Chapter XIII: After the French Invasion

- Introduction
- 1066 Battle of Hastings (William the Conqueror)
- The Norman Invasion established French as the language of England.
- The Normans were originally Vikings (Norman= North + Man)
- William established himself as King William I.
- Redistributed the lands among his supporters.

Introduction

- Consequently, Norman French became the prestige language in England (government, justice, & education).

- English was spoken by only second class citizens.

- This social situation had significant consequences for the English language- penetrated the lexicon and the grammar.

- English lost the inflectional morphology characteristic of the Germanic languages.

- The word order of English came to resemble French word order more than Germanic.

Introduction con't

- Social stratification can be observed when comparing native words and French borrowings from the same semantic domain. Example:

- <u>English</u>   <u>French</u>
- pig   pork
- chicken   poultry
- cow   beef
- sheep   mutton
- calf   veal

The animal is English; the food is French.

Illustrating who was tending the animals and who was eating them.

Introduction con't

- English has borrowed continuously from Latin.

- Beginning in the Middle English period, from French.

- This pattern of borrowing establishes the opportunity for English to borrow the same word at different points in its history.

- Example: English borrowed *humility* from Latin. The word developed in French and was borrowed again into English as *humble*.

- Two changes have occurred:

  – The *i* of *humil* has been deleted.

  – A *b* has been inserted between *m* and *l*.

Introduction con't

- French has rules.

- By examining the same word borrowed at different times, we can determine how the language from which these words are borrowed (in this case French) has changed.

- A knowledge of French phonology will help correlate Latin and French borrowings.

- We will examine several of the phonological rules that contributed to the transformation of Latin into French- that now relate the Latin and French partitions of the English Lexicon.

- Extensive phonological changes created French from Latin- obscure original structure of each word.

Borrowed Germanic Words

- English has borrowed Germanic words from French.
- French has borrowed words from the Germanic languages which English, some centuries later, then borrowed back.
- These words will have been naturalized in French.
- Consequently, they betray some French phonological rules. Example:
- <u>English</u>   <u>French</u>
- ward   guard
- wise   guise
- wile   guile

Germanic words con't

- Whenever a word began with *w*, French added *g* to it.
- Rule: [w --> gw]$_{French}$ (-->g)
- English has a similar process in its history.
- Latin *vivus* [wiwus].
- The English cognate is *quick*.
- *wiw--> gwigw --> kwikw --> kwik*
- [g] is added to [w].
- Grimm's Law: [g] to [k].

Lenition

- The first rule we will consider:

- V {p/b} V --> VvV

- *probe vs. prove*

- This was a general rule that applied to labial stops generally when they appeared between vowels.

- Keep in mind when contrasting Latin and French borrowings that they each represent etymologically slightly different forms.

- The lenition rule is responsible for a series of alternations found in words that are built from the root $\sqrt{cap}$ "take".

- Words with this root have past participle derivatives with the labial stop.

- However, their verbal forms have *v* (deception vs. deceive).

- The nominal form borrowed from Latin, the verbal from French.

Lenition con't

- This kind of rule id called *lenition*, literally a "softening".

- A fricative like [v] is somehow weaker or softer than stops like [p] and [b].

- A natural outcome of lenition is loss of the consonant altogether.

- Example: *super* (Latin borrowing), *sovereign* (French reflex). [p] to [v].

- The [p] of *super* can also be deleted completely in French: super > sur

Lenition con't

- Complete lenition in *super* creates the prefix *sur-*.
- Appears in a large number of familiar words that one may not have considered to have internal structure nor to be borrowings.
- Lenition also applied to dentals [t] and [d] between vowels.
- They always softened to the point that they disappeared.
- If both labial and dental stops lenite, that it is expected that velar stops will as well.
- There are some examples of lenition of velars.

Vocalization

- Intervocalic velars could develop in either of 2 directions.

- In addition to lenition, they could also become more vowel like.

- The rule:

- V {k/g} V --> VyV

- Sometimes the *y* appears as *i*.

Vocalization con't

- One of the more important rules to which this rule applied is √*fac* "make".

- The French version of this is *-fy*.

- This root has become a suffix that can be added to a noun or adjective to create a verb meaning "to make X".

- This form has become productive in English.

- Lexemes such as *petrify* and *uglify* have English roots and demonstrate the suffix's productivity.

- These lexemes continue a pattern that began in Latin: using the root √*fac* "make" in compounds.

