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Шподаренко Д.А.

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Introduction

English history is very rich in different types of contacts with other countries, that is why it is very rich in borrowings. The Roman invasion, The adoption of Christianity, Scandinavian and Norman conquests of the British Isles, the development of British colonialism and trade and cultural relations served to increase immensely the English vocabulary. The majority of these borrowings is fully assimilated in English in their pronunciation, grammar and spelling and can be hardly distinguished from native words.

Borrowing words from other languages is characteristic of English throughout its history and more than two thirds of the English vocabulary are borrowings. Mostly they are words of Romanic origin (Latin, French, Italian and Spanish). Borrowed words are different from native ones by their phonetic structure, by their morphological structure and also by their grammatical forms. It is also characteristic of borrowings to be non-motivated semantically.

English has borrowed nouns from many language and mostly the new arrivals, like most immigrants, who adopt local ways immediately. In a generation you can hardly tell they came from overseas. Orange came from Arabic ‘naranj’ via Old French ‘orange’; kiosk came from Turkish; moccasin came from Algonquian and so on. But all of those words form plurals just like any English word; they follow a fixed regular system of condition or plurals.

In my report I would like to describe the borrowings in the different periods of history of English language: Old English Period, Middle English Period, New English Period.

The Borrowings in the Old English Period

Although borrowed words constituted only a small portion of the Old English vocabulary – all in all about six hundred words, - they are of great interest for linguistic and historical study. The borrowings reflect the contacts of English with other tongues resulting from diverse political, economic, social and cultural events in the early periods of British history. Old English borrowings come from two sources: Celtic and Latin.

Borrowings from Celtic

There are very few Celtic loan-words in the OE vocabulary, for there must have been little intermixture between the Germanic settlers and the Celtic in Britain. Though in some parts of the island the Celtic Population was not exterminated during the WG invasion, linguistic evidence of Celtic influence is meager. Obviously there was little that the newcomers could learn from the subjugated Celts. Abundant borrowing from Celtic is to be found only in place-names. The OE kingdoms Kent, Deira, and Bernicia derive their names from the names of Celtic tribes. The name of York, the Downs and London has been traced to Celtic sources (Celtic dun meant hill). Various Celtic designations of “river” and “water” were understood by Germanic invaders as proper names : Ouse, Exe, Esk, Usk, Avon and so on. Thames, Stour, Dover also come from Celtic.

Outside of place-names Celtic Borrowings in OE were very few: no more than a dozen. Examples of common nouns are :

OE NE

bin bin “crib”

cradol cradle

cross cross

In later ages some of the Celtic borrowings have died out or have survived only in dialects.

Latin Influence on the Old English Vocabulary

Latin words entered the English language at different stages of OE history. Chronologically they can be divided into several layers.

The earliest layer comprises words which the West Germanic tribes brought from the continent when they came to settle in Britain. Contact with the Roman civilization began a long time before the Anglo-Saxon invasion.

The adoption of Latin words continued in Britain after the invasion, since Britain had been under Roman occupation for almost 400 years. Though the Romans left Britain before the settlement of the West Teutons, Latin words could be transmitted to them by the Romanised Celts.

Early OE borrowings from Latin indicate the new things and concepts which the Teutons had learnt from the Romans; as seen from the examples below they pertain to war, trade, agriculture, building and home life.

Among the Latin-loan words adopted in Britain were some place-names or components of place-names used by Celts. Latin castra in the shape caster, ceaster “camp” formed OE place-names which survive today as Chester , Dorchester, Lancaster.

The third period of Latin influence on the OE vocabulary began with the introduction of Christianity in the late 6th century and lasted to the end of OE.

Numerous Latin words which found their way into the English language during these five hundred years clearly fall into two main groups:

1) Words pertaining to religion

2) Words connected with learning

The rest are miscellaneous words denoting various objects and concepts which the English learned from Latin books and from closer acquaintance with Roman culture. The total number of Latin loan-words in OE exceeds five hundred, this third layer accounting for over four hundred words.

After the Introduction of Christianity many monastic schools were set up in Britain. The spread of education led to the wider use of Latin: teaching conducted in Latin. The written forms of OE developed in translations of Latin Texts. These conditions are reflected in a large number of borrowings connected with education. Unlike the earlier borrowings scholarly words were largely adopted through books. The Latin impact on the OE vocabulary was not restricted to borrowings of words. There were also other aspects of influence.

Borrowings in the Middle English Period

Borrowing from early Scandinavian

The long succession of Viking Age raids, settlements, conquests, and political take-overs that played such a large part in Anglo-Saxon history from the late-eighth century onwards resulted in many speakers of varieties of early Scandinavian being found in Britain. In particular, there were areas of significant Scandinavian settlement in the east and north east of England (chiefly of speakers of East Norse varieties) and in the north west of England (chiefly of speakers of West Norse varieties), as well as in parts of Scotland. We speak of ‘early Scandinavian’ in this context because we are dealing with the antecedent stage of the later Scandinavian languages, Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, etc.

