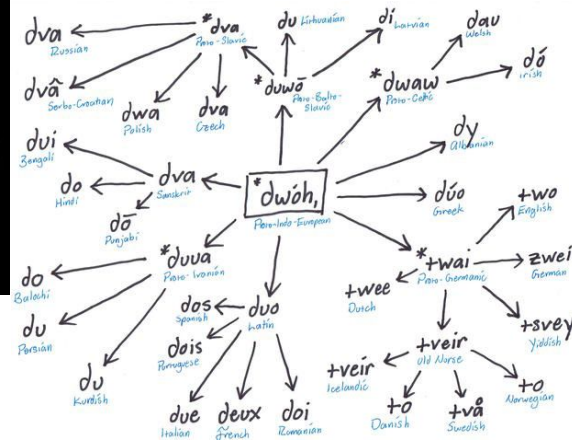
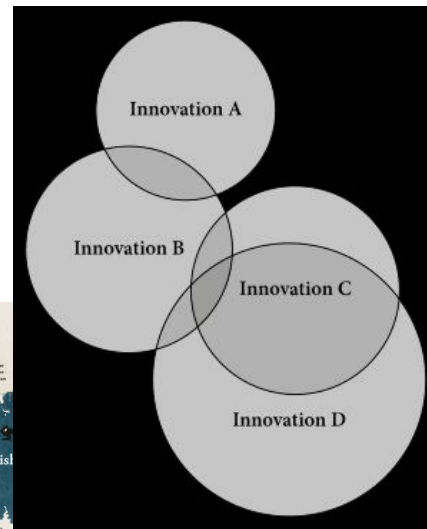
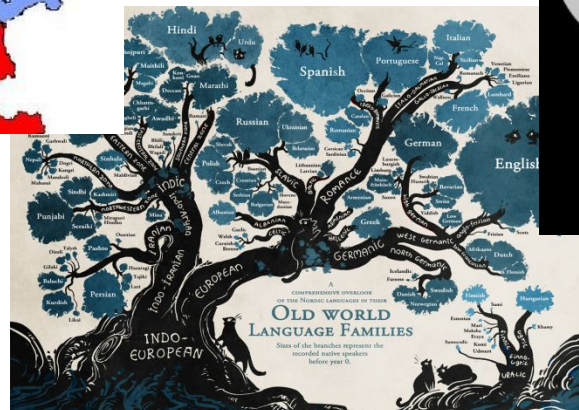
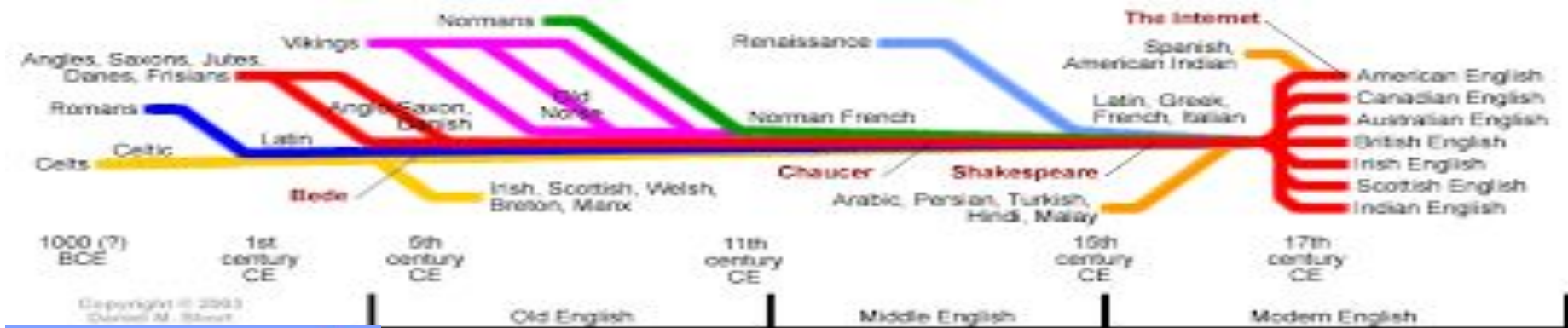




# LECTURE 1

## COURSE OF HISTORY OF ENGLISH

# What does Course of History of English relate to?



# Active vocabulary

ENRICHMENT

SYNCHRONIC(ALLY)

DIACHRONIC(ALLY)

CROSS-SECTION

INTERDEPENDENCE

COGNATE

CONVENTIONAL

CONVERGE (CONVERGENCE)

