Algeo Ch. 7: Society, Spellings, Sounds, 1500-1800

Part I: People, Politics, Power, and Phonology

The Middle English -> Early Modern English Transition



- Spellings are stabilizing thanks to printing
- Vowels are still shifting
- Vocabulary is expanding rapidly
- Literacy is increasing: by 1600, at least half the English population can read (a little) in English

The Print Explosion





- Before 1500, the total number of copies of books printed in Europe is about 30,000—mostly in Latin
- Between 1475 and 1640,
 according to the Short Title
 Catalog, almost 20,000 titles
 were printed in English alone, not
 to mention all those in Latin and
 other languages—if you estimate
 a print run of between 100 and
 1000 per title, you can see the
 scale.
- This doesn't count flyers, broadsides, and other incunabula.

The Complication: English Orthography



- Long ∫ still used by printers= confusion with ∫
- Still fluctuation between u and v
- Still fluctuation between *i* and *j*
- Use of y for β in abbreviations like y^t 'that', y^e 'the, thee'
- May use a macron instead of printing the final nasal: fo instead of fom, etc.
- Inverse spellings: delight for delite, etc.
- Apocope: removing a historical prefix or unstressed syllable from the beginning of a word: an atomy for anathomia

An. Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears:

I come to bury *Cafar, not to praife him:*The euill that men do, liues after them,
The good is oft entered with their bones,
So let it be with *Cafar. The Noble Brutus;*Hath told you *Cafar was Ambitious:*If it were fo, it was a greeuous Fault;
And greeuoufly hath *Cafar anfwer'd it.*Heere, vnder leaue of *Brutus, and the reft*(For *Brutus is an Honourable man,*So are they all; all Honourable men)
Come I to fpeake in *Cafars Funerall.*

4 Characteristics of Early Modern English

- Linguistic expansion—some 12,000 words added to the lexis in the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I alone (1558-1625)
- Linguistic politics—translations of the Bible & necessity to understand it for salvation
- Linguistic anxiety—necessity for education and "fixing" the language to be the equal of Latin and Greek
- Linguistic beauty—age of Spenser,
 Shakespeare, KJV

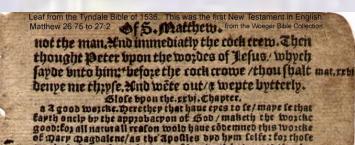
Expansion of the EModE Lexis

- Greek and Latin technical vocabulary;
- Continued borrowing from French: comrade, duel, ticket, volunteer
- More Spanish & Portugese: armada, bravado, desperado, peccadillo
- Dutch: smuggle, cruise, yacht, knapsack, landscape
- Italian: cameo, cupola, piazza, portico
- Words from at least 50 other languages borrowed through Continental languages: bamboo, bazaar, curry, alcohol, coffee
- "inkhorn terms": scholars' neologisms such as anacephalize, adnichilate, eximious, exolete, illecebrous, ingent, and obtestate (look them up in the OED!)

Politics: Basic Attitude Differences

- "I defie the Pope and all his lawes. If God spare my life, ere many yeares I wyl cause a boy that driveth the plough to know more of the Scripture, than he doust."—William Tyndale, about 1521, quoted in Foxe's Actes and Monuments
- Sir Thomas More scorned "the word of God in the tongue of ploughboys"—regarded vernaculars as the vulgar tongue (language of the unwashed masses) (Dialogue Concerning Heresies, 1529)
- Many others saw English as "the mother tongue"—the natural and appropriate language for the best thoughts of Englishmen—successors to Chaucer's viewpoint

The Protestant Reformation



are the best morches which no ma knoweth how good thep be. b All that take the Eweards. at. Were both ours Saupour con fiprime the temporall Eweards: to that who foeuer bleth it except he be an ordynate officer of the same /for the punpihemée of evell boers/he taketh the rowins of Bod byon hym / and is seed prous.

c Regpon. I legpon after fome mens rekenpige is a nombre of fpre thou Canbe or there about.

Chief is belpuered buto poplate : Judas hangeth home tell: Chief is crucofped amonge theurs, he borth a is bus reed. Datchmen hepe the grave. Che.rcbii. Chapt.



