*Inglish orthoggraphy, epittomized: (English linguistics, ; a collection of facsimile reprints) [James Elphinston] on racedaydvl.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

The ideas, motivation and social networks of each of these writers are examined in order to determine whether any common denominators exist. The eighteenth century produced no writers to compare either with the spelling reformers who are our main source up to The Philological Society Johnson in the Grammar of the English Tongue which prefaced his Dictionary But who can hope to prevail on nations to change their practice, and make all their old books useless? Or what advantage would a new orthography procure equivalent to the confusion and perplexity of such an alteration? Of these it may be said, that as they have done no good, they have done no harm; both because they have innovated little, and because few have followed them. All of these in printed texts used h-ori spellings for words like honor, and it would appear that Lowe intended to introduce a reformed spelling. It is apparent from Table 1 that these works are few and far between. Thomas Spence and James Elphinston. What I would like to do in this paper is to consider what they may have in common apart from their eccentricity and why their schemes did not succeed in changing received opinion. I intend to concentrate on two clusters of works: Nor do I intend here to dwell on the usefulness of these works as sources for the historical phonologist: What I would like to consider is what motivation these men had for devising such schemes at a time when spelling reform was so unfashionable. Contemporary reactions to spelling reformers That all these authors were outside the mainstream of thinking in the eighteenth century is apparent from the obscurity of the early writers and the notoriety of the later ones. Little is known of John Wild, except that he was probably a schoolmaster from Littleleek in Nottinghamshire Jones, , and nothing is known of the author of the Needful Attempt except what can be inferred from the text itself, i. Tucker, Spence and Elphinston, on the other hand, were well known: However, both in their lifetimes and more recently, the schemes for spelling reform put forward by these three men were, at best, tolerated as harmless eccentricities. Hyndman , quoted in Shields But the young man was an enthusiast, and soon turned his thoughts to more important matters. As both Shields and I Beal have shown, nothing could be further from the truth. As a working-class Geordie, we might expect Spence to be patronised thus, but the middle-class Scot Elphinston fared little better. However, like Spence, Elphinston was felt to be a man whose talents could have been better employed elsewhere: Elphinston, who is already well known to the public, has added to this edition of the Latin Sententious Poets, a transla- tion in his own peculiar mode of writing English, that is, according to its familiar pronunciation. So the schemes for reformed spelling put forward in the later eighteenth century were judged to be whimsical, curious, fantastic, absurd and queer, a set of adjectives which describe their referents as outside the mainstream, impractical and not to be taken seriously. What motivated these men to put forward such unpopular and unfashionable schemes? Reform in the classroom One thing which almost all of our eighteenth-century reformers have in common is experience of teaching, and the view that reformed spelling will make teaching and learning easier. John Wild, Thomas Spence and James Elphinston were all teachers and the anonymous author of the Needful Attempt seems to have been either a teacher or a clergyman. As they could now learn as much in a Month, as formerly in a Year, the very poorest soon acquired such Notions of Justice, and Equity, and of the Rights of Mankind, as rendered unsupportable, every species of Oppression. The Customs of Crusonia, became familiar along with the Language; and Landlords appeared despicable and burthensome, in Propor- tion as the Happiness of being without them was perceived; and the least Ill-treatment from them was now borne with the greatest Uneasiness and Impatience. We can detect the exasperation of long experience when he writes: But the distant hav no possibel chance, unles from repprezentacion Alston does not classify his Vocal Sounds as a work of spelling reform, and nor does Abercrombie, explicitly stating that Tucker is not a spelling reformer. There were many educationalists in the 18th century who produced readers and spelling books in conventional spelling: Perhaps we should consider the personalities of these men who were so single-minded as to swim against the tide of popular opinion. Here, I shall concentrate on the spelling reformers of the later 18th century, about whose lives more is

