ETYMOLOGYCAL ANALYSIS OF THE ENGLISH LEXICOLOGY

Tursunov Ulugbek Jo'rayevich,
Master's degree student of UZSWLU

Docent Matyakubov Jumanazar Ibragimovich
Supervisor : Candidate of Philological Sciences

Abstract

Borrowing as a means of replenishing the vocabulary of present-day English is of much greater importance and is comparatively only in the field of science and linguistics. This article discusses etymologicalanalysis of English word-stock and role of words in the language.

Keywords

Borrowing , etymology , loan word , polysemantic , historical linguistics , semantic groups , assimilation, complimentary etymology

INTRODUCTION

English vocabulary is very rich. Are all English words really English. In reality, they are — if we regard them in the light of present-day English. If, however, their origins are looked into, the picture may seem somewhat bewildering. A person who does not know English but knows French (Italian, Latin, Spanish) is certain to recognise a great number of familiar-looking words when skipping through an English book.

The most characteristic feature of English is usually said to be its mixed character. Many linguists consider foreign influence, especially that of French, to be the most important factor in the history of English. This wide-spread viewpoint is supported only by the evidence of the English word-stock, as its grammar and phonetic system are very stable and not easily influenced by other languages. While it is altogether wrong to speak of the mixed character of the language as a whole, the composite nature of the English vocabulary cannot be denied.

To comprehend the nature of the English vocabulary and its historical development it is necessary to examine the etymology of its different layers, the historical causes of their appearance, their volume and role and the comparative importance of native and borrowed elements in replenishing the English vocabulary.

MAIN PART.

Etymology is the study of the history of words, their origins, and how their form and meaning have changed over time. By an extension, the term "etymology (of a word)" means the origin of a particular word. For languages with a long written history, etymologists make use of texts in these languages and texts about the languages to gather knowledge about how words were used during earlier periods of their history and when they entered the languages in question. Etymologists also apply the methods of comparative linguistics to reconstruct information about languages that are too old for any direct information to be available. By analyzing related languages with a technique known as the comparative method, linguists can make inferences about their shared parent language and its vocabulary. In this way, word roots have been found that can be traced all the way back to the origin of, for instance, the Indo-European language family. Even though etymological research originally grew from the philological tradition, currently much etymological research is done on language families where little or no early documentation is available, such as Uralic and Austronesian.

The search for meaningful origins for familiar or strange words is far older than the modern understanding of linguistic evolution and the relationships of languages, which began no earlier than the 18th century. From Antiquity through the 17th century, from Pāṇini to Pindar to Sir Thomas Browne, etymology had been a form of witty wordplay, in which the supposed origins of words were changed to satisfy contemporary requirements.

The Greekpoet Pindar (born in approximately 522 BCE) employed creative etymologies to flatter his patrons. Plutarch employed etymologies insecurely based on fancied resemblances in sounds. Isidore of Seville's Etymologiae was an encyclopedic tracing of "first things" that remained uncritically in use in Europe until the sixteenth century. .Etymologicumgenuinum is a grammaticalencyclopedia edited at Constantinople in the ninth century, one of several similar Byzantine works. The fourteenth-century LegendaAurea begins each vita of a saint with a fanciful excursus in the form of an etymology.

Ancient Sanskrit

The Sanskrit linguists and grammarians of ancient India were the first to make a comprehensive analysis of linguistics and etymology. The study of Sanskrit etymology has

provided Western scholars with the basis of <u>historical linguistics</u> and modern etymology. Four of the most famous Sanskrit linguistsare:

- <u>Yaska</u> (c. 6th-5th centuries BCE)
- <u>Pānini</u> (c. 520-460 BCE)
- Kātyāyana (2nd century BCE)
- Patañjali (2nd century BCE)

These linguists were not the earliest Sanskrit grammarians, however. They followed a line of ancient grammarians of Sanskrit who lived several centuries earlier like <u>Sakatayana</u> of whom very little is known. The earliest of attested etymologies can be found in <u>Vedic literature</u> in the philosophical explanations of the <u>Brahmanas</u>, <u>Aranyakas</u>, and <u>Upanishads</u>.

