

**History of English Language and Literature**  
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**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Indian Institute of Technology Madras**  
**Lecture No 8c**  
**Changes in Language: Early Modern English**

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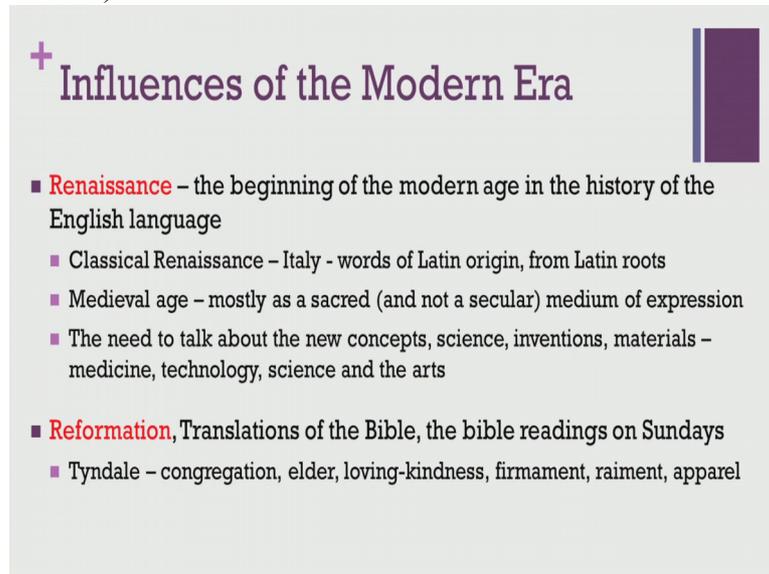
Hello everyone. Let me welcome you to today's session of the course The History of English Language and Literature. Today's lecture is titled Changes in Language Early Modern English. In one of the earlier sessions we had taken the look at kind the changes which were getting built into the English Language from the old English period towards the Middle English period and the kind of changes which were fashioning and re-fashioning language into what, into the form that it is today.

So in today's session it is time for us to look at the transition from the medieval times towards what is known as the modern English and we also take a look at this in the context of Renaissance which is also the current topic of discussion in our (()). We also take these changes in the context of Renaissance which also happens to be our current topic of discussion. So what were the influences of modern era particularly on English language?

We have already noted how the Renaissance period was influencing the literary tendencies. How certain shifts of loyalties were happening in terms of religion, in terms of politics, in terms of everything which was predominantly fashioning mankind during those times. In this lecture we should be focusing on how the modern era was influencing the development and

emergence of English language during this period and we should also be taking the look at what

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**+ Influences of the Modern Era**

- **Renaissance** – the beginning of the modern age in the history of the English language
  - Classical Renaissance – Italy - words of Latin origin, from Latin roots
  - Medieval age – mostly as a sacred (and not a secular) medium of expression
  - The need to talk about the new concepts, science, inventions, materials – medicine, technology, science and the arts
- **Reformation**, Translations of the Bible, the bible readings on Sundays
  - Tyndale – congregation, elder, loving-kindness, firmament, raiment, apparel

were the different aspects which were directly contributing to the evolution of the language and to the development of language.

The first and foremost influence of this period is Renaissance as we have noted multiple times in the last few sessions and just like Renaissance was a rebirth of art, literature and all kinds of modern thoughts, this was also the beginning of modern age in the history of English language. And we have noted already that this Renaissance was primarily a classical Renaissance, the influence of Italy was undoubted and incidentally, because of the same reason, there were lot of Latin words and also words with Latin roots and Latin origin which are penetrated into English language during this time.

And we have noted in one of the introductory sessions that Latin did have lot of influence in terms of the, even in the early, even in the earlier times of the old English and the early medieval times because church was a major influence and also there was a dominant... there was also a dominant Roman influence in the island of England in the earlier times. And nevertheless during the medieval times Latin was seen mostly as a sacred language. It was not seen as a secular medium of expression. So in that

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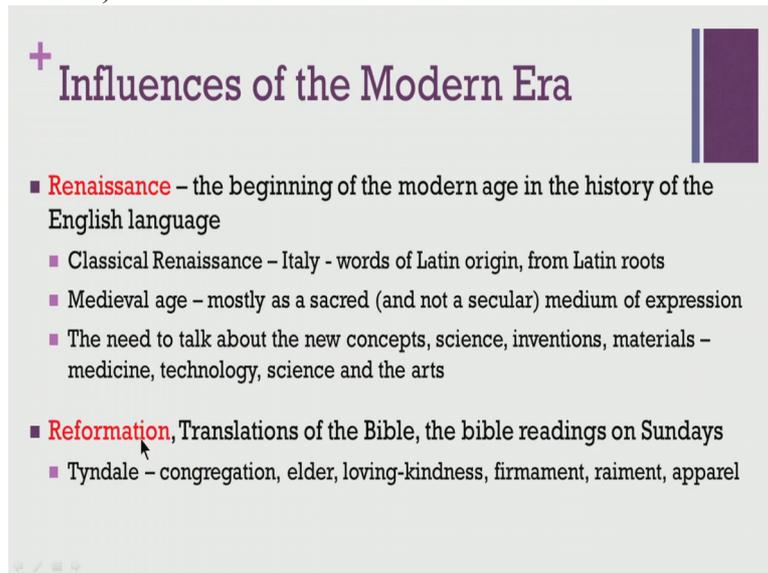


sense Latin was also limited to theological discussions and it was seen as the language of the clergy and the language of the religion.

So, but however with Renaissance there was a imminent need to talk about new concepts, to introduce scientific vocabulary, to talk about the new material that were being discovered. So all of these newer tendencies in medicine, technology, science and the arts also led to a need of a newer kind of vocabulary. So during this time, we do find that the native English language was quite limited in providing and meeting all of these needs. So we do find other languages and especially Latin making its invasion into English language.

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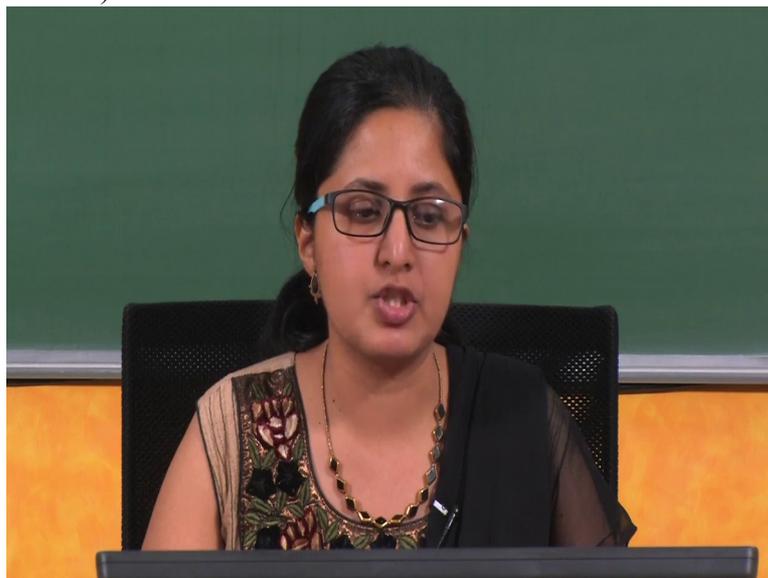


## + Influences of the Modern Era

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- **Reformation**, Translations of the Bible, the bible readings on Sundays
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important influence to English language was Reformation and we already noted how the translations of Bible helped tremendously in not just in improving the social, in not just improving the socio-religious life of England but also contributed heavily towards the development of English language. So these translations and also the regular readings of Bible on Sundays, the public readings of the Bible on Sundays, all of this helped a lot in standardizing language to a very large extent. It is also useful to remember that certain words such as congregation, elder, loving kindness, firmament, raiment, apparel etc were introduced by, introduced through William Tyndale's translation of the Bible into the vernacular

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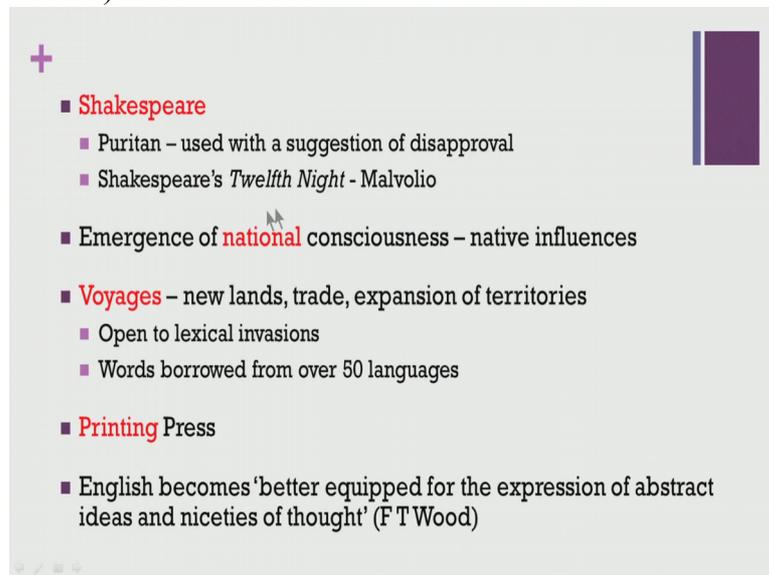


English.

Shakespeare was another important influence and we talk about the influence of Bible and Shakespeare's. It is also useful to remember that we may have to perhaps need to revisit both these influences as they continued to be seminal and central to the development of English language. So we shall come back to these two major influences at a later point of time. In fact, Shakespeare's influence was so tremendous that he contributed newer forms of coinages, newer vocabulary and also gave different shapes of meaning even to the existent words.

The, perhaps one of the important examples of those periods which also had a political significance was a term

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Puritan. Shakespeare used in the sense of disapproval in one of his plays *Twelfth Night* in order to talk about a particular character Malvolio. And we also know how the term Puritan continued to stay on and it also became a major descriptive term when the political affairs were taking place.

