

ЯЗЫК И КУЛЬТУРА: ПРОШЛОЕ, НАСТОЯЩЕЕ, БУДУЩЕЕ

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THE IMPACT OF RUSSIAN BORROWINGS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The English language is one of the most versatile and beautiful languages in the world. Throughout history it was influenced by many languages and the Russian language was among them. But, in comparison with other languages, Russian did not contribute much to the English language formation. Nevertheless, the issue considered in the paper, has been studied by some respectable scientists in the field of linguistics and theory of translation. The main purpose of this work is to analyze the phenomenon of borrowings in general and the influence of Russian borrowings on the English language in particular.

Keywords: *cultural borrowings, linguistic borrowings, word stock, lexis, vocabulary expansion.*

The modern English language possesses some specific features in phonetics, grammar system and lexis due to the long period of historical development during which English was exposed to the versatile changes caused by various reasons. Generally speaking, the word stock of any language is being changed all the time throughout history. This changeability is actually caused by the fact that the language and its vocabulary in particular are directly concerned with industrial and public activities of people. The word stock, i.e. the word set of the language, is the most mobile and quickly developing part of the language. The lexis is especially sensitive to all the changes in the nation history. And nowadays the structure of the modern English language is, undoubtedly, much richer, than the vocabulary of the Old English language.

To begin with it should be noted that the origins of some words in English traced their roots from various languages such as French, Spanish, Latin, German, Italian and even Japanese. Besides these languages, the Russian language played its modest role in the English language formation. However, Russian borrowings have not received much attention so far, because they are considered to be rare and rather insignificant. In spite of it, Russian borrowings in English were considered by such outstanding scholars as N. N. Amosova, a prominent Soviet linguist and translator, M. P. Alekseev, a great contemporary specialist in study of literature, V. G. Kostomarov, a famous Soviet and Russian linguist, V. V. Akulenko, Soviet and Ukrainian linguist etc.

The main task of this work is to consider Russian borrowings in the English language. For this purpose the phenomenon of borrowings is considered, and then the authors of the paper give attention to the main periods of the Russian language impact on English lexis. The relevant examples are also presented concerning each period under consideration.

Let us examine the phenomenon of borrowings in general. It is necessary to mention that the borrowings are usually distinguished into dialect borrowings when the borrowed phenomena come from the same language and the so called cultural borrowings when the borrowed phenomena come from another language. The words, which have been known and widely used since the Old English period, are considered to be the original English words. But, as a matter of fact, they make less than half of the English lexis. It is counted up that the number of original words in the English language makes only about 30 %. All the other words are the vocabulary units belonging to other languages such as Latin, Greek, French, Scandinavian and etc. So, linguistic borrowing is the integral component of functioning process and language historical change, one of the basic sources of vocabulary expansion.

Let us consider Russian borrowings in the English language in details. Many researchers divide the influence of the Russian language on English lexis into two big periods: the borrowings of pre-revolutionary and Soviet epochs. Also there is a classification for three periods:

- 1) before Peter I
- 2) after Peter I and till the prerevolutionary period
- 3) the period from the Great October socialist revolution up to the present time.

One of the most outstanding linguists V. V. Akulenko divided the period of the Russian language impact on the West languages (including English) into four periods which he considered in his master's dissertation:

1) The first period covered the influence of the Old Russian language of Kievan Russia. The first Russian word, which entered into English, was definitely the word *tapor*. It was written down on the annals pages in 1031. However the subject name in such kind did not lived long and disappeared before the Middle English period. Nowadays the subject exists, carrying the German name '*an axe*'.

2) The second period was concerned with the trade development and political relations between Russia and England, the power growth of the Russian state. The period dated from the second half of the XVI century and lasted to the middle of the XIX century. In the XVI century stable relations between Russia and England were established, but they had rather limited character. The borrowings of that period can be divided into several parts:

1. The names concerned with a state system, the names of the ruling social categories, official and subordinated persons: *czar or tzar, voivode, knes, bojar or boyar, muzhik, cossack opritchina* and so on.

