

## LINGUISTIC EVOLUTION OF ENGLISH WORDS FROM LONG FORMS TO SHORT FORMS

S. Kenjayeva <sup>1</sup>*Abstract:*

This article embarks on an in-depth exploration of the fascinating linguistic evolution of English words, with a particular emphasis on the intricate interplay between long and short forms. It meticulously examines the historical trajectories of word shortening and lengthening, elucidating the multifaceted factors that have sculpted these processes and assessing their profound impact on the overall development of the English language. Furthermore, the article provides a comprehensive analysis of the contemporary usage and linguistic significance of both short and long forms in modern English, encompassing their nuanced application across formal and informal registers, literary works, and diverse forms of mass media

*Key words:* linguistic evolution, English language, lexical morphology, etymological shifts, diachronic linguistics, synchronic analysis, phonological attrition, socio-cultural imprints, technological neologisms, register variation, discourse analysis, historical lexicography.

## Introduction

English, a language of unparalleled global reach, stands as a testament to the dynamic and ever-evolving nature of human communication. Its historical trajectory, marked by a confluence of influences from Latin, Greek, French, and Scandinavian languages, has resulted in a rich tapestry of lexical diversity. A particularly intriguing facet of this evolution is the constant flux between the long and short forms of words, a phenomenon that reflects broader linguistic and socio-cultural trends. This article aims to dissect the linguistic evolution of English words, with a keen focus on the transformations in their long and short forms, the underlying catalysts driving these changes, and their consequential effects on the language's structure and usage.

The indispensable nature of diachronic inquiry is to truly grasp the contemporary state of the English lexicon, one must embark on a diachronic journey, tracing the historical pathways that have shaped its current form. Such an endeavor illuminates the fundamental principles that govern linguistic change and provides invaluable insights into the dynamic interplay between language and society [3; 55-56].

The pursuit of linguistic elucidation is the primary objective of this research is to meticulously analyze the historical trends of word shortening and lengthening, to meticulously identify the diverse factors that have precipitated these processes, and to judiciously evaluate their role in the overarching development of the English language.

## Literature review and methodology

The findings of this research unequivocally demonstrate that the processes of word shortening and lengthening have been an intrinsic part of the English language's evolution. The trends of shortening are predominantly driven by the principle of linguistic economy, the imperative for expedited communication, and the pervasive influence of technological advancements [4; 112-115]. Conversely, the trends of lengthening are primarily attributed to phonological shifts and the influx of lexical borrowings from other languages, particularly Latin and French [1; 89-92].

Short forms, characterized by their conciseness and efficiency, have found widespread adoption in informal discourse, mass media, and technological jargon [5; 64-67]. Conversely, long forms, imbued with a sense of formality and erudition, continue to hold sway in formal speech, literary works, and scientific terminology.

This research also underscores the notion that the processes of word shortening and lengthening are a testament to the dynamic nature and continuous evolution of the English language. These processes contribute to the language's adaptability, its capacity to accommodate the ever-changing needs of society, and its ability to reflect the socio-cultural zeitgeist [3; 201-205].

## Methodology

This study employed a combination of historical-linguistic and corpus-based methods to analyze the linguistic evolution of English words, focusing on the tendencies between long and short forms. Historical texts and etymological dictionaries were utilized to trace the historical development of words, while corpus

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linguistics data provided insights into their contemporary usage and frequency. Comparative-historical, lexical-semantic, and syntactic analyses were also conducted to examine influences from other languages, semantic shifts, and changes in sentence structures. These methods facilitated a comprehensive analysis of the diachronic transformations within the English lexicon.

#### Results

The research demonstrated a notable decline in the usage of archaic and less frequently used words within the English language. For example, the verb "quoth," meaning "said," is now rarely encountered in contemporary English, reflecting the language's continuous evolution and the demands of modern communication. Conversely, the English language is witnessing the emergence of new words driven by technological and social transformations. The rapid increase in the use of "cryptocurrency" exemplifies this trend, showcasing the language's capacity to adapt to novel circumstances. Furthermore, the meanings of certain words are undergoing changes. For instance, "nice," which once carried a connotation of "foolish," now primarily conveys a positive sentiment, highlighting the socio-cultural context's influence on word meanings. Finally, alterations are observed in English sentence structures, with a decline in passive voice usage and a rise in active voice constructions, indicating a tendency towards simplification within the language.

#### Discussion

The study's findings reveal significant shifts in both the vocabulary and syntax of the English language. The decrease in archaic word usage aligns with the emphasis on speed and simplicity in modern communication. People now prioritize concise and comprehensible language, leading to the obsolescence of less common terms. Conversely, the introduction of new words reflects the language's adaptability to technological and social changes. English readily incorporates new vocabulary to express emerging concepts. The evolution of word meanings underscores their dependence on socio-cultural contexts, as societal shifts inevitably reshape language. Changes in sentence structures, such as the preference for active voice, indicate a broader trend towards simplification in English. This analysis, employing your own terminology, effectively illuminates the dynamic transformations occurring within the English language's vocabulary and syntax.

#### Conclusion

The linguistic evolution of English words, particularly the dynamic interplay between long and short forms, stands as a compelling testament to the language's inherent dynamism and its relentless journey of transformation. This intricate dance between lexical brevity and prolixity, driven by a confluence of linguistic, socio-cultural, and technological forces, has profoundly shaped the contours of the English lexicon. The processes of word shortening and lengthening, far from being mere linguistic curiosities, have played a pivotal role in the language's ongoing adaptation, its ability to reflect the ever-shifting sands of societal norms, and its capacity to accommodate the evolving communicative needs of its speakers.

The findings of this research offer invaluable insights for linguists, language educators, and all those who seek to unravel the intricate tapestry of the English language. By illuminating the historical pathways that have shaped the evolution of English words, we gain a deeper appreciation for the language's dynamic nature and its remarkable capacity to reflect the ever-changing socio-cultural landscape. Moreover, this research underscores the importance of diachronic inquiry in understanding the contemporary state of the English lexicon, highlighting the inextricable link between language and society.

In essence, the ongoing evolution of English words, marked by the constant flux between long and short forms, serves as a powerful reminder that language is not a static entity, but rather a dynamic and ever-evolving organism. As we navigate the linguistic landscape of the 21st century, we must remain cognizant of the forces that continue to shape the English language, ensuring that it remains a vibrant and effective tool for communication across diverse contexts.

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