- The frequent use of √*fac* as the second member of a compound established a trend which, although the root was changed in French to *-fy* continued in French and now in English.

Vocalization con't

- The velars also vocalized when they were followed by a consonant.

- Note: the character representing the reflex is *i* rather than *y*.

- This emphasizes (again) the historical relationship between these 2 characters and the phonological relationship between the sounds [i] and [y].

1. Rule: [{k/g} C --> y C]$_{French}$

Clusters of Rules

- Often phonological rules are organized into clusters that apply to obscure the morphological structure.

- Sometimes a morphological structure creates the opportunity for a single rule to apply, often a phonological rule will create opportunities for another phonological rule which itself creates opportunities for further rules, and so on.

- It is useful to keep this in mind when trying to find relations among lexemes.

- Table XIII.13: Cognates

- In every case, a velar disappeared and the preceding vowel has become a diphthong.

- A velar will vocalize to [y].

- From √*sanct*, we expect *sanyt*.

Clusters of Rules con't

- In our examination of Latin nasal roots (Chapter X), we observed a process called metathesis.

- This process would do exactly what we need for *saint*.

- From *sanyt*, metathesis would create *saynt*.

- Given that the characters *i* and *y* are used interchangeably, it is justifiable to equate *saynt* with *saint*.

- But is metathesis justified for French?

- We must first demonstrate that the metathesis rule also occurs in French.

- Consider the forms in Table XIII.14.

Clusters of Rules con't

- Usually Latin words are borrowed into English the inflectional endings are discarded.

- The *-us* of *cuneus*, the *-is* of *potionis*, the *a* of *folia* are ultimately discarded, but not before they have affected the French words.

- Comparing the French borrowing to the actual Latin word, not the Latin word as it appears in English.

- To normalize the data:

- First:In the evolution of Latin into the Romance languages, both [i] and [e] convert to [y] when they were followed by other vowels.

Clusters of Rules con't

- Rule: [{i/e} V --> yV]_{French}
- With the exception of *adjuntant/aid*, all the Latin forms have either [i] or [e] followed by a vowel.
- We can expect that these will convert to [y] in French.
- Second: *j* is new and was created by elongating *i*.
- In a word like *adjuntant*, the character was originally an *i* in Latin.
- Thus, *adjuntant* was originally *adiuntant* which will have converted to *adyutant* by the rule we just proposed.
- This normalized the data to that in Table XIII.15.

Cluster Rules con't

- The pairs *memory*/*memoir* and *foly*/*foil* show what happened next.

- When a word contained a consonant followed by [y], metathesis applied to reverse their order so that the [y] preceded the consonant and formed a diphthong with the preceding vowel:

- [Cy --> y C]$_{French}$

- The orthographic *i* of *memoir*, *foil etc*. does not represent [i]. It appears to represent an historical [y].

- In *saint, point, joint etc.*, the velar vocalized to *y* before a consonant and then metathesizes.

- 2 rules that are required for independent reasons can interact with each other to produce more mysterious output.

Syncope

- Common rule in the evolution of the Romance languages is the loss of an unstressed vowel.

- When the vowel is in the middle of a word, its loss is called *syncope*.

- Syncope applied only to unstressed vowels.

- Rule: $[V_1C^nV_2{}^oC^nV_3 --> V_1CCV_3]_{French}$

- The third vowel is not always apparent.

- Example: *debit>debt*.

- The third vowel has been dropped.

- The Latin form of *debit* is *debitus*.

- By bringing consonants into contact *syncope* provides opprotunities for other rules to apply.

Epenthesis

- One of the rules that syncope triggered was *epenthesis*.

- Consider the data in Table XIII.18.

- In every case, the medial vowel has deleted to bring a nasal and *r* or *l* together.

- This sequence is then interrupted by the insertion of a stop.

- Notice that the type of stop that is inserted is determined by the nasal.

- Labial nasal [m], labial stop inserted.

- Dental nasal [n], dental stop inserted.