DIVERGE (DIVERGENCE)

GERMANIC

ROMANCE

SYNTACTICAL

ANALYTICAL

(IN)FLECTION

EXTINCT

EXTANT

INDO-EUROPEAN

WRITTEN HISTORY

PRE-HISTORY

SPEECH COMMUNITY

MERGE (MERGING)

PARADIGM

NEUTRALIZATION

GENDER

CASE

CONSONANT

VOWEL

PHONEME

SPLITTING

COIN (WORDS)

# PROBLEMS TO COVER:

- \* Subject and aim of HISTORY OF ENGLISH. Its sources.
- \* Different approaches to language development.
- \* Evolution of language and scope of language history.
- \* Concept of linguistic change and the causes of language evolution.
- \* Main aspects of the course of History of English.

# 1. Subject and aim of HISTORY OF ENGLISH. Its sources

Watch the video and give assumptions what this subject will help us understand:



1 lecture video - english spelling.mp4

# THIS SUBJECT WILL HELP US UNDERSTAND

a) common English and German vocabulary:

- *summer* & *Sommer*
- *winter* & *Winter*,
- *sit* & *sitzen* etc.;

b) alike English and French words:

- *autumn* & *automne*,
- *river* & *rivière*,
- *modest* & *modeste*,
- *change* & *changer* etc.;

c) similar aspects in pronunciation:

- *light*, *daughter*, *know*, *gnaw*,
- *bough*, *rough*, *through*, *cough*;

d) differences in grammar

- *man*, *foot*, *goose*,
- *sheep*, *deer*
- *may*, *will*

# The course deals with:

- history of its phonetic structure and spelling

- evolution of its grammatical system

Phonological  
level  
evolution

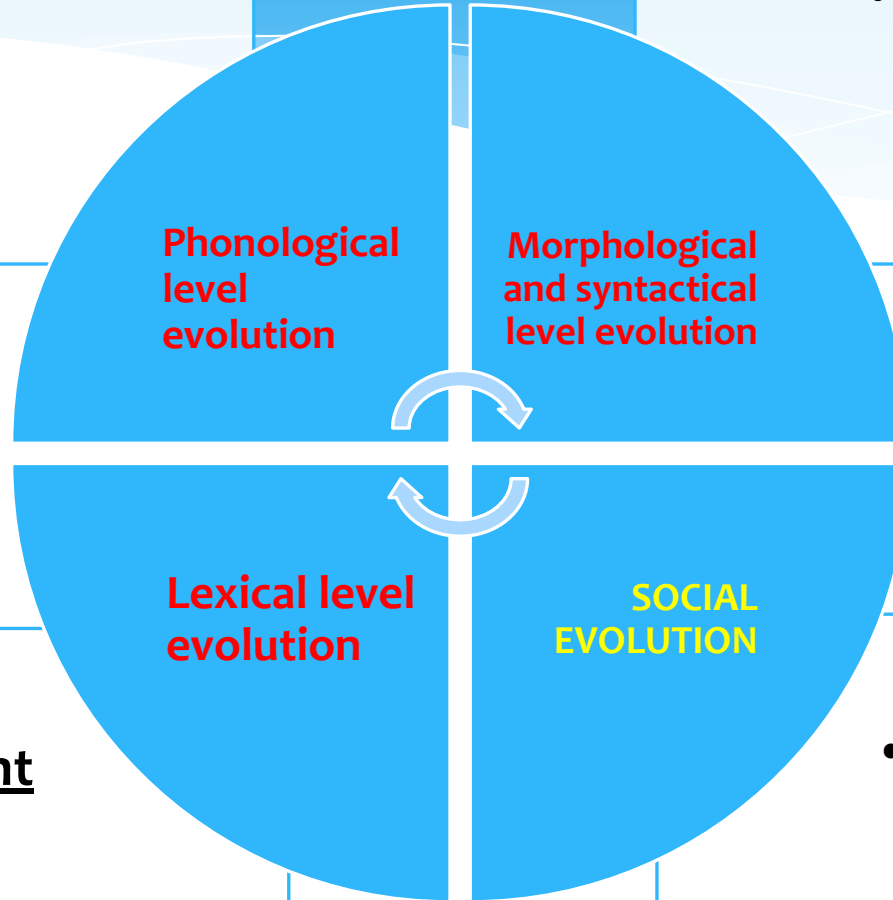
Morphological  
and syntactical  
level evolution

