

# "Introduction to the History of English"

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## Loanwords in English

- To navigate use <page up/down> = <Bild auf/ab> and <arrow> keys
- You should reduce the font-size on your browser

### Basics of borrowing

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Prestige Power</b>       | <b>Borrowing typically from plus-prestige/power to minus-prestige/power language/speech community</b>                   |
| <b>Area of influence</b>    | <b>Determines type of loan &amp; semantic field:<br/>E.g. trading contact &gt; words for traded goods</b>               |
| <b>Closeness of contact</b> | <b>Determines number of loans (to some extent also type):<br/>The closer the contact (bilingualism!) the more loans</b> |
| <b>Length of contact</b>    | <b>Determines number of loans:<br/>The longer the contact the more loans</b>  |

### Layers

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Latin</b>                      | <b>Zero period (1) - via Celtic (3) - Mission (4) - During ME (8) - During EMode &amp; later (9a)</b> |
| <b>Celtic</b>                     | <b>From 449 till present (2)</b>  |
| <b>Scandinavian Old Norse</b>     | <b>From c800 - c1100 (5)</b>  |
| <b>Norman French Anglo-Norman</b> | <b>From 1066 - c1200 (6)</b>  |
| <b>Central French</b>             | <b>From c1200 - c1400 (7) - During EModE &amp; later (9c)</b>   |
| <b>Greek</b>                      | <b>During EModE &amp; later (9b)</b>  |
| <b>European vernaculars</b>       | <b>During EModE or later: Italian (9d) - Spanish/Portuguese (9e) - Dutch (9f) - German (9g)</b>       |

## 1 Latin - Zero period

**Continental loans (before AD 449):**

**Roman traders / legionaries & Germanic tribes**

|                  |                                    |  |
|------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Prestige</b>  | <b>+Latin : ~CGmc</b>              | <b>Latin loans to be expected</b>  |
| <b>Area</b>      | <b>Restricted, viz. trade</b>      | <b>Restricted semantic fields (trade, Roman Empire)</b>                      |
| <b>Closeness</b> | <b>Loose, viz. trading contact</b> | <b>Several hundred loans in various Gmc dialects<br/>c50 relevant for OE</b> |

|               |                 |   |
|---------------|-----------------|---|
| <b>Length</b> | <b>Sporadic</b> | - |
|---------------|-----------------|---|

## 1 Latin - Zero period

**E.g.:**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Measurements</b>      | "mile, pound"   |
| <b>Commodities/trade</b> | "wine, pea, cheese, pepper"<br>"cheap, mint (~Münze)" |
| <b>Construction/war</b>  | "street, tile, camp, wall"                            |
| <b>Misc.</b>             | "bishop (!), mule"                                    |

## 2 Celtic

**Contact from 449 - present day, i.e. 1500 yrs. (!)**

|                 |  |  |
|-----------------|--|--|
| <b>Prestige</b> | <b>+AGS : -Celtic</b>                              | <b>Few Celtic loans to be expected</b> |
| <b>Area</b>     | <b>Not specific,<br/>every-day contact<br/>(?)</b> | -                                      |
|                 | <b>Very loose; hostile</b>                         | <b>Few loans to be expected</b>        |

|                  |                      |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Closeness</b> | <b>(!)</b>           |                                  |
| <b>Length</b>    | <b>1500 yrs. (!)</b> | <b>Many loans to be expected</b> |

## 2 Celtic loans

- **Extremely low prestige of Celts - little power**
- **Only around 60 Celtic loans in about 1500 yrs.**

### Into OE

- **Unspecified: "bin, brock (=badger)"**  
(cf. Beatrix Potter's "Tommy Brock", a badger)
- **Onomastic material (names of places/rivers): "Thames, Avon"**

### Later loans

- **Largely culture-specific: "brogue, loch, slogan, whisky"**

## 3 Latin via Celtic

- **Romanisation/Christianisation of the Celts**
- **Latin loans into Celtic (c600 identified), then into Anglo-Saxon**

### E.g.

- **Placename elements:**
  - o Lat. "castra" > "-caster, -chester" > "Lancaster,

**Manchester"**

o Lat. "vicus" > "wic" > "Eastwick"

- Misc.: "port, curse, cross"