Ponthe morow/all the prested & elders of the people helde a councellagapist Jesus, granish that they myght put him to death/& boilde increment him to led forth/& belyucred hym but a Pontius by Pylate the debite. When Judas which betrayed +36.1 hym sawe this that he was condepned but death

- "Every man his own salvation"
 means pressure to have Scriptures
 common people can read and study
- Translation opposed by English church as late as 1535: Tyndale executed for heresy in 1536
- After Henry VIII Anglicizes the English church, change of strategy.
 By 1538, Henry orders that every English church have an English Bible available.
- Book of Common Prayer (1549, 1552, 1559)...

Political Pressures for an "English" Bible Translation

- Miles Coverdale 1535; printed 2nd edition in 1539 with royal endorsement— "The Great Bible"
- Geneva Bible (1560) witih apparatus: the translation used by Shakespeare, Cromwell, Donne & Milton, and taken to America on the Mayflower
- 5 major translations between 1535 and 1568

Leaf from the Coverdale Bible of 1535 (First Edition). This was the first complete Bible (Old and New Testament) printed in English. 21:18 to 22:16 The tij. bole of the fyriges. The rrii. Chap. Fo. lrv. Elias the Thefibite, and fayde: Gethe up, not & Ramoth in Gilead is oures ; and me and go downe to mete Adab the tynge of Jirael, which is at Samaria: beholbe, he is fyt ftyll, and tate it not out of the hande of the tynge of Syria. And he fayde onto Josa in Claboths vynyarde, into the which he is phat: Wiltehou go with me to the battaill gone downerocate possission of icand cal-tection with him, and speake: Thus sayeth the LORDE: Thou hast flayne, and caten in unto Dameo in Gileao : Jolaphae Jayde unto the Fynge of Jirael: Juyll be as thou my people as thy people, and my boige as thy holies. And Jolaphae Jayde unto y byn geof Jirael: Are the bayen at the move of y-Re-ythe LORDE. Then the Fynge of Jirael gashe red the propheres aboute a four hundred men, and yayde unto them: Shall Jo who Ramoth in Gilead to fighte, or [hal] lee it alone: They fayde: Go op, y LORDE [hal be lymeritin to y finges hande, Dur Jolaphae Jayde: Je there not one puopher here more of y LORDE Ethat we many are at hununto Ramoth in Gilead : Tofaphat favbe poffeffion. And thou fhalt talte mozoner on to bim, and faye: Thus fayeth the LORDE: e.Re. 22.1 "Euen in the place where the dogges lie ted up traboths blonde, shall the dogges liefethy blonde asso. 21 das sayde unto Elias : Saft thou euer founde me thine enemyer-besaider Nee, I have some eiter bijne eiter sechouart eiten sobe eo doeuell in the sigh-te of the LORDE Debolte, I myll brynge of \$1.0RDE, that we maye are at him? The tinge of Ifrael faibe unto Josaphat & dere is yet a man, one Micheas the fonne of Jemla, at whom we may e are of the LOR myffortune upon the , and tate awayethy pofferite, and wil rote out from Achabenen posserite, and will rote dut from Achate, nem bim ebaumaketh water agaynst the wall, and himehatis shut up and leste behinde in Isladia and by bookers; I sunt a sate boust of Jeaboam y some of Albat, and as the bouse of Dachat, and as the bouse of Dachat, and as the some of Albat, and a sate of the posseries of Dachat and a sate of the sate of the posseries of Dachate the some of the sate of the sat DEibut Jhacehim, for he prophecieth me no good, but euell. Jofaphat fayocil et nor the tynge faye fo. Then called the tynge of Jrael a chamberlayne, and fayoc ? Drynge bibecause of \$ pronocacion wherwhich thou ther some tricheas the some of Jenia As-forthe tynge of Jiraeland Josaphae y tin geof Juda, they lat ether of them upon his haft pronoted me onto wrath, and made If bale pienteto me une unterpanto particular tact to fymir. De dispose "De bogges [hal benome Jefa and faybe: "De bogges [hal benome Jefa and faybe: "De bogges [hal benome Jefa cate up and to be faybe for jefrael." Who fo of Achal and two for beyth in the felbo. The following better the beanen [hall cate him up. 80 clause disposed for the LOR. Mac. th. Address homes there in a fighte of the LOR. feate, arayed in their garmentes in the place at 9 dore of the porte of Samaria, and all of prophetes prophecied before the. Ind Se bechias the lonne of Chaena had made him bornes of your, and fayoe: Thus fayeth the LORDE: With these shalt thou pussible at 7 Syrians, cyll thou brynge them to maughte 2 ind all the prophetes prophecied litewys, and sayoe: Go up unto R amoth in Gilead, 1.Mac.1.b * folbe to Domyfchefe in \$ fighte of the LOR DE hath no man bene, as 21chab; for his Jefabel hath fo bifceaued him, and he materh him felfe a greate abhominacion, that he pim leife a greate adoptimization, that be goeth a feer "Jools, according onto all as dyo the Amories, "whom the LORD Expelled befor the dilbern of Jiral. Due whan Adrab before hele workes, he free this clocky at pure a feel cloth on his bo-by, T fafted, and flepte in fact cloth, and men thou hale prospererighe well, z the LORDE had velyner is in to the Tynges hande. And the messaurite that wente to call Micheas sayde unto him: Beholde, The wordes of F prophetes are with one acorbe good before the tynge, let thy worde therfore be as te aboute hanginge downe his heade. And the worde of the LORDE cameto Elias the their worde, and speake thou good alfo. Wicheas saybe: 21s truly as the LORDE II Thefibite, T fayoe : Saft thou not fene how Achab humblech him felfe beforeme: Forfo moch now as he bublech him felfe in myfigh ucth, lote what the LORDE fayeth vnto me, & y wyl I speate. And whan he came to the tynge, the tynge fayde vinco him: Hicheas, hal we go vinco Ramoth in Gilead to fight te, I wil not brynge char plage whyle hely-ueth:but by his somes life wil I brynge myf fortune vpon his house. that we go wite Ramech in Gileave fight or that the let is alone; See layer whe obtain yee, go up, thou had prospertrighte well, the Lo Ro B hall gute it in to the English and had been bande. Due the English give wite him agay mer J charge y that the layer whether had go with most extremely a content whet the treatment of y Lorrer. Selayor: James all Jiftad featred abrother upon the mountaines; as the lipperthat have no sheepher can the Lorde The XXII. Chapter. The there passed ouer edge yeares, that there was no warre between the Sirians of Tissel. rians y Jfrael. Dut in the thirds yeare mente Josaphat the Lynge of Juda down ne to the Lynge of Jfrael. And the Lynge of Frael layde onto his femanices: Anowe ye

