3.3 INFLUENCE OF LATIN IN THE MODERN ENGLISH

During Renaissance, there was a great interest in vernacular languages in the Classical world which produced the popularization of works that had been available only to academic men.

Classical works were translated into English and translators did not only translate but they created a literary English language. In some cases, there was a lack of vocabulary in English but instead of borrowing foreign words, they were now “anglicized”. For example, they cut the end of the word (consult-are), or they changed the ending (extern-us---external), or they formed verbs from Latin past participle (exterminate)... But above all, the main characteristic of this period is that Latin borrowings are specially adopted to international vocabulary of science.

4 CONCLUSIONS

To sum up, English language is a Germanic dialect transformed by Latin and Romance languages. Latin influence began in Britain before the English civilization appeared. It was brought by the Roman Empire when Britain was inhabited by the Celts.

The English language was greatly influenced by Latin. English vocabulary is made up of at least 30% of words derived from Latin and since the main difficulty in learning a foreign language is its unfamiliarity, this problem is partially solved as Latin is a common root of Spanish language. Therefore, students may know deduce the meaning of words that have a Latin origin and make the learning of English easy. The difficulty in learning English turns then to pronunciation and spelling.

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