

18th century english language

18th century english language underwent significant development and transformation, reflecting broader cultural, social, and intellectual changes of the era. This period was marked by the standardization of grammar and spelling, the expansion of vocabulary, and the influence of Enlightenment thinking on communication and literature. The 18th century English language also experienced increased publication and dissemination of texts, which contributed to the rise of prescriptive language rules and dictionaries. This article explores the defining characteristics of the English language in the 1700s, including phonological, grammatical, and lexical changes. It also examines the role of major writers and linguistic authorities who shaped the language during this time. Finally, the article discusses the impact of social factors and educational reforms on the evolution of 18th century English language.

- Historical Context and Linguistic Environment
- Phonological and Grammatical Changes
- Lexical Expansion and Vocabulary Development
- Influence of Key Writers and Linguists
- Social and Educational Impacts on the Language

Historical Context and Linguistic Environment

The 18th century English language developed within a dynamic historical context shaped by political stability, colonial expansion, and the Enlightenment. This era saw England emerge as a dominant global power, facilitating cross-cultural exchanges that enriched the language. The rise of print culture, including newspapers, magazines, and books, played a crucial role in disseminating standardized forms of English. Printing presses and increased literacy rates contributed to the stabilization of spelling and grammar, which were previously more fluid. The language was transitioning from Early Modern English to a more recognizable form of Modern English, with ongoing debates about usage and propriety.

Standardization of Spelling and Grammar

One of the hallmark features of the 18th century English language was the movement toward standardization. Prior to this period, English spelling and grammar exhibited considerable variation. The publication of influential dictionaries and grammar guides sought to regulate English usage. This effort aimed to codify correct spellings, punctuation, and syntactical structures to facilitate clearer communication and elevate English as a language of culture and scholarship. The desire for uniformity was partly fueled by educational institutions and the growing middle class, who sought to adopt the language norms of the elite.

Impact of Printing and Publishing

The proliferation of printing technology and the expansion of the publishing industry were vital to the development of 18th century English language. Books, pamphlets, newspapers, and periodicals became widely available to a broader audience. This expansion helped disseminate standardized forms of English and created a shared linguistic framework across different regions. The increased availability of printed materials also promoted literacy, which in turn encouraged the adoption of prescribed language rules and norms within society.

Phonological and Grammatical Changes

The evolution of the 18th century English language included significant phonological and grammatical developments. Pronunciation began to shift toward what would later be recognized as contemporary Received Pronunciation. Although regional accents persisted, the spoken language gradually aligned more closely with the standardized written form promoted by grammarians and educators. Grammatical structures also became more regularized, reflecting prescriptive trends that sought to define “correct” usage.

Phonological Developments

During the 18th century, English phonology experienced notable adjustments. The Great Vowel Shift, which began in the late Middle English period, had largely concluded, but subtle vowel modifications continued. These changes influenced the pronunciation of long vowels and diphthongs, contributing to the modern English sound system. Additionally, the pronunciation of consonants saw some shifts, such as the reduction of the rhotic “r” in certain dialects, particularly among the upper classes in southern England.

Grammatical Regularization

Grammatical rules became more clearly defined in the 18th century English language. This regularization included the standardization of verb conjugations, noun pluralizations, and syntactic constructions. Grammarians like Robert Lowth emphasized prescriptive rules, advocating for correct use of tenses, agreement, and sentence structure. The increased focus on grammar reflected the period’s broader intellectual emphasis on order, reason, and clarity in communication.

Lexical Expansion and Vocabulary Development

The vocabulary of 18th century English language expanded significantly due to scientific advancements, colonial encounters, and cultural exchanges. New words entered the language to describe emerging concepts, technologies, and discoveries. The influence of Latin, Greek, and other European languages contributed to the enrichment of English lexicon. The period also saw the popularization of specialized terminology in fields such as medicine, philosophy, and natural science.

Sources of New Vocabulary

Several factors contributed to the lexical growth of the 18th century English language, including:

- **Scientific and Technological Progress:** New inventions and discoveries necessitated new terms.
- **Colonial Expansion:** Contact with diverse cultures introduced loanwords and exotic terms.
- **Classical Influences:** The revival of interest in classical antiquity encouraged borrowing from Latin and Greek.
- **Literary Innovation:** Writers coined neologisms to express novel ideas and artistic expressions.

