

## **FRENCH BARBARISMS IN THE ENGLISH LEXICON**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The article is dedicated to french barbarisms in the english language because there is an active use of french words in the speech of the english and the works of english writers. it was found out that in the english vocabulary there is a significant number of words of french origin that entered the vocabulary without any changes. collins' etymological dictionary served as the material for this study. after analyzing the collins' etymological dictionary 171words and word combinations from the french language were found that have retained their original appearance and are used in the english language without any changes.

**Keywords:** barbarism, assimilation, borrowings.

### **АННОТАЦИЯ**

статья посвящена французским варваризмам в английском языке, которые активно употребляются в речи англичан и произведениях английских писателей. выяснено, что в английской лексике имеется значительное количество слов французского происхождения, вошедших в лексику без каких-либо изменений. материалом для исследования послужил этимологический словарь коллинза. при анализе этимологического словаря коллинза было обнаружено 171 слово и словосочетание из французского языка, которые сохранили свой первоначальный вид и употребляются в английском языке без каких-либо изменений.

**Ключевые Слова:** варваризм, заимствования, ассимиляция.

### **INTRODUCTION**

the process of barbarization is continuous. barbarization has existed always and everywhere. at all times and for all peoples, there was a need to designate new realities, and, as a rule, people simply accepted them along with the existing names, not trying to come up with words to designate objects, goods, animals, fruits, phenomena and other things that first appeared for them. it usually follows scientific, commercial, cultural exchange and the related need for new terms to denote new realities that arise in the course of such contacts. at the same time, there are turning points in the history of each language, usually caused by serious social changes, when there is a massive influx of foreign words. throughout the centuries, the british isles underwent waves of invasions by romans, danes, and norman french, each inevitably contributing to the way of life on the conquered land and leaving their trace on english vocabulary. [1; p. 247] although there are many loanwords from different languages from different groups, a large number of words in the english language are derived from one of a large number of languages belonging to the indo-european group, like english itself does. french is one of the languages that also belongs to this group and has greatly influenced the english language, especially its vocabulary. one cannot but agree with amosova, who quotes the words

of l.smith, "the most important contribution to the english language, a contribution so significant that it radically changed the entire character of the english language, was made by the french language...".[ 2; p.13]

The main aim of this article is to analyze one of the types of barbarisms. the objectives of this work can be formed as follows:

1. to present the role of barbarism in the english language;
2. to prove that french barbarisms are an integral part of the vocabulary of the english language.

According to the results of researches by linguists, it was determined that the influence of the french language on english was especially strong in contrast to many other languages. the usage of french barbarisms in speech points to the high social, cultural, educational level of a speaker. scholars have estimated that of the 80,000 most common words in the english language, approximately 22,500 are french borrowings from all periods of history. yu.m. skrebnev notes that french and italian barbarisms refer to areas such as music, theater, art. the sphere of using such words is rather narrow and the degree of assimilation is very small. [ ] as noted earlier, french borrowings make up a huge layer of the vocabulary of the english language, therefore there is a tradition of active use of french barbarisms in speech. we are interested in a special group of french barbarisms, represented by words that retain their original spelling. they are not necessarily culturally related but are used in an unassimilated form. in the russian language, there are much fewer french barbarisms. in addition, in the russian language, there is no tradition of using these words in an unassimilated form, they are, most often, written in russian letters. for example, *дежавю*, *тет-а-тет*, *шерше ля фам*, *комильфо*, *прет-а-порте*, *нувориши*, *бон аппетит*, *бон вояж*, etc. french barbarisms in english and russian do not coincide. collins' etymological dictionary served as the material for this article, which is considered as one of the most authoritative dictionaries and provides a complete summary of etymological studies of english vocabulary. after analyzing the collins etymological dictionary and by the method of continuous sampling, 171words and word combinations from the french language were found that have retained their original appearance and are used in the english language without any changes and are recorded in english dictionaries. these words belong to different periods of the development of the english language. among them, 108 nouns, 27 adjectives, 24 adverbs, and the smallest number of verbs, prepositions, and stable expressions were identified. some of the above words refer to several parts of speech. for example, *table d'hote* refers to both a noun and an adjective, or *mal a propos* can be used as an adjective, adverb, and noun. as can be seen from the calculations, the prevailing french words, we can assert barbarisms, refer to nouns, and this indicates that phenomena or their features are more often borrowed than signs and actions, for which you can choose a word from your native language. in the process of analyzing words, we found that most words and expressions are known only to a narrow circle of people with rare knowledge. the smallest percentage of native english speakers knows the meaning of these words and phrases. according to our data, most of the words are rarely used. they have much more popular synonyms. for example, if we consider the word *affaire d'honneur* and its use in english, only 1% of english speakers know the meaning of this word, and the popularity index of this word among native speakers is very small. its synonyms are much more

