

The Analysis of 10 Foods with Borrowed Names in English Language

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Abstract: There is no language in the world which does not have at least one borrowed words in its vocabulary. Any language has 20 or 30 percent borrowed words. So, English language also has taken a whole lot of words from other languages and in its turn some other languages take newly-appeared words from English language. This article is devoted to analyze ten food names which were borrowed from other languages and now are being used in English. I think this kind of analysis helps language learners outstandingly for improving their knowledge.

Keywords: borrowed word, newly-appeared, devoted, analysis, language learners

Introduction

In English language there are a lot of food names which came from other languages, for example, the food name "Mandarin" was borrowed from Chinese language and now is being used without any changes in English language. Another very widely-known food name is pizza. You may think that it is an English word, because pizza is widely-consumed food in England. Unfortunately, you are not right the origin of pizza is linked to Greece. This food name firstly appeared in Greece and it was borrowed into other languages including English. Languages borrow primarily to communicate; borrowing, therefore, occurs out of necessity or need where a language does not have a readily available word for something. Other reasons for borrowing include prestige and foreign influence

First of all, we categorize the food names according to their origin, for example, tempura, ikura and tonkatsu came from Japanese language into English. Congee and mandarin came from Chinese language. Pizza and tajine came from Greek language into English. Banana, jumbo and goober came from African language. Let's see the analysis of these words in details below.

So, the first borrowed food name is called "Tempura". Tempura is food that has been battered and deep-fried: shrimp, sweet potatoes, eggplant, mushrooms, and more. It's a Japanese classic. There are restaurants all over Japan that specialize in tempura. But the idea — and the word — came from Portuguese missionaries. During the Ember Days, special days of fasting in the Roman Catholic calendar, they would deep-fry fish and vegetables (if you have to ask why, you must be immune to the pleasures of deep-fried foods). The Ember Days are, in Portuguese, *têmporas*, and it seems that that's where tempura came from, though some people believe the real source is the Portuguese *tempero*. The second word is called "Ikura". Most of the fish have names that are entirely Japanese, but pause to have some salmon roe — ikura — and as those orange beads pop in your mouth like oversized caviar, reflect on how caviar is Russian. Well, the word caviar isn't; it's Turkish, probably ultimately from Persian. The Russian word for caviar is *икра*, which in our alphabet is *ikra*. Japanese doesn't allow k and r next to each other like that, so a barely-said u is inserted as an all-purpose filler vowel to make it *ikura*. The third borrowed food name is called "Tonkatsu". The words for "pork," "chicken," and "beef" are of Japanese origin, to be sure. But the katsu part of the word, meaning "cutlet"? It's literally a Japanese version of cutlet. Take the English word cutlet, change the l to r (because there's no "l" in Japanese) and add u to keep consonants

from fighting. Then, because the u turns "t" into "ts" (sort of like how we don't say the t in motion as "t"), you get katsuretsu. Cut that down and it's katsu. But, just so you know, English doesn't get final credit for cutlet — and the word doesn't originally have anything to do with cutting, either. It's what we did with the French word *côtelette*, which literally means "little side."

Now we shall analyse some words which came from Chinese language. So, the first one is called "Congee". Go a little farther south from Goa, down to southern India and Sri Lanka, and you get the Tamil culture. A signature Tamil dish is *kanji*, a rice porridge. That name really is Tamil. But if you've gone to a Chinese restaurant, you've probably seen congee on the menu there. Many people think of congee as a Chinese specialty, although the dish is popular in various versions with many different names throughout South and East Asia. We call it congee in English because we got the word from *canja*, which came from the Tamil by way of ... yes, Portuguese. The second word is called "Mandarin". How far can Portuguese go in East Asia? Well, what's the most Chinese thing you can even get? How about mandarin, the name for a scholar class, the official standard form of the language, and, of course, those little oranges? (Or, depending on where you live, a chain of Chinese buffet restaurants?) Well, mandarin is not what any of those are called in Chinese, so it's not fair to say Chinese borrowed the word for them. But the English word mandarin? We got it from Portuguese: *mandarim*. But wait! Portuguese got it from Malay *menteri*, which got it from the Sanskrit word *mantrin*, meaning "counsellor." This word has zig-zagged across the map like those airplane route lines in an Indiana Jones movie.

