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English Loan Words in the Russian Language

The Russian language has always been opened for borrowing. Since the Peter I era, it has always focused on the Western culture that caused numerous borrowings from Western European languages in it.

A lot of words came from French. This is political words (vanguard), art criticism words (announcement), names of household items, clothing, food and others. From the Polish language, names of household items and products were borrowed (bottle). There are some Italian words associated with art (cello) and some products (vermicelli). From Dutch, the words of "nautical theme" came to the Russian language (shipyard). From the English language, some naval terms were also borrowed (barge).

The influence of English proved to be comparatively stable. Throughout the 19th century and later, the words from the sphere of public relations, technical and sport terms, names of household have penetrated in Russian (leader, station, budget, whiskey, volleyball, hockey and others). Nowadays, a variety of English borrowings, officially recognized by the strictest Russian dictionaries, are used in the Russian language.

The development of science and technology, the expansion of economical, political, professional and personal contacts between the citizens of Russia and the Western world helps to activate the interaction between Russian and Western European languages.

The main reasons for word borrowing is the need to name things and concepts which do not exist in our culture or to replace descriptive phrases with foreign words. In other words, the social psychological cause of borrowing is people's perception of foreign words as more prestigious, "scientific", "beautiful-sounding".

The range of new concepts and phenomena of the Russian origin is limited. Therefore, it is considered that more effective is borrowing existing concepts and names of the subject. About 15% of English loans make words which appeared in the Russian language as a result of satisfaction of the needs in the name of the new things or concepts. For example, a wide variety of cosmetics, previously unknown to a Russian-speaking person, has become a reason for the borrowing of English words such as make-up, consoler, pealing-cream and many others.

In connection with the distribution of American films in Russia, there are such borrowing as a block buster, a thriller and others in the Russian language. With the advent of the new technical means, Russian was replenished with words from English such as immobilizer (automobile alarm system), thermo (thermos and teapot in one).

It is necessary to allocate the sphere of human activity which expands our vocabulary very much. It is computing and the Internet. Such words as printer, cartridge, file, site and many others receive the increasing distribution. People working with the computers use these words in their speech. Every year the number of such people increases and these English loan words in professional sphere pass into the speech of many Russian people.

One more reason of borrowing words from English is the tendency of replacing the Russian descriptive phrases in the one word. For example, second-hand replaces a phrase "the clothes which were in the use"; the word teenager is used to denote a young boy or girl from 13 to 18 years old.

The increase in quantity of the people who speak and know English in Russia can be called as the social and psychological reasons influencing on the process of borrowing. The big stream of people leaving the country, living in the English-speaking countries for a long time and coming back is the reason of frequent switching into English.

Among Russian native speakers, the representation of the fact that foreign technologies are more progressive in comparison with the Russian ones, foreign banks are more reliable and foreign goods are of high quality is widely spread. A lot of linguists point to the prestige of the English words in some situations in comparison with Russian ones.

The powerful impulse to the development of the borrowing process of the English vocabulary was given by using Anglicisms by authoritative people during popular programs. So, the head of ORT channel used the word drive speaking at the KVN game of the first season of 1999 («There was no such drive long ago»). After that, musical term has become widely used by students.

Секция 22. Современные проблемы межкультурной коммуникации

In the English borrowings, it is possible to note some elements, which have an accurate structural allocation and value.

1. The suffix -ing means actions on a verb. A large flow of words with this suffix were borrowed in the Russian language (marketing, kidnapping);

2. The element maker denotes the one who performs the action (newsmaker, hit-maker);

3. The structural element gate - value: the scandal connected with any person or the state (Watergate);

4. The suffix -ist is an element of some words characterizing the person from different sides: in relation to the object or occupation, in the sphere of activity, etc. (pianist, journalist);

5. The suffix -er is the noun suffix (poster, biker);

6. The suffixes formed from able mean 'having the ability, quality' (comfortable);

7. The prefix super- meaning 'the excess of something', forms the expressions on the basis of Russian words (supermarket).

From a thematic point of view, the English borrowings can be divided into several groups:

1. economic terms;

2. political terms;

- 3. computer terms;
- 4. sports terms;
- 5. cosmetology terms;
- 6. the names of some professions and activities;

7. the phenomena of musical culture, culture in society.

Borrowings can be divided into two groups. The first group includes words that have come into the language as the names of the new objects, the new realities, or terms that have an international character, for example, website, bowling, skateboarding.

Another group comprises words that have synonyms in the Russian language and can be completely replaced by the Russian equivalents: lunch, parking, teenager, microwave, etc. Their penetration into the language creates a lexical redundancy. As a result, some words change their meaning.

Although the penetrating of English and American words into the Russian language is a natural phenomenon reflecting the increase of economical, political, cultural and social relations between Russia and other countries in the last decade, it is necessary to remember that in the desire to copy the western models we should not lose our identity including language because the language reflects the way of our life and thinking.

Литература

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