



**Otázka:** The history of the English language

**Jazyk:** Angličtina

**Přidal(a):** KíťaCZ

# OLD ENGLISH

- **Celts:**

- 2666 years ago Celtic languages
- parts of Wales, Scotland
- influence local names ( = a part of proper name)

- **Latin:**

- Romans came 43 BC (před Kristem) to 410 AD (rok 410)
- only words that have something to do with food, drink, animals, plants,...

## **DARK AGE:**

- Manuscripts wasn't be written, so we have a very poor idea about English

## **LITERACY AGE**

- start: 597
- first Roman missionaries led by St. Augustine
- large number of Latin manuscripts: written in monastic centres
- in manuscripts many glossaries of English
- Beowulf= heroic poem
  - a single copy survived from 1000



- other copy were destroyed during Viking invasion
- **Anglo-Saxons**
  - came between fourth and seventh centuries
  - from northern Germany, Holland, Denmark
  - occupied England, southern Scotland, part of Wales
  - language Germanic = old English

### FEATURES:

- highly inflected language: the endings (koncovky) determine the function of the word in a sentence
- word order was flexible or at least more varied
  - clause: it's a simple sentence with one verb
  - a very different position of the verb: stood before the noun or at the end of the clause
- sound system: especially vowels
- both double and triple negatives
  - two negatives increased the emphasis (zvyšují důraz negativní věty)
- instead using „of“ -> genitive ending's
  - for example: house's back = the back of the house

## MIDDLE ENGLISH:

- Viking: in north and easts of the country
- from Norway, Denmark
- came between eighth and eleven centuries
- language: Old Norse
- 2 languages co-existed in England:
  - Old English
    - mingle ( an easier form from fighter language is used for communication
    - means of communication between two communities = PIDGIN)
  - Old Norse



- CREOLE: pidgin (a language) is taught as a mother tongue

### 3 language:

- French:
    - in 1066 came Normans
    - French became the language of government, aristocracy
  - Latin:
    - in church
  - English:
    - ordinary people
- 
- **12 century:**
  - English to the upper class: some children of nobility spoke English as mother tongue
  - during the hundred years war status of French diminished
  - 1362 English was used for the first time at meaning of the Parliament

### FEATURES:

- the decay of inflection
  - a) several endings are phonetically similar (-en, -on, -an)
  - b) genetic theory: the loss of inflection as a result of the influence of Scandinavian language
- loss of word endings
- subject-verb order



# MODERN ENGLISH

- the forerunner (předchůdce): Geoffrey Chaucer
- the most influential text of this time: KING JAMES BIBLE
  - published in 1611
  - appointed (určen) to be read in churches -> that way -> huge influence (vliv) on the English population
- in 1606 reformers from the Church of England requested (žádat) a new translation of the Bible -> the king proposed (navrhl) a panel of university scholars („žáci, učenci“) who would carry out (vykonat) a preliminary (předběžný) translation
- 54 translators were divided into 6 companies -> each working on a separate section of the Bible (každá z nich pracovala na odděleném úseku bible)
- translation of individual translators must have been approved (schválený) by the others members
- the final agreement (dohoda, souhlas) of the whole company was required (požadovaný) to accept the text
- but translators were very conservative -> they opted (volili) for older forms, although there existed modern alternatives -> in that way they preserved (zachovali) many old forms and construction
  - a) many irregular (nepravidelných) verbs
  - b) „do“ was not used with negatives and in questions
  - c) they preserved (zachovali) 3rd person of singular ( - eth)
  - d) English orthographic rules were connected with the Bible