



## SOCIOLINGUISTIC ASPECT OF VOCABULARY CHANGES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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### Annotation

This article is devoted to study the usage of borrowings in the English language, to analyze what words of foreign origin have been borrowed into English and to study their thematic groups and find out whether they have undergone some morphological and semantic changes in English or not and compare the received results with the above mentioned postulates.

**Keywords:** Word, vocabulary, lexicology, sociolinguistics, borrowings, lexical system, etymology, morpheme, competency, methods, external structure, internal structure, communication.

### What do we know about the word?

First, the word is a unit of speech and serves the purposes of human communication. Thus, the word can be described as unit of communication. Secondly, a word can be considered as a set of its constituent sounds, transmitted in writing by a sequence graphic symbols. Thirdly, if the word is analyzed from a structural point of view, then it has a number of characteristics.

The English vocabulary includes a huge number of words of foreign origin. Words that came to English from other languages and constantly used in it as the original are called borrowings. One of the principal methods of expanding the lexical system of the language is represented by borrowings. The importance of borrowings is different in various languages and it depends on certain development conditions. The quantity of borrowed words in English is much higher than in other languages. The English language had more opportunities to borrow words from other languages due to the great history of England that includes various invaders and battles. It is calculated that thirty percent of all English words are native. Therefore, a lot of linguists consider that the English language does not belong to the group of Germanic languages but to the Romano-Germanic group. It happens very often that a foreign word comes to English and it is borrowed not only with its lexical meaning but also with its grammar form which makes more difficulties for those people who





study and speak English. It allows us to speak that the topic of this article is relevant. The issue of Russian borrowings is very important in terms as sociolinguistics and language interaction development. Linguists traditionally distinguish the external and internal structure of the word. The external structure of a word means its morphological structure. For example, in the phrase a breathtakingly beautiful view, breathtakingly can be broken down into the following morphemes: two stems breath-, -take-, participle suffix -ing and adverb suffix -ly. All these morphemes make up the outer structure of the word breathtakingly. External structure of a word and typical derivational models studied in the section of lexicology called "Word formation". The internal structure of a word, or its meaning, is usually called semantic structure of the word. This is one of the main aspects of the word. Words can serve as a means of communication only because of their meaning, each of words of the language carries a meaningful function, naming various denotations (objects, phenomena, properties, actions). This aspect of the word is as important as its external organization. The question of the initial motivation between the meaning of a word and its sound form is complicated. Apparently, such motivation existed, but over time it was lost, except for those words that are formed according to the principle of onomatopoeia (imitate the sounds of the denotations they denote), for example: clatter, rattle, croak (Russian. to knock, rattle, croak). (Such words, as a rule, are similar in different languages: for example, English - murmur, Russian - mumble, Italian - mormotare). Secondary motivation can be identified in names and surnames (for example: English - Victor, Russian - Victor, translated from Latin means "winner"; English - Nataly, Russian. - Natalia, translated from Greek. means "native", etc.).

In the study of the borrowed element in English the main emphasis is as a rule placed on the Middle English period. Borrowings of later periods became the object of investigation only in recent years. These investigations have shown that the flow of borrowings has been steady and uninterpreted. The greatest number has come from French. They refer to various fields of social-political, scientific and cultural life. A large portion of borrowings (forty one percent) is scientific and technical terms. The number and character of borrowed words tell us of the relations between the people, the level of their culture, etc. It is for this reason that borrowings have often been called the milestones of history. Thus, if we go through the lists of borrowings in English and arrange them in groups according to their meaning, we will be able to obtain much valuable information with regard to England's contacts with many nations. Some borrowings, however, cannot be explained by the direct influence of certain historical conditions, they do not come along with any new objects or ideas. It





must be pointed out that while the general historical causes of borrowing from different languages have been studied with a considerable degree of thoroughness the purely linguistic reasons for borrowing are still open to investigation. The number and character of borrowings do not only depend on the historical conditions, on the nature and length of the contacts, but also on the degree of the genetic and structural proximity of languages concerned. The closer the languages, the deeper and more versatile is the influence. This largely accounts for the well-marked contrast between the French and the Scandinavian influence on the English language. Thus, under the influence of the Scandinavian languages, which were closely related to Old English; some classes of words were borrowed that could not have been adopted from non-related or distantly related languages. Borrowings enter the language in two ways: through oral speech (by immediate contact between the people) and through written speech (by indirect contact through books, etc.) Oral borrowing took place chiefly in the early periods of history, whereas in recent times written borrowings gained importance. Words borrowed orally are used shortly and they undergo considerable changes in the act of adoption. Written borrowings preserve their spelling and some peculiarities of their sound-form, their assimilation is a long and laborious process. There are some classifications of borrowings. One of them is translation loans. Translation loans are word-for-word (or morpheme-for-morpheme) translations of some foreign words or expressions. In such cases the notion is borrowed from a foreign language but it is expressed by native lexical units, «to take the bull by the horns» (Latin), «fair sex» (French), «living space» (German) etc. Some translation loans appeared in English from Latin already in the Old English period, e.g. Sunday (solis dies). There are translation loans from the languages of Indians, such as: «pipe of peace», «pale-faced», from German «masterpiece», «homesickness», «superman». Semantic borrowings are such units when a new meaning of the unit existing in the language is borrowed. It can happen when we have two relative languages which have common words with different meanings, e.g. there are semantic borrowings between Scandinavian and English, such as the meaning «to live» for the word «to dwell» which in Old English had the meaning «to wander». Or else the meaning «дар», «подарок» for the word «gift» which in Old English had the meaning «выкуп за жену». Semantic borrowing can appear when an English word was borrowed into some other language, developed there a new meaning and this new meaning was borrowed back into English, e.g. «brigade» was borrowed into Russian and formed the meaning «a working collective», «бригада». This meaning was borrowed back into English as a Russian borrowing. The same is true of the English word «pioneer». The semantic characteristic of a word, its inherent meaning is its





