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## **CROSS-LINGUISTIC INFLUENCES IN THE FORMATION OF ENGLISH VOCABULARY**

### **SUMMARY**

*The thesis is devoted to the comprehensive analysis of the English vocabulary from etymological point of view. While analyzing the vocabulary, we definitely come across a great number of elements that are not pure English. This appears due to several factors, most of which are closely related to the history of the language. Thus, different factors play a vital role in the formation of the vocabulary. One and the leading one is borrowing. The process of borrowing comprises itself many a notion. This article clarifies numerous types of borrowings and their assimilation.*

**Key words:** etymology, native words, loan words, the process of assimilation

**Introduction.** Linguistics is a science of language which studies it from divergent angles. It comprises itself every aspect of a language. As languages exist, linguistic issues are continually growing. Recent linguistic research has increasingly focused on the phenomenon of lexical borrowings that play a great role in language, by exploring this issue from a range of angles that contribute to our understanding of this complicated process. Scholars have concentrated on the causes, sources, and pathways of borrowed words, as well as how these foreign elements function within a language and their level of integration. This has led to a comprehensive investigation into various aspects of borrowings, including the study of translation loans, international vocabulary, and the inclusion of foreign terms, as well as the phenomenon of exoticisms and how foreign language words enter the linguistic system.

In English, this area of study has attracted substantial attention, with research delving into the specific sources of borrowings. Studies have demonstrated how these borrowings have evolved over time and the processes of innovation and adaptation in modern English. The ways in which borrowed words conform to the phonological and grammatical rules of English are of particular interest, besides it they involve broader historical contexts that facilitate these linguistic exchanges.

The twentieth century is considered the period of a significant shift era that the main focus was on language contact that scholars commenced increasingly recognizing the systematic nature of linguistic borrowings. This period is determined

as “scientific revolution era”, as the main scientific notions and theories started to emerge at this period. This recognition has helped to shape the study of how languages evolve through interactions with others. Linguistic scholars also began to comprehend that the notion of “borrowing” is not just a matter of vocabulary acquisition, but also a reflection of cultural and societal changes. As languages borrow new words, they also try to reflect shifts in the field of technology, economy, politics, and culture, by indicating significant historical moments or periods of intense cross-cultural exchange.

The main aim of the thesis is to analyze the subject matter of etymology, etymological constituency of English vocabulary, types of borrowings, sources of them, the process of assimilation, the degrees of the assimilated words, meanwhile, the importance of this process in the field of the target language.

Language is a system of phonemic, morphemic, lexemic units that are interrelated to one another. The formation of any language is a long-term process which takes a long period of time. Besides, it exposes to various changes throughout history. The English language has also been experienced different shifts since the earliest times. This, of course, affects its system of vocabulary.

Etymology is a branch of lexicology that investigates one of the controversial issue the origin of words. This notion comprises itself the subject matter of the origin of words and basically their adaptation to the target language.

The term etymology can be determined variously. A great linguist Ross’s view point concerning to etymology is defined as following: “Etymology can be explained as the systematic analysis of the both, historical perspective, and time-changes in the forms and implications of words”. The study of the etymology of the English vocabulary is not only interesting but also is a profitable area. According to Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics, majority of the English words have been derived from other primitive languages mainly Latin and Greek. Similar to it, many more other words are made by attaching prefixes and suffixes. This research paper gives detailed information about the borrowed words and their etymological analysis. Etymology also helps us to realize the diachronic importance of the language and its impact on synchronic level. [1, 4]

Analyzing the origin of the English words can be valuable both for native learners and meanwhile beneficial for non-native learners. Furthermore, being aware of the historical perspectives and shifts or changes in the forms of the English words assists us to understand the real spirit of English learning at the same time it can make it more meaningful study.

As a matter of fact, thirty percent words of the English Vocabulary are mainly considered native, nevertheless their usage is frequently in the English language in spite of their smaller number. Besides, these words possess a large range of lexical, semantic, syntactic and grammatical structures.

In some cases, it is difficult to differentiate between a native element and a borrowed one which had been borrowed very long ago. Thus, without analyzing the source of any word, sometimes it makes confusion whether it is a native or a loanword.

Etymology is the study of the history of a word that traces how it originated and developed, as well as its variety in meaning and usage, and its relationship to other languages. The etymology of the words is regarded as a means to enrich the understanding and history of a specific word. Etymology at the same time is regarded as a branch of lexicology that investigates the origin of words.

