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**FRENCH BORROWINGS IN THE MODERN ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

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**Abstract**

*An international vocabulary in any language changes due to the development of economy, science, education etc. Everything depends on time. The same is in English. The purpose of our research work is to study French borrowings in the modern English language.*

*Keywords: Etymological survey, word-stock, borrowings, French borrowings.*

**Introduction**

Actuality of the work: In the years of independence, special attention is paid to augmenting the younger generation's intellectual potential, to popularizing reading and to forming book-reading culture among young people and to stepping up the provision of educational, enlightening and scientific literature to educational establishments.

The President's decree dated 12 January 2017 "On establishing a commission for the popularization of reading and the raising of book-reading culture and for the development of the system of publication and distribution of books" was an important step towards raising the scale of work in this sphere to a new level<sup>1</sup>.

A foreign language is not just a subject learnt in the classroom... it is something which is used for communication by real people in real situations. We live in Uzbekistan and our native language is Uzbek. Almost all the words are native in our language. But some of them are borrowed from other languages, though they got their meanings, spelling, according to the Belarusian language. I have been learning English since the first form, so English is the third language in which I can communicate a little. Since the sixth form, I began to study German, comparing pronunciations of the words, grammar rules and spelling and it became easier for me to learn these languages. And I am sure that it is easier to learn several languages comparing them.

Last year, I took part in the course work and I got a deeper knowledge of borrowings in English language. And this year, I decided to deepen my knowledge in this theme too. So today, we would like to present to you more information about borrowings in English language. This theme sounds interesting for us and we guess you will be interested in it too.

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An international vocabulary in any language changes due to the development of economy, science, education etc. Everything depends on time. The same is in English. The purpose of our research work is to study French borrowings in the modern English language.

The purpose has defined the following tasks.

1. Try to highlight the oldest words borrowed from French.
2. Compare unique domination of widespread languages in a certain epoch.
3. Show that English is now the most widespread of the world's languages.
4. Discern the influence of the French language in the early modern period.
5. Compare the sound of "Norman English" of the middle ages and the modern variant.

Practical significance of the results of investigation consists in the fact that they can be used in:

1. In teaching English for Uzbek and Russian students.
2. In compiling practical courses of English.
3. In compiling bilingual dictionaries.
4. In writing lectures on lexicology and theory of translation.

Investigations have been carried out on a vast language material based on lexicographic sources. We used mainly monolingual, bilingual and encyclopaedic dictionaries.

**MAIN PART. Etymological survey of the word-stock of a language:** Etymologically, the vocabulary of any language consists of two groups – the native words and the borrowed words. E.g., in its 15 century long history recorded in written manuscripts, the English language happened to come in long and close contact with several other languages mainly Latin, French and Old Norse (or Scandinavian). The etymological linguistic analysis showed that the borrowed stock of words is larger than the native stock of words. Uzbek language, as well as English has been in long and close touch with other languages, mainly Arabic, Persian, and Russian.

A native word is a word which belongs to the original stock. An English native word is a word which belongs to Anglo-Saxon origin. To the native words, we include words from Common Germanic language and from Indo-European stock.

A borrowed word, a loan word or borrowing is a word taken over from another language and modified in phonemic shape, spelling, paradigm or meaning according to the standards of the language.

The native words in English are further subdivided by diachronic linguistics into those of the Indo-European stock and those of Common Germanic origin. The native words of Uzbek language belongs to Turkic language family, the origin of which is based on Altay-Yenisey manuscripts. It has been noticed that native words readily fall into definite semantic groups. Among them we find terms of kinship: father ота, mother она, son угил, daughter киз, brother акаетс; words naming the most important objects and phenomena of nature: Sun кۈёш, moon ой, star юлдуз, wind шамол, water сув; names of animals and birds: bull хукиз, cat мушук, goose роз; parts of human body: arm кул, ear кулок, eye кۈз, heart – юрак

Words belonging to the subsets of the native word – stock are for the most part characterized by a wide range of lexical and grammatical valency, high frequency value and a developed polysemy; they are often monosyllabic, show great word – building power and enter a number of set expressions, e. g., watch DE Weccan is one of the 500 most frequent English

words. It may be used as a verb in more than ten different sentence patterns, with or without object and adverbial modifiers and combined with different classes of words.

**Major Periods of Borrowing.** *Loan-words* are words adopted by the speakers of one language from a different language (the *source language*). A loanword can also be called a *borrowing*. The abstract noun *borrowing* refers to the process of speakers adopting words from a source language into their native language. "Loan" and "borrowing" are of course metaphors, because there is no literal lending process. There is no transfer from one language to another, and no "returning" words to the source language<sup>2</sup>. The words simply come to be used by a speech community that speaks a different language from the one these words originated in.

