

**Dr. BRR GOVT DEGREE COLLEGE JADCHERLA**

**Department of English**



**A PROJECT REPORT**

**ON**

**“Old English”**

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## DECLARATION

We are hereby declare that the study project: “Old English” is a record of work done by under the supervision of M JAGAN, faculty of English, Government Degree College, Jadcherla, Mahabubnagar District and that the project has not been previously done by any others in this college and any other college/University.

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Date : 27/06/2022

Place : Jadcherla

## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the Study project on “Old English” is a bonafide Project work done by students listed below

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# OLD ENGLISH

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### OLD ENGLISH

Today English is the most important language and it is the most spoken language.

Than any other, Now a days it is a universal language of trade, communication etc. and it is the only language where people more knowledge about that have excluding their mother tongue, and where people of the whole world would understand even if you own not much knowledge about English language. But today it is more important to use it, than to know the origins. And that is a good reason to investigate about how the English language has originated.

Old English then were called as Anglo-Saxon it was spoken between the mid.

- 5<sup>th</sup> until to the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Old English didn't sound and the writings didn't look English now Even native speakers would have great difficult to understand the old English language but much words of English Today's have old English roots

Old English origins are based mainly on Germanic tribes, but also from influences like.

From:

Latin influence Norse (scandinavian) influence and the Celtic influence old English also has a great origination history so I mention below the periods to become more knowledge how the English language has originated. The old English periods between 600(BC) till 1066(AD)

### THE OLD ENGLAND HISTORY:

The first inhabitation of British was the Celts who came from central Europe. About 600(BC) after the Celts the Romans occupied Britain. The Romans occupied Britain in the beginning of the first century 43(AD) till the beginning of the fifth century. In (450-1066) the Anglo-Saxons conquest England it is said that three Germanic tribes occupied Great Britain at first the Angles located in a district today called as Schleswig Holstein in Germany on second the Saxons called as

Niedersachsen (also Germany) and at last the Jutes from Jutland (Denmark) old English was divided into four main dialects: west Saxon, Mercian, northumbrian and Kentish. In the sixth century the most important kingdom was Kent where Ethelbert was the first English king who was converted to Christianity. In the seventh century was it Northumbria. In the ninth century was it Wessex kingdom.

During the years 790-1066 we have the Danish invasions of Vikings in Britain. They were Germanic tribes and they came from Denmark, Norway and Sweden and they were pagans (pagan means; a person who believes in many gods) so not like a Christian and here plays Alfred the Great (871-899) a big role he was king to whom a higher name (status). (King Alfred fought them in great battles but he couldn't defeat them so really. So he had to let them be a part of the country.

It is sad the reason why the Vikings attacked England and monasteries has treasures such as gold treasures, Jewel treasure etc and they looked for better land for their farms and thus England was a fortune country for them.

### THE OLD ENGLISH LITERATURE;

There are about 400 manuscripts that have survived 189 of them are major. But there are four of the most important manuscripts that have been declared these four are;

-The Junius manuscripts, also known as the Caedmon manuscripts it contains works such as; Genesis, Exodus, Daniel and Christ and Satan. Franciscus Junius in the year of 1655 published for the first time the contents in the manuscripts.

-The Exeter book, located in the Exeter cathedral in England since it was donated there in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, it was donated by Leofric the first bishop of Exeter (Exeter is a church in England in the province of Canterbury)

-The Vercelli book a mix of poetry and it is located in Vercelli in Italy it has 135 pages contains 23 prose homilies 6 poetic texts one of these poems is "The dream of the rood" written by Cynewulf. The German Friedrich Bloom has found the manuscripts. "The fates of the apostle" and "Elena" while he was searching for old manuscripts. It is thought that the Vercelli book in the 10<sup>th</sup> century is new written because when the manuscripts were found some pages weren't in the original form.

-The Nowell codex this manuscript is famous because it contains the most interesting manuscripts Beowulf. This manuscript is located in London in the British library also it contains fragments like (Letter of Alexander to Aristotle, wonder of the east and Judith). But we mention once again Beowulf on its time was the important work of the Anglo



Saxons. It is a heroic epic poem which is noted with 3182 lines for its length.

#### **THE OLD ENGLISH POETRY;**

The old English poetry is of two types; the one is the heroic Germanic pre-Christian and the second is the Christian. These type of poetry have survived in the most part of these four manuscripts that are mention above (JUNIUS, EXCTER, VERELLI AND NOWELL MANUSCRIPTS) main representatives (poets) of the old English period; just twelve poets are known by name today and four of this twelve are known period started English language in the middle age was more used in the chancery standard which was developed by king Henry the fifth thus more than Anglo-Norman or Latin. It had become broadly standardized by the 14305. In that time the dialects were more based on London and east midland dialects. In the Middle English period spelling has not yet been formalized in a systematic way and many lationate terms such as substance (Latin substantia) and temptation (Latin temptation) have entered English through intermediary French influence under the Norman conquerors in 1066. Up then slowly and slowly Middle English comes up to modern English.