During this time in Modern Era, we also find England developing an increased sense of national consciousness. This was very important because in spite of the many major linguistic invasions which were taking place in England from the earlier times onwards, we do find that there is a tendency to retain the native influences. We also noted in one of our early discussions on the old English period how English made a comeback in spite of having been heavily dominated by a lot of foreign

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influences for about two centuries.

So this, this newfound form of national consciousness in the modern era also led to a revisiting of native roots of particular forms of words, particular coinages so on and so forth. The other important thing was the increased colonization

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- **Shakespeare**
  - Puritan – used with a suggestion of disapproval
  - Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* - Malvolio
- Emergence of **national** consciousness – native influences
- **Voyages** – new lands, trade, expansion of territories
  - Open to lexical invasions
  - Words borrowed from over 50 languages
- **Printing Press**
  - English becomes 'better equipped for the expression of abstract ideas and niceties of thought' (F T Wood)

of this period. So the voyages were, we also know that lot of voyages were being made to distant lands for the sake of discovery, for the sake of trade and also for the expansion of territories. So this also left English language open to many linguistic, this also left

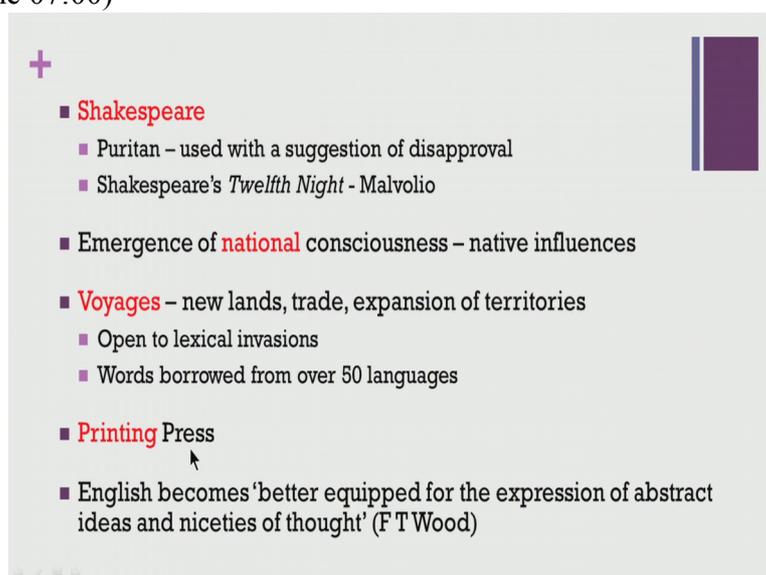
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English language open to many lexical invasions and we find that English language has words borrowed from over 50 languages. And this is perhaps one of the very few languages which has included words from almost, which has included words from a diverse variety of languages and still has managed to retain its native essence.

Printing press was another major event that also led to the standardization of English language. We will

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take a look of that process shortly in detail. And through all of these things as Frederick T Wood, one of the historians of Language points out, through all of these major turn of events,

English becomes better equipped for the expression of abstract ideas and niceties of thought. An extension of this could be found in the literary expressions of those times which we

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have taken a look at and some of which we will continue to take a look at as well. Printing press was a major national event and we know that it led to the standardization of the language apart from the many ways in which it, apart from the many ways in which it contributed to the development of politics, religion, culture, society and literature.

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**+ Printing Press**

- A 'standard' language
- Popularise new coinages and newly introduced words
- 'Getting into print' = accepted part of the language
- Fixed spelling – lesser uncertainties
- Caxton to Johnson
- "In manuscript writing the older habits hung on much longer and died hard" – F.T.Wood

Printing was quite a phenomenal event which led to the popularization of new coinages and also the newly introduced words because language was still in the state of flux, it was continuing to evolve. We also noted in one of the earlier sessions how the spelling is the kind of, usages were also heavily dependent on the, on particular kinds of writers, writings, their

background, the kind of dialect that they used, the geographical influences which were upon them etc.

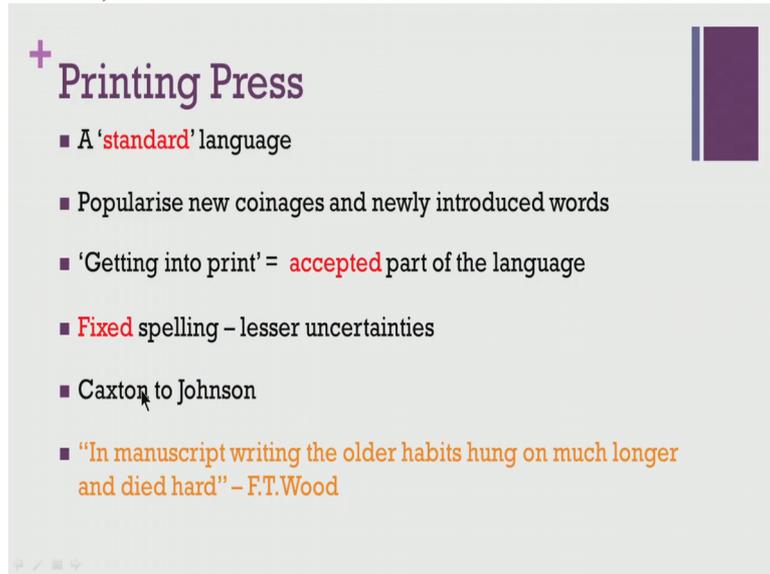
So amidst these, amidst these diversities and difficulties finding a certain standard

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accepted kind of language was quite a difficult task. So printing intervenes rightly at this point and then it also, so becomes that getting into print also becomes, also synonymous to getting accepted into a formal standardized language. So in that sense, getting a new word printed or getting a new coinage or a phrase printed also becomes a certain kind of necessity. And this is also the time we find spelling getting standardized more than ever and it is not to say that the process was complete. With the beginning of printing we find lesser and lesser uncertainties in terms of spelling. Until then it was, it was dependent entirely on the individual writer. So we find that this process last from William Caxton's time till about the time of Johnson which is the eighteenth century. And we also know that this was a very gradual process, this standardization of language which took fairly 2 to 3 centuries but nevertheless we do know that

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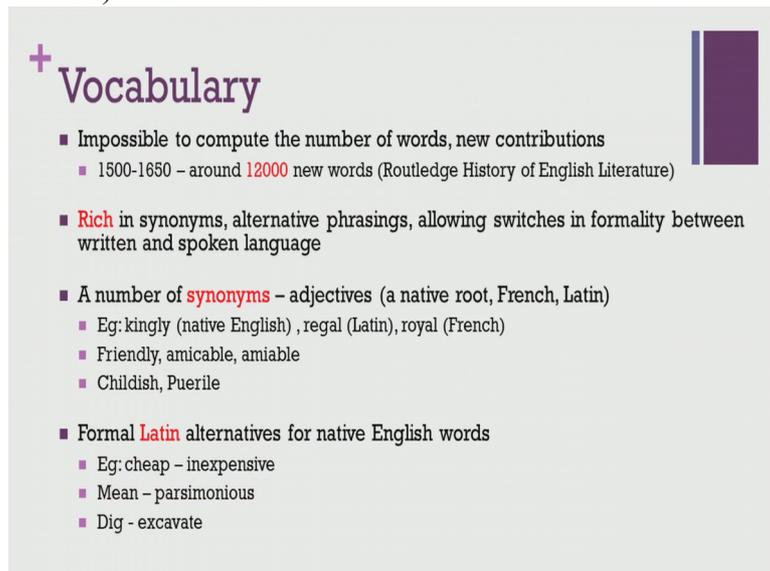
**+ Printing Press**

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eventually the standardization did happen.

F. T. Wood also points out in the earlier stages this translation was quite difficult because the alongside printed books, the manuscripts also survived because printing was not very accessible to everyone. So F. T. Wood notes in manuscript writing the older habits hung on much longer and died hard. Because of the same reason until about the eighteenth century we also find a variety of spellings of the same word continuing to exist.

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**+ Vocabulary**

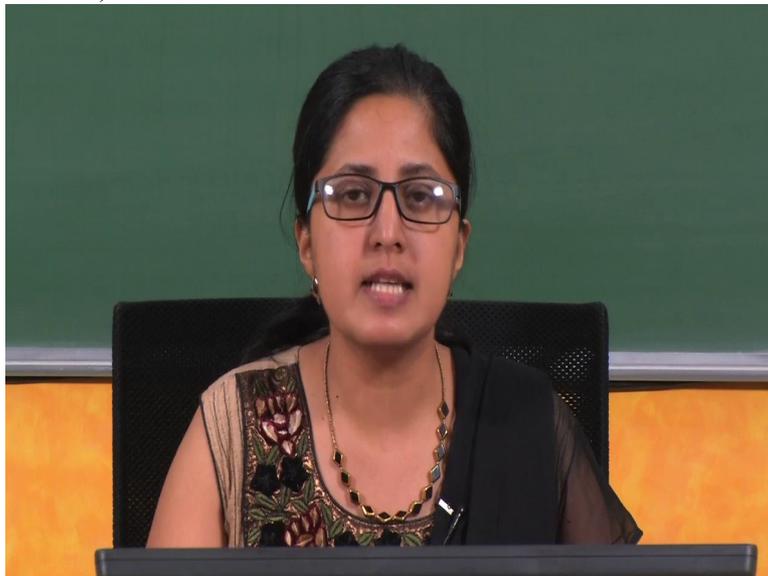
- Impossible to compute the number of words, new contributions
  - 1500-1650 – around 12000 new words (Routledge History of English Literature)
- Rich in synonyms, alternative phrasings, allowing switches in formality between written and spoken language
- A number of synonyms – adjectives (a native root, French, Latin)
  - Eg: kingly (native English) , regal (Latin), royal (French)
  - Friendly, amicable, amiable
  - Childish, Puerile
- Formal Latin alternatives for native English words
  - Eg: cheap – inexpensive
  - Mean – parsimonious
  - Dig - excavate

If we try to analyze the influence that all of these events had on the changes in the vocabulary, to the improvement in the vocabulary, it would be useful to sum it right at the outset that that it is almost impossible to compute the number of words or the new

contributions which were made exactly during the time of Renaissance but however there is this rough calculation that The Routledge History of English Literature offers. It says that during the period 1500 till about 1650, about 12000 new words were introduced into English language.