Borrowing is a consequence of cultural contact between two language communities. Borrowing of words can go in both directions between the two languages in contact, but often there is an asymmetry, such that more words go from one side to the other. In this case, the source language community has some advantage of power, prestige and/or wealth that makes the objects and ideas it brings desirable and useful to the borrowing language community. For example, the Germanic tribes in the first few centuries A.D. adopted numerous loanwords from Latin as they adopted new products via trade with the Romans. Few Germanic words, on the other hand, passed into Latin.

The actual process of borrowing is complex and involves many usage events (i.e. instances of use of the new word). Generally, some speakers of the borrowing language know the source language too, or at least enough of it to utilize the relevant word. They (often consciously) adopt the new word when speaking the borrowing language, because it most exactly fits the idea they are trying to express. If they are bilingual in the source language, which is often the case, they might pronounce the words the same or similar to the way they are pronounced in the source language. For example, English speakers adopted the word *garage* from French, at first with a pronunciation nearer to the French pronunciation than is now usually found. Presumably the very first speakers who used the word in English knew at least some French and heard the word used by French speakers, in a French-speaking context.

Those who first use the new word might use it at first only with speakers of the source language who know the word, but at some point they come to use the word with those to whom the word was not previously known. To these speakers the word may sound 'foreign'. At this stage, when most speakers do not know the word and if they hear it think it is from another language, the word can be called a *foreign word*. There are many foreign words and phrases used in English such as *bon vivant* (French), *mutatis mutandis* (Latin), and *Fahrvergnuegen* (German).

However, in time more speakers can become familiar with a new foreign word or expression. The community of users of this word can grow to the point where even people who know little or nothing of the source language understand, and even use, the novel word themselves. The new word becomes *conventionalized*: part of the conventional ways of speaking in the borrowing language. At this point we call it a borrowing or loanword. (It should be noted that not all foreign words do become loanwords; if they fall out of use before they become widespread, they do not reach the loanword stage.)

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Conventionalization is a gradual process in which a word progressively permeates a larger and larger speech community, becoming part of ever more people's linguistic repertoire. As part of its becoming more familiar to more people, a newly borrowed word gradually adopts sound and other characteristics of the borrowing language as speakers who do not know the source language accommodate it to their own linguistic systems. In time, people in the borrowing community do not perceive the word as a loanword at all. Generally, the longer a borrowed word has been in the language, and the more frequently it is used, the more it resembles the native words of the language.

English has gone through many periods in which large numbers of words from a particular language were borrowed. These periods coincide with times of major cultural contact between English speakers and those speaking other languages. The waves of borrowing during periods of especially strong cultural contacts are not sharply delimited, and can overlap. For example, the Norse influence on English began already in the 8th century A.D. and continued strongly well after the Norman Conquest brought a large influx of Norman French to the language.

It is part of the cultural history of English speakers that they have always adopted loanwords from the languages of whatever cultures they have come in contact with. There have been few periods when borrowing became unfashionable, and there has never been a national academy in Britain, the U.S., or other English-speaking countries to attempt to restrict new loanwords, as there has been in many continental European countries.

The following list is a small sampling of the loanwords that came into English in different periods and from different languages.

**Borrowed words, kinds of borrowed words.** Borrowed words are words taken over from other languages. Many linguists consider foreign influence as playing the most important role in the history of any language. But the grammar and phonetic system are very stable and are not often influenced by other languages.

For example, in its 15 century long history recorded in written manuscripts, the English language happened to come in long and close contact with several other languages mainly Latin, French and Old Norse. The great influx of borrowings from these sources can be accounted for by a number of historical causes. Due to the great influence of the Roman civilization, Latin was for a long time used in England as the language of learning and religion. Old Norse was the language of the conquerors who were on the same level of social and cultural development and who nudged rather easily with the local population in the 9th, 10th and the first half of the 11th century.

French (Norman dialect) was the language of the other conquerors who brought with them a lot of new nations of a higher social system which developed feudalism. It was the language of the upper classes, of official documents and school instruction from the middle of the 11th century to the end of the 14th century. In the Middle English period, there was an influx of loans. It is often contended that since the Norman Conquest<sup>3</sup> borrowing has been the chief factor in the enrichment of the English vocabulary and as a result, there was a sharp decline in the productivity and role of word-formation.

