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# **W. Bullokar's “Pamphlet for English”: key ideas and significance**

ULIANA HORHUT

 **LIVEWORKSHEETS**

WILLIAM BULLOKAR PUBLISHED PAMPHLET  
FOR GRAMMAR IN 1586, THE FIRST GRAMMAR  
OF ENGLISH WRITTEN IN ENGLISH.

HE WANTED TO SHOW THAT ENGLISH COULD  
BE STUDIED WITH THE SAME PRECISION AS  
LATIN AND OTHER LEARNED LANGUAGES.

William Bullokar Pamphlet

for Grammar:

Or rather to be said his Abbreviation of his  
Grammar for English, extracted out of his  
Grammar at large. This being sufficient for  
the specl learning how to parre English spech  
for the perfecter writing ther-of, and byng of  
the best shafte ther-in, and the other entred  
into the secrecy of Grammar for other langa-  
ge, and the brefder understanding of other  
langage, ruledes: not ruled by Grammar: very  
profitable for the English maner that  
desyred to lern any strang langa: and ver-  
and-fol to the strangi: to lern english  
perfectly and frediely: so that English hath  
most rulether: for son learned yet having ful-  
le ent: rule: that-in to make the way much  
easier for the lerning of any other langa: un-  
knowen before to the lerning. He hath also en-  
d to be im-printed with tra: orthograhy and  
Grammar-not: other booke sufficient  
for the exercl: and be of this  
Grammar.

¶ Oui Oui the pais, chal touchet al-Aunt. ¶

¶ When truch truch, erres lieb. ¶

Im-printed at London, by Ed:  
mynd Bollifant.

1586

R.B. 3C

LIVE WORKSHEETS

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BULLOKAR FOLLOWED THE FRAMEWORK OF WILLIAM LILY'S LATIN GRAMMAR.

HE USED LATIN-STYLE CATEGORIES SUCH AS PARTS OF SPEECH, CASES AND CONCORD, BUT ADJUSTED THEM TO ENGLISH, EVEN WHEN THE LANGUAGE LACKED THESE FEATURES.

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ENGLISH HAD NO GRAMMATICAL GENDER AND ONLY TRACES OF CASE.

BULLOKAR SIMPLIFIED THE LATIN MODEL, DESCRIBING ONLY FORMS THAT EXISTED, SUCH AS THE **POSSESSIVE CASE** (THE KING'S CROWN), WHILE DROPPING PURELY LATIN ENDINGS.

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## SPELLING AND PRONUNCIATION REFORM

HE INTRODUCED A SPECIAL PHONETIC ALPHABET WITH EXTRA LETTERS AND MARKS TO SHOW LONG AND SHORT VOWELS AND DIFFICULT SOUNDS.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE TRIED TO SPELL WORDS LIKE **LOVE** CLOSER TO THEIR ACTUAL PRONUNCIATION.

HE CHANGED I SHOTTE AT A BUTTE AND HITTE THE PINNE, AND FELL FLATTE UPON THE BOTTOOME OF A TUBBE INTO I SHOT AT A BUT, AND HIT THE PIN, AND FEL FLAT UPON THE BOTOM OF A TUB.

CRITICS OBJECTED THAT SUCH REFORM HIDES THE LATIN ORIGINS OF ENGLISH WORDS-LIKE DEBT FROM DEBITUM, REIGN FROM REGNUM, OR DOUBT FROM DUBITUM-BUT BULLOKAR REJECTED THESE ETYMOLOGICAL SPELLINGS AND CARED MORE ABOUT CLARITY AND EASE OF LEARNING.

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS WORK

W. BULLOKAR WAS THE FIRST TO USE THE WORD GRAMMAR FOR A BOOK ABOUT ENGLISH, A TERM THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN RESERVED FOR LATIN.

HIS GRAMMAR MARKS A SHIFT FROM DESCRIBING ENGLISH THROUGH LATIN TO DESCRIBING ENGLISH IN ITS OWN RIGHT.

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THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!