The other definition of the etymology is like this- etymology is the scientific study of the origin or history and derivation of words. When you know the meaning of a Latin or Greek root, prefix, or suffix; you can easily understand, and remember the word. Almost all the words including the vocabulary were built on these elements that exist in the English language. While studying etymology of the English words, you will feel comfortable with words—you will use new words with self-assurance, you will be able to figure out the meanings of the English vocabulary words you hear or read even if you have never heard or seen these words before. That is why the best approach to learning new vocabulary words is through their etymologies.[5,7]

The great influence of languages on one another is a natural process, since they have had a deep contact for a long period of time. Firstly, some words are borrowed for a temporary usage, then they are adapted by some other languages for a permanent usage. This process is called borrowing. Furthermore, these borrowed elements are estimated as an integral part of the language.

The more deeply we peep into the history and the background of the English vocabulary elements, the more detailed and comprehensive knowledge we get concerning the contact of the English with many other languages of the world such as Greek, Latin, French and etc.

Moreover, many other colonial languages, where the British ruled over a long period, had a contact for centuries with the English. There exist a number of reasons accounting for borrowing of words from other languages. There is no exact or specific reason for borrowing words from other languages. In order to expose these reasons one must date back to the history of the language/ Besides, one can put no limit for borrowing words from other languages. In his book Shipley remarked that the most significant factor of borrowing words from other languages is an automatic transformation of words when the languages become in contact with one another.

It is a natural phenomenon that in the process of interacting with other people the users of English take and adopt the words from other languages unconsciously. The sources of borrowings and their origin have a great importance at the same time. Hence they should be distinguished while analyzing the English words. Barfield

considers that it is a crucial fact that borrowing words make a close interaction between the languages.

The words of English can be categorized into different classes such as loan words and semantic loans. According to the surveys conducted by great linguists, such as Wolff, Williams and others, modern English language has adopted a great number of words from various languages. Thus, concerning the percentage statistics of borrowings, we may come across a range of outcomes, such as, French words constitute thirty-five per cent of the English vocabulary., Germanic words are approximately thirty percent., Greek words are nearly twenty –for or six per cent and other languages are six or ten percent. [7,5]

Another statistics was given by Skeat. According to his assumption the English vocabulary consists of one hundred and seventy-eight words of Anglo-Saxon root, two hundred and eighty others, and the majority of these words are borrowed from Latin or Greek.

In addition to this theory, twelve Latin prefixes and two Greek prefixes , other twenty most frequently used prefixes have been estimated by Henry.

The Origin of English Words. The English language has developed from an Anglo-Saxon base of common words: household words, parts of the body, common animals, natural elements, most pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions and auxiliary verbs. Other modern words in English have developed from various sources. These are discussed below.

From the etymological point of view. the word-stock of the English language can be divided into two main sub-groups: native words and borrowed words.

The Vocabulary of the English language is distinguished into three layers:

1. **Native words**
2. **Fully- assimilated borrowings**
3. **Partially- assimilated borrowings**

Native words are the words which are mainly anglo-saxon origin. They constitute roughly 20 per cent of the English vocabulary , most of which are monosyllabic .Personal pronouns except *they, them* (they are Scandinavian origin) heavenly bodies such as *the sun , the moon ,* the name of animals are considered native.

Borrowings are the words that enter the language from another source. In most cases borrowings are termed as *loan or foreign* words There exist the following types of borrowings in the English vocabulary:

**Latin borrowings.** English is profoundly influenced over a considerable period of time. This Latin impact on the English language is heralded by England's relation with the Latin civilization. In the old English period we can find much of the Latin words correlated with agriculture and war. Words like *camp (battle), pil (pointed stick), mil (mile)* etc are early Latin borrowing. Besides, words associated with trade

also came into being. Due to the popularity of wine trade we frequently come across words like *win* (wine), *must* (new wine), *flase* (bottle), *eced* (vinegar) etc.

In consequence, we can rank Latin borrowings like below:

- **Latin borrowings concerning trade fields**- *ceap* (cheap, bargain), *pund* (pound), *mynet* (coin), *sean* (burden, load) etc.
- **Latin words related to wine trade fields**- *win* (wine), *must* (new wine), *eced* (vinegar) *flase* (flask) etc.
- **Household fields**- *cytel* (kettle), *mise* (table), *scamol* (bench, stool), *cycone* (kitchen), *cup* (cup) etc.

