History of the English Language

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Навчально-методичний посібник з курсу "Історія англійської мови" містить матеріали лексій, семінарських занять, завдань та вправ, що мають на меті сформувати знання та компетентності студентів з питань розвитку та становлення англійської мови.

 Запропонований посібник призначено для студентів третього курсу факультету іноземних мов, що вивчають англійську мову як першу іноземну.

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List of abbreviations

OE – Old English
ME – Middle English
EME – Early Modern English
ModE – Modern English
IE. - Indo-European
Germ. – Germanic
OS – Old Saxon
OHG – Old High German
Lat. – Latin
sv – strong verb
wv – weak verb
decl. – declension
pr. – present
pt. – past
pp – past participle
Nom. – Nominative
Gen. – Genitive
Dat. – Dative
Acc. – Accusative
m/masc. – masculine
n/neut. – neuter
f/fem. – feminine
GVS - Great Vowel Shift

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Lecture # 1
General Characteristics of the English Language
Plan:
1. Principles of Language Classification
2. Indo-European language family and Germanic branch
3. Periods of the English Language

A History of the English Language is a very complex subject that includes knowledge of extralinguistic and intralinguistic factors. To understand a single change that happened to a sound, ending, word, or construction, one may need to combine certain political or social factors with phonetic, morphologic and semantic facts.

1. Principles of Language Classification

Classifying languages is an important step in learning the history of the English language for several reasons:

Understanding Language Relationships: Classification helps to understand the relationships between different languages, including their similarities and differences. This information can provide important clues about the origins and evolution of the language.

Tracing Language Development: By classifying the English language and its relatives, linguists can trace its development over time, including its influences from other languages and its changes in vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation.

Historical Context: Classification provides the historical context for the English language, including information about the cultures and languages that influenced it, and the political and social events that shaped its development.

Comparison with Other Languages: By classifying the English language, we can also compare it to other languages, including its closest relatives and more distant relatives, and understand how it has been influenced by these other languages over time.

In conclusion, classification is a critical step in learning the history of the English language, as it provides a framework for comparing different languages, tracing the development of the language over time, and gaining a broader understanding of the historical context in which the language evolved. We can compare languages using several underlying principles:

1. *Genetic classification*. Historical linguistics also referred to as the genealogy of languages, is the classification of languages based on their evolutionary links. In order to ascertain the link between languages and to reconstruct the proto-languages from which they are sprung, linguists employ a variety of techniques, such as comparative linguistics and the examination of