

Bonus Question (5 points)

Identify and explain the Old English origin of the following words and constructs in Modern English.

- The adverbs deep, fast, and slow
- The genitive forms Lady chapel and ladybird
- The plural form children
- The superlative adjectives foremost and innermost
- The expression three-foot board and two-mile road

GOOD LUCK