

"Introduction to the History of English"

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

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

Layers

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

1 Latin - Zero period

Continental loans (before AD 449):

Roman traders / legionaries & Germanic tribes

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

Length	Sporadic	-
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1 Latin - Zero period

E.g.:

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

2 Celtic

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

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

Closeness	(!)	
Length	1500 yrs. (!)	Many loans to be expected

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/ivers): "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

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

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.)

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

5 Scandinavian - Old Norse (ON)

E.g.

Function words	Pronouns: "they - them - their" Auxiliary: "are"
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Closed classes	Preposition: "till"
Core vocabulary	Nouns: "birth, dirt, leg, skin, sky, sister" Verbs: "die, get, give, take"
(Syntax)	Preposition stranding (?) (only in Scand. languages & English): "the question I was talking about"

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

1066 - c1400

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

6/7 French (AGN & CFr)

1066 - c1400

	"prince, duke, count"
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Titles of rank	
Administration	"government, parliament, state, nation, tax"
Law	"justice, court, prison, crime"
Church	"religion, service, saint, prayer"
Military	"battle, castle, tower, war"
Lifestyle	"fashion, dress, costume" "art, music, poem" "beef, mutton, pork, veal"

6/7 French (AGN & CFr)

Doublets

	AGN	CFr	
/k/ is retained	catch	chase	/k/ > /tʃ/
	cattle	chattel	
/w/ is retained	warden	guardian	/w/ > /g/
	war	(guerre)	
	wage	(gage)	

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

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

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.

Latin	Greek
ambiguous	anarchy
biceps	-
emotion	analysis
gladiator	anathema
identical	anonymous
ratio	archetype
vacuum	autograph
zone	

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

Music	"aria, opera, solo"
Architecture	"balcony"
Misc.	"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

Seafaring	15th century: "buoy, deck, hoist" 16th century: "dock, yacht"
Painting	"easel, landscape, sketch, stillife"

German 9g

Areas of influence

Geology (18th c.)	"cobalt, quartz"
Misc.	"waltz, noodle"
WWII	"blitz, flak"

Practice

Origin & rough timeframe

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

waltz	kindergarten	quartz	sauna

Practice - Answer key

Origin & rough timeframe

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