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# **C O U R S E P A P E R**

**Theme: Scandinavian borrowings in English**

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## I. Introduction.

Etymology is a branch of linguistics describing the origin of words, their change and development. To-day the far reaching advances in linguistics and in ELT and EFL oblige us, teachers of English to know well not only the language itself but about the language as well. So are they for the English vocabulary. This paper explains the reasons for the percentage of borrowings in the English language. Explanations for this should be sought in the eventful history of England. If to summarize the origin of the English vocabulary, it can be roughly called Anglo-Saxon, Norman, Scandinavian and French. However, the borrowings are not confined only to these languages. There are borrowings from Arabic, Turkish, Indian and many others. Some of the borrowings have been fully adapted to the phonetic system of the English language, while others look and sound as loan words. The English language can be regarded as the most hospitable language in the world.[1.295]

After a number of wars between the Germanic tribes and the Romans, these two opposing peoples came into peaceful contact. Trade is carried on, and the Germanic people gain knowledge of new things. They learn how to make butter and cheese<sup>1</sup> and, as there are no words for these products in their tribal languages, they are to use the Latin words to name them. They also borrow the names of some fruits and vegetables such as cherry, pear, plum, pea, beet, and pepper. The word *plant* is also a Latin borrowing of this period.

The fifth century A.D. Several of the Germanic tribes (the Angles, the Saxons, and the Jutes) migrated across the sea now known as the English channel to the British Isles. There they were confronted by the Celts, the original inhabitants of the Isles. The Celts desperately defended their land against the invaders, but they were no match for the military-minded Teutons and gradually

yielded most of their territory. Through their numerous contacts with the defeated Celts, the Germanic tribes assimilated a number of Celtic words, such as *bald*, *down*, *bard*, *cradle*. Especially, numerous among the Celtic borrowings were place names, names of rivers and hills.

The Germanic tribes occupied the land, but the names of many parts and features of their territory remained Celtic. For instance, the names of the rivers *Avon*, *Exe*, *Usk* and *Ux* originate from Celtic words meaning 'river' and 'water'. Ironically, even the name of the English capital originates from Celtic *LLyn* + *dun* in which *LLyn* is another Celtic word for 'river' and *dun* stands for 'a fortified hill', the meaning of the whole being 'fortress on the hill over the river'. Some Latin words entered the Anglo-Saxon Languages through Celtic, among them such widely-used words as *street* (Lat. Strata via) and *wall* (Lat. Vallum).[3.210]

The seventh century A.D. This century was significant for the Christianisation of England. Latin was the official language of the Christian Church, and consequently, the spread of Christianity was accompanied by a new period of Latin borrowings. These new Latin borrowings were very different in meaning from the earlier ones. They mostly indicated persons, objects and ideas associated with church and religious rituals. For example, *priest* (Lat. presbyter), *bishop* (Lat. episcopes), *monk* (Lat. monachus).

The Dictionaries given in reference have been referred to throughout the paper. *nun* (Lat. nonna), *candle* (Lat. candela). Also, there were educational terms. No wonder that these were Latin borrowings, too., for the first schools in England were church schools, and the first teachers priests and monks. The words school, scholar and magister are but few of them.

From the end of the 8th c. to the middle of the 11th c. England underwent several Scandinavian invasions which inevitably left their trace on English vocabulary. Here are some examples of early Scandinavian borrowings: *call*, *take*, *cast*, *die*, *law*, *husband*, *window*, *ill*, *loose*, *low*, and *weak*. Some of the words of

this group are easily recognizable as Scandinavian borrowings by the initial *sk*-combination. E.g. Sky, *skill*, *ski*, *skirt*, [2.189 ]

England became a bilingual country, and the impact of the French language on the English vocabulary is huge. French words penetrated every aspect of social life. Here is a very brief list of examples of Norman French borrowings:

**Administrative words:** state, government, parliament, council, power.

**Legal terms:** court, judge, justice, crime, prison.

**Military terms:** army, war, soldier, officer, battle, enemy.

**Educational terms:** pupil, lesson, library, science, pen, pencil.

Sheard, J. A. "The Words We Use". Readings in Modern English Lexicology. Ed. H.H. Tikhonov. p.183. Everyday life was also affected by the powerful influence of French words. Numerous terms of everyday life were also borrowed from French in this period: e.g. *table*, *plate*, *saucer*, *diner*, *supper*, *river*, *autumn*, *uncle*, etc.

The Renaissance was a period of extensive cultural contacts between the major European states. Therefore, it was only natural that new words also entered the English vocabulary from other European languages. The most significant ones were French borrowings. This time they came from the Parisian dialect of French and are known as Parisian borrowings. Examples; *regime*, *routine*, *police*, *ballet*, *matinee*, *scene*, *bourgeois*, etc.. However, they are different from Norman French borrowings in that the former have for a long time been fully adapted to the phonetic system of the English language; the words, as *table*, *plate*, *courage*, *chivalry*, bear no phonetic traces of their French origin. The latter still sound surprisingly French.

Italian also contributed a considerable number of words to English, e.g. *piano*, *violin*, *opera*, *alarm*, *colonel*. The Italian words like *macaroni*, *ravioli*,

*spaghetti, pizza, arugula*, and the *mafia* have also acquired a citizenship in the English language. Words of Eastern origin (Arabic, Persian) are also of great importance in the vocabulary of the English Language. Before going further, two linguistic terms should be explained: 'source of borrowing' and 'origin of borrowing'. The first should be applied to the language from which the loan word was taken into English. The second, on the other hand, refers to the language to which the word may be traced. Ideally, etymological dictionaries should point out both of them - the source of and origin of borrowings. For example, the word *pyjamas-pajama* (AE) is a good 'traveller'. It has the Indian language as its source of borrowing, but it is actually Persian (Persian *pai*; a leg + *jama*; garment). The Russian language borrowed the word from English. The origin of the word *check* is no less interesting. It comes into Old French through Arabic into which it came from Persian *shah-king*. As is well known, in chess *shah* means that the opponent's king is in danger. From here the meaning 'holding someone in check' has been derived. The words *caravan* (*kavran* + *sarai*), *bazaar*, *turban* (a kind of head-dress), *pilaw* (*pilaf*), *divan*, *baksheesh* (a tip), *jackal*, *azure*, *lemon* are also words of Persian origin.[3.156]

Thus, etymologically, the English vocabulary consists of native words and loan words. A native word is a word which belongs to the original English stock, as known from the earliest available manuscripts of the old English period. Borrowings, on the other hand, are taken over from another language and modified in sounding, spelling, and paradigm or meaning according to the standards of the English language, the native words are further subdivided into Indo-European stock and those of common Germanic origin.

