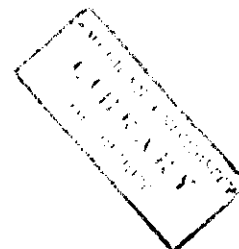




FINAL EXAMINATION

June 11, 2001

(Two Hours)



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

1. i. Mark the following statements as TRUE or FALSE: (16 points)

- a. _____ The term "Strong verbs" in Old and Middle English is the exact equivalent to the term "irregular verbs" in contemporary English.
- b. _____ The main negation marker in Old English was "ne."
- 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 as rhyming words, are indications of earlier pronunciations of these words.
- e. _____ English has five vowel sounds only; these are [a], [e], [i], [o], and [u].
- f. _____ The loss of inflections made it possible for English to have a variable word order.
- g. _____ The preterit tense form with a dental suffix, /d/ or /t/ was introduced in late Middle English.
- 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 most productive means of adding new words to the English language is affixation (prefixes and suffixes).
- 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 what linguists call "eye dialect."
- n. _____ *Inkhorn terms* are Latin words and expressions used in English by speakers who feel that such usage makes them sound sophisticated.
- o. _____ With the loss of final *-e* [ə] in Early Modern English, the sounds [v], [ð], and [z] came to occur in final position.
- p. _____ Word order in Old English followed mainly the pattern Verb-Subject-Object.

1. ii. Explain your answers to items (d), (e), (h), and (k). (4 points)



2. Define 10 of the following 16 terms, and give examples of each: (20 points)

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Verner's Law | i. Ebonics |
| b. Loan words | j. Slang |
| c. Purism | k. Echoic words |
| d. Cognate | l. Back-formation |
| e. Amelioration | m. Leveling |
| f. Received pronunciation | n. Diphthongization |
| g. Group genitive | o. Geographical dialects |
| h. Blendings | p. West Germanic languages |

3. "When any two languages come in contact, mutual borrowing of words and expressions takes place. The nature and extent of borrowing from one language to another 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. Stress in your essay the nature of the contact, the reasons for borrowing, and the semantic areas of borrowed words and expressions. (20 points)

4. Explain the changes in pronunciation and spelling that have taken place in Middle and Modern English as illustrated by the following examples: (20 points)

<u>Old English</u>	<u>Middle English</u>	<u>Modern English</u>
wīf	wyf	wife
blōd	blood	blood
ūt	out	out
gōd	good	good
fedan	fede	feed
stan	stoon	stone
lagu	lawe	law
climban	climben	climb
hleapan	lepen	leap

5. Answer the following questions briefly and illustrate with examples. (20 points)

- How have the attitudes of grammarians, dictionary makers, and school masters in the 18th Century affected the spelling, grammar, and semantics of the English language?
- How do language historians account for the fact that words of Latin origin are present in modern English in large numbers?
- Identify the reasons for the use of euphemisms in English past and present, and list with examples the semantic fields where euphemistic terms seem to abound.

6. i. Some of the ways and circumstances in which meaning may change are listed below. Define four of the ways, and supply an example to illustrate each way.

- a. semantic generalization
- b. semantic specialization
- c. pejoration
- d. shift in meaning from concrete to abstract
- e. shift in meaning from abstract to concrete
- f. transfer of meaning from one kind of sense perception to another
- g. euphemisms

6. ii. Explain the following statement: "Semantic change remains an inevitable, on-going process in the life of any human language."

Bonus Question (4 points)

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>Twelfth Night</i> | _____ g. Anglo-Norman dialect |
| _____ b. Inkhorn terms | _____ h. <i>Beowulf</i> |
| _____ c. London standard | _____ i. Great Vowel Shift |
| _____ d. Ebonics | _____ j. <i>Canterbury Tales</i> |
| _____ e. St. Bede | _____ k. Inverse spelling |
| _____ f. Norsemen and Vikings | _____ l. Comments as <i>Whatever!</i> ,
<i>Da..!</i> , and <i>Man!</i> |

GOOD LUCK