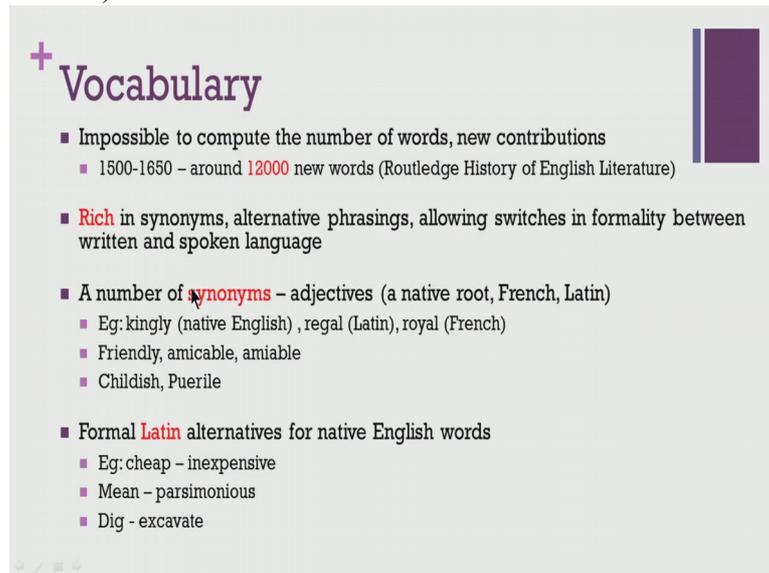
This could have been through a variety of sources and this also led to, led English language to become richer and more profound. So it was rich in synonyms, alternative phrasings available which also allowed more room for expression. This also allowed,

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this allowed writers and even commoners to comfortably switch between different registers and also use formal and informal language simultaneously. So some of the examples if we take a look at,

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## + Vocabulary

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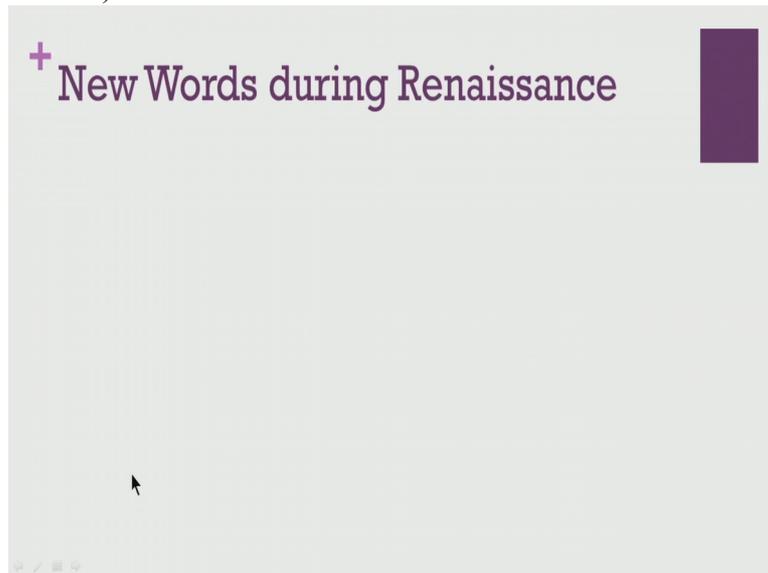
a number of synonyms especially adjectives which could be used as synonyms were introduced into English Language during this time.

We find that there are in some cases, these synonyms would be originated from different root words. For example the same, three sets of words with the same meaning would have different origin, a native root, a French origin and a Latin influence. For example the term kingly while it remains an origin of native English, the term regal is Latin and royal is from French language. We also know the various contexts in which these synonymical words get used. Similarly friendly is the word of native English origin, amicable is Latin and amiable is of French origin.

And there were also certain words which lent itself to different shades of meaning. For example the term childish is of native English origin but you talk about in a more profound, more scientific way one can also use puerile which is of Latin origin. We also find that during this time it becomes common to use formal Latin alternatives for native English words. This is also used for a certain kind of ornamentation and even to display one's scholarship.

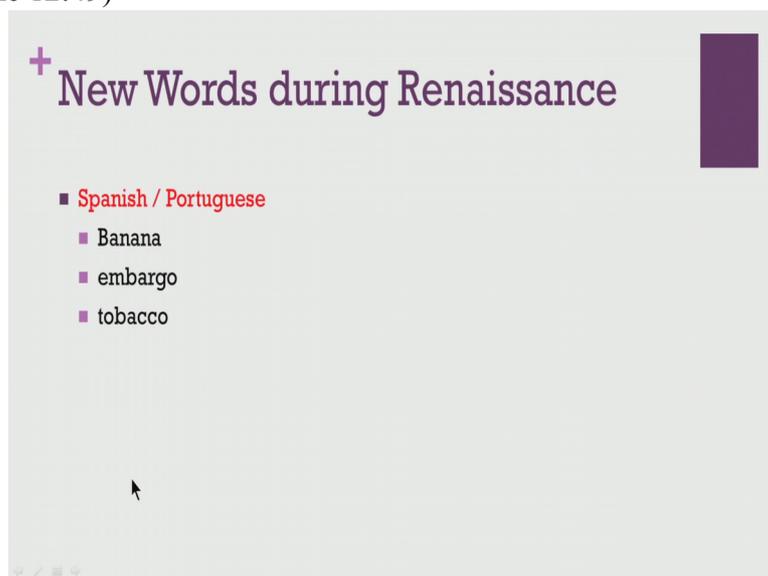
For example the term cheap which is of native Latin origin is often, is often replaced by the word inexpensive and using parsimonious instead of the old, instead of the native English word mean and using the more formal word excavate instead of the word dig. So in that sense

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we also find that there were a lot of new words which found their way into English language during Renaissance from different cultures

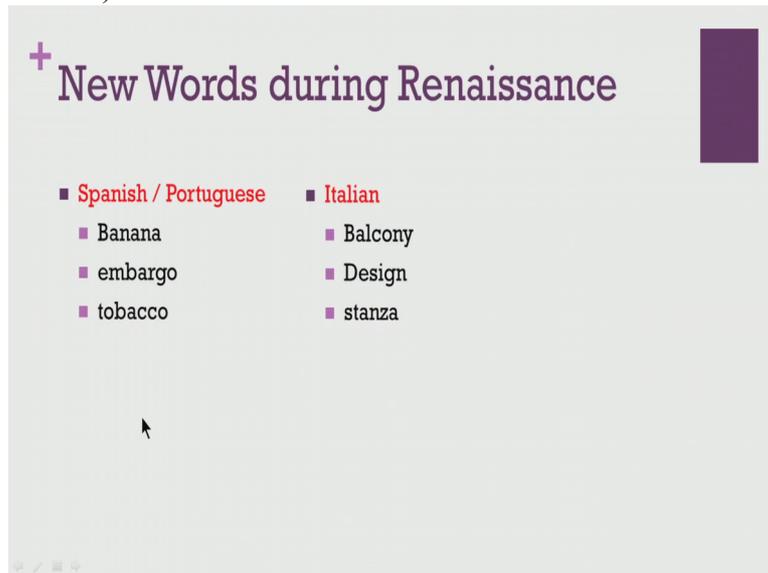
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and from different languages.

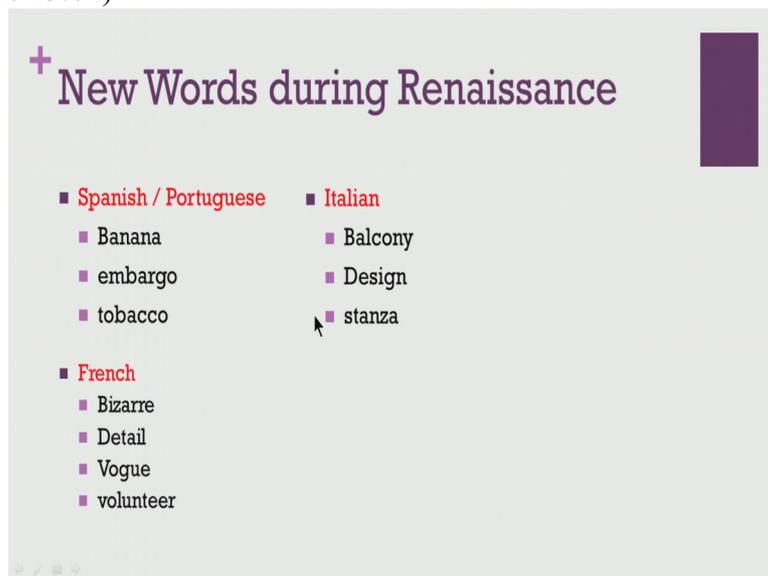
For example from the Spanish and Portuguese languages we have these words such as banana, embargo and tobacco.

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And the words balcony, design, stanza and perhaps many more were borrowed from Italian

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languages. And French contributed number of words. We are only citing a few examples. So we hear such as bizarre, detail, vogue, volunteer. This also leaves us quite amused that many of the words that we take to be properly English, they do have a very foreign

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**+ New Words during Renaissance**

- **Spanish / Portuguese**
  - Banana
  - embargo
  - tobacco
- **Italian**
  - Balcony
  - Design
  - stanza
- **French**
  - Bizarre
  - Detail
  - Vogue
  - volunteer
- **Dutch**
  - Yatch

origin. The word yatch/yacht is of Dutch origin.

