

A History of the English Language

CONTENTS

ENGLISH AS AN INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGE	7
Classifications.....	9
Germanic characteristics of English.....	13
Periods in the development of English.....	15
OLD ENGLISH.....	17
Prehistoric times. The Iberians.....	17
The Celts.....	18
The Romans.....	19
The Anglo-Saxons.....	21
The Christianization of England.....	25
Old English dialects.....	27
Anglo-Saxon literature.....	29
Old English vocabulary.....	32
Old English grammar.....	36
MIDDLE ENGLISH.....	47
The development of Middle English.....	55
The dialects of Middle English.....	58
The rise of a London standard.....	60
Middle English literature.....	61
Middle English pronunciation and spelling.....	63
Middle English vocabulary.....	64
Middle English grammar.....	72

EARLY MODERN ENGLISH.....	78
Key events in the Early Modern English	
Period.....	83
Early Modern English literature.....	85
First English dictionaries and grammars.....	90
Early Modern English vocabulary.....	95
Early Modern English grammar.....	101
 LATE MODERN ENGLISH.....	 108
Key facts and events in the Late Modern	
English period.....	110
The national varieties of English.....	113
Modern British English dialects.....	115
‘The American language’.....	117
Dialects of American English.....	123
Differences between American and British	
English.....	128
World English.....	148
Irish English.....	150
Indian English.....	152
 TEXTS FOR FURTHER STUDY.....	 155
Old English texts.....	156
Middle English texts.....	168
Early Modern English texts.....	178
 BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	 200