

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH FINDINGS

In this research like in the introduction of this thesis the data is taken on The Jakarta Post newspaper, the writer takes from the headlines of the Jakarta Post Newspaper which are explored etymologically. Every word is taken from The Jakarta Post' Headline during 1st– 31st July 2015, if it is calculated it will 26 headlines because there were 5 days of holiday.

The finding is divided into two categories as follows:

- 1) Origin word without affixes
- 2) The origin of affixes

A. Data Finding

1) Origin word without affixes

1. July 1st, 2015 “Aging Fleet Again Takes Its Toll”

1.1 Aging, Age [13]

Age has undergone considerable transmutations and abbreviations since its beginnings in Latin. Its immediate source in English is Old French *aage*, which was the product of a hypothetical Vulgar Latin form **aetaticum* (the *t* is preserved in Provençal *atge*). This was based on Latin *aetat-* (stem of *aetas*), which was a shortening of *aevitas*, which in turn came from *aevum* ‘lifetime’. This entered English in more recognizable form in *medieval*, *primeval*, etc; it is related to Greek *aión* ‘age’, from which English gets *aeon* [17], and it can be traced back to the same root that produced (via Old

Norse *eí*) the now archaic adverb *ay(e)* ‘ever’ (as in ‘will *aye* endure’)(Ayto, 2005:11-12).

1.2 Fleet [OE]

Fleet is one of a vast tangled web of words which traces its history back ultimately to Indo-European **pleu-*, denoting ‘flow, float’ (amongst its other English descendants are *fly*, *flood*, *flow*, *fledge*, *fowl*, *plover*, and *pluvial*). *Fleet* itself comes from the extended Indo-European base **pleud-*, via the Germanic verb **fleutan* and Old English *fleotan* ‘float, swim’ (modern English *float* comes from the related Old English *flotian*). The verb has now virtually died out, but it survives in the form of the present participial adjective *fleeting*, which developed the sense ‘transient’ in the 16th century, and in the derived noun *fleet*: Old English seems to have had two distinct nouns *fleot* based on the verb *fleotan*, one of which meant ‘ships’, and the other of which signified ‘creek, inlet’ (it survives in the name of London’s Fleet Street, which runs down to the now covered-up Thames tributary, the river Fleet). The adjective *fleet* ‘quick’ (as in ‘fleet of foot’) was probably borrowed from Old Norse *fljótr*, likewise a descendant of Germanic **fleut-* (Ayto, 2005:222).

1.3 again [OE]

The underlying etymological sense of *again* is ‘in a direct line with, facing’, hence ‘opposite’ and ‘in the opposite direction, back’ (its original meaning in Old English). It comes from a probable Germanic **gagin* ‘straight’, which was the source of many compounds formed with *on* or *in* in various Germanic languages,

such as Old Saxon *angegin* and Old Norse *íg gegn*. The Old English form was *ongean*, which would have produced *ayen* in modern English; however, Norse-influenced forms with a hard *g* had spread over the whole country from northern areas by the 16th century. The meaning ‘once more, anew’ did not develop until the late 14th century. From Old English times until the late 16th century a prefix-less form *gain* was used in forming compounds. It carried a range of meanings, from ‘against’ to ‘in return’, but today survives only in *gainsay* (Ayto, 2005:11).

1.4 Takes, take [12]

Take was borrowed from Old Norse *taka*, whose modern descendants include Swedish *taga* and Danish *tage*. Now defunct relatives include Middle Dutch *taken* ‘seize’ and Gothic *tekan* ‘touch’, and its ancestral meaning is probably ‘lay hands on’, but its ultimate origins are not known (Ayto, 2005:496).

1.5 its, it [OE]

It (or *hit*, as it was in Old English) comes ultimately from the same prehistoric Germanic demonstrative stem form. **khi-*, as produced *he*. The possessive form *its* is a comparatively recent development, dating from the end of the 16th century; until then, *his* was used for ‘its’ (Ayto, 2005:292).

1.6 toll [OE]

Toll ‘charge, payment’ [OE] and *toll* ‘ring a bell’ [15] are distinct words. The former was borrowed into Old English from Medieval Latin *toloneum* ‘place where tolls are collected’, an

alteration of late Latin *teloneum*. This in turn was borrowed from Greek *telónion*, a derivative of *télos* ‘tax’. The ancestry of *toll* ‘ring a bell’ is more conjectural. It may be the same word as the long-obsolete *toll* ‘pull’, which went back to an Old English **tollian*(Ayto, 2005:511).

2. July 2nd, 2015 “TNI to focus on local suppliers”

2.1 focus [17]

Latin *focus* meant ‘fireplace’, and in post-classical times it came to be used for ‘fire’ itself – hence French *feu*, Italian *fuoco*, Spanish *fuego*, all meaning ‘fire’, and hence too the English derivatives *fuel* and *fusillade*. The first writer known to have used it in its modern sense ‘point of convergence’ was the German astronomer Johannes Kepler, in 1604, but the reason for his choice of word is not clear. It may have been some metaphorical notion of the ‘hearth’ symbolizing the ‘centre of the home’, but it has also been suggested that it may have been preceded and inspired by the use of *focus* for the ‘burning point’ of a mirror (not actually recorded until somewhat later). The philosopher Thomas Hobbes appears to have introduced the term into English, in 1656 A medieval Latin derivative of *focus* was *focarius*, from which French got *foyer* ‘hearth, home’, borrowed by English in the 19th century for a public entrance hall or lobby(Ayto, 2005:224).

2.2 on [OE]

On is an ancient Germanic preposition, with relatives in German (*an*), Dutch (*aan*), and Swedish (*å*), and also connections outside Germanic (such as Greek *aná* ‘on’ and Russian *na* ‘on’) (Ayto, 2005:357).

2.3 local [15]

Latin *locus* meant ‘place’ (it became in due course French *lieu*, acquired by English in the 13th century, and was itself adopted into English as a mathematical term in the 18th century). From it was derived the verb *locare* ‘place’, source of English *locate* [18] and *location* [16], and the post-classical adjective *localis*, from which English gets *local*. The noun *locale* is a mock frenchification of an earlier *local* [18], an adoption of the French use of the adjective *local* as a noun (Ayto, 2005:314).

2.4 suppliers, supply [14]

Latin *supplere* meant ‘fill up, complete’. It was a compound verb formed from the prefix *sub-* ‘under, from below’, hence ‘up’, and *plere* ‘fill’ (source of English *accomplish, complete*, etc). The sense ‘provide’ evolved via the notion of ‘making good a deficiency, fulfilling a need’.

The original meaning is better preserved in *supplement* [14], whose Latin ancestor *supplementum* was derived from *supplere* (Ayto, 2005:490).

3. July 3rd, 2015 “Freeport seeking certainty”

3.1 seeking, seek [OE]

Seek has several Germanic relatives – German *suchen*, Swedish *söka*, Danish *søge*, etc – which point back to a prehistoric Germanic ancestor **sokjan*. The base from which this was derived, **sok-*, went back to an Indo-European **sag-*, which also produced (via Latin) English *presage* [14] and *sagacious* [17]. If Old English *secan* had developed in the ordinary way, it would have become modern English *seech*, not *seek*. For various reasons it did not, but we can see how it would have been in its derivative *beseech* [12] (Ayto, 2005:445).

3.2 certainty, certain [13]

Certain comes ultimately from Latin *certus* ‘sure, fixed’, which derived from the past participle of the verb *cernere* ‘decide’. The Latin adjective was extended in Vulgar Latin to **certanus*, which passed into English via Old French *certain*. Other English words based on *certus* include *certify* [14] (from late Latin *certificāre*) and its derivative *certificate*, and *certitude* [15] (from late Latin *certitūdō*) (Ayto, 2005:101).

4. July 4th, 2015 “House talks alcohol control “

4.1 house [OE]

The ultimate origins of *house* are uncertain. The furthest it can be positively traced into the past is to a prehistoric Germanic **khūsam*, which also produced German *haus*, Dutch *huus* (probably

a close relative of English *husk*), and Swedish *hus* (descendant of Old Norse *hús*, which provided the *hus-* of English *husband*). Beyond that, all is speculation: some have argued, for instance, that **khūsam* came from an Indo-European **keudh-* ‘cover, hide’, source also of English *hide*, *hoard*, and *hut* (Ayto, 2005:276).

4.2 talks, talk [13]

Talk has only one close relative – East Frisian *talken* ‘talk, chatter’. This suggests that it may first have seen the light of day just before the Anglo-Saxon peoples first crossed the North Sea to Britain – they were then in close contact with the Frisians. However, there is no record of the verb in Old English, and it first crops up in West Midland texts of the early 13th century. Its ultimate source is the prehistoric Germanic base **tal-*, which also produced English *tale* and *tell* (Ayto, 2005:496).

4.3 alcohol [16]

Originally, alcohol was a powder, not a liquid. The word comes from Arabic *alkuhul*, literally ‘the kohl’ – that is, powdered antimony used as a cosmetic for darkening the eyelids. This was borrowed into English via French or medieval Latin, and retained this ‘powder’ meaning for some centuries (for instance, ‘They Put between the eyelids and the eye a certain black powder made of a mineral brought from the kingdom of Fez, and called Alcohol’, George Sandys, *Travels* 1615). But a change was rapidly taking place: from specifically ‘antimony’, *Alcohol* came to mean any substance obtained by sublimation, and hence ‘quintessence’.

