



THE ROLE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE BORROWINGS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract: This article is devoted to the study of foreign language borrowings in the English language from the linguocultural point of view. The article examines the interaction between language, culture, and thinking through the analysis of borrowed vocabulary. Special attention is paid to the development of the linguistic picture of the world and the role of intercultural communication in the enrichment of English vocabulary. Borrowings are considered as an important factor in the historical and cultural development of the English language. The article also analyzes the influence of Latin, French, Scandinavian, Greek, and other languages on the formation of modern English vocabulary and explains the significance of borrowed words in the process of globalization and cultural exchange.

Keywords: linguocultural aspect, lexical borrowing, linguistic picture of the world, intercultural communication, language contact, vocabulary enrichment, foreign influence.

Introduction: The vocabulary of every language represents a complex and dynamic system whose elements are interconnected and constantly developing. The English language is one of the clearest examples of a language formed under the influence of numerous foreign languages. Throughout history, English has borrowed a large number of lexical units from Latin, French, Scandinavian, Greek, German, Arabic, Italian, Spanish, and many other languages.

Borrowings entered the English language as a result of wars, migration, trade, political relations, scientific progress, religion, and cultural interaction. Today, more than 70% of English vocabulary consists of words borrowed from foreign languages. This fact demonstrates the openness and flexibility of the English language system.

The process of borrowing is natural for every living language. Languages constantly change according to social and historical conditions. Some words disappear from use, while others appear to name new concepts, technologies, traditions, and cultural phenomena. Therefore, the study of foreign borrowings remains one of the most relevant areas in modern linguistics.



Theoretical Background of Borrowings

In linguistics, borrowing is defined as the process by which one language adopts words, expressions, or linguistic elements from another language due to language contact. Borrowings usually appear when speakers need to express new ideas or concepts for which there are no native equivalents.

Borrowed vocabulary forms a special layer within the lexical system of a language. Such words often undergo phonetic, grammatical, and semantic changes after entering the recipient language. Over time, many borrowed words become fully assimilated and are no longer recognized as foreign.

According to linguists, borrowings perform several important functions:

enrichment of vocabulary, naming new concepts and objects, development of scientific terminology, strengthening intercultural communication, reflection of historical and cultural relations between nations.

In many cases, borrowed words save linguistic effort because speakers use ready-made lexical units instead of creating completely new words.

Historical Development of Borrowings in English

Latin Borrowings Latin had one of the strongest influences on English vocabulary. The first Latin borrowings appeared during the Roman occupation of Britain. Later, Christianity introduced many religious and educational terms from Latin. Examples include: school, paper, library, minister, religion. During the Renaissance, Latin became the main source of scientific and philosophical terminology. **Scandinavian Influence.** The Scandinavian influence on English began during the Viking invasions between the 8th and 11th centuries. Old Norse contributed many everyday words that are still actively used in modern English. Examples: sky, window, husband, knife, egg, Even some pronouns such as they and them came from Scandinavian languages.

French Borrowings

The Norman Conquest of 1066 greatly changed the English language. French became the language of government, law, and aristocracy for several centuries. As a result, thousands of French words entered English vocabulary. Examples: government, justice, beauty, fashion, beef

French borrowings especially influenced the fields of politics, law, literature, military affairs, and cuisine.

Greek Borrowings

Greek words entered English mainly through science, medicine, and philosophy.

Examples: biology, telephone, philosophy, psychology, democracy

Greek roots continue to play an important role in modern scientific terminology.

Modern Borrowings

Globalization has increased the process of borrowing in recent decades. Modern English



actively adopts words from Asian, African, and other world languages.

Examples: karaoke (Japanese), kimchi (Korean), yoga (Hindi/Sanskrit), bazaar (Persian), tsunami (Japanese)

These words reflect cultural exchange and international communication.

Linguocultural Aspect of Borrowings

Borrowed words are not only linguistic units but also carriers of cultural information. They reflect traditions, lifestyles, historical events, and national values of different peoples.

The linguistic picture of the world is formed through vocabulary. Therefore, the borrowing of foreign words influences the worldview of speakers and expands their understanding of other cultures. Through borrowings, languages absorb elements of foreign cultures and adapt them to their own linguistic systems.

For example, words related to food, music, clothing, and art often preserve cultural meanings connected with their countries of origin. Such borrowings strengthen intercultural dialogue and promote cultural tolerance.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Borrowings

Advantages: enrich vocabulary; increase expressiveness of language; simplify international communication; support scientific and technological development; reflect cultural diversity.

Disadvantages

excessive borrowing may weaken native vocabulary; some foreign words may create pronunciation difficulties; language purity may decrease; communication may become difficult for learners.

However, most linguists consider borrowing a natural and necessary process in language evolution.

Conclusion:

Foreign language borrowings have played an essential role in the formation and development of the English language. They enriched English vocabulary, influenced its linguistic structure, and strengthened intercultural communication. The history of English clearly demonstrates how language changes under social, political, historical, and cultural influences.

Today, English continues to borrow new words from different languages due to globalization and international cooperation. Borrowings not only expand vocabulary but also reflect the interaction of cultures and the development of human civilization. Therefore, the study of foreign borrowings remains highly important in modern linguistics and linguocultural studies.

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