



## PLANIFICACIÓN SEMANAL DE CLASE VIRTUAL

8

UNIVERSIDAD  
ESTATAL DE MILAGRO  
**UNEMI**  
*Evolución Académica*

# POLICIES IN ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING

## ORIGINS OF THE LANGUAGE

- >> Origins of the language and geographical expansion
- >> Old, Middle and Modern English: evolution, uses and customs

# CONTENTS

1. Unit information / Theme of the week	3
2. Subtheme information	4
2.1 Origins of the language and geographical expansion	4
2.2 Old, Middle and Modern English: evolution, uses and customs.	7
3. Bibliography	12

# 1. Unit information

## Theme of the week:

---

» **Objective:**

Recognize the origins of basic approaches and methodological aspects of ETLP.

» **Theme:**

Origins of the language

» **Subthemes**

1. Origins of the language and geographical expansion
2. Old, Middle and Modern English: evolution, uses and customs.

» **Unit:**

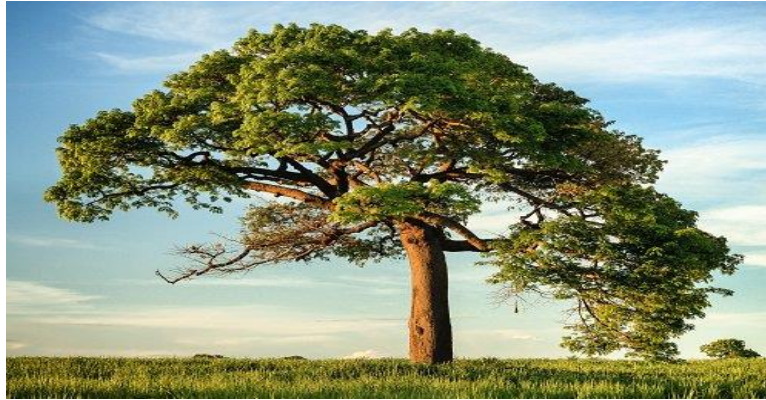
Context of english learning

» **Duration of weekly hours**

10 H

## 2. Subtheme information

---



Source: <http://bit.ly/2XQPBse>

### 2.1. ORIGINS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND GEOGRAPHICAL EXPANSION

When we go back to the origins of the language, we can realize that it arises as a human need. If we analyze it from the psychological viewpoint, we become conscious that all activities are motivated by needs. The hominid, in his evolution, had to fulfill basic needs: food, security, communication; at the beginning, he dedicated himself to live from what nature provided, then he needed to develop tools to hunt successfully not only to eat, but also to preserve his life. Gradually, he perfected instruments for different activities, and consequently, his forms of social organization and communication.

In this way, the triad *activity-thought-language* was developed, they work together to allow the *homo faber* to become into the *homo sapiens*. Then, we must start from the fact that, language is a necessary tool and it was created by man from his origins and perfected during his evolution and development. Without language, it would not be

possible to construct knowledge, and generate all the information we can read today. Language, undoubtedly, has allowed man to have the scientific and technological progress reached today.

Language is a living organism which acquires its own identity in correspondence with the contexts and ethnic groups, and at the same time is part of their intangible patrimony. It is an indicator of belonging or identity, so it has a historic and socio-cultural character. Few are the evidences of its evolution and development, but the human being, in the search for his or her immortality, has tried constantly to transcend in some way, leaving paths and prints through actions and deeds, which have passed from generation to generation orally, since the beginning of times, becoming first in legends, thanks to human imagination and interpretations. Later on, with the development of writing, the discovery of the hieroglyphic paintings in the caverns, the clay tablets where the first forms of writing have been preserved (an example of them is the history of Gilgamesh which dates about 2 700 years BC), it continuous changing and growing.

