**OE CHANGES**

**1. OLD ENGLISH VOWELS**

1. **Breaking (fracture) –** formation of a short diphthong from a simple short vowel.

a + r (l) + cons, => ea (hard *>* *heard*)

æ / a + h + cons. => ea (ahta *> eahta*)

e + h final => eo (*hairto, herte > heorte*) *–* heart

*2.* **Palatal mutation** – back sounds ***a*** or ***o***changed their quality if they were followed by front sounds in the next syllable.

a – æ , a – e: *sandian* - *sendan* (to send)

ā – æ (long): *lārian - lāeran* (to learn)

o > oe > e: *dohter - dehter* (dative case of daughter)

ō > oe > ē: *wōpian - wēpan* (to weep)

u > y: *fullian - fyllan* (to fill)

ū> *ý: mūs - mýs* (mice)

Palatal mutation was found not only in monophthongs but also in diphthongs. The modified system of diphthongs looks like the following:

ea > ie: *eald - ieldra* (elder)

eo > ie: *feor - fierra* (further)

ea > ie: *hēarian* - *hīeran* (hear)

ēo > īe: 3*etrēowi - 3etrīewe* (true)

**Diphthongization after palatal consonants.**

Some diphthongs appeared after palatal consonants *sk', k'* and j; (in spelling *sc, c,* 3):

a – ea: *skal — sceal –* shall

ā > ēa: *skāggwon - scēawian*

e – ie: 3*efan - 3iefan* (give)

æ – ea: 3æf- 3eaf (gave)

æ (long) > ēa: *jār - jēar* (year)

o > eo: *scort* - *sceort* (short)

**Back, or Velar Mutation –** the syllable that influenced the preceding vowel contained back vowels - ***o***or ***u****.*

*i – io: silufr* - *siolufr* (silver)

e > eo: *herot* - *heorot* (hart)

a > ea: *saru - searu* (armour)

**Mutation before *h.***Sounds ***a***and ***e***that preceded ***h***changed into *ea – ie – i/y:*

*naht* - *neaht* - *niht* (night).

**Contraction**. Consonant *h* was lost in the following clusters:

a, e, i, o + h + any vowel: *slahan - slēan* (slay)

Vowels were lengthened before the clusters *nd, ld, mb – bindan, сild, climban* (bind, child, climb). If there was a consonant after this cluster the vowel was not lengthened: *cildru* (now children).

**2. CHANGES IN CONSONANTS**

Fricatives were voiced in intervocal position:

f > v: *ofer* (over)

Ө > ð: ōð*er* (other)

s > z > r (rhotacism): *maiza - māra* (now *more,* but *most)*

**Palatalization** of the sounds *k’, sk'* and *kg'* (marked as *c, sc* and *c3)* developed into sibilants before front vowels (especially for words of Scandinavian and Greek origin).

k'>tS: *cild* (child)

sk' > S: *sceal* (shall)

kg' > d3: *bryc3* (bridge)

Back γ sound before palatal consonants turned into *j - 3ear* (year).

**Metathesis of *r.***In several Old English words the following change of the position of consonants took place:

cons+ *r* + vowel > cons + vowel + *r: ðridda - ðirda* (third)