

**НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ АВІАЦІЙНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ**  
**Факультет лінгвістики та соціальних комунікацій**  
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**КОНСПЕКТ ЛЕКЦІЙ**

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## Lecture 1

### INTRODUCTION. GEOGRAPHIC POSITION OF THE UK

1. The subject of Linguo-Country studies.
2. Introduction. Where is the UK?
3. Basic facts of the UK.
4. The meaning of some names.
5. Seas surrounding the UK.
6. The Land.
7. Population.
8. Politics. Military. Economy: General Remarks

#### Recommended literature:

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**1. Linguo-country studies** is a branch of linguistics whose main tasks are to find the links between the language and culture of the people who are the native speakers.

Why do we study this subject?

The issue of culture being a part of the classroom setting in two complementary viewpoints is discussed by Tavares and Cavalcanti who point out that "culture is not only present in the classroom setting but also in the language that is being taught" (Tavares, Cavalcanti 1966 : 18). Culture and language are thus interrelated and language is used as the main medium through which culture is expressed. We can therefore agree that bringing cultural studies of English speaking countries closer to students will help them to better understand the language, its background and usage. And vice versa. Better understanding of the language will help the students to accept a foreign culture and also their own culture.

Our task among others is to make you aware that although some culture elements are being globalized, there is still diversity among cultures" which you should learn to treat with understanding and respect.

## **2. Where is the UK?**

The UK is an island nation in Western Europe just off the coast of France

The UK lies between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea, and comes within 34 km (22 miles) of the northwest coast of France, from which it is separated by the English Channel. Northern Ireland shares an international land boundary with the Republic of Ireland. The Channel Tunnel bored beneath the English Channel, now links the UK with France. Interesting Fact: No one in the UK lives more than 120 km (75 miles) from the sea.

UK: The long title: The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is usually shortened to the United Kingdom or the UK. With an area of around 250, 000 sq km (93,000 sq mi), the UK is just under 1,000 km (about 600 mi) from the South coast to the extreme North of Scotland and just under 500 km (about 300 mi) across at the widest point.

The island of Great Britain contains three "nations" which were separate at earlier stages of their history: England, Scotland and Wales. Wales (with its capital city Cardiff) has become part of the English administrative system by the 16 century. Scotland (poetically called Caledonia with its capital city Edinburgh) was not completely united with England until 1707. The United Kingdom is the name, which was introduced in 1801 when Great Britain was united with Ireland. When the Republic of Ireland became independent of London, the title was changed to its present form. (The capital city of Northern Ireland is Belfast).

**3. Basic facts of the UK.** Official name: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Form of government: constitutional monarchy with two legislative houses (House of Lords; House of Commons). Chief of state: Sovereign. Head of government: Prime Minister. Land use (2017): forest 10%; pasture 29%; agriculture 27%; peat bogs 10%, built-on territory 6%... 83% of the population lives in towns and cities.

Around 63 million people live in the UK. They can be divided into four big nationalities based on the countries where they live. These countries, and the names of the people and language spoken there, are as follows:

- England is the biggest country, and the one where most people in the UK live. People who live in England are called English. Their native language is called English, which is spoken by almost everyone in the UK and has become a global lingua franca. A few people in the southwest part of England can speak Cornish (корнуэльська), a Celtic language.
- Scotland, to the north of England, is the second biggest country. People who live here are called Scottish, and some speak languages called Scottish Gaelic, a Celtic language, or Scots, which is a lot like English but is different from it.
- Wales is to the west of England. Its people are called Welsh and have their own Celtic language which is also called Welsh. Not everyone in Wales can speak Welsh, but almost everyone can speak English.
- Northern Ireland is on the island of Ireland, which is west of Great Britain where the other three countries are on. Some Irish people live here and speak Irish, another Celtic language, or Ulster Scots, a dialect of the language spoken in Scotland.

The British Isles is the geographical name that refers to all the islands: Great Britain, the whole of Ireland (northern and Southern), and smaller adjacent islands. These islands form an archipelago of more than 1000 islands off the west coast of Europe, the most important being:

-Great Britain

-The island of Ireland, which comprises Ireland as well as Northern Ireland

-the Isle of Man (a Crown Dependency of Britain but not part of the UK)

-The Isle of Wight (county of England)

-The Northern Isles, including Orkney, Shetland and Fair Isle (Scotland)

- The Hebrides (Scotland)

-Anglesey (Wales)

**4. What some names mean.** The word Britain derives from Britannia, the name given by the Romans to the area, inhabited by Brits, and which is now England, Scotland and Wales. By 1603 one king ruled Scotland, Wales and England, and the island became known as Great Britain. Britain or Great Britain is the largest island in Europe. The next largest island is Ireland. It is made up of Northern Ireland (or Ulster- Ольстер) and the Irish Republic (or Eire- Ейре). In 1801 Ireland also officially came under British rule and England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland became known collectively as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. In 1937 Southern Ireland was established as Eire, an independent sovereign state. The United Kingdom became known as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, or, more commonly known as the United Kingdom.

The Flag of the UK (sometimes wrongly called the Union Jack, but Union Flag is actually the correct name as it only becomes a "Jack" when flown from a ship's jack mast.) is made up of the flags of England (St. George's cross is the upright red cross), Ireland (St. Patrick's cross - the red diagonal cross) and Scotland (St. Andrew's cross - the white diagonal cross). The Welsh flag, called the Welsh dragon, bears the red dragon on the white and green background. St. David is the patron saint of Wales.

