Chapter – 1

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1. INTRODUCTION

Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) is a Residential Academic Institution located in the city of Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India. It was established in 1875 by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and in 1920 it was granted a status of Central University by an Act of Indian Parliament. It is one of the premier central universities in India.

Aligarh is situated at a distance of 130 km, South-East of Delhi on Delhi-Kolkata Railway and Grand Trunk Road. Modelled on the University of Cambridge, it was among the first institutions of higher learning set up during the British Raj. Originally it was Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College, which was founded by a great Muslim social reformer Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. Many prominent Muslim leaders, and Urdu writers and scholars of the subcontinent have graduated from the University.[1]

1.1 Educational Streams

Aligarh Muslim University offers more than 250 Courses in traditional and modern branch of Education. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, a great social reformer of his age felt the need for modern education and started a school in 1875 which later became the Mohammedan Anglo Oriental College and finally Aligarh Muslim University in 1920. This is a premier Central University with several faculties and maintained
institutions and draws students from all corners of the world, especially Africa, West Asia and South East Asia. In some courses, seats are reserved for students from SAARC and Commonwealth countries. The University is open to all irrespective of caste, creed, religion or gender. It is ranked 8th best (2009 ranking) of all research universities in India by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of India.

The establishment of Mohammedan Anglo Oriental (MAO) College in 1875 marks one of the most important events in the educational and social history of modern India. Its establishment is considered as the first significant response of the Indian Muslims to the challenges of post-1857 era. It was an important catalyst in a process of social change among Muslims.

In 1920, an Act of Indian Legislative Council elevated the M.A.O. College to the status of a Central University. Since that time AMU has grown into a major Indian university. It presently covers a very wide spectrum of academic disciplines, having 88 departments, 5 institutions, 13 centre’s. The University currently has about 28000 students on its rolls, most of whom stay in 16 halls of residences with 70 hostels. It employs about 1400 academic staff, and about 6000 non-teaching staff. The University has a campus spread over 467.6 hectares of land. students come to study at AMU every year.

1.2 Facilities

AMU provides all the basic facilities to its students like residential accommodation, guest house, health services, sports, and computer centre and hobby workshops. The University has a vast library as well. The
Library complex comprises of a Central Library and more than 80 college/departmental libraries. These libraries cater to the academic needs of the students.

1.3 Faculties:

- Agriculture Sciences
- Arts
- Commerce
- Engineering & Technology
- Law
- Life Sciences
- Management Studies & Research
- Medicine
- Science
- Theology
- Unani Medicine
- Social Science

The Social Science faculty has many departments such as Economics, Education, History, Islamic Studies, Political Science, Sociology, Human Rights, Psychology, etc.

2. DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Realizing the important of English for modern education, the founder of the M.A.O College, Aligarh, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and his associates had the Department of English established at the college as early as 1877. The principal and a good number of teachers at that time were British, Those who taught English included A.A. J. Nesbitt, I.
Tipping, F.J. Moss, Dr. L. Chase, H.O. Lee and M. Collins. In 1885, Walter Raleigh, who was to distinguish himself as a literary intact in the years to come and who went on to teach at Manchester Liverpool and Glasgow before he became king Alfred, Professor of English in Merton College Alfred, Professor of English in Merton College, Oxford and had a major role in organizing English Studies in the the University of Oxford, was appointed of the first Professor of English at the M.A.O. College Professor from Britain Headed the Department of English as late as 1946 through the M.A.O College in the early 20th Century in 1921, with the Aligarh College becoming a Professor E.C. Dickinson took over as the first Chairman of the University's English Department to be followed by Mr. Firebrace, Mr. Hadow Harris and Professor F.J. Fielden. [2]

English Literature was a compulsory subject for all B.A. students till 1950's. Those were the days of the domaince of liberal education. Not much emphasis was put on research in English. In fact the Department took an initiative in this direction under the guidance of its chairman, Professor A. Bose only in the fifth decade if the last century. Professor A. Box not promoted research he also gave English Language Teaching its due place in the one year Pre-university and three courses introduced in 1950's Among the optional papers American Literature was the first to make its appearance in 1959 to followed by papers on English Language. Commonwealth Literature. Continental Literature in the 1940's which was later withdrawn. From the point of view of breaking new courses: MA ELT and B.A (Hons.) Communicative English. The latter course was funded by UGC for its initial five years: Now the Department runs this useful course out of its own limited resource since the serves as a feeder for our MA ELT course. Moreover, the course. BA (Hons.)
Communicative English, has adequately met the University who had little exposure to English Language.

