

FROM THE HISTORY OF LEARNING FRENCH

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ABSTRACT

This article gives a brief overview of the historical evolution of the French language. That is, a brief account of the historical processes of the formation of French as a language is given.

Keywords: ancient French, Latin, Gaulish, Greek, popular Latin, French dialect

INTRODUCTION

Language shifts happen suddenly - not over a one or two year period, but gradually over a long period of time. Therefore, the language of each era seems immutable and stable to the speakers of that language. However, the process of language development and change never stops.

Like other languages, French has gone through several periods of development, and each period has its own laws and its own phonetic and grammatical system.

The scientific opinions of many French linguists on this subject are still used as the main source.

The ancient Gauls, the Celtic languages, are at the origin of the French language, which belongs to the family of Indo-European languages, along with Greek, Latin and German.

The article " Little history of the French language" by Janyne CAPDEVILLE, professor at the University of Pau and Pays de l'Adur, gives very clear information on the history of the French language.

According to historical sources, in the 2000s BC, the Celts from Germany invaded Gaul, where they gradually settled in several stages. However, there are already trained linguist peoples opposed to the Iberians (in Aquitaine) and the Ligurians (near the Mediterranean) (the languages are logically classified by linguists as pre-Indo-European languages).

- from Ligurian comes the name avalanche

- from Iberian comes the noun calanque

In fact, the French adopted a very limited number of words from the Gallic language, and the adopted words also came to them through popular Latin or dialects. These words are mainly found in the village dictionary: : blé, caillou, sapin, trou, chemin, lande

In 52 BC, Gaul, conquered by Julius Caesar, became a Roman province.

French is actually derived from Latin, which is a Romance language like Italian, Spanish, Portuguese or Romanian.

But the Latin language spoken during the Roman conquest was not always pure. Indeed, the Gauls learned Latin by interacting with Roman soldiers and merchants who spoke the language. Unfortunately, like all new foreign language learners, the Gauls heard and mispronounced this new language imposed by the invaders. After the Romans had previously conquered Greece, a large part of their vocabulary was also composed of words derived from the Greek language. .

Janyne Capdeville recalls that the word "migraine" is also derived from the IIIrd century medical term "hemicrania", from the Greek hêmikrania (pain in half of the skull). The word

“Église” is derived from the Greek word “ecclesia” (meeting). The word “hypocrite” in French means hypocrite, and the Greek word “acteur” means actor.

The so-called "barbarians" of the Germanic peoples (Franks, Burgundians, Goths, Huns...) arrived in the Roman world in 200 BC. The Franks, who led the great invasions (430-450), were the most German-speaking people, most of whom lived in Gaul and introduced the Frankish language there.

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Their number is so limited that they mingle so much with the Gallo-Roman peoples that they begin to speak the language of the conquered country, the Romans.

At the beginning of the 9th century, the unification of the kingdom of France was not yet achieved and each province used its own language, that is to say its dialect.

There are about twenty dialects in France: Breton, Basque, Germanic, Roman d'oc, Roman d'oïl, Basque dialect, Flemish, Picard dialect, Norman dialects. French was spoken in the IXth and XIIIth centuries in the small province of Ile de France, around Paris.

Historical phonetics also plays an important role in the correct interpretation of the characteristics of modern French dialects and in the development of convenient ways to overcome the errors of dialectal dialect effects.

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