Diachronic Analysis: Ong's *Orality and Literacy*

Meghan Griffin
ENG 6801

3500 BC

Sumerians develop cuneiform script (84); first dictionary soon follows

700 BC

Homer's Iliad and Odyssey recorded using Greek alphabet

300 BC

Writing begins to replace oral culture

277-274 BC

Platos's *Phaedrus* marks tension between orality and literacy (78)

Paper!

China: 200 BC

Middle East: 800

Europe: 1200

1477

Hieronimo Squarciafico says, "Books make men less studious"

1515

Peter Ramus invents the textbook genre

1600s

The rise of the personal diary

1673

First slang dictionary; Richard Head decodes "Theeves' cant"

1845

Henry Sweet names the "phoneme"

1857

Ferdinand de Saussure, "Father of Modern Linguistics" born

1928

Milman Parry proves the oral nature of Homer's poems

Helpers: Stacey DiLiberto, Sonia Stephens, Adam Fields

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1967

Jacques Derrida's *On Grammatology* published

1976

A.R. Luria's *Cognitive Development: Its Cultural and Social Foundations*

1976

Eric Havelock argues that the introduction of vowels to the Greek alphabet allowed abstraction of thought

1977

Jack Goody's *The Domestication of the Savage Mind*

May 14, 1995

www.dictionary.com launched

1998

President Bill Clinton famously states "It depends on what the meaning of the word 'is' is."

2002

Blackberry smartphone with push email, web browsing, and fax released

May 2003

Social networking site MySpace.com launched

2005

first BlogHer conference; the personal diary moves online

November 2007

Amazon releases Kindle electronic reading device

2008

U.S. Presidential campaigns incorporate twitter, MySpace, and Facebook marketing

2008 and beyond

Age of digital literacy progresses

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