

# **TEMPLE OF ENGLISH**

## **PG - TRB ACADEMY - ENGLISH**

**KALLAKURICHI (9176509500)**

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## PG-TRB ACADEMY KALLAKURICHI

### UNIT- IX –HISTORY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

#### BOOKS FOR REFERENCE:

1. AN OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE- F.T. WOOD
2. THE MAKING OF ENGLISH- HENRY BRADLEY
3. A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE- A.C. BAUGH
4. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE- C.L. WRENN

#### 1. ORIGIN OF LANGUAGE:

*The genesis of language is not to be sought in the prosaic, but in the poetic side of life; the source of speech is not gloomy seriousness, but merry play and youthful hilarity...Language was born in the courting days of mankind.*

- OTTO JESPERSEN (1921)

Otto Jespersen's proposal that human language originated while humans were actually enjoying themselves is one of the more endearing speculations concerning the origins of language.

Language is primarily something that is spoken and not written. Languages are primarily oral, printing, and writing are substitutes employed. The language used by Julius Caesar or Alfred the Great is known by the documents they left. In General, **Language has been**

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**evolutionary and not static.** Change is constant. From Chaucer to today's language there is lot of difference.

**Professor Lloyd James assures that many animals have all the necessary speech organs but only man developed his mind and personality, so speech has developing from primitive man.**

**Sir Eliot Smith was the person who assured that the discovery of speech is the beginning of man.**

The four chief theories of language are given below.

### **THE BOW - WOW THEORY**

- ❖ Speech was produced by man's attempt to **imitate** some sound of the creature or object to which he was referring. E.g. **Meow, Hiss, Cuckoo, Bang, Beep, Tinkle, splash**
- ❖ Dog is an animal which says '**bow-bow**'. So man calls it and distinguishes from the other animal as dog.
- ❖ This is an **imitative tendency**.
- ❖ The theory has another name as the **ONOMATOPOEIC** element.
- ❖ **Imitative tendency is the beginning of the language**
- ❖ Onomatopoeic element has played a conspicuous part.
- ❖ The theory is called Natural Sound Source Theory

### **THE DING- DONG THEORY**

- ❖ It is associated with **German scholar** and philologist **Max Muller**.

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- ❖ The beginning of the language is to be found in the **sense of rhythm**. Essentially Rhythmical.
- ❖ Here the imitation is movement rather than sound. Eg; humming
- ❖ Bucher puts it, a primitive speech which gradually developed which was first hum or chant when walking or working. Like savage war dance, medieval ballads and sea-chants.
- ❖ Whistling habit is connected with this theory.

It is also called YO-HEAVE-HO-THEORY

### **Yo-he-ho Theory**

The Yo-he-ho Theory claims that, language is born from the collective labor sound. The sound Yo-he-ho is produced to lessen the pain of muscles while doing some work like lifting heavy weight.

- ❖ **Prof. Lloyd James says, in his book, 'our spoken Language' that many animals also have the necessary speech organs. But, they do not have the development of mind.**
- ❖ **Sir .G.Eliot Smith says that discovery of speech marked the beginning of man.**

### **3. THE POOH-POOH THEORY**

- ❖ This theory is called "Instinctive sound source" theory.
- ❖ Speech utterances by emotions evoked by pain, surprise, pleasure, wonder. Eg. Ah, oh! Ouch, Hmm.
- ❖ Language is said to be these cries which were at first noises.

### **4. THE GESTURE THEORY**

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- ❖ -Man started using gestures to communicate
  - This theory was put forward by Wilhelm Wundt and later restated by Sir. Richard Piaget in his book 'Human Speech' is called as "gesture theory".
  - Signs and gestures were the earliest communicative mode.
  - If a person's language is not understandable, we use gestures and signs by our hand to bring out the meaning. This sign language led to spoken language.
- ❖ Sir Percy Nunn in his work "Education Its Data and First Principles" develops the theory that gesture of a hand is accompanied by the corresponding movement of a tongue.
- ❖ **GLOSSOGENETICS** (The biological basis of the formation and development of human language)

### **ORIGIN OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

- ❖ Many attempts were made to create an international language. The best known of course is **Esperanto**.
- ❖ Esperanto means *universal language*. The book of Genesis (600 BC) marked many tribes spoke different languages. God confused their tongues. It is only myth or a fable.
- ❖ **Philologist (One who studies about language)** was searching for a common parent language. It includes the European tongues and of those of Asia.

\*It has been named as

**ARYAN,**

**INDO –GERMANIC & INDO- EUROPEAN.**

Aryan has been abandoned which give rise to Sanskrit and Indian group of language, as well as Persian.

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**\*INDO-EUROPEAN** was accepted as the parent or common tongue.

\*In 3000-3500 BC, it was spoken by the nomadic tribes in the regions of Siberia and Black sea.

**In 2000 BC, Indo-European has split up into 8 district languages and dialects. (PG-TRB 2019)**

## **INDO EUROPEAN FAMILY**

**1. EASTERN SANSKRIT**

**2. ARMENIAN**

**3. GREEK**

**4. ALBANIAN**

**5. ITALIC → LATIN → FRENCH**

**6. BALTO – SLAVANIC**

**7. PRIMITIVE GERMANIC (OR) TEUTONIC**

→ **GOTHIC**

→ **SCANDINAVIAN**

→ **WEST GERMANIC- ANGLLO SAXON** (Old

*English)*

**MIDDLE ENGLISH**

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## **MODERN ENGLISH**

### 8. **CELTIC**

Next to Primitive – Germanic was Italic which gave rise to Latin, Modern – French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Rumanian

**\*Jacob Grimm (German Philologist) observed the constant change in the Primitive – Germanic group and gave a law as Grimm’s Law.**

**\*Danish Philologist Varner also formulated Varner’s Laws.**

**\*If the Vocal cords are caused to vibrate they are called voiced (TET Question)**

**\*If there is no vibration in the Vocal cords then they are un-voiced.**

**\*They are nasal when they are hummed.**

Primitive Germanic split into three sub-divisions.

1. Gothic

2. Scandinavian

3. West Germanic.

❖ \*Gothic has records of translations of Gospels by Bishop Ullias (311 AD)

❖ \*Scandinavian has records in Runic inscriptions dating from 4<sup>th</sup> century.

❖ Scandinavian gave rise to Swedish, Danish, Norwegian and Icelandic

❖ **\*West Germanic has been accepted as the root of English. English was spoken over central and Northern Europe in 2000-1000 B.C.**

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❖ \*In letter 'r' sound has disappeared in Modern English.

**OLD ENGLISH (ANGLO-SAXON)-600 A.D-1100**

**THE MIDDLE ENGLISH -1100-1500 A.D& MODERN ENGLISH - 1500 A.D onwards**

For full materials – Contact- 9176509500, 8220529297

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