

Lecture 3. Etymological Characteristics of the English Vocabulary.

1. The Origin of English Words.
2. Words of Native Origin.
3. Borrowed Words.
4. Causes and Ways of Borrowing.
5. Criteria of Borrowing
6. Assimilation of Borrowings.
7. Etymological Doublets.
8. Influence of Borrowings.

3.1. The origin of English words

A native word is a word which belongs to the original English word stock, as known from the earliest available manuscripts of the Old English period.

A borrowed word or a borrowing is a word taken over from another language and assimilated in phonemic shape, spelling, paradigm or meaning, or at least in some of these aspects, according to the standards of the English language.

Source of Borrowing and Origin of Word

The term 'source of borrowing' is applied to the language from which the word was taken into English

The term 'origin of the word' is applied to the language the word may be traced to.

3.2. Words of native origin

- Native words constitute up to 30 % of the English vocabulary
- They are the most frequently used words as they constitute 80 % of the 500 most frequent words compiled by Thorndyke and Longe (The Teachers' Wordbook of 30,000 words. New York, 1959).

Words of Indo-European Origin

- The oldest layer of words in English
- They have common roots in all or most languages of Indo-European group.
- They denote **elementary concepts** without which no human communication is possible. There are several **semantic groups**:
 - **Words of kinship**, e.g. father (Vater, pater, padre), mother (Mutter, мать), son (Sohn, сын), daughter (Tochter, дочь), brother (Bruder, брат);
 - **parts of human body**, e.g. foot (пядь), nose, lip, heart (сердце), ear, tooth, eye;
 - **Names of animals**, e.g. cow, swine, goose, wolf (Wolf, волк) ;
 - **Names of plants**, e.g. tree, birch (береза), corn (зерно);

Words of Indo-European Origin

- Words denoting time of day, e.g. day, night;
- Heavenly bodies and phenomena of nature, e.g. sun (die Sonne, СОЛНЦЕ), moon, star, water (Wasser, ВОДА), wind, wood, hill, stone;
- Numerals from one to a hundred;
- Numerous adjectives, e.g. red (cf. Ukr. рудий, R. рыжий), new, glad (гладкий), sad (СЫТ), quick, slow;
- Pronouns – personal (except they which is a Scandinavian borrowing) and demonstrative;
- Numerous verbs, e.g. be (БЫТЬ), stand (СТОЯТЬ), sit (СИДЕТЬ), eat (ЕСТЬ), know (ЗНАТЬ).

Common Germanic words

- **German, Norwegian, Dutch, Icelandic.**
- They represent words of roots common to all or most Germanic languages.
- ***The main semantic groups are:***
 - parts of human body, e.g. head, hand, arm, finger, bone;
 - plants, e.g. oak, fir, grass;
 - animals, e.g. bear, fox, calf;
 - natural phenomena, e.g. rain, frost, storm, flood, ice;
 - periods of time and seasons of the year, e.g. time, week, winter, spring, summer;
 - landscape features, e.g. sea, land, ground, earth;

Common Germanic words

- human dwellings and furniture, e.g. house, room, bench;
- sea-going vessels, e.g. boat, ship;
- Adjectives, e.g. green, blue, grey, white, small, thick, high, old, good;
- Verbs, e.g. see, hear, speak, tell, say, answer, make, give, drink, bake, buy, drive, keep, learn, meet, rise, send, shoot;
- artefacts and materials, e.g. bridge, shop, coal, iron, lead, cloth;
- abstract notions, e.g. care, evil, hope, life, need;
- Adverbs, e.g. down, out, before;
- articles of clothes, e.g. hat, short, shoe.

English Proper Words Dated after 5th c. AD

- have no cognates in other languages, e.g. *bird, boy, girl, lord, lady, woman, daisy, always*.
- contain all the later formations, i.e. words which were made after the 5th century according to English word-building patterns both from native and borrowed morphemes, e.g. '*beautiful*' built from the French borrowed root and the native suffix belongs to the English Proper words.
- the number of such words is immense.

