



Research Article

## WORDS BORROWED FROM FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON THE FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORD STOCK OF THE ENGLISH LITERARY LANGUAGE

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### ABSTRACT

The present article is dedicated to the factors of enrichment of the English literary language through different periods of its development. As one of the most productive ways of enriching the word stock of the English language the author regards borrowings from other languages. There is made an attempt to classify languages, from which English derived words into several categories. One way to do this is done through the historical factor. Some linguistic and extra linguistic factors of enriching the word stock of English are also analyzed in the article. As the languages, which had greatly influenced the word stock of English the author regards Latin, French and Scandinavian languages.

### KEYWORDS

Borrowed words, word stock, enrichment, literary language, social factor, cultural factor, external source, extra linguistic, Old English Period, Middle English Period, New English Period.

### INTRODUCTION

The development of a language is a natural factor of its social existence as any language is a dynamic system. The development of the language takes place due to its continuous improvement and enrichment of functionality. Such development is especially rapid in the structure of the language vocabulary, and it is clearly reflected at all levels of the language.

Language vocabulary is its most variable area, it reflects all the changes in people's life and activities. The ever-growing results of human knowledge are, first of all, consolidated in new words and their meanings. Thus, the vocabulary of the language is continuously enriched with new words.



There are several factors that influence the development of any language's vocabulary stock. Among them, as the most important factors scientists point out social, cultural factors and the influence of other languages. Some researchers note that "the emergence of new words in the languages in question occurs with great speed. Any event associated with the development of the productive forces of society, culture, science and technology entails the emergence of certain concepts that require linguistic expression [6, p. 341].

One of the external sources of enrichment of English vocabulary is the acquisition of words from foreign languages. In the 15th century, English speakers established contacts with many nations of Europe and the rest of the world. As a result of these contacts, a large number of words were acquired (later assimilated into the English language), because the processes of communication between different cultures were reflected in word acquisition. Linguistic connections caused by extralinguistic factors are a component of the complex processes of the development of the language system [10, p. 115].

### **MAIN PART**

The Old English Period (hereinafter OEP) vocabulary was almost entirely Germanic, and hundreds of foreign words were absorbed in the later stages of English language development, despite strong resistance to word assimilation. As a result, the number of Germanic words in the English language decreased dramatically, and as a result, the vocabulary of the New English Period (hereinafter NEP) period became closer to the vocabulary of Romance languages (mainly French) than to languages belonging to the Germanic language family. French, Scandinavian and Latin languages are among the languages that have had the strongest influence on the vocabulary of the English literary language due to the existing historical conditions,

although it is told that the number and importance of words derived from them is usually exaggerated [4, p. 171].

Some of the words borrowed from these languages even entered the main lexical core, but a much larger part of them was outside it. Later, due to the expansion of trade and cultural contacts with other countries in the 15th and 18th centuries, words from a number of other languages, such as Italian, Spanish, and Dutch, were absorbed into English. In connection with the spread of the English language throughout the world during the AD period, there appeared words borrowed from the languages of the North American Indians. After that, the range of related words in English continued to expand. In this regard, we can cite Russian, German, Indian, Australasian and Middle Eastern languages as examples. Latin, Scandinavian and French languages remained the main languages from which words were borrowed into English, but English literary language was not considered as the only source of words from which words were borrowed [1, p. 133].

The vocabulary of the English language has absorbed a large number of words from different languages of the world. The reasons for this lie in the peculiarities of England's historical development, which means that English-speakers have been in regular contact with many foreign-speaking peoples, first as a conquered people and then as a colonizing people.

Socio-political changes in the life of English society are an important external factor that had a certain impact on the enrichment of the vocabulary stock of the English literary language with words borrowed from French, Scandinavian and Latin languages during the corresponding political and social changes (Norman conquest, Scandinavian invasion, Christianization, the introduction of printing, etc.) [7, p. 166].

At a certain historical period in England, Latin and French were also used as functional languages in



various spheres of social activity. English has not adopted words from all the languages with which it has come into contact. However, these historical circumstances explain why the number of borrowed words in the English language is so high. That is why, it seems to N.N. Amosov, that the attempts of western scientists like Greenof and Keithgrej to explain this phenomenon with the force of inertia as wrong. Here we are talking about the fact that word assimilation has become a habit for the English language, which has absorbed many elements of a foreign language, and Jespersen's comments about the "linguistic laziness of the English" and his conclusion that as a result of this "laziness" the English people supposedly prefer to assimilate words. The search for ways in which native speakers of English convey the concepts acquired using their native language leads to the search for psychological reasons for these peoples' preference for using borrowed words. This, in turn, clearly distracts from the only correct way that can provide a solution to this problem – the interpretation of the history of the peoples who are the creators of the English language [1, p. 159].

It should be noted that many words have been systematically assimilated both during Middle English Period (hereinafter MEP) and in the later periods of the development of the English language. English has absorbed more foreign words than any other modern developed language. However, while stressing the complexity of the nature of the English vocabulary, we are not correct in our assumption about the mixed nature of the English language [4, p. 160]. It should also be noted that the stable lexical base of the English language has not been left out of the influence of other languages, and although elements specific to the English language prevail in it, it can be noted that it has a mixed character.

In addition to a significant quantitative increase in the size of the vocabulary stock, the introduction of

borrowed words into the lexical system of the English language can lead to semantic and stylistic changes in the words specific to this language, changes in its synonymic groups, and changes in the distribution of words in the English vocabulary to areas of application [4, p.172].