Let's see the analysis of two food names which were borrowed from Greek language. The first one is "Pizza". Italy got pasta from China, as is widely known, but the names for the many different kinds of pasta are reliably Italian, from *linguine* ("little tongues") to *farfalle* ("butterflies" and "bow ties" — same word). But how about that other signature Italian food, pizza? It doesn't come from Portugal, don't worry, and not from China either. No, it comes from Greece. Have you ever noticed how similar pizza and pita are, both as words and as round flat bread items? We don't know for sure — pizza has been a thing in Italy for more than a thousand years — but the odds are pretty good that pizza and pita both come from an older Greek word. The second food name is "Tajine". If you've never had tajine, you have to go see what you've been missing. This delicious stew-like dish from North Africa is named after the conical ceramic dish in which it's cooked. The name for it, like the food and the whole culture, has a distinct Arabic flavor: Moroccan Arabic *tažin*, from Arabic *tājun*, from Greek *τάγηνον* (*tágénon*). Of course, English is loaded with words from Greek, too! Even butter comes ultimately from Greek — *βούτυρον* — and so, of course, do olive and oil (our word oil traces back to Greek for "olive oil": *ἔλαιον*). And a lot of other words have Greek influences way back in history, too; For instance, *têmporas*, source of tempura, might trace back to *τέμνω*, though that has nothing to do with delicious deep-fried food.

Undoubtedly, the Spanish, Portuguese and Turkish languages impacted on English language, too. For example, the food name which is called "Vindaloo" came from Portuguese language and now is being utilized by English speakers widely on a daily basis. You'll probably agree that a spicy Indian dish of meat in sauce has little in common with Japanese cuisine. But when you order vindaloo, guess what? Like tempura, it traces to Portugal. Vindaloo isn't too much like Portuguese food, but it got its start in Goa — a part of India with a strong Portuguese influence — with *carne de vinha d'alhos* ("meat with wine and garlic"). Indian cooks swapped in vinegar for the wine, adjusted the seasoning quite a bit, and turned *vinha d'alhos* into vindaloo. They dropped the *carne*, but not the meat, which made it popular with the British, who weren't so keen on the vegetarian diet common in much of India.

The second word that is called "Tzatziki" was originally borrowed from Turkish language into English and certainly it contributed to the enrichment of the English language. We know pita is

Greek. So is phyllo and that lovely spanakopita you make with it. What else is super Greek? How about tzatziki, that classic garlic yogurt sauce? You know where I'm going with this: The Greek word tzatziki, τζατζίκι, comes from ... Turkish. Its source is cacık (Turkish c sounds like English j). Oh, and as a bonus, moussaka — how can you even get more Greek than moussaka? — also comes from Turkish (musakka), but that in turn comes from the Arabic musaqqa.

The next word that we should analyse in this article is called "Barbecue". Some people may think that the word barbecue is real English word and it is considered a newly-appeared word in this language. They are certainly wrong. The food name barbecue originally came from Spanish language into English. The classic American dish barbecue is no exception. We didn't get the name from the Bar-B-Q Ranch; we got it from Spanish barbacoa, which in turn came from barbacoa in Taíno, a Caribbean language. But since barbecue's also popular in the West Indies, it's not completely fair to say barbecue isn't from where it's from — it's just that some of us have forgotten where we got it (James Harbeck March 25, 2019).

