

The history of the English language is so involved based on many factors. Defining what language actually is more complex than some may think. When we think about what language is we come up with many different answers. People use language in order to communicate with others in their specific environment or culture. There are languages on a higher or lower scale specific to a certain class of individuals or there are languages specific to certain hobbies or workplaces. Language is used for many different purposes and although we may be speaking English as our language, there are many different subdivisions of our language that others may not understand. Language can be symbolic, textual or vocal and has a variety of different functions. The English language re-defines itself all the time. The drastic changes from Old to Middle to Modern English occurred over thousands of years but there are many subtle changes that occur in our language everyday on a much smaller scale. Language change begins at the smaller scale before it grows into a full blown new language. I believe that our Modern English will remain, to some extent, the way it is today because of our use of technology, expansive libraries, and global communication but there is no question in my mind that the language will be noticeably altered in some way in the future. Language has been slightly changed in some way just within the past ten years. It is in the hands of the young people of our world to change a language based on the way they communicate in the world they live in. It is important to understand how the English language has changed throughout history in order to understand how the language will be shaped in the future. The pattern of change will continue like it has in the past through social factors including texting, the Internet, pop culture and other types of media.

Throughout the history of the English language, language changes based on social factors a lot of the time. Language change also occurs based on the needs of those speaking it and for what purpose they use the language. In our case, Language is used to quickly transmit

information in the most efficient way possible. The youth of our world are the most involved with technology, the latest movies, music, video games, etc. Kids today are using computers by the age of 3 which encourages them to learn how to read and understand computers more than I ever did at that age or, more importantly, extremely more than the retired community today. Today's youth are constantly attached to their phones and media devices where information constantly flows in and out of their brains at such a high pace. This speed of information requires a speed of communication to match it, which is where language change comes into play. With email, Facebook, Twitter, and texting, the goal is to communicate as quickly as possible with someone. The change in language begins at first on the screen of our cell phones or wherever the message is being sent and then continues to grow through the spoken language. SMS is not only typed between texts but is also being spoken as a new slang. For example, "lol" standing for laugh out loud will be said after something is funny instead of actually laughing out loud. "Brb" is another one people say when they will "be right back" or "Omg" standing for Oh my goodness" when someone is surprised or shocked. These are the most basic SMS forms but are good examples of how text message language is now being spoken aloud.

Language has changed throughout history based on the speaker's interests as well as practicality. In the middle ages, people's interest was in chivalry and survival where today our interest is in what's popular on television, politics, music, etc. Language is shaped by what the society needs at the time or what it is being used for. Language reflects the time and in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the focus is not on chivalric actions or barbaric lifestyles. Our society is so driven by movies and music that, in my experience at least, people use phrases or quotes from music or movies in general conversation where it fits to make sense. Throughout my daily life when talking casually with friends we, more often than not, quote movies or talk based on the language

produced from whatever film is most popular or funny at the time. We care so much about pop culture and celebrities that we at times try to mimic them including their language. I have experienced this first hand because I see my younger brother's watch Disney Channel shows and then repeat the way they talk including the inflections and vocabulary. They take the language they here on TV and use it in their daily life. This connects with language we learn from sites like YouTube. When a funny video comes out, it is streaming all over the Internet and on Facebook. These videos are then quoted and enter our language.

At the rate the language is going from SMS, movie and TV influence and the internet, I predict that the new language in the future will be a new "I-language", "I" standing for Internet like "Iphone" or other "I" devices. This "I- language" will not necessarily change to one specific thing but will continue to reflect whatever pop culture phenomenon happening at the time. The reflection will change monthly based on what the newest video is or what society is interested in at the time. We are at a place in our history where language is harder to loose because we have all the technological devices to keep us all in touch. In the middle ages, it was easier to looks a language type because of conquests or change in location. Present day English is as permanent as it ever will be looking at our past and will only change slightly for the reasons that society demands. Spellings may be changed based on SMS eventually and new words will enter the dictionary reflecting pop culture or political media. One thing that will accelerate is the continuous speed in communication. The way we communicate today will be half the speed of what it will be in the future. The history of the English language is at a point where speed and entertainment take priority so the language will reflect just that.