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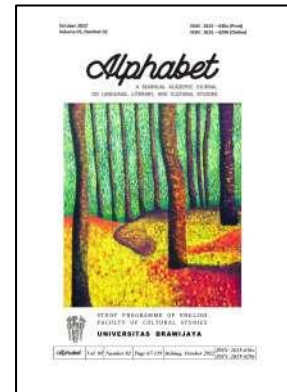
Is "English" A Knowledge? In-Depth Outlook of Proto-Indo-European, Plurilingual, and Pluricultural

Sultan Bagus Firmansyah

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Is "English" A Knowledge? In-Depth Outlook of Proto-Indo-European, Plurilingual, and Pluricultural

Sultan Bagus Firmansyah [1]

Abstract

Through the lens of "*Pluri*", "*Inter*", and "*Bi*", this research scrutinizes English multiplicity via ethnological features. The current article tries to uncover whether English is a knowledge by offering proofs from proto-Indo-European inference, proto-northwest Germanic changes, proto West Germanic changes, as well as old English to Modern English maturation. The discussion will then moves to using Chomskyan parameters to show how English could be a knowledge. The discussion will comprise aspects of English related to phonology, morphology, syntax, semanctics, and pragmatics. Pieces of evidence presented in the discussion of the topic will answer what 'kind' of science English is.

Keywords:
English; Proto-Indo-European; Plurilingual; Pluricultural; Knowledge

Bi (duo, dual, or couple) corresponds to community or difference, dialogue or oppositions; perceptions of "dialogue amongst cultures" alternate the metaphor of the "mother tongue" and "source/ -target language"—time after time passing by, some ratify it as linguistics rise, others are vice versa. *Pluri*, generally known as "more than two", has been deduced as unmanageable or uncontrollable complexity. In a foreign-language class where students' linguistic origins are varying, *pluri* can justify the exclusionary of 'target language'. *Multi or -pluri* (or. *Many*) intermittently entangles an allure to *uni* (one); thus, in the early of bilingualism, it is not-so-called as *plurilingual* but as *polyglot*. *Inter*, equate both *Bi* and *Pluri* has regulated by duality; the *intercultural* article equalized two cultures or existences of assimilation of trend, or presence of moment in-between.

The aforementioned paragraph has seemed perplexing; but, from an ethnological perspective, it narrates English development in sequence. The tone, the essence, and the manner of either English writing or speaking had stressed linguistic convivial progress (Coste, 2019). Furthermore, this Plurilingual and Pluricultural landscape analyzes pre-existing sociolinguistic coherence, initiates an inquiry of what kind of knowledge English is, and finally affirms the English capacity.

Noam Chomsky, the US twentieth century luminary linguist, argues that English should focus on the systematic, ideal mind, and native speaker of a language (Curzan & Adams, 2012). Sociolinguistics, the study of language

