

This is the *chief* tendency of our language; but there are others such as the tendency of the meaning of all words to follow one of the five laws of *Expansion, Contraction, Amelioration, Deterioration* or *Metaphor*. There is also the tendency of words of foreign origin to assume an English form, as beef-eater for *buffetier*, sovereign for *souvan*.

In the verb the two most noticeable tendencies are (1) the Subjunctive Mood gradually dropping out of use, (2) and the tendency of many strong verbs to become weak, while few weak verbs tend to become strong.

English accent has also two very characteristic tendencies; (1) it always tends toward the beginning or radical part of words, as nature, theatre, &c.; (2) it tends to shift from a slight to a strong syllable, or to strengthen the slightly accented syllable by doubling the consonant or lengthening the vowel.

In spelling we notice that (1) when a short vowel stands alone there is a tendency to lengthen it, as sop, soup; Fr. son, Eng. sound; (2) when two short vowels come together with a slight consonant between them, there is a tendency to combine them in one syllable.

Besides all these there is the tendency, in composition, of the various parts of speech to have a fixed position in the sentence. This, it may be observed is the natural consequence of the gradual adoption of an analytic method of speech.

VI. *Write a note on the terms strong and weak in grammar, and show the use of each form in the noun, the verb, and in derivation.*

Strong and weak are, in grammar, terms applied to words to denote their particular manner of effecting a modification in meaning. The term "strong" is applied to those words that modify their meaning by some change *within*, that is, vowel-change; weak is applied

to words that modify their meaning by some change from *without*, that is, by the addition of terminations. We call nouns strong when they form the plural by some other means than by adding "s" or "es" to the singular; e. g; man, men; mouse, mice. These plurals were formed by the influence that the Saxon plural ending "er" had in modifying the root vowel of a word.

Verbs are called strong when they form their past tense and past participle irregularly that is in some other way than by adding "d" or "ed" to the present indicative. The theory for the formation of strong preterites is that the present was reduplicated in Saxon, after the analogy of other inflected languages, the root vowel modified and then the termination dropped in the due course of Phonetic Decay. The "en" of the past participle has been retained from the Saxon, but the sign "ge" has been dropped.

In derivation, strong is applied to words that are formed by the change of the root-vowel; as song from sing; and weak to those formed from roots by the addition of terminations as songster from song.

VII. (a). *Enumerate the various methods of Word Formation; (b). and classify any two of them.*

(a). There are five methods in language of forming words; 1st, by radical change; 2nd, by reduplication; 3rd, by composition; 4th, by inflexion; 5th, by terminations.

(b). Perhaps the two methods most usual and producing the greatest number of words are the 3rd and 5th; therefore we will classify them:—

Compound words may be produced by joining: 1st, two nouns, which may have (a) an oppositive relation, as "servant-man," (b) the genitive relation, as "iron-ship," (c) the dative relation, as "hat-band," (d) the accusative relation, as "time-keeper," (e) the ablative relation, as "steam-boat," (f) the locative relation, as "sea bridge"; 2nd,