

List of contents

Foreword	xi	
Preface	xii	
Acknowledgements	xiii	
List of abbreviations	xvi	
List of figures	xv	
1	Introduction	
1.1	<i>General considerations</i>	1
1.1.1	<i>Motivations for the present book</i>	1
1.1.2	<i>Sources</i>	1
1.1.3	<i>The authenticity of texts</i>	2
1.2	<i>Historical foundations of 18th-century English</i>	4
1.2.1	<i>Periods</i>	4
1.2.2	<i>The linguistic background of the 17th and 18th centuries</i>	5
1.2.3	<i>A survey of existing research</i>	7
1.3	<i>Demographic conditions (population development, urbanization, schools)</i>	8
1.4	<i>Book production, language and education</i>	13
1.4.1	<i>Reading matter</i>	13
1.4.2	<i>Literacy and language teaching</i>	14
1.4.3	<i>Grammar books</i>	18
1.4.4	<i>Prosody, rhetoric and composition</i>	21
1.4.4.1	<i>Prosody</i>	21
1.4.4.2	<i>Rhetoric</i>	21
1.4.4.3	<i>Composition</i>	23
1.5	<i>Correctness and the rise of a Standard English</i>	24
1.5.1	<i>Language and reason</i>	24
1.5.2	<i>Usage</i>	26
1.5.3	<i>A language academy?</i>	33
1.5.4	<i>Contemporary evaluations of 18th-century English</i>	36
1.6	<i>The makers of 18th-century English</i>	37
1.7	<i>Languages spoken in 18th-century Britain</i>	38
2	Varieties	
2.1	<i>Attitudes</i>	42
2.2	<i>Written and spoken English</i>	42
2.3	<i>Dialect and dialectology</i>	44
2.3.1	<i>Attitudes to regional variation and sources for its description</i>	44
2.3.2	<i>The linguistic deviance of dialects</i>	48
2.3.3	<i>Dialect literature</i>	50
2.3.4	<i>The question of Cockney</i>	53
2.4	<i>Sociolect</i>	54
2.4.1	<i>Social varieties of English and their reflection in dictionaries and grammars</i>	54
2.4.2	<i>Women's language</i>	56
2.4.3	<i>Colloquial English</i>	58
2.5	<i>Chronolects and the awareness of linguistic change</i>	59
2.6	<i>Scottish English</i>	63
2.7	<i>English outside England and Scotland</i>	66
2.7.1	<i>Wales</i>	66
2.7.2	<i>Ireland</i>	66
2.7.3	<i>New England and the United States</i>	68
2.7.4	<i>English elsewhere</i>	70
2.8	<i>18th-century pidgins and creoles</i>	71
2.9	<i>English as a second language on the Continent</i>	72

3	<i>Spelling and Pronunciation</i>	
3.1	<i>Spelling</i>	
3.1.1	<i>Handwriting</i>	
3.1.2	<i>Typefaces</i>	
3.1.3	<i>Orthography</i>	
3.2	<i>Spelling reform</i>	
3.3	<i>Punctuation</i>	
3.4	<i>Pronunciation</i>	
3.4.1	<i>Introduction</i>	
3.4.2	<i>Transcription systems</i>	
3.4.3	<i>Allophonic and phonemic structure and changes</i>	
3.4.4	<i>Standardization and the value of correct pronunciation</i>	
3.4.5	<i>Consonants</i>	
3.4.6	<i>Vowels</i>	
3.5	<i>Word stress, sentence stress and intonation</i>	
4	<i>Inflection</i>	
4.1	<i>Nominal inflection</i>	
4.2	<i>Adjectives</i>	
4.3	<i>Pronouns</i>	
4.3.1	<i>Personal pronouns</i>	
4.3.2	<i>Possessive pronouns</i>	
4.4	<i>Verbs</i>	
4.4.1	<i>Personal endings</i>	
4.4.2	<i>Tense formation: regular</i>	
4.4.3	<i>Irregular verbs</i>	
5	<i>Syntax</i>	
5.1	<i>Introduction</i>	
5.2	<i>A survey of syntactical change</i>	
5.3	<i>Individual problem areas</i>	
5.3.1	<i>Negation and uses of do</i>	
5.3.2	<i>Word-order and ellipsis</i>	
5.3.3	<i>Parts of speech</i>	
5.3.3.1	<i>Introduction</i>	
5.3.3.2	<i>Participles and gerunds</i>	
5.3.3.3	<i>Prepositions and conjunctions</i>	
5.3.3.4	<i>Phrasal verbs</i>	
5.3.3.5	<i>Adverbs</i>	
5.3.4	<i>The noun phrase</i>	
5.3.5	<i>The verb phrase</i>	
5.3.5.1	<i>Introduction</i>	
5.3.5.2	<i>Tense</i>	
5.3.5.3	<i>Progressive</i>	
5.3.5.4	<i>Subjunctive</i>	
5.3.5.5	<i>Modal verbs</i>	
5.3.5.6	<i>The passive</i>	
5.3.6	<i>Non-finite constructions</i>	
5.3.7	<i>Dependent clauses</i>	
5.3.7.1	<i>Introduction</i>	
5.3.7.2	<i>Nominal clauses</i>	
5.3.7.3	<i>Relative clauses</i>	
5.3.7.4	<i>Other dependent clauses</i>	

