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Этимология английских слов

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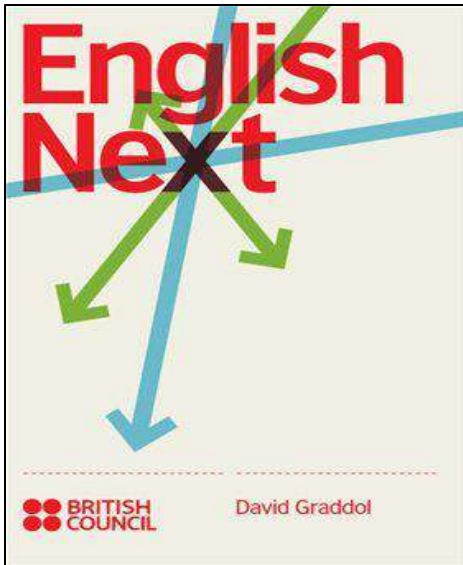
The etymology of English words

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Has the English language become a genuine lingua franca?



Lingua franca is a language used widely for communication between people who do not share the same first (or even second) language.



In his book “English Next”, the British applied linguist David Graddol discusses how English – originally the language of a small island people – triumphed, despite being infiltrated by other languages.



Definitely the history of England influenced its language. That is why people, especially learners of English, have been tempted to see the history of English, primarily to research the etymology of English words.

Obviously its knowledge will help them to understand its linguistic phenomena perfectly well, to find out something common with their native language and to improve their language skills. That is why learning the history of English is greatly important.

Some necessary definitions



Etymology is the study of the history of a word that traces how it originated and developed, as well as its variety in meaning and use, and its relationship to other languages. The etymology of the words is regarded as a means to enrich the understanding and history of a specific word.

Borrowing is the process by which a word from one language is adapted for use in another. The word that is borrowed is called a borrowing.

The object and the subject



The object of the survey is etymology of English words.

The subject of our survey is the evolution of the English language during the period from the first century B.C. to mid-17th century and how English borrowed words from other languages before it has become dominating.

The hypothesis



It is commonly known that English is supposed to be one of the richest languages in the world. Summarizing available literature on this subject we assume that the majority of English words by their origin are really English similarly to other languages. This is our hypothesis.

The aim and the tasks



The aim of this research is to read and analyse referential literature on this issue, to investigate how the history of the British isles influenced their language.

Tasks:

- to characterise English borrowings from other languages in different periods of time in English history;
- to identify and generalise specific features of words borrowed from European languages;
- to clear out if there are real English words.

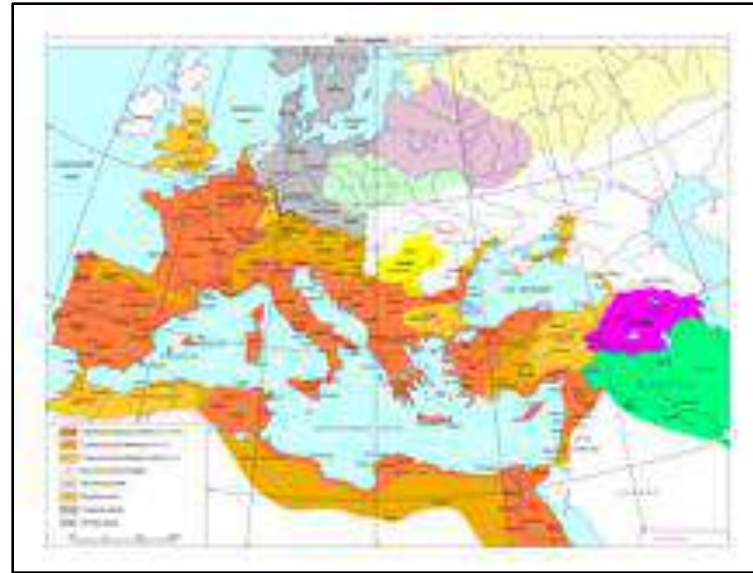
The methods and the practical value of the survey



