

Periods in The History Of English



English literature has a golden history. It is the richest literature of the world. When we evaluate the English language from the beginning in the Anglo-Saxon times to the modern era has been an unbroken one. We can distinguish three main periods in the history and growth of the language in the following manner:

Old English (OE) - AD 449 - AD 1066

Middle English (ME) - AD 1150 - AD 1500

Modern English - AD 1500 onwards

Old English

Throughout this period English continued to be the language of everyday speech for the common mass. The divisions made above are more for convenience but it is possible to distinguish certain linguistic features in each of these periods. The

OE period is characterized by inflections. Gradually over a period (~~during the age~~) of time these inflections were found to have been levelled. Literature produced during the age was not of much significance, as court patronage was ~~lacking~~ lacking and the age ~~of~~ came to be known as the dark age.

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