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Uzbek language also developed under the influence of Persian, Arabic and later Russian languages. Persian language spread in our territory in 500–300BC, since that time, peoples of Central Asia have been in close contact with Iran, the birthplace of Persian language. Till 15th century, it was «Fashion» and desirable to write poems and prosaic works in Persian, though old Turkic language was also used among nations mainly by ordinary people. In the VII century, Arabs conquered Central Asia, carrying their religion and language to the peoples. Thus, Arabic language was predominant till XI–XII centuries. Books were written in Arabic language too, e.g. outstanding scientists and scholars Avicenna (Ibn Sina), Farabi, Beruni created their works in Arabic language. Only in XV century, Alisher Navoi, great writer and statesman proved the beauty and importance of the Turkic language, starting to write his best masterpieces in this language, though he knew Persian and Arabic languages very well.

And starting with XVIII century, Uzbek language was under the influence of Russian language. In the study of the borrowed element in English, the main emphasis is as a ruled placed on the middle English period and in Uzbek, it is middle Turkic language. French (Norman dialect) was the language of the other conquerors who brought with them a lot of new notions of a higher social system and who developed feudalism. It was the language of upper classes, of official documents and school. The same is in Uzbek language. Due to the expansion of Islam religion, Arabic was used for centuries in Central Asia as the language of science and religion. For about two centuries, Russian language held a dominant position in the nations of former Soviet Union. It was priority to know Russian and it was a language of communication and friendship. These factors are extra-linguistic ones.

Borrowings of later periods became the object of investigation only in recent years. These investigations have shown that the flow of borrowings has been steady and uninterrupted. They refer to various fields of social – political, scientific and cultural life. A large portion of them (41%) is scientific and technical terms.

When we speak about the role of native and borrowed words in the language, we must not take into consideration only the number of them but their semantic, stylistic character, their word building ability, frequency value, collocability (valency) and the productivity of their word-building patterns.

If we approach the study of the role of native and borrowed words from this point of view, we see, though the native words are not numerous, they play an important role in the English and Uzbek languages. They have value, great word – forming power, wide collocability, high frequency, many meanings and they are stylistically neutral. Almost all words of native origin belong to very important semantic groups. The number and character of the borrowed words tell us of the relations between the peoples, the level of their culture, etc. It is for this reason that borrowings have often been called the milestones of history.

The well-known linguist, Shuchard said ‘No language is entirely pure’, that all the languages are mixed.

It must be pointed out that while the general historical reasons for borrowing from different languages have been studied with a considerable degree, the purely linguistic reasons for borrowings are still open to investigation. The number and character of borrowings do not

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only depend on the historical conditions, on the nature and length of the contacts, but also on the degree of the genetic and structural proximity of languages concerned. The closer the languages, the deeper and more versatile is the influence.

Borrowed words enter the language as a result of influence of two main causes or factors: linguistic and extra-linguistic. Economic, cultural, industrial, political relations of speakers of the language with other countries refer to extra-linguistic factors.

For example, due to the great influence of the Roman civilization, Latin was for a long time used in England as the language of learning and religion. Old Norse of the Scandinavian tribes was the language of the conquerors. French (Norman dialect) was the language of the other conquerors that brought with them a lot of new notions of a higher social system and developed feudalism. It was the language of upper classes, of official documents and school. The same is in Uzbek language. Due to the expansion of Islam religion, Arabic was used for centuries in Central Asia as the language of science and religion. For about two centuries, Russian language held a dominant position in the nations of former Soviet Union. It was priority to know Russian and it was a language of communication and friendship. These factors are extra-linguistic ones.

The absence of equivalent words in the language to express new subjects or a phenomena makes people to borrow words. E.g. the words football, volleyball, pitchman in Uzbek; to economize the linguistic means, i.e. to use a foreign word instead of long native expressions and others are called linguistic causes. The closer the two interacting languages are in structure, the easier it is for words of one language to penetrate into the other.

Borrowings enter the language in two ways through oral speech (by immediate contact between the people) and through written speech by indirect contact through books). Words borrowed orally are usually short and they undergo more changes in the act of adopter. Written borrowings are often rather long and they are unknown to many people, speaking the language.

We distinguish translation loans, borrowings proper and semantic loans. Translation loans are words and expressions formed from the material already existing in the language but according to patterns taken from another language by way of literal morpheme – for – morpheme translation, e.g. wall-newspaper – деворийгазета.

