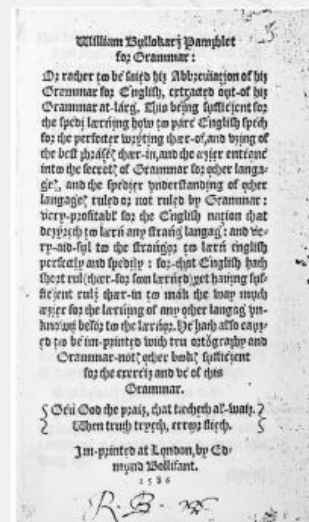


W. Bullokar's “Pamphlet for English”: key ideas and significance

ULIANA HORHUT

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.



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.

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.

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 BOTTOME 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.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!