The Main Features of Present-Day English

Peter Bojo

- Give a linguistic definition of human language
- Explain the language features of Prevarication
- Explain the language feature of displacement
- Explain the term „Onomatopoeic words"
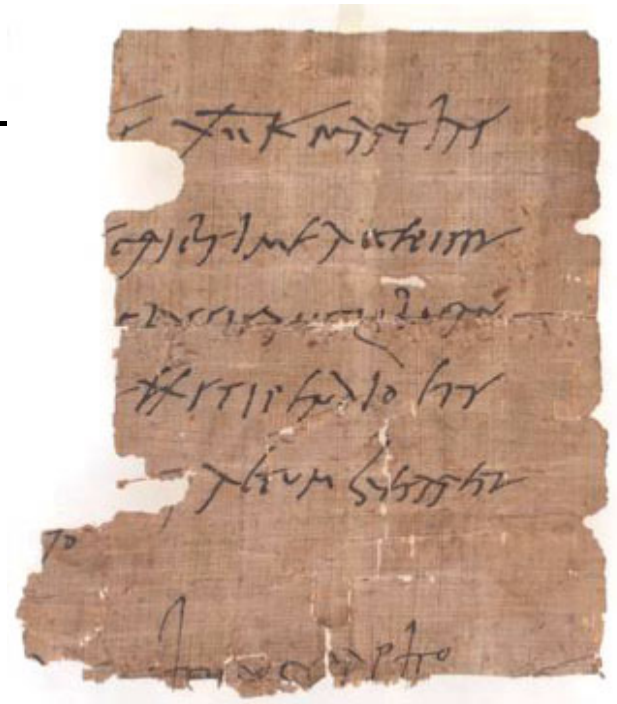
The main features of Present-Day English

Points to talk about

- Romance and Germanic influence
- Tendency towards monosyllabism
- Word classes
- Conversion / Zero derivation
- Polysemy
- Synthetic & Analytic& Aglutinative language
- Condensation
- Nominal tendency

Romance vocabulary

- Early French loan words (1066 - 1250) – *noble, servant, feast*
- Other French loan words: *carpenter, courage, comfort, honour*..etc.
- Latin loan words: *frustrate, intellect, infancy, conspiracy, interrupt, summary*...etc

Germanic character of English

- Vocabulary (*apple strudel, frankfurter*)
- Grammar

Tendency towards monosyllabism

POLYSEMY

- Form is reduced but meaning gradually wider
- English words are semantically vague

Semantics – meaning

- English words can be easily converted from one word class to another

Word class – nouns, adjectives, verbs

- Polysemy & conversion

e.g. Issue /ˈɪʃ.uː/

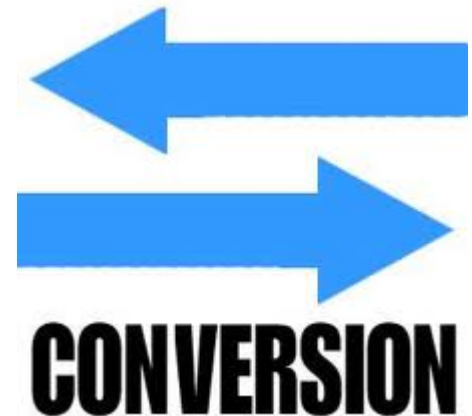- environmental/ethical/personal **issues**
- There's an article on motorbikes in the latest/next **issue**.
- The school **issued** a statement about its plans to the press.
- Anna has major **issues** with her employer.
- A terrible scream **issued** from the room.

A FILM BY R.J. CUTLER

THE
SEPTEMBER
ISSUE

FASHION IS A RELIGION.
THIS IS THE BIBLE.

ANNA WINTOUR & THE MAKING OF VOGUE

IN THEATRES THIS FALL

Conversion

- Conversion is the word formation process in which a word of one grammatical form becomes a word of another grammatical form without any changes to spelling or pronunciation

CONVERSION

Noun to verb conversion

- My grandmother **bottled** the juice and **canned** the pickles.
- She **microwaved** her lunch.
- She **fools** me whenever she can.

Verb to noun conversion

- The guard alerted the general to the **attack.**
- Sometimes one just needs a good **cry**.
- We need to increase our productivity to see an **increase** in profits.

Nominal tendencies

- English contains a number of nominal elements
- Translate: raňajkovať, osprchovať sa…

Condensation

- I promised that I would come – I promised to come (INFINITIVE)
- When I went home, I met Peter – Going home I met Peter (PARTICIPLE)
- Do you mind if I open the window – Do you mind my opening the window? (GERUND)

Fixed word order

- SVOMPT
- basic word order at the clausal level consists of three major parts: Subject (S), Object (O) and Verb (V)
- basic word order can be found in indicative transitive clauses
- Word order mistake exercise

2 I was all day at home.

   ....

3 Miguel has a life very complicated.

   ....

4 I don't know where is it.

   ....

5 I have seen her only a few times.

   ....

6 He has always an apple after lunch.

   ....

7 She never is late.

   ....

8 She asked him what was it.

   ....

9 We heard for a long time the same thing.

12 I have to improve a lot my English.

    ....

13 She lived for two years in Paris.

    ....

14 Always it is the same.

    ....

15 When was built the Eiffel Tower?

    ....

16 They don't treat very well the workers.

    ....

17 I was for a long time living in Madrid.

    ....

18 It depends what time is leaving the flight.

    ....

19 I never have been there.

Synthetic & Analytic & Aglutinative languages

English

- An analytic language is any language where syntax and meaning are shaped more by use of particles and word order rather than by inflection. Synthetic languages are the opposite of analytic languages

- A synthetic language is a language with high morpheme-per-word ratio.

Slovak

- An agglutinative language is a type of synthetic language that primarily uses agglutination: words are formed by joining phonetically unchangeable affix morpheme to the stem.

Hungarian

Features of analytic languages

- Stricter and more elaborate syntactic rules
- word order tends to carry a lot of importance
- Words are not marked by morphology
- Analytic language rely heavily on context and pragmatics

English as a synthetic, or analytic language

- Old English is frequently presented as a *synthetic* language, a language in which grammatical function of clause elements is primarily derived from inflections rather than from word order and prepositions, while Present Day English is said to be the opposite, and *analytic* language,

- E.g. The word „name"

Nominative:

Genitive:

Dative:

Accusative:

Declension in Old English

- Old English sample: The Lord's Prayer in Old

Example of the Weak Noun Declension for each Gender						
Case	**Masculine** nama 'name'		**Neuter** ēage 'eye'		**Feminine** tunge 'tongue'	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Nominative	nama	naman	ēage	ēagan	tunge	tungan
Accusative	naman	naman	ēage	ēagan	tungan	tungan
Genitive	naman	namena	ēagan	ēagena	tungan	tungena
Dative	naman	namum	ēagan	ēagum	tungan	tungum

Further watching ☺

- History of English language
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26Gb7GQ33-Q

Thank you!
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