## **II. The borrowed words process development in English**

The only true way to estimate the relation of the native to the borrowed element is to consider the two as actually used in speech. If one counts every word used including repetitions in some reading matter the proportion of native to borrowed words will be quite different. On such a count every writer uses considerable more native words than borrowings. Shakespeare for example has 90% Milton 81% Tennyson 88%. This shows how important is the comparatively small nucleus of native words. Different borrowings are marked by different frequency value. Those well established in the vocabulary may be as frequent in speech as native words whereas others occur very rarely. The great number of borrowings in English left some imprint upon the language. The first effect of foreign influence is observed in the volume of its vocabulary. Due to its history the English language more than any other modern language has absorbed foreign elements in its vocabulary. But the adoption of foreign words must not be understood as were quantities change. Any importation into the lexical system brings about semantic and stylistic changes in the words of this language and changes in its synonymic groups.[6.269]

It has been mentioned that when borrowed words were identical in meaning with those already in English the adopted word very often displaced the native word. In most cases however the borrowed words and synonymous native words (or words borrowed earlier) remained in the language becoming more or less differentiated in meaning and use. As a result the number of synonymic groups in English greatly increased. The synonymic groups became voluminous and acquired many words rarely used. This brought about a rise in the percentage of stylistic synonyms.

As a result of the differentiation in meaning between synonymous words many native words or words borrowed earlier narrowed their meaning or sphere of application.

Abundant borrowing intensified the difference between the word stock of the literary national language and dialects as well as between British English and American English. On the one hand a number of words were borrowed into the literary national language which are not to be found in the dialects. In a number of cases the dialects have preserved some Anglo-Saxon words which were replaced by borrowings in the literary language. On the other hand a number of words were borrowed into dialects are not used throughout the country.

In spite of the numerous outside linguistic influences and the etymological heterogeneity of its vocabulary the English language is still in essential characteristics a Germanic language. It has retained a ground work of Germanic words and grammar. A comparative study of the nature and role of native and borrowed words show that borrowing has never been the chief means of replenishing the English vocabulary. Word-formation and semantic development were throughout the entire history of the English language much more productive than borrowing. Besides most native words are marked by a higher frequency value. The great number of borrowings bringing with them new phonon-morphological types new phonetic morphological and semantic features left its imprint upon the English language. On the other hand under the influence of the borrowed element words already existing in the English changed to some extent their semantic structure collectability frequency and word forming ability. Borrowing also considerably enlarged the English vocabulary and brought about some changes in English synonymic groups in the distribution of the English vocabulary through sphere of application and in the lexical divergence between the two variants of the literary national language and its dialects.

Uzbek language is also under constant influence of borrowings. We are living in the age of progress and technology. New discoveries new inventions bring about new notions which are accepted by languages and Uzbek language is

also among them. The words connected with development of technology sport terms everyday words have been penetrating into Uzbek language from other languages especially from English Russian and through Russian or English from many European languages.[8.185]

In its turn many Uzbek words entered the word stock of world languages such as of sport terms: Kurash halol chala the names of quinine: plov manti somsa the names of clothes: chapan and etc.

When in two languages we find no trace of the exchange of loan words one way or the other. We are safe to infer that the two nations have had nothing to do with each other but if they have been in contact the number of the loan-words and still more the quality of the loan-words if rightly interpreted will inform us of their reciprocal relations they will show us which of them has been the more fertile in ideas and on what domains of human activity each has been superior of the other. If all other sources of information were closed to us except such loan-words in our modern North-European languages as «piano» «soprano» «opera» «libretto» «tempo» «adagio» etc. we should still have no hesitation in drawing the conclusion that Italian music has played a great role all over Europe.

There are many words one a native word the other a Romance loan originally of lither identical or similar meaning with some distinction made today such as «freedom» and «liberty» «happiness» and «felicity» «help» and «aid» «love» and «charity» and we should find that the native word has a more emotional sense is homely and unassuming whereas the loan word is colder aloof more dignified more formal.

On the one hand there are changes specific of borrowed words only. These changes aim at adapting words of foreign origin to the norms of the borrowing language e. g. the constant combinations [p n] [p s] [t p t] in the words «pneumatics» «psychology» «ptolomey» of Greek origin were simplified into [n] [s] [t] since the consonant combinations [p s] [pt] [p n] very frequent at the end of English words (as in «sleeps» «stopped») were never used in the initial position.

It is very important to discriminate between the two processes the adaptation of borrowed material to the norms of the language and the development of these words according to the laws of the language. This differentiation is not always easily discernible. In most cases we must resort to historical analysis before we can draw any definite conclusions. There is nothing in the form of the words «procession» and «progression» to show that the former was already used in England in the 11<sup>th</sup> century the latter not till the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The history of these words reveals that the word procession has undergone a number of changes along side with other English words change in declension accentuation structure sounds whereas the word «progression» underwent some changes by analogy with the word «procession» and other similar words already at the time of its appearance in the language.[10.367]

Since the process of assimilation of borrowings includes changes in sound-form morphological structure grammar characteristics meaning and usage linguists distinguish phonetic grammatical and lexical assimilation of borrowings.

Phonetic assimilation comprising changes in sound-form and stress is perhaps the most conspicuous. Sounds that were alien to the English language were fitted into its scheme of sounds. For instance the long [e] and [E] in recent French borrowings quite strange to English speech are rendered with the help of [e i] (as in the words «communiqué» «chaussee» «café») Familiar sounds or sound combinations the position of which was strange to the English language were replaced by other sounds or sound combinations to make the words conform to the norms of the language e.g. German spits [spits] was turned into English [spits].

Substitution of native sounds for foreign ones usually takes place in the very act of borrowing. But some words retain their foreign pronunciation for a long time before the unfamiliar sounds are replaced by similar native sounds.

In words that were added to English from foreign sources especially from French or Latin the accent was gradually transferred to the first syllable. Thus words like «honour» «reason» were accented on the same principle as the native «father» «mother».

Usually as soon as words from other languages were introduced into English they lost their former grammatical categories and inflexions and acquired new grammatical categories and paradigms by analogy with other English words.

If a borrowed word loses its former grammatical categories and inflexions and gets new grammatical categories and paradigms by analogy with other English words we say the word is undergone grammatical assimilation. Sometimes the foreign inflexions are fallen off.

