MIDDLE ENGLISH (C. 1100 – C. 1500)

- NORMAN CONQUEST AND ITS INFLUENCE
- MIDDLE ENGLISH
- ENGLISH RESURGENCE
- BIRTH OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
BEGAN TRANSITION FROM OLD TO MIDDLE ENGLISH: 1066

- Normans (descended from Vikings - based in France)
- William of Normandy crushed Anglo-Saxon Earls
- Distributed property to his Norman loyalists
- Battle of Hastings is a pivotal point in English history
ISOLATION OF DIALECTS

- The French spoken in Paris in 1066 was known as *Francien*
- Anglo-Norman was a rural dialect of France (from *Normandy*) and the one that heavily influenced Middle English
 LANGUAGE OF KINGS

- Anglo Norman would become language of court and royalty for 300 years
- 1399 - Henry the IV, first king since 1066 to have English as his mother language
Most important documents of time written in Latin

English (spoken by 95% of population) considered a low and vulgar language

Convergence of Anglo-Norman and English as populations intermarried
BEQUEATHAL OF LANGUAGE

10,000 NORMAN WORDS TO ENGLISH

- About 3/4 of the 10,000 words bequeathed to English from Anglo-Norman still in use today
- Like nouns with suffixes -age, -ance (-ence); -ant (-ent); -ity, and -tion
- For example: Garbage, Romance, competence, vibrant, government, city, celebration
- **Self-test:** can you think of other nouns ending with those suffixes?
SKILLED TRADE - FRENCH NAMES; HUMBLE TRADE - ANGLO-SAXON

- **Skilled** - mason, painter, merchant
- **Humble**: shoe-maker, baker
- **Animals in field** - cow, sheep, swine, deer (Anglo-Saxon)
- **Animals once cooked** - beef, mutton, pork, veal, venison (French)
AS EARLY AS LATE 1300S - BILINGUAL WORD LISTS COMPILED

- lord and master
- love and cherish
- law and order
- In some way, Korea borrows and freely absorbs words from English associated with certain areas of life.
- Let’s take a look on the next slide :)


WHAT AREA OF LIFE DO ENGLISH WORDS TOUCH IN KOREA?

- 블랙리스트 (Black list) - POS - NOUN - used in: law, politics
- 퍼센트 (percent) - POS - NOUN - used in: math, news
- 섹시한 (sexy or red-hot) POS - ADJECTIVE - used in: media, description
- Korean words to English...
  - Goryeo (고려) old dynasty/country—-> Korea; 태권도 (Taekwondo) - martial art; 소주 (soju) distilled liquor
-HW TO -WH

- French scribes changed the -hw (hwhere) to -where
- Desired for consistencies with sounds like -th and -ch where ‘h’ second letter
- Although in Middle English, where and when were often pronounced -hwere and -hwen
ENGLISH A 3RD CLASS LANGUAGE IN ITS OWN COUNTRY

- Main dialects: Northern, Midlands, Southern, Kentish (although largely devolved from Old English main dialects)

- Likely that people just 50 miles (80 km) apart unable to understand each other
UNIVERSITIES AND LITERACY

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE: 1167 AND 1209

- Books still hand-copied
- Universities helped continue literacy growth
- London center of politics and trade
- Therefore, 14th century London dialect of Chaucer, gains prestige and ‘looks like’ English to us
- Whereas, Kentish, for example, looks like a completely foreign language
Excerpt of Canterbury Tales (1478), pg. 1

A cook they hadde with hem for the nones
To boille the chiknes with the marybones,
And poudre-marchant tart and galyngale.
Wel koude he knowe a draughte of londoun ale.
He koude rooste, and sethe, and broille, and frye,
Maken mortreux, and wel bake a pye.
But greet harm was it, as it thoughte me,
That on his shyne a mormal hadde he.
For blankmanger, that made he with the beste.
SIMPLIFICATION

- Noun genders died out, neutral gender ‘the’ replaces them
- 11 adjective inflections died out, replaced with singular and plural
- Inflections disappeared, word order (like S-V-O) for meaning making become necessary
MIDDLE ENGLISH CHANGES

- Old plural from Anglo-Saxon (house - houses)
- Gives way to the French ‘s’ for plural - HOUSES
- Indefinite article ‘a’ also morphs to add ‘an’ as if it took the old word a napron (an...APRON!)
- Can you morph these?
- A negg:
- Reverse also true: an ekename - what is it? (a nickname)
NORMANS BECOME ANGLICIZED

- In 1204, King John lost Normandy to France
- Normans looked more to English properties
- Gradually Anglicized and English resurged over next 200 years
IN ENGLAND - SPEAK ENGLISH!

- Hundred Years War from 1337-1453 made France the enemy: English identity bolstered
- Black death killing 1/3 of the 4 million English around 1350, merchant classes rose, speaking English
- 1362 ‘Statute of Pleading’ English official parliament language, King Edward III same year first king to address in English
- 1385 - language of public instruction in schools
Consonants and Vowels

PRONUNCIATION

- Consonants were pronounced

- Knight - k-neeecht (like loch in Scotland), not really like ‘night’ as we do now

- Final vowel ‘e’ ceased to be pronounced in words like kowthe and thanne but ende, straunge, kept the pronounced ‘e’
BEGAN AS A TRICKLE

- “The Owl and the Nightingale” (around 1200)
- But “The Canterbury Tales” considered first masterpiece of English literature
- Although almost 500 French loanwords occur, it is considered an English work
ENGLISH TO CHALLENGE ‘LATIN’ – GODLY LANGUAGE

- John Wycliffe (1384)
- Revolutionary (daring!) to write bible in English instead of Latin
- Banned by church, circulated underground
- Awkward usage of Latin word order although written in English
- Over 1,000 English words first recorded in it such as barbarian, birthday, child-bearing, communication, dishonor
OLD ENGLISH TO MIDDLE ENGLISH

- By 15th century, English change so drastically
- Chaucer would probably have been unable to understand Old English
- Similarly, most modern speakers of English cannot comfortably read Middle English