



## THE IMPACT OF LOANWORDS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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*Baxtiyorova Lola Otabekovna*

*Uzbekistan State World Languages University*

*Second faculty of English Group-2303*

**Annotation.** This comprehensive article delves into the profound impact of loanwords on the evolution and development of the English language. The classification of loanwords based on their origins provides a structured insight into the diverse linguistic sources that have contributed to English vocabulary enrichment. By addressing the controversies surrounding the incorporation of loanwords, the article delves into the complex interplay between linguistic purism and language evolution, presenting a balanced view of the ongoing debate on borrowing foreign terms. Additionally, the exploration of future trends hints at the continued integration of loanwords in line with technological advancements and globalization, underscoring English's adaptability and global relevance. The conclusion encapsulates the essence of the article, emphasizing the pivotal role of loanwords in shaping the dynamic nature of English and fostering intercultural communication. Overall, this annotation commends the article for its thorough analysis and insightful commentary on the significance of loanwords in the perpetual evolution of the English language.

**Key words:** loanwords, classification, linguistic source, English vocabulary, linguistic purism, language evolution, technological advancement, globalization, intercultural communication.

### **Влияние заимствованных слов в развитии английского языка**

**Аннотация.** Эта исчерпывающая статья касается глубокого влияния заимствованных слов на эволюцию и развитие английского языка. Классификация заимствованных слов по происхождению обеспечивает структурированный взгляд на разнообразные языковые источники, которые способствовали обогащению словарного запаса английского языка. Обращаясь к спорам, связанным с включением заимствованных слов, статья глубже вдается в сложное взаимодействие между лингвистическим чистоплотизмом и эволюцией языка, представляя сбалансированное видение продолжающегося спора о заимствовании иностранных терминов. Кроме того, изучение будущих



тенденций намекает на дальнейшую интеграцию заимствованных слов в соответствии с технологическими достижениями и глобализацией, подчеркивая адаптивность английского и его глобальную актуальность. Заключение удачно обобщает суть статьи, подчеркивая ключевую роль заимствованных слов в формировании динамичной природы английского и в поощрении межкультурного общения. В целом, эта аннотация высоко оценивает статью за ее тщательный анализ и проницательные комментарии о значимости заимствованных слов в вечной эволюции английского языка.

**Ключевые слова:** заимствования, классификация, лингвистический источник, английская лексика, лингвистический пуризм, эволюция языка, технологический прогресс, глобализация, межкультурная коммуникация.

### **Boshqa tildan o'zlashtirilgan so'zlarning ingliz tili rivojidagi ahamiyati**

**Annotatsiya.** Ushbu keng qamrovli maqola ingliz tilining evolyutsiyasi va rivojlanishiga boshqa tildan olingan so'zlarining chuqur ta'sirini o'rganadi. Qabul qilingan so'zlarning kelib chiqishiga ko'ra tasnifi ingliz tili lug'atini boyitishda hissa qo'shgan turli lingvistik manbalar haqida tizimli tushuncha beradi. O'zlashma so'zlarining kiritilishi bilan bog'liq bahs-munozaralarga to'xtalib, maqola lingvistik purizm va til evolyutsiyasi o'rtasidagi murakkab o'zaro ta'sirni o'rganib chiqadi va xorijiy atamalarni olish bo'yicha davom etayotgan munozaralarga muvozanatli nuqtai nazarni taqdim etadi. Bundan tashqari, kelajakdagi tendentsiyalarni o'rganish, ingliz tilining moslashuvchanligi va global dolzarbligini ta'kidlab, texnologik taraqqiyot va globallashuvga mos ravishda o'zlashma so'zlarning davomli integratsiyasiga ishora qiladi. Xulosa maqolaning mohiyatini qamrab oladi, ingliz tilining dinamik tabiatini shakllantirish va madaniyatlararo muloqotni rivojlantirishda o'zlashma so'zlarning hal qiluvchi rolini ta'kidlaydi. Umuman olganda, ushbu izohda ingliz tilining doimiy evolyutsiyasida o'zlashma so'zlarning ahamiyati to'g'risida to'liq tahlil va chuqur sharh uchun maqola maqtovga sazovor.

**Kalit so'zlar:** o'zga so'zlar, tasnif, lingvistik manba, ingliz lug'ati, lingvistik purizm, til evolyutsiyasi, texnologik taraqqiyot, globallashuv, madaniyatlararo muloqot.

