

Leeds Studies in English

Article:

Anonymous, 'Abstracts of Theses, &c', *Leeds Studies in English*, 2 (1933), 85-87

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ABSTRACTS OF THESES, &c.

SYNCOPE AND APOCOPE IN OLD ENGLISH.

After the general rules formulated for syncope and apocope in O.E. by Sievers and Luick have been discussed and illustrated, and a number of special cases (such as the adjs. in Pr. Gmc. - *aza-*, -*īza-*) dealt with, the rest of the work is devoted to two subjects:

(1) Cases where a phonologically unjustifiable vowel appears.

(2) Cases where syncope of a type not included under Sievers' and Luick's rules is evidenced.

Under (1) a large number of trisyllabic forms showing a phonologically irregular medial vowel due to analogy with the dissyllabic nom. acc. sg. are dealt with; these may be divided into two groups: (a) those with a dissyllabic stem in Pr. Gmc.; e.g. *hēafod*, with analogical gen. sg. *hēafodes*; (b) those with a monosyllabic stem in Pr. Gmc. and a parasitic vowel in O.E.; e.g. *tācon*, with analogical dat. pl. *tācenum*.

Under (2) the syncope in the 2nd and 3rd sg. pres. ind. of verbs is discussed; then H. Weyhe's results (P.B.B., 30, 84-141), for syncope in words such as *micel* (gen. sg. *micles*) are summarised; then a certain number of similar cases in which syncope has taken place before consonants other than *l* (e.g. North. *heofon*, gen. sg. *heafnes*) are discussed. Finally a hitherto unnoticed type of syncope caused by *w* is described: in the *Lindisfarne Gospels* a vowel is frequently (though by no means invariably) lost after a *w*; thus gen. pl. *trewna* Mt. Pref. 17, 16; *treuna* Mt. 3, 10; 3rd sg. pret. ind. *sceaude* M 3, 34; M 10, 27; *ymsceawde* M 3, 5; *ymsceawde* M 11, 11; *ymsceawde* J 1, 42; inflected inf. *sceawne* L 7, 26; pres. part. *sceaunde* L 22, 56; 3rd sg. pret. ind. *giude* M. Pref. 4, 16, L 23, 52; pl. pret. ind. *giudon* Mt 27, 20; inf. *giuge* M 6, 24, L 19, 23 (<*giwiga*); p. part. *ædeawd* M 16, 12; *ædeawd* L 2, 35; *fewr* Mt. Pref. 8, 8.

HILDA PEERS, M.A., 1932.

A LIST OF ARABIC WORDS IN THE ENGLISH VOCABULARY.

For the purposes of this investigation Arabic has been defined as the native language of Arabia or of the peoples who have spread from Arabia during historical times. The alphabetical list includes Arabic loan-words in Old, Middle and Modern English. Each word is dated from its first known appearance in English literature. There are shown to be about a thousand main Arabic loan-words in English, and several thousand derivatives from them. Not one of these words was borrowed into English at the time of the Crusades, except the very doubtful *Tally-ho*! which *may* be from the Palestinian Arabic *ta'ala hun*! 'Come here!' or *thaleb hun*(a 'fox here.' There is no philological proof even of this one etymology. The French words borrowed from Arabic at the time of the Crusades are at most a dozen—about five current and six obsolete. The more popular works on philology are thus shown to be ill-informed on the subject.

For the most part Arabic loan-words in Middle English come *via* France from Spain. A large number were borrowed during the period 1250-1450, when French borrowings were most numerous. These were treated in English as French words. In the Modern English period Arabic loan-words were borrowed in the largest numbers during the century 1550-1650, by travellers and merchants who came into personal contact with Arabic-speaking peoples in the East.

A plea is made for the more phonetic spelling of such Arabic loan-words as have not yet found a stable form in English; and for the acceptance of some standard pronunciation. For example the forms *cohol*, *hamseen*, *hasheesh*, *kanoon*, *shek*, *'sice*, etc., are recommended because they represent the nearest English approximation to the Arabic pronunciation of the word, and because they are pronounceable, in contrast to *kohl*, *sheikh*, *shiekh*, *shaikh*, *shiakh*, etc. For the most part the suggested forms are those which have already been used in

English by good writers, e.g. *shek* and *cohol* by Sandys in his *Journey* (1615).

A protest is made against changing the form of such words as *Mahomet*, *Caliph*, *Moslem*, *almagest*, *dervish*, *talc*, which have already found a stable form in English.

A number of new etymologies have been included, and the words *cipher*, one meaning 'zero' and the other 'letter' (*Buchstabe*) have been treated separately because they may have been from the beginning two separate words in Arabic, *çifr* and *sifr* respectively (see p. 67 ff. of this number). Doubtful words have been treated at some length (as an example see my paper 'The Etymology of Saracen,' in LSE. I, 31-35).

There is an additional list of Arabic semantic values in English, where we have taken an Arabic idea without taking the Arabic word for it, as for example the mathematician's x , *sine*, *surd*, etc., the doctor's *pia mater* and the philosopher's *intention*.

The bibliography of works on the influence of Arabic on the languages of Europe shows that this branch of English etymology has been neglected.

Since the above was written the author has written *S.P.E. Tract XXXVIII* on 'Arabic Words in English' (Oxford, 1933).

WALT: TAYLOR, M.A., 1932.

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"The Alexander Legend in mediaeval England," by W. Wilkinson, M.A., 1933.