LEXICO-SEMANTICAL FEATURES OF BORROWED WORDS FROM FRENCH LANGUAGE TO ENGLISH

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Abstract – The article provides an in-depth analysis of the lexical and semantic features of words translated from French into English. Examples are given and studied lexically and semantically. The problem that many students, especially adults, face is why many words in English do not lend themselves to reading rules. It's all about their origin, namely, borrowed from other languages.
Key words: analysis of the lexical and semantic, features of words, loanwords, Semantic processes.

I.Introduction

Words from other languages, which in linguistics are usually called the general term "borrowing", usually fall into this language in two ways: as a result of the crossing of languages and as a result of cultural, historical, socio-economic and other ties between peoples. So, for example, the English language in the course of its historical development was crossed with the Scandinavian languages, with the Norman dialect of the French language.

In addition, the English language has, to a greater or lesser extent, contact, and, consequently, linguistic interaction with the languages of Latin, French, Spanish, Russian, German and other languages of the world, almost throughout its history. Words that entered the English language as a result of the crossing of English with French during the Norman conquest constitute the most significant layer of loanwords in modern English.

II.Literature review

The beginning of borrowings from the French language is considered to be the beginning of the 11th century. - the conquest of England by the Normans, although it is quite obvious that even before this event some French words penetrated the English language as a result of cultural and economic ties between the English and French peoples. During the Middle English period, English borrowed over 10,000 French words. About 75% of these words have survived in the vocabulary of modern English. One should not think that all these words penetrated into the English language at once, as a result of the Norman conquest.

It must be assumed that the bulk of the words were borrowed not in the XI century, but in the XII-XIII centuries. As you know, the Normans brought their customs, their laws, and their culture to England. French became the official language of legal proceedings and government. Teaching in schools was conducted in French. During this period, many new concepts that arose in connection with new forms of government, new customs, a new organization of the army, education, etc. demanded new words for their designation. For this, French words were used.

III.Analysis

The assumptions of some scholars seem to be correct that the bulk of French borrowings penetrated into English at a time when English began to supplant French from all areas of social life of the English people. In the period between 1250 and 1400, that is, when this process of restoring the English language as the official language of the state proceeded especially rapidly, about 40% of French words were assimilated into English. Therefore, we must assume that during this period of time in England there was a kind of bilingualism: along with the common English language, the language of the entire English people, there was also French, as the language of the Norman conquerors. The English feudal lords, attracted by William to rule the country, were forced to use French as the state language.

Borrowed French words from this period can be classified according to specific spheres of use. These are, for the most part, words expressing concepts related to state administration, such as: government, royal, condemn, judge, sentence, court, justice, acquit, prince.

Words expressing concepts related to the army and military life, for example: army, regiment, siege, banner, victory, mail, harness.

Words expressing concepts related to science, art: art, college, doctor, experiment, medicine, science.

Words related to trade and other activities of society: money, benefit, merchant, profit, purchase, sum, value, profession.

Words expressing general concepts: despair, imagination, mention, spirit, instance.

Words related to the life, morals and tastes of the aristocracy: pleasure, leisure, ease, fashion, present, feast, dainty.

Words expressing concepts related to religion, church: religion, saint, pray, sermon, chapel. The borrowing of many of these words was prompted by the higher culture of the Normans.

However, the influence of the French language on the English vocabulary was not limited to the borrowing of words that express new concepts for the English people, or shades of already existing concepts. Many words of French origin have supplanted English words that express the simplest concepts. An example is the following words: air, place, large, river, change, front, receive, appear, blanket, blue, butcher, painter, dance, garden, message, table, chair.

As well as borrowings from other languages, borrowings from the French language underwent phonetic, morphological and often semantic transformation in accordance with linguistic norms and the requirements of the lexical-semantic system of the English language. So, for example, French words, the stress in which is fixed on the last syllable, in English obey the rules of English word stress. The formation of derivative words is equally subject to the rules of English morphology. Semantic processes associated with borrowing French words have their own characteristic features.

Differences in the meanings of an original English word and a borrowed word appear as a result of the coexistence of two words with the same meaning. In English, the word oh and the French word beef stand for bull and beef, respectively; the English word pig means "pig", and the French word pork means "pork"; respectively, sheep - "ram" and mutton - "sheep". Sometimes an English word has a more concrete meaning, and its French synonym has a more abstract meaning, for example, work - labor; life - existence; to overcome- to conquer.

IV.Discussion

The main differences, however, between English and French, synonym, lie in more subtle shades of meaning. So, for example, English hold and French contain differ in the following shades of meaning: hold is usually used with nouns expressing material objects; contain can be used both with nouns expressing material things, and with nouns expressing abstract concepts, for example:

The coach holds only four persons.

This book contains much useful information.

French to cry and English to weep also differ in shades of meaning. Weep in comparison with cry expresses the manifestation of a greater degree of grief that caused the indicated action. The penetration of French words into the English language caused not only a delimitation in the subject-logical meanings of the corresponding synonyms, the difference between them is often stylistic. So, for example, to begin - to commence; foe - enemy; to go on - to continue; father - parent; speak - converse; understand - comprehend; answer - respond. Unlike Scandinavian borrowings, the overwhelming majority of French borrowings are book borrowings.

All French borrowings can be divided into several periods. The first period, which was already mentioned above, is the period of the Norman conquest. It was the longest, had the most significant impact on the vocabulary of the English language and paved the way for further borrowings from the French language.

The second period is the Renaissance. During this period, the number of words borrowed from the French language is not so significant. In most cases, these are words expressing concepts related to trade, art, politics.

French borrowings of the XVII-XVI II centuries. also to some extent reflect the historical and cultural ties between the French and English peoples. Many borrowings of this period belong to the field of culture of the French aristocracy, to its tastes and customs. Examples include the following words: fiance, coquette, unique, machine, police, chamois.

Many words borrowed by English from French during this period became part of the international vocabulary. These words include: toilet, hotel, illumination, elegant extravagant, delicate, miniature, grotesque, naive. Borrowings from the French language in the periods after the Norman conquest are often characterized by the preservation of the pronunciation norms and spelling characteristic of the French language, for example, words such as: machine, coquette, rouge, police, etc. do not differ in their pronunciation and spelling from the words of the French language.

V.Conclusion

Many French words found their way into the English language as a result of the fascination of the English aristocracy and the bourgeoisie with French customs, customs and tastes. A number of such words entered the vocabulary of the English language as jargon, for example, chant - to beg; gent - money, etc. Borrowings from the French language continue to replenish the vocabulary of the English language in subsequent centuries. In the 19th and 20th centuries. borrowings are mainly of a book nature.

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