Lexical level  
evolution

SOCIAL  
EVOLUTION

- the enrichment of English vocabulary

- historical conditions of English-speaking societies



# A language can be considered from different angles

## Synchronically

to describe linguistic phenomena, taking no account of their origin



fixed in time

present-day features

tendencies to change

## Diachronically

to describe linguistic phenomena as a stage or step in the never-ending evolution of the language



evolution in time

explanations through historical changes

a series of synchronic cross-sections (e.g. the English language of the age of Shakespeare (16th-17th c.) or the age of Chaucer (14th c))



# **Aims of the course:**

**It helps us understand:**

- the essence of language evolution;**
- the role of linguistic and extralinguistic factors;**
- the interdependence of different processes in language history;**
- the place of English in the linguistic world;**
- the ties and contacts with other cognate and unrelated tongues;**
- the peculiarities of the English language evolution.**

## PHONETICS:

The English word is **conventional rather than phonetic**  
(vs German or Latin)

How many letters and sounds?

*bit, bite, knight*

Why?

At the time when Latin characters were first used in Britain (7<sup>th</sup>c.) **writing was phonetic**: the letters stood, roughly, for the same sounds as in Latin. Later, especially after the introduction of printing **in the 15<sup>th</sup>C., the written form of the word became fixed, while the sounds continued to evolve**. This resulted in a spelling and pronunciation divergence and in the modern peculiar use of Latin letters in English. **Many modern spellings show how the words were pronounced hundreds of years ago**, e.g. in the 14<sup>th</sup> C *knight* sounded as [knix't], *root* as [ro:t], *tale* as ['ta:lə].

## VOCABULARY:

**What are English cognate words or roots with other Germanic languages (German, Swedish, Danish and others)?**

give – geben, baker - Bäcker, brown – braun, hair – Haar, young – jung, long – lang, man – Mann, mouse – Maus, folk – Volk, etc.

**What similar English and French words do you know?**

peace – paix (G. Frieden) , army – armée (G. Heer), table – table (G. Tisch), royal – royal (königlich), chair – chaise (G. Stuhl)

**Why?**

In the first group words are of native, Germanic origin, which is confirmed by the parallels from other Germanic tongues.

In the second group words are borrowed from the Romance languages **(BUT IN OE THE RESPECTIVE WORDS WERE GERMANIC)**.

In Modern English **the proportion of Romance roots is higher than that of native roots.**

# GRAMMAR:

Does English have an analytical or syntactical structure?

What English inflexions do you know?

Why does English have so few inflexions?

How has the loss of inflections influenced the grammatical structure?

Does English have a fixed word order?

Why do some nouns have irregular plurals?

Why do modal verbs have no ending –s?

**How often do languages develop?**

**Do we notice language changes?**

**What is language reconstruction?**

**What unites 4c AD (for Gothic) and 7c AD (for English)?**

**Is the language born together with its system of writing?**

**How can we find out about early stages of history of English and lifestyle of people who spoke it? Give examples.**

works of ancient historians and geographers, especially Roman;  
descriptions of Germanic tribes, personal names and place-names;  
early borrowings from Germanic dialects into other languages;  
scientific study of extant texts.

## 2. APPROACHES TO LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

### HISTORICAL COMPARATIVE METHOD

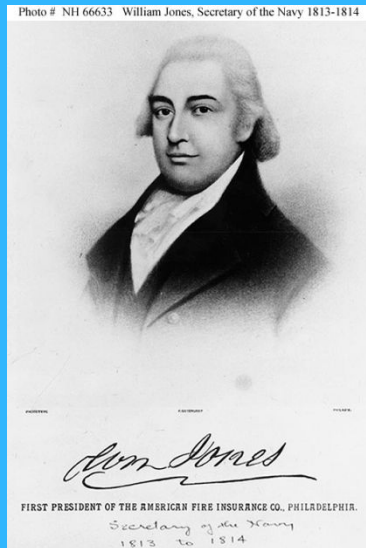
early 19th C - 1920s

Language = a series of disconnected partial changes which gradually, as if by chance, resulted in a new state of things.

Complex grammatical phenomena were seen as a mechanical result of phonetic development.

# QUIZZ: What is his name?

an Anglo-Welsh philologist,  
a scholar of ancient India,  
particularly known for his  
proposition of the existence of  
a relationship among European  
and Indian  
languages,  
which would later  
be known as  
Indo-European  
languages  
(1746 – 1794)



a German linguist known for  
extensive and pioneering  
comparative work on Indo-European  
languages. He traced the common  
origin of grammatical forms of  
Sanskrit with Persian, Greek, Latin  
and German. By this  
historical analysis,  
he furnished the first  
trustworthy  
materials for a  
history of the  
languages compared.