Alcohol Of wine was thus the ‘quintessence Of wine’, produced by distillation or rectification, and by the middle of the 18th century *alcohol* was being used on its own for the intoxicating ingredient in strong liquor. The more precise chemical definition (a Compound with a hydroxyl group bound to a hydrocarbon group) developed in the 19th century (Ayto, 2005:15).

Ultimately from an Arabic term which first entered European alchemical jargon, and then entered general use. It reached English in the 1500s via Old Spanish and/or Old French *alcohol* (modern French *alcool*).

Since at least the 1600s, some authorities have suggested الكحل (*al-kuhl*, “kohl”) as the Arabic etymon; this suggestion is found for example in *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*.

Other authorities, including Rachel Hajar, suggest that the ultimate etymon was the classical Arabic term الغَوْل (*al-ḡawl*) or غَوْل (*ḡawl*, “bad effect, evil result of headache”) (as used in Qur’an verse 37:47 (Arabic), which refers to drink in which there is no “ghawl”) (wiktionary.org).

4.5 control [15]

Implausible as it may seem, *control*’s closest relative in English is *contrarotating*. It has its origins in a medieval method of checking accounts which involved a duplicate register, or ‘counter-roll’, as it was known (*contrarotulus* in medieval Latin, *contra*

meaning ‘opposite’ and *rotulus* being the diminutive of *rota* ‘wheel’). From the medieval Latin noun a verb was formed, *contrarotulare*, meaning ‘check accounts by such means’, and hence ‘exert authority’. This passed into English via Anglo-Norman *contreroller*. The spelling of the agent noun *controller* as *comptroller*, still encountered in certain official designations, arises from an erroneous 16th-century association of the first syllable with *count*, from late Latin *computes* (Ayto, 2005:130).

5. July 5th, 2015 “Jimly, Johan pass first round of KPK test”

5.1 pass [13]

Strictly speaking, English has two distinct words *pass*, although they come from the same ultimate source, and have now virtually merged together again. That source was Latin *passus* ‘step’, which gave English *pace*. From it was derived the Vulgar Latin verb **passare*, which came to English via Old French *passer*. The past participle of the English verb has become *past*; and other related English words include *passage* and *passenger*. The noun *pass* ‘mountain defile’ originated as a sense of *pace*, but since the early modern English period has been spelled (and pronounced) *pass*, partly through reassociation with French *pas*, partly under the influence of the verb *pass* (Ayto, 2005:369).

5.2 first [OE]

As its *-st* ending suggests, *first* was originally a superlative form. Its distant ancestor was Indo-European **pro*, denoting

‘before, in front’ (amongst whose other descendants to have reached English are *prime* and the prefix *proto-*). Its Germanic offspring was **fur*, **for* (source also of English *for* and *fore*), from which the superlative **furistaz*, literally ‘most in front’, was formed. Besides English *first* and the related Swedish *först* and Danish *først* (which etymologically are the equivalent of *foremost*), this has produced German *fürst* and Dutch *vorst* ‘prince’ (Ayto, 2005:219).

5.3 round [13]

Round goes back ultimately to Latin *rotundus* ‘round’, source of English *rotund*. In Vulgar Latin this became **retundus*, which passed into Old French as *reont*, later *ront*. Its stem form *rond-* gave English *round*. Derivatives to have reached English include *prune* ‘cut branches’, *rondo* [18], *roundel* [13], and *roundelay* [16]; but *surround*, despite the similarity, is not related (Ayto, 2005:429).

5.4 of [OE]

Of has an ancient ancestry, going back to the prehistoric Indo-European preposition of ‘removal’ or ‘origin’, **ap*. Its Germanic descendant was **ab*, source of modern German *ab* (now only an adverb, meaning ‘away’), Dutch *af*, Swedish *av*, and English *of*. Latin *ab* ‘from’ (as in English *abduct*, *abject*, etc) also came from Indo-European **ap* (Ayto, 2005:356).

5.5 test [14]

Latin *testum* denoted an ‘earthenware pot’. English acquired it via Old French *test*, and used it originally for a ‘pot in which metals are subjected to heat’. Among the purposes these *tests* were

put to was assaying, to ascertain the quality of metal, and by the 16th century the word was being used metaphorically for an ‘examination of properties or qualities’. English *testy* and French *tête* ‘head’ are close relatives (Ayto, 2005:502).

6. July 6th, 2015 “Storekeepers’ siestas sign of weak demand”

6.1 sign [13]

Sign comes via Old French *signe* from Latin *signum* ‘mark’. It already had the meaning ‘mark denoting something’ in Latin, and it was in this sense that it entered English, gradually ousting the native word *token*. The verb *sign* goes back ultimately to the Latin derivative *signare* ‘mark’. English acquired it in the 14th century, and first used it for ‘write one’s name’ in the 15th century. Other related forms in English include *assign* [14], *consign* [15], *design*, *ensign* [14], *insignia* [17], *resign* [14] (in which the prefix *re-* has the force of ‘un-’), *seal* ‘wax impression, fastening’, *signal*, *signatory* [17], *signature* [16], *signet* [14], *significant* [16], and *signify* [13]. The ultimate source of Latin *signum* is uncertain. It was once assumed to go back to the Indo-European base **sek-* ‘cut’ (source of English *saw*, *section*, etc), as if it denoted etymologically a ‘cut mark’, but now Indo-European **seq-* ‘point out’, hence ‘say, tell’ (source of English *say*) is viewed as a more likely ancestor (Ayto, 2005:456).

6.2 weak [13]

Etymologically, something that is *weak* is ‘bendable’. The word was borrowed from Old Norse *veikr*. This was descended from prehistoric Germanic **waikwaz*, which also produced German *weich* and Dutch *week* ‘soft’. And this in turn was formed from **waikw-*, **wikw-* ‘give way, yield’, a derivative of the base **wik-* ‘bend’, which also produced the *witch* of English *witch hazel* [16] (etymologically the hazel with ‘bendy’ branches) and possibly English *week* (Ayto, 2005:542).

6.3 demand [13]

Latin *demandare* meant ‘entrust something to someone’. It was a compound verb formed from the intensive prefix *de-* and *mandare* ‘entrust, commit’ (source of English *mandate*). As it passed via Old French *demandier* into English, its meaning developed to ‘give someone the responsibility of doing something’, and finally ‘order’ (Ayto, 2005:156).

7. July 7th, 2015 “Govt to redistribute land”

‘Govt’ is Clipping of ‘government’

7.1 Govt, govern [13]

Politicians’ clichés about ‘steering the ship of state’ are no new thing; for the distant ancestor of English *govern* is the Greek verb *kubernan* ‘steer a ship’ (source also of English *cybernetics*). It developed the metaphorical sense ‘guide, rule’, and it was this that passed with it via Latin *gubernare* and Old French *gouverner* into

English. The Latin form is preserved in *gubernatorial* ‘of a governor’ [18] (Ayto, 2005:249).

7.2 redistribute, distribute see TRIBE [13]

Tribe comes via Old French *tribu* from Latin *tribus* ‘division of the Roman people’. This was probably derived from the base **tri* ‘three’, and denoted etymologically the ‘three original tribes of Rome’ The Tities, the Ramnes, and the Luceres. The ‘head of a tribe’ was known as a *tribunus*, whence English *tribune* [14]; and the verb for ‘give out amongst the tribes’ was *tribuere*, source of English *contribute* [16], *distribute* [15], *retribution* [14], and *tribute* [14] (Ayto, 2005:517).

7.3 land [OE]

Land goes back to a prehistoric Germanic **landam*. This seems originally to have meant ‘particular (enclosed) area’ (ancestoor the modern sense ‘nation’), but in due course it branched out to ‘solid surface of the earth in general’. The term is now common to all the Germanic languages, and it has distant relatives in Welsh *llan* ‘enclosure, church’ and Breton *lann* ‘heath’ (source of French *lande* ‘heathmoor’, from which English gets *lawn*) (Ayto, 2005:303).

8. July 8th, 2015 “New ruling upsets forestry firms”

8.1 new [OE]

New goes back a long way – to Indo-European **newos*, in fact. This also produced Greek *néos* ‘new’ (source of English

neophyte and a range of other *neo-* compounds), Latin *novus* ‘new’ (ancestor of French *nouveau*, Italian *nuovo*, and Spanish *nuevo*, and source of English *novel*, *novice*, etc), Welsh *newydd* ‘new’, Lithuanian *naujas* ‘new’, and Russian *novyj*. Its prehistoric Germanic descendant was **neujaz*, which has fanned out into German *neu*, Dutch *nieuw*, Swedish and Danish *ny*, and English *new*. The use of the plural noun *news* for ‘information’ dates from the 15th century (Ayto, 2005:349).

