

0. Announcements

-Assignment 3 (due a week from today):

- (i) Provide the tree structure for *unforgiveableness*;
- (ii) Explain why **unselfishless* is ill-formed;
- (iii) Create a compound made up of three nouns (e.g., *dog water bowl*.) Provide the two different tree structures for the compound, and paraphrase the meaning of each structure unambiguously;
- (iv) Consulting a dictionary that provides sources of English words, identify the language from which each of the following words is borrowed: *aardvark*, *flak*, *ukulele*, *sabotage*, *snorkel*, *fascism*, *sputnik*.

-Reading: TBA.

1. Chumash (Chumash, California)

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|-----|---|---|
| (b) | K-telmemen
1-touch.it
'I touch it.' | No-s-iy-c'imutelew
fut-3-pl-bite.it
'They will bite it.' |
| (d) | K-tel-telmemen
1-RED-touch.it
'They grope around for it.' | No-s-iy-tel-telmemen
fut-3-pl-RED-touch.it
'They will grope around for it.' |
| (e) | No-kal-k-alimexkeken
fut-RED-1-stretch.it.out
'I will stretch it out all over.' | No-siy-s-iy-eqwel.
fut-RED-3-pl-do.it
'They will do it all around.' |

2. Discontinuous Morphology (see notes from last class)

3. Borrowing

Languages commonly acquire new words by adopting them from other languages. Such borrowed words are called **loanwords** (or **loans**).

Loans abound in English, e.g., *rouge* (from French), *macho* (from Spanish), *schwa* (from Hebrew via German), *yen* 'craving' (from Chinese).

English has been borrowing French words in the thousands since the 11th century. In 1066, the French-speaking Normans conquered England, and Norman French became the language of the ruling elite for the next 200 years or so.

"Thanks to the vastly greater prestige of French, English-speakers eagerly borrowed almost any French words they could get their hands on, regardless of the fact that English in many cases already had perfectly good equivalents. Such Norman French words as *country*, *music*, *jewel*, *picture*, *beef*, *fruit*, *boil*, *courage*, *honour*, *virtue*, *pity*, *sentence*, *question*, *language*, *literature*, *fool*, *horrible*, *mirror*, *gentle*, *male*, *female*, even *face*, all came pouring into English, where they proved so popular that they drove the corresponding native words out of the language. Only a specialist now knows that the English once said *to-come* instead of *arrive*, *learning-knight* instead of *apprentice*, *wrethe* instead of *support*, *wridian* instead of *flourish*, *anleth* instead of *face*...

"One of the chief reasons that Old English texts are so difficult for us to read is that so many of the native English words used in those texts were later driven out of the language by borrowings from French. More than 60 percent of the Old English vocabulary has disappeared, and the Norman Conquest is the greatest single reason for this... (although many of the fashionable borrowings in later centuries would have been very likely to have been acquired in any event)..." (From: Millar 2007).

Extensive word borrowing can introduce **new morphology**. The derivational suffix *-able* came into English through French loans like *equitable* and *legible*. It is now fully productive, combining even with native roots, as in *readable* and *laughable*. Types of inflection can also be borrowed: comparative *-er* is native in English, while the periphrastic *more* comes from French *plus* 'more'.

Word borrowing can also introduce **new sounds** into a language. E.g., English acquired [ʒ] through loans like *genre* and *rouge*, and word-initial [v] from loans like *very*, *vine*, *virgin*, *vowel*, *view*, *voice*.

Sometimes new sounds and morphology are not always introduced, and rather, loans are **nativized**, that is, remodeled to fit the structure of the borrowing language.

For instance, foreign sounds are often replaced by the nearest phonetic equivalent, as was the case for Hawaiian *Mele Kalikimaka*, and is evident in pronunciations of [ð] in English loans in European languages.

Loanwords can also be nativized to fit the **morphology** of the recipient language.

Turkish has borrowed heavily from Arabic, but the two have very different systems of verbal inflection. Arabic verbs consist only of consonants, and inflect by internal changes (as we saw today). Turkish, on the other hand, is highly agglutinative (like Swahili). As a consequence, rather than directly borrowing verbs, Turkish borrows the corresponding noun, and combines this with a dummy verb, *etmek* ‘do’. Thus, the Arabic verbal noun *kabul* ‘acceptance’ is borrowed and used in Turkish to form the compound verb *kabul etmek* ‘accept’.

Similarly, Japanese borrows words and combines them with the verb *suru* ‘do’: *kisu suru* ‘kiss’, *pasu suru* ‘pass an exam’.

Similar problems arise for nominal inflection with borrowed nouns.

English regularly forms plurals using *-s*, but with borrowed forms we are often uncertain and vacillate. Many nouns borrowed from Greek and Latin have been taken over with their foreign plurals: *phenomena*, *indices*, *crises*, *cacti*, and so on. Such foreign plurals are not part of regular English morphology, and often up rearranged in various ways. For example, *data* is not recognizable as a plural for English speakers, and many now treat *data* as singular. Similarly, speakers are uncertain about the plurals for the Greek borrowings *syllabus* and *octopus*, and sometimes impose Latin plural morphology on analogy with Latin loans like *radius/radii*.

Words also can be adopted in **unmodified** form, through the process of **calquing**. A **calque** (or **loan translation**) is a new word constructed by translating morphologically complex foreign words morpheme-by-morpheme.

For example, English *superman* and *world-view* are calques of German *Übermensch* and *Weltanschauung*. Similarly, French has calqued English *skyscraper* as *gratte-ciel*, lit. ‘scrape-sky’, and German has calqued English *chain smoker* as *Kettenraucher* (*Kette* ‘chain’ + *Raucher* ‘smoker’.) Note that the foreign compounds follow the rules of compounding for each respective language.

“The Romans frequently used this technique to expand the vocabulary of Latin by appealing to the then more prestigious Greek. For example, the Greek word *sympathia* ‘sympathy’ consists of two morphemes: the prefix *syn-* ‘with’ and a stem *pathia* ‘suffering’. The Romans rendered this with the Latin prefix *con-* ‘with’ and the stem *passio* ‘suffering’, obtaining the calque *compassion*, which therefore became the Latin word for ‘sympathy’. Centuries later, the Germans in turn calqued the Latin word into German by using their preposition *mit* ‘with’ and the noun *Leid* ‘grief’, obtaining *Mitleid*, the German word for ‘sympathy’ or ‘compassion’. If English had done the same, our word for ‘sympathy’ might now be **withgrief*... but we have, as usual, preferred merely to borrow directly, and so we have borrowed both *sympathy* from Greek and *compassion* from Latin.” (Millar 2007).

Interestingly, some languages tend to borrow foreign words directly (like English), while others tend to borrow words through calquing (like Icelandic, Chinese).

Certain high frequency words tend to be borrowed less often than other words; these are **basic vocabulary** items like pronouns, lower numerals, kinship terms, names of body parts and natural phenomena, verbs like *do*, *have*, or *be*...

This can depend in part on social relations between speakers. French was more prestigious, and we don’t have many French loans for basic vocabulary in English.

Old Norse borrowings, on the other hand: *skirt*, *skin*, *sky*, *get*, *give*, *take*, *they*, *their*.

References

- Hock, Hans Henrick and Brian D. Joseph. 2009. *Language History, Language Change, and Language Relationship*, 2nd Edition. Mouton.
Millar, Robert McColl. 2007. *Trask’s Historical Linguistics*, 2nd Edition. Hodder Education.