

RESEARCH ARTICLE	On the Formation of Loanwords in English Language	
Sevinj Ahmadova	Doctor of Philological Sciences	
	Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts	
	Baku, Azerbaijan	
	Email Id: sevinj.ahmadova@admiu.edu.az , https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5650-6807	
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Abstract		
<p>The article explores the formation of loanwords in English language, with a focus on the linguistic, historical, and cultural factors that have shaped the language’s extensive practice of borrowing. Known for its adaptability, English has, over the centuries, incorporated words from numerous languages, reflecting its interactions with diverse cultures through trade, conquest, migration, and globalization. The study examines the mechanisms of loanword integration, including phonological and morphological adaptation, and investigates how these processes have evolved over time. By analyzing examples from Latin, French, German, and non-European languages, the article highlights the impact of linguistic borrowings on the vocabulary, structure, and identity of English. It also sheds light on the role of globalization and technological advancement in enriching modern English with new loanwords, illustrating how the language's openness to linguistic innovation has contributed to its development into a dynamic and globally influential medium.</p> <p>Furthermore, the study addresses factors influencing linguistic borrowing, such as the dominance of certain languages in global affairs and the widespread dissemination of modern technologies. By illuminating these dynamics, the research offers deeper insights into how languages evolve and adapt in response to an increasingly interconnected world.</p>		
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Introduction

English belongs to the Germanic branch, the largest subgroup of the Indo-European language family. Modern Standard English emerged as a result of the linguistic evolution of Germanic tribes that settled in the British Isles. In the first century AD, extensive Celtic-populated regions were invaded by Germanic tribes. From that time onward, Latin began to exert an increasing influence on the local population, primarily through Roman presence and administration (Antonija, Dubravka, Anica, 2022: p. 3406). As a result, the earliest loanwords in English—originating from Latin—began to take shape. It is worth noting that many of the words borrowed from Latin were originally of Greek origin, having first entered Latin before being adopted into English. At present, English contains numerous loanwords from a variety of languages, including French, German, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Greek, Spanish, Arabic, and others. Research indicates that, in contemporary English, approximately 29% of the vocabulary is derived from French, 29% from Latin, 26% from Germanic sources, 6% from Greek, and 6% from various other languages [Zhou, 2016: p. 209].

Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative, descriptive approach to analyse the formation and integration of loanwords in English language. The research draws upon historical linguistics, comparative analysis, as well as lexical studies to explore the linguistic, socio-cultural, and geopolitical factors that have influenced English vocabulary throughout the history. Primary data is derived from etymological dictionaries, such as the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), and academic publications

on language contact and borrowing. Representative loanwords from Latin, French, German, and selected non-European languages were identified and analyzed based on their phonological, morphological, and semantic adaptations.

To better understand the mechanisms of borrowing, the study categorizes loanwords according to their source language, time of entry, and degree of assimilation. Moreover, the research investigates contextual factors—such as colonization, trade, and globalization—that contributed to lexical borrowing.

Stages of Loanword Adoption in English Language

The incorporation of loanwords into English can be divided into several distinct historical phases:

1. The Early Period – This stage is characterized by borrowings from Latin, during the time when Germanic tribes were still settled across Europe. During this period, words borrowed from Latin had largely lost their original form and were adapted to the phonological and morphological systems of early Germanic languages.
2. The Old English Period – During this stage, Germanic tribes such as the Saxons, Angles, and Jutes migrated from northwestern regions of Germany and the territories of Denmark to the British Isles. Over time, the dialects spoken by these tribes blended together, forming the foundation of the Old English language. These dialects bore strong Germanic influences.
3. The Middle English Period – Following William the Conqueror's victory in 1066, French became the dominant language among the ruling class in Britain. Elements of French, particularly from courtly and administrative domains, were widely adopted. However, beginning in the 14th century, English began to reassert its dominance as the primary language of the population.
4. The Early Modern English Period – This phase reflects the influence of the Renaissance on English. As a result, there was a resurgence of Latin and Greek borrowings, particularly in the domains of science, philosophy, and the arts.
5. The Modern English Period – In this stage, the influx of loanwords was primarily associated with industrial and scientific developments. This phenomenon coincided with the expansion of the British Empire and the onset of the Industrial Revolution. During this period, English adopted numerous words from French (e.g., ballet, cachet, chaise longue, chic), Spanish (e.g., armada, alligator, alpaca, barricade, canyon), Italian (e.g., arsenal, espresso, pasta, pizza, umbrella, studio), Dutch (e.g., boom, cruise, dock, keel, pump, leak, yacht), German (e.g., bum, quartz, loafer, noodle, poodle), and Russian (e.g., borscht, tsar, icon) [Huseynova, 2017: p. 124–125].

