

# INTRODUCTION

## I. The Nature of English

### A. Difficulties

1. Spelling
2. Grammar
  - a. "How do you do?"
  - b. impregnate vs. impregnable
3. Vocabulary
  - a. OED (Oxford English Dictionary)
  - b. Thesaurus

### B. Solution to problems

## II. A Brief History of English

### A. Prehistory

1. *Homo erectus* (1.6 million - 300,000 years)
  - a. larynx
  - b. Neanderthal
  - c. esophagus/airway
2. *Homo sapiens* (ca. 30,000 B.C.)
  - a. Neolithic Period
  - b. cave paintings (Altamira)
  - c. Basque (in S France, N Spain; around Bay of Biscay)

### 3. New Theory

- a. Basque/Na-Dene (NW Amerind)
- b. Finnish/Eskimo-Aleut
- c. Indo-European/Uralic/Amerind ("dog")
- d. "tik"

## B. History of English

### 1. Indo-Europeans

#### a. Sir William Jones

1) *Vedas*

2) Sanskrit/Latin/Greek

a) Skr. *trayas* = Lat. *tres* = Gk. *treis*

b) Skr. *sarpa* = Lat. *serpens*

3) Meeting of the Asiatick society of Calcutta, 1786

"... no philologer could examine all three languages [Sanskrit, Latin and Greek] without believing them to have sprung from some common source which, perhaps, no longer exists."

#### b. "Indo-European"

### 2. Indo-European languages

a. began to spread around 3500 BCE

b. Celts, Gauls, Germans, Italians, Greeks, Aryans (India), etc.

c. three important branches:

1) Germanic (English)

2) Italic (Latin)

3) Hellenic (Greek)

### 3. Period of Modern English (= Anglo-Saxon Germanic)

#### a. Germanic foundation

1) Celtic

2) Anglo-Saxon invasion (ca. 400 A.D.)

#### b. infusion of Latin and Greek

1) Roman conquest of Britain (Caesar, Claudius)

a) *Manchester, Lancaster*

b) street, wine, mile, inch, table, chest, pillow

2) Norman conquest of William the Conqueror (1066 A.D.)

a) Normans

b) jury, justice, felony, marriage, prison, parliament

c) "Anglo-Norman"

d) "Middle English"

3) Exploration and Colonization (after 1500s A.D.)

4) Scientific Language (20th c. A.D.)

1. COGNATE(S):

2. DERIVATIVE:

3. DOUBLET(S):