

## **Galicisms in the Russian Language: Theory and Practice of Language Contact Study**

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**Abstract:** The present study deals with studies and analyzes the lexical innovations of French origin in the Russian language on materials of fiction, opinion journalism as well as etymological, defining and foreign dictionaries under well-defined criteria of foreign word extraction. Various investigations dedicated to the study of language contacts offer variety of criteria describing the functioning of foreign vocabulary in the Russian lexical system as the result of interaction of various manifestation of language contacts. On the basis of analysis of different approaches to the assimilation typologies and considering also numerous general and specific characteristics of lexical neologisms assimilation in modern Russian (graphic-phonetic, morphological and semantic), the authors offer a clear and complete image of current trends the reception and adaptation of foreign language vocabulary of French origin in the Russian language of the recent period, describing its basic laws and models as well as the types of possible deviations at all language levels.

**Key words:** Gallicism, prototype, correlate, etymon, variation, adaptation, lexical meaning

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### **INTRODUCTION**

One of the central problems in historical and modern lexicology is the problem of language contacts and linguistic borrowing. It is common knowledge that borrowing is one of the most important sources of vocabulary replenishment in any language. "There is no and can be no pure, unmixed language unity," wrote Jan Baudouin de Courtenay, the Kazan school of linguistics founder. By 'mixing', he meant narrowly the process of language migration.

The problem of original/borrowed balance in the Russian language is the continuation of a more general and long standing dispute between the Westernizers and the Slavophiles about Russia's peculiar development. Thus, in 1921, the term 'Eurasianism' was used for the first time to reflect that peculiarity. They also discussed determining of culture-historical type, scope and amount of borrowing of Western stereotypes. Such prominent historians, philologists, translators and public figures as Mikhail Lomonosov, Alexander Pushkin, Vladimir Dal, Pyotr Chaadayev, Vissarion Belinsky, Nikolai Trubetzkoy, Lev Gumilev were involved in that dispute. In linguistics, that confrontation resulted in acceptance and denial of borrowing as a means of the lexical system development. And today, this dispute is still acute but the main points are form and own/foreign quantitative ratio.

Today's theory and practice of language contact study involve analysis of loanwords with different etymologies (Germanisms, Grecisms, Polonisms, Gallicisms, Turcisms, etc.) in different historical periods, detailed description of the mechanisms and stages of migration process and accompanying phenomena, identification of the key criteria for an adapted word (semantic independence, word-formation productivity, semantic derivation, phonetic and morphological assimilation, etc).

There are two major areas of focus to be mentioned among the works on French loanwords. Firstly, Gallicisms and loanwords of other origin have been studied together in the Soviet and Russian linguistics. These works are of historical nature and focus on general patterns of loanword development in connection with the main tendencies in the language evolution. They study such problems as specifying sources of foreign words and their assimilation criteria, significance of loanwords in the history of the Russian language. All published materials related to the study of bilingualism, linguistic borrowing process and characteristics of loanwords in Russian investigate words with different etymologies together and analyze only certain aspects of the vocabulary assimilation (Huttle-Worth, 1963; Ageyeva *et al.*, 2015a, b). But according to other linguists, studying

words borrowed from one particular language gives a better explanation to the methods of their assimilation into a recipient language as well as the specificity of their assimilation. "Language system consists of individual systems: phonological, morphological and lexical and their elements are bound together by oppositions; in order to see how loanwords enter a recipient language system, one should examine the adaptation of the same group of loanwords to a borrowing language system in general".

Thus, the researches of Ageeva, Gabdreeva, Gak, G.M. Gottlieb, Granovskaya, Kaliniewicz, Cubberley should be pointed out in the first place among the works related directly to the cultural relations of the French and Russian people and also French elements in the Russian language (Ageeva *et al.*, 2015a, b; Ageeva, 2008a, b; Cubberley, 1993). Most of them deal with the different aspects of functioning of lexemes in the Russian language: patterns of grammatical and phonetic assimilation, derivation aspect, semantic assimilation results.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The methods used in the present study include linguistic description methods (examination, description, classification, comparison), as well as lexical-semantic and comparative methods and the method of synchronic description of language which are considered to be traditional for lexical-historical research. Statistical method of quantitative and percentage description was used when studying some aspects of the problem.