E. g. sputnik sputniks sputnik's

Lat. consutare (v) English consult.

However there are some words in Modern English that have for centuries retained their foreign inflexions. Thus a considerable group of borrowed nouns all of them terms or literary words adopted in the 16<sup>th</sup> century or later have preserved their original plural inflexion to this day e.g.

Phenomenon-phenomena

Addendum-addenda

Other borrowings of the same period have two plural forms the native and the foreign e. g. vacuum-vacua vacuums virtuoso-virtuosi virtuosos.

All borrowings that were composite in structure in their native language appeared in English as indivisible root-words unless there were already words with the same morphemes in it e. g. in the word «saunter» the French infinitive inflexion-er is retained but it has changed its quality it is preserved in all the other grammatical forms of the word. (saunters suntered sauntering) which means that it has become part of the stem in English.

Sometimes in borrowed words foreign affixes are replaced by those available in the English language e. g. the inflexion – us in Latin adjectives was replaced in English with the suffixes – ous or – al

Barbarus-barbarous

Botanicus-botanical

Balneus-balneal

When a word is taken over into another language its semantic structure as a rule undergoes great changes.

Polysemantic words are usually adopted only in one or two of their meanings. Thus the word «timbre» that had a number of meanings in French was borrowed into English as a musical term only. The words cargo and cask highly polysemantic in Spanish were adopted only in one of their meanings – «the goods carried in a ship» «a barrel for holding liquids» respectively.

In some cases we can observe specialization of meaning as in the word hangar denoting a building in which aero planes are kept and revue which had the meaning of «review» in French and came to denote a kind of theatrical entertainment in English.

In the process of its historical development a borrowing sometimes acquired new meanings that were not to be found in its former semantic structure. For instance the word move in Modern English has developed the meanings of ‘propose’ ‘change one’s flat’ ‘mix with people’ and others that the French mouvoir does not possess. The word scope which originally had the meaning of ‘aim purpose’ now means ‘ability to understand’ ‘the field within which an activity takes place sphere’ ‘opportunity freedom of action’. As a rule the development of new meanings takes place 50–100 years after the word is borrowed.

The semantic structure of borrowings changes in other ways as well. Some meanings become more general others more specialized etc. For instance the word «terrorist» that was taken over from French in the meaning of «Jacobin» widened its meaning to ‘one who governs or opposes a government by violent means. The word umbrella borrowed in the meaning of a sunshade or parasol came to denote similar protection from the rain as well.

Usually the primary meaning of a borrowed word was retained throughout its history but sometimes it becomes a secondary meaning. Thus the Scandinavian borrowings wing root take and many others have retained their primary meanings to the present day.

Sometimes change of meaning is the result of associating borrowed words with familiar words which somewhat resemble them in sound but which are not at all related. This process which is termed folk etymology often changes the form of the word in whole or in part so as to bring it nearer to the word or words with which it is thought to be connected e. g. the French sur (o) under had the meaning of «overflow». In English r (o) under was associated by mistake with round – думалок and the verb was interpreted as meaning ‘enclose on all sides encircle’ Folle – etimologization is a slow process; people first attempt to give the foreign borrowing its foreign pronunciation but gradually popular use involves a new pronunciation and spelling.

Unassimilated words differ from assimilated words in their pronunciation spelling frequency semantic structure and sphere of application. However there is no distinct borderline between the two groups.

So far no linguist has been able to suggest more or less comprehensive criteria for determining the degree of assimilation depends in the first place upon the time of borrowing. The general principle is: the older the borrowing the more thoroughly it tends to follow normal language (Uzbek English) of accentuation pronunciation etc. It is but natural that the majority of early borrowings have acquired full language (English or Uzbek) citizenship and that most English speaking people are astonished on first hearing that such everyday words as «window» «chair» «dish» «box» haven't always belonged to their language. As you see in the above Uzbek extract there are words which can be easily recognized as loan words e.g.: банк-bank стратегия-strategy сектор-sector бизнес-business кредит-credit инфраструктура – infrastructure.

A classification of loan words according to the degree of assimilation can be only very general as no rigorous procedure for measuring it has so far been developed. The following three groups may be suggested:

1. Completely assimilated borrowed words
2. Partially assimilated borrowed words
3. Unassimilated borrowed words or barbarism.

The group of partially assimilated words may be subdivided depending on the aspect that remains unaltered i. e. according to whether the word retains features of spelling pronunciation morphology or denotation that are not English. The third group is not universally accepted as it may be argued that words not changed at all cannot form part of the vocabulary of language because they occur in speech only but do not enter the language.

They may belong to the first layer of Latin borrowings e g: cheese street wall or wine. Among Scandinavian borrowed words we find such frequent nouns as husband fellow gate root wing; such verbs as call die take want and adjectives like happy ill low odd and wrong. Completely assimilated French words are extremely numerous and frequent. Suffice it to mention such everyday words as table chair face figure finish matter. A considerable number of Latin words borrowed during the revival of learning are at present almost indistinguishable from the rest of the vocabulary. Neither animal nor article differ noticeable from native words.

Uzbek language like English is vulnerable to new nations. It mainly enriches its word stock by loaning words from Persian Arabic Russian and via Russian from European languages. A large number of words in Uzbek language are the words from Persian. Tajik languages which are completely assimilated and widely used by Uzbek people: дастурхон даструмол хокандоз пояндоз пойдевор барг дарахт гул фарзанд дутор сетор and etc.

After Arabic invasion of Central Asia a number of Arabic words were borrowed which became the indivisible part of our daily speech: мактаб китоб мактуб адабиёт ахолии оила Фан санъат хизмат меҳнат раис идора давлат and etc.

Starting from XIX century new notions began to penetrate into Uzbek language from Russian and via Russian from European languages. They denote new notions new inventions which don't have equivalence in Uzbek that's why they are completely assimilated borrowings:

Стол стул ручка паровоз студент министр операция (Latin) грамматика комедия театр музей опера (Greek) солдат галстук штаб лагерь (German) костюм пальто кабинет генерал (French) опера ария ложа топор (Italian) трамвай вокзал митинг футбол баскетбол бокс (English).

The number of completely assimilated borrowed words is many times greater than the number of partially assimilated ones. They follow all morphological phonetically and orthographic standards. Being very frequent and stylistically neutral they may occur as dominant words in synonymic groups. They take an active part in word-formation. Moreover their morphological structure and motivation remain transparent so that they are morphologically analyzable and therefore supply the English vocabulary not only with free forms but also with bound forms as affixes are easily perceived and separated in series of loan words that contain them.

