

## Linguistic Essence of Borrowing Words from French to English Words

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**Annotation:** The study presents the linguistic aspects of the French borrowing process, its main extrolinguistic causes and main stages, and other French borrowings adopted during the transition to English. Particular attention is paid to the definitions given as a lexical phenomenon of borrowing based on various scholars and several lexicographic sources. The article also discusses the many borrowings from French to modern English, as well as their grammatical and structural features. The analysis identified the following types of French borrowing: formal, morphological, semantic, lexical, syntactic, and phraseological. The vocabulary of English consists of various semantic fields and historical periods from Old English to modern English.

**Key words:** borrowing, classification, French, historical periods, English, linguistic aspects, lexical phenomenon.

### I. Introduction

If someone asks you to name one important language feature that applies to every language, the possible answer might be: modify. Lexical or grammatical changes that occur in any language occur at different speeds and intensities in its continuous development. Some languages are so diverse that they are easy to see. Others have some changes, but they aren't as noticeable because they aren't. So some of the changes are obvious, while others are more specific. However, when it comes to the development of any language, this change is always present, making any language a living being.

There are many ways to enrich any language with new lexical units and grammatical structures. It is known that language vocabulary can be expanded through many morphological processes, such as addition, affixation, conversion, reversal, internal modification, or reduction. In addition to strict morphological processes, there are also word-formation processes. Among them we distinguish cutting, mixing, shortening. It should be noted that borrowing has always been very effective in the process of developing the English language. Given the peculiarities of the process of borrowing from English, we conclude that over the centuries many different languages have influenced English, some to a lesser extent. Others had a significant influence on his lexicon. For example, the languages that first influenced English were Latin, Greek, Celtic, Scandinavian, and French.

### II. Literature review

Interest in the study of the problem of borrowing was observed only in the late 19th century. The reorganization of the millennial tradition of synthesizing language theories from cultural and linguistic ideas became the basis for new research. Several generations of scholars have devoted their problems to this problem, calling the same events (the result of the borrowing process) in different ways (borrowing, foreign words, or borrowing words).

Hawk and Joseph described the borrowing process as “accepting individual words or even a large number of phrases from another language or dialect”, which, as they say, “is a very common result of linguistic communication. “Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams unanimously state that “borrowing occurs when one language adds a word or morpheme from another to its language lexicon”. In addition, the authors note that “according to the phonological rules of the borrower’s language, the pronunciation of the borrowed object changes frequently.”

### **III. Analysis**

Phonetic assimilation is the process of adapting the phonetic form of an received language to the sound system of the receiving language. Phonetically assimilated words retain their pronunciation in a foreign language. Grammatical assimilation is the conformity of a derived word to the morphological or grammatical norms of the host language.

The point is that any form of lexical borrowing occurs when two languages come into contact. In this case, it shows that most people are bilingual. In other words, they have certain knowledge of the source language and the borrowing language. To convert a word into a loan, the borrower must borrow something new from the source language. This usually happens when there is a gap in the dictionary stock. If not, the language can live in its own lexical reserve. Strazny includes borrowing because it is often “for necessity or prestige”. The reason for both necessity and prestige is described in detail below.

The first French borrowings were terms related to war, payments, courts, law, soldiers, army, crown, country, division, justice, administration, government, parliament, and state. So this must have had a significant impact on the English language. Thus, French was accepted as a high or prestigious language, as explained by Brinton and Arnovik. Until the sixteenth century, there was almost no end to the French words that entered English: chair, table, furniture, dinner, supper, soup, jelly, sausage, roasting, boiling, joy, delight, comfort, clothing, color, flower, fruit, desire, castle, remembrance, beauty. In modern lexicology, the state of two languages that exist side by side is called the diglossic context. Hawk preserves the bilingual division of the inherited ancient language and the language of the borrower. The explanation proposed by the author states: "This separate coexistence between the ancient authoritative language and the modern" vernacular "is now called diglossia".

