

Bad Language or Language Variation and Change? Interpretation, Context and Social Motivations in English

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Abstract: *This paper tackles the role of language variation and change in the history of the English language and advocates for a descriptivist view on language. Instances of language variation should be acknowledged and analysed, instead of being labeled 'bad language' or incorrect grammar/pronunciation/spelling. This study starts from the hypothesis that language change represents a progress in the evolution of English and discusses different aspects that have changed from Old English to present-day English. It also focuses on regional and social aspects of English and attempts to account for them.*

Keywords: *language change; language variation; bad language; descriptivism; culturally-specific swear words.*