The second group containing partially assimilated borrowed words can be subdivided into subgroups.

The oppositions are equipollent.

a) Loan words not assimilated semantically because they denote objects and notions peculiar to the country from which they come. They may denote foreign clothing: mantilla sombrero; foreign titles and professions: shah rajah sheik beireader; foreign vehicles: caique (Turkish) rickshaw (Chinese) food and drinks: pillow(Persian) sherbet(Arabian); foreign currency: krone (Denmark) rupee(India) zloty(Poland) peseta(Spain)

b) Borrowed words not assimilated grammatically for example nouns borrowed from Latin Greek which keep their original plural forms: bacillus; bacilli crisis; crises formula; formulae index; indices. Some of these are also used in English plural forms but in that case there may be a difference in lexical meaning as in: indices: indexes.

c) Loan words not completely assimilated phonetically. The French words borrowed after 1650 afford good examples. Some of them keep the accent on the final syllable: machine cartoon police.

d) Borrowed words not completely assimilated grammatically. This group as V.I. Balinskaya shows is fairly large and variegated. There are for instance words borrowed from French in which the final consonant is not pronounced e.g: battet buffet corps. Some may keep a diacritic mark: café cliché. Specifically French digraphs (ch qu ou) may be retained in spelling: bouquet brioche.

It goes without saying that these sets are intersecting i.e. One and the same loan word often Shows in complete assimilation in several respects simultaneously.

The third group of borrowings comprises the so-called barbarism i. e. words from other languages used by English people in conversation or in writing but not assimilated in any way and for which there are corresponding English equivalents. The examples are the Italian addio ciao 'goodbye' the French affich for 'placard' and coup or coup d' Etat 'a sudden seizure of state power by a small group' the Latin ad libitum 'at pleasure' and the like.

Uzbek language is full of barbarisms which are mainly used by the youth: конечно certainly(Russian) okay (English) and etc.

The incompleteness of assimilation results in some specific features which permit us to judge of the origin of words. They may serve as formal indications of loan words of Greek Latin French or other origin. Another factor determining the process of assimilation is the way in which the borrowing was adopted into the language. Words borrowed orally are assimilated more readily they undergo greater changes whereas with words adopted through writing the process of assimilation is longer and more laborious. Whenever the need filling motive plays a part the borrower is being confronted with some new object or practice for which he needs words. Under these conditions three rather distance things may happen giving rise respectively to «loanwords» «loanshifts» and 'loanlands'. The borrower may adopt the donor's word along with the object or practice; the new form in the borrower's speech is then a loanword.

This layer is of great importance for the foreign language teacher not only because many words denoting abstract notions are international but also because he

must know the most efficient ways of showing the points of similarity and difference between such words as control:контрол (назорат) general: генерал industry:индустрия (саноат) magazine: магазин (дукон) etc. usually called 'translator's false friends.

The treatment of international words at English lessons would be one-sided if the teacher did not draw his pupils' attention to the spread of the English vocabulary into other languages. We find numerous English words in the field of sport: football out match tennis time. A large number of English words are to be found in the vocabulary pertaining to clothes: jersey pullover sweater nylon tweed etc. Cinema and different forms of entertainment are also a source of many international words of English origin: film club cocktail jazz. At least some of the Russian words borrowed into English and many other languages and thus international should also be mentioned: balalaika cosmonaut czar kremlin rouble sambo steppe vodks.

We should also include here Uzbek language which was under influence of Russian language for a long period of time but didn't lose its properties and its own word-stock and now being.

As the process of borrowing is mostly connected with the appearance of new notions which the loan words serve to express it is natural that the borrowing is seldom limited to one language. Words of identical origin that occur in several languages as a result of simultaneous or successive borrowings from one ultimate source are called international words.

The rate of change in technology political social and artistic life has been greatly accelerated in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and so has the rate of growth of international word-stock. A few examples of comparatively new words due to the progress of science will suffice to illustrate the importance of international vocabulary: algorithms antenna antibiotic automation bionics cybernetics entropy gene genetic code graph microelectronics etc. All these show sufficient likeness in English French Russian Uzbek and several other languages.

To adapt means to make or undergo modifications in function and structure so as to be fit for a new use a new environment or a new situation. Being adaptive system the vocabulary is constantly adjusting itself to the changing requirements and conditions of human communications and cultural and other needs. This process of self-regulation of the lexical system is a result of overcoming contradictions between the state of the system and the demands it has to meet. The speaker chooses from the existing stock of words such words that in his opinion can adequately express his thought and feeling. It is important to stress that the development is not confined to coining new words on the existing patterns but in adapting the very structure of the system to its changing functions.

According to F. de Saussure synchronic linguistics deals with systems and diachronic linguistic – with single elements and the two methods must be kept strictly apart. A language system then should be studied as something fixed and unchanging whereas we observe the opposite: it is constantly changed and readjusted as the need arises. The concept of adaptive systems overcomes this contradiction and permits us to study language as a constantly developing but systematic whole. The adaptive system approach gives a more adequate account of the systematic phenomena of a vocabulary by explaining more facts about the functioning of words and providing more relevant generalizations because we can take into account the influence of extra – linguistic reality. The study of the vocabulary as an adaptive system reveals the pragmatic essence of the communication process i. e. the way language is used to influence the addressee. There is a considerable difference of opinion as to the type of system involved although the majority of linguists nowadays agree that the vocabulary should be studied as a system. Our present state of knowledge is however insufficient to present the whole of the vocabulary as one articulated system so we deal with it as if it were a set of interrelated systems.[11.355]

### **III. The Native Element and Borrowed Words**

The most characteristic feature of English is usually said to be its mixed character. Many linguists consider foreign influence, especially that of French, to be the most important factor in the history of English. This wide-spread viewpoint is supported only by the evidence of the English word-stock, as its grammar and phonetic systems are very stable and not easily influenced by other languages.

To comprehend the nature of the English vocabulary and its historical development it is necessary to examine the etymology of different layers, the historical causes of their appearance, their volume and role and the comparative importance of native and borrowed elements in enriching the English vocabulary.

According to their origin words can be native and borrowed. A native word is a word which belongs to the original English stock as known from the earliest available manuscripts of the Old English period.