known. Frith, in the preface to a volume of papers on cognitive processes in spelling, writes: Both Spence and Elphinston were equipped with tunnel vision: Spence devoted his whole life to the pursuit of the twin goals of spelling reform and nationalisation of the land, goals which he saw as inextricably linked, and which he formulated in at the age of Nothing was in anarchy but language and politics. Far from being daunted, Spence took the opportunity to conduct his own defence, so that this defence could be recorded and published. Spence was clearly the sort of man who, knowing he was right, would not be swayed from his purpose and would not contemplate compromise. Elphinston was a Quixote in whatever he judged right: Such a man might be foiled in an attempt, but was not likely to be diverted from one in which he thought right was supported against wrong. The worst that can be said of his perseverance in so hopeless a pursuit is, that it was a foible, by which he injured no man but himself. The attitude that comes across in Vocal Sounds is ironically self-deprecating. He writes of the reader: I only mean to supply him with a method whereby he might ascertain the true sounds of his letters. His interest is that of a philosopher, scientist, or, perhaps, a dilettante, rather than a pedagogical reformer. A man of an exceptionally happy temperament, amiable and benevolent in conduct, serene and cheerful in temper, no less distinguished from the squirearchy of his day by an unconquer- able aversion to fox-hunting and to place-hunting, and by a devotion to plain living and high thinking, than he is from most of the philosophers of that or any other day by the possession of a rich vein of quaint and quiet humour, which runs through and colours all his speculations, on even the highest and most sacred themes. In Vocal Sounds he shows similar foresight in anticipating the study of philology. So they might after every word spelt the common way par- enthesize the same again in the other characters. By this method our language would be transmitted down entire to future generations. New dictionaries, or new editions of dictionaries are produced every twenty years, and in them such among posterity as shall think it worth their while to examine, may see 18 transactions of the philological society , exactly how their ancestors spoke as well as wrote in every successive twenty years; whereas in our present manner of disguising our language upon paper it would be impossible to conjecture how we sound our words. In contrast to the Radical Spence, Tucker suggests that reform should be gradual: Now a desire to have our new method introduced at once, would carry the air of a romantic wish rather than a serious proposal. But all sudden revolutions as well in literature as in church and state, are accompanied with some mischiefs, wherefore it is better to proceed gradually and administer the remedies in proportion as the patient can bear them. Marginality is one explanation: Had they been able to persuade these better-connected men to adopt the cause of spelling reform, then at least the kind of partial reform achieved in America might have taken place. Both the former were teachers, and both were marginal in society, making them potential originators accord- ing to network theory. Yet the latter part of Vocal Sounds does argue the case for reformed spelling, even if Tucker was no revolutionary. Locke writes that the ends of language are: Secondly, To do it with as much ease and quickness, as is possible; and Thirdly, Thereby to convey the Knowledge of Things. According to Weinstein, Franklin quoted Locke approvingly: Furthermore, there is an indirect link between Elphinston and Locke in his acquaintance with Franklin, whose work Elphinston became acquainted with only after devising his own scheme. Nor, with the exception of Elphinston and Franklin, is there any evidence that any of these men met, or even knew of the work of, other reformers. If Spence, Tucker and Elphinston had ideas in common, this was because they drew the same conclusions from the work of well-known writers such as Locke, and because being marginal either in their place in society or in their thinking, or, in the case of Spence and Elphinston both, they were able to envisage radical change, if not implement it. Studies in Phonetics and Linguistics, London: Towards a History of Phonetics, Edinburgh: English Pronunciation in the Eighteenth Century: Propriety Ascertained in Her Picture. Inglish Orthoggraphy Epittomized, London: Proposals Relating to the Education of Youth in Pennsylvania. Cognitive Processes in Spelling. An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, ed. Stephen, Leslie and S. Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford: Cognitive Processes in Spelling, New York: A Critical Pronouncing Dictionary, London: Basil Blackwell 1st edition

The dictionary companion: being a supplement to the dictionary and the thesaurus, presenting aids to better spelling, increased vocabulary, good usage and fuller appreciation of the source and meaning of words.

