

Differing forms of contact influence between
Middle English and Anglo- Norman, and
their context

their context

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Hybrid languages

- distinct affiliation for different domains of the language
- Created via by bilingualism, usually one-way not mutual.
- May arise via language shift

Anglo Norman: a hybrid variety?

- Traditional characterisation as hybrid
- mixed language texts

Issues

- Historically, what sociolinguistic conditions give rise to a hybrid language?
- Does code-switching lead to hybridisation?
- Contact influence Anglo-Norman <-> English led to what kinds of system replacement?

- Status of languages in England 1200-1400
- 'No dominance of French outside specialised sphere of government, the court and the aristocracy; no widespread practical or everyday bilingualism... evidence [for these views] comes from a combination of careful demographic and historical scholarship, plus a certain amount of common sense.' (Lass 1987: 55-56)

Dominant paradigm: Thomason and Kaufman (1988)

Language contact in med. England:

- an English speaking majority
- a 'Norman French' minority shifting to English around 1250

Alternatively : Anglo-Norman continued alongside English, used by bilinguals (Trotter 2003, Ingham2012a)

Documented uses of Anglo-Norman

- many literary and devotional texts
- Used in professional contexts: land management, commerce, law, teaching, warfare, medicine, local administration

transmission of A-Norman

- French was learnt until c. 1350 as a childhood second language in an institutional context experienced before grammar school: the church school (Ingham 2012).
- It was used on a daily basis as a medium of communication in the grammar school.
- Some degree of bilingualism was therefore universal among the educated class of medieval England.

Intense bilingualism

- consistent with thousands of French loan words in English 1250-1380, decreasing thereafter (DeKeyser 1986)

ME Function words replicated French items

periphrastic comparative *more*

wh- relative pronouns modal perfect
should have etc. (Ingham 2010)

Connectives *as, because* etc. (Ingham
2012b, Molencki 2012)

Replication (Heine & Kuteva 2005)

An item in language A has a sense which its counterpart in language B doesn't have.

The item in language A's lexical entry is activated when a bilingual uses language B.

The sense of the language A item is replicated for the corresponding lexeme in language B.

E.g. LME as gained a 'cause/reason' sense replicating the 'cause/reason' sense of Old French com. (Ingham 2012)

Professional contexts

Estate management - manorial accounts (Ingham 2009)

Common use of French def. article + Eng. Noun embedded in matrix Latin:-

(1) Pro le salthus (Framlingham, p. 68 (1324–5))

In le Nywemedede (Cuxham, p. 594 (1358–9))

Ad claudendum le oxenpa(s)tur, 45

CS constraint in language-mixed medieval records:-

Switch between article and noun; no switch between preposition and article

- (2) de Rog'o on the Grene (Longeruge. Staffs 1327)
- de Ada sur le Grene (Talynton Staffs 1332)
- (3) de Rob'to Bythebrok (Aston & Burveston. Staffs, 1332)
- de Roberto a le Brok (Morcott, Rutland, 1296)
- (4) De Luca Bythewode (Henherst, Sussex 1296)
- Gilberto a la wode (Hulleberrewe, Worcs, 88, c.1275)

Vowel phonology

- Vowel sounds existing only in French - simple vowels, diphthongs and palatalised semi-vowels - were eliminated
- Vowel sounds existing in English were spared
- Result: Phonology component became English

phonology of Anglo-Norman disconnected from Old French mainstream phonology:

<input type="checkbox"/> change	date	adopted by A-N?	
<input type="checkbox"/> loss of inter-vocalic dentals	before 1150		✓
<input type="checkbox"/> /ai/ ~ /ɛ/ merger	before 1150	✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> /ã/ ~ /ẽ/ merger	later C12	×	
<input type="checkbox"/> /u/ ~ /œ/ split	later C12	×	
<input type="checkbox"/> /òi/ ~ /ei/ merger	c. 1200	×	
<input type="checkbox"/> word stress -> group stress	c. 1200 onwards	×	

Anglo-Norman lost palatal/non-palatal contrasts lacking in English:

- /ɲ/ ~ /n/
- /ʎ/ ~ /l/
- /y/ ~ /u/
- /je/ ~ /e/
- /ɥ/ ~ /u/

(Short 2007, Ingham 2012)

lexis

- Very little lexical borrowing English -> Anglo-Norman
- Code-switching frequently attested in 'mixed texts' (Wright 1998, Ingham 2009)

grammar

- ❑ Old French tense system largely maintained
- ❑ Subject verb agreement unaffected
- ❑ gender agreement affected only when phonological interference operated

Non-elite in-group vs social elite

- the source language of the interface effects was demographically dominant: English on A-N, majority languages on Judaeo-Spanish
- the source language of the replication effects A-N on English was socially dominant

Conclusions

- In English, non-basic lexis heavily replaced by French
- In A-N, phonology of Old French replaced by English
- In English, grammatical influence of French limited to replication of function words
- In A-N, grammatical influence of English limited to interface effects
- Code-switching did not lead to hybridisation
- Anglo-Norman was an elite professional variety, not an in-group language. Contact did not lead to hybridisation, but overall had more restricted effects.