

Lgcs 101: Historical Linguistics. Lecture Notes. 2 Mar 2010.

## 0. Announcements

-Assignment 3: Exercises 3.1, 3.2, 3.5. Due Thursday.

-Finish reading both posted chapters.

-Apical = Air passage obstructed using the tip of the tongue.

-Laminal = Air passage obstructed using the blade of the tongue.

## 1. Borrowing, cont'd

From last time: Loanwords are often adjusted to fit the phonological or morphological structure of the borrowing language. This is called **nativization**.

E.g., German *muesli* borrowed as English [mju:slɪ], Japanese *coffee* [ko:hi:]. French and German substitutions for [ð].

With enough contact, new phonemes can be adapted into the borrowing language.

E.g., French /y/ was first borrowed into English as /iu/, which changed to /ju:/, as in loans like *music*, *puny*. Where French /y/ followed /z/, English /ziu/ > /zju:/, followed by the merger of /zj/ > /ʒ/, as in *measure*, *pleasure*. In more recent loans, new instances of /ʒ/ came in through loans like *entourage*, *garage*, *massage*, and the sound is now phonemic.

Similarly, French has borrowed many English loans with *-ing*, which many speakers now pronounce as [ŋ], thus giving French a new phoneme.

English loans in German can be devoiced: e.g., *Trend* with voiceless coda [t]. Syllable structure constraints reshape loans in Japanese, Maori, Hawaiian.

Some types of words are more often borrowed than others. Nouns are more likely to be borrowed than verbs or adjectives, and this is partly because they are often easier to accommodate into the recipient grammar (as well as because nouns are more numerous, and new things are more likely to be denoted by nouns.)

Often a language will borrow a noun and add a light/dummy verb like *do* or *make* to create a new, borrowed, verb. E.g., Turkish borrows Arabic nouns, adding a light verb *etmek*. Early Modern English *do correct* from Latin *correctum*.

Nouns can be problematic, too, though, in particular for languages with rich inflection for case, number, and/or gender.

**Number.** German has many patterns for plurals (see Trask 2009, p. 33 for examples.) Recent loans tend to take the *-s* plural, which interestingly is one of the rarest for native words. The recent productivity of this suffix may be due to influence from French and English, which both use *-s*.

**Case.** Though German has a rich case-system, loan words that take the *-s* plural don't take any case-endings (with the exception that certain nouns take *-s* to mark Genitive singular.) Similarly, Russian, which also has a rich case system, does not inflect most loans for case either.

**Gender.** French assigns most loans masculine gender; German loans may be assigned masc/fem/neut. See discussion

English *court martial* from French. Plural *courts martial*.

**High frequency** words are **less** likely to be borrowed; these include: pronouns, lower numerals, kinship terms, names of body parts, simple verbs like *go*, *be*, *have*, *want*, *see*, *eat*... color terms like *black*, *white*, *red*, simple adjectives like *big*, *small*, *good*, *bad*, and *old*, names of natural phenomena like *sun*, *moon*, *star*, *fire*, *rain*, (Trask 2009, p. 27.) Function words like *and*, *or*, *if*, *when*, *this* and *that*. But it does sometimes happen: English borrowed *face* from French (formerly *anleth*); *give*, *sky*, *they* from Old Norse.

Most commonly borrowed words are names for new technology or cultural items.

Words can also be restructured to look more native: French *chaise longue* 'long chair' borrowed into English as *chaise lounge*.

Sometimes loans are made to sound **more** foreign (**hyper-foreignization**): In English, *Azerbaijan* pronounced with [ʒ], rather than [dʒ]; *coup de grace* pronounced without the final C of *grace*.

Sometimes phonological nativization isn't necessary: A **calque** or **loan translation** is a new word or phrase created by taking a foreign word or phrase as a model and translating it morpheme-by-morpheme. E.g., English *black market* from German *SchwarzMarkt*. The new forms do, however, conform to the rules of the native grammar, thus German *Kettenraucher* 'chain smoker' is formed from *Kette* 'chain' *Raucher* 'smoker', with 'n' a result of compounding in German. Similarly, French *grate-ciel*, lit. 'scrape sky'. German 'Wolkenkratzer, lit. 'cloud scraper', compare \**Himmelskratzer*, where German *Himmel* can be translated as 'sky, heaven'.

## 2. What can be borrowed?

### *Sounds.*

-See examples above.

### *Phonological rules.*

-Stress, palatalization, vowel-harmony, final devoicing, etc.

### *Sound changes.*

-The change  $k \rightarrow tʃ$  before front vowels in Dravidian languages.

### *Morphology.*

-*Able* comes from French loans (*equitable, legible, potable*); agentive *-er* from Latin loans.

-English comparative '*more A*' from French '*plus A*'. This pattern in English co-exists with native *-er* suffixation.

-Many English technical terms were created using **combining forms** from Greek and Latin: Greek *thermos* 'heat' and *metron* 'measure' together produce *thermometer*; *microphone* (Greek 'small-voice'); *television* (Greek plus Latin 'far-seeing'); *astromony* (Greek 'star-law'); *acetylsalicylic acid* 'vinegary-willowly sour-stuff'. (Trask 2009, p. 26).

### *Syntax.*

-Vietnamese more isolating through contact with Chinese.

### *Semantics (word meaning).*

-**Loan shift** = changing the meaning of an existing native word to accommodate the meaning of a foreign word (Hock & Joseph, p. 251).

Examples from the introduction of religious terms: Old English *Heofen* 'skey', *hel* 'underworld', *god* 'non-Christian deity' acquired Christian connotations from corresponding Latin terms *caelum* 'sky'/'Christian heaven', *inferna* 'abode of the dead/Christian hell', *dues* 'deity/God'.