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BORROWINGS OF ENGLISH VOCABULARY AND THEIR DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Annotation: This article assays to estimate borrowing words from other languages and historical circumstances are discussed under which words borrowed from Latin, from Scandinavian dialects, from Norman and Parisian French and many other languages.

Key words: Borrowed words, loan words, ancient borrowings, source language

ЗАИМСТВОВАНИЯ АНГЛИЙСКОГО СЛОВАРЯ И ИХ ОТЛИЧИТЕЛЬНЫЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ

Аннотация: В данной статье анализируются заимствования слов из других языков, и обсуждаются исторические обстоятельства, при которых слова заимствованы из латыни, из скандинавских диалектов, из нормандского и парижского французского и многих других языков.

Ключевые слова: заимствованные слова, заимствования, древние заимствования, исходный язык

Borrowing words from other languages has always been one of the important means of replenishing of the English vocabulary. Borrowing words can also be called loanwords. Loanwords are words adopted by the speakers of one language from a different language (the source language). There are many

words in English that are of foreign origin. Borrowing words from other languages is characteristic of English throughout its history. More than two thirds of the English vocabulary are borrowings.

The language from which the loan word was taken into English is called the source of borrowing. The original language to which the word may be traced is called the origin of borrowing, e.g. the word “infantry” (пехота) has French as its source of borrowing and Italian is its origin. In etymological dictionaries the source comes first. The abstract noun borrowing refers to the process of speakers adopting words from a source language into their native language. "Loan" and "borrowing" are of course metaphors, because there is no literal lending process. There is no transfer from one language to another, and no "returning" words to the source language. They simply come to be used by a speech community that speaks a different language from the one they originated in.

Borrowed words are different from native ones by their phonetic structure, by their morphological structure and also by their grammatical forms. It is also characteristic of borrowings to be non-motivated semantically.

The majority of these borrowings are fully assimilated in English in their pronunciation, grammar, spelling and can be hardly distinguished from native words. There are many different kinds of reasons for borrowings:

- 1) something is not named, a gap in Vocabulary, there is no object, if it appeared the name for it comes from another Language (karaoki, sushi, tomato)
- 2) a new word gives another shape of meaning, another emotional coloring - synonyms appear (love-like - adore, admire (French))
- 3) historical, depends on the nature of the word, some Language can be prestigious, words of another Language can be imposed. English continues to take in foreign words, but now the quantity of borrowings is not so abundant as it was before. All the more so, English now has become a «giving» language, it has become Lingva franca of the twentieth century.

Borrowing is a consequence of cultural contact between two language communities. Borrowing of words can go in both directions between the two languages in contact, but often there is an asymmetry, such that more words go from one side to the other. In this case the source language community has some advantage of power, prestige and/or wealth that makes the objects and ideas it brings desirable and useful to the borrowing language community. For example, the Germanic tribes in the first few centuries A.D. adopted numerous loanwords from Latin as they adopted new products via trade with the Romans. Few Germanic words, on the other hand, passed into Latin. "One language may possess words for which there are no equivalents in the other language. There may be words for objects, social, political, and cultural institutions and events or abstract concepts which are not found in the culture of the other language. We can take some examples from the English language throughout the ages. English has borrowed words for types of houses (e.g. *castle, mansion, teepee, wigwam, igloo, bungalow*). It has borrowed words for cultural institutions (e.g. *opera, ballet*). It has borrowed words for political concepts (e.g. *perestroika, glasnost, apartheid*). It often happens that one culture borrows from the language of another culture words or phrases to express technological, social or cultural innovations."

Main groups of loan words in English are represented by borrowings from Latin, Scandinavian and French. Though, a lot of other languages such as Celtic, Greek, Russian, Italian, Spanish, Arabic also contributed to the development of the English vocabulary. The history of the vocabulary of a language is closely related to the history of the people speaking the language.

Latin borrowings are numerous in English. They constitute about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the English vocabulary as to historical period of their adoption. Latin borrowings may be divided into 3 groups:

1. Ancient borrowings which goes back as far as the 1st century B.C. when the Anglo-Saxon tribes were still on the continent and came into contact with

the Romans through trade. The Latin borrowings of this period are: dish, cup, butter, cheese, wine, cherry, plum, hare, spices, pepper and kitchen.

2. Borrowings which came to Britain in the 6th-7th centuries when Christianity was introduced: abbot, altar, angel, bishop, saint, candle, monk, nun, pope, Christ, school.

3. Words borrowed during the revival of Classical learning and art – the Renaissance in the 14th century and since then the invasion of classical terms has never stopped. Many of them are distinctly learned words: senior, major, minor, junior, accept, educate, basis, area, idea, aggravate. Most of them are only partially assimilated but Latin borrowings of the first two periods are completely assimilated borrowings which belong to the basic word stock now.

Scandinavian borrowings in English amount to over 650 words which denote most common objects, properties and actions and belong to the basic word stock of Modern English. Britain devastated by the inroads of different Scandinavian tribes (the Danes) for about 3 centuries from the 8th to the 11th century. The Danish invasion resulted in the occupation of a great part of the country by Scandinavian settlers, who spoke Old Norse – the Germanic language very close to Old English. The effect of the Danish conquest was the contribution of many Scandinavian words to the English vocabulary: law, husband, fellow, sky, skin, wing, root, skill, anger, finger, gate, to die, to cast, to hit, to take, to call, to want, loose, wrong, low, ill, ugly, rotten, happy, they. A characteristic feature of Scandinavian borrowings is the preservation of the initial sounds [sk]=sk=sc: skirt, skill, scatter; or [g] before front vowels: get, give, forget, anger...

French borrowings are especially numerous in English. They may be roughly divided into old, or Norman borrowings, and new, or Parisian, borrowings.

After the Norman conquest in 1066 French or rather Northern-French became the official language in England. The first French borrowings were

terms connected with war, fare, court, law, soldiers, army, crown, country, piece, justice, office, government, parliament and state. There was almost no end to the French words that continued to pour into English up to the 16th century: chair, table, furniture, dinner, supper, soup, jelly, sausage, to fry, to boil, joy, pleasure, delight, comfort, dress, colour, flower, fruit, desire, castle, mention (особняк), beauty. These early Norman borrowings are usually fully assimilated words. In the 17th century there was a change in the character of French borrowings. New borrowings mainly from the Parisian dialect preserved their French forms as a rule: campaign, garage, ballet, rouge, bucket, and matinee, machine. Besides Latin, Scandinavian, French borrowings the English language contains words borrowed from almost every language on the globe.

The role of loan words in the formation and development of English vocabulary is dealt with in the history of the language. It is there that the historical circumstances are discussed under which words borrowed from Latin, from Scandinavian dialects, from Norman and Parisian French and many other languages, including Russian, were introduced into English. Lexicology, on the other hand, has in this connection tasks of its own, being chiefly concerned with the material and the results of assimilation.

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