Epenthesis con't

- [mr --> mbr]$_{French}$
- [nr --> ndr]$_{French}$
- [ml --> mbl]$_{French}$

Cluster Simplification

- Syncope will bring together clusters of consonants.
- The resulting cluster will then be simplified by deleting 1 or more of the consonants in the cluster.
- Consider Table XIII.19.
- First, the change of *hospital* to *hostel* requires explanation.
- The medial vowel will delete.
- The resulting cluster *spt* is simplified to *st*.
- A similar rule has applied in the other forms.
- Rule: $[C_1C_2C_3 \rightarrow C_1C_3]_{\text{Old French}}$

Cluster Simplification con't

- Finally, in French *hotel* the [s] does delete.
- This demonstrates a more abstract type of change than the type that we have been considering: change to the rules themselves.
- Recall that in Latin we had proposed a rule:
- [zC --> C]$_{Latin}$
- This was proposed to account for deletion of [s] before voiced consonants. In French, we require a rule:
- [sC --> C]$_{French}$
- It appears that the original Latin rule has changed so that it applies to [s] as well as [z]:
- [zC --> C]$_{Latin}$ --> [sC --> C]
- The original rule has generalized.

Prothesis

- A very common rule throughout the Romance languages is the addition of a vowel to the front of any word that began with [s] followed by a consonant.

- See Table XIII.20.

- The forms of Old French illustrate the Romance rule:

- [#sC --> #esC]$_{Romance}$

- In addition, the data from French column provide further support for the rule deleting *s* proposed in the previous section.

- The derivation of *epaulet* combines a number of rules.

- See Table XIII.21.

Assibilation

- Already seen one aspect of French assibilation:

- *potent vs. potency*

- The assibilation rule is:

- [ty --> sy]$_{French}$

- Example: *vitiate/vice*

- Examples where the Latin past participle assibilates when the nominalizing suffix that triggered assibilation in the present participle is attached to it. Table XIII.22.

Assibilation of Velars

- [t] is not the only sound to undergo assibilation.
- The velars very frequently assibilated.
- When does the character *c* represent the sound [k] and when does it represent the sound [s]?
- This is one occasion when the English spelling system is quite regular.
- *c* represents the sound [s] when it is followed by either *i* or *e*.
- This is no accident.
- The *c* always represented the sound [k] in Latin.
- However, in French this [k] assibilated before [i] and [e].

Assibilation of Velars con't

- This phonological rule is now reflected in the English spelling system.

- This is likely the most robust rule among those for English spelling:

- [k{i/e} --> s {i/e}]_{Old French}

- French took this process further than the other Romance languages.

- In addition to assibilating [k] before [i] and [e], French also assibilated [k] before [a], although here the reflex was [tʃ].

- Rule: [ka --> tʃa]_{Old French}

Assibilation of Velars con't

- The [tʃ] sound changed to [ʃ] in modern French.
- If a word was borrowed a second time, it would show this change as well as the original assibilation.
- Table XIII.25 gives examples of triplets: words borrowed from Latin with [k], their cognates from Old French with [tʃ] and a second borrowing from French with the modern [ʃ].

- Rule: [tʃ -->ʃ]_{French}
- The voiced velar [g] also assibilated before [i] and [e].
- It shows the profession from affricate to fricative in French.

Assibilation of Velars con't

- There are examples of *g* before either [i] or [e] but is pronounced [g].

- Examples: *geese, gild* and *gill*.

- These are not French words.

- This assibilation rule applies only to French and Latin borrowings but not in English or other languages from which it has borrowed.

Assibilation of Labials

- Labials also assibilated.
- Normalize the data.
- *i* and *e* will convert to [y] before another vowel.
- The labial [p], [b], and [v] is followed by either [i] or [e] with is itself followed by a vowel.
- The labial will at some point in the history of French be followed by [y].
- Given this- the data in Table XIII.27 can be normalized as the data in Table XIII.28.
- Although all four of the examples are classified as French borrowings there is a subtle difference.

Assibilation of Labials con't

- The reflex of assibilation in *cage, rage, and deluge* is [dʒ], in *rouge* it is [ʒ].

- This is similar to the assibilation of [k] and [g].

- The affricate reflex is from Old French.

- *Rouge* is a more recent borrowing and shows the de-affricaton of French.

- [labial y --> dʒ]_{Old French}

- [dʒ -->ʒ]_{French}

Assibilation of Nasals

- Under the right conditions, nasals also assibilated in French.

- Either the nasal is immediately followed by [y] as in *extraneous* or an intervocalic consonant has deleted creating the conditions for converting [i] to [y].

- Thus, the rule is that a nasal will assibilate in French if it is followed by [y].

Contraction

- The Latin diphthong *au* contracted to *o* in French.

- Table XIII.30.

- Notice that *noise* shows both contraction of *au* to *o* and metathesis to create a new diphthong.

- Please be prepared for Chapter XIV: Word Formation Processes & Chapter XV: The Great English Vowel Shift