Characteristics of Native Words

- **polysemantic**, e.g. the word 'finger' denotes not only a part of a hand as in Old English but also 1) the part of a glove covering one of the fingers; 2) a finger-like part in various machines; 3) a hand of a clock; 4) an index; 5) a unit of measurement
- **a wide range of lexical and grammatical valency**. Many of them enter a number of phraseological units, e.g. the word 'heel' enters the following units: 'heel over head' or 'head over heels'; 'cool one's heel'; show a clean pair of heels'; take to one's heels'; turn on one's heels' etc.
- **great derivational potential**. They make up large clusters of derived and compound words, e.g. the word 'wood' is the basis for the formation of the following words: 'wooden, woody, wooded, woodcraft, woodcutter, woodwork'

All Native Words

- are marked by
- stability,
- specific semantic characteristics,
- wide collocability,
- great derivational potential,
- wide spheres of application and
- high frequency value.

3.3. Borrowed words

- historical causes and facts:
- the Roman Invasion,
- the introduction of Christianity,
- the Danish and Norman conquests,
- at present, direct linguistic contacts and political, economical and cultural relationships with other nations

Source of Borrowing and Date

- Celtic: 5th – 6th c. A.D.;
- Latin: 1st c. B.C., 7th c. A.D., the Renaissance period – 14th – 16th c.;
- Scandinavian: 8th – 11th c. A.D.;
- French: Norman borrowings – 11th – 13th c. A.D., Parisian borrowings – the Renaissance period;
- Greek: the Renaissance period;
- Italian: the Renaissance period and later;
- Spanish: the Renaissance period and later;
- Russian: the Renaissance period and later;
- German, Indian and other languages.

The 1st century B.C.

- Semantically this group comprises mostly names of foodstuff and fruit and vegetables, e.g. *butter* (<Lat. *butirum*), *cheese* (<Lat. *caseus*), *cherry* (<Lat. *cerasum*), *pear* (<Lat. *pirum*), *plum* (<Lat. *prunus*), *pea* (<Lat. *pisum*), *beet* (<Lat. *beta*), *pepper* (<Lat. *piper*), *cup* (<Lat. *cuppa*), *plant* ((<Lat. *planta*), *kitchen* ((<Lat. *coquina*), *mill* ((<Lat. *molina*), *port* ((<Lat. *portus*), *wine* ((<Lat. *vinum*).

The 5th century A.D

- **Celtic words**, e.g. Modern English *bald, down, glen, druid, bard, cradle* etc.
- **Place names, names of rivers, hills** etc., e.g. *Avon, Exe, Esk, Usk, Ux* originate from the Celtic words meaning 'river' and 'water'.
- **The name of the English capital** originates from Celtic *Llyn+dun* = 'a fortress on the hill over the river'. ('Llyn' = 'river' and 'dun' = 'a fortified hill')
- Some **Latin words** entered the Anglo-Saxon languages *through Celtic*, such as *street* (<Lat. *strata via*), *wall* (<Lat. *vallum*).

The 7th century A.D – Christianization of England

- Latin borrowings denoting
- **persons, objects and ideas** associated with **church and religious rituals**, e.g. *priest* (<Lat. *presbyter*), *bishop* (<Lat. *episcopus*), *monk* (<Lat. *monachus*), *nun* (<Lat. *nonna*), *candle* (<Lat. *candela*).
- **educational terms**, e.g. *school* (<Lat. *schola*<Gr.), *scholar* (<Lat. *scholaris*) and *magister* (<Lat. *magister*).

The end of the 8th c. - middle of the 11th c.

- **Scandinavian borrowings**: to call, to cast, to die, to take, law, husband (<Sc. *Hus+bondi*, i.e. 'inhabitant of the house'), window (<Sc. *Vindauga*, i.e. 'the eye of the wind'), ill, loose, low, weak.
- Words with **initial sk-combination**, e.g. *ski, skill, skin, skirt, sky*.
- Some English **words changed their meaning** under the influence of Scandinavian words of the same root, e.g. the Old English *bread* (piece) got its modern meaning by association with the Scandinavian *braud*, or the Old English *dream* (joy) adopted the meaning of the Scandinavian *draumr*, cf. R. *дрѣма*.

The Norman Conquest of 1066

- borrowings from the Norman dialect of the French language
- **Administrative words**: council, government, parliament, power, state;
- **Legal terms**: court, crime, judge, justice, prison;
- **Military terms**: army, battle, enemy, officer, soldier, war;
- **Educational terms**: lesson, library, pen, pencil, pupil, science;
- **Names for everyday life objects**: autumn, dinner, plate, river, saucer, supper, table, uncle;
- **Names of foodstuff**: veal, beef, pork etc.

