

Symposium: Foreign Language Influences in the History of English

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1. Introduction

- (1) Language contact has been regarded as an important factor triggering language change. There is even a scholar who claims that “most of what historical linguists study under the designation of ‘language change’ is due to contact” (Thomason, Sarah G. (2003, p. 687)) “Contact as a Source of Language Change,” in *The Handbook of Historical Linguistics*, ed. by Brian D. Joseph and Richard D. Janda, pp. 687-712, Oxford, Blackwell). In this symposium we will focus on foreign language influences on the English language through its history with special reference to syntactic change. The four speakers will focus on four languages that have played a significant role in the three periods of the history of English: Latin in the Old English period (KOZUKA), Old Norse in the same period (ITO), Anglo-Norman in the Middle English period (INGHAM), and Hebrew in the Early Modern English period (HASHIMOTO). It will be demonstrated how widely and deeply the English language has been influenced by contact with these languages.

2. Organization

- (2) OHKADO Masayuki, “Brief Introduction” (5 minutes)
KOZUKA Yoshitaka, “Latin Influence on Old English Partitive *of*” (30-35 minutes)
ITO Tsukusu, “Scandinavian Influence upon Medieval English: From the Grammatical Point of View” (30-35 minutes)
INGHAM Richard, “Later Anglo-Norman: A Contact Variety or an Imperfectly Learnt Second Language?” (30-35 minutes)
HASHIMOTO Isao, “The Influence of Biblical Hebrew on English” (30-35 minutes)

Break (10-15 minutes)

Discussions (40-45 minutes)

3. How We Deal with Foreign Language Influences

(3) *How can we detect foreign language influences?*

We can detect the influence of foreign language influences by examining language change.

(4) *Four types of changes*

In the contact situation of Language A and Language B: (The focus is on Language A, but the same can be said about Language B as well.)

- a. Language A possesses Property A, which is not observed in Language B.
- b. Language B possesses Property B, which is not observed in Language A.
- c. There is a third property, Property C, which is not observed either in Language A or Language B. [Hypothetical]
 - (i) **Addition:** Language A comes to have Property B.
 - (ii) **Amalgamation:** Language A comes to have Property C, which is a mixed form of Property A and Property B.
 - (iii) **Innovation:** Language A comes to have Property C, which is innovative in the sense that neither the trace of Property A nor that of Property B is observed.
- d. Language A possesses Property B, which is widely observed in Language B, but is only sporadically observed in Language A.
 - (iv) **Acceleration:** Property B in Language A comes to become full-fledged.

(5) *Cause of changes*

- a. Direct contact of the speakers
- b. Indirect contact (e.g. Biblical influences)