

# LEXICOLOGY

## *Lecture 2*

# ENGLISH ETYMOLOGY

## *Topics for discussion:*

- 1. General etymological survey.**
- 2. Types of borrowings.**
- 3. Assimilation of borrowings.**
- 4. Linguistic effects of borrowing.**
- 5. Borrowings in modern English.**

**Etymology – the study of *lexical history (mg development)*.**

# English – a ‘hospitable lg’:

- on the basis of the Germanic tribal lgs;
- its core – by the 7th c.;
- mixed character – 30% vs. 70%;
- **120 lgs** – sources of its present-day vocabulary

# WORDSTOCK

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graph TD; WORDSTOCK --> native_words[native words]; WORDSTOCK --> borrowings_loans[borrowings/loans]; native_words --> N1[1) Indo-European stock;]; native_words --> N2[2) Germanic origin]; native_words --> N3[3) English proper]; native_words --> N4[4) French]; native_words --> N5[5) Greek, Italian, Spanish etc.]; borrowings_loans --> B1[1) Celtic (5-6th c. A.D.)]; borrowings_loans --> B2[2) Latin (3 waves)]; borrowings_loans --> B3[3) Scandinavian (8-11th c. A.D.)];
```

**native words**

**borrowings/loans**

1) **Indo-European stock;**

2) **Germanic origin**

3) **English proper**

4) **French**

5) **Greek, Italian, Spanish etc.**

1) **Celtic (5-6<sup>th</sup> c. A.D.)**

2) **Latin (3 waves)**

3) **Scandinavian (8-11<sup>th</sup> c. A.D.)**

## **NATIVE Vocabulary:**

- 1) stability;**
- 2) semantic value** (parts of body, family members & closest relatives, animals, common actions, natural phenomena);
- 3) wide collocability:** idioms, phrasal verbs, stone wall constructions;
- 4) polysemy;**
- 5) derivational potential;**
- 6) wide sphere of application & high frequency value.**

## **Conditions** stimulating borrowing process:

- 1) **close contact;**
- 2) **domination** of some lg/s;
- 3) **a sense of need** – to fill a gap in the vocabulary  
(*butter, plum, beet; potato, tomato*);
- 4) **prestige.**

**Source of borrowings** – the lg from which the loan word was taken into English.

**Origin of borrowing** – the lg to which the loan word may be traced

- *rouble*: Rus. —Fr. —Eng.
- *cotton*: Ar. —Fr. —Eng.



# WAYS of BORROWINGS

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graph TD; A[WAYS of BORROWINGS] --> B[oral speech]; A --> C[written speech];
```

through **oral speech**

**written speech**

- **time**
- **length of words**
- **peculiarities of words**

## 2. Types of borrowings

- 1) borrowings proper (*table, chair, people; iceberg, lobby*);
- 2) translation-loans/calques;
- 3) semantic loans;
- 4) international words;
- 5) combining forms/neo-classical compounds;
- 6) hybrid words;
- 7) etymological doublets;
- 8) folk etymology.

**CALQUES** – words/expressions formed from the material existing in the lg but according to patterns taken from another lg, by means of **literal**

**morpheme-for-morpheme/word-for-word translation**

- from *Lat.* ‘*circulus vitiosus*’;
- from *Lat.* ‘*solis dies*’;
- from *Sp.* ‘*el momento de la verdad*’
- from *Ger.* ‘*Übermensch*’
- *pipe of peace, pale-faced*
- from *Rus.* ‘*черная вдова*’

**SEMANTIC LOANS** – words that acquired  
a new mg due to the *influence of a related word*  
*in another lg*

✓ *pioneer*

✓ *to dwell*: OE ‘*to wander*’ + ‘*to live*’ (Sc.)

✓ *gift*: OE ‘*ransom for one’s wife*’ + ‘*a present*’ (Sc.)