8.2 ruling, rule [13]

Rule is one of a largish family of English words that go back ultimately to Latin *regula* ‘straight stick, ruler, rule, pattern’ (whose close relatives *rex* ‘king’ and *regere* ‘rule’ have also contributed royally to English vocabulary in the form of *rector*, *regent*, *regiment*, *royal*, etc). Derivatives have produced *regular* and *regulate*, while *regula* itself has given *rail* ‘bar’ and, via Vulgar Latin **regula* and Old French *reule*, *rule* (Ayto, 2005:430).

8.3 forestry, forest [13]

The underlying sense of *forest* appears to be ‘outside wooded area’. It comes from the late Latin phrase *forestis silva* (Latin *silva* means ‘wood’), which was applied to the royal forests of Charlemagne. The adjective *forestis* (which became the Old French noun *forest*) was probably a derivative of Latin *foris* ‘outdoor, outside’, which, like *foras* (source of English *foreign*), was related to Latin *fores* ‘door’. In this context, ‘outside’ presumably meant

‘beyond the main or central fenced area of woodland’ (Ayto, 2005:226).

8.4 firms, firm [14]

Firm comes ultimately from Latin *firmus* ‘stable, strong, immovable’. In its adjectival use, the English word’s semantic line of descent from its Latin original is perfectly clear, but the noun presents a very different story. From *firmus* was derived the verb *firmare* ‘make firm, fix’, which in post-classical times came to mean ‘confirm’. It passed into Italian as *firmare*, which was used in the sense ‘confirm by one’s signature’, hence simply ‘sign’. It formed the basis of a noun *firma* ‘signature’, and by extension the ‘name under which a business is carried on’, and finally the ‘business’ itself. English took the noun over with the latter two meanings in the 18th century.

Other English words that trace their ancestry back to Latin *firmus* are *firmament* [13], from Latin *firmamentum* (this originally meant simply ‘strengthening, support’, and acquired the sense ‘sky’ in post-classical times as a literal Biblical translation of Greek *steréoma* ‘heavenly vault’, a derivative of *stereós* ‘firm’, which in turn was a literal translation of Hebrew *raqi* a ‘heavenly vault’, also derived from a word meaning ‘firm’); *furl* [16], originally a blend formed in Old French from *ferm* ‘firm’ and *lier* ‘tie’ (a relative of English *liable*); and *farm*, whose semantic history is quite similar to that of the noun *firm* (Ayto, 2005:219).

9. July 9th , 2015 “New chiefs promise big things”

9.1 chiefs, chief [13]

Etymologically, the *chief* is the ‘head’. The word comes via Old French *chef* or *chief* and Vulgar Latin **capum* from Latin *caput* ‘head’. The adjectival use is equally as old as the noun use in English. Other English offshoots of **capum* are *cape* and, via the diminutive form **capitellus*, *cadet*, and it also forms the basis of *achieve*. The form which has come through into modern French is, of course, *chef*, which entered English in the sense ‘cook’ (short for *chef de cuisine* ‘head of the kitchen’) in the 19th century. *Chieftain* [14] comes via Old French *chevetaine* from late Latin *capitaneus* (a derivative of *caput* ‘head’), which was later reborrowed as *captain* (Ayto, 2005:107).

9.2 promise [14]

Latin *prōmittere* originally meant simply ‘send forth’ (it was a compound verb formed from the prefix *prō-* ‘forward’ and *mittere* ‘send’, source of English *mission*, *missile*, *transmit*, etc). But it soon evolved metaphorically via ‘say in advance, foretell’ to ‘cause to expect’ and hence ‘promise’ – the sense adopted into English via its past participle *prōmissum*. (Ayto, 2005:397).

9.3 big [13]

Big is one of the notorious mystery words of English etymology – extremely common in the modern language, but of highly dubious origin. In its earliest use in English it meant ‘powerful, strong’, and it is not really until the 16th century that we get unequivocal examples of it in the modern sense ‘large’. It occurs originally in northern texts, only slowly spreading south, which suggests that it may be of Scandinavian origin; some have compared Norwegian dialect *bugge* ‘important man’ (Ayto, 2005:60).

9.4 things, thing [OE]

The ancestral meaning of *thing* is ‘time’: it goes back to a prehistoric Germanic **thingam*, which was related to Gothic *theihs* ‘time’, and may come ultimately from the Indo European base **ten-* ‘stretch’ (source of English *tend, tense*, etc). In Germanic it evolved semantically via ‘appointed time’ to ‘judicial or legislative assembly’. This was the meaning it originally had in English, and it survives in other Germanic languages (the Icelandic parliament is known as the *Althing*, literally ‘general assembly’). In English, however, it moved on through ‘subject for discussion at such an assembly’ to ‘subject in general, affair, matter’ and finally ‘entity, object’. (The ancient meaning ‘assembly’ is preserved in fossilized form in English *husting*, etymologically a ‘house assembly’) (Ayto, 2005:504).

10. July 10th, 2015 “Jokowi: Things will get better”

10.1 will

Will the noun [OE] and the two verbs *will* [OE] all go back ultimately to the Indo European base **wel-*, **wol-* ‘be pleasing’, which also produced English *voluntary*, *voluptuous*, *wealth*, *well* ‘satisfactorily’, etc. From it was derived a noun, **weljon*, which evolved into English *will*, and also German *wille*, Dutch *wil*, Swedish *vilja*, and Danish *vilje*. The verb *will* ‘decide on or resolve by force of the will’ was formed in the prehistoric Germanic period from the noun. The auxiliary verb *will*, expressing intention or future time, comes from a prehistoric Germanic **weljan*. *Woul d* evolved from its original Old English past form *wolde* (Ayto, 2005:547).

10.2 *get* [13]

Get, now one of the most pervasive of English words, has only been in the language for the (comparatively) short period of 800 years. It was borrowed from Old Norse *geta* (although a related, hundred-per-cent English *-get*, which occurs in *beget* and *forget*, dates back to Old English times). Both come via a prehistoric Germanic **getan* from Indo-European **ghed-*, which signified ‘seize’ (*guess* is ultimately from the same source). *Gotten* is often quoted as an American survival of a primeval past participle since abandoned by British English, but in fact the original past participle of *got* was *getten*, which lasted into the 16th century; *gotten* was a Middle English innovation, based on such models as *spoken* and *stolen*. *Got* originated as an abbreviated form of *gotten*, which in due course came to be used, on both sides of the Atlantic, as the past tense of the verb (replacing the original *gat*) (Ayto, 2005:242).

11. July 11st , 2015 “Renewed risks in BI reserves”

11.1 risks, risk [17]

The ultimate origins of *risk* have never been satisfactorily explained. English acquired it via French *risque* from Italian *risco*, a derivative of the verb *riscare* ‘run into danger’, but there speculation takes over. One persistent theory is that its ancestral meaning is ‘sail dangerously close to rocks’, and attempts have been made to link it with Greek *rhiza* ‘cliff’ and Latin *resegare* ‘cut off short’ (from the notion of coastal rocks being ‘cut off sharply’ or ‘sheer’). English acquired the French past participial form *risqué* in the 19th century (Ayto, 2005:427).

11.2 reserved, serve [13]

Latin *servus* ‘slave’ has been a rich source of English vocabulary. It is the direct ancestor of *serf* [15] (and of the second syllable of *concierge* [17]). But it is its derivatives that have made the most numerous contributions. From the verb *servire* ‘serve’ come *deserve*, *dessert*, *sergeant*, *servant* [13], *serve*, and *serviette* [15] (but not, despite the similarity, *conserve*, *observe*, *preserve*, *reserve*, etc, which go back to the unrelated Latin *servare* ‘keep, protect’). *Servitium* ‘slavery’ has provided *service* [12] and its

derivative *serviceable* [14], while from *servilis* ‘slavish’ comes *servile* [14] (Ayto, 2005:448).

12. July 12nd, 2015 “KY pair named suspects for defamation”

12.1 pair [13]

Like English *par* [17], *parity* [16], and *peer* ‘noble’ [13], *pair* comes ultimately from Latin *par* ‘equal’, a word of unknown origin. Its derivative *paria* ‘equal things, similar things’ passed into English via Old French *paire*. Other English descendants of Latin *par* include *compare*, *disparage* [14], *nonpareil* [15], and *umpire* (Ayto, 2005:364).

12.2 named, name [OE]

Name is an ancient word, which traces its history back to Indo-European **-nomen-*. This has produced Latin *nomen* (source of English *nominate*, *noun*, etc), Greek *ónoma* (source of English *anonymous* [17] – etymologically ‘nameless’ – and *synonym* [16]), Welsh *enw*, and Russian *imja*, among many others. Its prehistoric Germanic descendant was **namon*, which has evolved to German and English *name*, Dutch *naam*, Swedish *namn*, and Danish *navn* (Ayto, 2005:345).

12.3 Suspects, suspect [14]

Latin *susplicere* originally meant literally ‘look up at’ (it was a compound verb formed from the prefix *sub-* ‘up from under’ and *specere* ‘look at’, source of English *spectator*, *spy*, etc). It evolved metaphorically along two lines: ‘look up to, admire’, which has

since died out, and ‘look at secretly’, hence ‘look at distrustfully’, which has passed into English in the form of its past participial stem *suspect-*. *Suspicion* [14] comes from the medieval Latin derivative *suspectiō* (Ayto, 2005:491).

