

Concepts in English Linguistics

Session 12: Early Modern English

Dummy *do* The verb *do* used as an auxiliary, adding no semantic value: *She doth ride* “she rides”

Great Vowel Shift A series of diphthongizations and (consequent) raisings of English long vowels, the most important of which took place between 1350–1700. The diphthongization of /u:/ to /au/ and /i:/ to /ai/ prompted the lower vowels to rise. This explains the disconnect between spelling and pronunciation in words like *see*, *make*, *hide*.

Inkhorn term A lexical borrowing, usually from Greek or Latin into English, criticized as having been introduced needlessly and/or in order to appear educated: thus the inkhorn term *turgidous* could be more easily expressed using the Germanic form *swollen*.