## 4 Latin - Christian Mission

- Actual mission: c563 / 597 - c700
- Benedictine Reform: from c960

| <b>Prestige</b>  | <b>+Latin : ~AGS</b>   | <b>Latin loans to be expected</b>                             |
|------------------|--|---|
| <b>Area</b>      | <b>restricted, viz. Mission (&amp; later Benedictine Reform)</b> | <b>restricted semantic fields, viz. Church &amp; religion</b> |
| <b>Closeness</b> | <b>Mission (personal contact)</b>                                | <b>c450 loans<br/>Very well integrated!</b>                   |
|                  | <b>Benedictine Reform</b>  | <b>Fewer, bookish, learned</b>                                |
| <b>Length</b>    | <b>Mission c563 / 597 - c700</b>                                 | <b>-</b>  |
|                  | <b>Benedictine Reform: from c960</b>                             |   |

## 4 Latin - Christian Mission

- Actual mission: c563 / 597 - c700
- Benedictine Reform: from c960

**E.g.**

- Religion, Church: "martyr(dom!), alms"
- Misc.: "plant"
- Learned words (later): "tiger"

## 5 Scandinavian - Old Norse (ON)

c800 - c1100 (isolated use till 17th c.)

|                  |  |   |
|------------------|--|---|
| <b>Prestige</b>  | equal (!)  |   |
| <b>Area</b>      | unspecific,<br>every-day contact                             | Every-day words<br>Function words (!)<br>Core vocabulary (!)            |
| <b>Closeness</b> | <u>very close</u> , e.g. intermarriage<br>> bilingualism (!) | Large numbers<br>possible;<br>Function words (!)<br>Core vocabulary (!) |
| <b>Length</b>    | c800 - c1100   |   |

## 5 Scandinavian - Old Norse (ON)

**E.g.**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Function words</b> | Pronouns: "they - them - their"<br>Auxiliary: "are" |
|-----------------------|---|

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Closed classes</b>  | <b>Preposition: "till"</b>   |
| <b>Core vocabulary</b> | <b>Nouns: "birth, dirt, leg, skin, sky, sister"<br/>Verbs: "die, get, give, take"</b>  |
| <b>(Syntax)</b>        | <b>Preposition stranding (?)<br/>(only in Scand. languages &amp; English):<br/>"the question I was talking <b>about</b>"</b> |

## 6/7 Norman French/Anglo-Norman & Central French

1066 - c1400

|                  |   |                                    |
|------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Prestige</b>  | <b>++AGN/CFr : -ME</b>                                    | <b>French loans to be expected</b> |
| <b>Area</b>      | <b>Admin., gov., Church,<br/>law, military, lifestyle</b> | <b>-</b>                           |
| <b>Closeness</b> | <b>Loose<br/>Very little bilingualism</b>                 | <b>Up to c10,000 loans (!)</b>     |
| <b>Length</b>    | <b>1066 - c1200 (AGN)<br/>c1200 - c1400 (CFr)</b>         | <b>-</b>                           |

## 6/7 French (AGN & CFr)

1066 - c1400

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
|  | <b>"prince, duke, count"</b> |
|--|------------------------------|

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Titles of rank</b> |   |
| <b>Administration</b> | "government, parliament, state, nation, tax"                                  |
| <b>Law</b>            | "justice, court, prison, crime"   |
| <b>Church</b>         | "religion, service, saint, prayer"  |
| <b>Military</b>       | "battle, castle, tower, war"  |
| <b>Lifestyle</b>      | "fashion, dress, costume"<br>"art, music, poem"<br>"beef, mutton, pork, veal" |

## 6/7 French (AGN & CFr)

### Doublets

|                        | <b>AGN</b>    | <b>CFr</b>      |                      |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| <b>/k/ is retained</b> | <b>catch</b>  | <b>chase</b>    | <b>/k/ &gt; /tʃ/</b> |
|                        | <b>cattle</b> | <b>chattel</b>  |                      |
| <b>/w/ is retained</b> | <b>warden</b> | <b>guardian</b> | <b>/w/ &gt; /g/</b>  |
|                        | <b>war</b>    | <b>(guerre)</b> |                      |
|                        | <b>wage</b>   | <b>(gage)</b>   |                      |



## 8 Latin during ME

After 1350 - "aureate diction"

For the first time loans for stylistic reasons  
(e.g. Chaucer)

## 9a-b Latin, Greek in EModE and/or later

Classical loans for mainly 2 reasons

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Style</b>                | 15th c. "aureate diction"<br>16th c. "inkhorn terms"  |
| <b>Technical vocabulary</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o English used in science &amp; scholarship instead of Latin</li><li>o Technical vocabulary missing in English</li><li>o Words borrowed from Latin or formed on Latin</li></ul> |

## 9a-b Latin, Greek in EModE and/or later

"Inkhorn controversy"

John Cheke (1557)

I am of this **opinion** that our own tung shold be written cleane

and **pure, vnmixt** and vnmangeled with borrowing of other tungenes, [...]