Loanwords from Latin

The earliest borrowings into English language originated from Latin during the ancient period. Latin's influence on English can be traced back to the Roman conquest of Britain and the subsequent spread of Christianity. However, the degree and nature of Latin's impact on English varied across historical periods. As such, Latin borrowings in English can be categorized into distinct phases. The initial phase corresponds to the arrival of the West Germanic tribes in the British Isles, during which time they adopted certain Latin terms from contact with Roman civilization.

Many Latin-derived words in English were assimilated as units of measurement and weight. For instance, the Old English term *pund* corresponds to the Modern English *pound*, and *ynce* evolved into *inch*. These forms are derived from the Latin words *pondo* and *uncia*, respectively [Öhmədova, Mehtiyeva, 2018: p. 151].

Latin loanwords in English may generally be grouped into two primary categories: (1) those related to religion, and (2) those pertaining to science. Additional borrowings include terms associated with various abstract concepts and notions drawn from Latin literature. The total number of Latin loanwords in English is estimated to be around 500, of which approximately 400 are attributed to the third historical phase of borrowing. Representative examples of such loanwords include the following:

Latin	Old English	Modern English
schola	scol	school
pondo	pund	pound
vinum	win	wine
strata (via)	stræt	street
episcopus	bisceop	bishop

Loanwords from French

The majority of French-origin words entered English language during the middle Ages. However, some researchers argue that these borrowings may date back to even earlier periods. One of the main difficulties in distinguishing French borrowings from Latin ones lies in the minimal phonetic and orthographic differences between the two, which often makes clear differentiation challenging [Huseynova, 2017: p. 123]. Loanwords from French can be categorized as follows:

- Legal and administrative terms: attorney, chancellor, country, court, crime, evidence, jail, judge, prison, state, tax, govern, crown, royal, parliament.
- Religious vocabulary: abbot, chapter, prayer, priest, religion, saint, sermon.
- Titles of nobility and rank: baron, count, duke, prince, viscount, noble, royal.
- Military-related terms: army, artillery, battle, captain, defense, enemy, navy, sergeant.

- Culinary and food-related words: beef, boil, butcher, dine, fry, mutton, pork, roast, salmon, stew, jelly, tart, appetite, sugar.
- Cultural and artistic terms: art, bracelet, claret, dance, diamond, fashion, fur, jewel, oboe, painting, satin, ruby, sculpture, grammar, beauty.
- Other general vocabulary: adventure, change, charge, fruit, letter, literature, magic, male, female, mirror, pilgrimage, proud, question, regard, couch, special, and others [Rao, 2018: p. 4–5].

Loanwords from German

Given that both English and German belong to the West Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family, a substantial number of German-origin words have been incorporated into Modern English. These borrowings reflect not only linguistic interaction but also shared cultural and philosophical heritage between the two languages. Examples of German loanwords in English include: kindergarten, neanderthal, schnitzel, iceberg, flak, strudel, noodle, pretzel, seminar, über, diktat, blitzkrieg.

Many of these terms are domestic or everyday in nature and demonstrate the cultural proximity between English and German-speaking communities. Additionally, certain lexical borrowings, such as seminar or diktat, point to academic and philosophical influences shared between the two traditions [Zamanova, 2024: p. 22].

Loanwords from Hindi

During the 19th century, following the colonization of the Indian subcontinent, a significant number of lexical items from various Indo-Aryan languages entered English language. These borrowings reflect the deep sociopolitical and cultural contact established during British colonial rule. Examples of Hindi loanwords in English include: pyjama, poori, Aryan, shampoo, punch, avatar, cheetah, dharma, bandana, jungle, typhoon, bamboo, mango, bandicoot, clay.