The Renaissance period

- *Greek and Latin borrowings* - mostly abstract words and numerous scientific and artistic terms, e.g. *to create, to elect, intelligent, filial, major, minor, moderate, permanent, datum, method, music, phenomenon, philosophy, status* <Latin; *atom, cycle, ethics, aesthetic* <Greek.
- *French borrowings* of from the *Parisian* dialect, e.g. *ballet, bourgeois, machine, matinee, police, regime, routine, scene, technique* etc.
- *Italian* also gave a large number of words to the English language, e.g. *alarm, bankrupt, bulletin, colonel, dilettante, fascist, fiasco, gazette, graffiti, manifesto, piano, opera, violin* etc.

Latin and French Affixes

Latin affixes: -ion, -tion, -ate, -ute, -ct, -d(e), dis-, -able, -ant, -ent, -or, -al, -ar in the words like session, relation, create, attribute, conduct, applaud, disable, curable, accurate, constant, absent, major, cordial, solar etc.

French affixes: -ance, -ence, -ment, -age, -ess, -ous, en- in the words like endurance, patience, government, village, actress, serious, enable etc.

Spanish Borrowings

- *names of fruit and vegetables,*
- *trade terms*
- *names of dances and musical instruments,*
- e.g. *apricot, banana, cocoa, potato, tomato, tobacco, cargo, embargo, tango, rumba, habanera, guitar etc.*

Russian Borrowings

- Early *Russian borrowings* denote **trade relations**, such as *copeck, pood, rouble, sable, starlet, vodka*, Russian nature : *steppe, taiga, tundra*
- **Russian literature of the 19th century**: *Narodnik, moujik, дума, zemstvo, volost, ukase* etc., and words formed in Russian with Latin roots: *nihilist, intelligenzia, Decembrist*
- **October Revolution of 1917** : *collectivization, udarnik, Komsomol* and translation-loans: *shock-worker, collective farm, five-year plan, Young Communist League, Soviet power*
- Soviet achievements in **space exploration**: *sputnik*.
- changes in the **political life of Russia in 1990-ies**: *glasnost, nomenklatura, apparatchik*.
- Russian borrowings are still felt as alien words and remain **barbarisms**.
- Some Russian **affixes began their world building activities** in English, e.g. Russian suffix –nik.

German borrowings

- comprise about **800 words**
- some have classical roots, e.g. **geological terms**: *cobalt, bismuth, zinc, quartz, gneiss, wolfram*.
- **everyday life objects**, e.g. *iceberg, lobby, rucksack, kindergarten*.
- the **2nd World War**: *Volkssturm, Luftwaffe, SS-man, Bundeswehr, Blitzkrieg, Gestapo, gas chamber* etc.
- **recent period**: *Berufsverbot, Volkswagen, gastarbeiter, ostarbeiter*

Other Types of Borrowings

- **Indian:** *rickshaw, rajah, bungalow, jungle* etc.
- **Translation borrowings, or translation loans**, are words formed from the material existing in English according to the alien patterns by way of literal morpheme-for-morpheme translation, e.g. *wall newspaper* <R. *стенгазета*, *lightning war* <Germ. *Blitzkrieg*, *masterpiece* <Germ. *Meisterstück*, *wonder child* <Germ. *Wunderkind*, *first dancer* <Ital. *prima ballerina*, *collective farm* < Rus. *колхоз*.
- **Semantic borrowing** is the development in an English word of a new meaning under the influence of a related word in another language, e.g. the English word 'pioneer' meant 'explorer' and 'one who is among the first in new fields of activity', but under the influence of the Russian word 'пионер' it has come to mean 'a member of the Young Pioneers' League'.