The analyses of <u>Sanskrit grammar</u> done by the previously mentioned linguists involved extensive studies on the etymology (called <u>Nirukta</u> or Vyutpatti in Sanskrit) of Sanskrit words, because the ancient <u>Indo-Aryans</u> considered sound and speech itself to be sacred and, for them, the words of the sacred <u>Vedas</u> contained deep encoding of the mysteries of the soul and God.

Ancient Greco-Roman

One of the earliest philosophical texts of the Classical Greek period to address etymology was the <u>Socratic dialogueCratylus</u> by <u>Plato</u>. During much of the dialogue, <u>Socrates</u> makes guesses as to the origins of many words, including the names of the gods. In his <u>OdesPindar</u> spins complimentary etymologies to flatter his patrons. <u>Plutarch</u> (Life of <u>NumaPompilius</u>) spins an etymology for <u>pontifex</u> ("bridge-builder"): the priests, called Pontifices.... have the name of Pontifices from potens, powerful, because they attend the service of the gods, who have power and command over all. Others make the word refer to exceptions of impossible cases; the priests were to perform all the duties possible to them; if any thing lay beyond their power, the exception was not to be cavilled at. The most common opinion is the most absurd, which derives this word from pons, and assigns the priests the title of bridge-makers. The sacrifices performed on the bridge were amongst the most sacred and ancient, and the keeping and repairing of the bridge attached, like any other public sacred office, to the priesthood.

Medieval

<u>Isidore of Seville</u> compiled a volume of etymologies to illuminate the triumph of religion. Each saint's legend in <u>Jacob de Voragine</u>'s<u>LegendaAurea</u> begins with an etymological discourse on the saint's name:

Lucy is said of light, and light is beauty in beholding, after that S. Ambrose saith: The nature of light is such, she is gracious in beholding, she spreadeth over all without lying down, she passeth in going right without crooking by right long line; and it is without dilation of tarrying, and therefore it is showed the blessed Lucy hath beauty of virginity without any corruption; essence of charity without disordinate love; rightful going and devotion to God, without squaring out of the way; right long line by continual work without negligence of slothful tarrying. In Lucy is said, the way of light [2]

Modern era

Etymology in the modern sense emerged in the late 18th century European academia, within the context of the wider "Age of Enlightenment," although preceded by 17th century pioneers such as Marcus Zuerius van Boxhorn, Vossius, Stephen Skinner, Elisha Coles, and William Wotton. The first known systematic attempt to prove the relationship between two languages on the basis of similarity of grammar and lexicon was made in 1770 by the Hungarian, JánosSajnovics, when he attempted to demonstrate the relationship between Sami and Hungarian (work that was later extended to the whole Finno-Ugric language family in 1799 by his fellow countryman, Samuel Gyarmathi).

The origin of modern historical linguistics is often traced back to Sir William Jones, an English philologist living in India, who in 1782 observed the genetic relationship between Sanskrit, Greek and Latin. Jones published his The Sanscrit Language in 1786, laying the foundation for the field of Indo-European linguistics

The study of etymology in Germanic philology was introduced by Rasmus Christian Rask in the early 19th century and elevated to a high standard with the German Dictionary of the Brothers Grimm. The successes of the comparative approach culminated in the Neogrammarian school of the late 19th century. Still in the 19th century, the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche used etymological strategies (principallyand most famously in On the Genealogy of Morals, but also elsewhere) to argue thatmoral values have definite historical (specifically, cultural) origins where modulations in meaning regarding certain concepts (such as "good" and "evil") show how these ideas had changed over time—according to which value-system appropriated them. This strategy gained popularity in the 20th century, and philosophers, such as Jacques Derrida, have used etymologies to indicate former meanings of words to de-center the "violent hierarchies" of Western metaphysics.

WORDS OF NATIVE ORIGIN

Words of native origin consist for the most part of very ancient elements—Indo-European, Germanic and West Germanic cognates. The bulk of the Old English word-stock has been preserved, although some words have passed out of existence. When speaking about the role of the native element in the English language linguists usually confine themselves to the small Anglo-Saxon stock of words, which is estimated to make 25—30% of the English vocabulary.

To assign the native element its true place it is not so important to count the number of Anglo-Saxon words that have survived up to our days, as to study their semantic and stylistic character, their word-building ability, frequency value, collocability.

