

**LEXICAL INTERACTION OF THE MODERN GREEK LANGUAGE  
WITH GERMANIC AND ROMANCE LANGUAGES  
(WITH REFERENCE TO THE VOCABULARY OF ENGLISH,  
FRENCH AND MODERN GREEK LANGUAGES)**

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**Abstract.** The article deals with the issues of lexical interaction of the modern Greek language with Germanic and Romance languages (represented by English and French). There were singled out two areas in which this lexical interaction is rather significant: the vocabulary related to food and drinks and the vocabulary used to designate objects and concepts of clothing, shoes, haberdashery and perfumery. The impact of Greek on Germanic, Romance and Slavic languages is given attention to. The issues of phonographic adaptation of French and English words in modern Greek are considered.

**Keywords:** modern Greek, Germanic languages, Romance languages, loanwords, lexical interaction.

The processes of lexical exchanges linking the Greek and Western European languages have a long and rich history. Greek, especially in its classical version (ancient Greek), along with Latin, is one of the main suppliers of lexical borrowings in Western European languages. It should be noted that between the Latin and ancient Greek languages there was an

intensive exchange of vocabulary, with an overwhelming preponderance of words of Greek origin (Grecisms) in Latin. So, for example, M.G. Nordkin, L.V. Tokmakova write: "Greek culture and science had a huge impact on the development of Roman science and culture. As a result, many Greek words penetrated the Latin language" (Nordkin Tokmakova: 141) and went through phonographic adaptation in it. The same fact is pointed out by Yu. F. Schulz and coauthors: "From the moment the Romans conquered Greece (in 146 BC) - a country of a higher culture - there was a mutual influence and enrichment of cultures and languages - Greek and Latin." With a certain degree of conventionality, one can consider modern Romance languages, and, of course, to a much lesser extent, some Germanic languages (primarily English with its Latinized vocabulary), as continuers of the Latin tradition. The presence of a significant number of Grecisms (or Hellenisms) in many languages of the world is pointed out at by V.M. Pankin, A.V. Filippov (141). E.V. Marinova (71-72), as well as V.M. Pankin, A.V. Filippov (36) noted a large number of Grecisms in the Russian language (including in the field of proper names). There obtains a rather significant number of words of Greek origin in the Russian language, including those denoting everyday objects and concepts. O.V. Pogabalo, A.V. Ivashko, V.N. Catello in their Preface, dedicated to the memory of Fyodor Dmitrievich Stambulji (who, until his premature death, was chairman of the Donetsk Society of Greeks), write: "At our first acquaintance with the Greek language, we find in it a lot of similarities with Russian and Ukrainian ... because many Greek words have entered the common European vocabulary. " (3) Among the European languages the largest number of borrowings from Latin and Greek are to be found in English and French. In particular, T.A. Rastorgueva comes to the conclusion that the bulk of borrowings from Greek came into English during the Renaissance (many of them through the Latin language) (Rastorgueva: 306). The corpus of Greek borrowings in English continued to be replenished with a huge number of new words and throughout the 17th-20th centuries. (Rastorgueva: 309). K. Brunner notes that in the English language "Next to borrowings from the Latin language came borrowings from Greek. Greek words penetrated into the English language already in the Old English and Middle English period..." (171). B. Ilyish writes: "Greek yielded English a number of terms of science and political life. Almost all of these are international words. Many of them came into English through either Latin or French. Here belong such words as epoch, anarchy, aristocracy, democracy, physics, geometry, etc." (249). Many Grecisms in English are easily recognizable due to their spelling, which facilitates their identification. So, such borrowings often include the following combinations of letters: ph, pronounced [f], ps,