Furthermore, in the initial stage of old English, a number of Latin words entered the English vocabulary through *Celtic transmission*,

**Greek borrowings.** English Vocabulary is rich in Greek words, most of which are related to theatre (theatrical terms), such as *tragedy*, *comedy*, *drama* etc. Most Greek words are distinguished by their specific features. We can characterize them as following:

1. Sound cluster “*ph*” is pronounced like (f)- such as *morphology*, *phonetics*, *alphabet*, etc
2. Sound cluster “*ch*” is pronounced as (k)-*ache*, *chemist scholar* etc

Some Greek words are distinguished by their specific prefixes, such as “*a*” and “*dis*” which mean negativity.

E.g: *abnormal*, *aseptic*, *asyntetic*, *dislike* etc [12,9]

**Scandinavian words.** Scandinavian tribes were originally Germanic tribes. They were considered as Vikings. Scandinavian words began to penetrate into the English language in the 9<sup>th</sup> century and they dominated nearly 3 centuries till Normans came. They spoke the old Germanic language which was similar to English. Most of them are totally assimilated to the English language, that is why it is difficult to define them. The words beginning with “*sk*” and “*sc*” are primarily Scandinavian origin, such as *sky*, *skate*, *ski* etc. Also the words where “*g*” comes before front vowels are considered Scandinavian words.[4]

E.g: *give*, *get*, *gift*, *forget*, *anger* etc.

After studying the English vocabulary deeply, we understood that borrowing new words is an on-going process which has always existed among the world languages. It can be attributed to a number of facts.

Firstly, the process of globalization makes it possible, Globalization affects the enhancing of the interaction among the countries, societies, meanwhile languages. This process leads to exchanging of points of views, interactions among people and their languages.

Development of trade is another major factor of borrowing words from other languages. On the account of trade relations, languages became a close contact in one another, thus new notions and new terms appeared in the word stock of

languages. We can prove this theory by showing a great number of Spanish and Latin words which were borrowed due to the trade relation and they comprise a special place in the vocabulary of English..

The process of borrowing is a versatile process that involves history, culture and modern period of any language. Though, the English language owns a rich word stock, it is a mixture of borrowings belonging to various origin .AS we have mentioned in the first and the second chapter of this research, borrowings constitute approximately seventy percent of the English vocabulary. They have been classified differently , such as according to their origin –Celtic ,Latin, Greek, Scandinavian, French and etc,. We touched this matter in the first chapter.

The process of borrowing a word is still going on as we are living in the century of high technological development.

The phenomenon of international vocabulary has also gained attention, particularly in light of globalization. Words that travel across borders and are adopted into multiple languages—such as terms in science, technology, and popular culture—demonstrate how language evolves in response to global trends and exchanges. These international terms often become part of the shared lexicon in diverse languages, illustrating the far-reaching impact of globalization.

Hence, the study of lexical borrowings has become a broad and interdisciplinary field, revealing how languages are shaped by their interactions with one another. Through detailed investigations into the sources, adaptation processes, and cultural contexts of borrowed terms, linguists gain deeper insights into the mechanisms of language change and the ways in which languages continuously evolve in a connected world.

In conclusion, we can surely mention that there is no pure language in the world without borrowings.

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### **Xülasə**

#### **İngilis dilinin lüğət tərkibinin formalaşmasında dillərarası təsirlər Rzayeva Gülnar, Məmmədli Aysel**

Məqalə İngilis lüğətinin etimoloji təsnifatına həsr olunmuşdur. Məqalədə lüğətin etimoloji nöqtəyi nəzərdən lüğətin etimoloji təbəqələri təhlil olunur. İngilis lüğəti etimoloji cəhətdən öz zənginliyi ilə seçilir. Lakin adı yuxarıda qeyd olunan məqalədə əsasən latın,yunan və skandinaviya mənşəli sözlər tədqiq edilir.

**Açar sözlər:** etimologiya, milli sözlər, alınma sözlər, assimilasiya prosesi

### **Резюме**

#### **Роль межъязыковых взаимодействий в формировании словарного состава английского языка Рзаева Гюльнар, Маммадли Айсель**

Статья посвящена этимологической классификации словаря английского языка. В статье анализируется этимологический аспект словаря и анализируются этимологические пласты словаря. Английский словарь отличается этимологическим богатством. Однако в вышеупомянутой статье в основном изучаются слова латинского, греческого и скандинавского происхождения.

**Ключевые слова:** этимология, национальные слова, заимствованные слова, процесс ассимиляции

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