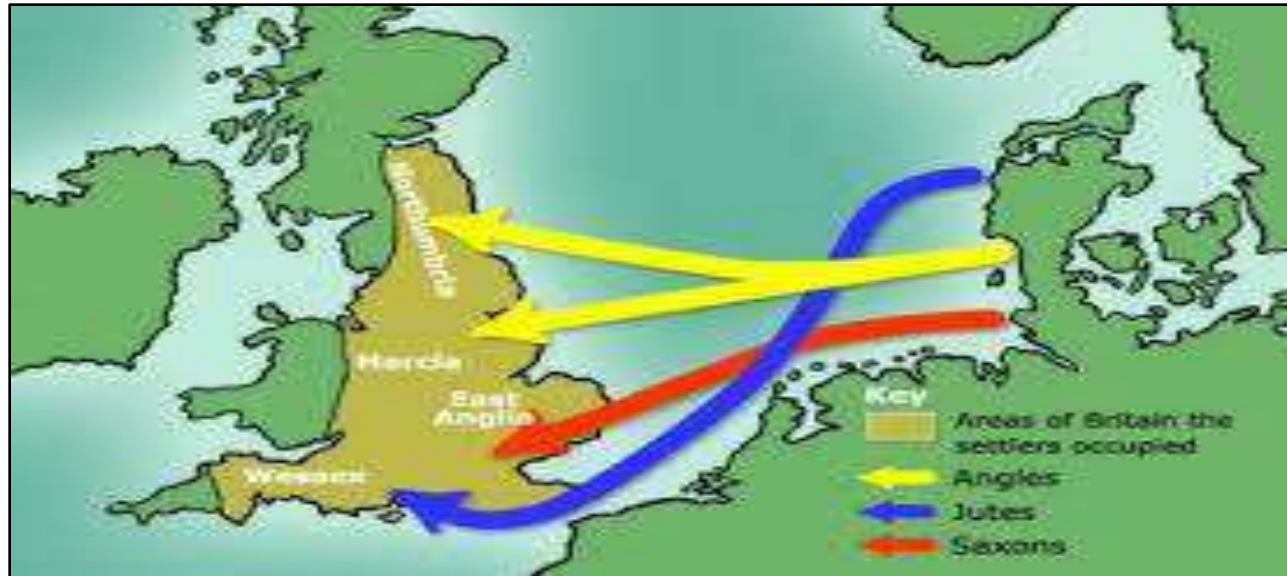
The methods applied in the given survey are analysis and comparison of words that were borrowed by English from other languages in the distant past.

The practical value of this research is that etymology awareness expands our knowledge of English and effectively helps to improve learners' language skills.

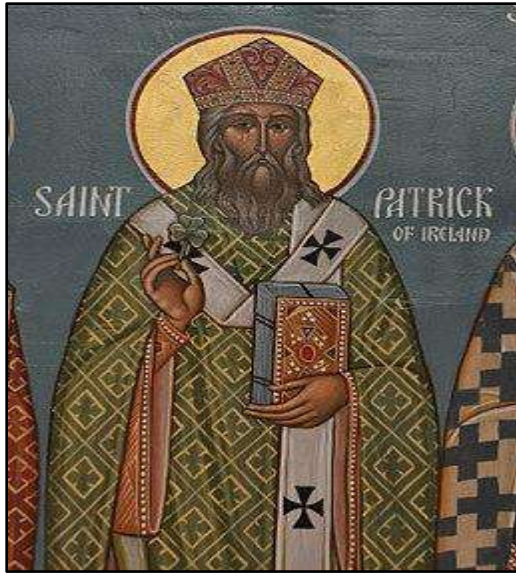
The first century B.C.



