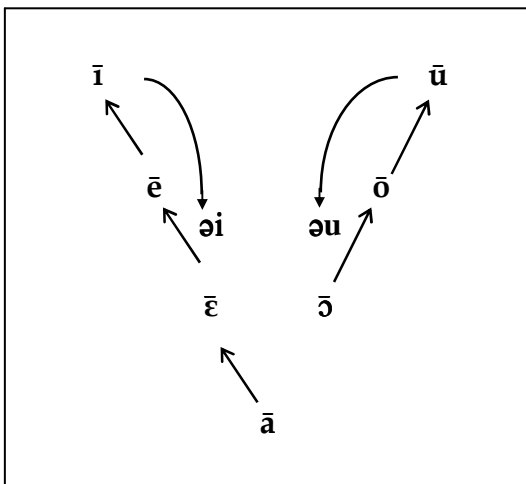


**The Great Vowel Shift:** first significant MoE sound change; 15<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> c.

(1) *The changes in a simple tabulation*

ME	eMoE	PDE	ex.	ME	eMoE	PDE	ex.
ī	əi	aɪ	hide	ū	əu	aʊ	mouse
ē	ī	ī	seek	ō	ū	ū	goose
ē	ē	ī	clean	ō	ō	əʊ	home
ā	ē	eɪ	name				

(2) *The GVS in the Vowel Chart*



(3) *The (probable) story of the front vowels*

ME	eMoE	PDE	ex.
ē	ī	ī	seek
ē	ē	eɪ	clean/ !great!
ā	ē	eɪ	name

dialect mixture,  
Irish English,  
*Yeats, Reagan*

(4) *Exceptions to GVS*

- (i) onomatopoeic words: ME *cucu* > *cuckoo*
- (ii)  $\bar{u}$  unshifted before labials in some words: ME *roum* > *room*