1 College of Humanities & Social Sciences, Asia University, Taiwan. Email: 111041036@live.asia.edu.tw
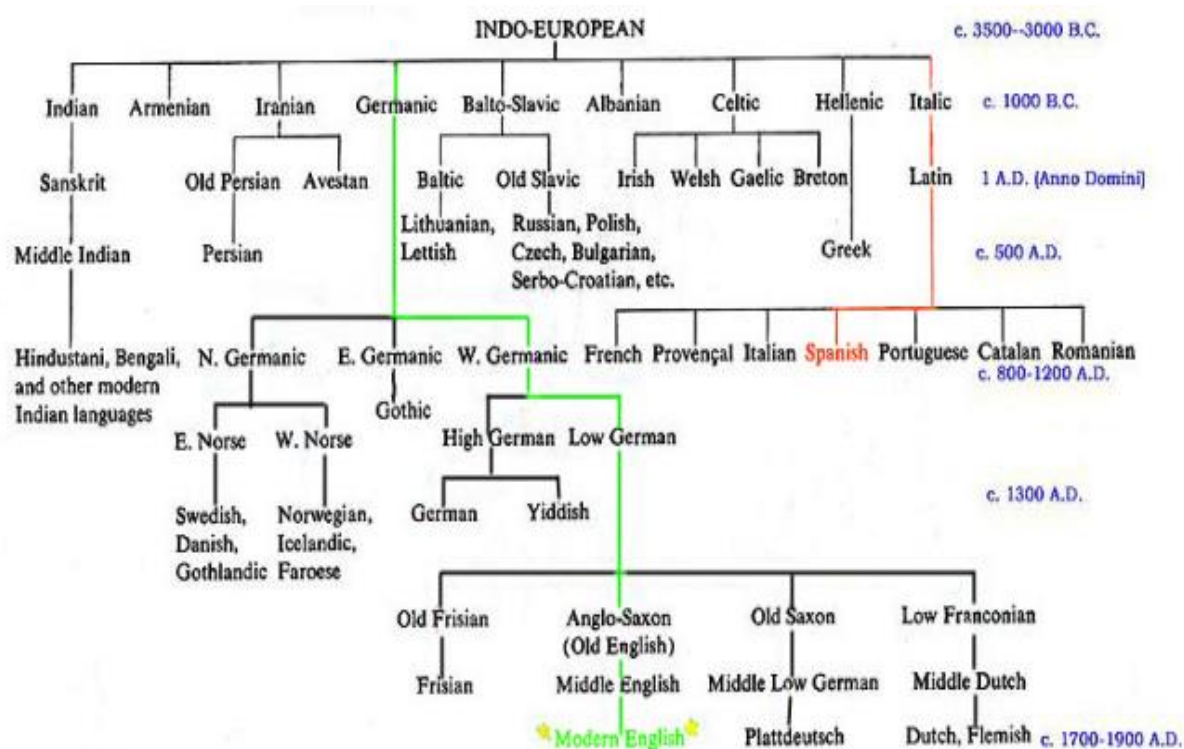
Figure 1. Proto-Indo-European Root

use in social life, is in ethnological relevance, too. Ferdinand de Saussure, a Swiss littérateur, coined a formula for how English enter the social intelligence:

[Signifier + Signified = Sign]

The **Signifier** designs the String of Sounds; **Signified** is a sense where the signifier deals with (be that a tactile thing or psychical/-abstract stuff); both has fitted to be **linguistic sign**. I   t synthesizes linguistic vehemence, in onomatopoetic for instance, and severely flourishes the English.

English comprises sub-discipline (s), each of which has varied levels of difficulties. Review of previous studies which may preliminary signify whether English is 'knowledge' (before to be linguistic substance) have been inexistent so far. Therefore, discussions on this topic scrutinizing Phonology, the study of sound systems, allied with Phonetic (Calabrese & Wetzels, 2009; Eckert & Labov, 2017), Morphology, the word's form study (Bauer, 2013; Tavangar, 2019), Syntax,   the study of

phrases, clauses, and sentences structure (Landau, 2010; Lieberman, 2000); and Semantics, paying attention on meaning (Marsta, 2013), linguistic signs conformity (Zhang, 2014), thought/-objective put on (Griffiths, 2006), and others are crucial to doPrior to discussing these, the development of English from proto-Indo-European, proto-northwest Germanic, proto West Germanic, as well as old English to Modern English maturation are presented to put clearer picture of how English flourished in the past.

FROM PROTO-INDO-EUROPEAN INFERENCE

Pleonasm Event

Bilingualism nourishes linguistic emergence, and so does cultural identity.   Consequently _Plurilingual_ influences _Pluricultural_. Fodor (2000) has a 'modular' theory which explained that "_brain is a_ **Black Box**. _Phrenologists partitioned brain exterior into discrete areas. Each area controls particular aspect of behavior, ven-_

eration, etc; so does it is mapping the syntax, phonology, lexicon, and so forth".

Whoever is competent in 2 or more languages, their intuitive are not structured, but it holistically works. Off to the 'acquisition', historical root (figure. 1) from the Proto-Indo-European representing one from some proofs of what knowledge English is.