Almost all words of Anglo-Saxon origin belong to very important semantic groups. They include most of the auxiliary and modal verbs (**shall, will, must, can, may,** etc.), pronouns (I, **you, he, my, his, who,** etc.), prepositions (**in, out, on, under,** etc.), numerals **(one, two, three, four,** etc.) and conjunctions (**and, but, till, as,** etc.). Notional words of Anglo-Saxon origin include such groups as words denoting parts of the body (**head, hand, arm, back,** etc.), members of the family and closest relatives (**farther, mother, brother, son, wife),** natural phenomena and planets (**snow, rain, wind, sun, moon, star,** etc.), animals (**horse, cow, sheep, cat),** qualities and properties (**old, young, cold, hot, light, dark, long),** common actions (**do, make, go, come, see, hear, eat,** etc.), etc.

Most of the native words have undergone great changes in their semantic structure, and as a result are nowadays polysemantic, e.g. the word **finger** does not only denote a part of a hand as in Old English, but also 1) the part of a glove covering one of the fingers, 2) a finger-like part in various machines, 3) a hand of a clock, 4) an index, 5) a unit of measurement. Highly polysemantic are the words **man, head, hand, go,** etc.

Most native words possess a wide range of lexical and grammatical valency. Many of them enter a number of phraseological units, e.g. the word **heel** enters the following units: **heel over head** or **head over heels—** 'upside down'; **cool one's heel**—'be kept waiting'; **show a clean pair of heels, take to one's heels**—'run away', **turn on one's heels—** 'turn sharply round', etc.

The great stability and semantic peculiarities of Anglo-Saxon words account for their great derivational potential. Most words of native origin make up large clusters of derived and compound words in the present-day language, e.g. the word **wood** is the basis for the formation of the following words: **wooden, woody, wooded, woodcraft, woodcutter, woodwork** and many others. The formation of new words is greatly facilitated by the fact that most Anglo-Saxon words are root-words,

New words have been coined from Anglo-Saxon simple word-stems mainly by means of affixation, word-composition and conversion.

Some linguists contend that due to the large additions to its vocabulary from different languages, English lost much of its old faculty to form new words. The great number of compound and derived words in modern English, the diversity of their patterns, the stability and productivity of the patterns and the appearance of new ones testify to the contrary. Such affixes of native origin as **-ness, -ish,-ed, un-, mis-** make part of the patterns widely used to build numerous new words throughout the whole history of English, though some of them have changed their collocability or have become polysemantic, e.g. the agent-forming suffix -er, which was in Old English mostly added to noun-stems, is now most often combined with verb-stems, besides it has come to form also names of instruments, persons in a certain state or doing something at the moment.

Some native words were used as components of compounds so often that they have acquired the status of derivational affixes (e. g. **-dom, -hood, -ly, over-, out-, under-),** others are now semi-affixational morphemes.[1].

It is noteworthy that to the native element in English we must also refer some new simple words based on words of Anglo-Saxon origin. Words with a new non-derived stem branch off from primary simple words as a result of simplification of some derivatives in a cluster of words and their semantic isolation, as in **king, kind** *n,* **kind** *a* and **kin** *n,* from which all of them were derived (cp. *OE.***cyninʒ, cynd, cynde, cyn),** or **bless** and **bleed** derived from **blood (cp.** *OE.***bledsian, blēdan, blōd).** Sometimes a word split into two or more words with different forms and meanings (i.e. etymological doublets) due to the difference in function and stress, as is the case with off and of (from *OE.* of which wasstressed as an adverb and unstressed as a preposition). Dialectal forms of a word may develop into independent words, as in **one** and **an** (<*OE.* **an), whole** and **hale** (<*OE.* **hāl).** New root-words based on Anglo-Saxon words also came into being with the rise of homonyms owing to the split of polysemy.[2]The semantic characteristics, stability and wide collocability of native words account for their frequency in speech. However there are some words among them which are now archaic or poetic (e.g. **lore, methinks, quoth, whilom, ere, welkin,** etc.), or used only as historical terms (e.g. **thane, yeoman** denoting ranks, **stocks** — 'an instrument of torture', etc.).[9]

What has been said above shows that the native element, has been playing a significant role in the English language. To fully estimate the importance of the native element in English,

it is essential to study the role of English derivational means and semantic development in the life of borrowings, which will be dwelt upon in the sections below.