The national emblem of England is the rose. The national emblem of Scotland is the purple thistle

(чортополох). The national emblem of Ireland is the shamrock (трилисник). Wales has got two national symbols. These are the daffodil (нарцис) and the leek.

It's important to note that collectively the people of Great Britain are called 'the British', or 'Britons', while separately they are the English, the Welsh, or the Scottish (Scots). 'North Britons' refers to the Scotch. Similarly, 'the Irish' refers collectively to the people of Ireland. At one time the four nations were distinct from each other in almost every aspect of life. They were different racially. The people in Ireland, Wales and highland Scotland belonged to the Celtic race; those in England and lowland Scotland were mainly of Germanic origin. This difference was reflected in the languages they spoke. People in the Celtic areas spoke Celtic languages: Irish Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh. People in the Germanic areas spoke Germanic dialects (including the one which has developed into modern English). Today these differences have become blurred. But they have not completely disappeared.

Although there is only one government for the whole Britain, and people have the same passport regardless of where in Britain they live, some aspects of government are organized separately in the four parts of the United Kingdom. Moreover, Welsh, Scottish and Irish people feel their identity very strongly.

There are two major symbols of Britain, Britannia and John Bull. Britannia is an ancient name of Great Britain that the Romans gave to it. It is also the name given to female embodiment of Britain always shown wearing a helmet, sitting on a globe, holding a trident and leaning on a shield. She represents Britain as a victorious and maritime nation. The most likely origin of this symbol is Queen Boudicca. The figure of Britannia has been on the reverse side of many British coins. John Bull is a national personification of Great Britain similar to the American "Uncle Sam". He is sometimes used to refer to the whole of the UK, but Scottish and Welsh people do not widely accept him and he is viewed there as English rather than British. John Bull is an imaginary figure which is shown in cartoons and caricatures. His appearance is typical of a gentleman or a prosperous farmer of the 18th century. John Bull is usually depicted as a stout man in a tailcoat with breeches and a Union Flag waistcoat. He also wears a low topper (sometimes called "a John Bull topper") on his head and is often accompanied by a bulldog. His appearance represents prosperity as plump faces at that time were the symbol of good health. As for real John Bull, such a man did exist and he was an organist and he is thought to be the composer of the melody to the National anthem "God Save the Queen" which was found amongst his papers when he died.

Albion is a poetic name for Britain; it comes from the ancient name of Britain, specifically England. The Romans associated the term with albus ("white"), and identified it with the Dover chalk cliffs. Caledonia, Cambria and Hibernia were the Roman names for Scotland, Wales and Ireland. The words are commonly used today in scholarly classifications and for the names of organizations. Erin is a poetic name for Ireland. "The Emerald Isle" is another way of referring to Ireland, evoking the lush greenery of its countryside. What once used to be the British Empire is now known as the Commonwealth. The term is used to describe the relations between Great Britain and her former colonies that have become politically independent but still have some links with Great Britain. From 1931 to 1953 they used the phrase with the word "British": the British Commonwealth of Nations.

**5. Seas surrounding the UK.** The UK is made up of several islands. The only land border connecting the UK to another country is between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The UK is bordered by four seas: • to the south by the English Channel, which separates it from continental Europe • to the east by the North Sea • to the west by the Irish Sea and the Atlantic Ocean

Facts • London is built along the River Thames • Three quarters of the land in Britain is used for farming • Nine out of ten people live in towns and cities • The highest mountains are in Scotland and Wales • More than two-thirds of people own their own homes The overall climate in England is called temperate maritime. This means that it is mild with temperatures not much lower than 0°C in winter and not much higher than 32°C in summer. It also means that it is damp and is subject to frequent changes. •

**6. Land:** The total area of the United Kingdom according to the Office for National Statistics is 250,000 square kilometers, comprising the island of Great Britain, the northeastern one-sixth of the island of Ireland (Northern Ireland) and many smaller islands. England is the largest country of the United Kingdom, at 132,938 square kilometres (51,330 sq mi) accounting for just over half the total area of the UK. Scotland at 80,239 square kilometres (30,980 sq mi), is second largest, accounting for about a third of the area of the UK. Wales and Northern Ireland are much smaller, covering 21,225 and 14,130 square kilometres (8,200 and 5,460 sq mi) respectively.

The UK is the world's 80th largest country by land area and the 10th largest in Europe (if European

Russia is included).

Geographical extremes: the tallest mountain in the UK (and British Isles) is Ben Nevis, 1344 m in the Grampian Mountains, Scotland. The longest river is the River Severn which flows from Wales into England. The largest lake by surface area is Lough Neagh in Northern Ireland, though Scotland's Loch Ness has the largest volume.

Natural Resources: coal, oil, natural gas, tin, limestone, iron ore, salt, clay, chalk, gypsum, lead, silica, arable land .

Lakes Northern Ireland is also home to the UK's largest lake, Lough Neagh, which covers an area of 396sq.km (153 sq miles). Other major lakes include Windermere in the English Lake District and Loch Lomond in Scotland. Another of Scotland's lakes, Loch Ness is famous for sightings of 'Nessie', a mythical monster!

**7. Population:** According to the 2011 census, the total population of the United Kingdom was around 63,182,000. It is the 22nd most populated country in the world. Its overall population density is 259 people per square kilometre (671 people per sq mi), with England having a significantly higher population density than Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Almost one-third of the population lives in England's southeast, which is predominantly urban and suburban, with about 9 million in the capital city of London.