The King James Bible (1611): the KJV



- Formal name is the Authorized Version (AV)
- Often called the most influential single book written in English
- Committee of 47 scholars
- Used Tyndale, Coverdale, and the Geneva Bible as bases
- Attempt not only to translate effectively but to improve expression of God's word in mother tongue—linking politics and linguistic beauty
- See *The Story of English* and *Adventures in English* (linked on class calendar) for wonderful background

English Humanism, Linguistic Anxiety, and Linguistic Beauty

- Humanism: first, a basically academic movement with roots in the 15th century; focused attention on classical learning and vocabulary, and culminated in the works of Erasmus, Sir Thomas Elyot, and Roger Ascham
- Second, a literary revolution led by Skelton, Sidney, Spenser, and Shakespeare, and influenced by the precepts of Richard Mulcaster

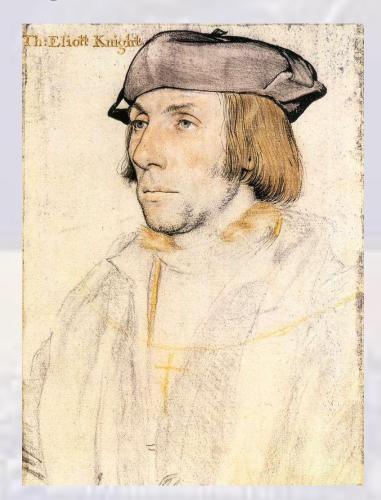
Humanism & The Latinists: Sir Thomas Elyot (1489-1546)