2. The designations of weight, distances, monetary units: *verst, arshin, pood, sazhen, rouble, copeck, chervonets*.

3. The names of clothes and foodstuff: *shuba, kvass, morse, shchi, borshch, kalatch, kissel, vodka, starka, nalivka, nastoika, oladyi, okroshka*.

4. Some common words: *troika, izba, telega, balalaika, bayan, samovar, tarantass, kibitka, makhorka*.

5. The names of some Russian natural features: *steppe, tundra, taiga, polinia* etc.

6. The words concerned with religion: *molitva, obednja*.

A bit later the following words were borrowed from the Russian language: *kokoshnik, khorovod, beluga, obrok, zolotnik, vedro, matrioshka*.

3) The third period dated from the second half of the XIX century and lasted to 1917.

During the period a great attention was paid to the economic and social relations in Russia. The period was concerned not only with important achievements in science and culture, but also with the appearance of revolution forces. In the XIX century there was a gradual transition to borrowing the words connected with some definite concepts, phenomena and ideas. Some popular English magazines often printed the articles about Russia in which they used some Russian words especially concerning the political life of the country. In those days industry along with the working class roughly developed in Russia, the most advanced Russians struggled against the imperial autocracy. The growth of people's democratic liberation movement was also observed in Russia of that time. All these facts affected the words borrowed from Russian: *nihilist, nihilism, narodnik, narodism, cadet*.

4) The fourth period of Russian borrowings in English was the Soviet epoch. It was a new stage in political and economic lexis development of the Russian language, and the period was also concerned with the further growth of its international value during the post-war period. Moreover, that period was in connection with the appearance of the United Nations where Russian along with English, French, Spanish and Chinese had been declared as the international language.

But, first of all, the changes in industrial, public, political and other spheres of life in Russia were caused by the Great October Socialist revolution. As a result there were a lot of changes in lexis of the Russian language and, in turn, they influenced all the languages in the world, including the English language. Most words of the post-October period had a bright social coloring: such words as *sovietist, sovietism, sovietic* could be found in some English dictionaries dated back to 1917. In 1936 such words as *stakhanovits* and *stakhanovism*, arose in the Russian language only in 1935, were widely used in the English press. The words, connected with a political system, entered into the English language: *Soviet, bolshevik, bolshevism, leninism, commissar, Komsomol*. The new forms of socialist agriculture gave a birth to such words as *kolkhoz* and *sovkhoz*. Then, later, there appeared the words concerned with the reorganizations in the USSR. The first Russian borrowing of new times was the word *glasnost*. Some new words were printed on the pages of western newspapers and magazines of those times: *novoye muishleniye, democratizatsia, khozraschyot, uskoreniye, gospreyomka*.

In conclusion, it should be mentioned, that the English language developed in the specific conditions and many languages had a great impact on it. That is why there are many various borrowings in English. As for the borrowings from Russian, they did not play a crucial role in the English language formation in comparison with such languages as French or German. But some of the words such as *rouble, balalaika, bayan, samovar* and *matrioshka* are still used by English-speakers.

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ВЛИЯНИЕ ЗАИМСТВОВАНИЙ ИЗ РУССКОГО ЯЗЫКА НА АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

Английский язык – один из самых многогранных и красивых языков в мире. В ходе истории английский язык подвергался влиянию многих языков, в том числе и русского языка. Однако, по сравнению с другими языками, русский оказал достаточно скромное влияние на формирование английского. Несмотря на это, проблема заимствований из русского языка, рассматриваемая в данной работе, изучалась достаточно известными и уважаемыми учеными в области лингвистики и переводоведения. Основной целью данного исследования является анализ явления заимствования в целом и влияние заимствований из русского языка на английский язык в частности.

Ключевые слова: культурные заимствования, лингвистические заимствования, словарный запас, лексика, расширение словарного запаса.

