

THE ROLE OF BORROWINGS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEXICAL DOUBLETS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract

In this article the author provides information on the origin of lexical doublets together with the analysis of significance of borrowed words in the development of them. Furthermore, the reasons for borrowings are discussed in the article as well as examples of borrowed doublets which came into English from other languages.

Keywords: Borrowing, lexical doublet, parent language, cognates, phonemes.

Аннотация

В данной статье автор предоставляет информацию о происхождении лексических дублетов вместе с анализом значения заимствованных слов в их развитии. Кроме того, в статье обсуждаются причины заимствований, а также примеры или заимствованные дублеты, пришедшие в английский язык из других языков.

Ключевые слова: заимствование, лексический дублет, праязык, однокоренные слова, фонемы.

In order to identify the source of a word and its development, it is necessary to compare earlier forms of a word to latter ones whereby it gets convenient to find out a change of the word of some kind. It is then the task to observe history and define conditions that lie under those changes. However, the result in English, which borrowed from different separate languages, is sometimes an obscurity of original sources. That is to say that whenever a borrowing comes from French, it is sometimes problematic to determine whether we should consider the form a Latin borrowing or a French one (Denning et al. 2007:29). According to Robertson, there are several reasons for incorporating foreign words into one's language, often not only out of necessity but also because of prestige. Robertson (1954:154) notes that foreign words distinguish themselves from native ones by being associated with education or refinement. This is especially true of French borrowings. While the Anglo-Saxons coexisted with the Normans in Britain, the Norman culture came to be regarded as the more prestigious one. Britain became a bilingual society where English was used for commonplace items and ideas, and French was the language of "elegance and courtly living" (Robertson 1954:152). The bilingual speakers in Britain were the sources for Norman French loanwords because they leveled out competing synonyms, often in favor of the more aristocratic choice, and brought up 8 these novel words while interacting with monolingual speakers (Anttila 1989:177). In this case, one might argue that French words were adopted because English lacked cultural concepts or material goods that the Normans introduced, now that there was a social divide between classes. Robertson (1954:149) states

that the English “native vocabulary was generally adequate to the life of the times” and grew by combining previously adopted loans that subsequently became naturalized. But the Norman Conquest brought with it novel things, and this is clear from “the established practice of borrowing from French” (Robertson 1954:152). This wave of French influence was the first of two that led to English doublets. The conquering Normans opened up Britain’s borders to a steady French influence, and English began borrowing heavily since that historical event (Robertson 1954:149) Prestige and novel concepts or things from contact groups have been the most driving forces for the integration of loanwords in English. When they needed a term for something novel, speakers frequently chose to receive the accompanying foreign name rather than creating or applying a local word. A similar circumstance may also happen among social or economic classes. Frequently when one group is positioned socially higher than the another one, etymological referents (such as food things versus farm creatures) may be distinctive enough to require isolated words from both refined and lower-class groups. The more prestigious linguistic group was, the newer thoughts or things they had in comparison with the socially lower group or vice versa. As Schmitt and Marsden (2006:83) point out, the huge number of equivalent words found in English was sustained by poetry since literary devices, such as alliteration can be used to a great degree if artists had a significant inventory of words expressing identical implications to select from. These components have all been noticeable within the history of English and are the reasons behind the language’s high word count. German, the runner-up for the foremost vocabulary items, as expressed by Denning et al. (2007:3), contains not even half the amount of words English has. Despite the fact that English accepted a range of foreign words, there are also a number of inherited words that directly descended from Proto-Indo-European or Proto-Germanic including sun, moon, life, death, mother, health, and god. Since this type of inherited words usually carries the meaning of daily objects and processes, there has been no need for them to exchange for a local word (Denning et al.2007:34). According to Schmitt and Marsden, frequency helped those words to survive in the language since they are some of the most frequently used words. Schmitt and Marsden (2006:82) point out that approximately 15 percent of Old English words survive nowadays, and this can be because of their frequent usage and basic part within the language. Nevertheless, as this final statistic shows, most of the native word-forms have vanished over the course of the language’s history. Whereas, acceptance of loanwords, English has experienced a noteworthy loss of local forms, which has been replaced by broad borrowing. According to Denning More than half of the inherited Indo-European roots in English can be followed back to a borrowed form or component. When local words survive alongside foreign ones or when English repeatedly borrows a component from the same original source, the result is formation of doublets. Since the languages that contributed most to English vocabulary are those of Indo-European family, the same language family to which English belongs to, numerous cognate forms exist in English as doublets. Denning et al. (2007:28) initially gives definition to the term of doublets as “pairs of native and borrowed cognates.” While Cognates are related terms in different languages, lexical doublets are cognates in the same language. Millward (1989:359) states that doublets are words that were derived from the same source by different paths. Historically they share the same origin, however, these cognates developed into different forms that sometimes resulted in unrecognizably change in forms due to different reasons such as phonetic and orthographic changes, that occurred separately in descendants from Proto-Indo-European or subsequent mother languages. Chronicled occasions, such

as contact situations, help to indicate when loanwords were integrated into the language, indeed in connection to other borrowings' entries. In some cases, major linguistic change results from contact, and a language's history can be isolated into distinct epochs. "English is a West Germanic language with somewhat distinguishable periods that can be broken up into Prehistoric English, Old English (700-1100), Middle English (1100-1500), and Modern English (1500-Present)"¹.