### **IV. Discussion**

As in the accepted word, even in adaptation mode, the borrower’s lexical units are incorporated into the borrower’s language and its language system. The assimilation of such words occurs at different levels of linguistic nature: among them there are many changes in phonetics, spelling, or morphology. Strazny reveals an example of a “croissant” whose pronunciation is different from others and is associated with the fluency of the French language. Hawk also states that “borrowing may lead to the introduction of new phonological rules, e.g., change of electricity [k / s] and [g / j]: electricity, claim: borrowing from English to French demand”.

The cases being compared are related to morphology. A relevant example is the “court-martial” cited by Hawk. The phrase became French, creating a new form of plural affixation in English. The lexeme “court-martial,” like most English nouns, does not carry the plural sign to the end, but it is attached to the first element — the “court-s martial”. Nevertheless, the usual form of “court martial-s” in different languages is also known, used, and widespread. Thus, from time to time, we may encounter situations in which the influence of the French is noticeable. Hawk also describes two different ways to create a level of comparison in both languages: English and French. Apparently, the French pattern and “more” + simple quality have been effectively translated into

English, which are more pattern + quality. The following examples illustrate the issue discussed:  
(a) beau → plus beau (French) (b) beautiful → more beautiful (English).

The model mentioned above, taken on from French become started existing side by side with the traditional native way of forming comparative and superlative degrees, which involves adding the inflectional suffix -er in comparative and -est in superlative forms of adjectives, like big – bigger – big-est, or hot – hott-er – hot-est. What are the guidelines for using either of the two patterns? The compromising solution has been successfully found and applied in modern English grammar the following way: Monosyllabic and disyllabic adjectives ending in -y, as they are principally native, take the inherited native ending -er for comparative and -est for superlative degrees. There are also some examples of disyllabic adjectives ending in -er. The following examples illustrate the aforementioned patterns: (a) monosyllabic adjectives: old – older, fast – faster – fastest, short – shorter – shortest; (b) disyllabic adjectives ending in -y: tasty – tastier – tastiest, happy – happier – happiest, heavy – heavier – heaviest (there is a vowel modification of -y into -i-); (c) disyllabic adjectives ending in -er: clever – cleverer/ more clever – cleverest – most clever, bitter – bitterer – bitterest.

Other disyllabic and polysyllabic adjectives forming comparative and superlative degrees in the descriptive way, borrowed from French, as in the examples: (a) disyllabic adjectives (in particular those ending in -ing, -ed, -ful and -less): caring – more caring – most caring, gifted – more gifted – most gifted, careful – more careful – most careful, useless – more useless – most useless, complete – more complete; (b) polysyllabic adjectives: colorful – more colorful – most delicious, delicious – more delicious – most delicious, generous – more generous – most generous.

In a sense, the words borrowing can be used metaphorically, which is a high level of semantic understanding. For example, the English word “plumber” (derived from the Anglo-French plummer, plomner and middle French plommier, plombier). Durkin writes: “In the 1970s, the English plumber had a peculiar metaphorical meaning (originally in the context of the Watergate scandal).” and others”.

From time to time the loan item is borrowed a second time. This can happen at different times of language development and in different senses. Strazny gives an example that describes a variation of the word “chief” derived from the ancient French word “chef” meaning “boss” or “head”. However, it was later used for the second time as the word ‘chef’, this time from modern French to mean ‘chef de cuisine’ and ‘head of the kitchen’.

Sometimes a still unfamiliar borrowed word is roughly associated with a native word resembling it only in a sound form. The change of a borrowed word based on a fancied analogy with the same well-known word/ phrase is called joke/ false etymology: for example, “cutlet – to cut – to cutlet.”

## V. Conclusion

In short, assimilation is the process of adapting a word to phonetic and lexicogrammatic norms. We distinguish three main types of assimilation: phonetic, grammatical, and lexical. Phonetic assimilation is the process of adapting the phonetic form of a received language to the sound system of the receiving language. Phonetically assimilated words retain their pronunciation in a foreign language. Grammatical assimilation is the conformity of a derived word to the morphological or grammatical norms of the host language. If the word credit is grammatically assimilated, it will have English paradigms and categories. Lexical assimilation is the conformity of an accepted word to the lexical-semantic system of the receiving language. If the word borrowing is involved in word formation according to English rules, we can say that it is a lexically assimilated word. By the way, the resulting word can have a new meaning in the host language.

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