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  - Banana
  - embargo
  - tobacco
- **Italian**
  - Balcony
  - Design
  - stanza
- **French**
  - Bizarre
  - Detail
  - Vogue
  - volunteer
- **Dutch**
  - Yatch
- **Turkish**
  - coffee

Coffee is from Turkey

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**+ New Words during Renaissance**

- **Spanish / Portuguese**
  - Banana
  - embargo
  - tobacco
- **Italian**
  - Balcony
  - Design
  - stanza
- **Persian**
  - caravan
- **French**
  - Bizarre
  - Detail
  - Vogue
  - volunteer
- **Dutch**
  - Yatch
- **Turkish**
  - coffee

and caravan is a word which has a lot of Persian influence

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**+ New Words during Renaissance**

- **Spanish / Portuguese**
  - Banana
  - embargo
  - tobacco
- **Italian**
  - Balcony
  - Design
  - stanza
- **Persian**
  - caravan
- **Latin / Greek**
  - Appropriate
  - Contradictory
  - Utopia
  - Vacuum
- **French**
  - Bizarre
  - Detail
  - Vogue
  - volunteer
- **Dutch**
  - Yatch
- **Turkish**
  - coffee

and there were also number of words which were of Latin and Greek origin appropriate, contradictory, utopia and vacuum being some of them.

There is also, perhaps it is the appropriate time to talk about various controversies

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that also existed especially in the context of introduction of Greek and Latin origin words into English. The most important

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**+ Inkhorn controversy**

- Issues of **Latin and Greek words** in English
  - One group: Latin and Greek were **superior** resources – the words derived from these languages had to be ‘Englished’ – made into English words
  - Another group: such Greek words **corrupted** the native vernacular by displacing it with ‘inkhorn’ terms – words from the **scholar’s ‘horn of ink’** – wholly scholarly, frequently polysyllabic, often pedantic
- A desire to replace Latin with **English as the national language**
- Recognizing **Latin as a repository of cultural values and literary models**
- Pedantic revision of Latinized words – scholastic howlers

of them is the Inkhorn controversy or thus it has come to be known in the posterity. The Inkhorn controversy was related to the issues of Latin and Greek words in English. There were two rival groups primarily of linguistic lexicographers and experts of language. One group argued that Latin and Greek were superior languages and superior resources therefore and accordingly the words derived from these languages had to be Englished and then had to be made into English words because they cannot be used as they existed in the Latin and Greek, Greek original sources. But another group argued that such Greek words and Latin

words which made their way into English language, they only corrupted the native vernacular by displacing it with inhorn terms.

The term inhorn is a word which derives from the scholars of horns of ink. If you remember this was also the time when manuscripts coexisted with printed work. So in that sense this was also a derogatory term to talk about the holy, scholarly and frequently polysyllabic pedantic use of vocabulary. These two rival groups, there was lot of verbal fight and lot of controversy about how to introduce the changes in vocabulary given that there is already a heavy influence of Latin and Greek. And to, to further complicate this controversy there is also a growing belief that Latin should be replaced by English as the national language. We also know that that does happen.

And, but at the same time we could not bring themselves to completely abandon the influence of Latin because Latin was seen as the repository of cultural values and literary models. So lot of discussion and debate continued to happen along these lines and because of this we also have a lot of, and because of the same reason we also have a lot of English words with a Latinized spelling built into it.

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**+ The Great Vowel Shift**

- A major change in the **pronunciation** of English vowels
- **7 long vowels, 3 short vowels and 5 diphthongs** underwent changes
- 8 steps – **Otto Jespersen**, a Danish linguist

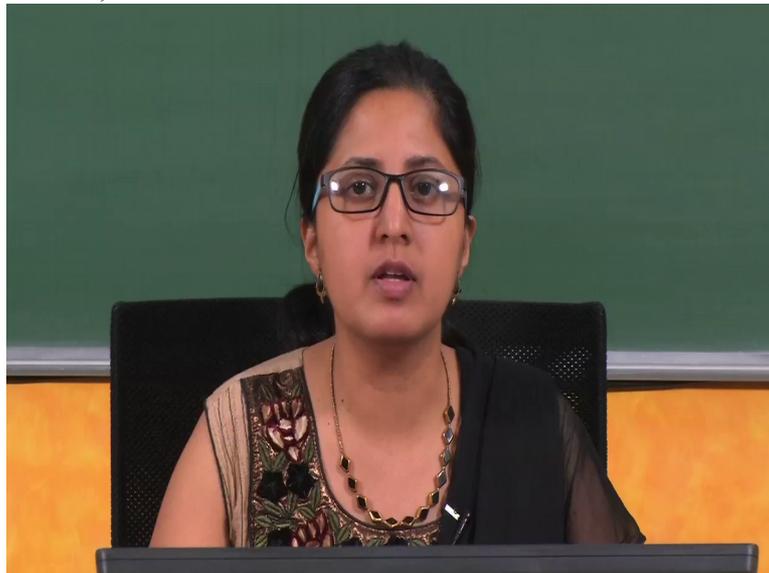
■ House - /hu:s/	} Medieval pronunciation
■ Name - /na:m/	
■ Beat - /be:t/	
■ About - /ebu:t/	
■ Fool - /fo:l/	

Moving on, perhaps the most important event that took place in terms of the lexical and linguistic changes was the Great Vowel Shift and incidentally no one really knows how this major change happened in English language though there is an ongoing work and lot of work has already been done on the same. The Great Vowel Shift refers to the major change in the

pronunciation of English vowels and this was the major change which was recorded, seven long vowels and three short vowels and five diphthongs underwent changes.

We shall not get into the minute scientific details of the same. The eight steps through which these changes took place were detailed, were explained in detail by Otto Jespersen, Danish linguist. This was also a major contribution to the study of English language and its evolution. If I can give you some quick examples, the medieval pronunciation of some of the common plays used to be quite different. For example, house used to be /hu:s/, name /na:m/, beat /be:t/, about /ebu:t/, fool /fo:l/. So we note that the primary change which has come about in English pronunciation from the Renaissance period onwards, from the modern era onwards was in terms of the change of pronunciation of

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the vowel sounds.

So this also gives you a further

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1400	1500	1600	Modern English	KeyWords
i	ei	ei	ai	bite
e	i	i	i	meet
ɛ	ɛ	e	i	meat
a	a	ɛ	ei	mate
u	ou	ɔʊ	aʊ	out
o	u	u	u	boot
ɔ	ɔ	ɔʊ	əʊ	boat

Otto Jespersen

The Great Vowel Shift, illustrated according to the changing pronunciation of representative words, ca. 1400–1700.

sense of how this change had come about. The change has come into effect through roughly about three centuries from 1400 till about 1600. For example, the word bite, it was in the 1400, it was pronounced with this short e bit and then we find it getting transformed into, for example in the 1400s we know that the word bite was pronounced with a short e but modern English we have this dipthong

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o	u	u	u	boot
ɔ	ɔ	ɔʊ	əʊ	boat

Otto Jespersen

The Great Vowel Shift, illustrated according to the changing pronunciation of representative words, ca. 1400–1700.

ai leading us to a pronunciation bite. Similarly, similarly the word mate which currently is pronounced with dipthong ae was initially a short a, m [a:] t.

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1400	1500	1600	Modern English	KeyWords
i	ei	ei	ai	bite
e	i	i	i	meet
ɛ	ɛ	e	i	meat
a	a	ɛ	ei	mate
u	ou	ɔʊ	aʊ	out
o	u	u	u	boot
ɔ	ɔ	ɔo	əo	boat

Otto Jespersen

The Great Vowel Shift, illustrated according to the changing pronunciation of representative words, ca. 1400–1700.

Also term, the word out which is now pronounced with the diphthong au used to be pronounced with a short u making it

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1400	1500	1600	Modern English	KeyWords
i	ei	ei	ai	bite
e	i	i	i	meet
ɛ	ɛ	e	i	meat
a	a	ɛ	ei	mate
u	ou	ɔʊ	aʊ	out
o	u	u	u	boot
ɔ	ɔ	ɔo	əo	boat

Otto Jespersen

The Great Vowel Shift, illustrated according to the changing pronunciation of representative words, ca. 1400–1700.

not out but ut.

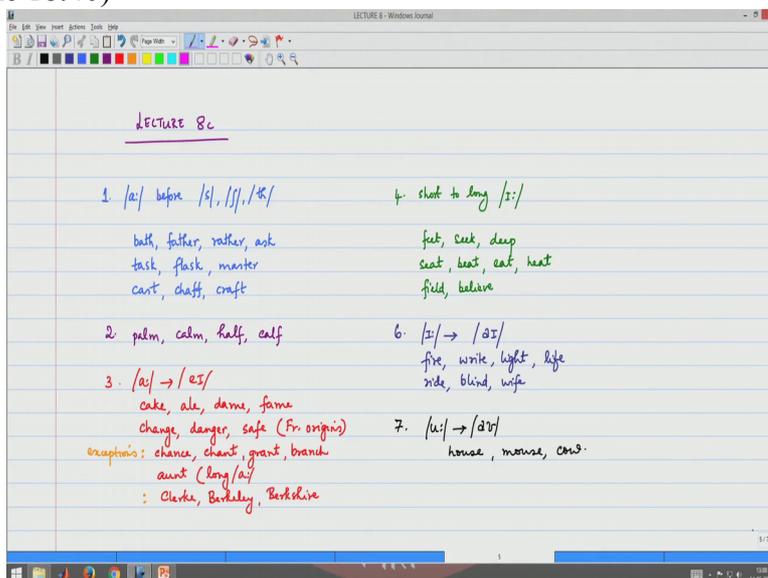
So these were the many changes which came about with this Great Vowel Shift. These were the major changes that came about with the Great Vowel Shift. We shall take a look at them a little bit

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in detail. In this lecture we are not trying to give an extrinsic discussion of the scientific aspects of the Great Vowel Shift but just to give a sense of what were some of the changes which happened in terms of pronunciation. Here we take a look at some

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of the examples.

