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RECEPTIVE ASSIMILATION OF FRENCH BORROWINGS INTO THE BASIC ENGLISH VOCABULARY

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РЕЦЕПТИВНА АСИМІЛЯЦІЯ ФРАНЦУЗЬКИХ ЗАПОЗИЧЕНЬ В ОСНОВНОМУ СЛОВНИКОВОМУ ФОНДІ АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ

Objective. *The objective of the article is to analyze the French borrowings come into the English language in the context of the receptive assimilation process; identify the stages of receptive assimilation; analyze the French loan-words during the process of borrowing, appropriate to each stage in order to enable effective intercultural research process connected with historical aspect of philological and linguistic studies.*

Methods. *The main scientific results are obtained using two groups of methods: theoretical and statistical ones. The theoretical methods include: the method of theoretical generalization, which makes it possible to determine and nature of French borrowings' receptive assimilation; problem-chronological – for considering French borrowings of different periods in dynamics and distinguishing periods; methods of extrapolation – to justify provisions regarding the understanding of the influence of historical experience on the vocabulary of the English language; the problem-genetic method –to justify the provisions regarding the analysis of problems that may hinder effective intercultural research process connected with historical aspect of philological and linguistic studies. The statistical group includes verification of received information by processing and comparing data published in various scientific sources.*

Results. *The theoretical analysis of the nature of the French borrowings makes it possible to identify the stages of receptive assimilation that enable effective intercultural studies in the fields of linguistics, philology, and terminology. The conceptual and categorical apparatus of the study containing the following terms as: “French borrowings” and “receptive assimilation” is formed. The stages of receptive assimilation of French borrowings into the English language are defined. Interpretation and analysis of the genesis of possible stages of lexical borrowings will lead to successful management of the educational process for philology, lexicology and language history students. The generalized seven typical stages of receptive assimilation are distinguished as follows: borrowing; integration; phonological adaptation; morphological adaptation; semantic shift; naturalization; and complete assimilation.*

Key words: *receptive assimilation, French borrowings, English language*

Introduction

The English language is inextricably linked with the historical heritage of the French language. The English language is dominantly influenced with the French. The process of the French lexical borrowings has enriched the general vocabulary of the English language. Considerable attention is paid to the study and research of the stages of receptive assimilation of linguistic borrowings in lexicology and linguistics. It is common knowledge that different classes of borrowing are distinguished: lexical, morphological, syntactic and phraseological. The issues addressed in this paper take this discussion one step further, looking into the stages of the process of the receptive assimilation of French borrowings.

Fundamental studies in the field of linguistics formed the methodological and theoretical basis of this issue consists of the works of such researchers as B. Hoffer [10], [11] V. Karaban [4], L. Verba [1], and V. Simonok [7].

The problems of lexical borrowing have been an interest to various fields of linguistics and are the subject of attention of researchers such as R. Anttila [8], E. Haugen [9]. B. Hoffer [10], [11], O. Jespersen [12] and V. Vynokurova [6].

The types of assimilation of borrowings in the recipient language on the material of different languages and the methods of its research are presented in the works of such linguists as: K. Komarova [5], V. Simonok [7], I. Vykhovanets [2] and E. Esenova [3].

Scientific and methodical studies by Jespersen O. are devoted to the growth and structure of the English language and the study of the process of the language borrowing.

However, the analysis of the stages of receptive assimilation could hinder effective intercultural research process connected with historical aspect of philological and linguistic studies and it did not become the subject of researchers' attention.

The **objective** of the research is to analyze the French borrowings come into the English language in the context of the receptive assimilation process. Identify the stages of receptive assimilation, to analyze the French loan-words during the process of borrowing, appropriate to each stage in order to enable effective intercultural research process connected with historical aspect of philological and linguistic studies.

Methods

The main scientific results are obtained by means of theoretical and statistical methods. The theoretical methods include: the method of theoretical generalization, problem-chronological, methods of extrapolation, the problem-genetic method. The statistical group includes verification of received information by processing and comparing data published in various scientific sources.

Results and Discussions

The receptive assimilation of French borrowings in English refers to the process by which English speakers adopt and incorporate words from the French language into English vocabulary. This phenomenon has been ongoing for centuries and can be traced back to the Norman Conquest of England in 1066, when French-speaking Normans had a significant impact on the English language. The invaders were the Normans (French) and they represented a more refined culture. Since 1066 AD for a few centuries, French became the language of government and of the high circles in English society.

The sociolinguistic aspect became the main aspect of the study of French loanwords in the English language. The above-mentioned aspect consists in highlighting the history of entry and subsequent receptive assimilation into the language of certain groups of borrowed vocabulary [2].