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

The mass nature of word acquisition has given rise to some features of the English vocabulary (such as the large number of etymological pairs and synonymous pairs).

Word acquisition may have resulted in the acquisition of actual words in their entirety, as well as some morphemic forms and translational words. For example, samokritica – self-criticism can be cited as an example of the translation options adopted from the Russian language.

At this point, it should be said that although the process of assimilation of words from foreign languages had a significant impact on the vocabulary of English, it was not considered as the main means of enriching the vocabulary. More productive tools include word formation and semantic development.

It is interesting to note that many Western lexicologists (such as McKnight, Bradley, Smith, Espersen, Weekley, Greenough) agree that the enrichment and development of the vocabulary of the English language took place mainly through lexical acquisition from other languages. Based on this, it becomes clear, why in the Western studies of the lexicology and history of the English language, factors that enrich the vocabulary, such as word formation and adding new meanings to existing words, have not been studied as much as the factor of acquired words [3, p.10].

The overemphasis on the phenomena of acquisition from other languages and the neglect of other processes in the field of vocabulary leads some lexicologists to believe that the English language has



undergone a complete decline as a result of the influence of other languages. Many authors (Lounsbury, Bradley, Smith, McKnight, etc.) emphasize the mixed nature of the English language [1, p. 11].

Overemphasis on the phenomenon of word acquisition from other languages and neglect of other processes in the field of vocabulary composition may lead some lexicologists to believe that the English language has undergone a complete decline due to the influence of other languages.

The process of acquiring words from other languages can lead to phenomena such as the disappearance of old semantic nests in English. For example, in connection with adopted words in the English language, pairs of nouns formed from multilingual roots and corresponding adjectives appeared: father - paternal together with featherly, characteristic of OEP; mouth - together with oral. A similar situation can also be seen in examples such as the verb to see and a noun vision.

The extremely popular acquisition of words caused the narrowing of the morphological structure of the language, and also affected accentuation [8, p. 136].

According to V.N. Yartseva, among the factors affecting the direction of the development of the language system, in particular, its vocabulary composition, as well as factors such as the influence of foreign languages, which affect the quantitative increase of productive models and the decrease of less productive ones [10, p. 153].

There are two ways to acquire words from other languages: oral and written. The morphological and phonetic forms of words acquired from foreign languages changed significantly with the method of acquiring words in written form, which took place in the early stages of the development of language history, and were absorbed into the vocabulary of the acquired language faster (for example, street - strata) [10, p. 113]. The process of assimilation of words

acquired in the written method of word acquisition took a long time (for example, communique - communique). As mentioned above, the acquired words go through the process of assimilation, that is, they adapt to the phonetic and lexical-grammatical norms of the language.

As Renn wrote, words borrowed from Latin and French, two of the most important sources of enrichment of the English vocabulary, were assimilated in one form or another depending on the period of assimilation [9, p. 114].

According to Arnold, words borrowed from other languages are also divided into the following three groups: fully assimilated words, partially assimilated words, and unassimilated words, or barbarisms. The amount of fully assimilated words into the English language is several times greater than the amount of partially assimilated words. For example, the correspondence of fully assimilated words to the morphological forms of the English language paradigms can be seen in the form of the indefinite past participle and the past participle from the Scandinavian language eggs, laws, which take the plural suffix -s, which takes the plural form of English nouns, or the dental suffix from Latin, the recipient can be seen in the example of the verbs acted and disturbed [2, p. 252].

As an example of the influence of a foreign language on the semantic structure of some words, we can cite the acquisition of the meanings of words in other languages. Different appropriations can have different frequencies of use common appropriations are used as often as native English words, while other types of appropriations are used less often.

Most of the words that have been adopted into the English language have arisen in connection with the need to express new concepts and realities that arise during the development of society. According to Yu.A. Zluktenko, among the words assimilated until the 60s



of the 20th century, socio-political life (26.6%), cooking (11.6%), military affairs (10.9%), fashion (10%), art (9%) and sports (3.6%) were related. However, recently, the group of military terms has decreased by three times (up to 3.1 percent), and the terms related to the field of culture have decreased by almost two times (up to 16 percent) [5, p. 151].

## CONCLUSION

In this part of our research, we considered the issue of words borrowed from foreign languages and their impact on the formation and development of the vocabulary of the English literary language, and as a result, we came to the following conclusions.

Today, English continues to increase its vocabulary by borrowing words from other languages, although to a much lesser extent than during the Renaissance and later periods.

Compared to other European languages, English contains the largest number of foreign borrowings. However, we cannot talk about the mixed nature of English in general. In addition to a significant quantitative increase in the size of the vocabulary, the inclusion of borrowed words in the lexical system of the English language can lead to semantic and stylistic changes in the words of this language, changes in its synonymous groups in the areas of distribution and application of English vocabulary.

Compared to other European languages, English has the largest number of foreign words. However, we cannot talk about the mixed nature of English in general. In addition to a significant quantitative increase in the size of the vocabulary, the inclusion of borrowed words in the lexical layer of the English language can lead to semantic and stylistic changes in pre-existing words in this language, changes in their synonymous groups. In general, although words from many languages have been borrowed during the historical development of the English language, some

sources cite Latin and French as the main source languages, while other sources cite Scandinavian languages in addition to these two languages.

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