



## PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS BORROWED FROM OTHER LANGUAGES

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**Abstract.** *This research examines phraseological units borrowed from other languages and their integration into contemporary English. The study analyzes the origins, adaptation processes, and semantic features of borrowed phraseological expressions from various linguistic sources including Latin, French, German, Italian, and other languages. The paper investigates how these borrowed units enrich the English language, their usage patterns in different contexts, and their role in intercultural communication.*

**Key words:** *Phraseological units, borrowed expressions, linguistic borrowing, idioms, phraseology, language contact, semantic adaptation, etymology.*

Phraseological units represent one of the most fascinating aspects of language, embodying cultural wisdom, historical experiences, and collective consciousness of linguistic communities. Borrowed phraseological units occupy a special place in the English language system, reflecting centuries of cultural exchange and linguistic interaction between English and other world languages. The process of borrowing phraseological expressions demonstrates the dynamic nature of language and its ability to absorb foreign elements while maintaining its distinctive character.

The phenomenon of phraseological borrowing differs significantly from simple lexical borrowing. While individual words can be adopted relatively easily, phraseological units carry with them complex semantic structures, cultural



connotations, and stylistic features that must be adapted to the receiving language. This adaptation process involves not only linguistic transformation but also cultural assimilation, making borrowed phraseological units particularly interesting objects of linguistic study.

English, as a global language with extensive historical contacts with numerous linguistic communities, has accumulated a vast repository of borrowed phraseological units. These borrowings came from various sources at different historical periods, each leaving its distinctive mark on the English phraseological system. Understanding these borrowed units provides valuable insights into language history, cultural interactions, and the mechanisms of linguistic change [1;45].

Latin phraseological units constitute the largest and most influential group of borrowed expressions in English. The historical dominance of Latin in European education, science, law, and religion resulted in the adoption of numerous Latin phrases that continue to be used in modern English. Expressions such as ‘ad hoc,’ ‘per se,’ ‘status quo,’ and ‘vice versa’ have become integral parts of English discourse, particularly in formal and academic contexts. These Latin borrowings often maintain their original forms, serving as markers of educational sophistication and precision in expression. The preservation of Latin phraseological units in their original form reflects the enduring prestige of classical education and the perceived precision of Latin expressions. Many of these units function as technical terms in specific fields: ‘habeas corpus’ in law, ‘in vitro’ in science, ‘ex libris’ in bibliography. Their continued use demonstrates how borrowed phraseological units can fill semantic niches in the receiving language, providing concise expressions for complex concepts that might require lengthy explanations in native terms.

French borrowings represent another significant category of phraseological units in English, reflecting the profound influence of French culture and language



following the Norman Conquest. Expressions like ‘déjà vu,’ ‘fait accompli,’ ‘raison d’être,’ and ‘carte blanche’ have been fully integrated into English usage. Unlike Latin borrowings, many French phraseological units have undergone various degrees of anglicization in pronunciation while maintaining their French spelling, creating a distinctive category of borrowed expressions [2;78].

French phraseological borrowings often carry connotations of sophistication, elegance, and cultural refinement. Expressions from French cuisine (‘à la carte,’ ‘hors d’oeuvre’), fashion (‘haute couture,’ ‘prêt-à-porter’), and social interaction (‘tête-à-tête,’ ‘faux pas’) demonstrate how phraseological borrowing accompanies cultural influence. These units enriched English by providing nuanced ways to express concepts related to style, manners, and refined living.

German phraseological units, though less numerous than Latin or French borrowings, have made notable contributions to English, particularly in philosophical, psychological, and cultural discourse. Expressions such as ‘zeitgeist,’ ‘weltanschauung,’ ‘schadenfreude,’ and ‘kindergarten’ reflect German intellectual and cultural influence. These borrowings often denote complex psychological states or philosophical concepts for which English lacks precise equivalents, demonstrating how phraseological borrowing can expand the conceptual range of a language.

Italian contributions to English phraseology reflect Italy’s historical role in music, art, and cuisine. Musical terms like ‘opera buffa,’ ‘prima donna,’ and ‘sotto voce’ originated as technical expressions but have acquired broader metaphorical meanings in English. Culinary expressions such as ‘al dente’ and ‘al fresco’ demonstrate how phraseological borrowing accompanies the adoption of cultural practices. These Italian borrowings add color and specificity to English expression in their respective domains [3;52].



The process of borrowing phraseological units involves several mechanisms. Direct borrowing occurs when a phrase is adopted in its original form with minimal or no modification. This is common with Latin and some French expressions that maintain their original spelling and often their pronunciation. Examples include ‘ad nauseam,’ ‘bona fide,’ and ‘en masse.’ Such borrowings typically serve specific semantic functions and are often used in formal or specialized contexts.