12.4 for [OE]

For comes from a prehistoric Germanic **fora*, which denoted ‘before’ – both ‘before’ in time and ‘in front’ in place. *For* itself meant ‘before’ in the Old English period, and the same notion is preserved in related forms such as *first, fore, foremost, former, from*, and of course *before*. Germanic **fora* itself goes back to Indo-European **pr*, source also of Latin *prae* ‘before’, *pro* ‘for’, and *primus* ‘first’ (whence English *premier, primary*, etc), Greek *pará* ‘by, past’, *pró* ‘before’, and *protos* ‘first’ (whence English *protocol, prototype*, etc). and English *forth* and *further* (Ayto, 2005:225).

12.5 defamation, defame [14]

The main source of *defame* (originally, in Middle English, *diffame*) is Old French *diffamer*, which came from Latin *diffāmāre* ‘spread damaging rumours about’, a compound verb formed from the prefix *dis-*, denoting ‘ruination’, and *fāma* ‘report, fame’ (source of English *fame*) (Ayto, 2005:154).

13. July 13rd , 2015 “Do more to earn rescue : EU”

13.1 Do

Do [OE] Not surprisingly, *do* is a verb of great antiquity. It goes back to the Indo-European base **dhē-* (source also of English

deed and doom), which signified ‘place, put’. This sense remains uppermost in descendants such as Sanskrit *dhā* and Greek *títhēmi* (related to English *theme*), but a progression to ‘make, do’ shows itself in Latin *facere* (source of English *fact* and a host of other words) and West Germanic **dōn*. ‘Make’ is now the central signification of English *do*, although traces of the earlier ‘put, place’ survive in such fossilized forms as *don* and *doff*, and ‘do someone to death’. Other Germanic relatives include German *tun* and Dutch *doen*, but the Scandinavian languages have not adopted the verb, preferring instead for ‘do’ one which originally meant ‘make ready’ (Danish *gøre*, Swedish *gåra*) and which is related to English *gear* (Ayto, 2005:171).

13.2 Earn

Earn the underlying sense of *earn* is ‘gain as a result of one’s labour’. It comes from a prehistoric West Germanic verb **aznōjan*, which was based on the noun **aznu* ‘work, labour’. This seems often to have been used specifically for ‘work in the fields’, for several other related forms in the Germanic languages, such as German *ernte* and Gothic *asans*, denote ‘harvest’, which in some cases has been metaphorically extended to apply to ‘autumn’ (Ayto, 2005: 183).

13.3 Rescue see QUASH

quash [14] Quash goes back ultimately to Latin *quater* ‘shake’ (source also of English *rescue* [14], which etymologically

means ‘shake off, drive away’, and of concussion and percussion). From it evolved *quassāre* ‘shake to pieces, break’, which passed into Old French as *quasser* (its modern descendant is *casser*, from which English gets *cashier* ‘dismiss from the army’). English took *quasser* over as *quash*. *Squash* [16] comes ultimately from the Vulgar Latin derivative **exquassāre* (Ayto, 2005: 407).

14. July 14th , 2015 “RI’s biggest exodus begins”

14.1 *exodus* see PERIOD

period [14] *Period* means etymologically ‘going round’. It comes via Old French *periode* and Latin *periodus* from Greek *períodos*, a compound noun formed from the prefix *perí* ‘round’ and *hódos* ‘way’ (source also of English *episode*, *exodus* [17], and *method*) (Ayto, 2005:373).

14.2 *begin* [OE]

Begin comes from a prehistoric West Germanic compound verb **biginnan*, which also produced German and Dutch *beginnen*; the origin of the second element, **ginnan*, is not known for certain. The form *gin* was common in the Middle Ages and up until about 1600; this was a shortening, perhaps not so much of *begin* as of the now obsolete *ongin* ‘begin’, which was far more widespread than *begin* in Old English (Ayto, 2005:56).

15. July 15th , 2015 “More lives lost in Idul Fitri exodus”

15.1 *more* [OE]

The Indo-European term for ‘more’ was **meis* (it was formed from the same base as produced Latin *magis* ‘more’, source of Spanish *mas* ‘more’ and English *master*, and Latin *magnus* ‘large’, source of English *magnitude*). Its Germanic descendant was **maiz*, which evolved into modern German *mehr* ‘more’, and also into Old English *ma* ‘more’, which survived dialectally until fairly recently as *mo*. From the adverb **maiz* was derived the adjective **maizon*, and it was this that has given English *more*. *Most* is, of course, closely related (Ayto, 2005:339).

15.2 live [OE]

Modern English *live* represents a conflation of two Old English verbs, *libban* and *lifian*, both of which go back ultimately to the same prehistoric Germanic source, **lib* ‘remain, continue’. Variants of this produced *leave* ‘depart’ and *life*. The adjective *live* [16] is a reduced form of *alive*, which derived from *life* (Ayto, 2005:313).

15.3 lost, lose [OE]

The verb *lose* originated as a derivative of the Old English noun *los* ‘loss’, which went back ultimately to the same Indo-European source (**lau-*, **leu-*, *lu-*) as produced English *loose* and the suffix *-less*. In Old English it was *losian*, which eventually ousted the original *leosian* to become the only verb for ‘lose’. The noun *los* died out before the Middle English period, and was replaced by *loss* [14], probably a derivative of the past participle

lost. The past participle of *leosan* ‘lose’ was *loren*, which survives in *forlorn* and *love-lorn* (Ayto, 2005:315).

16. July 16th, 2015 “Muslims gear up for Idul Fitri”

16.1 Muslims, Muslim

From Arabic *muslim* "one who submits" (to the faith), from root of *aslama* "he resigned." Related to Islam (Harper, 2010).

16.2 gear [13]

The etymological meaning of *gear* is roughly ‘that which puts one in a state of readiness’ – hence ‘equipment, apparatus’. Its ultimate source is prehistoric Indo-European **garw-*, which also produced the now obsolete English adjective *yare* ‘ready’ and (via Germanic, Italian, and French) *garh* [16]. A derivative **garwin-* passed into Old Norse as *gervi*, which English borrowed as *gear*. The mechanical sense of the word developed in the 16th century (Ayto, 2005:240).

17. July 22nd, 2015 “Cops involved in riot injuries”

17.1 Cop

cop (1), n, head, top, hence a heap or pile (cf the Afr *kopje*, hillock, dim of D *kop*, hill): ME *cop* or *coppe*, head, top; OE *cop* or *copp*, top, summit: akin to G *Koppe*, summit, and OFris *kopp*, G

Kopf, head, either from Gmc **kuppa* head, or from LL *coppa*, *cuppa*—cf CUP.

cop (2), v, to catch or capture (si and dial), whence A si *cop*, a policeman, E si *cop*, a capture, and E si *copper*, policeman: prob OF-MF *caper*, to seize, catch, capture: L *capere* (s cap), to take, to catch: f.a.e., CAPABILITY.(Partidge 2006:626)

17.2 involved, involve see VOLUME [14]

Volume is one of a sizeable family of English words that go back to Latin *volvere* ‘roll, turn’. Others include *convolution* [16], *convolvulus* [16], *devolution* [16], *evolution*, *involve* [14], *revolt*, *revolution*, *revolve*, *vault*, *volte-face* [19], and *voluble* [16]. *Volume* itself comes via Old French *volum* from Latin *volumen*, a derivative of *volvere*. The sense ‘book’ evolved from the notion of a ‘roll’ of parchment. The word came to have connotations of a ‘big’ book, and this gave rise in the 16th century to the sense ‘size of a book’. By the 17th century this had broadened out to ‘size’ in general, but the modern sense ‘size of sound’ did not emerge until the early 19th century. Latin *volvere* itself came ultimately from the Indo-European base **wol-*, **wel-* ‘turn’, which also produced English *wallow*(Ayto, 2005:536).

17.3 injuries, injury [14]

Etymologically, an *injury* is something ‘unjust’. It comes via Anglo-Norman *injurie* from Latin *injuria*, a noun use of *injurius* ‘unjust’, which was a compound adjective based on *jus* ‘right’ (source of English *just*). Its original meaning in English was

‘wrongful action’, and it was only gradually that the notion of ‘harm’ (which had actually been present in the word from classical Latin times) began to come to the fore. From Anglo-Norman *injurie*, from Latin *iniūria* (“injustice; wrong; offense”), from *in-* (“not”) + *iūs, iūris* (“right, law”) (Ayto, 2005:287).

18. July 23rd, 2015 “Muslims, Christians reach peace in Papua”

18.1 Christian

Christian [16] Christian is derived, of course, from the name of Christ. It is a surprisingly recent word, having been introduced in the 16th century from Latin *Chrīstiānus*, replacing the existing English adjective *christen*, which came from Old English *crīsten*. The latter was the basis of the Old English verb *crīstnian*, from which we get modern English *christen*. The name Christ itself was borrowed into Old English from Latin *Chrīstus*, which in turn came from Greek *Khrīstós*. This meant literally ‘anointed’, and came from the verb *khriein* ‘anoint’. It was a direct translation of Hebrew *māshīah* (source of English *messiah*), which also meant literally ‘anointed’. Christmas comes from late Old English *crīstes mæsse*, literally ‘Christ’s mass’ (Ayto, 2005:129-10).

