Modern English began in England during the Elizabethan era which is also around the time of the great poet William Shakespeare. English was adopted in regions around the world, such as United States, India, and Australia, through colonization by the British Empire. So as Great Britain began colonizing America, Asia, and Africa, the English language and other customs and ideas spread around the world. This is considered an aspect of the Columbian exchange. Modern English refers to the English language since about 1450 or 1500. Also see: The Earliest English Dictionaries. The Normative Tradition “From its very early days, the Royal Society concerned itself with matters of language, setting up a committee in 1664 whose principal aim was to encourage the members of the Royal Society to use appropriate and correct language. This committee, however, was not to meet more than a couple of times. Subsequently, writers such as John Dryden, Daniel Defoe, and Joseph Addison, as well as Thomas Sheridan's godfather, Jonathan Swift, were each in turn to call for an English Academy to concern itself with language--and in particular to constrain what they perceived