Old English and present English have 1,000 years of evolution. As shown in Figure.1, the English genealogy begins from Germanic dialects brought to England in 449 CE. English is part of the Germanic languages tree and is a "cousin" with German, Dutch, and Icelandic language. The word "Father" for instance, has the closest meaning to *Vader* (Dutch) and *Vater* (German).These vocabularies are **reflexes** to the ancestor, **cognates** each other, and the ancestor is the **etymon** of theirs.
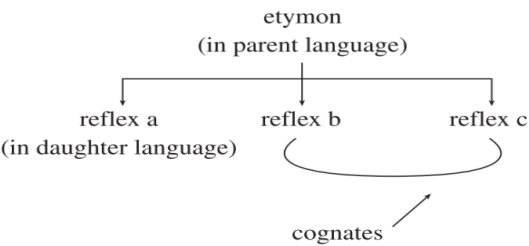

Figure 2. English language ancestor to Germanic

Cognate vocabs or languages correlates with each other in a coexisted word, vocab, or language ancestor.

PROTO-NORTHWEST GERMANIC CHANGES

Loanword Contact

Proto-Northwest Germanic antedates earliest English family (German, Swedish, etc). Philologist asserted Indo-European as its parent e.g. Swedish skruv [skru:v] 'screw' → ruuvi. The epenthesis of 'initial clusters' generates either non-initial stress: *****sekrúuvi, *****eskerúuvi; or, if the stress is eliminated, the essential phonological content distortion

would result in ******sékruuvi*, ******éskeruuvi* (Eckert & Labov, 2017).

At a glance, late Germanic loanwords negates voicing (finish without voiced stops), and inverses voicing contrast by the finish gemination contrast e.g. /d/→/t/, /t/→/tt/ (de Lacy, 2006). In German, the obstruent voicing has wobbles upon the sonority (see. /g/→[k] in codas). Below are the German devoicing (*****voicing beats sonority):
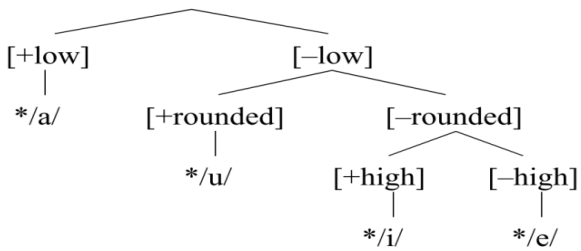

Figure 3. German devoicing

Or see the 'German devoicing beats coda sonority' (Figure. 4) by John Schalin (2017):

/ta:g/	*{+voice}	*$\Delta_\mu \leq$ {−vd stop}	IDENT[+voice]
(a) ta:g	*!		
☞ (b) ta:k		*	*

Figure 4. German devoicing beats soronity

Other Germanic loanwords contact unveils the adaptation of /*f*/ in the word-end, examples:

a. *Hv* intervocal in a foot, *Kaffe* → *kahvi* "coffee", *biff* → *pihvi* "steak", *sofa* → *sohva* "sofa", *giráff* → *kirahvi* "giraffe" (Fonsén et al., 2019);

b. *H* pre consonant, *saffran* → *sahrami* "saffron", *saft* → *sahti* "table beer" (Bader, 2021);

c. *V* somewhere, (1) word- and foot-initially, *fiská:l* → *viskaali* "prosecutor", *färg* → *väri* "color", *uniform* → *únivòrmu* "uniform", *ingef´ä:ra* → *ínkiv `ääri* "ginger", (2) post consonant, *konfékt* → *konvehti* "candy", *asfalt* → *asvaltti* "asphalt" (Haß, 2019; Hickey, 2016, 2019).

English remains the West Germanic language (Bech & Walkden, 2016) while Middle English is Norse (Jucker, 2020; Richmond, 2021). First evidence of this is that the language either does not borrow (morpho)syntactic structures from other language and, or is from the Middle English lexicon (Cawsey, 2020; Pustejovsky & Batiukova, 2019b).

Sound Changes

In a datable source, the PGmc's fully stressed syllable of *ē has lowered, and is substituted by *ā in PNWGmc (Jasanoff, 2008),

/th/ sound change to Dental Fricative /θ/ (e.g. *thick*/ θIK, from *þik*), in full of stressed (not predated by /s/). The entire Germanic languages but Icelandic and English are missing this fricative (Molineaux et al., 2021).