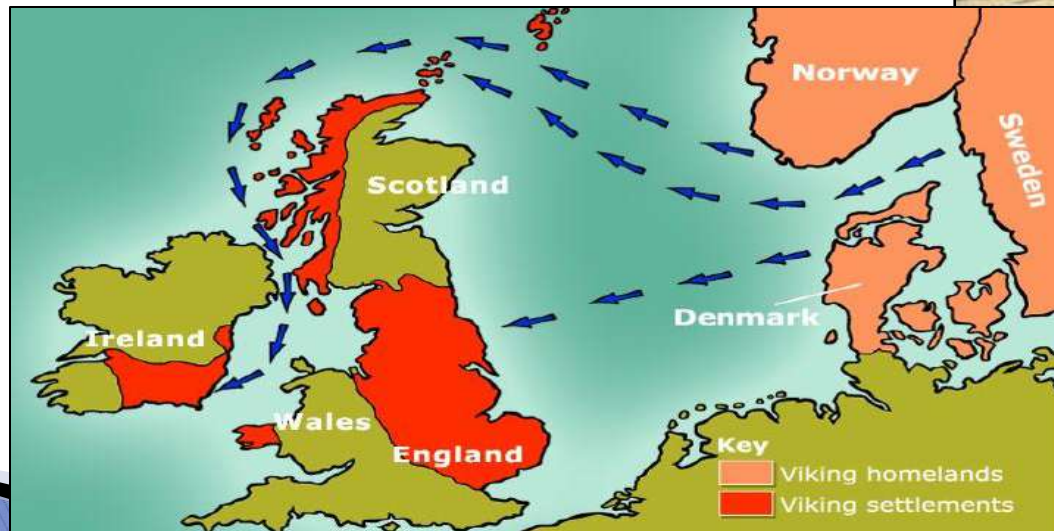
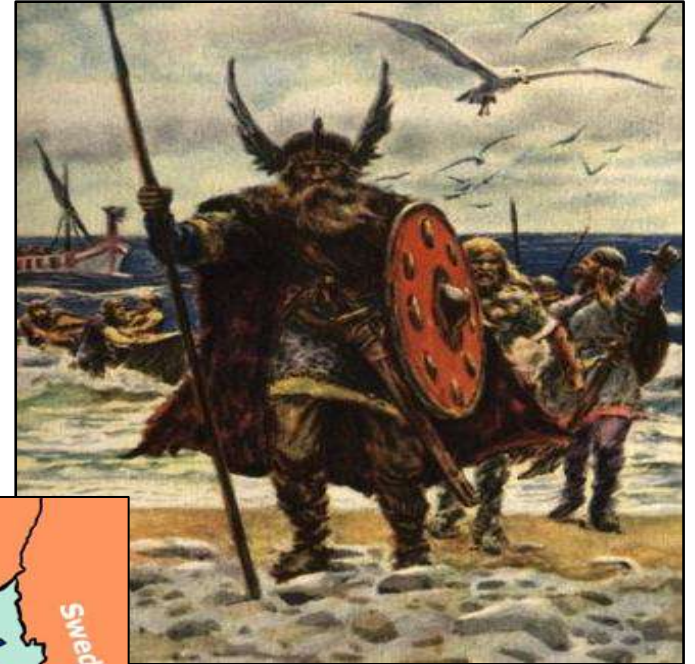
The fifth century A. D.



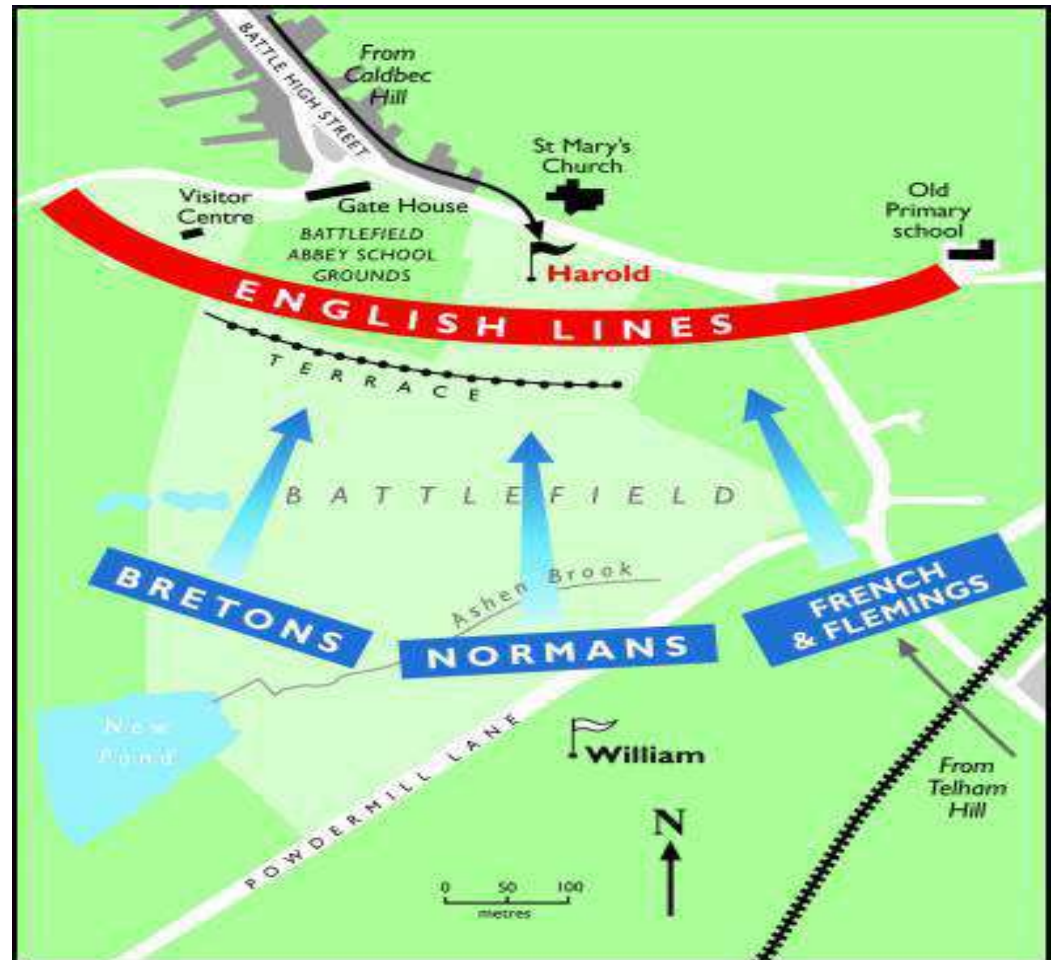
The seventh century A. D.