Gradually, over the course of generations, the use of early Scandinavian died out in England, but not without leaving a significant impact on the vocabulary of English. When most borrowings occurred is a matter of some uncertainty; Old English texts up to about the year 1100 are estimated to contain only about 100 Scandinavian loan-words, many of them in isolated examples. Most of these words come from semantic areas in which there was significant cultural influence from the Scandinavians, such as seafaring, warfare, social ranks, law, or coins and measures.

More Scandinavian borrowings are first recorded in Middle English texts, but it is very possible (and indeed likely) that most of these first entered some varieties of English in the Old English period. One major indicator of this is that very early Middle English texts from areas of high Scandinavian settlement are full of Scandinavian borrowings.

It contains well over a hundred words of either certain or likely Scandinavian origin, including some which are of common occurrence in modern English such as *to anger, to bait, bloom, boon, booth, bull, to die, to flit, ill, law, low, meek, to raise, root, to scare, skill, skin, to take, though, to thrive, wand, to want, wing, wrong.*

The example of *they, them, and their* is very instructive about the nature and extent of Scandinavian influence on English. It is very rare for pronouns to be borrowed; the fact that these forms were borrowed probably reflects both the very close contact between Scandinavian and English speakers, and the close structural and lexical similarities between the two languages. Because so many words, forms, and constructions were already either identical or very similar, this made it much easier for even grammatical words to be borrowed.

Something else illustrated by *they, them, and their* is the long process of internal spread, from variety to variety, shown by many words of Scandinavian origin after they entered English. In later northern or eastern texts *them and their* quite quickly become the normal forms, but this takes much longer in other varieties: the most important early Chaucer manuscripts, from London in the late fourteenth or early fifteenth centuries, have typically they for the subject form but still hem and her for the object and possessive forms.

The Scandinavian component in the total vocabulary of Middle English perhaps amounts to somewhere in the region of 2 or 3 per cent, but any figures must be treated with a good deal of caution. In spite of the relatively small total, many of the words occur with quite high frequency, especially in texts from more northerly and easterly areas.

Some Scandinavian borrowings which were doubtless borrowed in either Old English or Middle English are first attested much later; this is especially the case with words preserved only in regional use.

Borrowing from Latin and French

The Latin component in the vocabulary of Old English was small, only amounting to a few percent.

In Middle English this picture changes radically. If we look at the vocabulary of Middle English as a whole, the evidence of dictionaries suggests that the number of words borrowed from French and Latin outstrips the number of words surviving from Old English by quite a margin. However, words surviving from Old English continue to top the high frequency lists.

The formulation ‘French and Latin’ is an important one in this period. Often we can tell that a word has come from French rather than Latin very clearly because of differences of word form: for instance, English*peace* is clearly a borrowing from Anglo-Norman and Old French *pais*, not from Latin *pac-, pāx*. Some other pretty clear examples are *marble, mercy, prison, palfrey, to pay, poor, and rule*. It is often much more difficult to be certain that a Middle English word has come solely from Latin and not partly also from French; this is because, in addition to the words it inherited from Latin (which typically showed centuries of change in word form), French also borrowed extensively from Latin (often re-borrowing words which already existed in a distinct form). Some typical examples are *animal, imagination* and so on.

In Middle English, borrowing from French is at least as frequent as borrowing from Latin, and probably rather more frequent.

By 1500, over 40 % of all of the words that English has borrowed from French had made a first appearance in the language, including a very high proportion of those French words which have come to play a central part in the vocabulary of modern English. By contrast, the greatest peak of borrowing from Latin was still to come, in the early modern period; by 1500, under 20 % of the Latin borrowings found in modern English had yet entered the language.

The greatest peak of first examples of French borrowings in English comes in the late fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries. This probably largely corresponds to the realities of linguistic change, since we know that this is the period in which English was taking on many technical functions from Latin and, especially, French, at least so far as written records were concerned. However, this is precisely when our volume of surviving Middle English material also goes up dramatically, and so we cannot always rule out the possibility that words existed in English rather earlier.

 Early New English borrowings

Borrowings into the English language in the XV—XVlI centuries are primarily due to political events and also to the cultural and. trade relations between the English people and peoples in other countries. Thus , in the XV century — the epoch of Renaissance, there appeared in the English language many words borrowed from the Italian tongue: cameo,  archipelago,  dilettante,  fresco,  violin, balcony, gondola, grotto, volcano; in the XVI century — Spanish and Portuguese words, such as: armada, negro, tornado, mosquito, renegade, matador and also Latin (the language of culture of the time), for instance:

— verbs, with the characteristic endings *-ate, -ute*: aggravate, abbreviate, exaggerate, frustrate, separate, irritate, contribute, constitute, persecute, prosecute, execute, etc.,

— adjectives ending in *-ant, -ent, -ior, -al*: arrogant, reluctant, evident, obedient, superior, inferior, senior, junior, dental, cordial, filial.