Neologisms and Loanwords

The 18th century English language incorporated numerous neologisms and loanwords. Terms such as “electricity,” “zoology,” and “geology” entered common usage, reflecting the era’s scientific curiosity. Loanwords from French, Dutch, and indigenous languages enriched English, especially in trade and colonial contexts. This vocabulary expansion enhanced the language’s precision and expressive capacity, aligning it with contemporary intellectual developments.

Influence of Key Writers and Linguists

Prominent writers and linguists of the 18th century played a pivotal role in shaping the English language. Their works not only reflected but also prescribed language norms, influencing usage for generations. Literary figures like Samuel Johnson and Alexander Pope, as well as grammarians such as Robert Lowth, contributed to the establishment of linguistic standards and the elevation of English as a literary language.

Samuel Johnson and the Dictionary

Samuel Johnson’s “A Dictionary of the English Language,” published in 1755, was a landmark achievement in the history of the 18th century English language. Johnson’s dictionary provided comprehensive definitions, standardized spellings, and usage examples. It became an authoritative reference, helping to unify English spelling and vocabulary. Johnson’s work also reflected the intellectual rigor and cultural aspirations of the period, affirming English’s status as a language of scholarship.

Robert Lowth and English Grammar

Robert Lowth’s “A Short Introduction to English Grammar” (1762) was one of the first prescriptive grammar guides and significantly influenced the teaching and understanding of English. Lowth

emphasized the importance of correct syntax, punctuation, and style, often drawing on classical models. His rules shaped the 18th century English language by promoting clarity, order, and propriety in written and spoken forms.

Social and Educational Impacts on the Language

The 18th century English language was deeply affected by social changes and educational reforms. The rise of the middle class, increased literacy, and the establishment of formal education systems fostered a demand for standardized language. Language became a marker of social identity and class distinction, with correct usage associated with education and refinement.

Language and Social Class

During the 18th century, language use was closely tied to social hierarchy. The upper classes set linguistic standards that others aspired to emulate. Proper pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary were seen as signs of education and social status. This association encouraged the spread of prescriptive norms and the stigmatization of regional dialects and colloquial speech. The 18th century English language thus functioned as both a tool for communication and a means of social differentiation.

Educational Reforms and Literacy

The expansion of education and literacy rates in the 18th century contributed to the dissemination of standardized English. Schools and academies incorporated grammar and rhetoric into their curricula, emphasizing proper language use. Educational materials, including primers and grammar books, promoted uniformity in spelling and syntax. This formal instruction helped solidify the linguistic norms that defined the 18th century English language and laid the groundwork for modern English usage.

Frequently Asked Questions

What were some key characteristics of the English language in the 18th century?

The 18th century English language was marked by increasing standardization in grammar and spelling, influenced by dictionaries and grammar books. It featured elaborate sentence structures, a formal tone in writing, and the growing influence of prescriptive language rules.

How did Samuel Johnson's dictionary impact the English language in the 18th century?

Samuel Johnson's 1755 dictionary was highly influential in standardizing English spelling and usage. It helped codify vocabulary and provided authoritative definitions, contributing to the stabilization and prestige of the English language during the 18th century.

What role did the Enlightenment have on the development of English in the 18th century?

The Enlightenment promoted reason, clarity, and order, which influenced English prose style towards more logical and clear expression. It encouraged the use of English for scientific, philosophical, and literary works, expanding its vocabulary and stylistic range.

How did print technology affect the English language in the 18th century?

Advances in print technology increased the production and distribution of books, newspapers, and pamphlets, which helped spread standardized English and literacy. This contributed to the wider adoption of uniform spelling and grammar across England and its colonies.

Were there significant changes in English grammar during the 18th century?

Yes, the 18th century saw efforts to formalize English grammar through various grammar books, which promoted rules about syntax, punctuation, and usage. This period emphasized prescriptive grammar, aiming to distinguish 'correct' English from colloquial forms.

How did 18th century English differ from Modern English?

18th century English featured more complex sentence structures, a more formal and ornate style, and some vocabulary and spellings that differ from Modern English. However, its grammar and core vocabulary were largely similar, making it comprehensible to modern readers with some effort.

What influence did 18th century literature have on the English language?