One major thing was that before the consonant sounds, /s/, /ʃ/ and /th/, the long ah sound was introduced. Because of that we have words such as bath, father and rather where we do find this consonant /th/ and the long ah being introduced before the consonant sound. So accordingly we have words such as bath, father, rather, ask, task, flask, master, caste, chaff, craft, one could perhaps go on.

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+ Broad and general principles in spelling and pronunciation

- Lengthening of /a:/ before certain consonants - father
- Lengthening of /a:/ where the consonant /l/ standing immediately before a lip consonant was at one time pronounced but then became silent - palm
- Long /a:/ became /ei/ - cake
- The introduction of long /i:/ - heat
- /i:/ became the diphthong /ai/ - fire
- /u:/ became /au/ - house

The second major change which can be described thus, it included the lengthening of long /a:/ where the consonant /l/ standing immediately before a lip consonant was at one time pronounced but then became silent. For example palm, we could see that the sound m is a lip consonant and the /la/ at one point this /la/ was pronounced in the medieval period but it was gradually through the process of this Great Vowel Shift we find that the /la/ sound gets completely dropped and the word getting pronounced as /pa:m/.

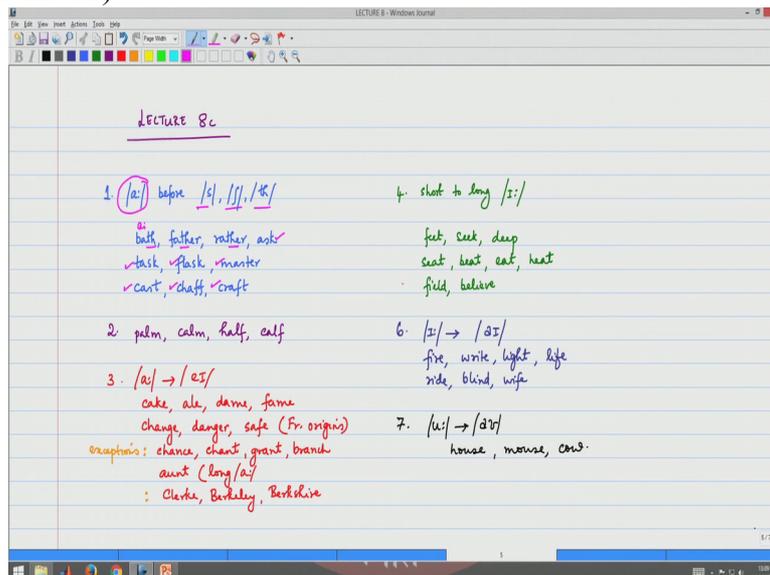
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+ Broad and general principles in spelling and pronunciation

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/pa:m/
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- /i:/ became the diphthong /ai/ - fire
- /u:/ became /au/ - house

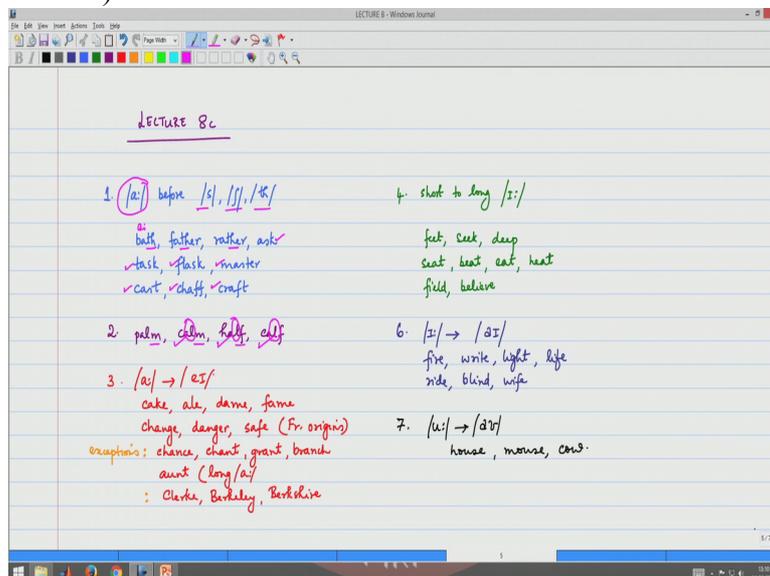
So let us take, let us take

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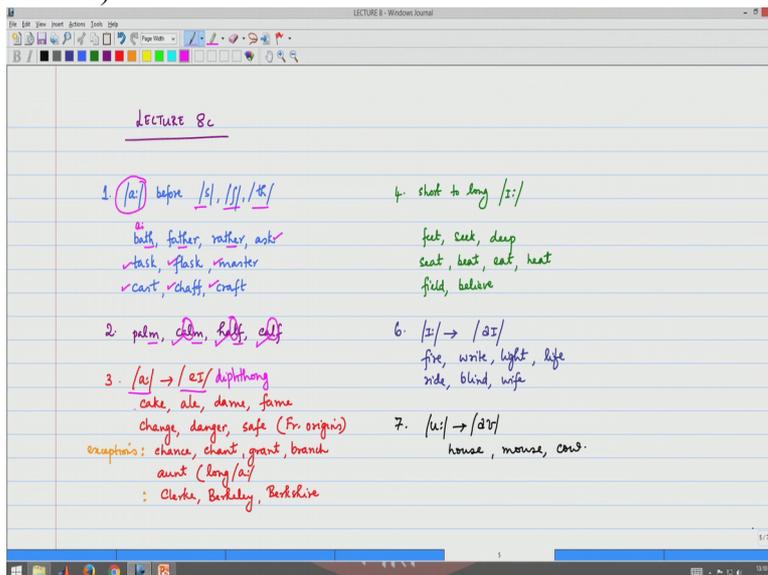
a look at some more examples. In that sense we have words such as calm, half and calf as well. Here we can note again that the words such as the, sounds such as the /m/ and /f/ are lip consonants and there is this /a/ sound which comes in-between which gets dropped gradually through this process of Great

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Vowel Shift. The other significant change is that we find a shift from ah to ae. So ae is as you know, it is also diphthong and because of this change we find certain words such as,

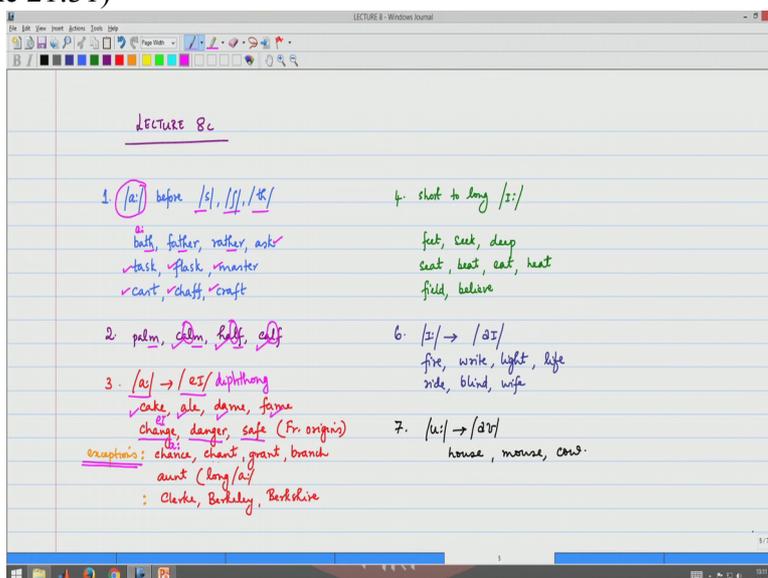
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words which were produced /ca:k/, it is pronounced cake, then ale, dame, fame and also certain words of French origin such as change, here also we find this diphthong being used, ae sound, danger and safe they are all of French origin.

English is a language which has got many exceptions to its credit. So there are also certain exceptions such as chance, we do not find the diphthong ae being used. Instead we have the long /a:/, chance,

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chant, grant, branch and aunt, in all of these words the long /a:/ is getting used instead of the diphthong ae. And also certain words which have the letter e but in terms of pronunciation, the long ah continues to be used. For example

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The screenshot shows a handwritten lecture slide titled "LECTURE 8c" with the following content:

- 1. /a/ before /i/, /j/, /k/ (circled in red)
  - at bath, father, rather, ask
  - task, flask, master
  - cart, chaff, craft
- 2. palm, cham, half, calf
- 3. /a/ → /e/ diphthong
  - cake, ale, dame, fame
  - change, danger, safe (Fr origin)
  - exceptions: chance, chant, grant, branch
  - at aunt (long /a/)
  - : Clarke, Berkeley, Berkshire (a.)
- 4. short to long /i:/ (circled in green)
  - feet, seek, deep
  - seat, beat, eat, heat
  - field, believe
- 5. tea /i:/
- 6. /i/ → /ɪ/
  - fire, write, light, life
  - side, blind, wife
- 7. /u/ → /ʊ/
  - house, mouse, cow

it is clerk, Berkeley and Berkshire and in spite of these, in spite of these few exceptions that, apart from the language, we do find that in the Great Vowel Shift included this translation from ah to ae.