In this way, history has been able to reconstruct some of the processes of human development, oral and written language has been its essential source. If we go back to the development of human civilization, the greatest evidences lead us to focus on Europe. The existence of ethnic social groups with different languages, in the struggle for territories of current Europe, the regions of the Mediterranean, North Africa, and the Middle East tell us about the processes of fusion and influences of languages. These socio-economic and historical-cultural processes took many centuries to evolve. But to understand better the evolution process, I suggest to analyze the genealogical tree of the linguistic families that influenced in the consolidation of contemporary languages, among them the English language.

If we take a look at the tree of the figure 1 below, we can see that the current European languages have common origins. The main trunk is called Indo-European languages; it

is made up of similar linguistic structures and socio-historical and cultural elements. What permits to visualize the complex web of history in a common trunk is this old tree. The current English language fed from many of this trunk's branches; its roots go back to the Celtic languages generally formed by Celtic, Welsh, and Breton. The English language was nourished in its beginnings by the Celtic language groups, and the Latin conforming the basis of what is called the Old English. But the socio-historical and cultural process of these ethnic groups and the formation of great empires and nations influenced their evolution, transformation, and today's identity. We will deepen on it in the next sections.

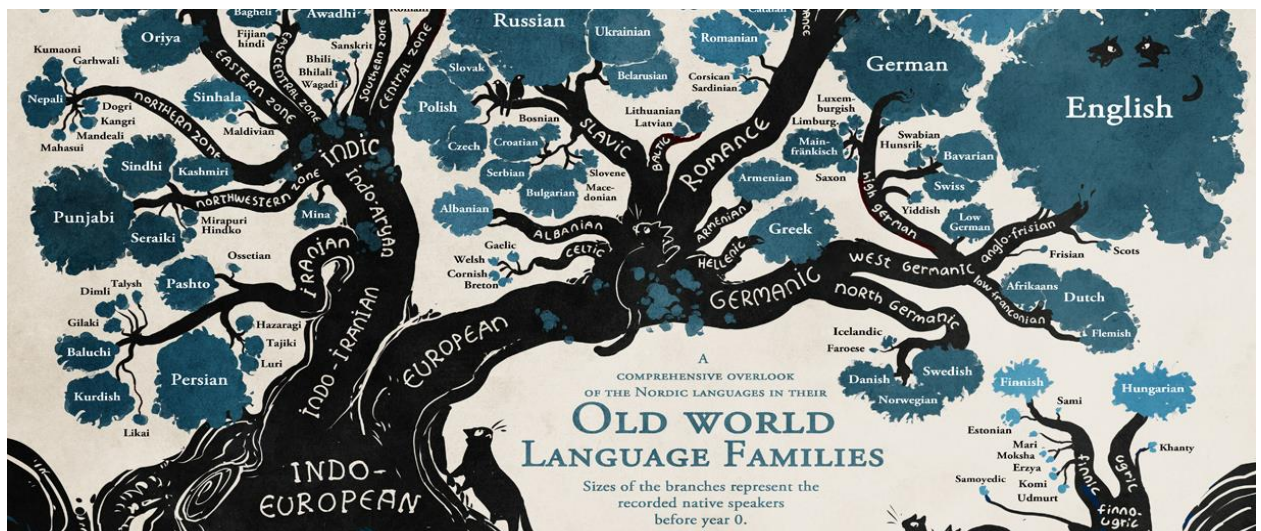


Figure 1: Orígenes de las familias de las lenguas - árbol de sus ramificaciones.

Source: <https://manuelhborbolla.files.wordpress.com/2014/11/el-c3a1rbol-de-la-lengua.jpg>

## 2.2. OLD, MIDDLE AND MODERN ENGLISH: EVOLUTION, USES, AND CUSTOMS.

### 2.2.1 Old English

When we talk about English, you may think that its global impact is only a 21<sup>st</sup> century phenomenon, but actually, it is not, English since its very beginning has known no boundaries at all. It has evolved alongside the course of history, nourishing from all the other languages that got in its way. As we have observed in the figure above, the English Language belongs to the Indo-European family of languages which means that it is related to most languages that are spoken in Europe and western Asia from Iceland to India. Its origins, as well as a great part of the Indo-European languages, come from the Celtic groups in the antiquity, although they were not confirmed as languages at those times. It is just today possible to follow some of their tracks through some sciences as Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, History, Literature, Archaeology, Anthropology, among others.