Meanwhile, in the symmetry system of fricatives, the loss of /hw-/ [ʍ] nor present in ME within vernacular shapes neither Irish and Scottish English (Stenbrenden, 2020).The sound of /hw/ coheres with /h/. it is either annotate /h/ + /w/ has been justified, or as /h-/ dawn on elsewhere, and /w/ is open articulation continuant, likewise, English do not have voiceless sonorants or glides:

[ʍ] = /hw/

(sonority)

Voiceless   #--------

Obstruents #voiced   voiced   Voiced
            # sonorants   glides   vowels
                 [h]   [w]

Syllable edge ---> Centre

(Krämer & Zec, 2020)

[ʍ] = /w/

---------#   #---------# (sonority)

voiceless #----------#

#-------------- obstruents

voiced   voiced   voiceless

obstruents   sonorants   glides

Glides   vowels   **[ʍ]**

Syllable edge --------------> Centre

(Condorelli, 2021)

Sound Changes

The Proto-Northwest Germanic morphological furtherance is indicated by:

i.   The lost of all dual verb forms; means that the third-person is imperative—so does in Proto-Germanic (De Clercq & Housen, 2019);

ii. The passive forms were lostand shifted by periphrastic forms (Orcasitas-Vicandi, 2020);

iii. One lexeme maintained 'synthetic' present passive, known as *haitaną (Lieber, 2021a; Newman, 2022).

Since numerous tentative morphological changes literatures is widespread, I was unable to put a condemn decision. In the total PNWGmc languages (except Early Runic), the entire adjectives are merged as a-stems (including **ja-** and **wa-stems**); while **i-** and **u-stems** have merged into majority category.

The capital letters of PNWGmc in OE development is recognizable, samples:

[1] ***On*** (in) ***cyldamæsse*** (childermas) ***dæg*** (day), ***cyng*** (king) ***eadward*** (Edward) ***forðferde*** (died) ***on*** (on) ***twelfts*** (twelfth) ***mæsse*** (mass) ***æfen*** (eve)***...***

[2] OE **Vs**. ME Word Order Characteristic

OE: often V2 + Verb-Object (VO), Nouns and Pronouns for case endings, Inflection on V for Subject and Tense, limited auxiliaries and prepositions use, negation before the V.

ME: Object-Verb (OV) > Verb-Object (VO), less inflection articles, pronoun obligatory, much "to" and "of".
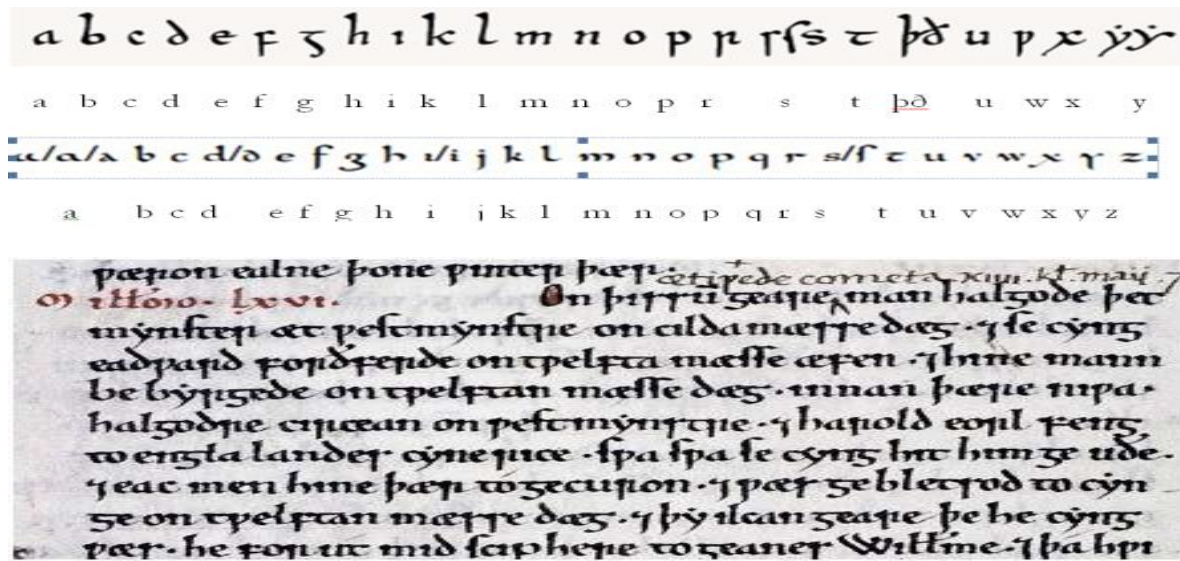
[3] OE Alphabetic