### **Introduction**

English, a constantly evolving language with a rich tapestry of influences, owes much of its diversity and complexity to the infusion of loanwords from various linguistic sources. These borrowed terms have not only expanded the lexicon of English but have also contributed significantly to its cultural and linguistic richness



over centuries. The history of the English language is intertwined with a long history of borrowing from other languages. From the early influences of Old English, shaped by Germanic languages, to the infusion of Latin and French during epochs such as the Viking invasions and Norman conquests, the adaptability of English to incorporate external vocabulary has been a hallmark of its development. Loanwords in English come from a wide array of linguistic backgrounds. Latin borrowings have left a lasting impact on the domains of academia, law, and medicine. French loanwords, stemming from the Norman era, added a touch of elegance and refinement to the language. Moreover, contributions from languages like Greek, Spanish, as well as modern influences from technological advancements and globalization, continue to enrich the English vocabulary.

### **Main body**

A **loanword** (also a **loan word**, **loan-word**) is a word at least partly assimilated from one language (the donor language) into another language (the recipient language, also called the target language), through the process of borrowing.

Loanwords may be adapted to the phonology, phonotactics, orthography, and morphology of the target language (as for example through the law of Hobson-Jobson). When a loanword is fully adapted to the rules of the target language, it is distinguished from native words of the target language only by its origin. However, often the adaptation is incomplete, so loanwords may conserve specific features distinguishing them from native words of the target language: for example, loaned phonemes and sound combinations, partial or total conserving of the original spelling, foreign plural or case forms or indeclinability.

The assimilation of loanwords has brought depth and nuance to the English language. These borrowed words often convey subtle shades of meaning that may not be completely captured by native terms, expanding the expressive capabilities of English speakers. For example, terms like "schadenfreude" from German or "bungalow" from Hindi offer unique insights and cultural perspectives that enhance communication and understanding.

Loanwords make up a huge proportion of the words in any large dictionary of English. They also figure largely in the language of everyday communication and some are found even among the most basic vocabulary of English. The following five passages are taken from (i) a book written for young children, (ii) a piece of popular fiction, (iii) a playwright's diary (as prepared for publication), (iv) a scholarly monograph by a historian, and (except for proper names), and all words that have been formed within English from loanwords.



1. 'Charlie', she says, 'they look like fish fingers to me, and I would never eat a fish finger.' 'I know that, but these are not fish fingers. These are ocean nibbles from the supermarket under the sea – mermaids eat them all the time.'

(Lauren Child *I will not ever eat a tomato* (2000).)

2. 'Have you ever been to York Minster?' Archie broke the silence, not taking his eyes off the glossy front-door.

Kate looked at him, irritated that his thoughts could be elsewhere. 'A while ago.'

'And?' He turned to her. 'What did you think?'

She shrugged. 'I don't know. It was good. What has it got to do with us being here?'

'How good? Was it very good? Fairly good? Do you think it was better than Winchester? Did you eat in the café?'

(Claire Peate *Headhunters* (2009) 264 – 5.)

3. Switch on the radio after supper and catch most of Elgar's First Symphony, music which invariably transport me back to boyhood and walking up Headingley Lane on a summer evening after a concert in Leeds Town Hall. The evocative power of music is, I suppose, greatest when heard in live performance. This is a recording but it still casts a spell because I have come on it by accident. Had I put on the recording myself the spell would have been nowhere near as powerful because self-induced. Why this should be I can't think, though doubtless Proust would know.

(Alan Bennet *Untold Stories* (2006) 253.)

4. To see the Host, however fleetingly, was a privilege bringing blessing. Those robbed of this privilege by misfortunes such as poor eyesight might be rescued by heavenly intervention. Conversely, the sacrilegious might be deprived of the ability to see the Host which they profaned.

(Eamon Duffy *The Stripping of the Altars* (1992) 101.)

5. Unique-event mutations inferred from binary marker data were used to condition the possible trees but otherwise did not contribute to the likelihood. Population splitting was modeled under strict fission with no subsequent background migration. Population growth was modeled as an exponential from an initially constant effective population size.

(*Molecular Biology and Evolution* 19 (2002) 1011=Weale et al. 2002

In main references section.)



These short extracts illustrate some key aspects of the effects of borrowing on the vocabulary of English over time.