So, when we talk about the origins of the English, we should go back to the 5th century AD, particularly to the expansion of the Germanic tribes when the Angles, the Saxons and Jutes crossed the North Sea in order to invade Britain. The language spoke at that time by British people was a Celtic one but the invaders pushed away the great majority of those Celtic Speakers to the regions of what nowadays is Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The Jutes settled down in Kent, Southern Hampshire, the Saxons took part of Thames and Middlesex Essex and the Angles eventually took the northern part of the country. (On EnglishClub. History of English)<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.englishclub.com/history-of-english/>

The words English and England are derived from *Englisc*, which was the language spoken by the Angles. “*Angli* was the name of the Angles in both Latin and in Common Germanic but later it changed to Old English in *Engle* (nominative) and *Engla* (genitive)”. That is why the areas conquered by the three tribes were named “by King Alfred as *Engla land* –which means *land of Engle*; because of this term, the grammarian Abbot Aelfric referred to their speech as *Englisc*”, even though evidence proves that they kept communicating with their particular dialects. (En Encyclopaedia Britannica. English language)<sup>2</sup>



Source: <https://www.englishclub.com/history-of-english/>

In the last thirty years of the 9<sup>th</sup> century, during the reign of Alfred the Great, Winchester became the citadel of education and learning. During this time was written the Parker Chronicle (a manuscript of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle); this book was translated from Latin into the West Saxon dialect, but this translation process was not only limited to prose, many poems were also translated. All these resulted in West Saxon’s becoming “standard Old English.” An example of Old English is the *Beowulf*, which is considered one of the most important works of the English Literature. (Batley, 2008)<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/English-language/Historical-background>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/anglo-saxon-england/article/old-english-prose-before-and-during-the-reign-of-alfred/07B7D6B4DFCF7217F34A4854639F42F2>

The old English received the influence of Celtic languages, so that influence is possible observed as some “*dialect and toponymic terms are more often retained in western language contact zones (Cumbria, Devon, Welsh Marches and Borders and so on)*” (Wikipedia.org)<sup>4</sup>. But Anglo-Saxons influence were greater; in fact, the formation of the English language is due to their conquest. It also was influenced by the Latin language, throughout the Celtic and the Anglo-Saxon languages.

Old English is clearly different to the English we speak nowadays and even English native speakers would find it difficult to understand, however, half of the words that we commonly use comes from Old English, such as *water, strong*, the verb *be*, and so others.

### 2.2.2. Middle English

Later in 1066, William The Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy, conquered England. The Normans brought French with them, they eliminated almost the whole English nobility and imposed the French language in English territories. The French language became the language of the Royal Court and of the business classes. This developed a marked linguistic division because the lower classes spoke *English* while the upper classes spoke *French*. This phenomenon of colonization lasted from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, as a consequence, the old English language mixed with French forming the roots of the modern English.

After this period when English became dominant again, this new English language had incorporated a great deal of French words. This updated version of English is what we know as Middle English. This Middle English which is the fusion of Old English and French is the base of the contemporary or modern English language. Geoffrey Chaucer the famous writer and author of *The Canterbury Tales*, spoke English, Latin, French, and

---

<sup>4</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old\\_English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_English)

Italian but for his literary work he always used English. So, he contributed to the preservation of his mother tongue.

### 2.2.3 Modern English

The transition period from Middle to Modern English was marked by Chaucer's death in 1400. By the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the British had had contact with many peoples around the world, so the English Language were influenced by many cultures and underwent, consequently, many changes.