Native words are further subdivided into the words of the Indo-European stock and those of the Common Germanic origin. The words having cognates in the vocabularies of different Indo-European languages form the oldest layer. It has been noticed that they readily fall into definite semantic groups. Among them we find terms of kinship (mother, father, son, daughter), names of animals and birds (cat, wolf, goose), parts of human body (arm, eye). Some of the most frequent verbs belong to this word stock: come, sit, stand. Most numerals are also of the Indo-European origin.

A bigger part of the native vocabulary consists of the words of the Common Germanic word stock. Such nouns as summer, winter, rain, ice, hat; the verbs to

bake, to buy, to make, to meet; the adjectives deaf, dead, deep are of the Common Germanic origin. Most adverbs and pronouns also belong here.

Together with the words of the Common Indo-European stock the Common Germanic words form the bulk of the most frequent elements used in any style of speech.

1. The words are monosyllabic: sun, wood, break.

They are polysemantic: hand – 1. Part of the human body. 2. Power, possession, by a responsibility. 3. Influence. 4. Person from whom news comes. 5. Skill in using one's hands. 6. Person who does what is indicated by the context, performer. 7. Workman. 8. Share in activity. 9. Pointer, indicator. 10. Position or direction. 11. Handwriting. 12. Signature. 13. Number of cards held by a player. 14. Unit of measurement. 15. Applause by clapping.

3. They are characterised by high frequency.

4. Native words are usually found in set-expressions.

5. Verbs with post-positions are usually native: to look for, to look after.

6. They are characterised by a wide range of lexical and grammatical valency.

7. If words begin with wh, wr, tw, dw, sw, sh, th; if at the end they have dge, tch, nd, ld; if the roots

have ng, aw, ew, ee, oo they are native.

In its fifteen century long history recorded in written manuscripts the English language happened to come in long and close contact with several other languages, mainly Latin, French, Old Norse. The great influx of borrowings from these sources can be accounted for by a number of historical causes. Due to the great influence of the Roman civilisation Latin was for a long time used in England as the language of learning and religion. Old Norse was the language of the

conquerors who brought with them a lot of new notions of a higher social system – developed feudalism – it was the language of upper classes, of official documents from the middle of the 11th century to the end of the 14th century.

In the study of the borrowed element in English the main emphasis is as a rule placed on the Middle English period. Borrowings of the later periods became the object of investigation only in recent years. These investigations show that the flow of borrowings has been steady and uninterrupted. The greatest number of them has come from French. A large portion of them (41) is scientific and technical terms.[10. 298]

The number and character of borrowings do not only depend on the historical conditions, on the nature and length of contacts but also on the degree of the genetic and structural proximity of the languages concerned. The closer the languages the deeper and more versatile is the influence. Thus under the influence of the Scandinavian languages, which were closely related to Old English, some classes of words were borrowed that could not have been adopted from non-related or distantly related languages.

Borrowings enter the language in two ways: through oral and written speech. Oral borrowing took place chiefly in the early periods of history, whereas in recent times written borrowing gained importance. Words borrowed orally are usually short and they undergo more changes in the act of adoption. Written borrowings preserve their spelling.

Borrowings can be borrowed through transcription (football, trailer, jeans), transliteration (cruise, motel, club). Besides there can be loan words (blue stocking, collective farm). In some cases the pronunciation of the word, its spelling and the correlation between sounds and letters are an indication of the foreign origin of the word: waltz (German), psychology (Greek). The initial position of the sounds [v], [dz], [z] or of the letters x, j, z is a sure sign that the word has been borrowed : vase (French), jungle (Hindi), gesture (Latin).

The morphological structure of the word and its grammatical forms may also show that the word has been borrowed. The suffixes in the words *neurosis* (Greek), *violoncello* (Italian) betray the foreign origin of the words. The same is true of the irregular plural forms *bacteria*, *media*, *phenomena*.

The lexical meaning of the word can show the origin of the word. Thus the concept denoted by the words *pagoda* (Chinese), *kangaroo* (Australian) make us suppose that we deal with borrowings.

These criteria are not always helpful. Some early borrowings have become so thoroughly assimilated that they are unrecognisable as adoptions without a historical analysis: *chalk* (Latin), *ill* (Scandinavian), *car* (French).

Sometimes the form of the word and its meaning in Modern English enable us to tell the immediate source of borrowing. Thus, if the digraph *ch* is sounded as [ ] the word is a late French borrowing (*echelon*) ; if it is sounded as [k] the word came from the Greek language (*archaic*); if it is pronounced as [t ] it is either an early borrowing or a word of the Anglo-Saxon origin.[ 13]

When the invading Anglo-Saxon tribes came to the British Isles and encountered the aboriginal population, the latter did not influence Anglo-Saxon to any serious extent – these were not more than some 10-12 Celtic words. Besides not all of them were originally Celtic. No historian as yet has explained the reason why the Celtic traces in the English vocabulary have been so slight. One of the explanations may be that before the Anglo-Saxons came Britain had been under Roman oppression for about four centuries and the native Celtic population must have been greatly reduced by the Roman invaders. The Roman legions left Britain to defend their capital from the advancing Goths. At the approach of the new invaders the Britons fled to Wales and Cornwall, the Celtic tribes of Ireland accepted the English language and the Celtic tribes of Scotland were influenced in their speech by the Northern form of English. Now the Celtic tongues exist in the

form of Welsh, Irish, Gaelic and Highland Scotch and exercise their influence upon the local dialects.

The Celtic element includes such words as crag (rock), dun (greyish-brown), down (hill). There are some geographical names like Kent, Avon (river), Dover (water). Celtic elements are found in such place names as Duncombe, Helcombe (cum – canyon), Llandaff (llan – church), Inverness (inver – river mouth). Some of the early Latin, French, Spanish borrowings came through Celtic (cloak, car, clock, carry).

Their original source is Latin and their immediate source is French.

The greatest stream of Latin borrowings poured into the English vocabulary during the period of Renaissance. At that time words belonging to the following spheres were borrowed: terms of philosophy, mathematics, physics (fundamental, vacuum), terms of law and government (alibi, veto), terms of botany (mallow, petal), topographical terms (equator, tropical).

Nowadays when there appears a need to coin some term it is coined from the existing Latin or Greek elements.

Greek borrowings are recognised by their specific spelling (ch – character, ph - philosophy, pn – pneumonia, rh – rhetoric, ist – socialist, ics – mathematics, osis – neurosis).

