

**BORROWINGS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE –MIDDLE ENGLISH BORROWINGS**

Якщо дві різні мови мають контакт протягом певного періоду часу, вони неодмінно впливатимуть один на одного. Слова можуть бути перенесені з однієї мови та прийняті до іншої. Термін запозичення використовується для позначення цього процесу. Протягом своєї багаторічної історії англійська мова контактувала з багатьма різними мовами. Англійська мова стала світовою мовою протягом останніх століть. Зараз це найпотужніша, домінуюча і широко використовується мова на міжнародному рівні. Поки це явище не відбулося, багато факторів відігравали дуже важливу роль у розвитку мови. Ці фактори можна простежити в історії англійської мови. Наступна стаття відступила для введення запозичень, які увійшли до англійської мови протягом середньоанглійського періоду.

**Ключові слова:** запозичення, позикові слова, середня англійська, латинська, французька мови

Where two different languages have contact over a certain period of time they will surely influence each other. Words might be taken over from one language and adopted to the other. The term borrowing is used to denote this process. Throughout its long history English has had contact with many different languages. The English Language, during the past centuries has become a world language. It is now the most powerful, dominant and widely used language internationally. Until this phenomenon has happened, many factors played a very important role in the development of the language. These factors can be traced in the history of The English Language. The following article intends to introduce the borrowings which entered the English Language during the Middle English Period.

**Key words:** borrowings, loanwords, Middle English, Latin, French

**Target setting and historical background.** The changes that occurred during this transitional or “middle” period may be noted in every aspect of the language: in its sounds, in the meanings of its words, and in the nature of its word stock, where many Old English words were replaced by French ones [1, p.134]. The most important foreign language in England was now French. French became the official language of government, it was used also in the courts, schools and even in the parliament. French was also important in the Church. French artisans, monks, priests, soldiers, traders and workman tagged along to England. Everyone who was anyone, socially and politically, spoke French: it was the language of an entire socioeconomic class [3, p.81]. This led to a new correlation between social standing and language: the peasant’s working in the fields or doing the manual jobs around the noblemen’s estates were speakers of English, and the overlords spoke French. In the 13th century, the balance of the language moved away from French and back to English. The event what contributed to the demise of Anglo-Norman was King John’s loss of Normandy to the French crown. The ex-Norman nobilities became English, who did not have any estates in Normandy. The main moment which has put an end to this French repression was the Barons’ Wars against Henry III. National feeling was beginning to rise in England and it has raised the prestige of the English language [2, p.152]. The establishment of a standard language did not take place over a night. The writings of Chaucer and Langland also had a big influence on developing the English language. But the biggest impact, what made the language of London come above all it was the introduction of printing by Caxton in Westminster [4].

The most significant early influence of Latin, on English comes through the adoption of Christianity. A large number of Latin words borrowed in that period were words related to the Christian religion and religious practices: candle, devil, martyr, pope, and testament. Through increased literacy and enhanced interest in translating, a great many of words entered the language: alphabet, discuss, history, school, translate. Common everyday words had been borrowed: giant, pear, plant, fever.

**Results and discussion.** The introduction of loans was encouraged by the large number of translations from Latin, also Classical Greek words came in the language with the help of the Latin language. These Classical Greek words are the following ones, asterisk, crypt, catastrophe, lexicon, rhythm. When English invaded the field of discourse (logic, geometry, warfare), the first stage usually took the form of translations of standard Latin words, in the second stage there were original English works deeply indebted to Latin originals, in the third stage there were entirely independent English works. Of course these were not the first Latin loanwords; English language already had Latin words: street, wine (when English were still on the continent) and bishop, minster (during the Old English Period). Furthermore Latin loanwords in the Middle English Period also had been added to the language, words which are in connection with religious terms – Gloria, requiem; law terms – client, conviction; medical and scientific life – dissolve, equator, recipe; and even with abstract words – conflict, imaginary.

Latin Spelling: genius, militia, radius, apparatus, focus, and lens. However there are loan words which had been given an English form: the Latin ending –átus is often replaced by –ate (desperate), or in some cases the Latin inflection is simply omitted (complexus-complex). This is caused because of the French loanwords which derive from the Latin. That is why it is hard to tell whether it is a Latin or via French loanword. French language became the largest source in that time, after Latin.