5.3.8	<i>Block language</i>	128
5.3.9	<i>Complex sentences and 'periods'</i>	128
5.3.10	<i>Latinate constructions</i>	129
5.4	<i>Pragmatic aspects</i>	130
5.4.1	<i>Introduction</i>	130
5.4.2	<i>Address</i>	131
5.4.3	<i>Affirmations, oaths and attestations</i>	133
5.4.4	<i>Irony</i>	134
6	<i>Lexis</i>	
6.1	<i>Introduction</i>	136
6.1.1	<i>General considerations</i>	136
6.1.2	<i>English lexicography in the 18th century</i>	137
6.1.3	<i>Etymology</i>	142
6.1.4	<i>Innovation, obsolescence and archaic uses</i>	145
6.1.5	<i>Social distinctions</i>	148
6.1.5.1	<i>Introduction</i>	148
6.1.5.2	<i>Upper-class jargon and 'low' words</i>	150
6.1.5.3	<i>Professional jargon</i>	152
6.1.5.4	<i>Malapropisms</i>	156
6.1.5.5	<i>Cant and slang</i>	156
6.1.6	<i>Regional lexis</i>	157
6.2	<i>Internal borrowing</i>	158
6.2.1	<i>Borrowings from BrE dialects</i>	158
6.2.2	<i>Borrowings from Scots</i>	159
6.2.3	<i>American English</i>	159
6.3	<i>Loanwords from foreign languages</i>	159
6.3.1	<i>Introduction</i>	159
6.3.2	<i>French</i>	162
6.3.3	<i>Latin and Greek</i>	165
6.3.4	<i>Borrowings from other European languages</i>	167
6.3.5	<i>Languages outside Europe</i>	168
6.3.6	<i>Summary</i>	169
6.4	<i>Word-formation</i>	169
6.4.1	<i>Introduction</i>	169
6.4.2	<i>Individual types: compounds</i>	172
6.4.3	<i>Derivation</i>	173
6.4.3.1	<i>Introduction</i>	173
6.4.3.2	<i>-er, -ess and -ster</i>	174
6.4.3.3	<i>-ness, -ity and -th</i>	174
6.4.3.4	<i>-ize</i>	175
6.4.3.5	<i>Adjectives in -ed and -y</i>	175
6.4.3.6	<i>Prefixes</i>	176
6.4.4	<i>Zero derivation</i>	176
6.4.5	<i>Verb + particle constructions and their nominalizations</i>	177
6.4.6	<i>Creations</i>	177
6.5	<i>Meaning and change of meaning</i>	178
6.5.1	<i>Introduction</i>	178
6.5.2	<i>Description of meaning</i>	179
6.5.3	<i>Causes of change</i>	180
6.5.4	<i>The speed of change</i>	182
6.5.5	<i>Types of change</i>	183
6.5.5.1	<i>Introduction</i>	183