To a certain extent Greek borrowings were latinized in form with the change of the Greek u into Latin y, the Greek k into the Latin c. When the Latin c changed its pronunciation before e, i, y many Greek words were changed beyond recognition ( kuriakon – church, kyklos – cycle). Some Greek proper names are widely used in Great Britain (Margaret, Sophia, Irene). Many Greek words were borrowed during the period of Renaissance. They belong to the following lexico-semantic fields: literature and art (poet, comedy), lexicology (antonym, dialect,

philosophy and mathematics (theory, thesis, diagram), medicine (diagnosis, rheumatism), physics (pneumatic, thermometer).[14]

The French layer rates second to Latin in bulk. It has been estimated that English owes one fourth of its vocabulary to French. French borrowings penetrated into English in two ways: from the Norman dialect (during the first centuries after the Norman Conquest of 1066) and from the French national literary language beginning with the 15th century.

The language had four major dialects: Northumbrian, Mercian, West Saxon, and Kentish. As the kings of Wessex (West Saxons) gradually emerged as kings of all England, West Saxon dominated the written form of the language. As such, it gradually became less reflective of the spoken language, especially in the Danelaw.

A legacy of the Roman Empire was the fact that the area west of the Rhine spoke Latin. The Latin they spoke, however, was not the highly inflected Classical Latin, used by the church and scholars, but the common, or Vulgar Latin of the soldiers and the market place. This Vulgar Latin, as it had no one controlling or regulating its use, brought in words from the languages of the local populace. For this reason people who speak Spanish , Italian, Catalan, Occitan, Romanian, Portuguese and French, though similar, even by 1066 were not able to understand one another.

#### IV. Scandinavian borrowings in English

The first **Scandinavian words** began to penetrate into the English vocabulary at the beginning of our era during the occasional raids of the Vikings. A great number of Scandinavian borrowings pertain to the period which lasted from the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> century to the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The languages and the cultures of the Vikings and the Britons did not differ much which made the borrowing process easy. Many Scandinavian words used in everyday life entered the English language: *egg, husband, root, wing, anger, weak, loose, wrong, happy, ugly, die, cut, take, give, call, want, they, their, them, both, same, till*. Some Scandinavian words eventually replaced the native ones. Thus, the pronoun *they* (?a) replaced the native pronoun *hi*, the verb *take* - the verb *niman*. Occasionally both the English and Scandinavian words were retained with a difference in meaning or use: *no/nay* (отказ, отрицательный ответ), *hide/skin, craft/skill*, etc.

The Viking invasion left its imprint in place names. The Scandinavian element is found in place names in *-by*: *Derby* [a:], *Rugby*; *-thorp*: *Althrop*, *-toft*: *Eastoft*, etc.

Scandinavian borrowings can be recognized by sound combination [sk] *sk/sc* (*sky, skill, ski, scrape, scare*), [i:], [i] and [e] after *k* (*kettle, key, kilt, kid*). From the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> century to the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century England underwent several Scandinavian invasions. Here are some examples of early **Scandinavian borrowings** : *call* (v.) *take* (v.) *cast* (v.) *die* (v.) *law* (n.) *husband*[3] (n.) *window*[4] (n.) *ill* (adj.) *loose* (adj.) *low* (adj.) *weak* (adj.). Some of Scandinavian borrowings are easily recognizable by the initial (sk-) combination. E. g. *sky skill skin ski skirt*.

Certain English words changed their meanings under the influence of Scandinavian words of the same root. So the old English "bread" which meant "piece" acquired its modern meaning by association with the Scandinavian "braud". The old English "dream" which meant "joy" assimilated the meaning of the Scandinavian "draumr".

With the famous Battle of Hastings when the English were defeated by the Normans under William the Conqueror began the eventful epoch of the Norman Conquest. The Norman culture of the 11<sup>th</sup> century was certainly superior to that of the Saxons. The result was that English vocabulary acquired a great number of French words. But instead of being smashed and broken by the powerful intrusion of the foreign element the English language managed to preserve its essential structure and vastly enriched its expressive resources with the new borrowings. England became a bilingual country and the impact on the English vocabulary made over this two-hundred-years period is immense: French words from the Norman dialect penetrated every aspect of social life. From the end of 8th c. to the middle of the 11th c. England underwent several Scandinavian invasions which inevitably left their trace on English vocabulary. Here are some examples of early Scandinavian borrowings: call, v., take, v., cast, v., die, v., law, n., husband, n. (Sc. Hus+bondi, i.e. “inhabitant of the house”), window, n. (Sc. Vindauga, i.e. “the eye of the wind”), ill, adj., low, adj., weak, adj. Some of the words of this group are easily recognizable as Scandinavian borrowings by the initial sk-combination. For example sky, skill, skin, ski, skirt [5, 325-329]

Certain English words changed their meanings under the influence of Scandinavian words of same root. So, the O.E. bread which meant “piece” acquired its modern meaning by association with the Scandinavian brand.

The O.E. dream which meant “joy” assimilated the meaning of the Scandinavian draumr (with the Germ. Traum “dream” and the R. дрѣма). With the famous Battle of Hastings, when the English were defeated by the Normans under William the conqueror, we come to the eventful epoch of the Norman Conquest. The epoch can be called eventful not only in national, social, political human terms but also in linguistic terms. England became a bi-lingual country, and the impact on the English vocabulary made over this two-hundred-years period is immense: French words from the Norman dialect penetrated every aspect of social life. Here is a very brief list of examples of Norman French borrowings.

-Administrative words: state, government, parliament, council, power.

-Legal terms: court, judge, justice, crime, prison.

-Military terms: army, war, soldier, officer, battle, enemy.

-Educational terms: pupil, lesson, library, science, pen, pencil.

Everyday life was not unaffected by the powerful influence of French words. Numerous terms of everyday life were also borrowed from French in this period: for example table, plate, saucer, dinner, supper, river, autumn, uncle, etc.

The Renaissance Period in England, as in European countries, this period was marked by significant developments in science, art and culture and also by revival of interest in the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome and their languages. Hence, there occurred a considerable number of Latin and Greek borrowings. In contrast to the earliest Latin borrowings (1st c. B.C.), the Renaissance ones were rarely concrete names. They were mostly abstract words (for example major, minor, filial, moderate, intelligent, permanent, to elect, to create). There were naturally numerous scientific and artistic terms (datum, status, phenomenon, philosophy, method, music). The same is true of Greek Renaissance borrowings (for example atom, cycle, ethics and esthete).

The Renaissance was a period of extensive cultural contacts between the major European states. Therefore, it was only natural that new words also entered the English vocabulary from other European languages. The most significant once more were French borrowings. This time they came from the Parisian dialect of French and are known as Parisian borrowings. Examples: regime, routine, police, machine, ballet, matinee, scene, technique, bourgeois etc. One should note that these words of French origin sound and “look” very different from their Norman predecessors. Italian also contributed a considerable number of words to English, e.g. piano, violin, opera, alarm, colonel.

