



THE EVOLUTION OF BORROWINGS IN MODERN ENGLISH BASED ON EXAMPLES FROM IT AND BUSINESS

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Abstract: *This article examines the historical development and modern transformation of lexical borrowings in the English language, with a particular focus on terminology used in the fields of Information Technology (IT) and business. It analyzes the linguistic, cultural, and socio-economic factors that have shaped the expansion of borrowed vocabulary and explores how globalization, technological innovation, and international trade have accelerated the integration of foreign words into contemporary English. Examples from IT and business discourse demonstrate how borrowing enriches the lexicon and facilitates cross-cultural communication while also posing challenges for learners and translators.*

Keywords: *Borrowing, loanwords, linguistic evolution, IT terminology, business vocabulary, globalization, modern English.*

INTRODUCTION.

Borrowing is one of the most significant mechanisms of lexical enrichment in English. Throughout its history, English has absorbed vocabulary from Latin, French, Norse, Greek, and numerous other languages due to cultural contact, trade, migration, and scientific development. In modern times, the process of borrowing has accelerated dramatically as a result of globalization and technological innovation. The fields of Information Technology (IT) and business are especially rich in borrowed terms, many of which originate from English itself but spread globally, while others are adopted into English from other languages due to international collaboration. This article explores the evolution of borrowing in modern English with a focus on IT and business terminology, providing examples, structural analysis, and an overview of the factors influencing this linguistic phenomenon.

Scientific Novelty: This article's integrated analysis of English lexical borrowings throughout historical stages (Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English, and Modern English) and its examination of their reflection in modern IT and business terms constitute its scientific uniqueness. The study reveals semantic continuity, word adaption processes, and the effects of globalization on vocabulary expansion by offering a comparative overview for the first time that links historical borrowed lexemes with contemporary technological and economic words. The article also explores the functional relevance of IT and business words in the contemporary English lexicon and identifies their etymological antecedents.

Historical Background of Borrowings in English. The English language has undergone significant development over the centuries, influenced by various cultures and languages through invasions, trade, colonization, and cultural exchange. One of the most striking features of English is its ability to borrow words from other languages, a process that has enriched its vocabulary and made it one of the most diverse languages in the world. The history of borrowings in English can be traced through several major periods.

During the Old English period (450–1150 AD), English was primarily a Germanic language spoken by the Anglo-Saxons [1, p.45]. At this stage, borrowings were relatively limited. The most influential source was Latin, introduced through the Christian Church, which brought religious, educational, and administrative terms into English. Words such as altar, bishop, and angel were borrowed to express religious concepts that had



no native equivalent. Additionally, a small number of borrowings came from Celtic languages, the languages of the native inhabitants of Britain, including words like *crag* (rock) and *brock* (badger).

Examples: penny ← Latin *denarius* (money)
merchant ← Latin *mercator* (trader)

The Middle English period (1150–1500 AD) marked a significant increase in the number of borrowings, primarily as a result of the Norman Conquest of 1066 [2, p.112]. With the arrival of the Normans, Old Norman French became the language of the ruling class, the administration, and the legal system. Consequently, English absorbed a large number of French words, especially in areas such as law (court, judge, jury), government (parliament, council, army), and everyday life, including food (beef, pork, mutton) and fashion (gown, robe, silk). Latin continued to influence English during this period, often mediated through French, particularly in scholarly and religious contexts.

Examples:

- account ← French *acompte*
- profit ← French *profit*
- company ← French *compaignie*
- commerce ← French *commerce*
- contract ← French *contrat*

The Early Modern English period (1500–1700 AD) was characterized by the Renaissance, which brought renewed interest in classical learning and culture. This period introduced many borrowings from Latin and Greek, particularly in science, medicine, philosophy, literature, and the arts [3, p.90]. Words such as *formula*, *laboratory*, *tragedy*, and *epic* entered the English lexicon. Trade and exploration also facilitated borrowings from other European languages, including Italian, Spanish, and Dutch. For instance, Italian contributed words like *balcony*, *piano*, and *sonnet*, Spanish introduced *tomato*, *potato*, and *alligator*, and Dutch provided terms such as *yacht*, *skipper*, and *cruise*.