**INTERNATIONAL words** – words of identical origin that appear in several lgs as a result of simultaneous/successive borrowing from one ultimate source

*film, club, cocktail, jazz*

- **reflecting history of world culture**
- **notions important for communication**

**COMBINING FORMS/neo-classical compounds** – words made of borrowed roots of Greek/Latin origin

*telephone,  
futurology*

*photograph,*

*bioenergy,*

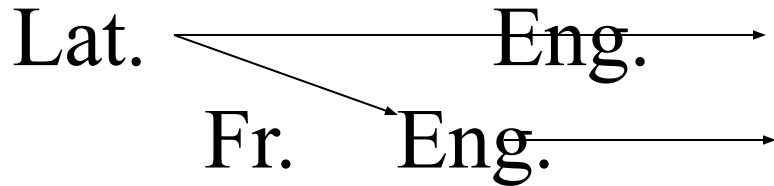
- didn't exist in the original lg, formed in modern times
- mostly international

**HYBRID WORDS** – words made up of elements derived from two or more lgs:

**Gr./Lat./Fr. + native**

- **Eng. stem + Lat. sfx**  
*readable, eatable, likable;*
- **Fr. root + nat. sfx**  
*senseless, cheerless, colourless;*
- *schoolboy* (Gr. + nat.)

# ETYMOLOGICAL DOUBLETS – 2 words of the same lg derived from the same basic word but by different routes



*grammar* – *glamour*; *canal* – *channel*, *senior* -- *sir*



Lat. 'quies', 'quietus' → Eng. 'quiet'  
Fr. → Eng. 'quite'

Gr. 'thesauros' (a store) → Lat. → Eng. 'thesaurus'  
OFr. 'tresor' → Eng. 'treasure'

## Etymol. triplets:

hospital (*Lat.*) – hostel (*Norm. Fr.*) – hotel  
(*Par. Fr.*)

*capture – catch -- chase*

## ❖ Scandinavian influence:

✓ *shirt – skirt*

✓ *shift -- skip*

# FOLK ETYMOLOGY – mistaken forms

OFr. *salier* ('salt-box') → ***salt-cellar***

Sp. *cucuracha* → ***cockroach***

Fr. *surounder* ('overflow')



Eng. ***surround*** ('encircle')

**ASSIMILATION** of borrowings –  
**adaptation** of a loan word to the norms of the  
given lg

### Types of assimilation:

- 1) **phonetic** (shift of stress): *`capital, `service;*
- 2) **grammatical**: *protégés;*
- 3) **lexical/semantic** (*changes in the semantic structure*): *stool, surround, nice*
- 4) **graphic** (*phantom/fantom)*

# Degree of assimilation:

1) **complete** (*sky, get, skin, skirt; table, sport*)

2) **partial:**

- **non-assimilated semantically:** *sombrero, shah, sheikh, tsar, zloty*
- **n/a grammat.:** *criteria; but: formulas vs. formulae, mediums vs. media*
- **n/a phonetically:** *police, cartoon; parkour*  
[pa: 'kʊə], ['pa:r.kʊr]
- **n/a graphically:** *protège, cortège, cliché; morpheme;*

3) n/a = *barbarisms* (*dolce vita; tête-à-tête;*  
*Déjà Vu; beau monde*)

## 4. Linguistic effects of borrowing

- 1) increase in stylistic synonyms (*cordial* – *friendly*, *desire* – *wish*, *admire* – *adore* - *like*)
- 2) changes in the semantic structure of words:
  - *specialization* of mg of native words
  - *new* mgs
- 3) derivational ability (*re-*, *-able*, *-ism*)
- 4) changes in morphological system
- 5) changes in phonetic structure (*sk-*, *v-*, *[oi]*)

# Borrowings in Modern English

## Culture:

- cuisine: *croissant, tiramisu, sushi*
- sports: *aikido*
- mantras, *guru, sudoku, karaoke, graffiti, feng shui*

## Politics:

- *Jihad/jehad; niqab, hijab; sharia*
- *perestroika, glasnost; siloviki, krysha*
- *black widow*