There are certain structural features which enable us to identify some words as borrowings and even to determine the source language. We have already established that the initial sk-usually indicates Scandinavian origin. You can also recognize words of Latin and French origin by certain suffixes, prefixes or endings.

Semantic borrowings are such units when a new meaning of the unit existing in the language is borrowed. It can happen when we have two relative languages which have common words with different meanings, for example there are semantic borrowings between Scandinavian and English, such as the meaning 'to live' for the word 'to dwell' which in Old English had the meaning 'to wander'. Or else the meaning 'gift' for the word 'gift' which in Old English had the meaning 'to give'.

Some Scandinavian borrowings have consonants and combinations of consonants which were not palatalized for example /sk/ in the words: sky, skate, ski etc(in native word we have the palatalized sounds denoted by the digraph 'sh', for example shirt); sounds /k/ and /g/ before front vowels are not palatalized for example girl, get, give, kid, kill, kettle. In native words we have palatalization, for example German, child. Some French borrowings retain special combinations of sounds, for example /a:ʒ/ in the words: camouflage, bourgeois, some of them retain the combination of sounds /wa:/ in the words: memoir, boulevard.

Among Scandinavian loan words we find such frequent nouns as husband, fellow, gate, root, wing; such verbs as call, die, take, want and adjectives like happy, ill, low, odd and wrong. Completely assimilated French words are extremely numerous and frequent. Suffice it to mention such everyday words as table and chair, face and figure, finish and matter. A considerable number of Latin words borrowed during the revival of learning are at present almost indistinguishable from the rest of the vocabulary. Neither animal nor article differs noticeably from native words. The number of completely assimilated loan words follow all morphological, phonetical and as dominant words in synonymic groups.

They take an active part in word-formation. Moreover, their morphological structure and motivation remain transparent, so that they are morphologically analyzable and therefore supply the English vocabulary not only with free forms but also with bound forms, as affixes are easily perceived and separated in series of loan words that contain them. Such are, for instance, the French suffixes -age, -ance, -ment, and English modification of French -eese and -fier, which provide speech material to produce hybrids like shortage, godless, hindrance, specify and endearment. The free forms, on the other hand, are readily combined with native affixes, e.g. pained, painful, painfully, painless, painlessness, all formed from pain Fr. Peine Lat. Poena Gr. Poine 'penalty'. The subject of hybrids has already been dealt with in the chapter on derivation [10, 106-107]. The conformity of the completely assimilated loan words to morphological patterns of the English paradigms may be illustrated by Scandinavian loans taking the plural ending -s; eggs, gates, laws; or Latin loan verbs with dental suffix of the Past indefinite and Participle II: acted, corrected, disturbed.

By the end of the Old English period English underwent a strong influence of Scandinavian due to the Scandinavian Conquest of British Isles. Scandinavians belonged to the same group of peoples as Englishmen and their languages had much in common. As the result of this conquest there are about 700 borrowings from Scandinavian into English.

The English and Scandinavian belong to the same Germanic racial, cultural and linguistic stock features and words. But changes had occurred in the languages during the couple of centuries of separation of the two sets of people. The Scandinavians came to settle, rather than conquer or pillage. They lived alongside the Anglo-Saxons on more or less equal terms.

Under the Norman French, particularly, the two different groups fashioned a common life together as subjects.

Under these conditions:

The English word sometimes displaced the cognate Scandinavian word: fish instead of fisk; goat instead of gayte;

The Scandinavian word sometimes displaces the cognate English word: egg instead of ey, sister instead of sweoster;

Both might remain, but with somewhat different meanings: dike-ditch, hale-whole, raise-rise, sick-craft, skirt-shirt;

The English word might remain, but takes on the Scandinavian meaning dream (originally 'joy', 'mirth', 'music', 'revelry');

The English words that were becoming obsolete might be given a new lease of life, eg dale and barn.

Scandinavian and Englishmen had the same way of life, their cultural level was the same, and they had much in common their literature therefore there were many words in these languages which were almost identical, e.g.

Modern English	ON	OE	
Sister	Syster	sweoster	
Fish	Fiscr	Fisk	
Fellow	Felagi	felawe	

However there were also many words in the two languages which were different, and some of them were borrowed into English, such nouns as: bull, cake,

egg, kid, knife, skirt, window etc, such adjective as: flat, ill, happy, low, odd, ugly, wrong, such verbs as: call, die, guess, get, give, scream and many others.

Even some pronouns and connective words were borrowed which happens very seldom, such as: same, both, till, fro, though and pronominal forms with `th': they, them, their [1, 15-17].

Scandinavian influenced the development of phrasal verbs which did not exist in Old English, at the same time some prefixed verbs came out of usage, e.g. ofinam, beniman. Phrasal verbs are now highly productive in English take off, give in etc. Most of these appeared in the written language in the Middle English; but many were no doubt borrowed earlier, during the period of the Danelaw (9th-10th centuries). Anger, blight, by-law, cake, call, clumsy, doze, egg, fellow, gear, get, give, hale, hit, husband, kick, kill, kilt, kindle, low, lump, rag, raise, root, scathe, scorch, score, scowl, scrape, scrub, seat, skill, skin, skirt, sky, sly, take, they, them, their, thrall, thrust, ugly, want, window, wing. Place name suffixes: -by, -thorpe, --gate. Scandinavian words in modern English period: fjord, maelstrom, ombudsman, ski, slalom, smorgasbord.[14]

Scandinavian settlements in Great Britain in the 10th century. This gives us a picture of how long time it may take before words are adapted from one language to another. Of the five native Old Norse words, two are adjectives, two are nouns and one is a pronoun.

The word "law" also reveals to us in what fields the Scandinavians were powerful. The word "gift" which is also an Old Norse borrowing and therefore also of Germanic origin exists beside its synonym "present" in the English vocabulary today. This word, on the other hand, is of Romance origin, and was borrowed from Old French around 1225 A.D. This is one example of two synonyms in English that have both been borrowed, and that do not have a native equivalent.