## **8. Politics. Military. Economy: General Remarks.**

### **Politics**

The UK is a parliamentary democracy based on a constitutional and hereditary monarchy. The people of the United Kingdom vote for members of Parliament to speak for them and to make laws for them. Queen Elizabeth II is the queen of the UK and is the head of state. Even though she is the head of state, she does not actually govern the country. The government, led by the Prime Minister, governs the country and decides policy. Today, the Prime Minister is Boris Johnson, who is the leader of the Conservative party and was not directly elected by the people of the country.

Parliament is where laws are made. It has three parts: the House of Commons, the House of Lords, and the Queen. The House of Commons is the most powerful part. It is where Members of Parliament sit. The people who sit in the House of Lords are called peers: they are not chosen by the people. Most peers are now appointed by the government. There are some who are hereditary peers (their fathers were peers); and a few others, such as certain bishops in the established Church of England, and the Judiciary (Law Lords).

Scotland has its own devolved (автономный) Parliament with power to make laws on things like education, health and Scottish law. Northern Ireland and Wales have their own devolved Assemblies which have some powers but less than the Scottish parliament. The UK Parliament remains sovereign and it could end the devolved administrations at any time.

### **Military**

The UK has a military of around 223,000 people, not including reserve forces. The UK has one of the most advanced military in the world, alongside such countries as the USA and France, and operates a large army (British Army), a sizable navy (Royal Navy) and air force (Royal Air Force). From the 18th century to the early 20th century, the UK was one of the most powerful nations in the world, with a huge navy (due to the fact it was surrounded by sea, so a large navy was the most practical option). This status has faded in recent times, but the UK remains a member of various military groups such as the UN Security Council and NATO. It is also still seen as a great military power.

### **Economy**

The UK is a developed country with the sixth largest economy in the world. It was a superpower during the 18th, 19th and early 20th century and was considered since the early 1800s to be the most powerful and influential nation in the world, in politics, economics (For it was the wealthiest country at the time.) and in military strength. Britain continued to be the biggest manufacturing economy in the world until 1908 and the largest economy until the 1920s. The economic cost of two world wars and the decline of the British Empire in the 1950s and 1960s reduced its leading role in global affairs. The UK has strong economic, cultural, military and political influence and is a nuclear power. It is a member state of the European Union at the moment, but is planning on leaving after Brexit was voted for. The UK holds a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, and is a member of the G7, NATO, World Trade Organization and the Commonwealth of Nations.

## Lecture 2

### SKETCHES ON BRITISH HISTORY

1. The early days of Britain.
2. The Tribes of Celts.
3. Romans invade Britain.
4. The Anglo-Saxon Conquest of Britain.
5. Danish invaders in England. Vikings on the British Isles.
6. Norman Conquest of England.
7. The Great Charter and how the English Parliament started. The Age of Chivalry.
8. The Peasants' Revolt in the 14th century. Britain in the Middle Ages. Oliver Cromwell
9. Tragedies.
10. Chartism.
11. The British Empire.
12. Modern Times.

#### 1. The Early Days of Britain

About 3000 years BC people came from the north of Spain (**the Iberian Peninsula**) to many parts of Europe including the British Isles. So, those people who lived on the territory of Great Britain in the earliest times were of the Iberian origin. The Iberians used **stone weapons and tools**. One of the mysterious monuments of prehistoric Britain is **Stonehenge**. It was constructed before 2000 BC and is a trace of the ancestors of the British people. Stonehenge is a circle of huge stone slabs. It is situated in the southern part of **England**. Why exactly it was built is unknown, but it may have **religious and political** significance. No one can tell for sure how these large stones were moved or from what places they were brought. Stonehenge is still a mystery to scholars and to all the descendants.

#### 2. The Tribes of Celts

In the 7th century BC the Iberians faced a great problem because the British Isles were invaded by the Celts. The Celts may originally have come from **eastern and central Europe**. Celtic people lived in tribes. Each tribe was ruled by its own **queen or king** who represented a warrior class. The priests, called **druids**, were important members of Celtic tribes. These druids could not read or write but they memorized all the religious teaching, the tribal laws, history, medicine and natural philosophy. According to the Romans, the Celtic men wore shirts and bridges and striped or checked cloak fastened by a pin. It is possible that the Scottish tartan and dress developed from this type of cloak. Celtic tribes were represented by the **Picts, the Scots and the Britons**. The Picts settled in the mountains in the North. Some Picts and several tribes of the Scots settled in Ireland. But later the Scots decided to return from Ireland to the larger island of present-day Great Britain. They chose its northern part. Now this part is called Scotland. The Britons were the most powerful of all the Celtic tribes and they occupied **most of the country** including island's southern half. It was named Britain after them. The Britons chose land for living along the rivers or near the coasts of the sea. What they did was **fishing, growing wheat and breeding sheep in the meadows**. The Iberians were weak compared to the Celts. They could not fight back because the Celts were well-armed with metal **spears, swords and axes**. Hardly anything is left of the Celtic languages except for the names of some rivers — **the Thames, the Mersey, the Severn and the Avon and two large cities — London and Leeds**.

