Differing forms of contact influence between Middle English and Anglo-Norman, and their context

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Hybrid languages

- distinct affiliation for different domains of the language

- Created via by bilingualism, usually one-way not mutual.

- May arise via language shift
Anglo Norman: a hybrid variety?

- Traditional characterisation as hybrid
- mixed language texts
Issues

- Historically, what sociolinguistic conditions give rise to a hybrid language?
- Does code-switching lead to hybridisation?
- Contact influence Anglo-Norman <-> English led to what kinds of system replacement?
• Status of languages in England 1200-1400
• ‘No dominance of French outside specialised sphere of government, the court and the aristocracy; no widespread practical or everyday bilingualism… evidence [for these views] comes from a combination of careful demographic and historical scholarship, plus a certain amount of common sense.’ (Lass 1987: 55-56)

Language contact in med. England:
- an English speaking majority
- a ‘Norman French’ minority shifting to English around 1250

Alternatively: Anglo-Norman continued alongside English, used by bilinguals (Trotter 2003, Ingham 2012a)
Documented uses of Anglo-Norman

- many literary and devotional texts
- Used in professional contexts: land management, commerce, law, teaching, warfare, medicine, local administration
transmission of A-Norman

- French was learnt until c. 1350 as a childhood second language in an institutional context experienced before grammar school: the church school (Ingham 2012).

- It was used on a daily basis as a medium of communication in the grammar school.

- Some degree of bilingualism was therefore universal among the educated class of medieval England.
Intense bilingualism

- consistent with thousands of French loan words in English 1250-1380, decreasing thereafter (DeKeyser 1986)
ME Function words replicated French items

- periphrastic comparative *more*
- *wh*- relative pronouns
- modal perfect
- *should have* etc. (Ingham 2010)

Connectives *as, because* etc. (Ingham 2012b, Molencki 2012)
Replication (Heine & Kuteva 2005)

An item in language A has a sense which its counterpart in language B doesn’t have.

The item in language A’s lexical entry is activated when a bilingual uses language B.

The sense of the language A item is replicated for the corresponding lexeme in language B.

E.g. LME as gained a ‘cause/reason’ sense replicating the ‘cause/reason’ sense of Old French *com*. (Ingham 2012)
Professional contexts

Estate management - manorial accounts (Ingham 2009)

Common use of French def. article + Eng. Noun embedded in matrix Latin:

(1) Pro le salthus (Framlingham, p. 68 (1324–5))
In le Nywemede (Cuxham, p. 594 (1358–9))
Ad claudendum le oxenpa(s)tur, 45
CS constraint in language-mixed medieval records:
Switch between article and noun; no switch between preposition and article

- (2) de Rog'o on the Grene (Longeruge. Staffs 1327)
- de Ada sur le Grene (Talynton Staffs 1332)
- (3) de Rob'to Bythebrok (Aston & Burveston. Staffs, 1332)
- de Roberto a le Brok (Morcott, Rutland, 1296)
- (4) De Luca Bythewode (Henherst, Sussex 1296)
- Gilberto a la wode (Hulleberrewe, Worcs, 88, c.1275)
Vowel phonology

- Vowel sounds existing only in French - simple vowels, diphthongs and palatalised semi-vowels - were eliminated
- Vowel sounds existing in English were spared
- Result: Phonology component became English
phonology of Anglo-Norman disconnected from Old French mainstream phonology:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Adopted by A-N?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loss of inter-vocalic dentals</td>
<td>before 1150</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ai/ ~ /ɛ/ merger</td>
<td>before 1150</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ã/ ~ /ẽ/ merger</td>
<td>later C12</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/u/ ~ /œ/ split</td>
<td>later C12</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/òi/ ~ /ei/ merger</td>
<td>c. 1200</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word stress -&gt; group stress</td>
<td>c. 1200 onwards</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Anglo-Norman lost palatal/non-palatal contrasts lacking in English:

- /ɲ/ ~ /n/
- /ʎ/ ~ /l/
- /y/ ~ /u/
- /je/ ~ /e/
- /胄/ ~ /u/  (Short 2007, Ingham 2012)
lexis

- Very little lexical borrowing English -> Anglo-Norman
grammar

- Old French tense system largely maintained
- Subject verb agreement unaffected
- Gender agreement affected only when phonological interference operated
Non-elite in-group vs social elite

- the source language of the interface effects was demographically dominant: English on A-N, majority languages on Judaeo-Spanish
- the source language of the replication effects A-N on English was socially dominant
Conclusions

- In English, non-basic lexis heavily replaced by French
- In A-N, phonology of Old French replaced by English
- In English, grammatical influence of French limited to replication of function words
- In A-N, grammatical influence of English limited to interface effects
- Code-switching did not lead to hybridisation
- Anglo-Norman was an elite professional variety, not an in-group language. Contact did not lead to hybridisation, but overall had more restricted effects.