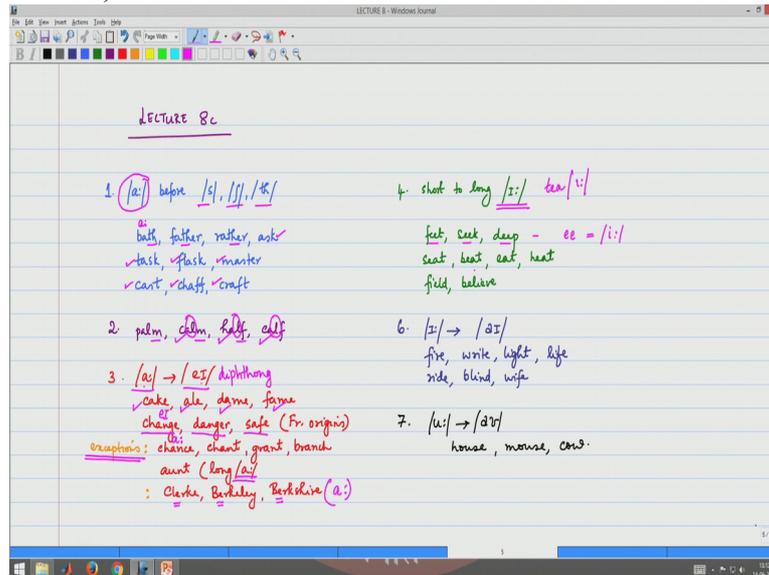
The other significant change was the introduction of the long /i:/ as in the word tea, there is long /i:/ becomes part

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This screenshot is identical to the previous one, but with an additional note for rule 4: "tea /i:/".

of many words which earlier did, which earlier was pronounced with a short i. For examples we have words such as feet, seek and deep, here we know that the spelling is with two letter, two es. Here we note in terms of spelling, two es lead to the pronunciation of long /i:/ and words such as seat,

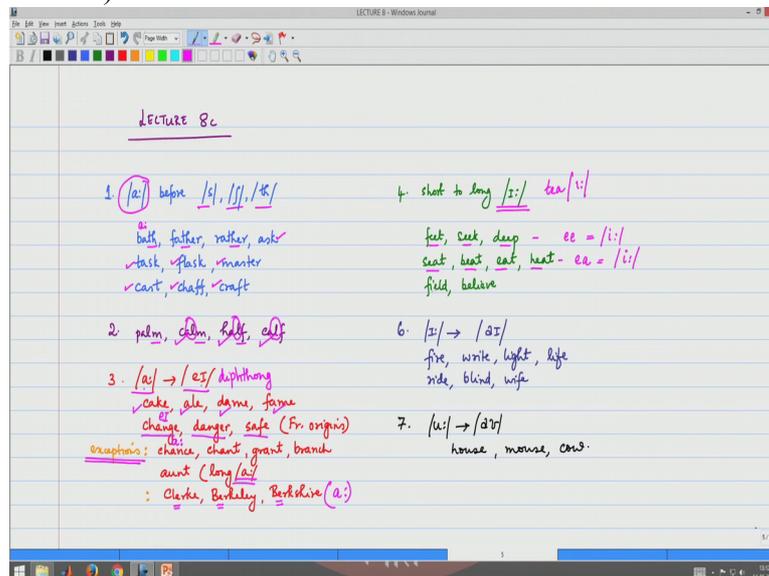
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beat, eat and heat, the spelling is not with ee but it is e and a. That also leads to the same pronunciation as a long /i:/.

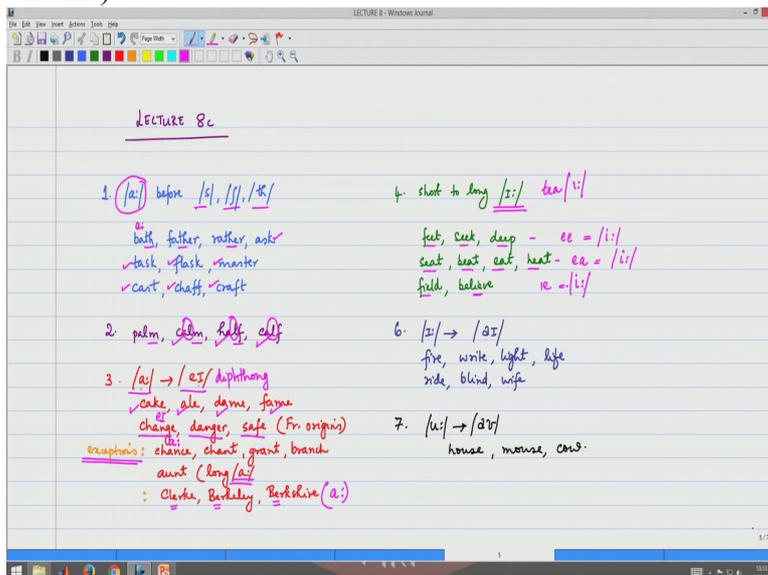
And there is also

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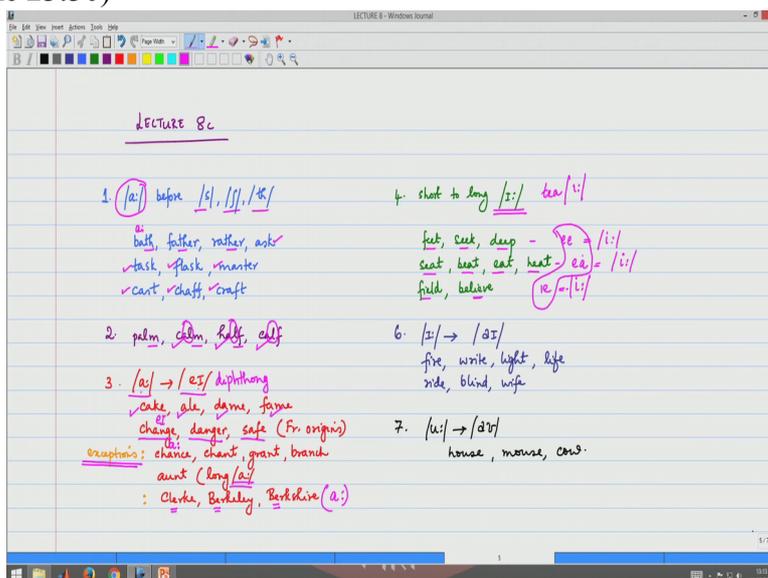
a different kind of spelling with, there is also a different kind of spelling with ie which also leads to the same pronunciation e. So here

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we noted there is a certain kind of standardization which takes place in spite of the, there is a certain kind of standardization,

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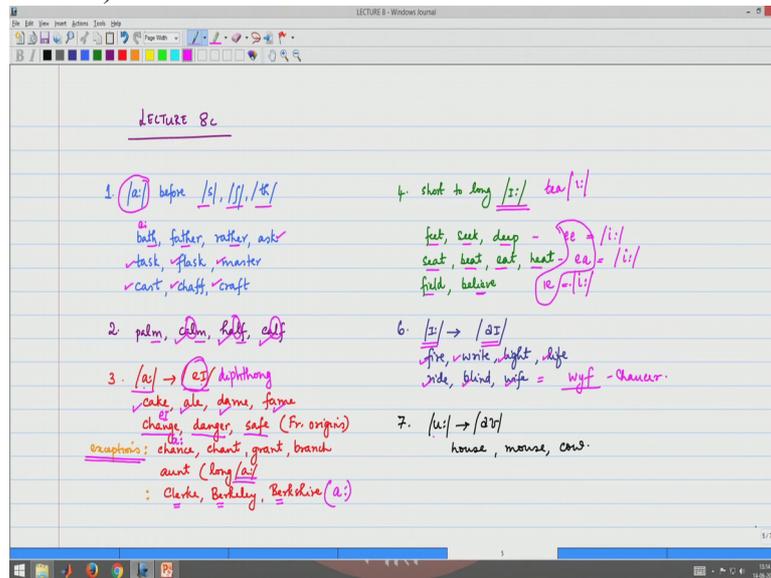
pronunciation which takes place in spite of the spelling being slightly different from each other.

The next major change was the change from long /I:/ to the diphthong ai. It's like ae, ai is also a diphtong and accordingly we will find certain words such as fire, right, light, life, ride, blind and wife. For example in the medieval text we also know that, we also note that the term wife was pronounced with the long /i:/, w/i:/f. That's what we found even in terms of spelling and pronunciation even during Chaucer's times for example, we find, for example we

find this particular kind of spelling and a very different kind of pronunciation as w/i:/f being used during Chaucer's times.

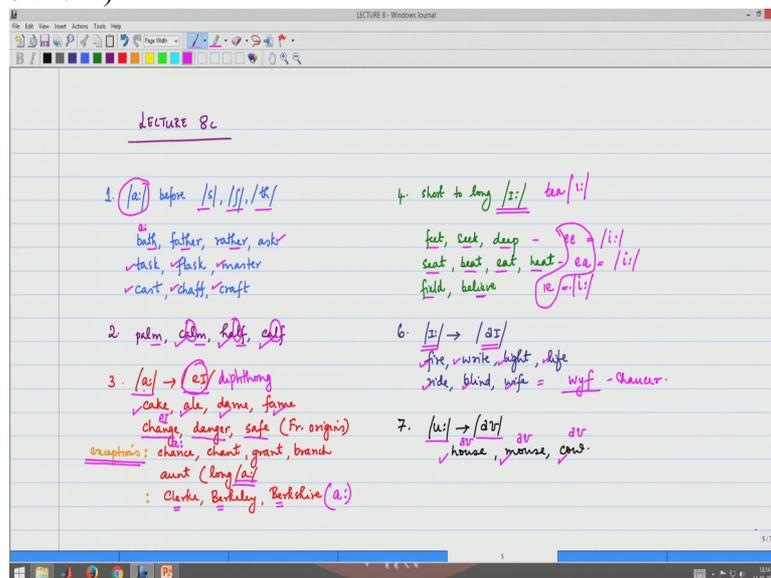
And finally the most important one was the

