



## CLASSIFICATIONS OF BORROWINGS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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**Abstract:** *The development of human society is the development of all its constituent cultures and, accordingly, of all languages. Cultures undergo historical development both independently of other cultures and, to a very large extent, in interaction with them. The presented work is devoted to the topic “Classification of borrowings in the English language”. The problem of this study remains relevant in the modern world. This is evidenced by the frequent raising and subsequent study of issues related to language borrowings, which extend their influence to diverse spheres of activity – both of certain generations and of the development of nations as a whole. No language is “pure”; any language contains admixture borrowings. English is no exception. It coexists with words from Latin, French, Italian, Spanish, Chinese, and many other languages. Therefore, the study of this problem has been and will continue to be relevant due to the close connection between language borrowings, the general history of the past, and the prospects for language development in the future.*

**Key words:** *concept of borrowings, French, Latin, Scandinavian, Germanic, West Germanic, Indo-European borrowings.*

Borrowing is a process as a result of which a certain foreign language element appears and becomes fixed in the language; the term also refers to such a foreign language element itself. Borrowing is an integral part of the functioning and historical change of a language, one of the main sources of vocabulary replenishment. It is also a full-fledged element of the language, part of its lexical wealth, serving as a source of new roots, word-building elements, and precise terms. Borrowing in languages is one of the most important factors in their development.



The process of borrowing lies at the very basis of linguistic activity. Sound and formal uniformity within the same language is a consequence of borrowing by some individuals from others; in the same way, elements of the lexicon of one language are borrowed by another language through the interaction of their speakers.

The share of borrowed elements in languages is large, although it is not possible to calculate their exact number due to the constant increase of foreign elements penetrating a language and due to the assimilation process, which makes it difficult to establish the origin of a word.

In each language, the following layers can be distinguished: words inherent to all languages of the same family; words common to a group or subgroup of related languages; native words of a particular language; and borrowed words. In English, this looks as follows:

- Indo-European words (common to many languages): mother, brother, daughter, wolf, meat, hear, hundred, be, stand
  - Germanic words: bear, finger, say, see, white, winter
  - West Germanic words: age, ask, give, love, south
  - Specifically English (Anglo-Saxon words): lady, lord, boy, girl
  - From related languages: knight, low, flat, fellow, sale (from Old Norse); rummer, napper, fitter (from Dutch)
  - From other language systems: Soviet, sputnik, steppe, taiga (from Russian); judo, samurai, sumo (from Japanese); xylophone, epoch, echo (from Greek)
- It is impossible to imagine a language that would not contain foreign borrowings. Thus, in English there are many words that came from Ancient Rome, Greece, Italy, Spain, Germany, and Russia. Many of them have been assimilated and acquired a completely British appearance. Others, despite their outward resemblance, sound according to English pronunciation norms – for example, the German words kindergarten, schnapps, zeppelin or the Russian words tundra, steppe. Most of these borrowings have been assimilated, lost their “national” appearance, and are perceived by the British as native. This applies to phonetic design, stress, and spelling. Borrowings affect vocabulary enrichment differently across languages. In



some languages, they have not had a significant impact on the vocabulary. In others, borrowing in different historical epochs has had such a profound effect that even function words, such as pronouns and prepositions, were borrowed from other languages and replaced original function words.

Borrowed from approximately 50 languages of the world, lexical units make up almost 70% of the vocabulary of the English language. They include layers of vocabulary borrowed in various historical eras under the influence of different historical, geographical, social, economic, cultural, and other conditions of the development and existence of English. Being the result of long-term historical interaction of languages, borrowing as a process and borrowing as a result of this process are of considerable interest for language history. Within this field, detailed attention is given to the causes and source languages of borrowings, the ways, forms, and types of borrowings, as well as the transformations that a borrowed word undergoes in the language that adopted it. First of all, it must be remembered that the source of a borrowing is the language from which the word is taken into the English vocabulary. However, the origin of the word may be different. For example, the source of the borrowing paper is French.

In the 17th century, the bulk of French borrowings were commercial and industrial terms: capital, commerce, insurance, bank, machine, investment, etc. In the 18th century, the political terms of the French Revolution were added: aristocrat, democracy, despot, section, etc. Later, the flow of borrowings from French gradually dried up; the English language now includes only single words from various thematic groups: garage, chauffeur, development, fiancée, etc. [36, p. 16-17]. Latin borrowings of the Middle English and Early New English periods are mainly words of scientific use and abstract nouns: formula, fraction, magnanimity, fatal, jovial, beneficial, vernacular. A large number of examples can be found, in particular, in medical terminology (oculist, osteotomy, etc.) [29, p. 32-33], since the process of their penetration into English is often artificial.

Scandinavian borrowings also largely determined the mixed nature of the English vocabulary. This was greatly facilitated by the direct coexistence of the



British with the Danes in England during the period of Danish rule (10th–11th centuries). Nouns, verbs, and adjectives were borrowed. Their division into thematic groups is difficult due to the great variety; the semantics of most words is of a general nature: husband, fellow, drag, bag, snare, leg, calf, skin, skirt; cast, take, guess; ill, wrong, low and many other words. Contemporary borrowings (21st century additions): In recent decades, the rapid development of digital communication, global media, and international mobility has introduced new waves of borrowings into English. These include words from Japanese (e.g., anime, manga, emoji), from Mandarin Chinese (e.g., guanxi, dim sum, long time no see as a calque), from Hindi (e.g., chai, guru, namaste), and from various African languages via African American Vernacular English (e.g., lit, woke – often re- borrowed or adapted). Additionally, the COVID- 19 pandemic brought terms such as lockdown (often translated as a calque in other languages) and coronavirus into global use. Borrowings are no longer only unidirectional; English itself contributes massively to other languages while continuously absorbing new items, reflecting the interconnected, digital, and multilingual nature of today's world. In the process of writing this thesis, we carefully analyzed borrowed vocabulary from the point of view of its concept and scope of functioning. We also considered various classifications of borrowed vocabulary proposed by experts at different stages of linguistic studies. A significant place in our work is given to the consideration of the sources of borrowings in the English language from a chronological point of view.

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