Wallis, few undertook any Thing of this Nature for the English Tongue; and one may almost dare to affirm the same of the German and other Languages of Europe; and indeed it is a difficult Task to confine a living Language to Fetters and Chains, which will assert its Liberty in Spight of Criticks and Grammarians. Does it mean, that the English Language as it is spoken by the politest part of the nation, and as it stands in the writings of our most approved authors, oftentimes offends against every part of Grammar? Thus far, I am afraid, the charge is true. Or does it further imply, that our Language is in its nature irregular and capricious; not subject, or not easily reduceable, to a System of rules? In this respect, I am persuaded, the charge is wholly without foundation. The plain way of doing this, is to lay down rules, and to illustrate them by examples. But besides shewing what is right, the matter may be further explained by pointing out what is wrong. I will not take upon me to say, whether we have any Grammar that sufficiently performs the first part: He also strongly disapproves of putting a relative pronoun in front of a preposition governing it and failing to use the objective form, quoting Shakespeare as erring in "Who servest thou under? As for double negatives, they were simply more emphatic for most use, not mathematical; the order and case of relative pronouns is still argued, but usage evidently says the "who" is perceived as being the "real subject" of the sentence and subjects ought to be put up front and in subjective form. Even so, his concept of grammar may be curious at times: The Conjunction connects or joins together Sentences; so as out of two to make one Sentence. Among irregular verbs, he includes these as irregular only in the past participle: To him, crope, hove, and shore are the correct past tenses of creep, heave, and shear James Elphinston Inglish Orthoggraphy Epittomized Orthoggraphy must employ symbols or letters nedher too manny, too few, nor inadde quate or misrepprezenting ; and must, by dhis rule, first adjust dhe consonants; on hwich in evvery language, especially in ours, dhe vocal sounds often entirely depend. Thomas Gunter Browne Hermes Unmasked He uses the example of a baby learning to talk; the mother teaches it nouns, pointing to herself and saying "mama," to the fire and saying "fire," to his brother and saying "Tom," and to the bed and saying "bed. I imagine that there was originally only one part of speech, or one sort of word; and this is particularly plain in our mother tongue, where almost every word, truly English, is both noun and verb, viz. A head; they head. Now it is no objection to say, that the pronoun they was not so early in use; for you have only to substitute Tom, Jack, or any other names of persons, and things, for which the pronoun they is supposed to be used. But he does not lack in imagination: The Greeks were famous for compound words. The three substantives, or this one word, might have been used as one adjective, and it might have excited sensations equivalent to the sensations we call pious, or religious; because, forsooth, the fat thigh of a bull was the most delicious eating for the priests, and therefore ordered by them to be sacrificed to the gods--of course the man who gave a great deal of fat-bull-thigh, would be honoured with the word religious. Thus, we see how the adjective religious, pious, venerable, and such like, may have been invented in some countries; and thus we see, why it is best to teach all false religions and political matters, if possible, in foreign words; for it is plain, that if men in some countries had known the gross and sensible origin of many religious and political words, they would not have had such great dread of them. George Campbell Philosophy of Rhetoric Good usage is national and reputable and present. National meant that it was "not regional," reputable meant "not recognized as poor," and present meant "not out of date. Sir William Jones , his presidential address at the 3rd anniversary of the Asiatic Society It is much to be lamented that neither the Greeks, who attended ALEXANDER into India, nor those who were long connected with it under the Bactrian Princes, have left us any means of knowing with accuracy, what vernacular languages they found on their arrival in this Empire The Sanscrit language, whatever be its antiquity, is of a wonderful structure; more perfect than the Greek, more copious than the Latin and more exquisitely refined than either; yet bearing to both of them a stronger affinity, both in the roots of verbs, and in the forms of grammar, than could possibly have been produced by accident; so strong, indeed, that no philologer could examine them all three, without

believing them to have sprung from some common source, which, perhaps, no longer exists. There is a similar reason, though not quite so forcible, for supposing that both the Gothick and the Celtick, though blended with a very different idiom, had the same origin with the Sanscrit; and the old Persian might be added to the same family, if this were the place for discussing any question concerning the antiquities of Persia. Asiatic Researches 1 []:

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Chapter 4 : A Minniature ov Inglish Orthoggraphy

James Elphinston Inglish Orthoggraphy Epittomized (): Orthoggraphy must employ symbols (or letters) nedher too manny, too few, nor inadde quate (or misrepprezenting); and must, by dhis rule, first adjust dhe consonants; on hwich in evvery language, especially in ours, dhe vocal sounds often entirely depend.