The main term of the conceptual and categorical apparatus of the study is "receptive assimilation of borrowings". Here, the term "receptive assimilation of borrowings" is understood as a process by which a language accepts and includes words or expressions from another language into its lexicon. Usually, this process consists of several stages. Although these stages may not be strictly linear, they provide a framework for understanding how borrowed elements become integrated in the recipient language.

As it was mentioned above, such linguists as K. Komarova [5], V. Simonok [7], I. Vyhovanets [2] and E. Eesenova [3] researched the types of assimilation of the loan-words in the recipient language on the material of different languages and the methods of its research are presented in their works.

Let us consider the generalized typical stages of receptive assimilation. The following seven basic stages of receptive assimilation are distinguished:

- borrowing;
- integration;
- phonological adaptation;
- morphological adaptation;
- semantic shift;
- naturalization;
- complete assimilation.

The first stage is borrowing. At this stage, initiation takes place, that is, the process of borrowing is started, during which speakers of the receptor language come into contact with the source language. This contact can occur in a variety of ways, such as trade, cultural exchange, conquest, or migration. Taking into consideration the French loan-word came into English, the starting point of the first stage of the process of borrowings can be traced back to the Norman Conquest of England in 1066. The contact of the English and French languages occurred in the way of conquest. The first official archival records of the French borrowings date back to 1066. In 1066, the Battle of Hastings ended with the defeat of the Anglo-Saxon army. Therefore, English became the language of the common people and servants, and French was the language of the Norman aristocracy, therefore it was considered the language of prestige, government and polite social communication.

The second stage involves integration, that is, the inclusion of borrowed words in the vocabulary. First, borrowings are included in the vocabulary of the host language. This may involve the adoption of a foreign word without modification or adjustment according to the phonological and morphological patterns of the host language.

The third stage is characterized by phonological adaptation. Phonetic changes occur during this stage. The pronunciation of loanwords may undergo changes to conform to the phonetic norms of the host language. This can include changes in sounds, stress and syllable structure. The most important change in the sound structure of these words was the transfer of stress from the end of the word, which is still characteristic of French, to one of the earlier syllables. And this phenomenon has always been characteristic of the English language throughout the entire period of its development. The entrance into general English vocabulary of the new lexical items is characterized by the preservation of the norms of pronunciation and spelling characteristic of the French language which according to various sources may be defined by the following features:

- the accent on the last syllable;
- French rules of pronouncing –ch; -g before e and i; -ou [u:]; -eau [ou];
- silent final consonant.

Next to the original English words some of the French borrowed words underwent certain sound changes in accordance with the phonetic requirements of English. The changes in the pronunciation of the English language connect with "Great Vowel Shift", which is attributed to approximately 1400 and lasted primarily till 1700. The significant event in the history of the modern English language, known as the "Great Vowel Shift" is probably connected with the third stage of receptive assimilation of the French borrowings – “phonological adaptation”.

The fourth stage determines morphological adaptation. Characteristic features of the stage of morphological adaptation are inflection and derivation. Morphological adaptation involved how the structure or form of French words changes to fit English morphology. This might include changes by the addition of English affixes. This refers to certain borrowed French suffixes and prefixes that were attached to English roots. For example, the suffix –ess, which is a sign of feminine nouns, entered the

English language with the following words: princess, baroness. After joining it to the English roots, we got – goddess, murderess. The French suffixes -able, -ible, which form adjectives with the meaning "that which can undergo the action indicated by the verb", entered the English language with the words: admirable, tolerable, flexible. Certain French prefixes have also proved productive in English. For example, the prefixes dis-, dés- with a negative meaning entered the English language with the French words disappoint, disdain, some of which changed spelling over time, and began to be used to indicate new words from English roots: disown, disburden. Loanwords may undergo changes in inflection or derivation to conform to the grammatical structure of the host language. This process helps seamlessly integrate borrowed elements into sentence structures [8].

At the fifth stage, a semantic shift may occur. There may be a modification of the meaning of the word. Over time, the meaning of borrowed words can evolve or change. This may be due to cultural differences, changes in usage, or reinterpretation by speakers of the host language.

Naturalization occurs at the sixth stage of receptive assimilation. The process of naturalization involves the native use of borrowed words, that is, borrowed words become more rooted in the language. They are used in accordance with native words. Native speakers can use these words without consciously recognizing them as foreign elements. The developing trade and economics befriended English traders spread across the globe during the seafaring centuries and as a result thousands of words from world languages were borrowed and became part of the English lexicon.

