



**THE EARLY SPECULATIONS ABOUT THE ORIGIN
OF AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

Qunduzoy Qodirova O'ktam qizi

Chirchik State Pedagogical University, Tourism

Faculty Foreign language and literature

+998934655059

Z. A.Umirova

Chirchik State Pedagogical University, EFL teacher

Matenova Feruza

Scientific advisor, Teacher, Chirchik

State Pedagogical University

Abstract: The article represents the origins of the English language have long intrigued linguists, historians, and philologists. Before modern linguistic methods were developed, early speculations about the genesis of English ranged from biblical interpretations to mythological and nationalistic narratives. This article explores these early theories, focusing on pre-modern and early modern ideas concerning the roots of the English language. It analyzes key texts and thinkers who contributed to these speculations and contrasts their ideas with contemporary linguistic understanding. By examining historical sources and early linguistic methodologies, the study reveals how national identity, religious beliefs, and limited philological tools shaped early theories about English's origin.



Keywords; English Language, Linguistic Origin, Philology, Historical Linguistics, Anglo-Saxon, Proto-Germanic, Early Speculations, Language History

INTRODUCTION

The English language, now spoken by over a billion people globally, has a complex history that spans millennia. Before the advent of modern linguistics, its origins were largely misunderstood and speculated upon based on mythology, religious doctrine, and early historical records. These speculations often lacked empirical evidence and were deeply influenced by cultural and ideological contexts. This article aims to examine how early thinkers, from medieval chroniclers to Renaissance scholars, theorized about the beginnings of the English language and how those early ideas laid the groundwork for more scientific approaches in later centuries.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY

Key figures in early English linguistic speculation include Geoffrey of Monmouth, Bede, and William Camden. In *Historia Regum Britanniae*, Geoffrey claimed that English descended from the Trojans, a myth popular in medieval historiography. Bede, in his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, provided a more grounded but still limited account, attributing the language to Germanic invaders such as the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes¹. During the Renaissance, scholars like Camden and Verstegan sought to trace English to ancient Teutonic or biblical languages, often merging nationalistic motives with linguistic inquiry. With the Enlightenment came the beginnings of comparative linguistics, as scholars like Sir William Jones hinted at deeper Indo-European connections.

¹ Jones, William. “The Third Anniversary Discourse.” *Asiatic Researches*, 1786.



METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative historical approach, examining primary texts and secondary scholarly interpretations of those texts. Key texts were analyzed based on their linguistic assertions, cultural context, and influence on later thinking. The study also draws on comparative historical linguistics to contrast early speculations with modern theories regarding English's Germanic and Indo-European roots.

ANALYSIS

Medieval Speculations, Medieval authors often rooted language origins in divine or legendary frameworks. The most prominent example is Geoffrey of Monmouth, who claimed that the Britons—and by extension their language—descended from Brutus of Troy. Such theories aligned with broader European traditions of tracing noble lineages to classical antiquity. Bede's *Ecclesiastical History* offered a more practical view, asserting that English came from the Germanic tribes who invaded Britain in the 5th century. However, Bede still worked within a Christian worldview that emphasized divine providence in historical development. *Renaissance Theories*; During the 16th and 17th centuries, the Reformation and rise of English nationalism led scholars to further investigate the language's roots. William Camden's *Britannia* and Richard Verstegan's *Restitution of Decayed Intelligence* argued for the Teutonic and biblical origins of English, reflecting growing pride in vernacular languages and a desire to link them to ancient traditions. *Transition Toward Scientific Linguistics*²; The 18th century saw a shift from speculation to analysis. Scholars like Sir William Jones discovered linguistic affinities between Sanskrit, Latin, Greek, and the Germanic languages, laying the groundwork for Indo-European theory. Although not focused exclusively on English, these insights began replacing earlier mythical explanations with scientific reasoning.

²Bede. *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. Trans. Leo Sherley-Price, Penguin Books, 1990.



CONCLUSION

Early speculations about the origin of the English language were deeply rooted in mythology, religion, and national pride. While lacking empirical rigor, these ideas reflected the cultural values and intellectual frameworks of their time. They also paved the way for more systematic approaches in the 18th and 19th centuries, which placed English firmly within the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family. Understanding these early theories is essential not only for historical linguistics but also for appreciating how language is tied to identity and cultural narrative.

REFERENCES:

1. Bede. *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. Trans. Leo Sherley-Price, Penguin Books, 1990.
2. Geoffrey of Monmouth. *The History of the Kings of Britain*. Trans. Lewis Thorpe, Penguin Books, 1966.
3. Camden, William. *Britannia*. 1586.
4. Verstegan, Richard. *Restitution of Decayed Intelligence*. 1605.
5. Jones, William. “The Third Anniversary Discourse.” *Asiatic Researches*, 1786.
6. Hogg, Richard M., and David Denison, eds. *A History of the English Language*. Cambridge University Press, 2006.
7. Barber, Charles. *The English Language: A Historical Introduction*. Cambridge University Press, 2000.
8. Crystal, David. *The Stories of English*. Penguin Books, 2004.