These times are not perfectly characterized by their given extend of centuries, but noteworthy linguistic changes due to contact with other groups back these divisions. Each time span contains significant occasions of contact, such as the Norman Success in 1066 at the end of the Old English period. The sorts of borrowings changed with the centuries and with new group interactions. For instance, words for commonplace things preceded scholarly and ecclesiastical terms within the prior periods of English, and scientific borrowings entered English afterward during the Renaissance (Denning et al. 2007:36). The foremost contact bunches that presented these borrowings were North Germanic, Latin, and French. An absolute synonymy is never found in any language since the synonym words differ from each other according to different factors. For that reason, language speakers sometimes feel the need for a foreign word in order to fully express what they mean. As a result, borrowing words from other languages happen because the native words may not carry the whole meaning of the word that the speaker wants to make use. Generally, the factor that urges people to borrow words from other languages are considered to be the main reason for the increase in the number of lexical doublets.

Analysis and Results

The process of borrowings play an important role in the formation of lexical doublets. According to Kamola Uberman, there are three main ways of origin of lexical doublets in the English language including native-native origin, native-borrowed origin and borrowed-borrowed origin. A doublet may advance from a single word which to some extent in time get separated into two or more separate lexemes somewhat differed in meaning, as a rule by means of specialization or metonymy, with all those words remaining within the language, for example, shadow, shade and shed, which all come from the Old English word *sceadu* 'shadow, shade' and thus are of "native" origin. In other cases, doublets are shaped by sets where one word is "native" – i.e. descended straightforwardly from a parent language (from PIE to Proto-Germanic, and after that to English) – and the other is a cognate (a word in another language descended from the same source) borrowed from a sister or cousin tongue. In this way, a doublet is shaped by a "native" and a "borrowed" word. In most cases the parent dialect is Proto-Indo-European and the cousin dialect Latin or French, e.g. the Germanic *cow* and the Romance *hamburger* (both from the PIE root **gwou-* 'cow, ox, bull'). "There are also borrowings in which the parent language is Proto-Germanic and the sister language – Old Norse, e.g. the English *shirt* and the Scandinavian-based *skirt* (both from the P.Gmc. **skurtijon* 'a short garment' and ultimately from the PIE **(s)ker-* (1) 'to cut')"² Various doublets are formed by words borrowed twice from the same language but crossing a significant period of time (e.g. borrowings from Norman French after the Norman Attack within the 11th c. and from Central French from the 14th c. on, such as the NF

¹ Denning, Keith, Brett Kessler, and William R. Leben. 2007. English vocabulary elements. New York: Oxford University Press

²[file:///C:/Users/GAS/Desktop/Magistrlik%20dissertatsiyasi/Kamola Uberman Weronika The morphosemantics%20 2018.pdf](file:///C:/Users/GAS/Desktop/Magistrlik%20dissertatsiyasi/Kamola%20Uberman%20Weronika%20The%20morphosemantics%202018.pdf)

warden and the CF guardian, both from the Frankish *warding- 'keeper, custodian'). Doublets might moreover include words borrowed from a certain language and its daughter tongue, e.g. Latin and French. There are numerous doublets of such origin, as most loan words in English have been borrowed exactly from these two languages; e.g. the French-based flame and the Latin-based conflagration (both from PIE *bhleg- 'to shine, flash'). The impact of Latin upon the English vocabulary is amazingly noteworthy. English speakers borrowed from Latin in a few different periods of time. The first period happened before Germanic period settlement on the isle of Britain. Germanic tribes communicated in Old Low German and had not begun to speak English yet, which formed from the combination of dialects that were closely related, presently collectively named Old English, which were brought to the eastern coast of Great Britain by the Angles, Saxons and Jutes within the 5th century (since 449). According to K. Arnovick, the author of *The English Language: A Linguistic History*, as a result of the contact and exchange of these tribes with the Roman traders on the European continent resulted in borrowings mostly related to commonplace concrete objects instead of to abstractions, for example, plant, mule, cheese, belt, pillow, wall, sickle, mile, tribute, camp, minster. It is not difficult to recognize the early borrowings from the late ones since the previous experienced all the sound changes that happened in Old English whereas latter did not. The second period of borrowing from Latin occurred after the Germanic conquest, during the early Anglo-Saxon period, in the 5th century through Latinised Celtic, or they may have been borrowed straightforwardly from Latin. For example, port -'harbor, gate, town' (Lat. portus); munt - 'mountain' (Lat. montus); torr -'tower, rock' (Lat. turris). The third period happened at the end of the 6th century and it was related to the Christianisation of the Anglo-Saxons. The Roman missionaries introduced the new vocabulary, that is why these borrowings were learned words mostly related to religion and scholarship, since monks and the priests were responsible for education and introducing literacy to the population of the British Isles at that time. Some examples of such words are cross, creed, mass, monk, holy, accent, chapter, notary, temple, organ.

Conclusion

Since the number of lexical doublets in English is noteworthy and there is always the need for further study on the origin of them, it is feasible that one should look deeply at their history over the centuries. Because the time not only influenced people and their culture but also the language they spoke including the words it owns. In historical linguistics, lexical borrowing helps researchers trace the evolution of modern languages and points to cultural contacts between recent or ancient individual language groups. However, methods to identify loanwords resist formalization, requiring researchers to rely on a variety of supporting information and comparisons of multiple languages. "The automated detection of lexical borrowings is still one of the most difficult tasks we face in computational historical linguistics," says Johann-Mattis List. The transfer of labels that can name concepts from one language to another is known as "lexical borrowing" and is the most common form of contact-induced language change. The subject in question is often referred to as "borrowing words" and is referred to as "borrowing". Both terms are incorrect. Although the recorded vocabularies of some languages (including English) contain more than 50% borrowings, cultural borrowings (names of previously unfamiliar concepts) chronologically precede borrowings that replace or supplement elements already present in those languages. Moreover, borrowed words can (but do not need to) act

as channels to transmit and integrate new phonemes or inflectional and derived morphemes into the receiving language.

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