- Book Named the Governor (1531)
- A sound education, incorporating language, geography and history, was seen as the basis of all good government. It ensured that leaders were fully prepared for their role, and intellectually capable of coping with decision making.
- Teachers must speak elevated and correct language; according to Elyot, women have a big problem with this
- Strong proponent of borrowing Latinate words into English
- Coined the word 'encyclopedia'

ble mannes sonne in bis infancie baue with bym continually/onely suche/as may accustome bym by little and little to speake pure and elegant latin. Semblably the nouriseo to ther women aboute bym / if it be possible/to bo the same: or at the leste way/that they speke none englishe but that/whiche is cleane/polite/perfectly/and articulately pronounced/omittinge no lettre or sillable/as folishe women often times bo of a wantonnesse chyldren (as J bo at this baye knowe) have arrained corrupte and soule pronuntiation.

Thomas Elyot

- Added consultation, fury, majesty
- perceived lexicon inadequacies,
- borrowing from Latin,
- deliberate attempts to improve & enrich the language
- Used exaggeratedly Latinate root morphemes and derivational suffixes: neologisms (neo- + -logos- + ism)



Humanism's Second Wave: Roger Ascham (1515-1568)

THE

SCHOLEMASTER

children, to understand, write, and speake, the
Latin tong, but specially purposed for the
private brynging up of youth in Jentlemen
and Noble mens houses, and commodious also
for all fuch, as have forgot the Latin tonge,
and would, by themselves, without a
Scholemaster, in short tyme, and
with small paines, recover
a sufficient habilitie, to
understand, write,
and speake
Latin.

¶ By Roger Ascham.

¶ An. 1570.

AT LONDON.

Printed by John Daye, dwelling over Alderfgate.

¶ Cum Gratia & Privilegio Regiæ Majeftatis, per Decennium.

- Elizabeth I's tutor
- "English matter, in English speech, for Englishmen" – Toxophilus
- The Scholemaster (1570)
- Proponent of literary language and style: "ye know not what hurt ye do to learning that are not for words but for matter, and do make a divorce betwixt the tongue and the heart."

Anxiety & The Orthoepists: First Wave of Schoolmastering

- John Cheke (1569): proposal for removal of all silent letters
- Sir Thomas Smith (1568): proposal to make letters into "pictures" of speech; elimination of redundant letters like c and q; reintroduction of thorn (b), use of θ for [ð]; vowel length marked with diacritical symbols like the macron (a horizontal bar on top of a vowel to indicate a long sound)
- William Bullokar (1580): proposed diacritics and new symbols, noted the desirability of having a dictionary and grammar to set standards



Bullokars Booke at large, for the Amendment of Orthographie for English speech: wherein,
a most perfect supplie is made, for the wantes and double
founde of letters in the olde Orthographie, with Examples for the
same, with the easie conference and vig of both Orthographies,
to sime expenses in Bookes for a time, vntill this amendment grow to a general vie, for
the easie, speedie, and perfect reading and writing of English, (the speech noe
changed, as some vnculy and maliciously, or at the least ignorantic blowe
abroade) by the which amendement the same Authout hath also framed
a titled Granimar, to be imprinted hecreaster, for the same speech, to no
simal commoditic of the English Nation, not only to come to easie, speedie, and
persective of our owne language, but also to their easie, speedie, and readie

entrance into the fecretes of other Languages, and casic and specific pathway to all Straungers, to vie our Languages, hecretofore very hard vnto them, to no small profite and credite to this our Nation, and stay therevnto in the weightiest causes.

There is also imprinted with this Orthographie a short Pamphlet for all Learners, and a Primer agreeing to the same, and as learners shall go forward therein, other necessarile Bookes shall specify be prouided with the same

Orthographie.

Herrevnto are also ioyned written Copies with the same Orthographie.

Giue God the praife, that teacheth alwaies. When truth trieth, errour flieth.

Seene and allowed according to order.