#### 3. Romans invade Britain

The Roman Empire became extremely strong in the 1st century BC. This Empire was the last and greatest civilization of the ancient world. At that time two thousand years ago the Celtic people were still living in tribes. And Roman society, of course, was very much different from the Celts in many ways. Romans first attacked Britain in **55–54 BC under Julius Caesar**. But they really conquered Britain in the **1st century AD**, in **43 AD when the Roman Emperor Claudius** decided to make Britain part of the Roman Empire. And Britain became one of its numerous provinces. They forced the population to pay tribute. The Romans kept their armies in Britain. They had the country under control. They drove their barbaric enemies, **the Scots to the mountains of Ireland and the Picts to the mountains of the far north**. To protect themselves from the attacks of the Picts, the Romans built the wall known as **Hadrian's Wall**. Hadrian's Wall (120 kilometres long and four metres high) was built by Emperor Hadrian and is well-known all over the world. But from the **3rd century** the Scots, "the tattooed ones", from the mountains of Ireland and the Picts from present-day

Scotland began to press Hadrian's wall. As for the Britons, the Romans remained in control of **Pretony** (that is how they called Britain using its Greco-Roman name) for nearly 400 years. The Britons (the descendants of the Celts) had given history a famous figure **Boadicea** (or Boudicca). There is a monument to this fearless queen in London opposite Big Ben. It depicts herself driving a war chariot with two daughters lying dead at her feet. Many Britons obeyed the Romans. And it became clear that nothing could stop the Romans, but some of them revolted and in **61 AD the Iceni tribe** (which is now East Anglia) led by their queen, Boadicea, revolted. She destroyed their capital Londinium (London now) before the Romans defeated her. Boadicea thought that death would be better than captivity and, as it is written in the history books, first she gave poison to her daughters and, then took it herself. When the Roman soldiers found her she was already dead. To this time perhaps belongs the origin of **London as a city**. There was certainly a place of some kind known as London at the time of the invasion under Claudius. London attained its importance under the Roman rule. They **left the country** only in the second half of the **5th** century because the Roman army was called back to fight in **Gaul** (France) where it defended the country from barbaric peoples. The Romans left great heritage after them — the towns with streets, markets and shops; the houses with baths and central heating, sewage, drainage; the use of the Latin language and the new religion (**Christianity**).

#### **4. The Anglo-Saxon Conquest of Britain**

The Celts remained independent when the Roman armies left Britain, but it did not last long. Already in the **4th** century Britain was raided by the **Germanic tribes** — **the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes**. The tribes of Angles and Saxons came from the territory of modern **Germany and Denmark**. As for the Jutes, their tribe was smaller and they came from **Juteland** (modern northern Denmark). All beautiful towns and buildings left by the Romans were destroyed by these barbaric people. Of all three tribes, the Angles became the strongest. Later two tribes of the Angles and the Saxons united and were called Anglo-Saxons. These Anglo-Saxon people are the ancestors of the English. They called their speech English and their country — England, **that is "the Land of Angles"**. The British Celts (the Britons) fought the raiders. But they took houses, fields and cattle from the Britons. So the Britons had to go to the mountains in the far West and settle there. The Saxons called that place "**Weallas**" or "**Wales**" meaning "*the land of the foreigners*". This part of Britain is called Wales now. Other Celts were driven into the lands in the North which became known as Scotland. So, Wales and the highlands of Scotland are inhabited by the oldest Scots called today "the Celtic fringe of the island". Anglo-Saxons founded **10 separate kingdoms**, the most powerful of which were **Wessex, Sussex, Essex, Kent, East Anglia, Mercia and Northumbria**. These seven are known as **heptarchy** and they are now some of the counties of Great Britain. The strength of Anglo-Saxon culture is obvious even today. **Days of the week** are named after **Germanic Gods**. This conquest of Britain by Germanic tribes is regarded as the beginning of the medieval history of the country.

#### **5. Danish invaders in England. Vikings on the British Isles**

Since Anglo-Saxons settled in Britain their way of life had changed greatly. The **Danes**, on the contrary, were still a **pagan** people with old gods. And Anglo-Saxons had already forgotten about these gods. At the end of the **8th** century the Danes did the same what the Anglo-Saxons did four centuries earlier. The Danes began to attack Britain, coming in 3 or 4 ships. The main aim of their attacks was to plunder the British coasts as well as the central part of the country. English kingdoms could not protect themselves because they did not have either a regular army or a fleet. No coastguards watched the coasts. That is why the Danish raids were successful and they came when nobody expected it. The situation with roads in England was even worse. The Danes returned many times. But after many battles, they finally took the crown from the English and became the masters for **24 years**. The area that the Danes conquered was called "**Danelaw**", and ransom (money) that the British paid to them was called "**Danegeld**". During the 8th and the 9th centuries there were also Scandinavian invaders who wanted to conquer Britain. They were the **Vikings**. In **789** the Vikings began to attack the British Isles. They came from **Norway, Sweden and Denmark and were called Norsemen**. They made **York** the capital of their kingdom. The Vikings brought their language, traditions, art and built towns in England. The English got rid of the Vikings only in the **10th** century.