Thus, due to the language of the Roman civilization Latin was for a long time used in England as the language of learning and religion. Old Norse of the Scandinavian tribes was the language of the conquerors (9-10-11 centuries). French (Norman dialect) was the language of the other conquerors who brought with them a lot of new notions of a higher social system, developed feudalism. It was the language of upper classes, of official documents and school (11-14cent). These factors are extra-linguistic ones. The absence of equivalent words in the language to express new subjects or phenomena makes people to borrow words. Eg.the words football, volleyball, michman in Russian; to economize the linguistic means, i.e. to use a foreign word instead of long native expressions and others are called linguistic causes.

The closer the two interacting languages are in structure the easier it is for words of one language to penetrate into the other. The fact that Scandinavian borrowings have penetrated into such grammatical classes as prepositions and pronouns (they, them, their, both, same, till) can only be attributed to a similarity in the structure of the two languages. Borrowings enter the language in two ways: through oral speech (by immediate contact between the people) and through written speech (by indirect contact through books). Words borrowed orally (inch, mill, street, map) are usually short and they undergo more changes in the act of adopter. Written borrowings (communique, belles-lettres, naivete, psychology, pagoda etc) are often rather long and they are unknown to many people, speaking English.

Unless you are a specialist, it is very difficult to pick out Scandinavian loan-words in English. This is because they seem to have the same quality and texture as Anglo-Saxon words. They are ordinary, everyday words, and quite often monosyllabic and include grammatical words like the verb are (to be), or the pronouns their, them and they and some of the commonest words in English today like bag, dirt, fog, knife, flat, low, odd, ugly, want, trust, get, give, take, raise, smile and though. A good

number of sc- or sk- words today are of Scandinavian origin (scathe, scorch, score, scowl, scrape, scrub, skill, skin, skirt, sky). Scandinavian loan-words are therefore more usefully considered as core items. Why is this so?

- The English and Scandinavian belong to the same Germanic racial, cultural and linguistic stock originally and their language, therefore, shared common grammatical features and words. But changes had occurred in the languages during the couple of centuries of separation of the two sets of people.

- The Scandinavians came to settle, rather than conquer or pillage. They lived alongside the Anglo-Saxons on more or less equal terms.

- Under the Norman French, particularly, the two different groups fashioned a common life together as subjects. Under these conditions, (a) the English word sometimes displaced the cognate Scandinavian word: fish instead of fisk; goat instead of gayte;

- (b) the Scandinavian word sometimes displaces the cognate English word: egg instead of ey, sister instead of sweoster;

- (c) both might remain, but with somewhat different meanings: dike-ditch, hale-whole, raise-rise, sick-ill, skill-craft, skirt-shirt;

- (d) the English word might remain, but takes on the Scandinavian meaning dream (originally 'joy', 'mirth', 'music', 'revelry'); and

- (e) the English words that were becoming obsolete might be given a new lease of life, eg dale and barn. The English language that is spoken today is the direct result of 1066 and the Norman Conquest. Modern English is vastly different from that spoken by the English prior to the Conquest, both in its word-hoard and its grammar. In order to understand what happened, and why, it is necessary to look at both English and Norman French before 1066, and then the Middle English that resulted from their interaction. The Scandinavian borrowings in the English vocabulary.

The Danish invasion in 878 resulted in the occupation of a great part of the country. The effect of the Danish conquest was a contribution of many Scandinavian words in the English vocabulary. Scandinavian words were borrowed most freely between the 9th and 12th century. It is supposed that the Scandinavian element in Modern English amounts to 650 root-words. Scandinavian loan-words denote objects and actions of the most commonplace description and do not represent any new set of ideas hitherto unknown to the people adopting them. We find here such everyday words as: (n) bull, cake, crop, egg, fellow, guest, kid, root, sky, sister, window; (adj) flat, low, mean, odd, wrong; (v) call, die, get, give, scream, scrape, take, want. Scand. borrowings are numerous in geographical place names in Northern England, such as: Braithwaite, Whitby. Scand. elements survive in such hybrid compounds as: lawful, lawless, greyhound. It is of interest to note that there are words in the English vocabulary that exist side by side for a long time, sometimes for centuries, two slightly different forms for the same word, one the original English form and the other Scandinavian. (whole - hale, from - fro, shirt - skirt, shot - scot, true - trig, neat, tidy).[13]

Wind+auza=winows, fe+lawe=fellow. Byr=village(derby=village of dear, kirby, holmby), dale=plane (avondale, danesdale), gate-way(newsgate), holm(home)-island-holmby, longholm, thorp=farm(carthorp).

1. then, them, both, their
2. niman-to take,sweltan-to die, swestor-sister
3. new meaning. bread was any kind of food, stuff-to die, dream-to sleep.
4. sk – skate, skill, skirt(in Eng was palatalization- ship)
5. fisc-fish
6. jetan-to get, y- yet, yeild – began to be spelled in one letter.
7. k- kettle, key.

About 40 Scandinavian (Old Norse) words were introduced into Old English by the Norsemen, or Vikings, who invaded Britain periodically from the late 8th century on. Introduced first were words pertaining to the sea and battle, but shortly after the initial invasions other words used in the Scandinavian social and administrative system—for example, the word law—entered the language, as well as the verb form are and such widely used words as take, cut, both, ill, and ugly.

## V. Conclusion

The role of loan words in the formation and development of English vocabulary is dealt with in the history of the language. It is there that the historical circumstances are discussed under which words borrowed from Latin from Scandinavian dialects from Norman and Parisian French and many other languages including Russian were introduced into English. Lexicology on the other hand has in this connection tasks of its own being chiefly concerned with the material and the results of assimilation.

It is evident that English history is very rich in different types of contacts with other countries, that's why it is very rich in borrowings. The Roman invasion, the adoption of Christianity, Scandinavian and Norman conquests of the British Isles, the development of British colonialism and trade cultural relations served to increase immensely the English vocabulary. The majority of these borrowings is fully assimilated in English in their pronunciation, grammar, spelling and can be hardly distinguished from native words.

In the present paragraph attention must be concentrated on the assimilation of loan words as a way of their interaction with the system of the language as a whole. The term assimilation of a borrowed word is used to denote a partial or total conformation to the phonetically graphical and morphological standards of the receiving language and its semantic system. The degree of assimilation depends on the length of period during which the word has been used in the receiving language upon its frequency. Oral borrowings due to personal contacts are assimilated more completely and more rapidly than literary borrowings i. e. borrowings through written speech.

The English and Scandinavian belong to the same Germanic racial, cultural and linguistic stock features and words. But changes had occurred in the languages during the couple of centuries of separation of the two sets of people. The Scandinavians came to settle, rather than conquer or pillage. They lived alongside the Anglo-Saxons on more or less equal terms.

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