popular. such as duel, fight, or combat. or other word amour-propre is known for only 5% of english native speakers with unique knowledge. instead of it, they use other words like confidence, self-assurance, or self-respect. we noticed that many french words that have retained their original form entered the english vocabulary after the 16th century. unlike the other french words that penetrated the english language in the middle english period and were completely assimilated in it, most words borrowed after the 16th century are characterized by only partial assimilation or in some cases even complete non-assimilation. we agree with the statement of t.a. rastorgueva, who pointed out that most of the french words borrowed in the late new english period were not completely assimilated and retained their original form to this day, that is, the spelling, pronunciation, and place of stress [3; p. 311]. this is expressed in the preservation of the french stress on the final syllable, the pronunciation of certain french sounds that are unusual for the english language. the alien phonetic and graphic appearance of such words leads to the fact that they are perceived in the language as foreign bodies, their french origin can be traced with sufficient clarity. let's try to understand the reasons for this phenomenon. the french borrowings of the early period penetrated the english language mainly orally through folk speech, which led them to a sound adaptation to the articulatory skills of the english. the people transformed their pronunciation according to the norms of the english language. for french borrowings of the late period of the 16th century and to the present day, it is characteristic that they got into the english language through books and not through live oral communication with people speaking french. for these words, in the overwhelming majority of cases, the preservation of the french spelling is characteristic. the graphic and sound image of the french borrowed words remained and remains in the memory of a large number of people, which to some extent determines the preservation of the french pronunciation of these words. finally, of no small importance is the fact that the guides of french borrowed words in the 16th-19th centuries were mainly educated strata of society (the nobility and the bourgeoisie). this explains the borrowing of most words associated with the lifestyle of the aristocracy, and words and expressions of french everyday vocabulary, the scope of which is limited to the privileged strata of english society. these words remain within the so-called slang secular vocabulary, for the broad masses of the people they are alien and incomprehensible. all these words are characterized by the preservation of the french pronunciation and stress and saving its original appearance. thus, we can conclude that the use of a word, the scope of its distribution is an important factor that determines the completeness and degree of assimilation of borrowings. let us look at the use and meaning of some of the barbarisms of french origin and try to trace their inclusion in the english vocabulary. as we mention above barbarisms are words taken from other languages, which are used by the english in conversation or writing, have equivalents with almost similar meanings in english. for example the following french barbarisms can be the best examples: affiche (46 other words and phrases with similar meaning such as placard, poster, bill board, etc.), entre nous ( 36 equivalents such as confidentially, commonly, etc.), belle letter ( 131 equivalents such as fiction, literature ), parvenu ( 227 other words such as upstart, arriviste, snob, etc. ), a propos (by the way), bonvivants (are lovers of living well), vis-à-vis (87 other words and phrases with similar meaning such as opposite, face to face, towards, counterpart, etc.), coup (805 other words and phrases with similar meaning

such as luck, triumph, success), eau-de-vie (27 other words and phrases with similar meaning such as cognac, whiskey, brandy, etc.), carte blanche (303 other words and phrases with similar meaning such as free rein, freedom, leeway, etc.), chic (1 134 other words and phrases with similar meaning such as stylish, elegant, fashionable, trendy, etc.), bon mot (302 other words and phrases with similar meaning such as a clever witty saying, quip, wisecrack, etc.), en passant (52 other words and phrases with similar meaning such as in passing, incidentally, by the way, etc.), beau monde (189 other words and phrases with similar meaning such as high society, upper class, aristocracy, etc.), comme il faut (216 other words and phrases with similar meaning such as as it should be, seemly, appropriate, etc.), en route (359 other words and phrases with similar meaning such as on the way, along the way, in transit, etc.), coup d'état (54 other words and phrases with similar meaning such as stroke the state, uprising, revolution, etc.), haute couture (80 other words and phrases with similar meaning such as dressmaking, sewing, high style, high fashion, etc.), prix fixe (42 words and phrases with similar meaning such as fixed price, price control, price freeze, etc.), noblesse oblige (6 other words and phrases with similar meaning such as chivalry, courtliness, chivalrousness, knightliness, duty, gallantry), de rigueur (191 other words and phrases with similar meaning, such as obligatory, compulsory, decorous, etc.), blasé (327 other words and phrases with similar meaning such as unconcerned, bored, etc.), faux pas (777 other words and phrases with similar meaning such as mistake, error, blunder, etc.), prêt-à-porter (9 other words and phrases with similar meaning such as ready to wear, willing to wear, etc.). even though these words are to a certain extent "adaptable" to the norms of the recipient's language, their foreign language origin is felt very clearly. besides, there is an elegant delicacy about some barbarisms and they make speech more exquisite and refined. in many cases, they are of french origin. for example:

1. the word "parvenu" means a person who is a relative newcomer to a socioeconomic class and this word can be replaced with the english word "upstart". first known use of parvenu in the english language was in 1787. the word is borrowed from the french language; it is the past participle of the verb parvenir (to reach, to arrive, and to manage to do something). [5] the word parvenu typically describes a person who recently ascended the social ladder, especially a nouveau riche or "new money" individual. the merriam-webster dictionary defines a parvenu as "one that has recently or suddenly risen to an unaccustomed position of wealth or power and has not yet gained the prestige, dignity, or manner associated with it".[6] parvenu can be used as a noun and adjective. there are several synonyms to this word when it is used as a noun such as an arriviste, dink (informal), arrogant, zippo (slang).

2. or if we do an etymological analysis of the word faux pas it is obvious that it is a loan phrase from french that's been used in english since the seventeenth century—the 1670s, to be more precise and this phrase is still unnaturalized in the english language. french faux comes from old french fals, faus, from latin falsus, past participle of the verb fallere "to deceive, mislead." the french noun pas, source of english pace, comes from the latin noun passus "a step, stride, pace," a derivative of the verb pandere "to spread (legs, arms, wings), spread out, open." [7] the two words that constitute the phrase are faux, which means "false," and pas, which means "dance step." over time, faux has also acquired the meaning "fake," which is the sense we're familiar with from the phrase faux fur. but in faux pas, it means false, and the whole phrase

means “false step,” or “misstep.” faux pas is most commonly used to denote an embarrassing mistake made in a social context. so to say that someone made a faux pas is to say that someone made a social blunder. this meaning isn’t so far removed from the original—“to make a breach of good manners,” or “to compromise one’s reputation.” faux pas is how you spell both the plural and the singular form of the phrase. however, we do make a distinction in the pronunciation—the singular faux pas is pronounced [foh pah], but the plural faux pas is pronounced with a “z” at the end—[foh pahz].

3. the next word is *prêt-à-porter*, which is also originated from french, and this word is first recorded in the period 1955–60. grammatically "pret-a-porter" is a noun (ready-to-wear clothing). in addition, it is used as an adjective (ready-to-wear). in the cambridge dictionary the following definitions are given: when it is a noun “clothes that are produced in standard sizes and not made to fit a particular person. when it is used as an adjective “produced of standard size and not fit a particular person”. [8] according to statistics, this term is known only to a narrow circle of people with rare knowledge. only 5% of english native speakers know the meaning of this word. this word is almost not used. it has much more popular synonyms.

4. the idea of “noblesse oblige” was imported from france in the 1830s, and means the nobility is obligated. noblesse oblige is a noun that means the idea that people with advantages, for example, those of a high social class, should help and do things for other people. [9] french speakers transformed the phrase into a noun, and then, as now, "noblesse oblige" referred to the unwritten obligation of people from a noble ancestry to act honorably and generously to others. later, by extension, it also came to refer to the obligation of anyone who is in a better position than others - due, for example, to high office or celebrity - to act respectfully and responsibly. if in the middle ages this word was used to the aristocracy, which was supposed to take care of its patrials, it is currently used concerning the aristocracy, people with high economic, intellectual and monetary wealth. “noblesse oblige” is generally used to imply that with wealth, power, and prestige come responsibilities.