**Table 1**

Latin Borrowings			
Latin words			
Every day words	Religious terms	Court, medical, scientific, abstract	Direct borrowings
camp, mile, street, wine, cheese, giant, plant, school, alphabet	candle, devil, martyr, pope, testament, bishop, Gloria	client, dissolve, equator, recipe, conflict, imaginary	genius, militia, radius, apparatus, focus, lens

An enormous number of French words came into the English language during this period. These words are quite unfamiliar with the Old English words. The words were new, but they already had a similar pair in meaning, but that word was English. The words expressed their culture, political dominance. Titles of rank tended to be taken from French: baron, count, duke, prince, sovereign. Words to do with administration had also been added: council, crown, government, nation, people. Law courts were long conducted in French that is why they have used their words frequently on the English territories: attorney, court, judge, justice, prison. Ecclesiastical life reflects such words: abbey, prayer, saint, service, virgin. Military terms like armor, castle. Word dominance also can be found of the land of art and fashion such as costume, dress, beauty, colour, music, poem, romance.

**Table 2**

French Borrowings			
French Words			
Administration	Court	Ranks, Military terms	Fashion and Art
crown, nation, government, people, council	court, judge, justice, prison, council	baron, count, duke, prince, armor, castle, bayonet, feint	costume, dress, beauty, colour, music, romance

The French Language brought some of their own words, however certain words were already used by the English people, but French added there on ones, which became the synonyms of the English words: home/house-manor/palace, calf/ox/sheep/swine-veal/beef/mutton/pork, doom-judgment, folk-nation, holy man-saint. Military words also had been changed, so that it could fit much more to their own taste bayonet, feint; words from life-science also had not been omitted anatomy, muscle.

**Table 3**

**English vs. French**

English	French
home	house
manor	palace
calf	veal
ox	beef
sheep	mutton
swine	pork
doom	judgment
folk	nation

The influence of other Languages - A few words were borrowed from Italian and Spanish. Italian loans, which are in connection with war, commerce and arts: fuse, salvo (warfare words), artichoke, felucca (commerce), cupola, fresco, opera (arts). Spanish loanwords are from the territories as the Italian words such as armada, cargo, sherry (commerce or warfare words). Many early words for specifically American things came into the language, due to the explorations of the Spaniards and Portuguese. From the Spanish words cannibal, cockroach, potato, to the Portuguese flamingo, mosquito (also from Spanish). Non-European, via Spanish and Portuguese loanwords had been acquired and became a part of English language: cocoa, banana, hurricane, tobacco, chocolate.

Furthermore the last main source of loanwords came to the language in that period was from the Dutch language. The Netherlands had close commercial contacts with the English, that is why Dutch words appeared like deck, skipper, dock, yacht, brandy, smack, yawl, smuggle, dollar. Faraway languages had also gave some borrowings during the Early Modern English period these are: musk, tiger, scarlet, chador (Persian), lemon, tangerine, sultan, muslin, (Arabic), silk, char (tea), pepper, sugar, curry, bungalow, pajamas (Hindi). The indigenous population also gave some new words. In particular, names of animals, plants and places had been borrowed: raccoon, skunk, coyote, squash, hickory, pecan, moccasin.

Also several nations from Island and Island groups, gave English, words of their own, these are words which only can be found in that area and expresses the lifestyle of that nation: boomerang, kangaroo (Australia), bamboo, taboo, tattoo (Island groups of the Pacific).

The English language during the centuries has been influenced by other different languages. Many of these languages brought their own words and English began to use them. These new words became so popular and frequently used, that a speaker would never really think that this or that word was borrowed from another language.

Table 4

## Borrowings from other Languages

Italian	Spanish	Dutch	Arabic	Australian
<i>fuse</i>	<i>armada</i>	<i>deck</i>	<i>lemon</i>	<i>boomerang</i>
<i>salvo</i>	<i>cargo</i>	<i>skipper</i>	<i>tangerine,</i>	<i>kangaroo</i>
<i>cupola</i>	<i>cannibal</i>	<i>dock</i>	<i>sultan</i>	
<i>fresco</i>	<i>cockroach</i>	<i>yacht</i>	<i>muslin</i>	
<i>opera</i>	<i>potato</i>	<i>brandy</i>		

The Middle English Period is known for the arriving of the French aristocracy. People began to speak French and those, who would like to become somebodies, they would have to assimilate to this change, even though they speak English. This led to a new correlation between social standings and language: the peasants spoke English, the noblemen French. After the Hundred Years War the language had to face many problems, but hopefully it reestablished, by the help of the English literary language.

**Conclusions.** The English language during the centuries has been influenced by other different languages. Many of these languages brought their own words and English began to use them. These new words became so popular and frequently used, that a speaker would never really think that this or that word was borrowed from another language.

The first loanwords were borrowed in the Old English Period. In the Middle English Period the language which became dominant and has highly influenced English was the French language. French words began to replace the English words. However, these French words had the same meaning as the English ones, but it did not suit the noble French men. They would not like to speak on a language which was in their minds, the language of pageants, they “deserved” to have such an elite language like French, which would had been comparable to their lifestyle.

Further on, English continued to borrow from other languages resulting in great popularity of English all over the world. But it no longer continued to be such efficient as before.

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