16c., forms replacing earlier *Christen*, from Old English *cris ten* (noun and adjective), from a West Germanic borrowing of Church Latin *christianus*, from Ecclesiastical Greek *christianos*, from *Christos*, First used in Antioch, according to Acts xi:25-

26. *Christian Science* as the name of a religious sect is from 1863 (Harper, 2010).

18.2 reach [OE]

Reach goes back ultimately to a prehistoric West Germanic **raikjan*, a word of uncertain origin which also produced German *reichen* and Dutch *reiken*. It originally meant ‘stretch out the hand’, and ‘attain’ and ‘arrive at’ are secondary semantic developments (Ayto, 2005: 414).

18.3 peace [12]

The etymological notion underlying *peace* is of ‘fastening’, so as to achieve a ‘stable’ condition. The word comes via Anglo-Norman *pes* from Latin *pax* ‘peace’, which was derived from the same base, **pak-* ‘fasten’, as lies behind English *pact*, and is closely related to *pagan*, *page*, *pale* ‘stake’, and *pole* ‘stick’. Derivatives of Latin *pax* or its Old French descendant to reach English include *appease* [16], *pacific* [16], *pacify* [15], and *pay* (Ayto, 2005: 371).

19. July 24th, 2015 “Import tariff hike applauded”

19.1 Import

Import Latin *importāre*, to carry in (*im-* for *in*), especially to bring into a country, becomes English ‘to *import*’, whence the trade n. But *import*, something important, importance, significance, derives from ‘to *import*’, to be important or significant, from the

synonym Early Modern French *importer*, ‘formed to serve as verb for importance and important’ (B & W), which, arising, the former in C14, the latter in C15, derive from Medieval Latin *importāre*, to be of importance, from Latin *importāre*, and have been adopted by English. (Partridge 2006: 2502 para 9).

19.2 Tariff

Tariff like French *tariffe*, later *tarif*, comes from Italian *tariffa*: Arabic *ta‘rīf*, notification, from ‘*arifa*, to explain (Partridge 2006: 3374).

19.3 Hike

Hike (v, hence n) is app a dial variant of HITCH, the dial use preceding the colloquial, -ism, -ly: and dial *hike* means ‘to move swingingly’, hence, verb intransitive, ‘to move oneself thus, to swing along’ (Partridge 2006: 1425).

19.4 Applauded, (see PLAUDIT)

The compound *applaudere* (*ap-* for *ad-* used int), becomes Medieval French *applaudir* and, perh independently, English *applaud*; English *applause* is formed, anl, after the synonym Latin simple n *plausus* (gen *-us*) (Partridge 2006:123).

20. July 25th, 2015 “RI braces for drought-related food crisis”

20. 1 braces, brace [14]

English borrowed *brace* from Old French *brace*, which meant simply ‘(the length measured by) two arms’. It came from Latin *braccia*, the plural of *bracchium* ‘arm’ (source of French *bras*

‘arm’, and also of various English technical terms, such as *brachiopod* [19], a type of shellfish, literally ‘arm-foot’). The word’s ultimate source was Greek *brakhiōn* ‘arm’, originally ‘upper arm’, which was formed from the comparative of *brakhús* ‘short’, a relative of English *brief* (the sense development is probably that the upper arm was named from being ‘shorter’ than the forearm). Of the rather diverse range of meanings the word has in modern English, ‘pair’ derives from the original notion of ‘twoness’, while ‘strengthening or supporting structure’ owes much to the idea of ‘clasping’, mainly contained originally in the verb *brace* [14], from Old French *bracier* ‘put one’s arms around’ (a derivative of Old French *brace*). In English it now only means ‘support, strengthen’, the sense ‘clasp with the arms’ being reserved to *embrace* [14], from Old French *embracer* (Ayto, 2005:72).

20.2 drought [OE]

Etymologically, *drought* means simply ‘dryness’. The prehistoric Germanic base that produced English *dry* (and indeed *drain*) was **draug-*, **drug-*. To this was added the suffix *-th*, used for creating abstract nouns from adjectives, as in *length*, *strength*, and *truth*; this gave Old English *drugath*. The subsequent change of *-th* to *-t* (which began in the 13th century) is mirrored in such words as *height* and *theft* (Ayto, 2005:178).

20.3 related, relate [16]

Something that is *related* to something else is etymologically ‘carried back’ to it. The word is based on *relatus*, the past participle

of Latin *referre* ‘carry back, refer to’ (source of English *refer*). (*Latus* was not the original past participle of Latin *ferre* ‘carry’; it was drafted in from *tollere* ‘raise’, source of English *extol* and *tolerate*.) Derivatives in English include *relation* [14] and *relative* [14] (Ayto, 2005:419).

20.4 food [OE]

Food and its Germanic relatives, German *futter* ‘fodder’, Dutch *voedsel* ‘food’, and Swedish *föda* ‘food’, all go back ultimately to a prehistoric Indo-European base **pa-*, **pi-*, which also produced Latin *pabulum* ‘fodder’, Russian *pisca* ‘food’, and Czech *pice* ‘fodder’. The immediate source of all the Germanic forms was **foth-*, which had two important derivatives: **fothram*, which gave English *fodder* [OE] and (via Old French) *forage* [14] and *foray* [14] (etymologically probably a ‘search for food’); and **fostrom*, source of English *foster* (Ayto, 2005:225).

From Middle English *foode*, *fode*, from Old English *fōda* (“food”), from Proto-Germanic **fōdō* (“food”), from Proto-Indo-European **peh₂-* (“to guard, graze, feed”). Cognate with Scots *fuid* (“food”), Low German *föde*, *vöde* (“food”), Dutch *voedsel* (“food”) Danish *føde* (“food”), Swedish *föda* (“food”), Icelandic *fæða*, *fæði* (“food”), Gothic 𐌱𐌰𐌶𐌹𐌶𐌰𐌽 (*fōdeins*, “food”), Latin *pānis* (“bread, food”), Latin *pāscō* (“feed, nourish”, verb). Related to *fodder*, *foster* (dictionary.com).

21. July 26th, 2015 “RI on a mission to stave off drought, food crisis”

21.1 Mission [16]

Mission, etymologically a ‘sending’, is the hub of a large family of English words that come from the Latin verb *mittere* ‘let go, send’ or its stem *miss-*. Most are prefixed forms – *admit*, *commit*, *permit*, *promise*, *transmit*, etc – but the unadorned verb is represented in *mass* ‘eucharist’, *mess*, *missile* [17] (literally ‘something capable of being sent’), *mission* itself and its derivative *missionary* [17], and *missive* [15] (‘something sent’). The source of *mittere* is not known, but what does seem clear is that it originally meant ‘let go, throw’. This subsequently developed to ‘send’ and, in the post-classical period, to ‘put’ (hence French *mettre* ‘put’) (Ayto, 2005:335).

22. July 27th, 2015 “Be harsh to Freeport: Legislators”

22.1 Harsh [16]

Harsh originally meant ‘hairy’. Its ancestor, Middle Low German *harsch*, was a derivative of the noun *haer* ‘hair’, and its exact English equivalent would have been *hairish*. By the time English acquired it, it had broadened out in meaning to ‘rough’, both literally and figuratively (Ayto, 2005:264).

From Middle English *harsk*, *harisk(e)*, *hask(e)*, *herris*. *Century* derived the term from Old Norse *harsk* (whence Danish *harsk* (“rancid”), dialectal Norwegian *hersk*, Swedish *härsk*); the *Middle English Dictionary* derives it from that and Middle Low German *harsch* (“rough”, literally “hairy”)

(whence also German *harsch*), from *haer* (“hair”); the *Oxford Dictionary of English* derives it from Middle Low German alone(dictionary.com).

22.2 Legislators, Legal [16]

The Latin term for a ‘law’ was *lex*. From its stem form *leg-* come English *legal*, *legislator* [17] (which goes back to a Latin compound meaning literally ‘one who proposes a law’), and *legitimate* [15]. *Loyal* is a doublet of *legal*, acquired via Old French rather than directly from Latin. Another derivative of *leg* was the Latin verb *legare* ‘depute, commission, bequeath’, which has given English *colleague*, *college*, *delegate* [14], *legacy* [14], and *legation* [15] (Ayto, 2005:307).

23. July 28th, 2015 “Investment up despite slowdown”

23.1 investment, invest [16]

The etymological notion underlying *invest* is of ‘putting on clothes’. It comes via Old French *investir* from Latin *investire*, a compound verb formed from the prefix *in-* and *vestis* ‘clothes’ (source of English *vest*, *vestment*, *travesty*, etc). It retained that original literal sense ‘clothe’ in English for several centuries, but now it survives only in its metaphorical descendant ‘instal in an office’ (as originally performed by clothing in special garments). Its financial sense, first recorded in English in the early 17th century, is thought to have originated in Italian *investire* from the idea of

dressing one's capital up in different clothes by putting it into a particular business, stock, etc (Ayto, 2005:291).

