



HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

From Chaucer to Shakespeare

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THE AGE OF CHAUCER

Key Points

- Britain –NW part of Europe
- Celts- inhabitants - iron age 8th to 5th c BC.
- AD - Romans - infrastructural development
- Civilisation in Britain.
- Romans called Britain Britannia.
- Two Roman empires - West and East
- Eastern Roman Empire - Byzantine.
- Important point - Fall of Constantinople 1453.
- Britain people invited Anglo Saxons and Jews to help them.
- It is called as Anglo Saxon period or Old English

Period

Edward III	(1327 –1377)
Richard II	(1377 –1399)
Henry IV	(1399 – 1413)
Henry VII	(1485 – 1509)
Henry VIII	(1509 – 1547)
Edward	(1547 –1553)
Mary	(1553 – 1558)

The Old English Period

- The early English Literature is called the Anglo-Saxon period or the Old English Period.
- (450-1050)
- Beowulf- The First Old English Epic written in Germanic theme. Oldest epic in the English language
- Father of Old English Literature - Caedmon
- Two important genres are dream Allegories and chivalric romances.
- Influential Historian - Venerable Bede.
- Famous poem – Beowulf
- The oldest surviving poem in English is Caedmon's HYMN.
- Famous king - Alfred the Great.
- End of Anglo Saxon period - Norman Conquest 1066.
- Battle of Hastings - William, the conqueror, conquered the English king.
- It Marks the beginning of the Middle English period.
- Chaucer - the father of Modern English, the father of English poetry {says Dryden}
- He is also called the Morning star of Renaissance and the Evening star of medieval.
- John Wycliffe - The Morning star of Reformation.

Important events

- The Black Death 1348 – 1349
 - Reappeared in 1362, 1367 and 1370
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Wars and Rebellion

- 100 years war - 1338
 - Battle of Poitiers - 1356
 - Peasants Rebellion - 1381
 - Wars of Roses - 1455 – 1486
 - Battle of Bosworth - 1485
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Geoffrey Chaucer (1340 – 1400)

- Born during the reign of Edward III, he lived through Richard II and died the year after Henry IV ascended the throne.
- Son of a wine merchant.
- Studied law and became a diplomat.
- He was a court poet
- He married Philipa Roet, the sister of John of Gaunt's wife.
- At seventeen received a court appointment as a page to the wife of the Duke of Clarence, Edward III's third son.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

METHODS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

Grammar Translation Method

Also called the Classical Method.

It is called the classical method because classical texts are used as materials.

The learners are made to memorise grammar rules

The teacher translates the text into the mother tongue.

This method is an artefact of German Scholarship. It is popularly known as the Prussian method in the United States of America. It is a way of learning a language through a detailed study of its grammar. The learner applies grammar rules in translating sentences from the mother tongue into the target language and vice versa. Grammar is taught prescriptively through the presentation and the rules. Vocabulary is taught through bilingual dictionaries and also through the memorisation of words and their meanings. In this method, accuracy is given greater importance.

DIRECT METHOD

The direct method is one of the early methods in English Language Teaching. In this method, the teacher uses the target language throughout his/her lecture. Mother tongue is prohibited. Both the students and the teacher speak only in the target language.

The teacher uses various techniques to conduct and organise the class. For example, the teacher brings the objects or pictures of the objects to teach new words. The teacher does not translate the word into the mother tongue because (since) mother tongue is prohibited. It was proposed by Gouin.