5. according to the online etymology dictionary the french expression *comme il fait* which is started to be used in 1756 in the english language and means “according to etiquette”. it means “as should be”. [7] it can be used as a noun and an adjective. in cambridge dictionary is given the following definition: “behaving or dressing in the right way in public according to formal use of social behavior. [8] the french expression *comme il faut* comes from the impersonal verb *falloir*. *il faut* means "it is necessary," so *comme il faut* means "as (it) is necessary" or, more idiomatically, "properly, respectfully." *comme il faut* can be used in reference to any sort of situation in which etiquette demands a certain type of behavior. the use of *comme il fait* in english is a little bit different from the original french expression because it tends to have a somewhat snobbish nuance which we can not notice in the original variant.

6. the word *en route* came into english in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and it can be used as an adjective, noun, or adverb. the french phrase *en route*, pronounced on root, means (1) on or along the way, or (2) on the road. it is sometimes written *on route*. [8] this form is logical as it conveys roughly the same meaning as *en route*, but readers who are familiar with the french term might consider it a misspelling. *en route* is also sometimes written as one word—*enroute*. this spelling is common enough to have earned its way into some dictionaries, but the two-word form is still

more common. even though it has retained its original appearance due to the fact that it entered the english language in the 18th century, so it no longer appears in italics in normal use. it is often considered more attractive. if we look through the popularity index of this word is considered as a common word and its meaning is known to most children of preschool age. about 83% of english native speakers know the meaning and use the word. even it saves its original appearance. most english people prefer it over its other synonyms because it carries with it a sense of formality, which is not found in the words "on the road" and "on the way". it is often considered more attractive.

7. the word beau monde also comes from the french language and it means the world of high society and fashion. the use of this word in english dates back to the 18th century and the literal translation of the word is "elegant world". it is used as a noun and considered a pretty common term. usually, people know its meaning, but prefer to use more spread-out synonyms. synonyms of this word are haut monde, bon ton which are also of french origin, and other native english words as beautiful people or high society. about 31% of english native speakers know the meaning and use of the word beau monde. as with other barbarisms, it occurs in the pages of specialized literature and the speech of educated people.

8. the word bon vivant is originated from french and enters into the english language in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, exactly in 1690. a merriam-webster dictionary gives the following definition of the word: " a sociable person who has cultivated and refined tastes especially to food and drink".[ 6] it means 'person living well' and made from the word bon 'good' and vivre 'to live'. bon is a masculine singular adjective meaning "good," which comes straight from latin bonus. vivant is the masculine singular present participle of vivre "to live," straight from latin vivere. the plural of bon vivant is bons vivants, which has the same pronunciation. [8] one also sees the feminine form (not nearly so common), bonne vivante and its plural bonnes vivantes. with the help of the word "bon", other words appeared in french, which later began to be used in english. such as bon appetite, literally "good appetite" (1860); bon ton "good style" (1744); bon mot (1735), etc. following words can be considered as synonyms to this word epicure, epicurean, gastronome, gourmand, and gourmet. gourmet, gourmand, and gastronome come from french, as does bon vivant. usually, the english people know its meaning, but prefer to use more spread out synonyms. about 34% of english native speakers know the meaning and use this word. it occurs in the pages of specialized literature and the speech of educated people.

9. the next word which is taken from the french language is table d'hôte. the use of this word is justified by the fact that in english there is no suitable word that can give this meaning. the exact meaning of the word is "the host's table". the term is used to denote a table set aside for residents of a guesthouse, who presumably sit at the same table as their host. the meaning shifted to include any meal featuring a set menu at a fixed price. the use in english is documented as early as 1617, while the later extended use, now more common, dates from the early nineteenth century. [5]

10. the next word which saves its original appearance is *soi-disant* which is used in the english language as an adjective in the meaning of "self-named, so-called, and would-be". *soi-disant* is used to say that someone claims to be a particular thing, especially when you do not accept that

person's claim. this french phrase is formed from the third person reflexive pronoun *soi* "oneself, him-, her-, itself," and *disant* "saying," the present participle of the verb *dire* "to say." the pronoun *soi* comes from latin *sē*, the accusative of the third person singular and plural reflexive pronoun; *dire* comes from latin *dīcere* "to say." *soi-disant* entered english in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, exactly in 1752 in the meaning self-proclaimed and so-called. [7]

In conclusion, it is obvious that the constant increase in the flow of borrowings and barbarisms has a significant role in the english language. words with a foreign sound and appearance are not familiar to the english person, but they add a certain flavor to the speech. undoubtedly, the appropriate use of borrowings and barbarisms only enriches speech, gives it a special style.

#### **THE LIST OF USED LITERATURE**

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