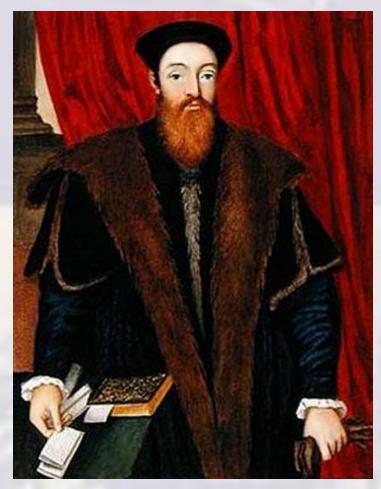
Imprinted at London by
Henrie Denham.

Opponents of the "improvement of English" & nostalgia for "Saxon"

- Wilson, Ascham, Cheke opposed Elyot's 'inkhorn terms'; Cheke tried to translate the New Testament using only native English words
- Arthur Golding (1587): "fleshstrings" (instead of the French borrowing "muscles"), "grosswitted" (instead of the French borrowing "stupid");
- Others tried to produce English technical vocabulary: threlike (equilateral triangle), likejamme (parallelogram), endsay (conclusion), saywhat (definition), dry mock (irony)

Literary Resistance to Inkhorn Terms: Beauty & Politics Vs. Anxiety

- Many attempts to preserve "purity" of English, reviving older English words
- John Cheke (tutor to Edward VI): "I am of this opinion that our own tung should be written cleane and pure, unmixt and unmangeled with borowing of other tunges... For then doth our tung naturallie and praisablie utter her meaning when she boroweth no counterfeitness of other tunges to attire herself withall, but useth plainlie her own, with such shift as nature, craft, experiens and following of other excellent [writers] doth lead her unto."

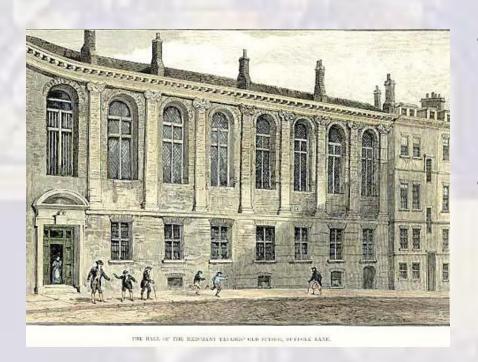


John Skelton (1460-1529)

- accumulate (L accumulare)
- attempt (L attemptare)
- •celebrate (L celebrare)
- •concern (L concernere)
- •describe (L describere)
- economy (Gk oikonomia)
- gravity (L gravis, heavy)
- •imitation (L imitatus from imitari, to copy)
- •lucky (ME lucke, from Middle High German gelücke)
- •miserable (L miserabilis)
- •seriousness (Fr serieux [from L serius] + OE suffix –nes)
- •steadily (OE stede, place)
- variety (L varietas)

- Poet and essayist
- May be responsible for adding as many as 1500 words to the English lexis
- Notice the Anglicization of spellings, affixes, etc.: the process of assimilation continues.

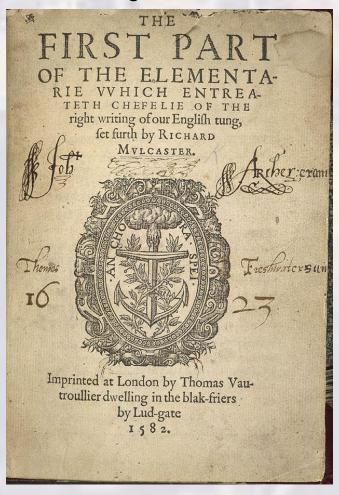
Richard Mulcaster (1532-1611)



- First headmaster of Merchant Tailors'
 School (opened 1561)
- "I love Rome, but London better, I favour Italy, but England more, I honour Latin, but worship English."
- The Elementarie (1582):
 8,000 English words but no definitions

The Elementarie: Teaching ENGLISH, not IN English

'Forenners and strangers do wonder at vs, both for the vncertaintie in our writing, and the inconstancie in our letters.'