18th century literature, including works by authors like Jonathan Swift, Alexander Pope, and Samuel Richardson, influenced English by popularizing new idioms, expressions, and stylistic conventions. Literary works contributed to the prestige and evolution of the language.

How did colonial expansion impact the English language in the 18th century?

Colonial expansion introduced English to new regions, leading to the incorporation of loanwords from indigenous languages and the spread of English as a global language. It also contributed to the development of regional varieties and dialects of English worldwide.

Additional Resources

1. The Evolution of English Language in the 18th Century

This book explores the significant linguistic changes that occurred during the 18th century in England. It covers the development of grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation, highlighting influences from

social, political, and cultural shifts. The author provides detailed examples from literature and everyday speech to illustrate these transformations.

2. Words and Wit: English Lexicography in the 1700s

Focusing on the birth and growth of English dictionaries, this work examines key figures like Samuel Johnson and their contributions to standardizing the language. The book delves into how lexicographers approached word definitions, usage, and etymology during this dynamic period. It also discusses the impact of these dictionaries on education and literacy.

3. Grammar and Usage: Prescriptions in 18th Century English

This volume studies the prescriptive grammar rules established in the 18th century and how they shaped modern English usage. It reviews influential grammar texts and their authors, analyzing the social motivations behind language "correctness." Readers gain insight into debates about style, clarity, and propriety that dominated the era.

4. Spelling Reforms and Standardization in 18th Century England

The book investigates efforts to standardize English spelling during the 1700s, a time when written English was notably inconsistent. It highlights prominent reformers and their proposals, as well as resistance from traditionalists. The narrative includes examples from printed texts showing the gradual shift toward uniform spelling conventions.

5. The Influence of Latin and French on 18th Century English

This study analyzes the impact of Latin and French on the vocabulary and syntax of English in the 18th century. It examines how borrowings enriched the language and affected stylistic choices in literature and formal writing. The author also discusses the social prestige associated with using classical and Romance language elements.

6. English Dialects and Regional Speech in the 18th Century

This book offers an in-depth look at the diversity of English dialects across England during the 1700s. Through contemporary texts and recordings, it documents regional vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammatical features. The work sheds light on how dialects influenced national language standards and cultural identity.

7. The Role of the Printing Press in Shaping 18th Century English

Exploring the technological and cultural impact of the printing press, this book shows how mass publication affected English language development. It discusses standardization of spelling and grammar as a consequence of wider distribution of texts. The author also addresses the rise of newspapers and periodicals as vehicles for language change.

8. Language and Literature: English Writing Styles of the 18th Century

This text examines the characteristic writing styles of 18th century English literature, including prose, poetry, and drama. It considers how linguistic trends, rhetorical devices, and vocabulary choices reflect the cultural and intellectual climate of the time. Key authors and their stylistic innovations are analyzed in detail.

9. Childhood and Education: Language Learning in 18th Century England

Focusing on language acquisition, this book explores how children were taught English during the 18th century. It reviews educational materials, teaching methods, and societal attitudes toward literacy and language proficiency. The work highlights the role of language instruction in shaping the future of English.

18th Century English Language

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18th century english language: *Patterns of Change in 18th-century English* Terttu Nevalainen, Minna Palander-Collin, Tanja Säily, 2018-09-06 Eighteenth-century English is often associated with normative grammar. But to what extent did prescriptivism impact ongoing processes of linguistic change? The authors of this volume examine a variety of linguistic changes in a corpus of personal correspondence, including the auxiliary do, verbal -s and the progressive aspect, and they conclude that direct normative influence on them must have been minimal. The studies are contextualized by discussions of the normative tradition and the correspondence corpus, and of eighteenth-century English society and culture. Basing their work on a variationist sociolinguistic approach, the authors introduce the models and methods they have used to trace the progress of linguistic changes in the “long” eighteenth century, 1680–1800. Aggregate findings are balanced by analysing individuals and their varying participation in these processes. The final chapter places these results in a wider context and considers them in relation to past sociolinguistic work. One of the major findings of the studies is that in most cases the overall pace of change was slow. Factors retarding change include speaker evaluation and repurposing outgoing features, in particular, for certain styles and registers.