This table shows a wide range of loanwords.

Rank	Language	Examples
1	Latin	agriculture, language, justice, science, forum, circus, opium, dominatrix, religion, apostle, city, master, paper
2	French	art, dance, jewel, painting, ballet, government, salon, brigade, infantry, grenade, quiche, beef, salmon
3	Greek	phobia, academy, siren, lexicon, muse, odyssey, democracy, psyche, atlas, platonic, biology, comedy, tragedy, history, data
4	German	blitz, strudel, kindergarten, flak, schadenfreude, schnitzel, zeitgeist, poodle, noodle, pretzel, sauerkraut, lager, zeppelin, delicatessen
5	Italian	opera, soprano, piano, broccoli, fresco, spaghetti, prima donna, parmesan, pesto, viola, pizza, cappuccino, latte
6	Spanish	canyon, tornado, tortilla, barricade, guitar, alligator, burrito, coyote, junta
7	Dutch	buoy, cruise, dock, avast, freight, dyke, yacht, easel, landscape, sketch, booze, coleslaw, cookie, gin
8	Scandinavian	smorgasbord, ski, fjord, saga, sauna, maelstrom, slalom
9	Japanese	karaoke, samurai, kimono, sushi, tsunami, kamikaze, geisha, judo, jujitsu, soy
10	Arabic	alcohol, bedouin, harem, lute, algebra, zero, zenith, giraffe, gazelle, sultan, caravan, mosque
11	Portuguese	albino, dodo, emu, fetish, tempura
12	Sanskrit	avatar, karma, mahatma, swastika, yoga
13	Russian	borscht, czar/tsar, icon, vodka, glasnost (a term from the Soviet Union for "open government")
14	Maori	kiwi, mana, moa, waka (common Maori words used in New Zealand English)
15	Hindi	bandanna, bangle, bungalow, juggernaut, jungle, loot, pajamas, punch (drink), shampoo



16	Hebrew	sapphire, babble, brouhaha, maven, abacus, behemoth, cherub, jubilee, sabbatical, sabbath, amen
17	Persian	chess, checkmate, check
18	Malay	ketchup, amok
19	Urdu	chintz, bungalow, cheroot, cot, many overlaps with Hindi
20	Irish	boycott, brogues, clock, dig (slang), hooligan
21	Afrikaans	apartheid, commando, trek, aardvark, meerkat, wildebeest
22	Yiddish	Chanukkah (Hanukkah), chutzpah, kosher, lox, pastrami, schlep, klutz, oy vey, schmuck
23	Chinese	dim sum, chow mein, tea, kowtow, tai chi, kung fu
24	Turkish	baklava, coffee, kiosk, ottoman
25	Norwegian	berserk, gun, ransack, slaughter, hell, husband, skill, bug, reindeer, dirt
26	African origins	banana, bongo, banjo, cola, jazz, chimpanzee, goober, gumbo, impala, jumbo, mamba, zebra, zombie

While loanwords have undoubtedly broadened English's horizons, they are not without critics. Some argue that an over-reliance on borrowed vocabulary dilutes the authenticity of the language and displaces indigenous terms. There is a longstanding debate between language purists advocating for linguistic purity and proponents of language evolution who welcome the infusion of foreign elements.

Given the interconnected nature of our global society, the influx of loanwords into the English language is expected to continue unabated. As technology advances and cultural exchanges flourish, English will inevitably absorb new terms and concepts from diverse linguistic backgrounds. This ongoing evolution underscores English's adaptability and underscores its role as a global language capable of reflecting the diverse tapestry of human experience.

### **15 Borrowed Words in English**

Remember, the etymology of words can often be intricate. The list below offers a succinct connection between the loanword in English and its respective donor language. While a loanword can undergo slight alterations, it usually retains a strong resemblance to the original word form, meaning, or pronunciation.



## **French Loanwords**

### 1. Ballet

In English, ballet is a “type of theatrical art that uses dance in the form of controlled and precise movements to convey a story, theme, or atmosphere.” In French, ballet refers to the same type of dance.

- I have taken ballet classes since I was a little girl, and my dream is to join the New York City Ballet.

### 2. Déjà vu

Have you ever gone through a scenario that you’re certain you’ve already encountered before? If so, then you’ve experienced déjà vu. In French, déjà vu is also the phrase used for this other-worldly “sensation of having previously lived a moment, even if you haven’t.”