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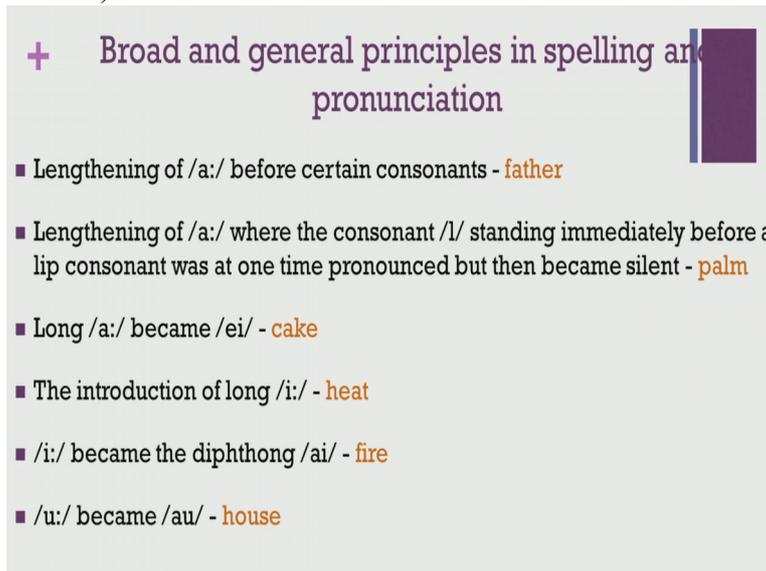
transition from /u:/, a long u to another diphthong au. According to, we have words such as house, mouse and cow where we find this diphthong getting used. So just to sum up

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all these changes, there is a transition from /a:/

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**+ Broad and general principles in spelling and pronunciation**

- Lengthening of /a:/ before certain consonants - **father**
- Lengthening of /a:/ where the consonant /l/ standing immediately before a lip consonant was at one time pronounced but then became silent - **palm**
- Long /a:/ became /ei/ - **cake**
- The introduction of long /i:/ - **heat**
- /i:/ became the diphthong /ai/ - **fire**
- /u:/ became /au/ - **house**

to some of all these changes.

Quickly take a look at the broad principles once again. To sum up all these changes let's quickly take a look at these broad and general principles again. There is a lengthening of /a:/ before certain consonants such as how we have noted, there is a lengthening in long /a:/ where the consonant /l/ standing immediately before a lip consonant was at one time pronounced but then became silent. Long /a:/ becomes /ea/, the consonant. There is also the introduction of long /i:/. The long /i:/ also transitions into the diphthong ai and au the diphthong replaces /u:/.

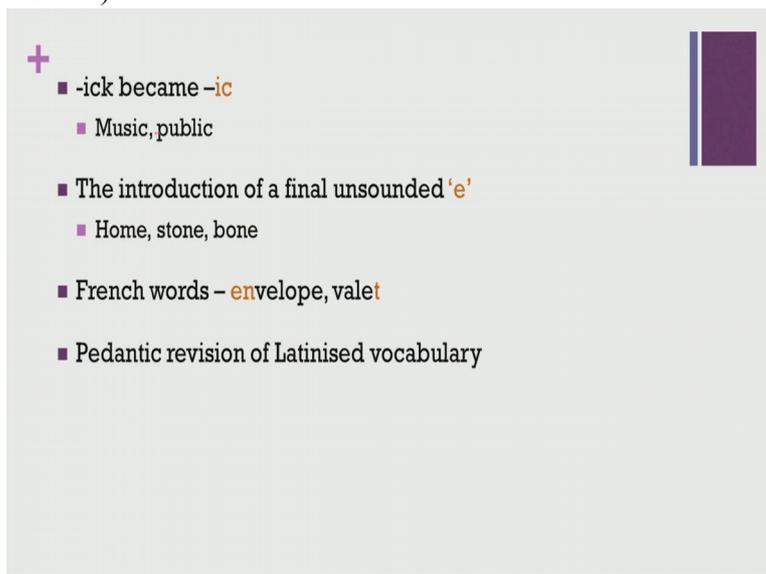
So as we noted earlier this is not a comprehensive list of changes which came about during the Great Vowel Shift but this gives you certain sense of the broad and general principles which prevail

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when we talk about English, talk about the spelling of certain words in English language. In addition to this there were also the other systematic and phenomenal

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changes.

For example from the, from words such as, in certain words such as music and public, earlier k also was inserted but at a later point we

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- -ick became -ic
  - Music~~k~~public~~k~~
- The introduction of a final unsounded 'e'
  - Home, stone, bone
- French words – envelope, valet
- Pedantic revision of Latinised vocabulary

find that the k is completely, at later point we find that the English spelling drops this k altogether and because music with ending with c and public ending with c. There is also introduction of a letter e, a final unsounded letter e at the end of certain words. Accordingly we have certain words such as home, stone, bone etc. If we take a look at the spelling and pronunciation we know that the final e does not really serve a purpose but this has been introduced during the Renaissance time to give a

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- -ick became -ic
  - Music~~k~~public~~k~~
- The introduction of a final unsounded 'e'
  - Home~~e~~, stone~~e~~, bone~~e~~
- French words – envelope, valet
- Pedantic revision of Latinised vocabulary

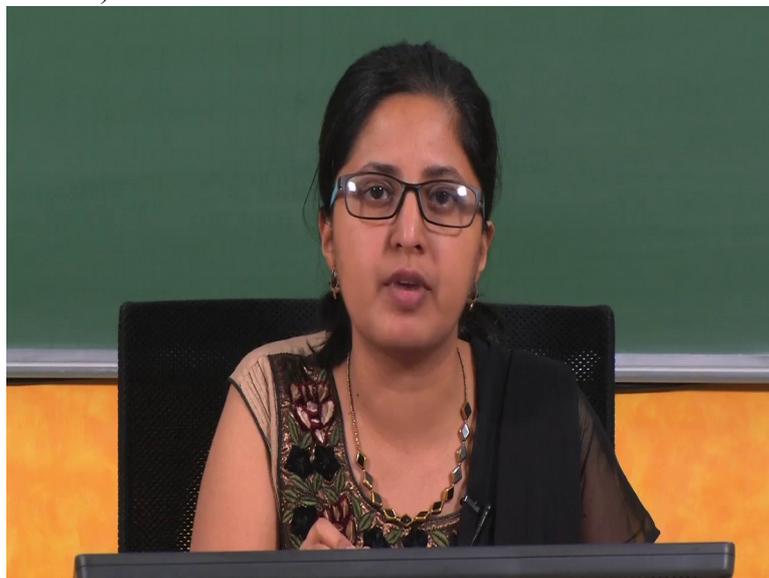
complete sense of spelling. That also becomes a more standardized form at later point.

And there is another significant change in pronunciation especially in certain words borrowed from French. If we look at this word now mostly pronounced as envelope but this is

originally from a French word. So in that sense, it used to have a French pronunciation for a very long time which was also accepted as a standard. It used to be some 25-30 years ago the standard pronunciation, the more accepted pronunciation was /au/nvelope. But nowadays we find that it is mostly used, even the standard, even the more accepted standard version of B B C uses the pronunciation envelope.

And the word valet which also has a French origin, nowadays you will find that it is also acceptable to use the pronunciation valet instead of the original

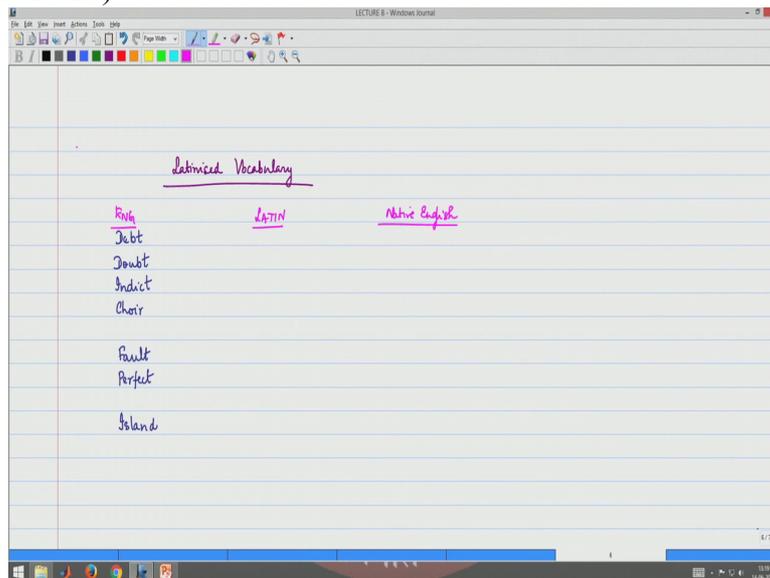
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French pronunciation vale. And there is also, and as we noted earlier, a lot of Latin words were getting built into the English vocabulary and there was lot of controversy about that. And accordingly, eventually the kind of Latin words which got retained in English language was as a result of pedantic relation of Latinized vocabulary. This would also, this would also in certain ways explain to us how English has certain very strange spellings where how and why certain letters are part of the spelling but not pronounced.