As a result of numerous Latin borrowings at the time there appeared manyethymological doublets.

Latin  Strictum - (direct)  strict+ strait (through French)

In the XVII century due to relations with the peoples of America such words were borrowed as: canoe, maize, potato, tomato, tobacco, mahogany, cannibal, hammock, squaw, moccasin, wigwam,etc.

French borrowings — after the Restoration: ball, ballet, billet, caprice, coquette, intrigue, fatigue, naive.

Late New English borrowings (XYII1—XX centuries)

— German: kindergarten, waltz, wagon, boy, girl

— French: magazine, machine, garage, police, engine, nacelle, aileron

- Indian: bungalow, jungle, indigo

— Chinese: coolie, tea

— Arabic: caravan, divan, alcohol, algebra, coffee, bazaar, orange, cotton, candy, chess.

—Australian: kangaroo, boomerang, lubra

— Russian:

Before the October Revolution the borrowings from the Russian language were mainly words reflecting Russian realia of the time; borzoi, samovar, tsar, verst, taiga, etc. After the Revolution there entered the English language such words that testified to the political role of this country in the world, as: Soviet, bolshevik, kolkhoz.

Cultural and technical achievements are reflected in such borrowings as: sputnik, lunnik, lunokhod, synchrophasotron and recently such political terms as: glasnost, perestroika.

In New English there also appeared words formed on the basis of Greek and Latin vocabulary. They are mainly scientific or technical terms, such as: telephone, telegraph, teletype, telefax, microphone, sociology,politology, electricity, etc.

Borrowings in different languages

Italian

Cultural and trade relations between Italy and England brought many Italian words into English. The earliest Italian borrowing came into English in the 14-th century, it was the word «bank» /from the Italian «banko» - «bench»/. Italian moneylenders and moneychangers sat in the streets on benches. When they suffered losses they turned over their benches, it was called «banco rotta» from which the English word «bankrupt» originated. In the 17-th century some geological terms were borrowed: *volcano, granite, bronze, lava*. At the same time some political terms were borrowed: *manifesto, bulletin*.   
But mostly Italian is famous by its influence in music and in all Indo-European languages musical terms were borrowed from Italian: *alto, baritone, basso, tenor, falsetto, solo, duet, trio, quartet, quintet, opera, operetta, libretto, piano, violin.*

Spanish  
Spanish borrowings came into English mainly through its American variant. There are the following semantic groups of them:  
a) trade terms: *cargo;*

b) names of dances and musical instruments: *tango, rumba, habanera, guitar*;   
c) names of vegetables and fruit: *tomato, potato, tobacco, cocoa, banana.*

Scandinavian   
By the end of the Old English period English underwent a strong influence of Scandinavian due to the Scandinavian conquest of the British Isles. Scandinavians belonged to the same group of peoples as Englishmen and their languages had much in common. As the result of this conquest there are about 700 borrowings from Scandinavian into English.   
Scandinavians and Englishmen had the same way of life, their cultural level was the same, they had much in common in their literature therefore there were many words in these languages which were almost identical, e.g.   
However there were also many words in the two languages which were different, and some of them were borrowed into English, such nouns as: *bull, cake, egg, kid, knife, skirt, window etc, such adjectives as: flat, ill, happy, low, odd, ugly, wrong, such verbs as : call, die, guess, get, give, scream and many others.*

German

There are some 800 words borrowed from German into English. Some of them have classical roots, e.g. in some geological terms, such as: *cobalt, bismuth, zink, quarts, gneiss, wolfram.*

There were also words denoting objects used in everyday life which were borrowed from German: *iceberg, lobby, and rucksack, Kindergarten* etc.  
In the period of the Second World War the following words were borrowed: *Volkssturm, Luftwaffe, SS-man, Bundeswehr, gestapo,* and many others.

Holland

Holland and England have constant interrelations for many centuries and more than 2000 Holland borrowings were borrowed into English. Most of them are nautical terms and were mainly borrowed in the 14-th century, such as: *freight, skipper, pump, keel, dock, reef, deck, leak* and many others.

Russian

There were constant contacts between England and Russia and they borrowed words from one language into the other. Among early Russian borrowings there are mainly words connected with trade relations, such as: *rouble, copeck, pood, sterlet, vodka, sable, and also words relating to nature, such as: taiga, tundra*.  
There is also a large group of Russian borrowings which came into English through Rushian literature of the 19-th century, such as : *Narodnik, moujik, duma, zemstvo. volost, ukase* etc, and also words which were formed in Russian with Latin roots, such as: *nihilist, intelligenzia, Decembrist* etc.  
After the Great October Revolution many new words appeared in Russian connected with the new political system, new culture, and many of them were borrowed into English, such as: *collectivization. udarnik, Komsomol etc and also translation loans, such as: shock worker, collective farm, five-year plan* etc.  
One more group of Russian borrowings is connected with perestroika, such as: *glasnost, nomenklatura, apparatchik.*