- I think I have supernatural powers because I constantly get déjà vu.

### 3. Illusion

The definition of illusion in English is “something that the senses are likely to perceive incorrectly.” This word is not too distant from its many meanings in French, one of them being “deceptive appearance.”

- The magician’s many illusions tricked me into believing things that weren’t true.

## **German Loanwords**

### 4. Angst

Angst is a “deep feeling of anxiety or dread” we may experience from time to time. This is a loanword from German, which defines this word as “fear” or “anxiety.”

- I was unaware of the teenage angst phrase until I saw my younger brother go through it.

### 5. Kindergarten

In English, kindergarten refers to a class for children typically aged five to six. In German, kindergarten is a compound word: “kinder” means “children,” and “garten” means “garden.” So, in German, kindergarten literally translates to “children’s garden.”

- My aunt cried for hours when she dropped off my cousin on her first day of kindergarten.

### 6. Pretzel



A pretzel is a baked bread product characterized by a distinct, twisted knot-like shape, often salted on the outside. This word comes from the German word “brezel,” which refers to the same type of baked product.

- We went to the county fair and gorged on countless pretzels.

### **Greek Loanwords**

#### 7. Drama

Drama is a noun that involves conflict and emotion, and denotes a specific type of literature. The Greek word is also pronounced drama and means “action, deed” or “play, spectacle.”

- Her career in acting began in drama club when she was in seventh grade.

#### 8. Logic

Logic describes “a way of thinking and coming to a conclusion” and the “branch of science that uses formal methods to think about or explain the reason for something.” The Greek word is pronounced “logiki” and refers to “the reasoning art” or “ordered thought.”

- He used well-articulated logic to persuade the supervisors to let the company have Fridays off.

#### 9. Nemesis

In ancient Greek mythology, Nemesis was the goddess of vengeance and divine retribution. The term has been adopted into English to mean “a long-standing enemy, opponent, or rival that someone has grave difficulty facing and overcoming.”

- I love reading and writing, but my nemesis will always be math and anything related to numbers.

### **Italian Loanwords**

#### 10. Espresso

Do we really need to define what an espresso is? It’s that dark, delicious liquid substance that energizes our soul (a.k.a., strong coffee made by using a machine to force hot water through ground coffee beans). The term originates from the Italian word espresso, which means “pressed out.”

- I’m never fully awake until I’ve had my morning shot of espresso.

#### 11. Duo

In English, duo means “a pair of people or things.” In Italian, duo means “a pair,” especially in the context of two performers or artists.

- My best friend and I are known as the dynamic duo because we do everything together.

#### 12. Lava





In English, lava refers to molten rock that erupts from a volcano and solidifies as it cools. In Italian, lava means “torrent” or “streams.” It was originally used when referring to flash floods and then to streams of molten rock from volcanoes such as Vesuvius.

- The team of geographers captured the up-close photographs of the lava using a drone.

### **Spanish Loanwords**

#### 13. Plaza

If you’re searching for a place to hang out with friends and buy a few things you may need, you may want to go to a plaza. In English, a plaza refers to “shopping centers, commercial complexes, or an open public square.” In Spanish, a plaza primarily denotes an “open public square, which can sometimes be a place where commodities are bought and sold.”

- Let’s go to the plaza and look for some goodies to buy.

#### 14. Siesta

If you’ve just finished lunch and feel a little sleepy, you may want to take a siesta or “short nap early in the afternoon.” This word was borrowed from Spanish, where it carries the same meaning.

- My husband always asks why we can’t make siestas a part of our daily routines.

#### 15. Tornado

In English, a tornado refers to a type of weather phenomenon consisting of a violent storm and a rotating column of air that comes into contact with the earth’s surface. In Spanish, tornado can also be used when referring to this type of weather occurrence, but its origin is related to the verb “tornar,” which means “to turn or twist.”

- As a kid, I was taught to seek shelter in the basement anytime there was a tornado warning.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, loanwords remain a vital force in shaping the trajectory of the English language, fostering a dynamic and inclusive linguistic environment. Embracing loanwords not only broadens the expressive range of English but also facilitates cross-cultural communication and mutual understanding. As English navigates the complexities of a rapidly changing world, the Influence of loanwords serves as a testament to the language's resilience, innovation, and enduring relevance in a modern, interconnected society.



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