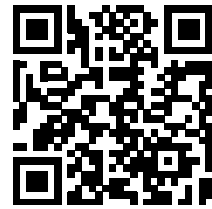


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Bilingualism and the Norman Influence



The Norman Conquest of 1066 had a profound impact on England and its language. Before the _____ arrived, Old English was the primary language spoken by the _____. However, after William the Conqueror's victory at the _____ of Hastings, Norman French became the language of the ruling class.

This shift led to a unique form of bilingualism in England.

In the courts and among the nobility, French was the language of power and prestige. Commoners and _____, on the other hand, continued to speak Old English. Over time, these two languages began to merge, forming what we now know as Middle English. This new language was richer and more varied, borrowing heavily from _____ vocabulary.

Notable changes included the introduction of French words for food, like _____ from 'boeuf' and _____ from 'porc', while the English words 'cow' and 'pig' remained in use for the animals. Legal terms, such as 'court' and 'judge', also originated from French, reflecting the Normans' control over the _____ system.

This period of bilingualism had a lasting effect on English culture and _____.

The English language became a blend of Anglo-Saxon and Norman elements, creating a linguistic diversity that is still evident today. Many everyday English words are of Norman origin, highlighting the enduring influence of this period.

The fusion of languages also led to a cultural _____, where Anglo-Saxon and Norman traditions merged. This blend shaped the development of English literature, art, and _____, forming the basis of modern English identity. The impact of Norman rule, therefore, extended far beyond the political and legal spheres, deeply ingraining itself into the fabric of English culture.

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