#### **6. The Norman Conquest of England**

To make it clear we should remember: before the Normans, there were four different peoples who invaded England. They were: **the Celts** (the 6th century BC) **the Romans** (the 1st century AD) **the Anglo-Saxons** (the 5th century) **the Vikings** (the end of the 8th century)



The Norman Conquest was the fifth invasion. And it is so well-known because it was the last invasion of Britain. In the **11th** century the Normans came to England from **Normandy**. They were Norsemen who had already settled in the northern part of France. This means that the Normans adopted the French language, French manners, customs and way of life, because they lived among French people. On October 14th, **1066, King William (Duke of Normandy) defeated the army of the English King Harold in the Battle of Hastings**. No matter how hard the people of England tried to defend their country, the Normans were still much stronger than the Anglo-Saxons. The Normans made many poor English people their own *serfs*. Besides this they burnt their houses and killed them. When William, Duke of Normandy, was crowned, he became the King of England. He settled in London and was called **William the Conqueror**. For **500** years the Normans were masters of Britain. A great number of important changes are connected with the Normans. They brought with them **Latin** and **French** civilizations, the laws and the organization of the land. Many Latin and French words penetrated into the Old English language. **Commerce and trade** grew very quickly, but the population grew even faster. London became a busy, rich and crowded city. The Normans did their best to make it look beautiful. At that time the **Tower of London** was built on the Thames and it stands there still unchanged. **Westminster Abbey** was finished and William was the first King to be crowned there. Since then all English kings were crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1169 Henry II of England authorised an invasion of Ireland, following which a large part of the country came under the control of Anglo-Norman magnates. Wales came under English rule during the **13th century**, during the reign of Edward I; but the continuing strength of Welsh national feeling was shown by a rising at the beginning of the 15th century.

#### **7. The Great Charter and how the English Parliament started. The Age of Chivalry**

For about two centuries after the Norman Conquest foreign kings ruled over England. The barons were forced to pay tribute. The King also took great sums of money for the wars in Europe. In **1215** the barons revolted. They wrote a document which was called **Magna Carta or the Great Charter**. King John had to sign it. In this document the rights of the Englishmen were written down and the power of the King became limited. **In 1265 a council of 25 barons** was chosen to take control over the King. That was the beginning of the English Parliament. The word "parliament" is of French origin meaning "a meeting for discussion". Later in **1350** the Parliament was divided into two houses. The 13th century is also known as the **age of chivalry**. **Edward III and his son Black Prince** were prominent figures then. They both became the symbols of chivalry and man-like behaviour. They showed the way a perfect knight should behave: to protect his honour, to help a lady and to serve the God.

#### **8. The Peasants' Revolt in the 14th century. Britain in the Middle Ages. Oliver Cromwell**

During the Middle Ages Englishmen suffered from numerous wars outside and within the country. The 14th century was a century of social unrest, because in the 1330's England began a long struggle against the French throne. This war with France lasted for more than a hundred years but is known as the **Hundred Years' War** (it began in **1337** and came to an end in **1453**). The French won and forced the English to leave France. The common people paid for that war. Everyone over the age of 15 had to pay a tax of one shilling. Naturally, the peasants did not want to pay the tax and the people of England were tired of the war with France. Large groups gathered together and marched to London. Wat Tyler was at the head of these groups. The King lived in the Tower of London at that time. When the groups came to the walls of the Tower Wat (Bot) Tyler went to speak to the King, but King's soldiers killed him. The war that was within the country was called the **War of the Roses**. This war was because of dynastic **crisis between two Houses (the Lancasters – red rose and the Yorks – white rose)**. This crisis led to the civil war (1455–1485) when they were struggling for the English Throne. Finally, the Tudors won (division from Lancasters) and came to the throne. In the **16th** century the powerful **Tudor Dynasty** ruled Britain (to make peace between dynasties, the Tudors originated a pink rose )

Henry VIII, a member of the dynasty, is known as a very cruel king who murdered many people. He was also the founder of Anglican Church. Mary, Henry's daughter, was called Bloody Mary. She was also very cruel. It was Queen Mary, who ordered to burn hundreds of Protestants. Another Henry's daughter **Elizabeth I** was the Queen of Britain for 45 years (1558-1603). Her reign was glorious. She is thought to be the most generous ruler. In the **17th** century Britain was under power of the other dynasty — **the Stuarts**. This time is remembered for the great disagreement between the Stuarts and Parliament, during which the Parliament won victory over the royal dynasty. After this the power of kings of Britain became limited.

**Oliver Cromwell.** King Charles I did not like the idea of Parliament, so he dismissed it in 1629. He ruled the country without any Parliament for eleven years. Only in **1640** the Parliament assembled again. And the Civil War began between the Parliament and the King. It lasted for **12** years and the Parliament won the victory. Oliver Cromwell was at the head of the Parliament at that time. Then King Charles was executed because he was declared an enemy of the country. So, Oliver Cromwell became **the Lord-Protector** of the new republic. However, after his death the government could not rule the country and the Parliament decided to have a king again.

### **9. Tragedies**

**The Plague.** In **June 1665** the greatest epidemic of the Bubonic Plague broke out in London. Bubonic Plague was known as "the Black Death" and has been known in England for centuries. That year many people died of this disease. Most of the population left London and the streets were empty. This epidemic could not be stopped till December. This short period from June to December turned out a real tragedy for Londoners.

**The Great Fire of London.** A year later after the Plague, in 1666 a great tragedy happened again. The Great Fire broke out in September. The fire began late at night not far from London Bridge. Most of the houses in London were built of wood at that time and streets were narrow. So, a hot wind spread the fire so that it could not be stopped for 5 days. Sir Christopher Wren, the famous architect, took part in rebuilding the city. After the fire a lot of houses were destroyed and there were many homeless people. To remind people of this catastrophe the Monument was erected on the spot where the fire had started. Of course, this fire was a tragedy. Nevertheless, the fire burnt out the streets where the plague spread a year before.

### **10. Chartism.**

In the 19th century Great Britain was developing fast. There were many factories all around the country. But still a lot of workers were unemployed. However, those who found some job had to work for **16** hours a day. To fight for their rights the workers joined **Trade Unions**. Everything what they demanded was written in the document called **People's Charter**. This document was sent to many factories with lots of workers. They signed it. But when People's Charter was sent to the House of Commons, it was rejected. The workers organised many strikes all over the country. Many of them were arrested and sent to prisons. The first national political movement of workers in Great Britain was called **Chartism**.