His main research interest is the development of English in the early modern and late modern period. Among his recent publications in this field are Dictionaries of English: Her main research interests are the English language in the late modern period and dialect and regional variation in Britain. Her research interests focus on the features and origins of British varieties of English and the history of specialised discourse. Historical Investigations edited with Susan M. In co-operation with Richard Dury she is currently compiling a corpus of nineteenth-century Scottish correspondence. She has published widely on aspects of English historical syntax, including the system of sentential complementation and its development since Middle English times. She is the editor of Folia Linguistica and is currently working on the history of verbs of motion in English and Spanish from a Construction Grammar perspective. Her research involves sociohistorical linguistic and historical pragmatic approaches to change and variation in eighteenth-century English. She has also collaborated with colleagues to produce volumes whose contributions explore methodological issues in English linguistics. His main research interests are computer corpus processing, varieties of English especially Irish English and issues surrounding language contact, shift and change. His research interests cover a wide spectrum which includes Scots, especially in its historical context, English diachronic phonology and questions of language change. Among his recent publications are Historical Linguistics: His current research interests include historical pragmatics, speech act theory, politeness theory and the grammar and history of English. He also works on hypertexts and the language of the new media. His publications include four monographs, seven edited volumes, and about eighty articles and reviews in journals and collective volumes. His research interests include semantics, grammaticalisation, typology, history of linguistics and English grammar. Over the last decade he has been investigating the grammar of nonstandard varieties of English around the world, especially from a typological perspective. She has published widely on language in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Recent work includes Lexicography and the OED: She is currently completing her Ph. Here research explores the cultural history of eighteenth-century English. Particularly interested in gender issues and standardisation, she is currently at work on a book about bad grammar in Enlightenment Britain. Her research focuses on historical pragmatics, corpus linguistics, linguistic stylistics and the evolution of scientific and medical writing. She is the co-editor of the Journal of Historical Pragmatics. Jucker , The Dynamics of Linguistic Variation: Her research interests include historical social network analysis and the standardisation process codification and prescription. She publishes the internet journal Historical Sociolinguistics and Sociohistorical Linguistics, and is the director of the research project The Codifiers and the English Language at Leiden. She is currently writing a book on Robert Lowth and the rise of prescriptivism. Her main areas of interest are variation in the morphology and syntax of English dialects on which she has published a number of articles, focusing in particular on Southwest England and Newfoundland. She is currently working at the University of Technology, Chemnitz, Germany. This period has come to be known as Late Modern English and covers the period roughly from the reign of Queen Anne â€" the Augustan Age, that of Pope, Dryden and Swift â€" down to the end of the Victorian era at the beginning of the twentieth century. This is not a period of major categorial changes in English but of more subtle shifts in syntax and vocabulary and above all it is the time when pronunciation became a yardstick of acceptability in English society. The study of English in the late modern period is inextricably linked to the rise of prescriptivism, a phenomenon which has determined the attitudes to spoken language in present-day English society. The validity of the late modern period has been underlined by a series of recent conferences which have taken place at the universities of Edinburgh, Vigo and Leiden. The range of topics dealt with at these conferences testifies to the interest of English scholars in the period. In particular the rise in grammar writing has been a focus, but also the spread of dictionaries and their use as authoritative works in language

