

They Gave All They Got- English as an Anglo-Norse Koiné

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Contact between speakers of Old English and Old Norse was as varied as it was extensive. There have been numerous different attempts to categorize, classify and label this contact and the language that resulted from it. After giving a brief overview of the classifications that have been suggested, and addressing the Middle English Creole Hypothesis in particular, I will argue that the Norse-influenced stages of English are best described as an Anglo-Norse koiné, a language that resulted from extensive contact between two different languages that, at the time, were still mutually intelligible to an extent.