We rely on the concept of Leningrad scientists and the concept that we are developing with the French material (Ageeva *et al.*, 2015a, b). It provides a comprehensive approach in the study of borrowed foreign vocabulary that combines phonetic, morphological and lexical-semantic aspects and enables to trace common language tendencies, trends and consistent patterns of linguistic change through the history of certain words.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Since, the subject at hand is vocabulary of French origin, it should be defined what is meant by this notion. We believe that the group of Gallicisms consists of words borrowed directly from the French language and words borrowed from other languages via French. Consequently we reckon among Gallicisms.

Lexemes that have characteristic signs of the donor language; their "foreign origin is not disguised". For

example, the words *áþðí*, *íáíþ*, *íðððáð*, *íààíóáçæü*, *áóáóàð*, etc.; Lexemes that were influenced by French pronunciation rules and which meanings are close to the prototype: *èàíçíè*, *áðèèèèàíò*, *ííðð*, *íèèèáð*, etc.;

Lexemes that came into the Russian language from other languages through French and changed their meaning in it. The meaning was formed in the French language and then incorporated into Russian: *óóíáííáíò*, *ááíáðáè*, *íàààçèí*, *èíúáàèý*, etc.

The evident features of French words, as well as directly unexpressed markers were defined and systematized:

- Letter combinations *óà*, *óè*, *ãè*, *ëü* (*èððáííáí*, *éóéóàðú*, *óèýè*, *æèáíòð*, *æèííáð*, *æüóáðíàò*)
- Initial letter *ý* *ýíáííèíá*
- Final combinations *-àèü*, *-áèü*, *-áð*, *-í*, *-áíí*, *-áíò*, *-àæ* (*áááèü*, *ááðáíò*, *áíòèíáðíèíèðáíò*, *ððíèèèáð*, *èáííáð*, *íáèíóíí*, *èííèíðááíí*, *æíóáæ*, *óáðáæ*, *òàòóáæ*)
- Prefixes *íþð-*, *ááç-* (*íþððááèèçí*, *ááçèíóíðíàòèèý*, *ááçèíóááðáòèèý*)
- Particles *íðáíüáð-*, *ááèà-*, *íðáííí-*, *ííðò-*, *áááí-* (*íðáíüáð-íèíèíòð*, *íðáíüáð-èèáá*, *ááèà-èííóáððò*, *íðáííí-àòóáæá*, *íðáííí-èííóáðáíòèèý*, *ííðòíííá*, *ííðòíèèáá*, *áááííííò*, *áááíááðá*)
- Final vowels *þ*, *è*, *í*, *á* (*íáíþ*, *ðáçþíá*, *ááóèèá*, *áþííóüá*, *íþ*, *òðáááííòè*, *áíèíá*, *íàðáí*, *èíáèíí*, *áááíí*), etc

However, many prototypes have no pronounced formal features. These features should also be treated very carefully; they should not be seen in absolute terms because they may coincide with letter combinations in original words. The key selection criterion was the principle of identification of vocabulary with different etymologies: phonetic-semantic correlation, i.e., similarity of content plane and expression plane of a prototype and a correlative word in the period of borrowing. This principle became the defining one, because as we noted earlier, many words have no morphological, semantic and other pronounced markers. We see fit to quote Hugo Schuchardt whose statements were cited by P. Ya. Chemykh *et al.* (2006) in the Etymology dictionary: "...we cannot expect mathematically accurate results either in phonetics or in semantics; probability is stamped on all our etymological operations".

Foreign words are not mechanically transferred into the recipient language, but undergo assimilation or Russification, i.e. every word is adapted to the recipient system at all levels of language. Assimilation process is a close interaction of three factors: influence of a donor language (especially at the beginning), assimilation laws of a recipient system and functioning of words in speech. The aspects of reception are subject to many reasons:



