

BORROWINGS OF ENGLISH VOCABULARY AND THEIR DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

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Annotation: *This article aims to evaluate the incorporation of words from other languages into English, exploring historical contexts in which words were borrowed from Latin, Scandinavian dialects, Norman and Parisian French, and various other languages.*

Key words: *borrowed words, loan words, ancient borrowings, source language.*

Taking words from other languages has consistently served as a crucial method of enriching the English lexicon. These borrowed terms, also known as loanwords, are words embraced by speakers of one language from another (the source language). English boasts numerous words of foreign descent, a feature that has defined the language over time. Over two-thirds of the English vocabulary comprises borrowed words. The language from which a loanword enters English is known as the source of borrowing. The original language to which the word can be

traced is referred to as the origin of borrowing. For instance, the word "infantry" (пехота) has French as its source of borrowing and Italian as its origin. In etymological dictionaries, the source language is listed first. The term "borrowing" signifies the process by which speakers adopt words from a source language into their native language. The words "loan" and "borrowing" are metaphorical, as there is no literal lending or returning process involved. There is no direct transfer of words between languages; they simply become integrated into a speech community that speaks a different language from their original one. Loanwords differ from native words in their pronunciation, morphology, and grammatical forms. Borrowed words are typically semantically unmotivated. Most loanwords in English are fully integrated in terms of pronunciation, grammar, and spelling, making them indistinguishable from native words. There are various reasons for the adoption of loanwords into a language.

1) When there is no specific term for something in a language, a word from another language fills the gap in vocabulary, like "karaoke," "sushi," or "tomato."

2) Introducing a new word can alter the meaning and emotional nuance, leading to the emergence of synonyms such as "love" (English) and its counterparts like "adore" and "admire" (French).

3) The historical context plays a role in the adoption of foreign words; certain languages may hold prestige, leading to the imposition of terms from one language onto another. English continues to incorporate foreign words, although the rate of borrowing has decreased compared to the past. Moreover, English has evolved into a "giving" language and serves as the lingua franca of the twentieth century. The exchange of words between two language communities, known as borrowing, is a result of cultural interactions. While borrowing can occur in both directions between the languages in contact, there is often an imbalance where more words are borrowed from one side to the other. This typically happens when the source language community holds power, prestige, or wealth, making the objects and concepts it introduces appealing and beneficial to the borrowing language community. For instance, during the first few centuries A.D., Germanic tribes adopted many Latin loanwords as they engaged in trade with the Romans. Conversely, only a few Germanic words made their way into Latin. It's common for one language to have terms that lack direct equivalents in the other language.

There might exist terms representing items, societal, governmental, and cultural establishments or occurrences, or theoretical ideas that are absent in the culture of the other language. Examples can be drawn from the English language over different time periods. English has adopted vocabulary for various types of dwellings (such as castle, mansion, teepee, wigwam, igloo, bungalow), cultural establishments (like opera, ballet), and political concepts (including perestroika, glasnost, apartheid). Frequently, a culture assimilates words or expressions from another language to articulate technological, social, or cultural advancements. The English language has adopted loan words from various sources, including Latin, Scandinavian, and French. Among these, Latin has contributed a significant portion, estimated to form about a quarter of the English vocabulary. These borrowings can be classified into three groups based on their historical periods of adoption.

The first group consists of ancient borrowings dating back to the first century B.C. This period saw contact between Anglo-Saxon tribes and Romans through trade, resulting in the adoption of words like "dish," "cup," "butter," and "wine."

The second group of Latin borrowings arrived during the 6th and 7th centuries with the introduction of Christianity. These words include religious terms such as "abbot," "altar," "bishop," and "monk."

The third group of Latin borrowings occurred during the Renaissance in the 14th century and beyond. This period witnessed a revival of classical learning and art, leading to the influx of numerous Latin terms, often used in academic and technical contexts, such as, senior, major, and minor, junior, accept, educate, basis, area, idea, aggravate.

Assimilation of Latin borrowings:

Latin borrowings from the first two periods (ancient and Christian) have been fully assimilated into English and are now considered part of the basic vocabulary.

Latin borrowings from the third period (Renaissance) have been only partially assimilated.

Scandinavian borrowings:

Over 650 Scandinavian words have been borrowed into English, including "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," and "they."

Characteristics of Scandinavian borrowings:

Scandinavian borrowings often preserve the initial sounds [sk] = sk = sc (e.g., "skirt," "skill," "scatter") and [g] before front vowels (e.g., "get," "give," "forget," "anger").

The history of the English language discusses the historical circumstances that led to the borrowing of words from these various languages. Lexicology, on the other hand, focuses on the material and results of assimilation of these loan words into English.

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