23.2 despite [1250 -1300]

orig. in despite of; Middle English *despit* < Old French < Latin *dēspectus* view from a height, scorn, equivalent to *dēspec* , variant stem of *dēspicere* (see despicable) + -tus suffix of v. action (dictionary.com).

23.3 slowdown

n. also slow-down, 1892, "act of going more slowly," from verbal phrase; see slow (v.) + down (adv.)(Harper, 2010) .

22.3.1 slow

slow [OE] The etymological notion underlying slow is 'dullness, sluggishness'; 'lack of speed' is a secondary development. The word goes back to a prehistoric Germanic *slæwaz, which also produced Swedish slö and Danish sløv 'dull, blunt'. The original idea of 'sluggishness' is better preserved in the derivative sloth [12] (etymologically 'slow-ness') (Ayto., 2005: 462).

22.3.2 down

down Effectively, English now has three distinct words down, but two of them are intimately related: for down 'to or at a lower place' [11] originally meant 'from the hill' – and the Old English word for hill in this instance was *dūn*. This may have been

borrowed from an unrecorded Celtic word which some have viewed as the ultimate source also of *dune* [18] (borrowed by English from Middle Dutch *dūne*) and even of *town*. Its usage is now largely restricted to the plural form, used as a geographical term for various ranges of hills (the application to the North and South Downs in southern England dates from at least the 15th century).

The Old English phrase of *dūne* ‘from the hill’ had by the 10th century become merged into a single word, *adūne*, and broadened out semantically to ‘to a lower place, down’, and in the 11th century it started to lose its first syllable – hence *down*. Its use as a preposition dates from the 16th century. (The history of *down* is closely paralleled in that of French *à val*, literally ‘to the valley’, which also came to be used for ‘down’; it is the source of French *avalier* ‘descend, swallow’, which played a part in the development of *avalanche*.) *Down* ‘feathers’ [14] was borrowed from Old Norse *dúnn* (Ayto, 2005: 175).

24. July 29th, 2015 “Singapore upset by RI’s haze”

24.1 *by* [OE]

By comes from a prehistoric Germanic **bi*, which appears ultimately to be the same form as the second syllable of Latin *ambi-* (as in *ambidextrous*), Greek *amphí* (as in *amphitheatre*), and Old English *ymbe*, all of which meant ‘on both sides, round’. The original meaning of *by* thus seems to be ‘close to, near’. *By* is the basis of the prefix *be-*, as in *befall* and *belong* (Ayto, 2005:86).

From Middle English *by*, *bi*, from Old English *bī* (“by; near; around”), from Proto-Germanic **bi* (“near; by; around; about”), from Proto-Germanic **umbi* (“around”), from Proto-Indo-European **h₂mb^{hi}* (“round about; around”).

Cognate with West Frisian *by* (“by; near”), Afrikaans *by* (“at; by; near”), Saterland Frisian *bie* (“near; by”), Dutch *bij* (“near; by”), German Low German *bi* (“by; near; at”), German *bei* (“by; near; at”)(wiktionary.org 2016).

24.2 haze

See HARE, para 2.

With OE *hasu*, *heasu*, grey, cf the otherwise unexplainable English haze, a light vapour or greyness or smoke that slightly lessens vision; cf dial haze, to be foggy. Decidedly derivative is American English haze, to bully: bullying produces haziness of mind (Partridge 2006: 1382).

1700-10; perhaps noun use of Middle English **hase*; Old English *hasu*, variant of *haswa* ashen, dusky. See hazy, hare the earliest instances are of the latter part of the 17th century (dictionary.com).

25. July 30th, 2015 “Residents told to save water”

25.1 Residents, Reside [15]

The *-side of reside* has no connection with English *side*. It comes from Latin *sedere* ‘settle’ (source of English *sedentary*,

session, etc and related to *sit*). Combination with the prefix *re-* ‘back’ produced *residere* ‘settle back, remain in place, rest’, which passed into English via its present participle as *resident* ‘settling permanently in a place’ [14]. *Reside* is either a back-formation from this or a borrowing from French *résider*. The past participle of *residere* was *residuus*, whose neuter form *residuum* was used as a noun meaning ‘that which settles back’, hence ‘that which is left behind’. It passed into English via Old French as *residue* [14] (Ayto, 2005:422).

25.2 Water [OE]

Water is an ancient and widespread word, which goes back ultimately to prehistoric Indo-European **wodor*. Its relatives include Greek *húdor* ‘water’ (source of the English prefix *hydro-*), Latin *unda* ‘wave’ (source of English *redundant*, *surround*, *undulate*, etc), Russian *voda* ‘water’ (source of English *vodka*), Gaelic *uisge* ‘water’ (source of English *whisky*), Lithuanian *vanduo* ‘water’, Latvian *udens* ‘water’, Sanskrit *udán* ‘water’, and Hittite *water* ‘water’. In the Germanic languages it has become German *wasser* (source of English *vaseline*), Dutch and English *water*, Swedish *vatten*, and Danish *vand*. *Otter* comes from a variant of the same Indo-European base, as may *winter*, and *wet* is closely related (Ayto, 2005:430).

26. July 31st, 2015 “Company profits take a battering”

26.1 Company, Companion [13]

Etymologically, your *companion* is someone who shares your ‘bread’ with you. It comes, via Old French *compaignon*, from Vulgar Latin **compāniō*, a compound noun formed from Latin *com-* ‘with’ and *pānis* ‘bread’. The Old French stem *compaign-* also formed the basis of *compaignie*, from which English gets *company* [13].

The *companion* of *companionway* ‘stairway on a ship’ [18] is of similar but distinct origin. It comes ultimately from Vulgar Latin **compāniō*, a compound noun meaning ‘what one eats with bread’, formed from Latin *com-* ‘with’ and *pānis* ‘bread’. In Italian this became *campagna* ‘provisions’, which was used in the phrase *camera della campagna* ‘(ship’s) storeroom’. The meaning of the phrase eventually passed to *campagna* on its own, and was carried via Old French *compagne* to Dutch *kompanje*, which meant ‘quarterdeck’. English borrowed this, and adapted it to the more familiar English pattern *companion* (Ayto, 2005:123).

From Old French *compaignie* (“companionship”) (Modern French: *compagnie*), possibly from Late Latin **compania*, but this word is not attested. Old French *compaignie* is equivalent to Old French *compaignon* (Modern French: *compagnon*) + *-ie*. More at *companion* (wiktionary.org).

26.2 profits [14]

Like proficient, profit goes back to Latin *prōficere* ‘advance, be advantageous’. This was a compound verb formed from the prefix *prō-* ‘forward’ and *facere* ‘do, make’ (source of English *fact*,

fashion, feat, etc). Its past participle *prōfectus* was used as a noun meaning ‘progress, success, profit’, and this passed into English via Old French *profit*. The Latin present participle *prōficiēns* ‘making progress’ is the source of English *proficient* [16], which took its meaning on via ‘making progress in learning’ to ‘adept’(Ayto, 2005:396).

26.3 Battering, battery [16]

The original meaning of *battery* in English was literally ‘hitting’, as in *assault and battery*. It came from Old French *batterie*, a derivative of *batre, battre* ‘beat’ (from which English also gets *batter* [14]). The ultimate source of this, and of English *battle*, was Latin *battuere* ‘beat’. The development of the word’s modern diversity of senses was via ‘bombardment by artillery’, to ‘unit of artillery’, to ‘electric cell’: it seems that this last meaning was inspired by the notion of ‘discharge of electricity’ rather than ‘connected series of cells’ (Ayto, 2005:52).

2) The Origin of Affixes

A. Prefix

1. Re-

back (to an original place or state), back-wards, or merely connoting ‘(to hold oneself) back from advancing or from doing something definite’, as in *return* or *revert*—*recline*— (third nuance) *refrain*. *Re-* comes, sometimes via F *re-* or *ré-*, from L *re-*, answering to no recorded adv or prep and akin to nothing more remote, whether in space or in time, than the syn Umbrian *re-*.

A spatial deviation—a very natural deviation—is that constituted by the connotation of ‘such a movement in a contrary direction as destroys what has been done’ (E & M), as in *recluse*, *renounce*, *resign*, *reveal*.

Deriving from the sense ‘back in space or in time or in state’ is that of ‘again’, as in *recant*, *rejoin*, *renew*, and *repeat*.

The L variant *red-* may have been the orig form, but in Classical L appears only before a vowel, as in *redarguere* (E *redargue*), *redimere* (E *redeem*), *redīre* (whence *reditiō*, whence the obs *redition*), *redundāre* (E *redound*) (Partridge 2006:3889).

B. Suffix

1. -ed

- (1) in adjj, as ‘foliated’, ‘pig-headed’, derives analogously from *-ed* (2); whereas such words as *foliated* come from vv, those of the *calyxed* and *pig-headed* types come from nn whether simple or cpd. The connotation is ‘possessed of’ (a calyx, a pig-head—i.e., an obstinate one). Cf *-t*.
- (2) in pp, as in ‘He had hastened’, derives from OE *-ede* or *-ode* or *-ade*. Cf *-t*.
- (3) in pt, as in ‘He hastened’, derives from OE *-ed* or *-od* or *-ad*. (Partridge 2006:3912-13).

