

The impact of printing on the development of the English language during the period of the Renaissance



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THE IMPACT OF PRINTING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DURING THE PERIOD OF THE RENAISSANCE

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Grin Verlag Okt 2009, 2009. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x2 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Titel. - Seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, printed single-sided, grade: 2,3, University of Koblenz-Landau (Anglistik), course: The Story of English, language: English, abstract: The 15th century must be seen as the age of innovation in Europe. For the spread of Renaissance culture as we know it today, several factors were decisive: advances in the fields of arts (e.g. architecture, painting and literature), science (e.g. geography, astronomy and medicine), economy (e.g. flourishing international trade) and of course technology, as the example of the printing press shows. By definition The printing press is a mechanical device for printing many copies of a text on rectangular sheets of paper. This definition might give the impression we are dealing with a simple gadget and a rather unspectacular procedure, but until 1450, the original method of printing was block printing, pressing sheets of paper into individually carved wooden blocks , which would not last very long because of the pressure exercised upon them during the process of printing. Knowing this, the invention of the printing press seems even more valuable, as the former method described here required a lot of energy, money and time and yielded a relatively ridiculous output. A less-costly method of producing printed material needed to be found and the former goldsmith Johannes Gutenberg (1398-1468) from Mainz in Germany is acknowledged as the pioneer in this field. He experimented with metal alloy and finally created movable types which could be used and reused for printing without the effect of wearing down like the wooden material. Immediately, the printing press had the effect of multiplying the output and cutting the costs...

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