International words

- words of identical origin that occur in several languages as a result of **simultaneous or successive borrowing from one ultimate source**, e.g. *antenna, music, radio*.
- different terminological systems: vocabulary of **science, industry and art**, e.g. *algorithm, antibiotics, automation, bionics, gene, cyborg* etc.
- **Italian**: words connected with **architecture, painting and music**, e.g. *allegro, andante, aria, arioso, barcarole, baritone, concert, duet, opera, piano* etc.
- **English words** in the sphere of **sport**, e.g. *football, out, match, tennis, time out, ring, referee, set* etc.
- **English international words** referring to **clothing**, e.g. *jersey, pullover, sweater, tweed, shorts, leggings* etc.
- International words must **not be confused with 'false friends', or 'false cognates'**, cf. complexion (face colour) - КОМПЛЕКСИЯ

3.4. Causes and Ways of Borrowing

- *Historic and linguistic* factors
- The closer the languages, the deeper and more versatile is the influence.
- two ways: through *oral speech* and through *written speech*
- *Oral borrowing* - the early periods of history
- *Written borrowings* – in recent time
- Words borrowed *orally* are usually short and they have undergone considerable phonetic, grammatical and semantic changes, e.g. *Latin* < *inch, mill, street*.
- *Written borrowings* preserve their spelling and some peculiarities of their sound form, e.g. *French* < *communiqué, belles-lettres, naïveté*.

3.5. *Criteria of Borrowing*

- *pronunciation* of the word, its spelling and the correlation between sounds and letters, e.g. waltz (Germ.), psychology (Greek), soufflé (French) etc.;
- the *initial positions of the initial sounds 'x, j, z'*, e.g. volcano (Italian), vase (French), gesture (Latin), jungle (Hindi), zeal (Latin), zinc (German) etc.
- The *morphological structure* of the word and its *grammatical forms*, e.g. neurosis (Greek), violoncello (Italian);
- *irregular plural forms* in the words papyra (<Greek papyrus), pastorali (<Italian pastorale), beaux (<French beau), bacteria (<Latin bacterium).
- *Lexical meaning* of the word, e.g. the concept denoted by the words rickshaw, pagoda (<Chinese)

3.6. Assimilation of Borrowings

- *Completely assimilated borrowed words* follow all morphological, phonetic and orthographic standards.
- take an **active part in word-formation**
- **morphological structure and motivation is transparent**, they are **morphologically analyzable**
- **supply** the English vocabulary with **free forms and with bound forms**, as affixes are easily perceived and separated in series of borrowed words that contain them (e.g. the French suffixes *-age*, *-ance* and *-ment*).
- found in **all the layers of older borrowings**, e.g. *cheese* (the word of the 1st layer of Latin borrowings), *husband* (Scand), *face* (Fr), *animal* (L. Renaissance).

Partially assimilated borrowed words

- a) borrowings not completely assimilated *graphically*. : *ballet, buffet*. With a diacritic mark: *café, cliché*; specifically French digraphs (*ch, qu, ou*, etc.) in spelling: *bouquet, brioche*;
- b) borrowings not completely assimilated *phonetically*. French borrowings keep the accent on the final syllable: *machine, cartoon, police* with sounds not standard for English, e.g. [3] — *bourgeois, prestige, regime*;

Partially assimilated borrowed words

- c) borrowings not assimilated *grammatically*. Nouns of Latin or Greek with **original plural forms**: *crisis* :: *crises*, *phenomenon* :: *phenomena*. In case of English plural forms there may be a **difference in lexical meaning**, as in *indices* ('an alphabetical list of names, subjects, etc. at the back of a book, with the numbers of the pages where they can be found') :: *indexes* ('a standard by which the level of something can be judged or measured');
- d) borrowings not assimilated *semantically* denote **foreign clothing** (e.g. *sari*, *sombrero*); **foreign titles and professions** (e.g. *shah*, *rajah*, *toreador*); **foreign vehicles** (e.g. *rickshaw* (Chinese)); **foreign food and drinks** (e.g. *pilau* (Persian), *sherbet* (Arabian)); etc.

Unassimilated borrowings or barbarisms

- words from other languages used by English people in conversation or in writing but not assimilated in any way, and for which there are **corresponding English equivalents**, e.g. the Italian *addio, ciao* — 'good-bye'.
- **not universally accepted**, as words not changed at all cannot form a part of the English vocabulary so far as they occur in speech only, but do not enter the language.

3.7. Etymological doublets.

- two or more words originating from the same etymological source, but differing in phonetic shape and meaning, e.g. *whole* (originally meant 'healthy', 'free from disease') and *hale* both come from OE *hal*: one by the normal development of Old English “a” into “o”, the other from a northern dialect in which this modification did not take place. Only the latter has survived in its original meaning.