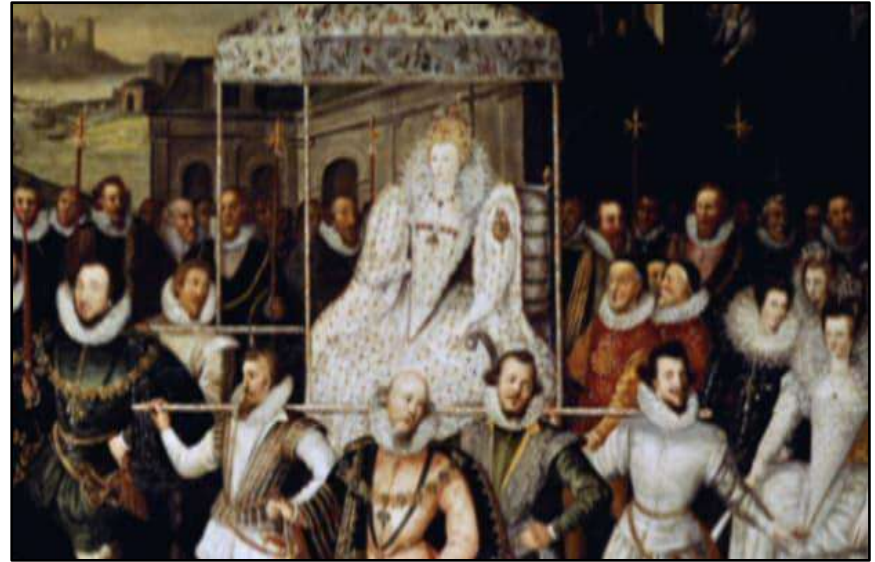
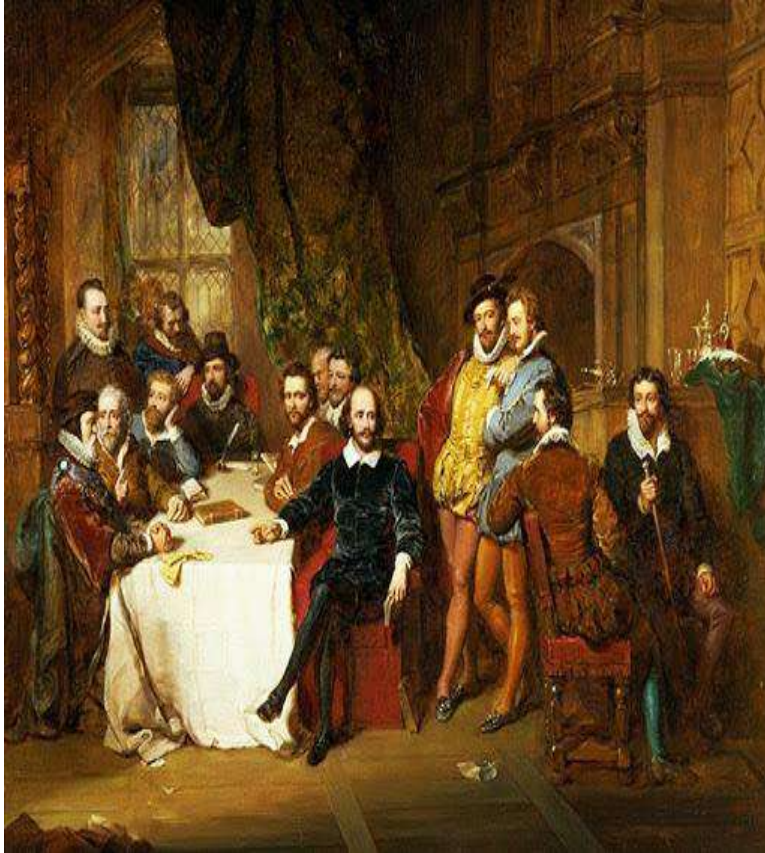
From the end of the 8th century to the middle of the 11th century



The eleventh century A. D.



