

Origins and Definition of Language

Old English period (600-1100 CE)
Middle English Period (1100-1500 CE)
Early Modern Period (1500-1700 CE)
Modern English (1700-present).

Some scholars refer to 1700-1900 as ‘Late Modern English,’ but changes are not so drastic as to justify it.

There are over 1200 years of recorded history for the English language.
Current estimates place the number of English speakers around 400 million.
There are between 5000 and 6000 languages, worldwide.
English is the official language in more than 60 countries.
English is therefore a ‘lingua franca.’

Psammetichus (or Psamtik I), King of Egypt in the 7th century BC.
Herodotus (c. 484 BC–c. 425 BC)

Becos and Phrygian

King James IV of Scotland (17 March 1473 – 9 September 1513)

Divine Origin Theory

Danish linguist, Otto Jespersen (1860-1943): *Language. Its Nature, Development and Origin*, 1922.

Origin theories: Bow-wow, Pooh-pooh, Ding-dong, Yo-he-ho, Ta-ta, Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay.

Language: “Human language is a system.”