In the 15th century, there were three developments of great relevance: the rise of London English, the invention of printing, and the spread of the new way of learning associated with the Renaissance. By that time London was a densely populated city and there were always young immigrants coming from all over the world. This made possible that many persons started to speak the English; so, many linguistic aspects in pronunciation, vocabulary started to change.

Many words from other languages came to form part of English due to the Renaissance classical learning. Scholars from the Renaissance borrowed Latin, French and Greek words. For instance, *consolation* and *infidel* could have been borrowed from both French and Latin and some others such as *abacus*, *item*, and *memorandum* come only from Latin. At the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it was possible to recognize the modern style that English prose was taken and many authors used *inkhorn terms* - too pretentious or academic words. Later came along the invention of printing which established English as a common language in print. Then, grammar and spelling were fixed. All this led to the printing of the first English dictionary in 1604. William Shakespeare wrote Hamlet during this historic period.

## 2.2.4 English Language Variants

With the colonization of North America by Britain, a new variety of English was born: The American variety. American English is more similar to Shakespeare's English than modern British English and many of the so-called Americanisms are in fact original British expressions that got lost in Britain but were preserved in some of the colonies, for example the use of the word *trash* for *rubbish*, *loan* as a verb instead of *lend* and *fall* for *autumn*. There were other languages that also influenced American English, and as a consequence influenced British English too, one of them was Spanish and many words such as *vigilante* and *canyon* came to form part of English through the American West settlement; but we can also mention French and some West African Words that were adopted as a result of the slave trade.

Nowadays, there are many other varieties of English, that just like American English were product of the process of colonization, we can mention for example Australian English, New Zealand English, Canadian English, South African English, Indian English and Caribbean English but despite of that many English varieties, the one that is truly influential is American English due to USA's worldwide dominance of cinema, television, music, trade, and technology.

## 3. Bibliography

---

Links used:

- » CourseFinders Blog. (2017). El árbol de los idiomas: ¿cómo están conectadas todas las lenguas del mundo? Available on:  
<https://coursefinders.com/blog/es/7322/el-arbol-de-los-idiom-as-como-estan-conectadas-las-lenguas-del-mundo>
- » Potter, S. and Crystal, D. (s. f.). English language. Available on: Available on:  
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/English-language>
- » EnglisClub. History of English. Available on:  
<https://www.englishclub.com/history-of-english/>
- » En Encyclopaedia Britannica. English language. Historical Background. Available on: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/English-language/Historical-background>
- » Batley, M. J. (2008). Old English prose before and during the reign of Alfred. Published online by Cambridge University Press: 26 September 2008. Available on: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/anglo-saxon-english/article/old-english-prose-before-and-during-the-reign-of-alfred/07B7D6B4DFCF7217F34A4854639F42F2>
- » History of the English Language. (2013). The spread of English across the Globe: Social, Political and Cultural factors. Available on:  
<http://historialenguainglesa.blogspot.com/2013/01/the-spread-of-english-across-globe.html>  
<http://historialenguainglesa.blogspot.com/2013/01/the-spread-of-english-across-globe.html>
- » Geographical expansion of English in the 17th – 20th centuries and its effect on the language. (s.f). Available on:  
<https://studfiles.net/preview/5239644/page:20/>

- » The History of English Language. (2011). How English Went from an Obscure Germanic Dialect to a Global Language. Available on:  
[https://www.thehistoryofenglish.com/issues\\_global.html](https://www.thehistoryofenglish.com/issues_global.html)
- » Poznayka.org. (2016). Geographical Expansion of the English Language from the 17th to 19th c. English Outside Great Britain. Available on:  
<https://poznayka.org/s7021t1.html>
- » Lyynik, D. y Krasnova, E. V. (2015). Geographical expansion of the English language. Available on: <http://econf.rae.ru/pdf/2015/05/4612.pdf>
- » English language. Available on: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English\\_language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language)
- » Familia de lenguas. Available on:  
[https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Familia\\_de\\_lenguas](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Familia_de_lenguas)