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# PRESENTATION

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# THE ETYMOLOGY



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# 1. The Native Element and Borrowed Words



- The most characteristic feature of English is usually said to be its mixed character. Many linguists consider foreign influence, especially that of French, to be the most important factor in the history of English. This wide-spread viewpoint is supported only by the evidence of the English word-stock, as its grammar and phonetic systems are very stable and not easily influenced by other languages. To comprehend the nature of the English vocabulary and its history

# Characteristic Features of the Native Vocabulary

The words are monosyllabic: sun, wood, break.

They are characterised by high frequency

Native words are usually found in set-expressions.

They are characterised by a wide range of lexical and grammatical valency. 7. If words begin with wh, wr, tw, dw, sw, sh. th; if at the end they have dge, tch, nd, ld; if the roots have ng, aw, ew, ee, oo they are native.

Verbs with post-positions are usually native: to look for, to look after.

# They are polysemantic:



- Part of the human body.
  - Power, possession, by a responsibility.
  - Person from whom news comes
- Influence.
  - Skill in using one's hands.
  - Person who does what is indicated by the context, performer.



- Position or direction.
- Unit of measurement.
- Handwriting.
- Number of cards held by a player.
- Signature.
- Pointer, indicator.
- Share in activity.
- Workman.
- Applause by clapping.

# Causes and Ways of Borrowing into English



- In its fifteen century long history recorded in written manuscripts the English language happened to come in long and close contact with several other languages, mainly Latin, French, Old Norse. The great influx of borrowings from these sources can be accounted for by a number of historical causes. Due to the great influence of the Roman civilisation Latin was for a long time used in England as the language of learning and religion. In the study of the borrowed element in English the main emphasis is as a rule placed on the Middle English period. Borrowings of the later periods became the object of investigation only in recent years. These investigations show that the flow of borrowings has been steady and uninterrupted. The greatest number of them has come from French. A large portion of them (41) is scientific and technical terms. The numb

# Criteria of Borrowings in English

- In some cases the pronunciation of the word, its spelling and the correlation between sounds and letters are an indication of the foreign origin of the word: waltz (German), psychology (Greek). The initial position of the sounds [v], [dz], [z] or of the letters x, j, z is a sure sign that the word has been borrowed : vase (French), jungle (Hindi), gesture (Latin). The morphological structure of the word and its grammatical forms may also show that the word has been borrowed. The suffixes in the words neurosis (Greek), violoncello (Italian) betray the foreign origin of the words. The same is true of the irregular plural forms bacteria, media, phenomena. The lexical meaning of the word can show the origin of the word. Thus the concept denoted by the words pagoda (Chinese), kangaroo (Australian) make us suppose that we deal with borrowings. These criteria are not always helpful

## The Celtic Element in the English Vocabulary

Now the Celtic tongues exist in the form of Welsh, Irish, Gaelic and Highland Scotch and exercise their influence upon the local dialects. The Celtic element includes such words as crag (rock), dun (greyish-brown), down (hill). There are some geographical names like Kent, Avon (river), Dover (water). Celtic elements are found in such place names as Duncombe, Helcombe ( cum – canyon), Llandaff (llan – church), Inverness (inver – river mouth). Some of the early Latin, French, Spanish borrowings came through Celtic (cloak, car, clock, carry). On the whole, Celtic borrowings in the English language can be considered of the least importance.

## The Classical Element in the English Language

● Borrowings of the 5th century have a military favour about them for the Romans built fortifications, military camps and roads: port, street, wall. All these words got completely assimilated in the English language. Many of the Latin borrowings of this period did not survive but they are sometimes retained in English place-names: Manchester (castra – camp), Greenwich, Harwich (vicus – village). Taken together these two periods form the first stratum of Latin borrowings. The second great stratum of Latin words came into English at the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> centuries when the people of England were converted to Christianity. Since Latin was the language of the church many Latin words denoting religious concepts came into English: abbot, bishop, candle, mass, temple. Some words changed their meanings.

## The Scandinavian Element in the English Vocabulary

The Scandinavian invasion of England which proved to be of linguistic importance began in the 8th century. The Danish settlers intermingled with the native population. The fact of both languages being Germanic facilitated mutual understanding and word borrowings. That is why it is difficult sometimes to say whether a word is native or borrowed from Scandinavian. Words are sometimes considered to be of the Scandinavian origin if they were not met in Anglo-Saxon written documents up to the 11th century. Some examples of Scandinavian borrowings are the following: anger (OSc. angr – sorrow); gate (OSc. gata); sky (OSc. sky – cloud); want (OSc. vant – lacking); to hit (OSc. hitta – not to miss); ill (OSc. illr – bad); ugly (OSc. uggligr – frightful).

## The Norman-French Element in the English Vocabulary

- French words borrowed during the period of the 12th –16th centuries show the social status of the Norman invaders and their supremacy in economic, cultural and political development. At that time a lot of terms were borrowed into the English language: - terms of rank: duke, prince, baron; - law terms: prison, jury, judge; - military terms: army, peace, soldier; - religious terms: pray, faith, saint; - terms of art: art, beauty, paint; - terms of architecture: pillar, palace, castle. In most cases such words were completely assimilated. Later French borrowings can be easily identified by their peculiar form and pronunciation: garage, technique, machine.

## Types of Borrowings

1. Aliens – words like eau-de-Cologne, phenomenon – phenomena, retaining their foreign look, their phonetical and grammatical peculiarities.
2. Denizens – loan-words that received the –right of citizenship in English and are not easily recognised as borrowings (wine, table).
3. Barbarisms – words usually having synonyms among the completely assimilated or native words limited to official, literary, bookish usage (en regale, tete-a-tete).
4. Translation loans – a word-for-word or element–for-element translation of a unit of the lexical source language (blue stocking, collective farm).
5. Semantic borrowings – the words which changed their meanings under the influence of a foreign language: cadres (військовий персонал – кадри).