

French borrowings in English.

*Селезнева В.В, Краснова Е.В.
Донской Государственный Технический Университет*

Abstract: As the title implies the paper describes French borrowings in English. The aim of this paper is to consider French borrowings, their influence on English and their signification. The paper is devoted to the problem of borrowed words in English as a special layer of vocabulary. The paper is about enriching English with borrowing from the French language at different times, attention is paid to the reasons for the appearance of borrowed vocabulary is given examples of the classification of loan words and their role in enriching the vocabulary of the language. This paper is of interest to teachers of such disciplines as English lexicology, History of English language and also can be useful in further research on words that have been borrowed in English.

Keywords: French borrowings, influence, classification, role.

The English is a Germanic language and took origin from the Indo-European Family. English is considered a "borrowing" language. French borrowed words brought to country during the 11th century by Norman Conquest. [2]

The most immediate consequence of the Norman domination in Britain is to be seen in the wide use of the French language in many spheres of life. About three hundred years French was the official language of administration. It was also the everyday language of many nobles, of many towns-people in the South.

New words, coming from French, could not be adopted simultaneously by all the speakers of English; they were first used in some varieties of the language and in the speech of the upper classes. [4]

Classification of borrowings:

Borrowings can be classified according to different criterion:

- a) to the aspect which is borrowed,
- b) to the degree of assimilation.

Classification of borrowings according to the borrowed aspect. There are the following groups: phonetic borrowings, semantic borrowings, morphemic borrowing.

Classification of borrowings according to the degree of assimilation. The degree of assimilation of borrowings depends on the some factors:

- a) from what group of languages the word was borrowed, if the word belongs to the one group of languages it is assimilated easier,
- b) way of borrowing: orally or in the written form
- c) how often the borrowing is used in the language. [1]

French borrowings:

After the Norman conquest, we find the 'church', the 'courts of law', the 'arts of war', trade with the 'continent' and the 'pastimes' of the aristocracy becoming Norman-French intermingling. Words like 'battle', 'court', 'countess', 'treasure', 'charity', were derived from French. The French influence on the English language was general and wide spreading during the Middle English period. The 17th century is significant in the history of the French loans as period in matters of literature and social communication. Words like 'dragoon', 'stockade', 'ballet', 'burlesque', 'tableau', 'chagrin', 'soup' are the representative of the 17th century borrowings from French. The loan words of the 18th century are 'guillotine', 'regime', 'picnic', 'police', 'coup', etc. In the 18th century, food and cooking continued to engage French loans, for example, “casserole”, “croquette”, “ragout”, “liqueur”; also do literature, music, and art, for example, “critique”, “belles letters”, “précis”, “brochure”. The 19th century is a rich century in borrowing French words. These include the usual military terms those relating to art and letters, textiles and furniture. For example: 'barrage', 'communique', 'renaissance', 'restaurant', 'matinee', 'menu', 'chauffeur', 'elite'. [1]

Thus, we see that many words were used to denote things, food, military term, government, art and other. [5]

There are word-combinations between which can see the difference between colloquial native words and more formal Romance terms. For example: “forgive and pardon”, “reply- answer”, “odour- smell”. [3]

The influence of French borrowings on the English language.

The most important influence the French language had on the English language was the introduction of too many French words into English. It should be mentioned that one of the characteristics of Old English was to enlarge its

vocabulary chiefly by using prefixes and suffixes and combining native elements into self-interpreting compounds.

More than 10,000 French words found their way into English and about three quarters of these words are still used.

Quite a lot of the words of French origin used in English sit alongside native English ones, and in some cases there are words of Latin origin with similar meanings. For example, “a king” (from Old English “cyning”) can be kingly, “royal” (from French “roial”).

The pronunciation of English changed to some extent under the influence of French, as did the spelling.

English grammar did take on a few French structures, such as putting in adjectives after nouns, for example, secretary general.

In conclusion I would like to say though the number of French loans in the modern period is relatively minor in comparison to Middle English, the contribution is most important. Today there is no doubt or disputable grounds to argue that the loans did nothing but enrich the English language.

Summing up, I want to say that in my opinion each language should borrow words from another language, for its enrichment.

Thus, we examined the ways of borrowing French words and their influence on English, also we have seen difference ways of difference types of borrowings.[6]

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