The term ‘semantic loan’ is used to denote the development in a word of a new meaning due to the influence of a related word in another language. The English word pioneer meant ‘explorer’ and ‘one who is among the first in new fields of activity’ now under the influence of the Russian word ‘Пионер’ it has come to mean ‘a member of the Young Pioneers’ Organization’

Borrowings proper are words which are taken from another language with their sound graphic forms and their meaning.

**The influence of French on the English spelling.** The largest group of borrowings are French borrowings. Most of them came into English during the Norman Conquest. French influenced not only the vocabulary of English but also its spelling, because French scribes wrote documents as the local population was mainly illiterate, and the ruling class was French. Runic letters remaining in English after the Latin alphabet was borrowed were substituted by Latin

letters and combinations of letters, e.g. «v» was introduced for the voiced consonant /v/ instead of «f» in the intervocal position /lufian - love/, the digraph «ch» was introduced to denote the sound /ch/ instead of the letter «c» / chest/ before front vowels where it had been palatalized.

The digraph «sh» was introduced instead of the combination «sc» to denote the sound /sh/ /ship/, the digraph «th» was introduced instead of the Runic letters «0» and « » /this, thing/, the letter «y» was introduced instead of the Runic letter «3» to denote the sound /j/ /yet/, the digraph «qu» substituted the combination «cw» to denote the combination of sounds /kw/ /queen/, the digraph «ou» was introduced to denote the sound /u:/ /house/ (The sound /u:/ was later on diphthongized and is pronounced /au/ in native words and fully assimilated borrowings). As it was difficult for French scribes to copy English texts, they substituted the letter «u» before «v», «m», «n» and the digraph «th» by the letter «o» to escape the combination of many vertical lines /«sunu» - «son», luvu» - «love»/.

**Borrowing of French words: There are the following semantic groups of French borrowings:**

- a) words relating to government : administer, empire, state, government;
- b) words relating to military affairs: army, war, banner, soldier, battle;
- c) words relating to jury: advocate, petition, inquest, sentence, barrister;
- d) words relating to fashion: luxury, coat, collar, lace, pleat, embroidery;
- e) words relating to jewelry: topaz, emerald, ruby, pearl ;
- f) words relating to food and cooking: lunch, dinner, appetite, to roast, to stew.

**Words were borrowed from French into English after 1650, mainly through French literature, but they were not as numerous and many of them are not completely assimilated. There are the following semantic groups of these borrowings:**

- a) words relating to literature and music: belle-lettres, conservatoire, brochure, nuance, pirouette, vaudeville;
- b) words relating to military affairs: corps, echelon, fuselage, manouvre;
- c) words relating to buildings and furniture: entresol, chateau, bureau;
- d) words relating to food and cooking: ragout, cuisine.

English is a Germanic Language of the Indo-European Family. It is the second most spoken language in the world. It is estimated that there are 300 million native speakers and 300 million who use English as a second language and a further 100 million use it as a foreign language. It is the language of science, aviation, computing, diplomacy, and tourism. It is listed as the official or co-official language of over 45 countries and is spoken extensively in other countries where it has no official status.

This domination is unique in history. English is on its way to becoming the world's unofficial international language. Mandarin (Chinese) is spoken by more people, but English is now the most widespread of the world's languages. Half of all business deals are conducted in English. Two thirds of all scientific papers are written in English. Over 70% of all post / mail is written and addressed in English. Most international tourism, aviation and diplomacy are conducted in English.

English contains many words from Norman French, brought to England during the 11th century Norman Conquest. In 1066, the Normans conquered Britain. French became the language of the Norman aristocracy and added more vocabulary to English. More pairs of similar words arose.

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**Table 1. French-English bilinguism French - English**

close shut  
reply answer  
odour smell  
annual yearly  
demand ask  
chamber room  
desire wish  
power might  
ire wrath / anger

Because the English underclass cooked for the Norman upper class, the words for most domestic animals are English (ox, cow, calf, sheep, swine, deer) while the words for the meats derived from them are French (beef, veal, mutton, pork, bacon, venison).

The Germanic form of plurals (house, housen; shoe, shoen) was eventually displaced by the French method of making plurals: adding an s (house, houses; shoe, shoes). Only a few words have retained their Germanic plurals: men, oxen, feet, teeth, children.

It wasn't till the 14th Century that English became dominant in Britain again. In 1399, King Henry IV became the first king of England since the Norman Conquest whose mother tongue was English. By the end of the 14th Century, the dialect of London had emerged as the standard dialect of what we now call Middle English. Chaucer wrote in this language.

