

Evolution of the English language evident through the Lord's Prayer

Research Design:

1000 adolescents text/sms the Lord's Prayer to researcher.
Each message is then analysed to identify consistencies and differences in the language used.

Example:

Old English (c. 1000 AD)

Faeder ur pu pe eart on heofonum, si pin nama gehalgod. To becume pin rice. Gewurpe pin willa on eorcan swa swa on heofonum. Urne gedaeghwamlican hlaf syle us to daeg. And forgyf us ure gyltas, swa swa we forgyfae urum gyltedum. And ne gelaed pu us on costnungen ac alys us of yfele. Sodlice.

Middle English (c. 1400 AD)

Oure fadir that art in heuenes halowid be thi name, thi kyngdom come to, be thi wille don in erthe es in heuene, yeue to us this day oure bread our other substance, & foryeue to us oure dettis, as we forgeuen to oure dettouris, & lede us not in to temptacion: but delyuer us from yuel, amen.

Early Modern English

Our father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdome come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Giue vs this day our dayly bread. And forgiue vs our debts, as we forgiue our debtors. And leade vs not into temptation, but deliuer vs from euill: for thine is the kingdome, and the power, and the glory, for euer, Amen.

Contemporary English

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours. Now and for ever. Amen

Text message version

Our fathr in heaven, hallowed b thy name. Ur k'dom cum, ur wil b dun, on earth as heaven. Give us 2day our daily bread. 4give us our sins, as we 4give who sin against us. Don't lead us to tempt., save us from evil. Da k'dom, da power and glory 4 eva n eva amen