Loan translation, or calquing, represents another borrowing mechanism where the structure and meaning of a foreign phraseological unit are translated literally into English. Expressions like ‘blue blood’ (from Spanish ‘sangre azul’), ‘it goes without saying’ (from French ‘ça va sans dire’), and ‘world view’ (from German ‘Weltanschauung’) exemplify this process. Calques allow foreign phraseological concepts to be expressed in native linguistic forms, facilitating their integration into everyday usage.

Semantic borrowing occurs when an existing English phrase acquires new meanings influenced by foreign phraseological units. This subtle form of borrowing demonstrates how language contact can affect not only vocabulary but also the semantic structure of existing expressions. The enrichment of English through semantic borrowing illustrates the complex ways in which languages influence each other beyond simple word adoption [4;156].

The semantic adaptation of borrowed phraseological units involves interesting transformations. Some expressions maintain their original meanings quite precisely, serving as exact equivalents for concepts in the source language. Others undergo semantic shifts, acquiring new connotations or narrowing or broadening their meanings in English. The phrase ‘esprit de corps,’ for instance, maintains its French meaning of group solidarity but is used more specifically in English contexts than in its original language. Cultural context plays a crucial role in the borrowing and adaptation of phraseological units. Expressions that resonate with English-speaking



cultural values and communicative needs are more likely to be adopted and become established in the language. Conversely, phraseological units that reflect cultural concepts alien to English-speaking societies may remain peripheral, used primarily by educated speakers familiar with the source culture.

The stylistic functions of borrowed phraseological units deserve special attention. Many such expressions carry connotations of formality, education, or sophistication. Their use can signal the speaker's educational background and cultural awareness. In written discourse, borrowed phraseological units often serve to establish an authoritative tone or to demonstrate familiarity with international discourse conventions. This stylistic dimension adds another layer of complexity to the study of phraseological borrowing [5;89].

Spanish and Portuguese phraseological contributions to English reflect the historical and contemporary influence of Hispanic cultures, particularly in American English. Expressions like 'macho,' 'siesta,' 'fiesta,' and 'mañana' have entered English usage, often carrying cultural associations beyond their literal meanings. These borrowings frequently relate to lifestyle concepts, social behaviors, and cultural attitudes, enriching English with expressions that capture distinctive aspects of Hispanic culture.

Asian languages have contributed phraseological units that reflect Eastern philosophy, martial arts, and cultural practices. Japanese expressions like 'karaoke,' 'tsunami,' and 'kamikaze' have become established in English, though some function more as compound words than true phraseological units. Chinese contributions include philosophical concepts like 'yin and yang,' 'kung fu,' and 'feng shui.' These borrowings demonstrate English's openness to absorbing concepts from diverse cultural sources.

The degree of integration of borrowed phraseological units varies considerably. Some expressions become so thoroughly naturalized that speakers may not



recognize their foreign origins. Others maintain obvious foreign characteristics, serving as conscious markers of international influence. Between these extremes lie partially adapted expressions that show various degrees of anglicization in pronunciation, spelling, or usage patterns [6;23].

Contemporary globalization has accelerated the borrowing of phraseological units, with English both receiving and contributing expressions in international discourse. The internet and global media facilitate rapid dissemination of expressions across linguistic boundaries. Modern borrowings often reflect technological, business, or popular culture domains, demonstrating how phraseological borrowing continues to be an active process in language development.

The study of borrowed phraseological units provides valuable insights into language contact phenomena and the mechanisms of linguistic change. It reveals how languages adapt foreign material to fit their own structural patterns and communicative needs. Understanding these processes helps illuminate broader questions about language universals, cultural transmission, and the relationship between language and thought. Teaching borrowed phraseological units presents particular challenges for language education. Learners must understand not only the literal meanings but also the cultural contexts, appropriate usage situations, and stylistic effects of these expressions. The foreign character of some borrowed units can create pronunciation difficulties, while their semantic nuances may be difficult to grasp without cultural knowledge of the source language.

Dictionary treatment of borrowed phraseological units varies widely. Some dictionaries mark foreign expressions explicitly, providing pronunciation guides and etymological information. Others integrate borrowed units without special notation, treating them as fully established elements of English. The lexicographic handling



of these expressions reflects ongoing debates about what constitutes the boundaries of the English language [7;67].

Regional variation in the use of borrowed phraseological units reflects different patterns of language contact and cultural influence. British English tends to favor French and Latin borrowings, reflecting historical ties with continental Europe. American English shows greater influence from Spanish expressions, particularly in regions with significant Hispanic populations. These regional patterns demonstrate how phraseological borrowing responds to local linguistic ecologies.

In conclusion, phraseological units borrowed from other languages constitute a rich and diverse component of the English language. They reflect historical patterns of cultural contact, contemporary globalization processes, and the universal human tendency to adopt useful expressions from other linguistic communities. The study of borrowed phraseological units illuminates fundamental aspects of how languages change, adapt, and enrich themselves through contact with other linguistic systems. Understanding these expressions and their roles in English contributes to broader linguistic knowledge and enhanced communicative competence in an increasingly interconnected world.

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