(Görlach, Manfred. 1978. *Einführung in Frühneuenglische*. Heidelberg: Quelle & Meyer. p196)

## 9a-b Latin, Greek in EModE and/or later

E.g.

| <b>Latin</b>     | <b>Greek</b>     |
|------------------|------------------|
| <b>ambiguous</b> | <b>anarchy</b>   |
| <b>biceps</b>    | <b>-</b>         |
| <b>emotion</b>   | <b>analysis</b>  |
| <b>gladiator</b> | <b>anathema</b>  |
| <b>identical</b> | <b>anonymous</b> |
| <b>ratio</b>     | <b>archetype</b> |
| <b>vacuum</b>    | <b>autograph</b> |
| <b>zone</b>      |                  |

## 9c French in EModE and/or later

- **Less important than in ME**
- **Nevertheless most frequent source of loans from any living language**
- **Different semantic fields from ME loans > very specific**
- **E.g.: "admire, barbarian, compute"**

## 9d Italian in EModE or later

## Areas of influence

|                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Music</b>        | "aria, opera, solo"      |
| <b>Architecture</b> | "balcony"                |
| <b>Misc.</b>        | "ghetto, motto, regatta" |

## 9e Spanish/Portuguese in EModE or later

### Area of influence

- Discoveries, exotic phenomena (often ult. from non-IE languages)
- E.g.: "cannibal, cigar, pagoda, potato, tomato"

## Dutch 9f in early ModE or later

### Areas of influence

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Seafaring</b> | 15th century: "buoy, deck, hoist"<br>16th century: "dock, yacht" |
| <b>Painting</b>  | "easel, landscape, sketch, stillife"                             |

## German 9g

## Areas of influence

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Geology (18th c.)</b> | <b>"cobalt, quartz"</b> |
| <b>Misc.</b>             | <b>"waltz, noodle"</b>  |
| <b>WWII</b>              | <b>"blitz, flak"</b>    |

## Practice

## Origin & rough timeframe

| <b>Group 1</b>   | <b>Group 2</b> | <b>Group 3</b>  | <b>Group 4</b>    |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>father</b>    | <b>wolf</b>    | <b>folk</b>     | <b>calf</b>       |
| <b>pound</b>     | <b>street</b>  | <b>mile</b>     | <b>camp</b>       |
| <b>abbod</b>     | <b>tiger</b>   | <b>camel</b>    | <b>minster</b>    |
| <b>are</b>       | <b>skin</b>    | <b>die</b>      | <b>sky</b>        |
| <b>veal</b>      | <b>prince</b>  | <b>judge</b>    | <b>fashion</b>    |
| <b>-</b>         | <b>anarchy</b> | <b>analysis</b> | <b>-</b>          |
| <b>astronaut</b> | <b>-</b>       | <b>-</b>        | <b>television</b> |
| <b>loch</b>      | <b>plaid</b>   | <b>brogue</b>   | <b>clan</b>       |
| <b>ghetto</b>    | <b>solo</b>    | <b>balcony</b>  | <b>aria</b>       |
| <b>jaguar</b>    | <b>tomato</b>  | <b>cannibal</b> | <b>cigar</b>      |

|       |              |        |       |
|-------|--------------|--------|-------|
|       |              |        |       |
| waltz | kindergarten | quartz | sauna |

## Practice - Answer key

### Origin & rough timeframe

|                                  | Group 1   | Group 2      | Group 3  | Group 4    |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------|------------|
| <b>a. Native English</b>         | father    | wolf         | folk     | calf       |
| <b>b. Lat., zero period</b>      | pound     | street       | mile     | camp       |
| <b>c. Lat. into OE</b>           | abbod     | tiger        | camel    | minster    |
| <b>d. ON into OE</b>             | are       | skin         | die      | sky        |
| <b>e. Fr. into ME</b>            | veal      | prince       | judge    | fashion    |
| <b>f. Greek into EModE</b>       | -         | anarchy      | analysis | -          |
| <b>g. Neo-Latin</b>              | astronaut | -            | -        | television |
| <b>h. Celtic into ME/EModE</b>   | loch      | plaid        | brogue   | clan       |
| <b>i. It. into EModE</b>         | ghetto    | solo         | balcony  | aria       |
| <b>j. Span./Port. into EModE</b> | jaguar    | tomato       | cannibal | cigar      |
| <b>k. Misc. into EModE/PDE</b>   | waltz     | kindergarten | quartz   | sauna      |