2. -ent ,

-ent adj and n. See *-ant* (1) above.

- (1) and *-ent*, adjj, answer to *-ance* and *-ence*, qq.v. at *-ance* above; nn in *-ant*, *-ent*, either derive straight from adjj or have been formed anl with other adjj in *-ant*, *-ent*.—Cf the adjj and nn in *-ient*, *-ience*.

Whereas E *-ent* must come either direct from *-ent-*, the c/f of the L presp *-ens* (whether 2nd or 3rd conjugation), as in *regent*, or through F *-ent*, or have been formed anl with L *ent*, the E *-ant* comes, whether through F or direct, from L *-ant*, as in *clamant* (direct) or *claimant* (via F), or has been formed anl with L *-ant-*, c/f of presp *-ans* (1st conjugation)—or, in the ME period, from OF *-ant* representing not L *-ant* but L *ent*, for, in OF, *-ant* stood

for either L *-ant-* or L *-ent-*. In CC16–17, F restored the *-e-* where the L had *-ent-*. Hence such confusions as *pendant*, *pendent*—*ascendant*, *ascendent*—*assistant* but *persistent*. The practice of reserving *-ant* for nn, *-ent* for adj, is modest.

The nn in *-ant* (or *-ent*) connote agency or instrumentality, as in *defendant*, *inhabitant*, *suppliant*, *errant*; *agent*, *regent*, *student*, *torrent*.

- (2) n through OF-F from L from Gr, as in *adamant*, *elephant*, *sycophant*, derives from the Gr o/s: thus, *adamant*, OF *adamant*, L *adamant-*(nom *adamas*, gen *adamantis*), Gr *adamant-* (nom *adamas*, gen *adamantos*); *elephant*, via OF from Gr *elephant-* (nom *elephas*, gen *elephantos*); *sycophant*, L *sycophanta*, Gr *sukophantēs* (o/s *sukophant-*); cf *gigantic* and *giant*, from Gr *gigas*, o/s *gigant-*(Partridge 2006:3916).

3. **-er**

- (1) adj of comp degree, as in *faster*, *slower*, *better*, *finer* (i.e. *fin(e)+-er*), derives from OE *-ra*, as in *better*, OE *betera*: cf ON *betri*, OHG *bezziro*, Go *batiza*, L *melior*, Gr *beltiōn*, and perh Skt *bhadra* (good).

The *-er* of comp advv derives from OE *-or*, akin to OHG and OS *-ōr* and Go *-ōs*, *-ōz*. The adv *better*, deriving from OE *bet*, has been influenced by analogy: cf the L *melius* and the Gr *beltion*. (See esp O.E.D.)

- (2) adj, as in *eager*, AE *meager* (E meagre), derives from L *-er*; an *-re* spelling indicates passage via F. Thus: *eager*, ME *egre*, OF

- aigre*, L *ācer*; *meager* or *meagre*, ME *megre*, OF *megre* or *maigre*, L *macer*—cf the eccl *maigre*. This *-er*, very common in L and having conn ‘quality’, has occ been taken direct by E from L, as in *dexter* and *sinister*—contrast F *dextre* and *sinistre*.
- (3) adv. For some advv, see *-er* (1), second para. For the *-er* of *never*, hence of *never*, see *-re* (2), the adv *-re* of *here* and *there*.
- (4) n, agential (orig m) or instrumental straight from v, as in *murderer* from *murder* and *player* from *play*; where the v ends in *-e*, as in *hate*, *poke*, that *-e* is dropped, as in *hater*, *poker*. Although most of the exx are modem, this *-er* derives from OE *-ere*, which, like Go *-areis* and OHG *-ari* (G *-er*), came orig from L *-ārius* (m) or *-ārium* (neu). Cf:
- (5) n denoting ‘person or thing connected with’, as in *carpenter*, *garner*, *grocer*, comes—usu via AF *-er*, OF *-ier*—from L *-ārius* (m) or *-ārium* (neu), from another n. Exx : *carpenter*, ONF *carpentier* (cf the surnames *Carpentier*, *Carpenter*), LL *carpentārius*, from *carpentum*; *garner*, a granary from OF *gernier*, metathesis of *grenier*, from L *grānārium*, from *grānum*; *grocer*, ME *grosser*, OF *grossier*, ML *grossārius*, from *grossus*. Cf prec.
- (6) n, links very closely with prec. This group consists of nn from E nn, thus *hatter* from *hat*, *philologer* from *philolog(y)*, *purser* from *purse*, and the general conn is ‘one concerned with’. Both *-er* (5) and *-er* (6) are neutral, whereas *-er* (4) is active. Note the variants *bowyer*, *lawyer*, *sawyer*, and *collier*, *glazier*, *haulier*.

- (7) agent of L origin (via OF-F) in *-ātor*, which represents the predominant L agential suffix *-or* attached to the pp s. Exx: *commander*, OF *comandeor* (F *commandeur*), analogously from *comander*, from a VL var of *commendāre*; *compiler*, OF *compileor*, L *compilātor*, from *compilāre*, to gather together; *diviner*, OF *divineor*, ML *divinātor*, LL *diuinātor*, from *diuināre*, to foresee; *interpreter*, OF *interpreter*, LL *interpretātor*, from *interpretāri*.
- (8) n, denoting ‘a resident in, a native of’, as in *Londoner*, *Northerner*, *foreigner* and *villager*; deriving from n or adj, this *-er* may be compared to the *-er* of G *Engländer*, Englishman.
- (9) n, person or thing attaining to a certain size, height, weight, strength, etc.: as in *sixty-pounder*, *six-footer*, *half-miler*, *Forty-Niner*. Perh cf prec and prob cf:
- (10) n, a person, an object, an action connected with or related to the idea implicit in the stem. Exx: *back-hander*, *facer*, *header*, *newcomer*, *old-timer*. With *-er* (4) and, less, (5)(10) cf the agential *-or* below.
- (11) Alternative for *-or*, as in *carburetter*.
- (12) n, denoting or, at the vaguest, connoting ‘action or process of’ whatever the v indicates, as in *dinner* and *supper* and, exemplifying certain legal terms, *demurrer* and *waiver*; all of which derive from, or are adoptions of, OF-MF or AF pres-infs, thus: *demurrer*, OF *demorer*; *dinner*, ME *diner*, OF *disner*;

disclaimer, AF *desclamer*; *supper*, ME *soper* or *super*, adopted from OF; *waiver*, AF *weyver*.

(13) n. The suffix in *udder*, from OE *ūder* (akin to OHG *ūtar*, L *ūber*, Gr *outhar*, Skt *ūdhar*), has a meaning difficult to determine. It is perh the same as that in *finger*, OE *finger*, akin to OHG *fingar*, ON *fingr*; *hammer*, OE *hamer* or *hamor*, akin to ON *hamarr*; *hunger*, OE *hungor*, akin to OFris *hunger*, OHG *hungar*, ON *hungr*; *silver*, OE *seolfor*, akin to OFris *selover*, ON *silfr*; *summer*, OF *sumor* or *sumer*, akin to OFris *sumur*, OHG *sumar*, ON *sumar*.

(14) n, as in *counter*, via OF from ML *computatōrium*—*dormer*, OF *dormeor*, L *dormitōrium*—*laver*, via OF from ML *lavatōrium*, LL *lauatōrium*—*manger*, via OF from VL **manducatōria*, from L *manducāre*, obviously comes from the L suffix *-ōrium* or its occ var *-ōria*, with conn ‘a place’ for the action denoted by the v stem (to calculate—sleep—wash—eat). Cf, therefore, *-ory* below.

(15) in freq vv, as *batter* (?) and *clatter* and *patter* and *shatter*—*quaver* and *quiver* and *shiver*—*flitter* and *glitter*—*mutter*, *sputter*, *stutter*. The origin, therefore, is vaguely echoic; all the stems are echoic.

(16) See *-re* (prefix).

(17) v, in *sever*, corresponds approximately to L *-āre*, 1st-conj pres-inf suffix; and in *batter*, ult from L, to L *-ere* (*battuere*, LL

battere)—cf *render*, OF *rendre*, VL **rendere* (after *prendere*), from *reddere* (Partridge 2006:3917-19).

4. **-est**

adj and adv, denoting the superlative degree: OE *-est* or *-ost*, akin to ON *-(a)str*, Go *ists* or *-osts*, Gr *-istos*, Skt *-istha*. Exx: *sweetest*; *earliest*; *soonest*; *best*, OE *best*, short for *betst*, itself short for *betest*.