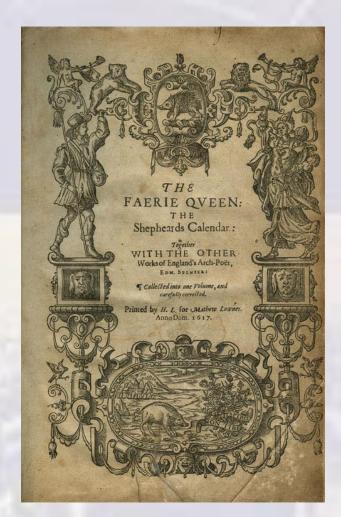
| Dum te errare videt, se quoque posse videt. Vna meos multum solatur causa labores, Ouossibi deuotos Anglia nostra videt. Cura mihi commune bonum, miserebitur omnis, Si quis speratifanoris error erit: Perge liber, fratremque tuum comitare, minores In procinitu alij iam meditantur iter. R. M. The titles handled in this book. Why I begin at the Elemétarie, & wherein it consisteth, pa. 1. That this siue brached Elemétarie is warranted by generall autoritie of all the grauest writers, & the best como weals, pa. 5. The opinion of the best writers, & the best como weals, pa. 5. The opinion of the best writers, & the best como weals, pa. 5. That this Elementarie and the prositablenesse thereof is co- firmed by great reason and most quident prous. pag. 18. That this Elementarie feasoneth the young mindes with the verie best and sweets liquor. pag. 20. That this Elementarie maketh the childe most capable of most commendable qualities. pag. 24. That this Elementarie resembleth natur both in number of abilities, and in maner of proceeding. pag. 27. That this Elemétarie riddeth the course of the after learning from all dissingtion and hardnesse, pag. 37. That this Elementarie by auoiding of ignorance auoideth all missing. pag. 44. That he entrie to language and judgement thereof by gramer is the end of the Elementarie. pag. 49. The general platform & method of the hole Elemétarie, p.52. The method which the learned tungs vsed, in the finding out of their own right writing, pag. 61. That the English tüg hath in it selfe sufficiet matter to work | Tarili Pout o Cinnal A auto non que auto | | |
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Mulcaster's Spelling Proposals

- 1. Remove all unnecessary letters. *Mulcaster* established the Consonant-Vowel-Consonant (CVC) pattern as the norm for spelling words or syllables with short vowels (*tub, bed* instead of *tubbe, bedde*).
- 2. Include letters that are needed to indicate correct pronunciation (the *t in catch*, for example).
- 3. Use a final silent *e* to mark long vowels and to distinguish them from short vowels (e.g., hop for the short vowel and hope for the long vowel). Mulcaster called this the *qualifying E: "I call that E, qualifying, whose absence or* presence, somtime altereth the vowel, somtime the consonant going next before it"

Edmund Spenser—student of Mulcaster

- Writers like Edmund
 Spenser (The Faerie
 Queene, 1590) deliberately
 chose to use archaic
 vocabulary words and
 spellings and grammatical
 constructions that
 represented a "golden age"
 of "pure" English [that
 never historically existed, of
 course]
- Spenser adds only 2 words to English: blatant and braggadocio



William Shakespeare (1564-1616)



Linguistic Beauty

Listen to David & Ben
Crystal read <u>Shakespeare in</u>
his native dialect
pronunciations

- Native dialect is provincial (Warwickshire)
- By early 1590s working in London, writing for courtiers (city dialects)
- Estimated that by 1598, that 1 out of 2 Londoners saw his plays
- Because his plays were so influential, his language is incredibly influential

Shakespeare's education



- Learned Latin (and probably some Greek) at the Stratford Grammar School
- London-educated Ben
 Jonson took shots at
 Shakespeare's
 education but it's there
- Must have read voraciously vocabulary estimated around 30,000 words

Impact on the language

- Added between 1700 and 4000 words to the language (best estimate, c. 2000, comparable to Chaucer)
- Innovator in syntax, compounding
- Vocabulary from wide swath of social registers
- Added barefaced, puppydog, obscene, premeditation, courtship, accommodation, linguist, etc.

