

THE INFLUENCE OF FRENCH ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract: Throughout history the English language has borrowed significant number of words from French language. This occurrence mainly boils down to Norman conquest of 1066. There are many English words in government, cuisine, fashion, art which are originated from French. While some words have retained their original pronunciation and meaning, others have evolved over time. This study explores the historical background, major areas of influence, and the ongoing adoption of French words into English. Understanding this linguistic exchange helps us appreciate the deep connection between these two languages. By comprehending these revolutions, linguists can achieve a more authentic point and engaging insights of French and English in their academic research papers as well as teaching. This article will further enhance appreciation and bonds of French and English language for learners and this pave the way to learn easily by comparing this two language.

Key words: Norman conquest, pronunciation and meaning, historical background, adoption of French, linguistic exchange.

Аннотация: На протяжении всей истории английский язык заимствовал значительное количество слов из французского языка. Это явление в основном сводится к нормандскому завоеванию 1066 года. Существует много английских слов в правительстве, кухне, моде, искусстве, которые произошли от французского. В то время как некоторые слова сохранили свое первоначальное произношение и значение, другие со временем изменились. Это исследование изучает исторический фон, основные сферы влияния и продолжающееся принятие французских слов в английский язык. Понимание этого языкового обмена помогает нам оценить глубокую связь между этими двумя языками. Понимая эти революции, лингвисты могут достичь более аутентичной точки

зрения и увлекательного понимания французского и английского языков в своих научных работах, а также в преподавании. Эта статья еще больше повысит оценку и связи французского и английского языков для учащихся и проложит путь к легкому обучению путем сравнения этих двух языков.

Ключевые слова: Нормандское завоевание, произношение и значение, исторический фон, принятие французского языка, языковой обмен.

Introduction

In fact, English is enriched by borrowing different words from various languages, because in old English there was a big different in comparison with today's modern English and there is also clear evidences about differences between old and modern English. But French (Albert C. Baugh 2002) plays most significant roles in the revolution of English language[1]. In Norman conquest of 1066 enemies came to the lands of English people and invaded resulting in spreading French dialect and words to this area's people[2]. Today many English speakers use French-origin words without realizing their foreign roots. This linguistic exchange highlights the close historical and cultural ties between the two languages. This paper explores how French words entered the English language, their impact on different fields, and whether this borrowing process continues in modern times.

Literature review

French loanwords play an integral role in enriching English language. During nearly 300 years of French rule in Britain, the Norman French used by the ruling elite influenced the local Anglo-Saxons. It was taught in schools and widely imitated, leading to extensive language contact across social classes. As a result, many French loanwords entered English, especially in politics, law, religion, art, fashion, and food, significantly shaping the English language [3].

The impact of French on English became more evident in manuscripts from the 13th century. During this period, approximately 10,000 French words were incorporated into English. These loanwords were predominantly associated with law and administration, but they also extended to areas such as medicine, art, and fashion. Notably, over 70% of these borrowed terms were nouns, many of which were abstract concepts formed with newly introduced French prefixes like con-, trans-, and pre-, as well as suffixes such as -ance, -tion, and -ment. Remarkably, around 75% of these words remain in use in modern English [4].

Regional Variations and Dialectology

Phonetic features can reveal regional and dialectal differences within the English-speaking world. The pronunciation of French loanwords may vary significantly between British, American, and Australian English, demonstrating the dynamic nature of language and the impact of geographical location on how words are spoken.[5] But in Canada, French is spoken like English in comparison with other areas of French spoken states.

Semantic evolution

The meaning of a loanword can change over time, just like its pronunciation. For example, in French, the word *salon* mainly refers to a formal gathering or a reception room. However, in English, it has gained new meanings, such as a beauty salon or a business providing specialized services. This broadening of meaning often happens as the word becomes a common part of everyday English[6]. The another clear example can be the loanword of “menu”. In French, *menu* originally referred only to a list of dishes, that is, a list of foods and drinks served in a restaurant or eating place.

In English, the meaning of the word expanded and began to be used in technology, computer programs, and other contexts. For example:

- Restaurant menu – The original meaning in French is retained.
- Computer menu – A system that allows the user to select different commands or options.
- List of options – Phrases such as “menu of options” refer to a general list of choices.

The French Influence on Modern English Orthography.

Orthography plays a vital role in the English language, preserving both its linguistic traditions and cultural history. Although the influence of French on English orthography has been extensively studied in the past, little attention has been paid to how French-related features were adopted in the various dialects of England. Three studies attempt to fill this gap by examining how differences in writing style and dialect influenced the outcome of French loanwords and orthographic norms in the Middle English context. Furthermore, the co-use of French and English in Norman England created favorable conditions for linguistic interaction[7]. However, this is an area of linguistic and sociolinguistic research that is still under-explored and requires further investigation.

Methodology

This study examines the influence of French on English based on a wide range of linguistic and historical sources. The main focus is on the process of French loanwords entering English, their semantic and phonetic changes, and their impact on spelling norms. For this

purpose, various scientific articles, linguistic studies, and historical sources were studied and analyzed. During the study, aspects such as the role of French in the English lexicon and writing system, as well as the use of loanwords in various fields, were analyzed in depth. As a result of this research, a broader picture of the lasting influence of French on English was formed and conclusions were drawn based on existing scientific views.

Findings and discussion

This study aims not only to study important information in linguistics, but also to provide useful analysis for everyone who reads it. Based mainly on newly published scientific sources, the influence of the French language on the English language was analyzed in depth. The most important and relevant information was selected from the studied sources and highlighted based on clear evidence. The results of the study show that the influence of the French language on the English language is not a novelty, but a process that has been formed over the centuries, which has had a significant impact on vocabulary, pronunciation and orthographic standards. Due to the constant development of the language, this influence is expected to continue in the future, which once again proves the continuity of linguistic exchange between English and French. In addition, it is observed that, along with historical factors, cultural, economic and educational processes also serve to strengthen this influence. Therefore, it is important to further explore this topic in the future and to study the changes that have occurred over time. Future research should also pay attention to how the interaction between different languages is shaped in a global context.

Conclusion

The relationship between English and French is not limited to the borrowing of words. French has had a wider influence on modern English spelling, and this influence is not limited to vocabulary. It is precisely the phonological features of the French language that have also changed the pronunciation of some sounds in English. In particular, the pronunciation and location of some English sounds have changed to match the sounds in French.

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