Etymological doublets

- enter the vocabulary **in different ways**, e.g. *shirt* (native) and *skirt* (Scand.) or *shrew* (native) and *screw* (Scand.),
- borrowings from **different languages** historically originating from **the same root**, such as *senior* (Lat.) and *sir* (Fr.), *canal* (Lat.) and *channel* (Fr.), *captain* (Lat.) and *chieftain* (Fr.).
- borrowed from **the same language in different periods**, such as *corpse* (Norm.Fr.) and *corps* (Par.Fr.), *travel* (Norm.Fr.) and *travail* (Par.Fr.), *cavalry* (Norm.Fr.) and *chivalry* (Par.Fr.), *gaol* (Norm.Fr.) and *jail* (Par.Fr.).
- **Etymological triplets**, i.e. three words of **common root**: *hospital* (Lat.) – *hostel* (Norm.Fr.) – *hotel* (Par.Fr.), *to capture* (Lat.) – *to catch* (Norm.Fr.) – *to chase* (Par.Fr.).
- **a shortened word and the full form**, such as *history* – *story*, *fantasy* – *fancy*, *fanatic* – *fan*, *defence* – *fence*, *courtesy* – *curtsy*, *shadow* – *shade*.

3.8. Influence of borrowings

- 1) the phonetic structure of English words and the sound system;
- 2) the word-structure and the system of word-building;
- 3) the semantic structure of English words;
- 4) the lexical territorial divergence.

Influence on the Phonetic Structure

- the appearance of words with strange sounds or familiar sounds in unusual positions, e.g. *waltz*, *psychology*, *souffle*. The initial [ps], [pn], [pt] are used in English alongside the forms without the initial sound [p];
- the appearance of a new diphthong [oi] which came into English together with such French words as *point*, *joint*, *poise*;
- reappearance of the initial [sk] mostly due to Scandinavian borrowings;
- development of the Old English variant phonemes [f] and [v] into different phonemes: [v] came to be used initially (*vain*, *valley*) and [f] in the intervocal position (*effect*, *affair*);
- appearance of the affricate [dʒ] at the beginning of words (In the Middle English period the affricate 'dg' was found at the end or in the middle of words, e.g. *bridge* — OE *bricj*, *singe* — OE *senc[^]ean*.), e.g. *jungle*, *journey*, *gesture*.

Influence on the Word Structure & Word Building

- the appearance of patterns in which some highly-productive **borrowed affixes** (e.g. *re-*, *inter-*, *-er*, *-ism*) can combine **with native and borrowed bases**;
- the **ousting of native affixes** by borrowed ones, e.g. the prefix *pre-* has replaced the native prefix *fore-*;
- the appearance of a great number of **words with bound morphemes**, e.g. *tolerate*, *tolerable*, *tolerance*, *toleration*;
- the change of the very nature of **word-clusters** which now unite not only words of the root-morphemes, but of different **synonymous root-morphemes**, e.g. *spring* — *vernal*, *sea* — *maritime*.

Influence on the Semantic Structure of English words

- the **differentiation** of borrowed words and synonymous native words **in meaning and use**, cf.: *feed* (native) — *nourish* (L);
- the **narrowing of meaning of native words** due to the differentiation of synonyms, e.g. '*stool*' of native origin in Old English denoted 'any article of furniture designed for sitting on'. Due to the French borrowing *chair* the word *stool* came to be used as the name for only one kind of furniture, i.e. 'a seat that has three or four legs, but no back or arms';
- the **extension of meaning of native English words** or the acquisition of additional or new meanings, e.g. the political meanings *of shock* and *deviation* have come from the Russian *ударный* and *уклон*.

Lexical Territorial Divergence

- the intensification of the difference between the word-stock of the literary national language and dialects owing to the borrowing of words into the literary national language which are not found in the dialects, and vice versa;
- the enlargement of the word-stock of different dialects and national variants of English in the UK. For example, Irish English has the following words of Celtic origin: *shamrock* — *трилистник*, *dun* — *холм*, *colleen* — *девушка*, etc. In the Northern and Eastern dialects there are many Scandinavian borrowings, e.g. *busk* — 'get ready'; *mun* — 'mouth';
- the acquisition by literary national words of a status of dialectal words, e.g. *heal* — *скрывать, покрывать* (OE *helan*).