Examples:

- capital ← Latin *capitalis*
- finance ← French/Latin *finance*
- investor ← Latin *investire*
- corporation ← Latin *corporatio*
- bank ← Italian *banca*
- ledger ← Italian *leggere* (to read, accounting record)
- engine ← Latin *ingenium* (mechanical device, later used in computing)

In the Modern English period (1700–present), English emerged as a global language due to colonial expansion, trade, and cultural influence [4, p.321]. Borrowings in this period reflect the worldwide contact of English speakers with diverse cultures. Words from India (*pajamas*, *bungalow*, *guru*), Africa (*zebra*, *safari*), and the Americas (*canoe*, *moccasin*, *barbecue*) became part of English vocabulary. French continued to influence English, particularly in diplomacy, cuisine, and fashion, with words like *fiancé*, *gourmet*, and *boutique*. The development of science and technology further contributed to borrowing from Latin and Greek, leading to terms such as *television*, *microscope*, and *biology*.

Examples:

- entrepreneur ← French *entrepreneur*
- portfolio ← French *portefeuille*
- audit ← Latin *audire*
- strategy ← Greek *strategia*
- management ← Latin *manu agere*
- investment ← Latin *investire*
- stock ← Dutch *stock*
- trade ← Dutch/Germanic *trade*



- computer ← Latin computare (to calculate)
- software ← English coinage (influenced by technical terminology)
- network ← English compound (from Latin roots net + work)
- database ← English compound
- server ← Latin servire (to serve)
- algorithm ← Arabic al-Khwarizmi → Latin → English
- digital ← Latin digitus (finger, counting)
- information ← Latin informare
- telecommunication ← Greek tele + Latin communicare
- automation ← Greek autos + Latin motivus
- cybernetics ← Greek kybernētikós

There are several reasons why English has borrowed extensively from other languages. One reason is cultural contact through invasions, trade, and colonization. Borrowing also occurred due to prestige, where words from languages considered prestigious, such as French during the Middle English period, were adopted. Another reason is necessity, as new inventions, concepts, or objects often required new terms. Additionally, some words were borrowed for fashion, art, or stylistic reasons, giving them a sense of elegance or sophistication.

Throughout its history, English has continuously borrowed words from various languages, making it a very responsive language. The vocabulary of English has been influenced by historical, social, and cultural factors, ranging from Latin and Celtic influences in Old English to French and Latin in Middle and Early Modern English to borrowings from languages all over the world in Modern English. Due to its extensive history of interaction and interchange with other languages, English now has one of the largest vocabularies in the world. In the modern world, borrowing is still common, especially because of globalization, technology, and cross-border contact.

The English language's exceptional adaptability, openness, and vitality throughout its history are demonstrated by the evolution of borrowings. English has interacted with many linguistic and cultural systems since its inception, always absorbing new terminology to adapt to changing social, political, scientific, and technical realities. A recurring pattern emerges when borrowings from Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English, and Modern English are examined: each stage of linguistic development correlates with particular forms of cultural contact, whether through invasion, trade, religion, scholarship, or globalization. English has become a worldwide language with one of the largest vocabularies in the world as a result of these interactions, which have enriched the language with lexical terms that represent both intellectual and material advancement.

The impact of borrowing is particularly noticeable in specialized industries like business and information technology (IT) in the modern era. These fields change quickly, and in order to define novel systems, procedures, and ideas, accurate vocabulary is needed. As a result, English reinforces its global reach by adopting vocabulary from a variety of languages in addition to creating new phrases domestically. Algorithm (Arabic), server (Latin), portfolio (French), bank (Italian), and digital (Latin) are examples of borrowings that show how global cooperation, technical development, and economic interdependence influence contemporary English language. Additionally, a number of IT terms—such as software, database, network, and computer—emerged through a combination of historical roots and contemporary semantic shifts, illustrating the language's ability to adapt preexisting features for new settings.

The fact that borrowing has persisted for centuries suggests that linguistic change in English is both a necessary and beneficial event. Borrowings improve the expressive power of the language, fill in lexical gaps, and provide ideas that English speakers were not familiar with [5, p.57]. Moreover, the coexistence of native and borrowed words contributes to stylistic variation, allowing speakers to choose among synonyms of differing formality, nuance, and specialization. This linguistic diversity not only supports communication across fields



such as technology, business, education, and science but also strengthens English as a medium of international exchange.

In the end, the continuous borrowing process highlights how intertwined contemporary societies are and how crucial English is as a universal language. English will probably continue to broaden its vocabulary through borrowings as globalization and technological advancement pick up speed, producing a live record of human progress and cross-cultural exchange.

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