Figure 5. Peterborough Chronicle in 1066

Meaning:

[4] **On þyssũ ᴣeare man halᴣode þet** (In this year man hallowed that) **mynster æt westmynstre on cilda mæsse dæᴣ** (monastery at Westminter on Childermas day.) **se cynᴣ eadward forðferde on twelfta mæsse æfen** (And the king Eadward died on Twelfth-mass eve) **hine mann**

be byrᴣede on twelftan mæsse dæᴣ (and him man buried on Twelfth-mass day,) **innan þære niwahalᴣodre circean on westmyntre** (in that newly hallowed church at Westminster), …………………………..

[5] OE Carolingian sample
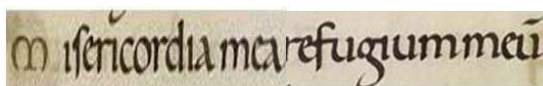
M isericordia (Mercy) **mea** (my) **reguium** (refugee!)

PROTO-WEST GERMANIC CHANGES

Coronal Consonant

Proto-West Germanic broadens the sound changes in an unconventional way as follows: ***zw** and ***dw** has accustomed to ***ww** (Grice

& Kügler, 2021) Below are the changes samples:

[1] PGmc ***fedwōr** '**four**' (Goth. *Fidwor*) > ***fewwār** > PWGmc ***feuwar**;

[2] PGmc ***izwiz** '**you**' (dat. pl.)' (Goth. izwis)> ***iwwi** > PWGmc ***iuwi**;

[6] PGmc ***izweraz** '**your**' (pl.)' (Goth. izwar)> ***iwwar** > PWGmc ***iuwar**,

(Boberg, 2020).

Nominal stems of ***-dwō-** linearized with ***-d-**, examples:

PGmc ***badwō**, ***badwō-** '**battle**' > PNWGmc *badu, *badwō- > ***badu**, ***bawwō-** > PWGmc, ***badu**, ***badwō-** (Pinget et al., 2020).

***Auslautgesetze* re-Envisioning**

Proto-West Germanic nasalization is off to PGmc similarity In fact, PGmc nasalization is nothing last forever in PWGmc usage, proven by the loss of word-final ***-z**, ***-iz**, ***-uz** (Keel, 2020); the ***-į** and ***-ų** is changed to ***-i** and ***-u** (Köhnlein, 2020; Maier, 2019), sample:

[1] PGmc ***gastiz**, ***gastį** , '**guest**' > PWGmc ***gasti** > OE ġiest;

[2] PGmc ***sunuz**, ***sunų** , '**son**' > PWGmc ***sunu** > OE sunu, and so forth.

The ***i** and *****u yet have not lost in 'fully stressed disyllables' since both of them get through **i-umlaut** after an initial heavy syllable of OE, and sustained longer after initial light syllables' presence in WGmc.

OLD ENGLISH TO MODERN ENGLISH MATURATION

Beyond PWGmc-PNWGm (until Proto-Indo-European), and its revolutionary of loanword, morphological, coronal consonant, *auslautgesetze* or nasalization, and others, Old English often maintains complex systems yet the Modern English is vice versa.

Linguistics network, per Baumann (2021), is aimed to acquire less ambiguity theorem, it must establish a robust cluster without susceptible discipline. Albeit it shall be tricky, but Basturkmen (2010) unpacks that, English transposition (OE > ME), in whatsoever way, can boost the English for Specific Purposes/ ESP branch e.g. English for Academic Purposes/EAP, English for Professional Purposes/ EPP, English for Occupational Purposes, EOP, and so on.