6.5.5.2	<i>Extension</i>	183
6.5.5.3	<i>Reduction</i>	184
6.5.5.4	<i>Specification</i>	184
6.5.5.5	<i>Generalization</i>	184
6.5.5.6	<i>Amelioration and pejoration</i>	184
6.5.5.7	<i>Complex shifts</i>	185
6.5.5.8	<i>Synonyms</i>	187
6.6	<i>Literary language and poetic diction</i>	188
6.7	<i>Names</i>	193
7	<i>Text syntax, text types and style</i>	
7.1	<i>Text syntax</i>	195
7.2	<i>Text types</i>	196
7.2.1	<i>Introduction: classification</i>	196
7.2.2	<i>Linguistic features correlated with genre</i>	197
7.2.3	<i>Translations</i>	199
7.2.4	<i>Religion</i>	201
7.2.4.1	<i>Introduction</i>	201
7.2.4.2	<i>Biblical translation</i>	203
7.2.4.3	<i>Prayer</i>	203
7.2.4.4	<i>Sermons</i>	204
7.2.4.5	<i>Hymns</i>	205
7.2.5	<i>Legal language</i>	205
7.2.6	<i>Philosophical exposition</i>	206
7.2.7	<i>Newspapers and journalese</i>	207
7.2.8	<i>English in advertising</i>	208
7.2.9	<i>Cooking recipes and other advice</i>	210
7.2.10	<i>Dialogues in plays and novels</i>	210
7.2.11	<i>Private and official letters</i>	211
7.2.12	<i>Addresses and dedications</i>	212
7.2.13	<i>Ballads</i>	212
7.3	<i>Style</i>	212
7.3.1	<i>Introduction</i>	212
7.3.2	<i>Figures of speech and figures of thought</i>	218
7.3.3	<i>Interpretations of 18th-century conventions</i>	220
8	<i>Texts</i>	
A	<i>18th-century texts on language and linguistics</i>	
1	Greenwood & Steele, "On the mother-tongue", 1710	223
2	Anon., "On spelling reform", 1711	224
3	Addison, "The Humble Petition", 1711	225
4	Swift, "Polite Conversation", 1712	226
5	"Swift, "Language planning", 1712	228
6	Defoe, "On Somerset and Bristol dialects", 1724	231
7	Welsted, "Perfecting the English Language", 1724	232
8	Swift, "Ironic comment on linguistics", 1726	233
9	Anon., "English in law courts", 1731	234
10	Stackhouse, "The improvement of English", 1731	235
11	Lock, "Devon dialect", 1746/1794	238
12	Harris, "The character of language", 1751	239
13	Murphy, "Linguistic change", 1754	241
14	Chesterfield, "Authority in language", 1754	241
15	Johnson, "Dictionary making", 1755	243

6	Lawson, "On ornament", 1758	247
7	Priestley, "Linguistic argument", 1761	247
8	Priestley, "The perfection of English", 1762	249
9	Lowth, "The grammar of English", 1762/85	250
0	Wesley, "On good style", 1764	251
1	Ward, "On custom", 1765	252
2	Trusler, "Near-synonyms", 1766	253
3	Sheridan, "Variation in pronunciation", 1764	255
4	Buchanan, "On education", 1770	257
5	Anon., "On language", 1771	258
6	Anon., "The character of English and French", 1771	260
7	Monboddo, "Conversational habits", 1774	262
8	(Johnson and) Boswell, "On pronunciation", 1772/1791	263
9	Boswell, "On 'Johnsonese'", 1784	264
0	Collier, "Lancashire dialect", 1775	266
1	Hutton, "Homiletic prose in Lancashire dialect", 1785	266
2	Sheridan, "On public speaking", 1781	267
3	Blair, "Characteristics of English", 1783	268
4	Grose, "On slang and cant", 1785	269
5	Grose, "Local words and proverbs", 1787	269
6	Tytler, "On translation", 1791	270
7	Walker, "Proper pronunciation", 1791	271
8	Anon., "Dialect and sailor's language in political discourse", 1792/1793	272
9	Piozzi, "Near-synonyms again", 1794	273
0	Elphinston, "Reformed spelling", 1795	274
1	<i>18th-century texts on literature</i>	
.1	Pope, "On style", 1711	275
.2	Pope, "On translation", 1715	276
.3	Addison, "Critical Prose", 1711	277
.4	Pope and Johnson, "On Shakespeare's style", 1725/1765	278
.5	Holmes, "Rhetorical guidance", 1739	279
.6	Smollett, "Roderick Random", 1748	280
.7	Fielding, "Dialect in <i>Tom Jones</i> ", 1749	282
.8	Gray, "Elegy in a country church-yard", 1751	283
.9	Gough, "Educational verse", 1754	284
.0	Sterne, " <i>Tristram Shandy</i> ", 1759	285
i1	Walpole, "Reflections on the Gothic novel", 1764	286
i2	Percy, "Folk ballads", 1765	288
i3	Gibbons, "Tropes and figures defined", 1767	289
i4	Campbell, "Parody of Johnson's style", ² 1767	290
i5	Anon., "On composition", 1771	291
i6	Sheridan, "The Rivals", 1775	292
i7	Johnson, "Literary criticism", 1779	293
i8	Wordsworth and Coleridge, " <i>Preface to Lyrical Ballads</i> ", 1800	294
2	<i>18th-century texts on cultural history</i>	
i9	Harris, "Dictionary entries", 1704	296
i0	Wentworth, "Private letter", 1705	297
i1	Anon., "Early 18th-century advertising", 1704-5	297
i2	Anon., "Library Act", 1709	298
i3	Derham, "On physics", 1714	299
i4	Anon., "Merry tale", c1720	300