most important characteristic. What it consists of, we examined in detail in the course of the introduction to linguistics. We know that the meaning of a word has volume and content. Value scope a set of objects of the same class, which a given word can call. The content of a meaning is a set of essential features, knowledge about a given subject, emotional-evaluative attitude, an indication of the connection with the objects of another class. The volume and content are inseparable from each other and between them there may be such relationship: 1) the word has a different volume and different content. Cf: table - chair, river - notebook; pen - tree, angry - happy 2) words have the same volume and the same content: assistant - assistant, linguistics - linguistics, to begin - to start, to finish - to abandon, a sedative - a tranquilliser 3) words have the same volume and different content: spouse - wife, head - head, food - grub, head - skull; Combining with each other, words acquire a combinatorial (contextual) meaning. It can be conventional (habitually used in speech) and occasional - unusual the context gives them imagery, expressiveness, individuality, which is often used by writers, poets, copywriters (advertising creators) For example:

The tires ate up the miles.

I peppered him with red hot jokes.

The wet wood creaked dully. There are words with a narrow scope of meaning (that is, they have a low score combinatoriality). For example: penknife, brown eyes, bosom friend, sworn enemy, auburn hair, to clench one's teeth (fists), lurch, etc. And, of course, there are words with a wide range of meaning that can form variables, free combinations. For example: Water (n): runs water: cold, hot, pure, dirty, distilled, heavy, flows boiled, evaporating boils freezes to water flowers, plants leaks evaporates. Interestingly, the meaning of the word can change: a) its volume expands, generalization occurs, the word spreads to a larger kind of objects Guest: visiting merchant → visiting, guest Citizen: citizen, city dweller → citizen of the state Yankee: New England, any American → Yankee Stock: stock of firewood → stock of any products. From the course of linguistics, we are well aware of this kind of volume expansion meanings, as the formation of common nouns from proper nouns: The Mausoleum → tomb of King Mausoleum at Halicarnassus (4th century BC). Silhouette - silhouette. French Minister of Finance, Etienne de Silhouette, advocated savings, in everything, including in everyday life, so that all monetary surpluses go to treasury. A single-color profile is the simplest and most ascetic version of a portrait. b) the meaning of the word is narrowed (that is, there is a refinement):





Champion: wrestler, contestant → successfully fought, champion.

We are also well aware of cases of name transfer:

a) metaphor caterpillar: caterpillar (zool.) → caterpillar; branch: tree branch → branch of science, industry, branch; bulb: bulb (bot.) → bulb, bulb, light-bulb;  
b) metonymy cane - reed, reed → cane made of this material;  
Silver: metal → silver-plate, silver-medal A. Volta - volt, Winchester - city in North America → rifle,

Test - earthen vessel → vessel for testing the quality of metals (volume contraction values) → any test tool (metonymic transfer name). The ambiguity of a word (polysemy) is the ability of a word to serve as a meaning names of different classes of objects. Dictionary meanings of a polysemantic word necessarily different in volume. Formal indicators of ambiguity - compatibility with words belonging to different semantic classes, different grammatical characteristics (for the verb - transitivity / intransitivity), etc. For example, the verb to break to break the integrity of something with a blow is combined with nouns for fragile objects: to break a glass, a vase, a cup, a window, etc., and is related to the similarity of meaning with the verbs to smash, to crash, to crack, to fix, to mend, to repair. In its figurative meaning, violate, not comply, not perform, it is synonymous with the verb violate, and its antonyms are the verbs to keep, to fulfill. In this meaning the verb break is combined with the nouns a promise, a law, a resolution, regulations.

Interestingly, many linguists have tried to define the word as a linguistic phenomenon. But none of the definitions is comprehensive and accurately reflects all aspects of this unique product. human communication. Also, it is not yet fully understood what language is, the fundamental unit of which is the word. Nevertheless, we can say that there are no coincidences in the vocabulary of the language, that each word is the smallest unit in a vast, efficient and perfectly balanced system language. By vocabulary of a language or language stock, we mean the entire set the words it contains. Unfortunately, the very restricted character of this work makes it impossible to analyze all foreign words borrowed into English and their morphologic and semantic features. However, the analyzed facts are enough to understand the character of the development of borrowings in English.





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