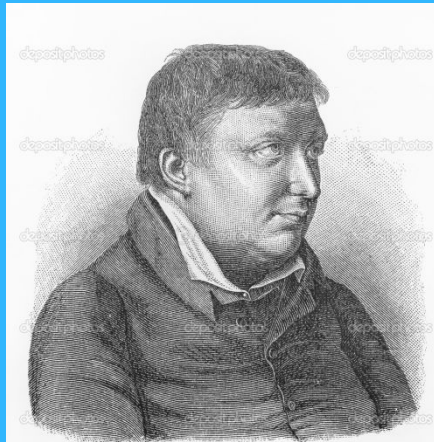
(1791 – 1867)



# What is his name?

a German poet, linguist, a pioneer in Indo-European studies, comparative linguistics, and morphological typology. He wrote an epoch-making book *Über die Sprache und Weisheit der Indier* (On the Language and Wisdom of India). He compared Sanskrit with Latin, Greek, Persian, and German, and found many similarities in vocabulary and grammar.

(1772 – 1829)



Friedrich von Schlegel.

a Danish linguist and philologist, who worked on comparative phonology and morphology. He traveled extensively to study languages (in Iceland he wrote the first grammar of Icelandic). He is especially known for his contributions to comparative linguistics, including an early formulation of what would later be known as Grimm's Law.

(1787 – 1832)





# What is his name?

a Prussian philosopher, linguist, founder of a University.

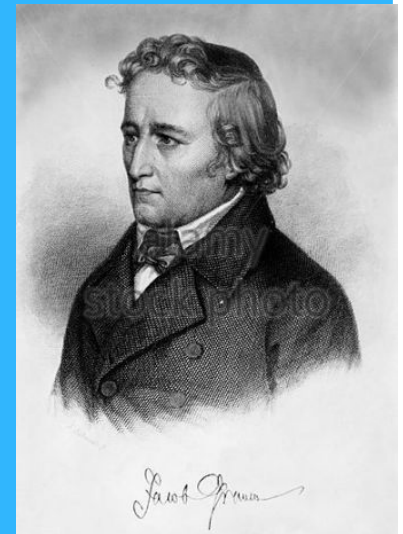
He believed that a language is an evolving organism, he identifies a human language as a rule-governed system, rather than just a collection of words and phrases paired with meanings.

(1767 – 1835)



a German philologist, jurist, and mythologist. He is known as the discoverer of a linguistic law, the co-author with his brother Wilhelm of the monumental Deutsches Wörterbuch, the author of Deutsche Mythologie and, more popularly, as one of the brothers who collected Fairy Tales across Germany.

(1785 – 1863)



www.alamy.com - C45J5T

# PROS AND CONS OF HISTORICAL COMPARATIVE METHOD

## PROS



- ☐ relatively simple
- ☐ explains the differences in cognate languages
- ☐ highlights the pre-written language history

## CONS



- ☐ limited by the material
- ☐ difficult / impossible to define the time or even the relative chronology of lingual changes
- ☐ reconstructed forms are often questioned
- ☐ chiefly applied to languages having a long written tradition
- ☐ applied only to the comparative study of cognate languages

# STRUCTURAL LINGUISTICS

Structural linguistics is an examination of a language as a **STATIC SYSTEM** of interconnected units.



Ferdinand de Saussure  
(1857-1913)

of modern linguistics for  
g about the shift **from diachronic**  
(cal) **to synchronic** (non-historical) analysis.

It was the merit chiefly of **the Prague Linguistic Circle**, created in 1926, to have introduced the notion of **system** into diachronic linguistics as well, so that **DEVELOPMENT CAME TO BE SEEN AS THE EVOLUTION OF THE LANGUAGE SYSTEM AS SUCH, NOT AS A CHANCE ACCUMULATION OF DISCONNECTED CHANGES IN DETAILS.**

# Home assignment

Everyone:

1. Learn theoretical aspects of language evolution.
2. Do exercises on “Language Development” handout.
3. Watch episode “Birth of a Language” from “The Adventure of English” BBC documentary and do exercises.

2 project groups:

- a) Technological progress in the 13-16 c and language evolution
- b) Technological progress in the 20-21 c and language evolution



Thank you for  
attention !!!!!