



REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

- What counts as English today? Do you think speakers of different varieties have different feelings about English? What does English mean to its speakers in different parts of the world?
 - Is the diversity of English increasing? Do we need International Standard English?
 - Do you support D. Crystal's (Crystal 1988) approach to refer to Old English as Anglo-Saxon in order to highlight its distinctiveness from Modern English? Taking into consideration such striking distinctiveness of Old English, do you believe that Old English and Modern English count as different languages and cultures, or they count as the same language and culture with a continuity linking Old, Middle, and Modern English?
 - Why do we say that the builders of Stonehenge were already mixed people?
 - Shall we interpret the Roman occupation of Britain as *paternal and protective* or *hostile and devastating*? Why?
 - Why was the epoch of the Germanic invasion of paramount importance for the history and culture of England?
 - At the beginning of the 9th century, Ecgberht (Egbert), the King of Wessex and the grandfather of Alfred the Great, became the first King of all England. During his reign he subdued the Celts, defeated the Mercians and ended their supremacy. He managed to keep the independence of Wessex for some time. His domain was described by an anonymous Anglo-Saxon poet in his elegy called *The Ruin* (probably the 8th or the 9th centuries). Why do you think the depiction of supposedly the city of Bath was so shadowy?

*Wondrous is this foundation – the fates have broken
and shattered this city; the work of giants crumbles.*

*The roofs are ruined, the towers toppled,
frost in the mortar has broken the gate,
torn and worn and shorn by the storm,
eaten through with age [EADP]*

- Why was the greater part of the 10th century something of a golden age?
- Speaking of the consequences of the Scandinavian invasion in England, can we state that it gave vigor to the native language and culture of the English?
- For what reasons is the Norman invasion often described by historians and linguists as 'grim century'?

- Can you provide evidence for the fact that the period of the 12th – 13th centuries was marked by the making of the nation and touched by the spirit of nationalism?

- Why can one associate the image of *vernal expectancy*, or *Plantagenet spring* that came after the *grim Norman winter*, with the 13th century life in England? The image is explicit in the perhaps the earliest English lyric written in c1226:

Sumer is icumen in
Sumer is icumen in
Lhude sing cuccu
Groweþ sed
and bloweþ med
and springþ þe wde nu
Sing cuccu

Summer has come
Summer has come,
Loudly sing, Cuckoo!
Seeds grow,
And meadow blooms
And the woods bud anew,
Sing, Cuckoo!

- What century can boast the triumph of the English tongue? What forces caused its rising prestige?

- Summarize the issue of the use of English, French, and Latin in England at the end of the 13th and the beginning of the 14th centuries. Was the decline of French noticed?

- What were the disadvantages of maintaining French in England in the 13th and the 14th centuries? For what reason(s) was it restrictedly cultivated in the 15th century?

What events are associated with the image of England as ‘*the mistress of the seas*’? Did the role and character of the English tongue begin to change with the establishment of the first colonies in the New World?