pronounced [s] and ch, phonetically equivalent to [k]: phonetics, psyche, psychiatry, scheme, archives (Rastorgueva :310). Practically at the same time, the processes of borrowing Greek vocabulary took place in the French language, which resulted in the presence in modern French vocabulary of a huge number of words of Greek origin, the distinguishing feature of which is also the use of the letter combination ph to denote the Greek sound [f] (photographie, bibliographie) and ch for conveyance of the Greek sound [x] (Christ, chrême, chœur). For its part, the Greek language is not inclined to borrow foreign vocabulary. In this regard, it can be compared with Hebrew, mostly preferring to deal with its own lexical material (Boichuk Eshchenko: 2014, URL) or the Hungarian language (Boichuk: 2010, 301-304). V.P. Neroznak among sources of borrowings in the modern Greek language mentions Romance, Slavic and Turkic languages (Neroznak: 1990, 119), not including English here.

At the same time, there are certain lexical fields in which the analysis of the empirical material reveals a rather significant proportion of borrowings from modern Western European languages - English and French. We believe that one of these fields is vocabulary related to food and drinks. Borrowings from English and French in this area can be divided into five main sections.

(1) Main dishes and side dishes: ροζμπιθ (roast beef) – roast beef, θρικαζέ (fricassée) – fricassé, ομελέτα (omelette) – omelette, μπιθηέκι (steak) – beef steak, ραγκού (stew) – ragoût, κρέπες (pancakes) – crêpes, ποσηγγά (pudding) – pudding, γαρνιτούρα (garnish) – garniture, κοηολέτα (/chop / cutlet) – côtelette, etc.

(2) First courses: ζούπα-κρέμα (mashed soup) – soupe-crème, κονζομέ (/clarified/ broth) – consommé, ζούπα (soup) – soupe;

(3) Confectionery and pastries: κροσαζάν (croissant) – croissant, καραμέλα – caramel, δελέ (желе) – gelée or jelly, kek, κέικ – cake, μπιζκόνα – biscuits, μαρμελάδα (джем, мармелад – the origin of this word is Portuguese, but most likely it got into Greek from English) – marmalade etc

(4) Snacks and appetizers: δαμπόν (ham) – jambon, μπέικον – bacon, πατέ – pâté, ηζίπς – /potato/ chips, ζαλάη – salade, ζάνησις – sandwich, ροκθόρ – Roquefort (cheese), κροσηόν – croûton etc;

(5) Drinks, mainly spirituous liquors: οσίζκι – whisky or whiskey, ρούμι – rum, μπράννη – brandy, αρμανιάκ – armagnac, μπίρα – beer, ηόνικ – tonic, νημι-ζέκ – demi-sec, ζέκ – sec, ζιπράιη – Sprite®, Βοσργοσσνδια-Bourgogne, νηδιν – gin, κόκα-κόλα – Coca-Cola®, κοκηίλ – cocktail, κονιάκ – cognac, λικέρ – liqueur, πέψσ-κόλα – Pepsi Cola®, ζαμπάνια – champagne etc;

In addition, Greek borrowed a number of lexical units related to the organization of catering from the Western European languages - English and French: γκαρζόνι (waiter) – garçon, ζερβιηόροδ (server) – serviteur (fr. servant, cf. serveur server, μπαρ (bar) – bar, ρεζηωράν (restaurant) – restaurant (the word ρεζηωράν functions along with εξηιαηόριο). This section is notionally adjacent to the previous five. Thus, we see that in four sections out of five, both English and French borrowings are presented.

Among the names of drinks, words borrowed from the English language are clearly quantitatively predominant.

(In this area of Greek vocabulary there are borrowings from the other languages, for example, βόηκα – vodka, ρακί – turk. Rakı – raky). Gallicisms prevail among the borrowings for second courses. The borrowed names of the first courses are represented exclusively by Gallicisms. This fact can probably be explained by the great prestige of French cuisine. As for the second and third sections, then in them Anglicisms and Gallicisms are represented approximately equally.

The second lexical field, where borrowings from French and English are quite widely represented, are related sections of the vocabulary used to designate objects and concepts of clothing, shoes, haberdashery and perfumery.

