

## Folklore

### The Vikings

#### VIKINGS

The Danish Vikings spoke a language that was relatit tae Auld English and sae it was easy for Auld Scandinavian tae influence Auld English, in parteeular, the Auld English o the North East o England frae whilk Scots is descendit. (See introduction to [CSD](#))

They had wirts in common and whiles an Auld Scandinavian wirt helped tae prevent an Auld English ane deein oot. For example, Auld English had the twa wirts *bearn* and *cild*. In maist o England, the word *bearn* deed oot and *cild* gied the modren wirt *child*. The Auld Scandinavian words was *barnr* and this gied a heize tae *bearn* and in the north o England and in Scotland the word *bairn* has survived.

The similarity atween the languages made it easy tae borrae words. Some o thae wirts are yaised in baith Southron English and Scots. Ithers are restrictit tae Scotland or Scotland and the North o England. Loan wirts include *baith*, *brae*, *dreich*, *gate* (road), *lowse*, *reek*, *skin*, *tak*.

When Auld Auld Scandinavian affectit pronoonciation. Gin ye hear /sk/, ye're aften (but nae ayewis) hearin Scandinavian influence. This gied pairs o wirts like *kirk/church*, *birk/birch*, *breeks/breeches*, *scatter/shatter*, *skirt/shirt*. Anither instance o Auld Scandinavian influence on pronoonciation produced Scots/English contrasts like *brig/bridge*, *rig/ridge*, *seggs/sedge*.

Whiles Auld English and Auld Scandinavian had the same wirt but wi a different meanin.

*Dream* in Auld English meant something like 'joy in the mead hall' but *draumr* in Auld Scandinavian meant 'whit gangs through yer heid when ye're asleep'. We keepit the Auld English form o the wirt but borraed the Auld Scandinavian meanin.

The effect o Auld Scandinavian on baith Scots and English was muckle. We borrae wirts intae **open classes** o words like nouns and verbs and ajectives frae tither languages nae bother, but the **closed classes** like pronouns and prepositions, which consist o a sma, fixed nummer o wirts, are fell resistant tae cheynge. Auld Scandinavian gied us the prepositions *til* and *frae*. The third person plural personal pronouns *they their and them* are Auld Scandinavian loans as weel. The Auld English forms were *hi*, *hyre*, and *hem*

#### Other Folklore Material:

*From the Cradle to the Grave by Margaret Bennett; Polygon, Edinburgh 1992.*