65	Anon., "Letter writing: general advice", 1721	301
66	Anon., "On writing love letters", 1721	303
67	Anon., "Auction catalogue", 1722	304
68	Kettilby, "Cooking and medical recipes", 1724	306
69	Defoe, "On education", 1729	307
70	Orton, "Education in a dissenting academy", c1730/1766	308
71	Anon., "An account of the malefactor's executed at Tyburn", 1731	309
72	Anon., "Epitaphs", 1707-75	310
73	F. G., "Indenture", 1734	311
74	Wesley, "A day in the life of Charles Wesley", 1743	312
75	Anon., "Deposition", 1743	313
76	Wesley, "Church hymn", 1745	315
77	Anon., "Church hymn", 1750	316
78	Anon., "Address", 1746	316
79	Swift, "Last will and testament", 1740	318
80	Anon., "Jests, jokes and toasts", 18th century	318
81	Boreman, "Biology for children", c1750	320
82	Anon., "On mining", 1750	321
83	Johnson, "A prayer", 1754	322
84	Johnson, "Reflections", 1754	323
85	Anon., "Directions for marriage couples", 1754	324
86	Anon., "Mortality", 1757	324
87	Anon., "On proper conduct", 1771	325
88	Anon., "Boycott of an innkeeper", 1773	327
89	Purver <i>et al.</i> , "Prefaces to NT translations", 1764-1795	328
90	Purver <i>et al.</i> , "Translations of The Prodigal Son", 1764-1795	332
91	Pope <i>et al.</i> , "On translations of the <i>Aeneid</i> ", 1764-1794	336
92	Pitt, Trapp and Beresford, "Passages from Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i> (IV, 129-35, 206-18)", 1718-94	337
93	Causton <i>et al.</i> , "Translations of Boethius (Book I, metre 1)", 1730-1789	339
94	Anon., "Advertising education", 1770	342
95	Anon., "Parody of an advertisement", c1780	343
96	Bicknell, "Advice on letter writing", 1790	344
97	Pitt, "Parliamentary speech on slavery", 1792	344
98	More, "Philanthropic prose", 1795?	345
99	Anon., "Oxford Paving Act", 1798	346
D	<i>The English language outside England</i>	
100	Ramsay/Burchet, "A Scots pastoral and its English imitation", 1720	348
101	McLintock, "Scottish recipes", 1736	349
102	Baillie, "Scottish household book", 1692-1733	349
103	Topham, "Language in Edinburgh", 1774	351
104	J. T., "Satires on Welsh English", 1743	352
105	Farquhar, "The Twin Rivals", 1702/3	354
106	Anon., "New England grave-stone inscriptions", 1754-1795	354
107	Anon., "Excerpts from the Salem Witchcraft Papers", 1692	356
108	Webster, "An independent American English?", 1789	357
109	Moreton, "Jamaican creole", 1790	358
110	Antera Duke, "Broken English in Nigeria", 1785	358
111	Anon., "Local news from Sydney", 1806	359
9	<i>References</i>	361
10	<i>Indexes</i>	378