Modern English began around the 16th Century and, like all languages, is still changing. One change occurred when the suffix of some verb forms became s (loveth, loves; hath, has). Auxiliary verbs also changed (he is risen, he has risen).

Norman French is the 11th century language of France and England. It is an Indo-European language.

In 1066, the Norman king, William the Conqueror, invaded England. Many Norman French words entered the language after this. In general, the Normans were the nobility, while the native English were their servants. The names of domestic animals and their meats show this relationship. The animal name is English ("cow", "sheep", "pig") while the names of the meats derived from these animals is French ("beef", "mutton", "pork").

**Table 2. English - A Historical Summary**

Many words have been borrowed from Norman French. These can be grouped into several types:

Legal terms ("adultery", "slander"),  
Military words ("surrender", "occupy"),  
Names of meats ("bacon", "venison"),  
Words from the royal court ("chivalry", "majesty").

The non-metric unit of volume (the "gallon") is Norman French. There are many other words. The Normans introduced the QU spelling for words containing KW ("question").

**Table 3. Norman French chronology**

· 1334-1453: The Hundred Years' War with France.



- 1348-9: The Black Death. 30% mortality. Labour shortage, wage rises, increasing importance of the English-speaking classes
- 1386: English accepted in the courts ('Statute of Pleading')
- Two major English poets at the end of the 14th century:  
Gower writes mostly in French (but composes one long work *Confessio amantis*, in English)
- Chaucer writes almost entirely in English.
- Evidence of private letters:
- 1350: French is the rule.
- After 1400: English becomes common.
- After 1450: English is the rule.
- Use of English in schools.

The influence of French on English in the early modern period

### **Influence on English phrasing**

Aside from borrowing and word formation, French considerably influenced English phrasing. The loan translations range from polite turns of speech, such as *at your service*, *do me the favour*, *to engage somebody in a quarrel*, *to make (later: pay) a visit*, to idiomatic phrases like *by occasion*, *in detail*, *in favour of*, *in the last resort*, *in particular*, *to the contrary*.

### **ME pronunciation**

The English language of the middle ages is different from the modern one. Here are two extracts from Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* to compare:

From the General Prologue  
 Whan that April with his showres soote  
 The droughte of March hath perced to the roote,  
 And bathed every veine in swich licour,  
 Of which vertu engendred is the flour;

Whan Zephyrus eek with his sweetebreeth  
 Inspired hath in every holt and heeth  
 The tendrecropes, and the yongesonne  
 Hath in the Ram his halve coursyronne,  
 And smale fowles maken melodye  
 That sleepen al the night with open yul -  
 (So priketh hem Nature in hir corages) -  
 Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages,  
 And palmeres for to seken  
 straungestrondes to ferne halwes,  
 couthe in sondry londes;

And specially from every shires ende  
 Of Engelond to Canterbury they wende,  
 The holy blisful martyr for to seeke,  
 That hem hath holpen whan that they were seke.

The Wife of Baths Prologue and Tale from *The Canterbury Tales*, by Geoffrey Chaucer, performed by Elizabeth Salter, from *Geoffrey Chaucer: The Wife of Prologue and Tale* (Cambridge University Press ISBN 0521635306) (p) 1976, 1998 Cambridge University Press. All Rights Reserved. /© Microsoft Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

### **Conclusion**

Language belongs to each of us. Everyone uses words. What is there in a language that makes people so curious? The answer is that there is almost nothing in our life that is not touched by language. We all speak and we all listen so we are all interested in the origin of words, in how they appear and die. Nowadays 750 million people all over the world use English. It has become the language of the planet.

Most of words are the same, but there are some differences. For example in Middle English *ynogh* is enough in modern English; *longe* is long; *agoon* is ago and so on, but they are a little bit similar in writing, so it is not very difficult to understand them.

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Though the number of French loans in the modern period is relatively minor in comparison to Middle English, the contribution is most important. The French Loans were primarily borrowed to provide richness to the language. Whilst it was arguable during the Restoration whether the loans were corrupting or enriching the language, today there is no doubt or disputable grounds to argue that the loans did nothing but enrich the English language.

The borrowing of vocabulary is rapprochement of nations on the ground of economic, political and cultural connections. The bright example of it can be numerous French borrowings to English language. Attempts to continue borrowings in 20th century did not have special success because language became more independent.

In my opinion, we managed to study the problems of French borrowings in the English language. We understood possible ways of penetrating French words in the English language, we have seen difference ways of difference types of borrowings. In spite of arrival of the words from different languages into the English vocabulary, the English Language did not suffer from large flow of foreign elements.

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