5. **-ing**

(1) adj, derives from *-ing*, suffix of the presp: ‘Birds that are habitually *singing* become known as “singing birds”’. This *-ing* derives, by confusion with the vbl n suffix *-inge* (later *-ing*), from *-inde*, a late form of OE *-ende*; naturally enough, presp *-ing* ended by becoming identical in form with vbl n *-ing*. The OE *-ende* is akin to Go *-and-* and to L *ant-*, *-ent-* (o/ss of *-ans*, *-ens*), and, far back, to Skt *-ant-*; cf also the Gr *-ont-* (o/s of *-ōn*). Cf :

(2) vbl n: ME *-ing*: OE *-ing*, but also *-ung*, akin to D *-ing* and G *-ung*: deriving, therefore, from vv but later, analogously, from nn, advv, etc.: gen conn, ‘action abstractly regarded’ (action, not act). ‘A *shouting* was heard, a *killing* was suspected.’ The association is often merely causal, actively in the *making* of a bed isn’t as simple as it sounds’, passively in ‘the *writing* on the wall’—or collective, as in ‘There’s not enough material for *bedding*’. Cf *-ings* below.

(3) in nn denoting ‘a belonging to, (hence) a descent from’, esp, therefore, in patronymics, as *atheling*, OE *aetheling*, a noble,

from *aethelo*, nobility or high lineage, and in *dim*, as *wilding*, an uncultivated plant, and *shilling*, OE *sailing*, identical with the OHG and OS forms. Here, prob, are to be included such fish-names as *herring* and *whiting*,

- (4) n, in place-names, sometimes=*ing*, a meadow (ON *eng*) but sometimes a patronymic, as in *Reading*. But, as Ekwall has shown, geog and topo *-ing* is very obscure indeed; app he thinks the patronymic conn to be preponderant. In the cpd suffixes *-ingham* and *-ington*, *-ing* is almost certainly patronymic, as in *Buckingham* and *Wellington*.

-ings, n, is the pl of vbl n *-ing* (see 2nd *-ing* above), with conn ‘something casually associated with the act, often esp in the pl; as, *sweepings*, *earnings*, etc.’ (Webster.) (Partridge 2006:3932).

6. **-ion**

-ion, abstract n: either from F *-ion*, which derives from—or has been formed anl with—L *iōn-*, part of the o/s of abstract nn in *-iō*. The conn is either ‘action’ or ‘process’ (or a result thereof) or ‘state’ or ‘condition’ or ‘a thing so conditioned’. Exx: *action*, through MF from L *actiō*, o/s *actiōn-*, from *act-*, s of *actus*, pp of *agere*, to do; *condition*, OF *condicion*, L *conditiōn-* (better *condiciōn-*), o/s of *conditiō*, better *condiciō*; *dominion*, adopted from OF, from *dominiōn-*, o/s of ML *dominiō*, from L *dominium* (as in *condominium*); *solution*, OF *solucion*, L *solūtiōn-*, o/s of *solūtiō*, from *soluere*, to loosen. Cf *-ation*, *-etion* above, and *-ition*, *-ution* below: these are simply extensions of *-ion*. Cf also the

merely apparent suffixes *-sion*, *-tion*, qq.v. at the former (Partridge 2006:3932-3933).

7. **-ment**

-ment (cf *-mente*) is strictly an element, but, as *-mentum*, it occurs so often in L that it there became a suffix with the orig meaning (L *mens*, E *mind*) darkened or lost; often it comes into E through OF or F *-ment*. This n suffix occurs in nn formed mostly from vv. The L *mentum* consists of *-men-* (cf *-men* above) and *-tum* and corresponds to Gr *-ma-to-*. Its conn is fundamentally ‘result or product of the action of the implied v and may be divided into:

Concrete result or product, as in *increment*, L *incrēmentum*, from *incrēscere*, to increase; *attachment*, F *attachement*, from *attaquer*, to attach; *entanglement*, which=*entangle*+*-ment*; or a physical means or instrument, as in *ornament*, OF *ornement*, L *ornāmentum*, from *ornāre* (s *orn-*), and *nutriment*, L *nūtrīmentum*, from *nūtrīre*—cf *nourishment*, OF *norrissement* (influenced by F *nourrir*), from OF *norrir*, from L *nūtrīre*;

Action: as in *abridgement*, OF *abregement*, from *abregier*, from ML *abbreviāre*, L *abbreviāre*; *government*, OF *gouvernement*, from OF *gouverner*, from L *gubernāre*; *statement*=*state* (v) + *-ment*;

State, quality, condition: *amazement*=(to) *amaze* + *-ment*; (hence) manner, as in *arrangement*, adopted from F, from the v *arranger* (Partridge 2006:3943).

8. -or

- (1) adj, in *major* and *minor*, is a var of *-ior* as in *inferior* and *superior*. Adopted from L. See *-ior*.
- (2) abstract n, either adopted from L *-or* or passing through OF-MF *-or* or *-our* or *-ur*; or, of course, formed analogously at either the F or the E stage. At the ME level, the form is *-or* or *-our* or *-ur*. Exx: *error*, L from *errāre* (s *err-*), to wander; *pallor*, L from *pallēre*, to be pale. Words that have passed through OF *-our* or *-ur* tend, in E, to be spelt *-our*; AE prefers the L *-or*. Exx: *fervour*, OF *fervour* or *fervor*, ML *fervor*, L *feruor*, from ML *fervēre*, L *feruēre*, and *honour*, ME *honor*, *honour*, *onur*, OF *honor*, *honur*, *onur*, *enour*, L *honor*.
- (3) agential n, either adopted from L *-or*, often via OF-MF *-or*, *-ur*, *-our*, or F *-eur*, or deriving ult from L *-ātor* but imm from OF *-eör* or *-eür* (F **-eur*). Exx: *actor*, L from *act*, pp s of *agere*, to drive, ply, do; *creditor*, F *créditeur*, L *creditor*, from *crēdere* (s *crēd-*), to believe; *donor*; OF *donëor*, L *donātor*, from *donate* (s *don-*), to give. An agent may become an instrument, as in *ejector*, which=*eject*+*-or*; there are many such analogous agents and instruments; e.g., *sailor*. Strictly *-or* goes with words of L origin, *-er* (see *-er* (4) above) with words of Gmc origin; but *bachelor* comes from OF *bachelor*, *-er* being OF var agential suffix. The correlative is *-ee*, q.v., as in *lessor*—*lessee*.
- (4) n, from OF-F *-oir* or OF-MF *-our* or *-eor*. Exx: *manor*, OF *manoir*, from *manoir*, to stay, dwell, from L *manēre*; mirror

mirror, OF *mirour*, *mireor*, from VL **miratōrium*, from L *mirāri*, to gaze at; *parlor*, British E *parlour*, OF *parleor*, ML *parlatōrium*, a place for talking. The conn is ‘a thing for, a place for’ (Partridge 2006:3949).

9. -ry .

A reduced form of *-ery* (1), q.v. above. Exx: *chivalry*, *jewelry* (cf *jewellery*), *revelry*, *rivalry*, *yeomanry* (an analogous formation) (Partridge 2006:3952).

10. -s

adv: short for *-es*

- (1) above, i.e. for OE *-es*, gen of neu and strong m nn. Exx: *always*, which=*all+way+adv -s*; *besides*, an *-s* var (cf ME *bisides*) of adv *beside*; *days*, by day, during the day, as in ‘He lay awake *nights* and moped *days*’; *eftsoons*, ME *eftsones*, a var of *eftstone*; *needs*, necessarily, OE *nēdes*; *unawares*, an analogous var of adv *unaware*.
- (2) *n*, is very common in words adopted from Gr and L, where *-s* is the most freq suffix for the nom case: notably in Gr words ending in *-as*, *-is*, and esp *-os*, and in L words ending in *-as*, *es*, *-is* and esp *-us*. Exx: Greek, *Lycidas* (Gr *Lukidas*), *aphesis* (Gr *aphēsis*), *pathos*; Latin, *adamas*, *animus*, etc. See also the separate Gr and L endings.
- (3) *n*. The usual pl of native nn, as *boy—boys*: ME *-s*, *-es*, from OE *-as*.

- (4) v. The usual suffix for the 3rd person sing of the pres ind, as ‘He *hits*’. From MSc *-s*, *-es*, a Northern form supplanting Midland *-eth*. Cf **-es** (5) above (Partridge 2006:3952-53).

11. **-ty**

- (1) Abstract n of L origin in *-tās*, o/s *-tāt*-(gen *-tātis*), often via OF *-te* or *té*, or F *-té*. (Cf, therefore, *-ity*.) Exx: *beauty*, OF *beaute* or *beute*, VL **bellitās* (acc **bellitātem*), from *bellus*, pretty; *liberty*, OF *liberté*, L *libertās*, o/s *libertāt*-, from *liber*, free; *vanity*, OF *vanité*, ML *vānitās*, o/s *vānitāt*-, from ML *vānus* (L *uānus*), empty.
- (2) OE *-tig*, akin to OFris *-tich*, ON *-tigr*, Go *-tigus*, G *-zig*: in numerals, denoting ‘tens’, as *twenty*, two tens, OE *twēntig*, OFris *twintich*; *thirty*, by metathesis from OE *thrītig*.
- [**-ual**, as in *gradual* (ML *gradualis*, from *gradus*, a step) and *punctual* (ML *punctuālis*, from *punctus*, a point), is only an app suffix, for the u is thematic. See *-al*, adj.] (Partridge 2006:3958).