### **11. The British Empire**

The British Isles have a very convenient position where many sea-routes cross. So, in the 17th century Britain was the "workshop of the world" as well as "the mistress of the seas". There are several periods in the British history that got their names from different monarchs. For example, the 18th and the first half of the 19th centuries were called the **Georgian period**, because all the kings who ruled during that time were named George. **The Victorian period** got its name after Queen Victoria who ruled the country for **64** years (1837–1901). These two periods were glorious for Britain because it got a lot of colonies — large territories in **India, Australia, America and Africa**. But some of the colonies which were dependent on the British Empire were self-governing dominions. Among them were **Canada, Australia and New Zealand**. For other countries Britain appointed a monarch. At those times Britain ruled over one quarter of the Earth. In the 19th century the United States and Germany were growing in power and Britain began to lose its position. And the colonial population began to struggle for independence. **In 1947** Britain lost its first two colonies — **India and Pakistan**. But nobody in the ruling class of Britain wanted to lose control over their colonies. So, the former members of the British Empire were united in an association called the **Commonwealth of Nations**. **It was in 1949**. The Commonwealth includes Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and others. The Queen of Great Britain is the Head of the Commonwealth. Queen Elizabeth II is also the Queen of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Britain transformed itself from an agrarian to an industrial society from the 1760s to 1830s, the world's first industrial revolution. The country also developed a powerful navy and merchant fleet. It was the first nation to have a political anti-slavery movement, which led the government to ban the slave trade in 1807 and slavery in 1833–34.

In the 19th century, wealthy and industrialised, Britain became the major world power with an empire that included colonies on every continent. However, the 20th century reversed much of this. Two world wars, failure to keep pace with industrial advance, a severe brain drain and the independence of Commonwealth countries reduced Britain's position on the world stage. But it remains a leading liberal democracy, with art and literature, intellectual freedoms and parliamentary

traditions of lasting influence.

## **12. Modern Times**

Through the 1960s and 70s, the government switched between the Labour and Conservative parties. The general election of 1979, following the ‘winter of discontent’ of continual strikes and industrial unrest, gave a large majority for the then relatively unknown Conservative leader Margaret Thatcher and began a long period of Conservative government.

**Thatcher** implemented a radical programme of **economic liberalisation, privatisation, trade union reform and reduction of public expenditure**. She won the two succeeding elections until she resigned in **1990** following a Tory leadership contest. She was replaced by the **Chancellor of the Exchequer**, John Major, who won the April 1992 elections, with a smaller but still substantial majority.

Led by **Blair**, Labour won the May 1997 elections with the largest majority in its history – 418 seats, against 165 Conservatives, 46 Liberal Democrats and 30 others (mainly representing nationalist interests in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland). Blair became Prime Minister.

The modern **Conservative Party** evolved out of the 18th-century **Tory party** and the **Liberal Democrats** out of the **Whig party**. **The Labour Party**, representing working people, emerged at the end of the 19th century.

### Lecture 3

## SOCIO-CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH

1. Some facts and figures about the English language.
2. A short history of the origins and development of English.
3. The growth and expansion of English.
4. Varieties of English.
5. British English today.
6. Languages in the Countries of the UK.

English, as one of the influential and growing languages, is spoken in areas widely scattered over the globe. It is the native or official language of **one fifth** of the earth's land surface, being used throughout most of the **North American continent and in the British Isles, Australia, New Zealand, and the Republic of South Africa**. Of the languages of colonization it has been the one most important in **Africa, Asia, and the islands of the central and southern Pacific**.

### 1. Some facts and figures about the English Language

According to research conducted by the British Council\*, English has official or special status in at least **seventy-five countries** with a total population of over **two billion**. English is spoken as a **native** language by around **375 million** and as a **second language** by around **375 million** speakers in the world. Around **750 million** people are believed to speak English as a **foreign language**. One out of four of the world's population speak English to some level of competence. The British Council says English is the main language of books, newspapers, airports and air-traffic control, international business and academic conferences, science, technology, diplomacy, sport, international competitions, pop music and advertising. Over two-thirds of the world's scientists read in English. Three quarters of the world's mail is written in English. 80 % of the world's electronically stored information is in English. It is estimated that some eighty per cent communicate in English on the Internet.

### 2. A short history of the origins and development of English

The history of the English language really started with the arrival of three **Germanic tribes** who invaded Britain during the **5th** century AD. These tribes, the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes, crossed the North Sea from what today is Denmark and northern Germany. At that time the inhabitants of Britain spoke a Celtic language. But most of the Celtic speakers were pushed west and north by the invaders - mainly into what is now Wales, Scotland and Ireland (remember the previous lecture). The Angles came from England and their language was called Englisc - from which the words England and English are derived.

**Old English (450-1100 AD)** The invading Germanic tribes spoke similar languages, which in Britain developed into what we now call Old English. Old English did not sound or look like English today. Native English speakers now would have great difficulty understanding Old English. Nevertheless about half of the most commonly used words in Modern English have Old English roots. The words **be, strong and water**, for example, derive from Old English. Old English was spoken until around **1100**.