So, there is great proportion of Anglicisms, and especially Gallicisms, denoting items of clothing and linen. Gallicisms are Greek words such as: κοστούμι (suit), κιλότα (women's pants), παλτό (coat), καλσόν (tights), μαγιό (swimming trunks), σουτιέν (bustier), μπλούζα (blouse), γραβάτα (tie), ζαρτιέρες (suspender belt), ταγιέρ (dress suit), κομπιναιζόν (garter), ρόμπα (bathrobe), μαγιό (swimsuit). One cannot omit the French origin of the word παντελόνι (pants). It is possible, however, that it comes from the Italian pantalonı. English vocabulary is much less massive in this area: πουλόβερ (pullover), σλιπ (men's underpants).

As for the shoes, Gallicisms also prevail here: παντόφλες (slippers), μπότες (boots), perhaps, κορδόνια (shoelaces).

In the field of vocabulary related to haberdashery, we found the following Gallicisms: πορτοφόλι (wallet, purse), βαλίτσα (suitcase), and Anglicism ομπρέλα (umbrella).

Among the vocabulary belonging to the field of perfumery, the following Gallicisms are revealed: λοσιόν (lotion), βερνίκι (nail polish), Κολωνία (eau-de Cologne), κρέμα (cream), κραγιόν (lipstick), πούδρα (facepowder).

Naturally, English and French borrowings are represented in the Greek language not only in the areas under consideration. They are available

in other thematic sections of vocabulary, for example: παρτί (party), βιτρίνα (showcase), αφίσα (poster), μπαλαρίνα (ballerina), μιζαμπλί (set), φαβορίτες (whiskers, hackles), τουρίστας (tourist), μασάζ (massage). There are also loan-translations: ουρανοξύστης (skyscraper).

Borrowings from English and French are subject to phonographic adaptation in the Greek language, expressed by the substitution of the sounds of the source languages by the acoustically closest Greek phonemes, followed by the writing of these words in letters of the Greek alphabet. Sounds that are absent in the Greek phonetic system are substituted with the help of more or less closely sounding Greek phonemes. So, for example, the French sound [ʒ] when adapting a borrowed word is replaced by [z], graphically conveyed using δ, the French ch [ʃ] is replaced by ζ [s]. French nasal vowels are conveyed using a combination of vowel + nasal consonant. English diphthongs lose diphthongization, but this does not always happen, it can often persist.

The English sound [dʒ] is changed into [dz], [tʃ] – into [ts]. The English and French sound [b] is conveyed with the help of the letter combination μπ, pronounced in the initial position and in the original Greek words like [b] (but, for example, Βοσργουονδία – Bourgogne). To convey the English and French sounds, roughly corresponding to Russian o, both o, ó and ω are used.

In general, in the sphere of borrowing between English and French (as representatives of Germanic and Romance languages) on the one hand and Greek on the other, both qualitative and quantitative asymmetries are clearly observed.

Thus, Greek borrowings in Western European languages are represented mainly by scientific terminology and abstract vocabulary related to culture, art, music, philosophy, architecture, etc. The number of these borrowings is huge.

Greek borrowings in most European languages, including East Slavic, make up a significant part of the lexical fund of internationalisms.

Modern Western European languages also borrow modern Greek culinary and gastronomic vocabulary, for example, Eng. Feta, Fr. Feta – Φέτα, Eng. moussaka, Fr. moussaka – μουζακκάς, pita - πίτα, ζέα - zea, saganaki - σαγανάκι. One cannot resume, however, that all these borrowings were included in the general vocabulary of the English and French languages and are known to all native speakers of these languages without exception.

As for borrowings from English and French in Greek, their number is very limited.

Anglicisms and Gallicisms are used mainly to refer to concrete everyday objects and concepts, and the vast majority of them are exoticisms.

Based on the analysis of the lexical composition of the modern Greek language, we can conclude that this language is distinguished by pronounced purist tendencies and the number of borrowings in it from both Romance and Germanic languages is very limited.

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