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THE ROLE OF IDIOMS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

The most widely used English idioms are considered in the present paper, their role in English language learning is analyzed as well. The significance of idioms in the modern English language is impossible to underestimate since they make a colloquial speech lively and rich. And, without doubt, idioms are actually used by native speakers in their everyday language. Consequently, it is necessary to pay a particular attention to these lexical units studying a foreign language. Furthermore, some ways of learning idioms individually as well as by means of various communicative types of activity under the guidance of a teacher are also considered in the research.

Keywords: idioms, lexical units, learning process, educational activity.

English is considered to be not only the most popular and demandable language in the world but also one of the most beautiful languages. Moreover, the English language is particularly rich in lexis. Without doubt, idioms play a great role in the enrichment of the English language. Idioms represent unique cultural and historical information as well as broaden people's understanding and manipulation of English. Native speakers use idioms to make their speech more colorful and alive. That is why it is definitely important for non-native speakers to learn not only grammar and new lexical units as well as acquire reading, listening and writing skills but also pay attention to idioms in the process of English language learning.

This work is focused on considering the most popular English idioms and their role for non-native speakers as a part of mastering the English language. Let us consider a definition of the term «idiom». According to Oxford dictionary, an idiom refers to a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words. In other words, an idiom is an expression, whose meaning cannot be deduced from the literal definitions, but refers to a figurative meaning that is known only through common use. Idioms are often used in all types of languages, colloquial and formal, spoken and written; they are a part of business English, education and the media.

It is necessary to consider the origin of the most widely used idioms. There is a great variety of idioms which come from the vocabulary concerning different topics such as:

- work and jobs: **to put in for** (to make an official request for smth.), **a blue collar worker** (a working class person who performs manual labor), **a white collar worker** (a person belonging to the ranks of office and professional workers whose jobs generally do not involve manual labor), **a slave driver** (a cruel employer who demands excessive work from the employees), **to burn oneself out** (to work too hard), **to work for peanuts** (to work for practically no money at all), **to carry the can** (to take the blame or responsibility for something that is wrong or has not succeeded), **a golden handshake** (a large sum of money which is given to someone when they leave a company, especially if they are forced to leave) and etc.;
- animals: **the black sheep of the family** (a disreputable or disgraced member of a family), **to take the bull by the horns** (to confront a problem head-on and deal with it openly), **as awkward as a cow on roller skates** (very clumsy), **as crooked as a dog's hind leg** (very dishonest), **to have ants in one's pants** (to be unable to sit still or remain calm out of nervousness or excitement), **eager beaver** (a person who is excited about doing certain work), **to let the cat out of the bag** (to reveal a secret) etc.;
- rural life and transport: **to strike while the iron is hot** (to take advantage of favorable conditions), **to put the cart before the horse** (to do things in the wrong order), **to miss the boat** (to fail to take advantage of an opportunity), **to paddle one's own canoe** (to do what smth. without help or interference from anyone), **to drive up the wall** (to do something that greatly annoys or irritates all the people around), **to hit the road** (to begin a journey) etc.;
- the world of entertainment: **to make a clown of yourself** (to make yourself appear foolish or stupid), **to be in the limelight** (to be the centre of attention), **a museum piece** (something that is very old-fashioned and should no longer be used), **a show stopper** (an event that provokes such a strong reaction that it stops whatever's happening) etc.;
- feelings and emotions: **to bare one's heart (or soul) to someone** (to reveal one's innermost thoughts and feelings to someone), **to bent out of shape** (to become annoyed or upset about something that is usually not important), **to come apart at the seams** (to be extremely upset or under severe mental stress), **to get hot under the collar** (to feel annoyed, indignant or embarrassed), **to lick one's wounds** (to try to recover one's confidence or spirits after a defeat, failure or disappointment) etc.

Actually it is almost impossible to consider all the existed idioms because the English language possesses thousands and thousands idiomatic expressions. Surely, some of them are old-fashioned and not used in live communication any more. But there are more than one hundred idioms which can be referred to the so-called often-used