Names of many basic concepts and things come from **Old English** or **Anglo-Saxon**: *heaven* and *earth*, *love* and *hate*, *life* and *death*, *beginning* and *end*, *day* and *night*, *month* and *year*, *heat* and *cold*, *way* and *path*, *meadow* and *stream*. Cardinal numerals come from Old English, as do all the ordinal numerals except *second* (Old English *other*, which still retains its older meaning in "every other day"). *Second* comes from Latin *secundus*. From Old English come all the personal pronouns (except *they*, *their*, and *them*, which are from Scandinavian), the auxiliary verbs (except the marginal *used*, which is from French), most simple prepositions, and all conjunctions.

**Middle English (1100-1500)** In 1066 William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy (part of modern France), invaded and conquered England. The new conquerors (called the Normans) brought with them a kind of French, which became the language of the **Royal Court**, and the **ruling and business classes**. For a period there was a kind of linguistic class division, where the **lower classes spoke English and the upper classes spoke French**. In the **14th** century English became **dominant** in Britain again, but with many French words added. This language is called Middle English. It was the language of the great **poet Chaucer** (c1340-1400), but it would still be difficult for native English speakers to understand today.

### Modern English. Early Modern English (1500-1800)

Towards the end of Middle English, a sudden and distinct change in pronunciation (*the Great Vowel Shift*) started, with vowels being pronounced shorter and shorter. From the 16th century the British had contact with many peoples from around the world. This, and the Renaissance of Classical learning, meant that many new words and phrases entered the language. The **invention of printing** also meant that there was now a common language in print. In **1476 William Caxton** introduced **the printing press** to England and began publishing the first printed books in London, expanding the influence of this form of English. Literature from **the Early Modern period** includes the works of **William Shakespeare** and the translation of **the Bible** commissioned by **King James I**. Even after the vowel shift the language still sounded different from Modern English: for example, the consonant clusters /kn gn sw/ in *knight*, *gnat*, and *sword* were still pronounced. Books became cheaper and more people learned to read. Printing also brought standardization to English. Spelling and grammar became fixed, and the **dialect of London**, which most publishing houses used, **became the standard**. **The first English dictionary, by Robert Cawdrey, appeared in 1604**, briefly explained **2'500 words**. Many others followed, making gradual improvements, until **Samuel Johnson's Dictionary of the English language** was published in **1755**. It dominated the field for about a century and paved the way for the monumental **Oxford English Dictionary**, the standard authority for the history of English words (1884 began to be published). It laid the foundation for the great advance in lexicography that has continued to the present.

**Late Modern English (1800-Present)** Through all types of printed and electronic media, and spurred by the emergence of the United States as a global superpower, English has become the leading language of international discourse and the *lingua franca* in many regions and professional contexts such as science, navigation and law. The main difference between Early Modern English and Late Modern English is **vocabulary**. Late Modern English has many more words, arising from two principal factors: firstly, **the Industrial Revolution** and technology created a need for new words; secondly, **the British Empire** at its height covered one quarter of the earth's surface, and the English language adopted foreign words from many countries. (Examples of all the variants are on the next slide, words of Jesus's words)

**The vocabulary** of Modern English is approximately a quarter Germanic (Old English, Scandinavian, Dutch, German) and two-thirds Italic or Romance (especially Latin, French, Spanish, Italian), with copious and increasing importations from **Greek** in science and technology and with considerable borrowings from more than 300 other languages.

### **3. The growth and expansion of English**

English is part of the Germanic branch of the Indo-European family of languages. By the year 1000, the English language consisted of approximately 40 000 words. Nowadays, the number has grown to more than 500 000. A great number of words found in the English vocabulary was **borrowed from Latin, French, Low German, and the Scandinavian languages**. We also know that some periods were more fertile than others: **invasions, contact with other cultures, inventions, technological progress, music, fashion** are some of the factors which have helped to enrich the language. **British colonialism** in the 19th century and **American capitalism** and **technological progress** in the 20th century were undoubtedly the main causes for the spread of English throughout the world. From around 1750 to 1950 the British Empire covered about a quarter of the globe. It was one of the most powerful empires the world has ever known. The colonies gradually freed themselves but about fifty countries chose to keep a connection with Britain by belonging to the The British Commonwealth (remember previous lecture). English is spoken all over the Commonwealth either as a native or an official language, and the British monarch is the symbolic head of the association. The USA has played a leading role in most domains for the last hundred years. At the end of the 19th century and first quarter of the 20th, it welcomed millions of European immigrants who had fled their countries ravaged by war, poverty or famine. This labour force strengthened American industries and development. The Hollywood film industry also attracted many foreign artists in quest of fame and fortune and the number of American films produced every year soon flooded the market.

Before the **Treaty of Versailles (1919)** |vɛːsɑːl| , which ended the First World War between Germany and the Allies, diplomacy was conducted in **French**. However, **President Wilson** succeeded in having the treaty in English as well. Since then, English started being used in diplomacy and gradually in economic relations and the media. By the time of the foundation of the **United Nations** at the end of World War II, English had become pre-eminent and is now the main worldwide language of diplomacy and international relations. It is one of **six official languages of the United Nations**. Many other worldwide international organisations, including the International Olympic Committee,

specify English as a working language or official language of the organisation.

During the II World War, America intervened both militarily and economically to save Europe from chaos. From then onwards, **the United States** have consolidated their cultural, economic and technological power: **inventions, rock and roll, the first man on the moon, the revolution of the Internet, the country's growing prosperity and commercial aggressiveness** have contributed to the further expansion and importance of English in the world today.

Thus English has grown in worldwide use much more than any constructed language proposed as an international auxiliary language, including **Esperanto**.