18th century english language: *Eighteenth-Century English* Raymond Hickey, 2010-06-24 The eighteenth century was a key period in the development of the English language, in which the modern standard emerged and many dictionaries and grammars first appeared. This book is divided into thematic sections which deal with issues central to English in the eighteenth century. These include linguistic ideology and the grammatical tradition, the contribution of women to the writing of grammars, the interactions of writers at this time and how politeness was encoded in language, including that on a regional level. The contributions also discuss how language was seen and discussed in public and how grammarians, lexicographers, journalists, pamphleteers and publishers judged on-going change. The novel insights offered in this book extend our knowledge of the English language at the onset of the modern period.

18th century english language: *Literary Research and the British Eighteenth Century* Peggy Keeran, Jennifer Bowers, 2013-02-21 The 18th century in Britain was a transition period for literature. Patronage, either by a benefactor or through subscription, lingered even as the publishing and bookselling industries developed. The practice of reviewing books became well established during the second half of the century, with the first periodical founded in 1749. For the literary scholar, these gradual changes mean that different search strategies are required to conduct research into primary and secondary source material across the era. *Literary Research and the British Eighteenth Century* addresses these unique challenges. It examines how the following all contribute to the richness of literary research for this era: book and periodical publishing; a growing literate society; dissemination of literature through salons, private societies, and coffee houses; the growing importance of book reviews; the explosion of publishing; and the burgeoning of primary source material available through new publishing and digital initiatives in the 21st century. This volume explores primary and secondary resources, including general literary research guides; union library catalogs; print and online bibliographies; scholarly journals; manuscripts and archives; 18th-century books, newspapers, and periodicals; contemporary reception; and electronic texts and journals, as well as Web resources. Each chapter addresses the research methods and tools best used to extract relevant information and compares and evaluates sources, making this book an

invaluable guide to any literary scholar and student of the British eighteenth century.

18th century english language: The Idea of Progress in Eighteenth-century Britain

David Spadafora, James Spada, 1990-01-01 The idea of progress stood at the very center of the intellectual world of eighteenth-century Britain, closely linked to every major facet of the British Enlightenment as well as to the economic revolutions of the period. Drawing on hundreds of eighteenth-century books and pamphlets, David Spadafora here provides the most extensive discussion ever written of this prevailing sense of historical optimism.

18th century english language: The Emergence of Literary Criticism in 18th-Century Britain Sebastian Domsch, 2014-08-19 This study tries, through a systematic and historical analysis of the concept of critical authority, to write a history of literary criticism from the end of the 17th to the end of the 18th century that not only takes the discursive construction of its (self)representation into account, but also the social and economic conditions of its practice. It tries to consider the whole of the critical discourse on literature and criticism in the time period covered. Thus, it is distinctive through its methodology (there is no systematic account of the historical development of critical authority and no discussion of the institutionalization of criticism of such a scope), its material of analysis (most of the many hundred texts self-reflexively commenting on criticism that are discussed here have been so far virtually ignored) and through its results, a complex history of criticism in the 18th century that is neither reductive nor the accumulation of isolated aspects or author figures, but that probes into the very nature of the activity of criticism. The aim of this study is both to provide a thorough historical understanding of the emergence of criticism and as a consequence an understanding of the inner workings and power relations that structure criticism to this day.

18th century english language: Grammar Wars: Language as Cultural Battlefield in 17th and 18th Century England Linda C Mitchell, 2017-09-20 This title was first published in 2001: Although 17th- and 18th-century English language theorists claimed to be correcting errors in grammar and preserving the language from corruption, this new study demonstrates how grammar served as an important cultural battlefield where social issues were contested. Author Linda C. Mitchell situates early modern linguistic discussions, long thought to be of little interest, in their larger cultural and social setting to show the startling degree to which grammar affected, and was affected by, such factors as class and gender. In her examination of the controversies that surrounded the teaching and study of grammar in this period, Mitchell looks especially at changing definitions and standardization of grammar, how and to whom it was taught, and how grammar marked the social position of marginal groups. Her comprehensive study of the contexts in which grammar was intended or thought to function is based on her analysis of the ancillary materials - prefaces, introductions, forewords, statements of intent, organization of materials, surrounding materials, and manifestos of pedagogy, philosophy, and social or political goals - of more than 300 grammar texts of the time. The book is intended as a landmark study of an important movement in the foundation of the modern world.

