

Міністерство освіти і науки України  
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# **ПЕРЕКЛАДАЦЬКІ ІННОВАЦІЇ**

## **МАТЕРІАЛИ**

### **VI ВСЕУКРАЇНСЬКОЇ СТУДЕНТСЬКОЇ НАУКОВО-ПРАКТИЧНОЇ КОНФЕРЕНЦІЇ**

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## THE FOUNDATION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN FIGURES

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English has an official status in 87 countries and territories, far more than any other language. 83% of students in European Union are studying English. Since 1989 the Pasteur Society in Paris in English has published three of the most important scientific journals. 85% of the world's international organizations make use of the English language, with one-third using English exclusively.

The history of the English language is a classic rags-to-riches tale. In the year A.D. 450 four marauding Germanic tribes crossed the North Sea and overran the Celts (following the withdrawal of Roman troops from Britain).

With the ascension of the French-speaking Normans to the throne of England in 1066, the influence of the English language probably decreased. It remained the language of the peasantry. Until 1399, England lacked a ruler whose mother tongue was English.

In the middle of 16 centuries English was not a “world class language”. Scholar Thomas Mulcaster lamented “the English tongue is of small account, stretching no further than this island of ours, nay not there over all”. Today, English has as many speakers as Latin, French, German and Spanish in 1516, when Thomas More published *Utopia*.

Thomas Cable stated that “By making English the language mainly of uneducated people, the Norman Conquest made it easier for grammatical changes to go forward unchecked”. The situation in 16<sup>th</sup> century allowed people to draw power and beauty from the imperfections of the English language.

The spread of English to the New World are the major, but not the only, reasons for the rise of the language to its present-day preeminence. English has become dominant because of the “internationality of its words and the relative simplicity of its grammar and has never rejected a word because of its race, creed, or national original” (R. Lederer). English ultimately reflects the imagination and creativity of those who speak and write it, from scholars to crooks and beggars. Anglo-American linguistic creativity is doubtless no more vigorous than that of peoples.

The genius of the English language is to be found in its inherent chaos. Unlike most other languages, the English natural rhythm of language are allowed to flourish. This language has flourished because its standards have not been entrenched. I believe that the spice of English will explore the many ways in which multiculturalism enriches our language and knows a brief chronology of English.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>The language of well-known people</b>
AD 450–1100	Old English (Anglo-Saxon)	The language of Beowulf
AD 1100–1500	Middle English	The language of Chaucer
AD 1500–1800	Early Modern English	The language of Shakespeare
AD 1800 –present	Modern English	The language as spoken today

Language is used as a tool – to communicate and also to enhance one’s status. Using Basic English may be relatively easy; mastering our language is another matter. The surface level looks at such devices as idiomatic structure and multiple meanings. Our language does not operate in a vacuum. Every English-speaker would be well advised to learn other language. Fully three-quarters of English words are not Anglo-Saxon origin.

The foundation of the English language is a Germanic language known as Anglo Saxon. But English went on to adopt so many words from other languages that today it is estimated to be only about 15–20% Anglo Saxon in its vocabulary. It is true that students need to increase their vocabulary. After all, the goal of using a well-chosen word assumes that you know enough words to have choices

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