

THE BRITISH LINGUO MAP:
MODERN LANGUAGES, DIALECTS, DEAD LANGUAGES

The British Isles are known as the site where a lot of ancient civilization left their signs. People came and stayed here for centuries, then they were conquered by new invaders and disappeared, or were ousted to the outmost mountainous regions of the Isles. The Stonehenge monument in England, Sculptured stones monuments in Scotland, Ogham inscriptions in Scotland, Wales and Ireland – all of these were left by pre-Indo-Europeans who managed to leave traces seen even now, after several millenniums of wars, invasions, disasters and changes.

And the language also contains traces. Succinct languages and dialects descriptions help to identify the main peculiarities and features, and understand the reasons for the extinction of several languages. Studying dead languages can be very important if people want to learn about the history of the people who spoke them. Any additional information allows admiring the language diversity, complication of the linguo map development, its ongoing transformation, and also perspectives under the influence of time.

Today people of the UK use different dialects (the Northern dialects: *Geordie*, *Lancastrian*, *Cheshire*, *Mancunian*, *Scouse*, *Yorkshire*; the West Midlands: *Brummie*; and *Cockney* in the South), and often do not understand each other having different variants of the languages, like *RP* (*Received Pronunciation*,

an “ideal” or “queen” language) or even using different languages (*English, Scots, Scottish Gaelic, Ireland, Wales*). The linguistic differences and features can be noticed and studied in phonological, grammatical, lexical and other aspects.

The influence cannot be estimated as being positive or negative, though it is important to say that events do not only create new languages or dialects but also force them to disappear. This way we can say that the existence of languages or dialects is not permanent. Some of them faded away with the last native speaker, and they move into the realm of dead languages. The examples of such dialects in the UK are *Norn, Pictish, Cumbric and Yola or the Forth and Bargy*. Traces of these languages or dialects persist mostly in a limited number of geographical and personal names found on monuments and in the contemporary records.

Today there is no ground to say that languages and dialects will finally disappear since lexicographers add hundreds of new words and abbreviations to online dictionaries every month. However, we should carefully consider some dead and extinct languages and dialects because of their cultural, linguistic, or social importance for the society development.