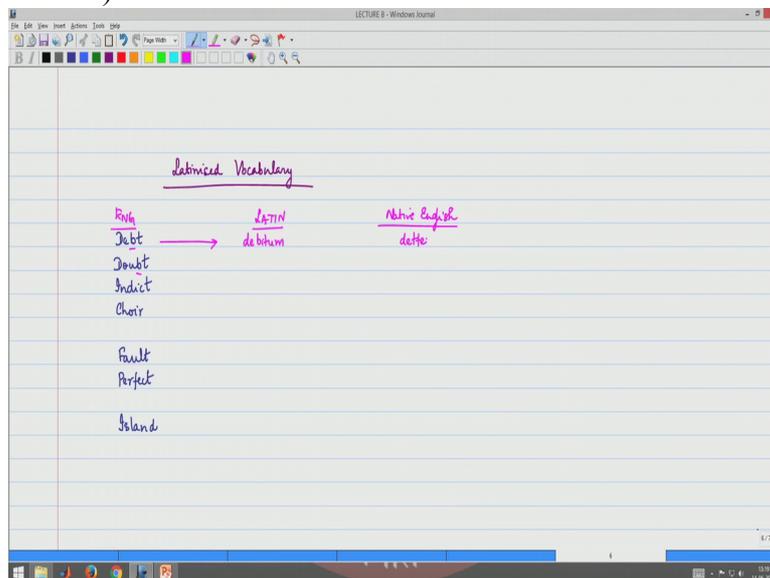
So let us take a quick look at some of these Latinized revisions which were made into

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English vocabulary. Certain common English words such as debt and doubt, we know that when we pronounce it, the b remains silent. So we try to analyze this from the point of view of how language evolved. It is important to know that the word debt, the word debt is from the Latin word debitum and the native English term used to be dette. But

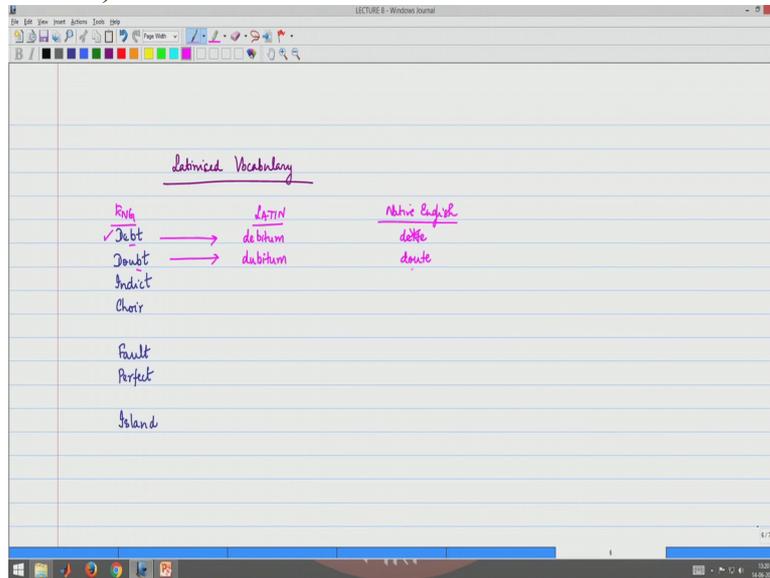
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however very enthusiastic scholars during the Renaissance time, they thought it is very important to retain some aspect of the Latin pronunciation and Latin vocabulary, but enthusiastic scholars of the Renaissance period, they thought it is very important to retain some aspects of the Latin spelling in order to always remind as a scholarly root that particular word had. So accordingly we do find dette getting completely replaced by this modern

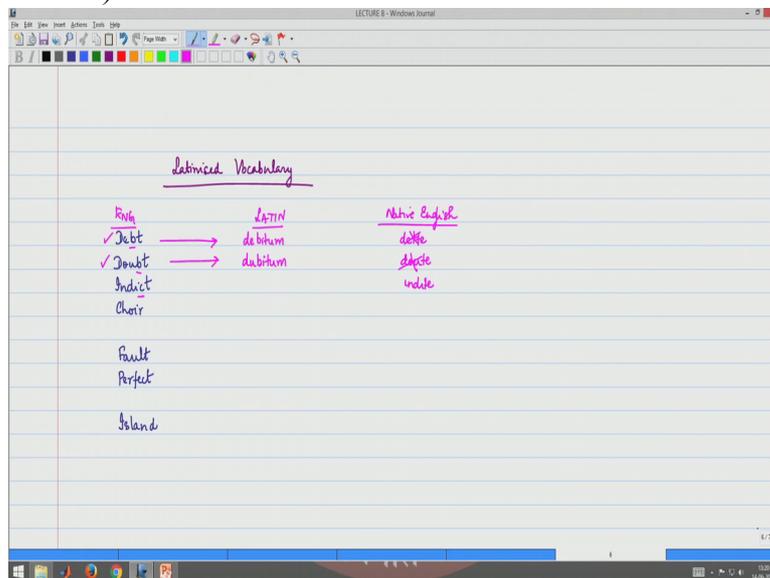
spelling debt. Similarly the word doubt, it has, it is based from a Latin term known as dubitare and the native English term was, and the native English term was doute with an

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uncomplicated spelling but eventually we again find that doute is completely replaced by doubt with a b. The word indict also had a native spelling indite but it continues to be used

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with a silent c. And word choir has very interesting evolution. It is from the Latin term chorus, the English spelling used to be quere

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Root	LATIN	Native English
✓ Debt	debitum	debts
✓ Doubt	dubitum	dubious
Indict		indict
Choir	chorus	quiere
Fault		
Perfect		
Island		

in the medieval times before the Renaissance times but however when the Latin influence also gets, gets built into the particular term we find this being spelt as c h o i r with a Latin spelling and also being pronounced in the native English, native English way as it is pronounced as quere.

But again there are also exceptions. For example a word such as, word such as fault where the l continues to be pronounced, it is from a Latin term fallata, the old English term was faute but however

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Root	LATIN	Native English
✓ Debt	debitum	debts
✓ Doubt	dubitum	dubious
Indict		indict
✓ Choir	chorus	quiere
Fault	fallata	faute
Perfect		
Island		

with this Latin influence of introducing the l, we find that the l did not remain silent but it became part of a proper pronunciation. The word such as perfect, it is based on the Latin term

perfectus, the old, the native English term was parfit, Chaucer also uses this, Chaucer also uses this word in his works. So when

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Root	LATIN	Native English
✓ Debt	debitum	debte
✓ Doubt	dubium	debte
Indict		indite
✓ Choir	chorus	quire
Fault	falliter	faute
Perfect	perfectus	Parfit - Chaucer
Island		

it, parfit became perfect with a c built into it, we find that even in pronunciation it is retained and it becomes perfect.

May be an interesting example of scholastic, how the scholastic stupidity would be the word island. We find that it is from the Latin word insula and there is also this native English word of Anglo-Saxon origin but

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Root	LATIN	Native English
✓ Debt	debitum	debte
✓ Doubt	dubium	debte
Indict		indite
✓ Choir	chorus	quire
Fault	falliter	faute
Perfect	perfectus	Parfit - Chaucer
✓ Island	Insula	igland

since many Renaissance scholars and scholars of Latin language were quite particular about building in, quite particular about using the Latin origin as part of the modern English word,

we eventually have this term island with the s remaining silent. I hope us that in some form it also explains to us some of the irregularities which exist with English spelling. And if any one of you is interested in pursuing this matter with greater detail, it would be interesting to look at the ways in which language evolve, the ways in which spelling and pronunciation evolved and how certain things continued to remain standardized through a various, through various kinds of lexical and linguistic changes.

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It is important to note that these changes were not very quick, they were very gradual. It was not change which people could accept very, very quickly, without any kind of confusion. We find even Shakespeare lamenting about this sort

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+ To doubt or not to dout

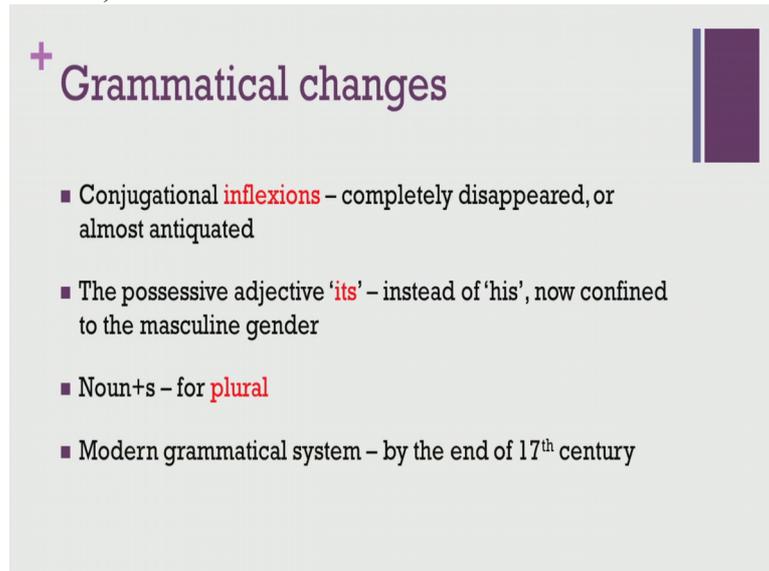
- Spelling and pronunciation
- “I abhor such rackers of orthography, as to speak **dout**, fine, when he should say **doubt**; **det**, when he should pronounce **debt** – d, e, b, t, not d, e, t”

Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*

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of, this sort of change in spellings and this difficulty, this irregularity between spelling and pronunciation. In one of his plays Love's Labours Lost, one of Shakespeare's characters laments, one of Shakespeare's characters laments I abhor such rackers of orthography, as to speak dout, fine, when he should say doubt; det d e t when he should pronounce debt,--d,e, b, t, not d, e, t. So even the supreme master of English language did find all of this quite appalling during the Renaissance time.

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**+ Grammatical changes**

- Conjugational **inflexions** – completely disappeared, or almost antiquated
- The possessive adjective **'its'** – instead of 'his', now confined to the masculine gender
- Noun+s – for **plural**
- Modern grammatical system – by the end of 17<sup>th</sup> century

So finally taking a look at the major dramatical changes of this time, we already noted in our earlier discussions of the old English and the middle English period that the conjugational inflections were completely dropped by the time the language reached the modern times. During the Renaissance period we find these inflections had either completely disappeared or they were almost antiquated. The some of the important introductions, grammatical introductions during this period include the use of adjective its instead of his because earlier the possessive adjective his was used to talk about masculine and neutral gender but we find that now his is confined to masculine gender and its is used for neutral gender. This is also the time when the plural usage by introducing a letter s to noun, it comes into being so we find that the system through which the, the system, a new system of pluralization also is getting built into language. And by the end of the seventeenth century through a series of such changes we find that the modern grammatical system also comes into place alongside a standardization of vocabulary, spelling and pronunciation.

So, as and when we wind up this lecture let me also remind you that

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it is important to continue to take a look at Shakespeare's contribution and also the contribution of the Bible among many other things which were part of the Renaissance changes. We shall be taking a closer and a detailed look at them in the next session. So with this we wind up today's session. Thank you for listening and look forward to seeing you in the next session.