1. The native element comprises not only the ancient Anglo-Saxon core but also words which appeared later as a result of word-formation, split of polysemy and other processes operative in English.

2. Though not numerous in Modern English, words of Anglo-Saxon origin must be considered very important due to their marked stability, specific semantic characteristics, wide collocability, great derivational potential, wide spheres of application and high frequency value.

It is now essential to analyse the changes that borrowings have undergone in the English language and how they have adapted themselves to its peculiarities.

All the changes that borrowed elements undergo may be divided into two large groups.

On the one hand there are changes specific of borrowed words only. These changes aim at adapting words of foreign origin to the norms of the borrowing language, e.g. the consonant combinations [pn], [ps], [pt] in the words pneumatics, psychology, **Ptolemy** of Greek origin were simplified into [n], [s], [t], since the consonant combinations [ps], [pt], [pn], very frequent at the end of English words (as in **sleeps**, **stopped**, etc.), were never used in the initial position. For the same reason the initial [ks] was changed into [z] (as in *Gr.* **xylophone**).

CONCLUSION

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 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 merged rather easily with the local population in the 9th, 10th and the first half of the 11th century. French (to be more exact its Norman dialect) was the language of the other conquerors who brought with them a lot of new notions of a higher social system—developed feudalism, it was the language of upper classes, of official documents and school instruction from the middle of the 11th century to the end of the 14th century.

In the study of the borrowed element in English the main emphasis is as a rule placed on the Middle English period. 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. The greatest number has come from French. They refer to various fields of social-political, scientific and cultural life. A large portion of borrowings (41%) is scientific and technical terms.

The number and character of 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. Thus if we go through the lists of borrowings in English and arrange them in groups according to their meaning, we shall be able to obtain much valuable information with regard to England's contacts with many nations. Some borrowings, however, cannot be explained by the direct influence of certain historical conditions, they do not come along with any new-objects or ideas. Such were for instance the words air, place, brave, gay borrowed from French.

It must be pointed out that while the general historical causes of borrowing from different languages have been studied with a considerable degree of thoroughness the purely linguistic reasons for borrowing are still open to investigation.

REFERENCES

[1] Arnold I. V. The English Word. M. "ВШ". 1973.
[2] Berezin F.M. Lectures on Linguistics. M. Higher school Publishing House. 1969. p. 95.
[3] Buranov J.B, Muminov A.A. Practical Course in English Lexicology. T. "Ukituvchi" 1990. p. 54.
[4] E. Nida. Morphology University of Michigan. Press. 1976.
[5] Glipson G.B. Fast ideas for Busy Teachers. USA. Good Apple. 1989. p. 36.
[6] The World Book Encyclopedia. USA. 1994. №. G.G. Volumep/ 905/
[7] Антрушина Г.Б., Афанасьева О.В, Морозова Н.Н. "Лексикология английского языка" Москва, "Дрофа"
[8] Арбекова Т.И. Лексикология английского языка. М. 1977.
[9] Гинзбург Р.З. и др. Лексикология английского языка. М. 1979.
[10] Ирискулов М. Тилшуносликка кириш. Т. Ўқитувчи. 1992. 111 б
[11] Канцельсон С.Д. Содержание слова, значение и обозначение. М. 1965.
[12] М. Эшниёзова Қўшма сўз Микросинтагматик муносататига доир. 2004. №1 24-26 бб
[13] Мешков А.Д. Словообразование современного английского языка. М. 1976. стр. 33.
[14] Мюллер. В.К. «Англо – Русский словарь» М. 1962.
[15] Смирницкий Лексикология английского языка. М. 1956. стр. 33.
[16] Т.М. Беляева «Вопросы английского языка в синхронии и диахронии». Л. 1967. стр. 89.
[17] Хидекель С.С. Лексикология в выдержках и извлечениях. Л. 1969.
[18] Ярцева В.Н. Историческая морфология английского языка. М. 1960.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT:

The author declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial orfinancial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.