Think about how many food words we use on a daily basis that are obvious borrowings from other languages. Of course, we mostly recognize those foods as being from those countries, not ours. And where an American classic has a name from another country, it can be really obvious, like hamburger (from Hamburg) or turkey (read this). Even where it's not obvious, we can't be too surprised, given that English steals from everywhere: Chowder, for instance, comes from French chaudière, or "pot"(James Harbeck March 25, 2019)

Now we shall analyse the African food words which came into English language. So, the first one is called "Goober". The American English word goober once commonly meant peanut. The word was used throughout the American South in the 19th century, with the first known English usage in 1833. As Holloway's paper explains, "Union soldiers fighting on southern soil during the Civil War found southern peanuts both tasty and filling." They even made a song about it called "Eating Goober Peas." The word "goober" was once very common in the American South. The word "goober" was once very common in the American South. The original word, nguba, is the same in two Bantu languages: Kikongo and Kimbundu. Today, in American English, goober is rarely used to mean peanut. More often, it is used informally to mean "a foolish or simple person." The next word is called "Banana". It is in reality very famous food name in the world. Some people may think that this is real English word, but it was also borrowed from another language into English. The word banana is believed to come from Wolof, a West African language of Senegal, Gambia and Mauritania. In Wolof, the word is banaana. Some research also links the word to bana, from the Mande language of Liberia in West Africa. Many historians say bananas probably first grew in Southeast Asia and Papua New Guinea around 6,000 years ago. Recent research shows that Africans began harvesting this fruit at least 4,500 years ago. How the fruit reached Africa from Asia is more of a mystery, although many reports say Arab traders may have brought them there. One Arabic word for finger or toe is banan. In the late 1500s, Portuguese and Spanish colonists took the fruit with them from Africa to the Americas and brought along its African name. The Portuguese began banana plantations in the Caribbean islands and Brazil. Then, in 1633, an herbalist in Britain sold the first banana to reach Europe at his store.

Along with food names, English has borrowed other kinds of words from African languages. One example is jumbo. In English, the word jumbo is an adjective that means "very large for its type." Today, the word can be found in many places where products are sold: supermarkets, online stores and even restaurants. In Washington, D.C., for example, Jumbo Slice is the name of a popular late-night pizza place that sells very, very large pieces of pizza. The word came into popular American usage in an interesting way. Jumbo was the name of an African bull elephant that was a zoo animal and a circus performer. Historical accounts say Jumbo was captured as a baby elephant in East

Africa in 1861. His captors brought him to France and sold him to a botanical garden. He lived there in unhealthy conditions. Later, the London Zoo purchased Jumbo. He became a main attraction there. In 1882, the zoo sold him to a famous American circus. Jumbo was reportedly a very calm animal. At his largest, he stood 3.6 meters tall. After his death, his name became a synonym for “huge.” But as early as the 1820s, jumbo was a slang term used to describe a big, clumsy person, animal or thing. Language experts say the word may come from the word nzamba – a word that now means “forest” in Kongo, a language of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo and Angola.

Another vegetable with an African name - and origin - is okra. Okra is a tall, green plant whose pods are eaten as a vegetable. It is often used in soups and similar dishes. The original word was okuru, from the Igbo language of Nigeria. Okra reached the Caribbean and the United States in the 1700s. Not long after, the vegetable was introduced in Europe. In the American state of Louisiana, okra has been used for centuries to thicken stews and soups. During colonial times, African, European and Native American cultures mixed to form what would become Creole culture. Today, okra is still a key part of Creole cooking, especially its most famous dish: gumbo. Interestingly, the word gumbo once meant simply “okra.” The original word was ki ngombo, from Mbundu, a language of Angola.

Conclusion

In conclusion, there are an awful lot of words in English language which were borrowed from other languages and indubitably, studying them is in reality an out of this world experience for us, in particular food-related words. Because while learning them we open brand-new information which can be a precious source for enlarging our worldview and at the same time for getting pleasure from learning. Not far short of half of the 1,000 most frequently occurring words in modern written English have come into the language from French or Latin, mostly. As lexicographer Kory Stamper explains, “English has been borrowing words from other languages since its infancy.” As many as 350 other languages are represented and their linguistic contributions actually make up about 80% of English!

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