English is taught as a compulsory subject to the under-graduate of all the faculties of the University except for the faculties of Medicine and Agriculture.

2.1 Facilities:

The Department has a Multimedia Language Laboratory equipped with nearly 13 Computers, LCD Projector, Digital Tape Recorder, Television and CD Players.

The Department has a separate Seminar Library with approximately 7800. [3]

3. DEFINITION OF ENGLISH ON THE WEB:

- English is a West Germanic language that developed in England and south-eastern Scotland during the Anglo-Saxon era.[4]

- Englishes - This is a list of dialects of the English language. Dialects are linguistic varieties which differ in pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar from each other and from Standard English (which is itself a dialect). [5]

- Is the primary thesaurus language. Equivalents of the English descriptors are available in Czech, French, German, Italian, Polish and Spanish. Furthermore, a Croatian version is available in the European Thesaurus online version. A Russian and a Greek version will be added in the near future. [6]
4. HISTORY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

A short history of the origins and development of English. The history of the English language really started with the arrival of three Germanic tribes who invaded Britain during the 5th century AD. These tribes, the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes, crossed the North Sea from what today is Denmark and northern Germany. At that time the inhabitants of Britain spoke a Celtic language. But most of the Celtic speakers were pushed west and north by the invaders – mainly into what is now Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The Angles came from England and their language was called English – from which the words England and English are derived.

4.1 Old English (450-1100 AD)

The invading Germanic tribes spoke similar languages, which in Britain developed into what we now call Old English. Old English did not sound or look like English today. Native English speakers now would have great difficulty understanding Old English. Nevertheless, about half of the most commonly used words in Modern English have Old English roots. The words be, strong and water, for example, derive from Old English. Old English was spoken until around 1100.
4.2 Middle English (1100-1500)

In 1066 William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy (part of modern France), invaded and conquered England. The new conquerors (called the Normans) brought with them a kind of French, which became the language of the Royal Court, and the ruling and business classes. For a period there was a kind of linguistic class division, where the lower classes spoke English and the upper classes spoke French. In the 14\textsuperscript{th} century English became dominant in Britain again, but with many French words added. This language is called Middle English. It was the language of the great poet Chaucer (c1340-1400), but it would still be difficult for native English speakers to understand today.

4.3 Modern English
4.31 Early Modern English (1500-1800)

Towards the end of Middle English, a sudden and distinct change in pronunciation (the Great Vowel Shift) started, with vowels being pronounced shorter and shorter. From the 16\textsuperscript{th} century the British had contact with many people's from around the world. This, and the Renaissance of Classical learning, meant that many new words and phrases entered the language. The invention of printing also meant that there was now a common language in print. Books became cheaper and more people learned to read. Printing also brought standardization to English. Spelling and grammar became fixed, and the dialect of London, where most publishing houses were, became the standard. In 1604 the first English dictionary was published.
4.32 Late Modern English (1800-Present)

The main difference between Early Modern English and Late Modern English is vocabulary. Late Modern English has many more words, arising from two principal factors: firstly, the Industrial Revolution and technology created a need for new words; secondly, the British Empire at its height covered one quarter of the earth’s surface, and the English language adopted foreign words from many countries.

5. VARIETIES OF ENGLISH

From around 1600, the English colonization of North America resulted in the creation of a distinct American variety of English. Some English pronunciations and words "froze" when they reached America. In some ways, American English is more like the English of Shakespeare than modern British English is. Some expressions that the British call "Americanisms" are in fact original British expressions that were preserved in the colonies while lost for a time in Britain (for example trash for rubbish, loan as a verb instead of lend, and fall for autumn: another example, frame-up, was re-imported into Britain through Hollywood gangster movies). Spanish also had an influence on American English (and subsequently British English), with words like canyon, ranch, stampede and vigilante being examples of Spanish words that entered English through the settlement of the American West. French words (through Louisiana) and West African words (through the slave trade) also influenced American English (and so, to an extent, British English).

Today, American English is particularly influential, due to the USA’s dominance of cinema, television, popular music, trade and technology
(including the Internet). But there are many other varieties of English around the world, including for example Australian English, New Zealand English, Canadian English, South African English, Indian English and Caribbean English.

5.1 The Germanic Family of Languages

English is a member of the Germanic family of languages. Germanic is a branch of the Indo-European language family.[7]
REFERENCES

1. http:www.amu.ac.in
6. www.fiv-iblk.de/information/thesaurus.html