At the last, seventh stage, there is a complete assimilation of borrowed words, that is, indistinction. At the final stage, borrowed words become indistinguishable from native ones. They are completely assimilated into the linguistic system of the host language, and speakers may not be aware of their foreign origin.

It is important to note that not all loanwords go through each of these stages, and the process can vary depending on factors such as the level of contact between languages, cultural influence, and the nature of the loanwords. Furthermore, languages can exhibit varying degrees of susceptibility to borrowing, with some languages more open to the incorporation of foreign elements than others.

As it was mentioned above, in scientific circles there are different approaches regarding the typology of the periodization of receptive assimilation. The next given example of a typology was developed by V. Simonok.

According to Simonok, three stages of receptive assimilation of borrowings are distinguished.

The first stage is called "using" or "penetration". At this stage, the word appears episodically, retains a foreign language spelling and still belongs to the linguistic picture of the world of the source language. Sometimes some words are rejected by the language system as barbarisms.

At the second stage, the borrowed word is used by many members of the language group. Such a word is included in the lexical-semantic system, is used more and more often, although its foreignness is felt.

At the third stage, the borrowed word is no longer perceived as foreign and fully obeys the laws of the recipient language [7].

Looking at French loanwords in English, compared to other languages, it may be stated that the speakers of the receptor language came into contact with the source language through direct contact during the conquest. Such contact of the English language as a recipient language took place precisely in this way at the beginning of the receptive assimilation of borrowings from Latin, Germanic languages and French, as foreign conquerors constantly replaced each other in the British Isles, and later the language was saturated with borrowings thanks to trade expansion and colonization activity the English themselves.

Conclusions

Overall, the receptive assimilation of French borrowings in English is a dynamic and ongoing process that reflects the historical, cultural, and social interactions between the two languages. It has enriched the English language with a diverse vocabulary and contributed to its linguistic evolution over time.

Due to the fact that a lot of lexical items were borrowed from the French language into English, the influence of French significantly affected the system of English word formation.

In the article there is an overview of seven basic stages of receptive assimilation. The details of the stages of receptive assimilation are given. The stages of receptive assimilation are: borrowing; integration; phonological adaptation; morphological adaptation; semantic shift; naturalization; and complete assimilation. Generalization and systematization of the obtained facts emphasizes that at the initial stages of the process of receptive assimilation of the French borrowings into English vocabulary is closely connected with the context of the historical events, and the situation that developed in such fields as religion, medicine, law, literature and social cultural life, which caused a fruitful enrichment the English vocabulary, making the language sensitive to these events.

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Мета – проаналізувати французькі запозичення, які ввійшли в англійську мову в контексті процесу рецептивної асиміляції; визначити етапи рецептивної асиміляції; проаналізувати французькі запозичення під час процесу запозичення відповідно до кожного етапу, щоб забезпечити ефективний міжкультурний дослідницький процес, пов'язаний з історичним аспектом філологічних та лінгвістичних досліджень.

Методи. Основні наукові результати отримано з використанням двох груп методів: теоретичних і статистичних. До теоретичних методів належать: метод теоретичного узагальнення, який дав змогу визначити та характер рецептивної асиміляції французьких запозичень; проблемно-хронологічний використовувався для розгляду французьких запозичень різних періодів у динаміці та виділення періодів; метод екстраполяції – для обґрунтування положення щодо розуміння впливу історичного досвіду на словниковий склад англійської мови; проблемно-генетичний метод – щоб обґрунтувати положення щодо аналізу проблем, які можуть перешкоджати ефективному міжкультурному дослідницькому процесу, пов'язаному з історичним аспектом філологічних та лінгвістичних досліджень. Статистична група включає перевірку отриманої інформації шляхом обробки та порівняння даних, опублікованих у різних наукових джерелах.

Результати. Теоретичний аналіз природи французьких запозичень дав змогу виділити етапи рецептивної асиміляції, які уможливлюють ефективні міжкультурні дослідження в галузі лінгвістики, філології, історії англійської мови та термінології. Сформовано понятійно-категоріальний апарат дослідження, що містить терміни: «французькі запозичення» та «рецептивна асиміляція». Визначено етапи рецептивної асиміляції французьких запозичень англійською мовою. Інтерпретація та аналіз генезису можливих етапів рецептивної асиміляції лексичних запозичень дозволить успішно керувати навчальним процесом студентів-філологів, лексикологів та істориків мови. Розглянуто узагальнені сім типових етапів рецептивної асиміляції: запозичення; інтеграція; фонологічна адаптація; морфологічна адаптація; семантичний зсув; натуралізація; і повна асиміляція.

Ключові слова: рецептивна асиміляція, французькі запозичення, англійська мова