

### FUNCTIONS OF REBORROWED WORDS

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#### ABSTRACT:

The thesis is dedicated to the functions of reborrowings and their peculiarities in communication. It is clear that languages evolve over the centuries and words undergo changes. Initially, we have tried to elaborate reborrowings and their functions in this thesis.

**KEYWORDS:** Rückwanderer, loaning, lending, learned loanwords, popular loanwords, taco, latte.

#### INTRODUCTION

As we know, what we call “borrowed words” are not really borrowed. For instance, when English took the Italian word “pizza”, there was no intention to return it. They are more like “stolen words”. However, in a few cases, the words actually do get taken back, by sheer chance, into the very language they started and these words are called “reborrowing”. Reborrowing is the process where a word travels from one language to another and then back to the originating language in a different form or with a different meaning .

#### METHODOLOGY

Reborrowed words naturally have a various meaning or spelling to the original word, and in many cases they are so different we might not realize they are related. In some cases the borrowing process can be more complicated and the words might move through different languages before coming back to the originating language. The single move from one language to the other is called "loan". Reborrowing is the result of more than one loan, when the final recipient language is the same as the originating one.

What usually happens is that English speakers find a word in another language to describe something they don't yet have a word for. So they “borrow” that word, forever that said, loanwords fall into two categories: popular loanwords and

learned loanwords. **Learned loanwords** tend to come from scholarly or specialized fields, like medicine or law. It's usually easier to see what language these words came from. English, for example, draws from Latin for a lot of medical and legal terms.

**Popular loanwords** are everyday words. You might not even realize that some of them came from another language. Most popular loanwords are the result of cultural contact. Many of them describe food, the arts, and entertainment. You probably know sushi comes from Japanese, and taco comes from Spanish, by way of Mexico. But some other food-related loanwords you might have forgotten are pizza from Italian, lemon from Arabic, and tart from French (the French spell it *tarte*).

Borrowing & loaning—like money?

Before we divulge some of the secret global ingredients of English, though, what exactly does borrowing and loaning mean when it comes to languages? These terms make it seem like a word is taken from one language by another for only a brief time and then returned to the lender (with interest?). Obviously, this isn't what happens. Using banking terminology may not be the best way to describe the exchange; influencing is probably a better way to conceptualize it. Nevertheless, linguists have been employing words like borrow and loan as metaphors to describe what amounts to be a very complicated and abstract process of exchanging words across cultures.

How does loaning words work?

Borrowing and lending of words happens because of cultural contact between two communities that speak different languages. Often, the dominant culture (or the culture perceived to have more prestige) lends more words than it borrows, so the process of exchange is usually asymmetrical.

A lot of the words that end up being loaned are part of the material culture of the dominant group. Food, plants, animals, and tools migrate with the groups that use them, and, of course, so do the words that describe those things. So, when other cultures come into contact with those new people and their objects and words, it's no surprise that physical and linguistic exchanges take place. Because those objects already have names, the borrowing culture tends to adopt those names instead of inventing their own words.



### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There are so many ways to showcase the global ingredients of English, but to really do it justice would take as many years as it took English to get to the rich stew it is now. So, the table below is our “fast food” version of the melting pot. It’s a super-simplified ingredient list with a smattering of words in English that have been borrowed from the different languages we listed above.

Keep in mind that because of this presentation format, we’re not able to tell the intricate stories of how and when these words were introduced into the English lexicon. That involves slow-cooking that we just don’t have time for! But, at the end, we list some great suggestions for where to find a fuller recipe.

### CONCLUSION

To sum up, there are a lot of reborrowed words in English and they are still being learned by linguists. So, if you want to explore these and many other global linguistic ingredients according to roughly when they were added to the melting pot (and what condition the world ‘kitchen’ was in, so to speak), check out Philip Durkin’s detailed analysis, *Borrowed Words: A History of Loanwords in English*. As you’d imagine, learning about English’s loanwords from other languages is linked with the history of the English language itself. Because of its status as a global lingua franca, English is now much more of a lender than a borrower, but the ways in which English has contributed to other languages around the world is a recipe for another day. Though at a decreasing rate, English continues to borrow words in the 21st-century. Popular recent loanwords include Sudoku (the Japanese number puzzle appearing in the daily paper), wiki (a Hawaiian word describing a user-controlled website, i.e., Wikipedia), and latte (that Italian coffee drink with frothy milk that you need every morning so you can see straight).

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