Several points and/or samples taken from Old English transformed to Modern English are:

Diphthong Nuclei (Breaking before *h)

Days of yore, the long front vowels ***ī** exists before ***h** for entire dialects and breaks the *īo.*The vowel added by ***h** is mimicking the PWGmc's ***āh**. Anglian's diphthongs have been 'monophthongized' (soothed/ smoother), as well as the **h**, which means the ***h** in monophthongization is lost, and that becomes one of the evidence of Diphthong Nuclei. Some samples below have shown the ***æh > eah** :

[1] PGmc *****ahtōu '**eight**' (Goth. ahtau) **>** PWGmc *****ahtō **> ***æhtā **>** OE eahta;

[2] PNWGmc *****hlahtraz '**laughter**' **>** PWGmc *****hlahtr **> ***hlæhtr **>** OE hleahtor;

[3] PGmc *****wahsijaną '**to grow**' (Goth. wahsjan) **>** PNWGmc *****wahsaną **> ***wæhsan

> OE weaxan;

Low Vowel Allophones (retraction of *æ)

The stressed of ***æ** is continued by single or geminate consonant (Lieber, 2021b). The samples listed contain ***ō** and ***ā**:

[1] PGmc *****hatja- ~ *****hatai- '**hate**' (Goth. hatan) **>** PWGmc *****hatē- haȝȝēn **> ***hætōjan

> OE hatian;

[2] PWGmc *****hakkōn '**to hack**' **> ***hækkōjan **>** OE tō-haccian;

[3] PNWGmc *****skrapō̄ ną '**to scrape**' **> ***skræpōjan **>** OE sċrapian;

Syncope (voicing anterior fricative)

The sound of /f, þ, s/ are voiceless fricatives that later, totally becomes voiced [v, ð, z] in a stressed syllabic nucleus; but, those are not the OE spelling, proved by its existence in prehistoric OE (Zúñiga & Kittilä, 2019). The /f, þ, s/, in fact, would end by vocalic or sonorany which does not set off the devoicing of *****-d-, examples:

[1] PNWGmc *****laiþijaną '**to make hated**', *past indic.* *****laiþidē (*past ptc.* a-lēđid) **>** *****lāþjąn,

> OE lǣþan '**to hate**', *past ptc.* lǣþdon.

Anglian Monophthongization

Diphthong, in Anglian, is genuinely Monophthong; it before the ***h** intervocalic is disappeared, too. See the 'smoothing' or monophthongization of Anglian in OE to ME as follows:

ēaK > ǣK > ēK	ēoK > ēK
eah > æh;	eoh > eh;
earK > ærK > erK	eorK > erK;

DISCUSSION

This discussion uses *Chomskyan* parameters to uncover how English could be knowledge. The theory is based on Chomsky's first-ever-article "*Systems of Syntactic Analysis*" in 1953 (figure 5) published by *Harvard's Journal of Symbolic Logic*.

The parameters are called "*Levels of Linguistic Analysis*" and consist of Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Semantics, and Pragmatics.

Phonology

This field is also known as the *Sound Pattern of English* or SPE. Furthermore, the capacity of Phonology to prove that English is "knowledge" plays a significant role. Quintessentially, Phonology is a system of sounds upon language (Hannahs & Bosch, 2018). Phonology covers three kinds of framework: Autosegmental Phonology, Metrical Phonology, and Lexical Phonology. The interconnectedness of Phonology in the English development has led 'post-SPE' argument as a latest reference—and it contributes the plausibility evident in current English enhancement. Wells (2016) gave some practical critical fascinating sound examples on phonology growth as follows: How do *Cake* sounds same as *Ar-*

chaic?, How *Cool* sounds *Cool*?, Why is *Frith* likely spelled with *Frits*? Uniquely, these words' how-to spelling had grown via current environmental factors; furthermore, the Phonology growth was also affected by 'accent'. The local accent is known as *Basilects*, and it has two associated forms of speech, *Acrolects* and *Mesolects* (Collins et al., 2019).

Morphology

Morphology is firstly coined by German-born novelist Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. It is the study of word formations. Its internal studies are often identifying the words' structure and their grammatical function, known by *Morpheme*. The simplest term is *Morph* and it can be allied with the phonological utilization of morphemes (Aronoff & Fudeman, 2011). First example, the English past tense morpheme *–ed* has many kinds of morphs e.g. [t] after voiceless [p] of *jump*. Morphology is embedded in the daily language used. It consists of various element of languages and grammar. This means that it is the unquestionable thing that Morphology is a property of all language.