The Renaissance Period



Chronological Changes in the English Vocabulary

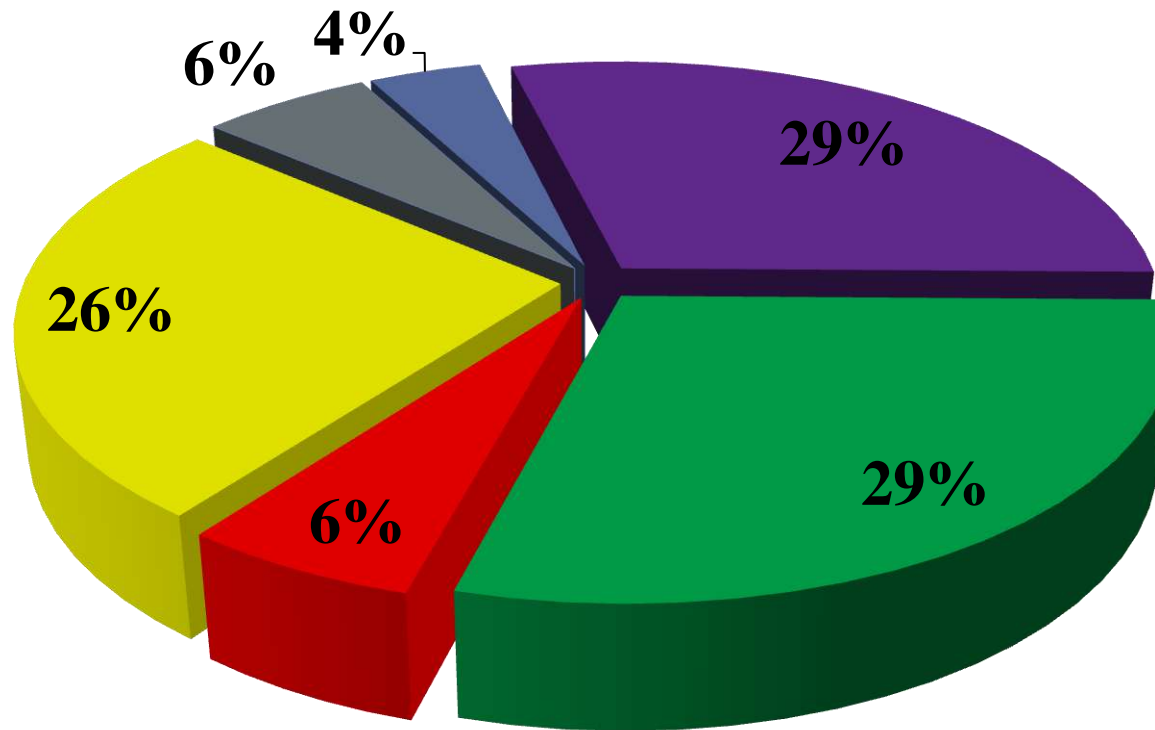
Date	Borrowings
1st century B.C.	Germanic borrowings from Latin (fruits and vegetables)
5th century A.D.	Germanic invaders borrowed Celtic words (place names)
7th century A.D.	The second wave of Latin borrowings (church and education words)
The end of 8th century A.D.- mid.11th century	Scandinavian borrowings (sky, ski, skill)
11th century (since 1066)	Norman French borrowings (administrative words, legal, military terms and everyday life words)
The Renaissance period (15th century - mid. 17th century)	Greek borrowings and the third wave of Latin borrowings (abstract, scientific and art words); French borrowings (e.g. regime, ballet, police); Italian borrowings (music terms, opera, operetta)

How many English words are really English?



The origin of contemporary English words

■ English ■ Norman ■ Latin ■ Greek ■ German ■ Other languages



Why does the English language has so many borrowings?



This situation is explained by the country's eventful history and by its numerous international contacts. Taking into consideration the high percentage of borrowed words, linguists have to classify English as a language of international origin or, at least, a Romance one (as French and Latin words obviously prevail).

The native element



The native element or words, which were not borrowed from other languages but represent the original stock of this particular language in English, comprises a large number of high-frequency words like the articles, prepositions, pronouns, conjunctions, auxiliaries and, also, words denoting everyday objects and ideas (e. g. house, child, water, go, come, eat, good, bad, etc.). Furthermore, the grammatical structure is essentially Germanic having remained unaffected by foreign influence.

Summarizing



1. Russian learners of English undoubtedly will benefit from the research greatly and cause decrease or even lack of possible mistakes in word-formation as well as in understanding of unknown words.
2. Certain structural features enable us to identify some words as borrowings and even to determine the source language. The historical survey above is far from complete. Its aim is just to give a very general idea of the ways in which English vocabulary developed.



Thank you for attention!