

HOW THE GERMANIC LANGUAGES INFLUENCE EACH OTHER

Vinnitsia National Technical University

Анотація

У даній статті розглядається взаємовплив германських мов одна на одну, а також вплив германських мов на інші мови на внутрішньомовному рівні у формі мовної інтерференції. Розглядається історія германських мов й розвиток германських діалектів у мови народностей і далі в національні мови.

Ключові слова: германські мови, мовна інтерференція, внутрішньомовний рівень, вплив, запозичені слова.

Abstract

The article deals with the reciprocal influence of Germanic languages as well as the influence of the Germanic languages on other languages at intralingual level in the form of verbal interference. The history of the Germanic languages and the development of Germanic dialects into the languages of the nationalities and the national languages are discussed.

Keywords: the Germanic languages, linguistic interference, intralingual level, influence, borrowed words.

Languages, like cultures, are rarely sufficient themselves. The necessities of intercourse bring the speakers of one language into direct or indirect contact with those of neighboring or culturally dominant languages. The intercourse may be friendly or hostile. It may move on the humdrum plane of business and trade relations or it may consist of a borrowing or interchange of spiritual goods — art, science, religion. Whatever the degree or nature of contact between neighboring peoples, it is generally sufficient to lead to some kind of linguistic interinfluencing.

The simplest kind of influence that one language may exert on another is the “borrowing” of words. When there is cultural borrowing there is always the likelihood that the associated words may be borrowed too. When the early Germanic peoples of northern Europe first learned of wine-culture and of paved streets from their commercial or warlike contact with the Romans, it was only natural that they should adopt the Latin words for the strange beverage (*vinum*, English *wine*, German *Wein*) and the unfamiliar type of road (*strata [via]*, English *street*, German *Strasse*). Later, when Christianity was introduced into England, a number of associated words, such as *bishop* and *angel*, found their way into English. English borrowed an immense number of words from French of the Norman invaders, later also from the court French of Isle de France, appropriated a certain number of affixed elements of derivational value (e.g., *-ess* of *princess*, *-ard* of *drunkard*, *-ty* of *royalty*), may have been somewhat stimulated in its general analytic drift by contact with French and even allowed French to modify its phonetic pattern slightly (e.g., initial *v* and *j* in words like *veal* and *judge*; in words of Anglo-Saxon origin *v* and *j* can only occur after vowels, e.g., *over*, *hedge*).

And so the process has continued uninterruptedly down to the present day, each cultural wave bringing to the language a new deposit of loan-words. It is generally assumed that the nature and extent of borrowing depend entirely on the historical facts of culture relation; that if German, for instance, has borrowed less copiously than English from Latin and French it is only because Germany has had less intimate relations than England with the culture spheres of classical Rome and France. This is true to a considerable extent, but it is not the whole truth. We must not exaggerate the physical importance of the Norman invasion nor underrate the significance of the fact that Germany's central geographical position made it peculiarly sensitive to French influences all through the Middle Ages, to humanistic influences in the latter fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, and again to the powerful French influences of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Language contact occurs when two or more languages or varieties interact. Language contact can occur at language borders, between adstratum languages, or as the result of migration, with an intrusive language acting as either a superstratum or a substratum. Language contact occurs in a variety of phenomena, including language convergence, borrowing and relexification. The most common products are pidgins, creoles, code-switching and mixed languages, although other hybrid languages, such as the English language, do not strictly fit into any of these categories.

English is a member of the Indo-European family of languages. This broad family includes most of the European languages spoken today. The Indo-European family includes several major branches: Latin and the modern Romance languages; the Germanic languages; the Indo-Iranian languages, including Hindi and Sanskrit; the Slavic languages; the Baltic languages of Latvian and Lithuanian (but not Estonian); the Celtic languages; Greek. I have the impression that between the three biggest European families the Germanic languages are the ones which have a lowest mutual intelligibility among themselves. Then Romance would follow and finally Slavic. Even though the official branching separates the West Germanic languages (English, German, Dutch) and the North Germanic languages (Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Icelandic). East Germanic was spoken by peoples who migrated back to southeastern Europe. No East Germanic language is spoken today, and the only written East Germanic language that survives is Gothic. North Germanic evolved into the modern Scandinavian languages of Swedish, Danish, Norwegian and Icelandic (but not Finnish, which is related to Estonian and is not an Indo-European language). West Germanic is the ancestor of modern German, Dutch, Flemish, Frisian and English.

REFERENCES

1. Sapir Edvard How Languages Influence Each Other / Edvard Sapir [Електронний ресурс] – Режим доступу : [Edward Sapir http://www.bartleby.com/186/9.html](http://www.bartleby.com/186/9.html)
2. Pörksen Uwe Is German a Mixed Language? / Uwe Pörksen // German Academy for Language and Literature's Jahrbuch [Yearbook]. – 2007.

Тулчак Людмила Володимірівна – старший викладач кафедри іноземних мов, Вінницький національний технічний університет, e-mail: milatvin@ukr.net

Liudmyla Tulchak – senior teacher of English, the Foreign Languages Department, Vinnytsia National Technical University, Vinnytsia