#### 4. Varieties of English

From around 1600, the English colonization of North America resulted in the creation of a distinct **American variety** of English. Some English pronunciations and words "froze" when they reached America. In some ways, American English is more like the English of Shakespeare than modern British English is. Some expressions that the British call "Americanisms" are in fact original British expressions that were preserved in the colonies while lost for a time in Britain (for example **trash** for rubbish, **loan** as a verb instead of lend, and **fall** for autumn; another example, **frame-up** (інсценування), was re-imported into Britain through Hollywood gangster movies). **Spanish** also had an influence on American English (and subsequently British English), with words like **canyon, ranch, stampede** (масова штовханина) and **vigilante** (народний месник, каратель) being examples of Spanish words that entered English through the settlement of the American West. **French words** (through Louisiana) and **West African words** (through the slave trade) also influenced American English (and so, to an extent, British English). Today, American English is particularly influential, due to the USA's dominance of cinema, television, popular music, trade and technology (including the Internet). But there are many other varieties of English around the world, including for example **Australian English, New Zealand English, Canadian English, South African English, Indian English and Caribbean English**.

#### 5. British English today

Modern British English dialects have been divided into two types - **traditional and modern** dialects. Traditional dialects are spoken in **rural areas** usually by older people involved in farming and fishing (traditional occupations). The modern **urban** dialects are associated with **younger** people in **Home Counties** (the six counties around London where Standard English is more often encountered), in urban and metropolitan areas. Traditional dialect areas are the North, the West Midlands, the East Midlands and the South-West. The basic distinctions between these dialects are in **pronunciation**. Different modern dialects in Britain were opposed by **Received Pronunciation (RP)**-загальноприйнята нормативна вимова - the language of the most educated layers of British society. **In 1870, the Education Act** established English public schools where the children of the upper class parents were learning not only standard grammar and vocabulary, but also standard pronunciation that was called RP (Received Pronunciation). The term marked the educated accent of London and the Home Counties. The spread of RP later was done by **BBC**. Today the importance of RP decreased, people feel more positive to their regional dialects.

#### 6. Languages in the Countries of the UK

##### Wales

Unlike other countries of the UK where English is dominant, Welsh is very much a living language. It is used in conversation every day and seen in Wales everywhere. Local government uses Welsh as its official language.

All road signs are in English and Welsh. One very useful thing for a tourist visiting Wales to know is the informal national motto: **Cymru am byth** meaning **Wales forever**. The slogan is today on every conceivable form of tourist souvenir. In Victorian times and before the Second World War, the Welsh language was frowned upon if not actually banned.

**In Wales**, people often speak a clear and measured form of English with a musical intonation inherited from ancestral Celtic. They tend **to aspirate** both plosives (stops) and fricative consonants very forcibly; thus, "true" is pronounced with an audible puff of breath after the initial t.

##### England

The only native spoken language in England other than English is the **Cornish language**, a Celtic language spoken in Cornwall, which became extinct in the 19<sup>th</sup> century but has been revived and is spoken by around 3500 people. It has no official status but is supported by national and local government under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

England is unusual in that there are many **regional dialects** and often a dialect may have

different accents. It is possible to travel 30 km in England and hear a noticeably different accent. The most famous dialect is **Cockney**, used in London. Cockney has many grammatical forms not used in the rest of the UK.

**Different languages** from around the world, especially from the former British Empire and the Commonwealth of Nations, have been brought to England by immigrants. Many of these are widely spoken within ethnic minority communities, including **Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Gujarati, Chinese and Vietnamese**. These are used by official bodies to communicate with the relevant section of the society on an “as needed” basis rather than as a result of a specific legislation.

### **Scotland**

There are 2 official languages in Scotland: **Scottish** (Lowland Scottish) and **Scottish Gaelic**. **English** is de facto language with no official status in Scotland.

Almost all residents of Scotland speak English, some with various Scottish dialects. 1,5 mil. speak Scottish and 2% of the population speak Scottish Gaelic.

Lowland Scottish was once a part of Northern English, but two dialects began to diverge in the 14th century. **Lowland Scottish** is not to be confused with **Scottish Gaelic**, a Celtic language still spoken by about 90,700 people (almost all bilingual) mostly in the Highlands and the Western Isles. Thanks to **Robert Burns** and **Sir Walter Scott**, many Scottish Gaelic words have been preserved in English literature.

### **Northern Ireland**

The dialect of English, spoken in Northern Ireland, shows heavy influence from Scotland. English is by far the most widely spoken language in Northern Ireland. **Irish, Scots** and **English** have officially equal status.

**Northern Ireland** has dialects related in part to Lowland Scottish and in part to the southern Irish dialect of English. Irish pronunciation is conservative and is clearer and more easily intelligible than many other dialects. Its literature has reached worldwide audiences, whether written by Englishmen born in Ireland, such as **Jonathan Swift, Laurence Sterne, Oliver Goldsmith, Sir Richard Steele, Edmund Burke, Oscar Wilde, and George Bernard Shaw**, or by authentic Irish, such as **James Joyce, William Butler Yeats, and John Millington Synge**. The influence of Irish Gaelic on the speech of Dublin is most evident in the syntax of drama and in the survival of such picturesque expressions as "We are after finishing," "It's sorrv you will be," and "James do be cutting corn every day."

**Chinese and Urdu** are also spoken by Chinese and Asian communities.

Given the number of Chinese community, it is the second most widely spoken language, according to the most recent census returns.