Syntax

Syntax is the knowledge of words' arrangement. It aims to create well-formed sen-

Figure 6. *Harvard's Journal of Symbolic Logic*, Vol. 18, No. 3, Sept. 1953

tences in a language. Inside the Syntax itself, there is a rule named *generative syntax*. In general, Miller (2002) describes Syntax with terms like the "heads and modifiers". A rule that controlled the word-form is the **head**, while the controlled word is **modifiers**. For example, the sentence *the larger sloth*, the head is *sloth*, and the modifier is *the* and *larger*. In *the slower he moved*, the word *moved* and *he* is the head while *the* and *slower* is the modifier. Syntax, in the English knowledge role, is a way of disseminating information, supported with: (1). Complements, (2). Adjuncts, (3). Clauses, (4). Collocation, (5). Verbs, (6). Transpositions, (7). Phrases, (8). Substitutions, (9). Coordinations, and more. Thus far, still based on *Chomskyan*, Syntax is to pair "sounds and meanings" of a language (Carnie et al., 2014). Syntax is more than systemic knowledge of word, it instinctively o how human arrange describable word outside or of inside their minds (Horton & Burton-Roberts, 2016).

Semantics

Semantics is the study of meaning and the 'wrong' about meaning (Jaszczolt, 2016). In short, semantics is like key ideas of linguistics and its philosophy. This knowledge might, of course, pretheoretically is characterizing individuals' expressions and construction of language. Here too, the twentieth century linguist, by contrast, employs language as a tool—notably for *B2B/ Business-to-Business* communication, it is totally useful. Contrary to this, conceptualists have drawn current investigations on semantics to strengthen the capacity of English as "knowledge" (Riemer, 2016), example for one of semantic theory: ***Pseudo-critiques***, this theory believes that a term is making a single-actual-entity of a meaning and concept, such as: "*The rainy storm causes flood*"; the phrase tells the readers that, it is a "*natural phenomenon*" that the rainy storm can cause flood—instead of readers have other philosophy or articulation.

Pragmatics

The history of this field has started in late 50's, publicly developed by Bertrand Russell and Alfred Tarski. This linguistic field is assessing howhumansn utilized a language for social interactions (there is *interpret* and *interpreter*). Pragmatics, in a common explanation, is the studyofn how a context fits the meaning. It deals with the language use, or it is a study on the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences. Pragmatic appears upon 'language gap' between the meaning of a sentence and/or the message conveyed by the 'speakers'—later thisbecomese what-so-called with the *Linguistic Underdeterminacy* (Huang, 2007). Still, Huang (2007b) believes that Pragmatics can be the simplified version of Semantics and Syntax; even sometimes, others do not believe so. In Pragmatics, every transmitted and/or converted meaning is known by *Conversational Implicature*. However, Taguchi (2019) has a realistic 'conversational analysis' that, the gap of meaning-and-sentences cannot be avoided and it is natural.

CONCLUSION

The development of English can be summarized as follows. The local inhabitants of England in 55 BC in the time of Roman invasion by Julius Caesar were Celtish, then in 43 AD the Roman finally ruled Britain. The history continued with Roman withdrawal and Germanic invasion by Britain settlement in 436-449. Old English (OE) was used in 450-480 (first English inscription appeared). In 1066, William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, conquered England. Middle English (ME) was apparent in 1150 – 1400 (Eng. first manuscript, vowel shift, etc). During the early phase of ME, in 1476, William Claxton started the first English press. In 1604-1782, the first publication of alphabetic table and dictionary took place and Britain relinquished its colonies and become the USA nowadays. In 1828-1928, American Dictionary and Oxford Dictionary were first published.

Those chronologies, re-supported by attested English sub-disciplinarians can convince learners that English is "knowledge". Scholars invariably had English scrutinized via its *locus* (Location-based study), obtuse (*or*. de-

batable) point, and other annals overview reflected whether English is knowledge or what kind of "science" English is. Driven by an initiative to prove English's knowledge capacity, Yvonne Dröschel (2011) subverts social quandaries within a terse English's rise explanatory to end this stereotype.

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