use. The field of Late Modern English studies has been strengthened by a number of seminal publications in recent years. It is hoped that the present volume â€" like its predecessor for nineteenthcentury English: Helen Barton, commissioning editor for linguistics at Cambridge University Press, was, as always, a great source of assistance and encouragement and ready to answer all the questions which arose in the course of the current project. Some of these have become standard wisdoms and are widespread among scholars and students alike. Other topics have not been in the forefront to the same extent but increasingly the focus of researchers has been directed towards them too. The most prevalent standard wisdom about the eighteenth century is that it is the period in which prescriptivism in English established itself. Another common view of the eighteenth century is that it is the period in which codes of politeness Nevalainen and Tissari; Taavitsainen and Jucker, both this volume became fixed and mandatory for the established classes in English society, and for those who aspired to belong to these. Again this is no doubt true and rules of etiquette were evidently rigid and compulsory. But there are clear differences between notions of politeness then and those which are prevalent today. In addition, the tenor of disputes in print between authors had a directness and harshness which would not be accepted today. It was a century of forced plantations in Ireland and of military conflict in all 1 2 Eighteenth-century English parts of Britain and Ireland. The internal stability of eighteenth-century England means that in the present book, historical events do not play a central role in the discussions. It is perhaps significant that the two contributions concerned with English in Scotland Jones and Ireland Hickey respectively are those in which political and military events are referred to. There is little or no mention of politics in any of the other chapters, but much discussion of the social developments of the time. This fact is reflected in the nature of the contributions in this volume. Indeed in many ways, the advice, if not to say strictures, of many authors has led to the continuing existence of variation in areas of English grammar in which one would expect incoming variants to become dominant and lead to the disappearance of older ones in the course of a few generations at the most. The majority of contributions in this volume are concerned with external factors, with language use and the role which individual authors may have Attitudes and concerns in eighteenth-century English 3 played in its development. The size of the names index clearly shows this. The discussions in the volume are repeatedly about how language was seen and discussed in public, how individuals whose profession was connected to matters of language â€" grammarians, lexicographers, journalists, pamphleteers, publishers â€" judged on-going change. The eighteenth century is also the period in which speakers of English looked to see what variants among items of change in process were preferred by their social superiors. On the other hand, those who already belonged to the established classes turned to recognised literary writers for guidance on form and usage, as can be seen with Lowth who in this matter held Swift in high esteem. This situation was the result of an expansion in a tradition of linguistic commentary which had begun earlier. The seventeenth century had seen many publications on language, chiefly concerned with i the difficulties in English vocabulary caused by the many creations and borrowings from classical languages, ii the pronunciation and orthography of English and iii the nature of English grammar compared to classical languages, above all Latin. However, it would be incorrect to see the works of eighteenth-century authors as a mere extension of the linguistic concerns of the previous century. There was also a change in orientation. To set this in context, the motivations for publishing works on language hitherto are outlined briefly below. Latin took its place after Greek and the result was a triad of classical languages which were continually referred to. Already by the early seventeenth century, these words were perceived as a source of difficulty for speakers of English and the necessity was felt to produce books in which hard words were defined. Clearly the author felt called upon to supply such information as was necessary for both foreigners and natives alike to understand and use these words correctly. It might be imagined that one such definitive work would be sufficient to satisfy the needs of the reading public. However, already in the sixteenth century one finds in this area a degree of repetition, a duplication of effort, which was to mushroom in the eighteenth century. In a Method more comprehensive, than any that is extant. This tack can be recognised in the titles of other works. Not only that but a blunt tone is found in the references to the work of colleagues. However, one should not assume that the regulations Attitudes and concerns in eighteenth-century English 5 of etiquette meant that modern notions of politeness applied on all levels and in all areas of society. In the realm of

