

BORROWINGS IN ENGLISH FROM EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

Spheres of Application of Borrowings from German and Dutch

Olga COVALIOV, lector superior

Rezumat

În acest articol autoarea abordează tema cuvintelor împrumutate, care este un fenomen caracteristic pentru toate limbile și care au fost întotdeauna o sursă importantă de dezvoltare a vocabularului limbii engleze. Unele cuvinte împrumutate se numesc articole și fenomene noi, altele înlocuiesc concepte deja cunoscute de către omologii lor străini, care, mai târziu, au devenit neclare din cauza asimilării lor cu cuvintele native.

In contrast to French, Spanish and Italian, German and Dutch are the languages of the Germanic group as well as English. Thus, the borrowings from these languages are closer to English in grammatical structure and sounding than words from Romance languages.

The first borrowings from German date to „the 16th century and the process continues till our days” [4, p. 106]. The majority of the borrowed words refer to those branches of science and technique that have been developed in Germany.

German borrowings are connected mainly with mining and are represented by the following words that denote newly - discovered metals and minerals: *zinc, cobalt, gneiss, shale*, etc.

German borrowings process was more developed in the 19th century. Coleridge and Carlyle contributed to the appearance of new terms mainly of the so-called loan – translations. Here we can mention the following words:

„Class struggle – *Klassenkampf*

Dictatorship of the proletariat - *Diktatur des Proletariats*

World market – *Weltmarkt*

Masterpiece – *Meisterstück*” [3, p. 32].

The development of new philosophical ideas of Kant, Nietzsche contributed to the introduction of new words in English as, for example, dynamism, transcendental, etc. „The word that is very famous nowadays Superman is also a loan – translation from the German *Ueberschensch.*. The earlier translation of this word are quite interesting: *beyond – man* and *overman*” [2, p. 107].

Development of the medicine, chemistry, and physics led to the introduction of new words.

Medicine: *aspirin, heroin, inferiority, complex, psychoanalysis, Roentgen – rays.*

Physics: *relativity, ohm.*

Chemistry: *ether, molecule, aniline, cadmium saccharine.*

Quite abundant are words that refer to foods as *sauerkraut, noodle frankfurter, schnitzel, hamburger*, etc.

There were borrowed some words pertaining to the mountaineering: *alpenstock, alpinism* and *rucksack*.

Other words that cannot be grouped into specific fields of activity are *kindergarten, seminar, swindler, carouse*, etc.

These borrowings refer to the earlier of the relations between the two countries. Recent borrowings are *Blitzkrieg, fuhrer, Gestapo, Nazi*, etc.

Dutch borrowings. Dutch had not so great impact on the English language as the languages mentioned above. “It made abundant contribution to English, particularly in the 15th and 16th centuries, when commercial relations between England and the Netherlands were at their peak” [5, p. 312]. Borrowings from Dutch may be divided into the following groups:

- the first group includes words connected with painting: *easel, landscape* and *sketch*;
- the second group represents the words that refer to ships

and sea.

This group is quite abundant and includes the most important borrowings as *yacht, schooner, bowsprit, reef, cruise, skipper, freight, iceberg, dock, deck, commodore, buoy, pump*, etc.;

- the third group includes words referring to military service: *onslaught, drill, knapsack* and *blunderbuss*;

- the fourth group unites words connected with the most well – developed industry of Holland – wool trade: *pack, spool, stripe, scour*.

Such words as *Santa Claus, sleigh, waffle, cookie, boss* and even *dollar* are of Dutch origin, „*Yankee*, the most famous word in the world that defines Americans is also from Dutch. It is supposed that this word comes from *Jan Kees* a Dutch derisive nickname for the English” [1, p. 49]. In spite the fact that these words are considered to be Americanisms, they are of Dutch origin.

„The Dutch of South Africa contributed some words into English as *baobab, commandeer, apartheid, commando, trek*, etc.” [6, p. 52].

As we may see, the influence of these languages was not so great in comparison with French, Italian and Spanish. While the latter contributed words that are used in the everyday speech, borrowings from Dutch and German are mostly terms and are used only in special fields of activity as, for example, navy or physics. However, other words as those pertaining to foods or office (*the word boss*), holidays (*Santa Claus*) are widely used not only in America or Great Britain but also in other languages as well.

Bibliography

1. Marckwardt, A. H., *American English*, Oxford University Press, New-York, 1958, p. 49.
2. Pei, Mario, *The Story of English: the Past, the Present, the Future*. London: ed. George Allen, 1953, p. 107.
3. Rayevskaya, N., *English Lexicology*, 2nd ed. Rev., Радянська школа, Kiev, 1961, p. 32.
4. Orembovskaya, M. and others, *English Lexicology*, Tbilisi, Tsodna, 1964. p. 106
5. Rastorguyeva, T. A., *History of English*, Высшая школа, Moscow, 1983, p. 312.
6. Torben, Kisbye, *A Short History of the English Language*. Ed. Knud Sorersen – Aarhus: Aarhus University Press, 1992, p. 52.