18th century english language: The Routledge Handbook of Linguistic Prescriptivism Joan C. Beal, Morana Lukač, Robin Straaijer, 2023-05-05 This Handbook provides a comprehensive and cutting-edge overview of the field of linguistic prescriptivism. Mapping the current status quo of the field and marking its two-decade transformation into a serious field of study within linguistics, this volume addresses both the value and the methods of studying prescriptivism. It covers: • Theoretical and methodological approaches - from historical to experimental approaches and including corpus-based methods and attitudes research; • Contexts in which prescriptive efforts can be both observed and studied - including education, technology, the media, language planning and policies, and everyday grassroots practices; • Geographical contexts of prescriptivism - featuring chapters on inner- and outer-circle Englishes, English as a Lingua Franca, as well as prescriptivism in the context of other world languages including minority and endangered languages. With contributions from an international line-up of leading and rising-star scholars in the field, The Routledge Handbook of Linguistic Prescriptivism marks the evolution of linguistics as a fully self-aware

discipline and will be an indispensable guide for students and researchers in this area.

18th century english language: *Varieties of Seventeenth- and Early Eighteenth-Century English Radicalism in Context* David Finnegan, Dr Ariel Hessayon, 2013-07-28 The essays in this collection explore a number of significant questions regarding the terms 'radical' and 'radicalism' in early modern English contexts. They investigate whether we can speak of a radical tradition, and whether radicalism was a local, national or transnational phenomenon. In so doing this volume examines the exchange of ideas and texts in the history of supposedly radical events, ideologies and movements (or moments). Once at the cutting edge of academic debate radicalism had, until very recently, fallen prey to historiographical trends as scholars increasingly turned their attention to more mainstream experiences or reactionary forces. While acknowledging the importance of those perspectives, *Varieties of seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century English radicalism in context* offers a reconsideration of the place of radicalism within the early modern period. It sets out to examine the subject in original and exciting ways by adopting distinctively new and broader perspectives. Among the crucial issues addressed are problems of definition and how meanings can evolve; context; print culture; language and interpretative techniques; literary forms and rhetorical strategies that conveyed, or deliberately disguised, subversive meanings; and the existence of a single, continuous English radical tradition. Taken together the essays in this collection offer a timely reassessment of the subject, reflecting the latest research on the theme of seventeenth-century English radicalism as well as offering some indications of the phenomenon's transnational contexts. Indeed, there is a sense here of the complexity and variety of the subject although much work still remains to be done on radicals and radicalism - both in early modern England and especially beyond.

18th century english language: *From Old English to Standard English* Dennis Freeborn, 1998 Dennis Freeborn traces the development of the English language from Old English, through Middle and Early Middle English, to the establishment of standard English in the 18th century.

18th century english language: *Concise Encyclopedia of Languages of the World*, 2010-04-06 *Concise Encyclopedia of Languages of the World* is an authoritative single-volume reference resource comprehensively describing the major languages and language families of the world. It will provide full descriptions of the phonology, semantics, morphology, and syntax of the world's major languages, giving insights into their structure, history and development, sounds, meaning, structure, and language family, thereby both highlighting their diversity for comparative study, and contextualizing them according to their genetic relationships and regional distribution. Based on the highly acclaimed and award-winning *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, this volume will provide an edited collection of almost 400 articles throughout which a representative subset of the world's major languages are unfolded and explained in up-to-date terminology and authoritative interpretation, by the leading scholars in linguistics. In highlighting the diversity of the world's languages — from the thriving to the endangered and extinct — this work will be the first point of call to any language expert interested in this huge area. No other single volume will match the extent of language coverage or the authority of the contributors of *Concise Encyclopedia of Languages of the World*. - Extraordinary breadth of coverage: a comprehensive selection of just under 400 articles covering the world's major languages, language families, and classification structures, issues and dispute - Peerless quality: based on 20 years of academic development on two editions of the leading reference resource in linguistics, *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics* - Unique authorship: 350 of the world's leading experts brought together for one purpose - Exceptional editorial selection, review and validation process: Keith Brown and Sarah Ogilvie act as first-tier guarantors for article quality and coverage - Compact and affordable: one-volume format makes this suitable for personal study at any institution interested in areal, descriptive, or comparative language study - and at a fraction of the cost of the full encyclopedia

18th century english language: *The Cambridge History of the English Language* Richard M. Hogg, Norman Francis Blake, Suzanne Romaine, Roger Lass, R. W. Burchfield, 1992 The volumes of *The Cambridge history of the English language* reflect the spread of English from its beginnings

in Anglo-Saxon England to its current role as a multifaceted global language that dominates international communication in the 21st century.