These terms illustrate how linguistic borrowing can serve as a means of cultural transmission. For instance, words such as dharma and avatar reflect religious and philosophical concepts, while pyjama and shampoo relate to everyday lifestyle practices. The integration of these words highlights the colonial-era expansion of English and its ability to absorb lexical items from diverse linguistic environments.

Loanwords from Italian and Spanish

Many words in English come from Italian and Spanish, reflecting the rich cultural and historical influence these languages have had worldwide. Italian contributions are often related to music, food, and art, while Spanish loanwords frequently relate to food, nature, and social customs. Examples of Italian and Spanish loanwords in English include: pizza, piano, solo, concerto, casino, espresso, pasta, balcony, tempo, finale, macaroni, trombone, banana, guitar, barbecue, vanilla, cocoa, siesta, mosquito, chocolate, comrade.

Loanwords from Arabic

Arabic has contributed many words to various languages, especially through cultural, scientific, and trade exchanges over centuries. Many borrowed terms relate to governance, religion, mathematics, and everyday life. Examples of Arabic loanwords in English include: gal, emir, kebab, imam, sultan, minaret, hijab, vizier, bazaar, harem, cotton, zero, algebra, algorithm, safari.

Loanwords from Japanese and Chinese

Japanese and Chinese languages have introduced many unique words into English, often related to culture, art, and nature. These loanwords enrich English by offering insights into Asian traditions, customs, and innovations, such as: bonsai, kamikaze, tsunami, geisha, karate, karaoke, tycoon, wasabi, judo, kimono, origami, emoji, hara-kiri, sushi, ginkgo.

Extralinguistic Factors Influencing the Enrichment of English Language

Among the extralinguistic factors affecting the enrichment of modern English, inventions and discoveries in various fields of science can be particularly highlighted. In the 20th and 21st centuries, as a result of technological progress and the widespread use of the Internet, a scientific revolution occurred. The globalization process and integration among nations expanded further due to the world population's use of the Internet. This, in turn, led to a deepening of interlingual relations. Extralinguistic factors are external influences that enrich the terminological systems of languages with new concepts [Məmmədova, 2019: p. 127]. Various factors contributed to the emergence of new expressions and words in literary languages. Among these, the following can be specifically noted:

- The formation of words through lexical means;
- The formation of words through morphological means;
- The formation of words through semantic means;
- The formation of words through syntactic means [Fərhadlı, 2018: p. 108].

In the process of word formation in English and other languages, each of these methods has historically been closely connected and interrelated.

The Role of Borrowed Affixes in the Enrichment of English Language

New units are created as a result of the combination of affixes with the root of a word. Affixes have been the most productive word-forming tools in the history of the development of English language. Affixes can be divided into two categories: 1) suffixes and 2) prefixes. Currently, 386 prefixes and 322 suffixes are used in English [Əzizli, 2017: p. 111]. Many of these affixes possess strong word-formation power. Among word-formation tools, prefixes hold particular importance. According to their meaning, prefixes can be classified into the following groups:

1. Those indicating the direction of movement;
2. Those indicating the type, occurrence, or existence of an action [Kazımova, 2018: p. 161].

The borrowed affixes that have entered English include the following:

- age (Romance): This suffix expresses an action and its result. For example: coverage, leakage, spillage.
- al (Latin): This suffix converts verbs into nouns. For example: arrival, recital, referral, renewal.
- ant (French): Words formed with this suffix include: attractant, etchant, suppressant.
- eer (Latin): This is a noun-forming suffix. For example: auctioneer, budgeteer, cameleer, pamphleteer.
- ess (Latin): This suffix mainly denotes female entities. For example: princess, lioness, tigress, waitress.
- ism (Greek): This suffix forms abstract nouns from nouns and adjectives. For example: blondism, Marxism, revisionism, conservatism.
- en (German): blacken, broaden, quicken, ripen, strengthen, lengthen.
- ify (French): humidify, solidify.
- al (Latin): accidental, colonial, cultural, federal, modal.

Examples of prefixes include -a (Latin), -de (Romance), -mis (German), among others [Əzizli, 2017: p. 113-114]. The majority of borrowed affixes are of Romance origin. A large proportion of words in English are formed through the use of suffixes and prefixes.

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