academic discourse authors had little trepidation when it came to criticising one another. There are a number of other developments of the early modern period which contributed to this divergence. Walker also has this sound, but represents it in different ways. For instance, he distinguishes six types of o-sound and contrasts his scheme with that devised by Sheridan. Spelling variations and not least the loss of inflectional syllables already in the early Middle English period would also seem to indicate that short unstressed vowels have had a centralised pronunciation in English for something like a thousand years. In the transcription used by the eighteenth-century prescriptivists, including Sheridan and Walker, the numbers are actually placed over the vowel symbols. The increasingly divergent nature of writing and pronunciation was a concern which was dealt with openly. At the beginning of the eighteenth century one has works like John Jones Practical Phonography: Or, the New Art of Rightly Speling [sic! The phonological changes in English at the time led many authors to publicly campaign for a fixed form of the language in which these changes would no longer disrupt the relationship of spelling and sound. While Swift wished to have the language fixed so that works of literature would be accessible to later generations, later non-literary authors, such as Rice just quoted, were concerned with the practical implications of not having a fixed standard. The divergence of the written and spoken language did occasionally lead to radically new proposals for English spelling. For other authors, notably the lexicographers and grammarians Attitudes and concerns in eighteenth-century English 7 of the latter half of the eighteenth century Johnson, Kenrick, Sheridan, Walker , tampering with English spelling was not an option. Of these two aspects of the language, it is probably the phonology which was the focus of eighteenth-century scholarship. John Walker was one of these. When applied to language, analogy was understood to be a one-to-one relationship between spelling and sound. Works intended to offer assistance in this field had already appeared in the late seventeenth century. She was also concerned with 8 Eighteenth-century English providing an instrument to those women who might not have had the opportunity to learn grammar during their own education. In the long titles of language studies, eighteenth-century authors readily named their target group. The concern of women for the education of their children is a natural one, but there may have been additional motivation which lay in the social conditions and mores of the eighteenth century. In this context it is worth considering who formed the market for the very many books on language in the eighteenth century. For the poorer segments of English society â€" servants, artisans, agricultural workers, small farmers â€" books were beyond their financial reach, even if they were interested in acquiring them. It is also doubtful whether the landed aristocracy were the buyers of the language studies produced by their social inferiors. The all too often futile pleas of the latter for patronage would suggest that the interest of the nobility in matters linguistic was limited to say the least. This leaves a middle section which, by exclusion of the others, must have formed the bulk of book buyers in eighteenth-century England. Statements like these are a reminder that the middle class was still small, but also that it was striving upwards. In this search for social acceptance, the right pronunciation and grammar of English was essential.

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and in 'Inglish Orthoggraphy epittomized, and Propriety's Pocket Diccionary' (8vo,). The spelling adopted in these works is purely arbitrary; 'the,' for example, appears as 'dhe,' 'whole' as 'hoal,' 'which' as 'hwich,' 'single' as 'singuel,' 'portion' as 'poartion,' and 'occasion' as 'occazzion,' In there further appeared 'Forty years' Correspondence between Geniusses ov boath Sexes.

Chapter 6 : Eighteenth-Century English: Ideology and Change (Studies in English Language) - PDF Free D

Such iz dhe system ov Inglish Orthoggraphy, braught widhin dhe compas ov a few pages, on dhe unfailing principel, hwich aught to' govvern evvery plan ov litterary improovment: first, to' make no chainge dhat can rascionally be avoided; and dhen to' make precisely evvery variacion, from vulgar practice, dhat can be demonstrated indispensabel.

Chapter 7 : Journal De La Confederation : No. : Juil. 4, | National Library of Australia

Elphinston's charmingly titled Inglish Orthoggraphy, Epittomized () began specifically addressing common mistakes of usage. It was in the s, though, that anxiety over usage really started to.

Chapter 8 : English pronunciation in the eighteenth century

He was the author of Propriety Ascertained in Her Picture, (or English Speech and Spelling Rendered Mutual Guides, Secure Alike from Distant, and from Domestic, Error)(,)[2 volumes], The Principles of the English Language Digested for the use of Schools (), Inglish Orthoggraphy Epittomized (), Miniature of English Orthography.

Chapter 9 : Project MUSE - The Cambridge History of the English Language, (review)

ELPHINSTON, JAMES (), educationalist, the son of the Rev. William Elphinston, an episcopalian clergyman of Edinburgh, was born on 6 Dec. He was educated at the high school and university of Edinburgh, and in his seventeenth year became tutor to Lord Blantyre, and later to Lord Dalhousie.