

## *Foreword*

This book attempts to present the history of the English language in a compact and methodical manner. It begins with an introduction on Language and Linguistic Change and then surveys the main historical events and the various foreign and native factors which have influenced English and given it its present form.

This is followed by a description of the language in its four main stages traditionally known as Old, Middle, Early Modern and Modern English. The description is set in terms of the basic phonological, morphological, syntactical and lexical aspects of each stage.

The book ends with a brief treatment of American English showing the growth and development of English in the United States. It also discusses briefly the main differences between American English and British English.

It is to be hoped that, with the deficiencies expected in a work of this nature, the book will still help fill in a gap that has long been felt and serve the needs of Arab teachers and students of English in Universities, Teacher Colleges and Higher Institutes.

We are greatly indebted to the many historians of English and Linguists whose invaluable works have served as source of material included in this book. A bibliography of their works appears at the end.

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