18th century english language: Grammar Wars Linda Mitchell, 2017-09-20 This title was first published in 2001: Although 17th- and 18th-century English language theorists claimed to be correcting errors in grammar and preserving the language from corruption, this new study demonstrates how grammar served as an important cultural battlefield where social issues were contested. Author Linda C. Mitchell situates early modern linguistic discussions, long thought to be of little interest, in their larger cultural and social setting to show the startling degree to which grammar affected, and was affected by, such factors as class and gender. In her examination of the controversies that surrounded the teaching and study of grammar in this period, Mitchell looks especially at changing definitions and standardization of grammar, how and to whom it was taught, and how grammar marked the social position of marginal groups. Her comprehensive study of the contexts in which grammar was intended or thought to function is based on her analysis of the ancillary materials - prefaces, introductions, forewords, statements of intent, organization of materials, surrounding materials, and manifestos of pedagogy, philosophy, and social or political goals - of more than 300 grammar texts of the time. The book is intended as a landmark study of an important movement in the foundation of the modern world.

18th century english language: English Pronunciation in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries C. Jones, 2005-12-16 This work provides a detailed account of word level pronunciation in England and Scotland between 1700 and 1900. All major and minor source materials are presented in depth and there is a close discussion of contemporary attitudes to pronunciation standards and orthographic reform. The materials are presented in three chronological periods: 1700-1750, 1750-1800 and the Nineteenth century, so that the reader is able not only to see the main characteristics of the pronunciation of both vowels and consonants in each period, but can also compare developments from one period to another, thus identifying ongoing changes to the phonology.

18th century english language: History of the English Language Carson Stewart &, 2019-06-03 A History of the English Language explores the etymological and social improvement of English from the Roman victory of England to the present day to give an exhaustive review of the distinctive parts of its history. This top of the line exemplary course book has been reconsidered and refreshed and urges the reader to create both a comprehension of present-day English and an illuminated mentality toward the issues influencing the dialect today. The history and advancement of English, from the most punctual referred to works to its status today as a prevailing world dialect, is a subject of real significance to etymologists and students of history. In this book, a group of worldwide specialists cover the whole written history of the English dialect, sketching out its improvement more than fifteen centuries. With an accentuation on later periods, each key stage in the historical backdrop of the dialect is secured, with full records of institutionalization, names, the circulation of English in Britain and North America, and its worldwide spread. New authentic studies of the vital parts of the dialect are displayed, and recorded changes that have influenced English are dealt with as a proceeding with process, clarifying the state of the dialect today. This total and state-of-the-art history of English will be fundamental to every propelled understudy, researchers and instructors in this conspicuous field.

18th century english language: The Language of Daily Life in England (1400–1800) Arja Nurmi, Minna Nevala, Minna Palander-Collin, 2009-04-15 The Language of Daily Life in England (1400–1800) is an important state-of-the art account of historical sociolinguistic and socio-pragmatic research. The volume contains nine studies and an introductory essay which discuss linguistic and social variation and change over four centuries. Each study tackles a linguistic or social phenomenon, and approaches it with a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, always embedded in the socio-historical context. The volume presents new information on linguistic variation and change, while evaluating and developing the relevant theoretical and methodological tools. The writers form one of the leading research teams in the field, and, as compilers of the

Corpus of Early English Correspondence, have an informed understanding of the data in all its depth. This volume will be of interest to scholars in historical linguistics, sociolinguistics and socio-pragmatics, but also e.g. social history. The approachable style of writing makes it also inviting for advanced students.

18th century english language: Common Sense in Early 18th-Century British Literature and Culture Christoph Henke, 2014-10-14 While the popular talk of English common sense in the eighteenth century might seem a by-product of familiar Enlightenment discourses of rationalism and empiricism, this book argues that terms such as 'common sense' or 'good sense' are not simply synonyms of applied reason. On the contrary, the discourse of common sense is shaped by a defensive impulse against the totalizing intellectual regimes of the Enlightenment and the cultural climate of change they promote, in order to contain the unbounded discursive proliferation of modern learning. Hence, common sense discourse has a vital regulatory function in cultural negotiations of political and intellectual change in eighteenth-century Britain against the backdrop of patriotic national self-concepts. This study discusses early eighteenth-century common sense in four broad complexes, as to its discursive functions that are ethical (which at that time implies aesthetic as well), transgressive (as a corrective), political (in patriotic constructs of the nation), and repressive (of otherness). The selection of texts in this study strikes a balance between dominant literary culture – Swift, Pope, Defoe, Fielding, Johnson – and the periphery, such as pamphlets and magazine essays, satiric poems and patriotic songs.

18th century english language: Old Books and Digital Publishing: Eighteenth-Century Collections Online Stephen H. Gregg, 2021-01-28 This is a history of Eighteenth-Century Collections Online, a database of over 180,000 titles. Published by Gale in 2003 it has had an enormous impact of the study of the eighteenth century. Like many commercial digital archives, ECCO's continuing development obscures its precedents. This Element examines its prehistory as, first, a computer catalogue of eighteenth-century print, and then as a commercial microfilm collection, before moving to the digitisation and development of the interfaces to ECCO, as well as Gale's various partnerships and licensing deals. An essential aspect of this Element is how it explores the socio-cultural and technological debates around the access to old books from the 1930s to the present day: Stephen Gregg demonstrates how these contexts powerfully shape the way ECCO works to this day. The Element's aim is to make us better users and better readers of digital archives. This title is available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

18th century english language: Norms and Usage in Language History, 1600-1900 Gijsbert Rutten, Rik Vosters, Wim Vandenbussche, 2014-11-18 Historical sociolinguistics has successfully challenged the traditional focus on standardization in linguistic historiography. Extensive research on newly uncovered textual resources has shown the widespread variation in the written language of the past that was previously hidden or neglected. The time has come to integrate both perspectives, and to reassess the importance of language norms, standardization and prescription on the basis of sound empirical studies of large corpora of texts. The chapters in this volume discuss the interplay of language norms and language use in the history of Dutch, English, French and German between 1600 and 1900. Written by leading experts in the field, each chapter focuses on one language and one century. A substantial introductory chapter puts the twelve research chapters into a comparative perspective. The book is of interest to a wide readership, ranging from scholars of historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, sociology and social history to (advanced) graduate and postgraduate students in courses on language variation and change.

18th century english language: Reader's Guide to British History David Loades, 2020-12-17 The Reader's Guide to British History is the essential source to secondary material on British history. This resource contains over 1,000 A-Z entries on the history of Britain, from ancient and Roman Britain to the present day. Each entry lists 6-12 of the best-known books on the subject, then discusses those works in an essay of 800 to 1,000 words prepared by an expert in the field. The essays provide advice on the range and depth of coverage as well as the emphasis and point of view espoused in each publication.

18th century english language: Nobility and the Making of Race in Eighteenth-Century Britain Tim Mc Inerney, 2023-09-07 Nobility and the Making of Race in Eighteenth-Century Britain focuses on 18th-century Britain and Ireland at a time when race theory as we know it today was steadily emerging in the realm of natural philosophy to examine the structural relationship between nobility and race. This ground-breaking book examines texts from the fields of naturalism, political philosophy, medicine, and colonial venture, as well as interrogating works of drama and literature, in order to track how climate-based understandings of human variety at this time became increasingly imbued with noble traditions of genealogical purity and hierarchies of descent. This process, the book argues, allowed British naturalists and wider society to understand global populations according to an already familiar pattern of genealogical inequality, and offered the proponents of race theory a ready made model of natural supremacy. In this highly original and meticulously researched book, Tim McInerney explains why nobility and race developed in the way they did and how the premise of each promoted a certain idea of superiority. The result is a necessary in-depth understanding of how genealogical exclusivity works as a power strategy, vital to students and scholars alike.

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Flames 3-1 Blackhawks (Oct 15, 2024) Final Score - ESPN — Matt Coronato scored two goals, Dustin Wolf made 31 saves and the Calgary Flames stayed undefeated with a 3-1 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks on Tuesday night

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