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**THE INFLUENCE OF FRENCH ON THE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE**

Bachelor's thesis

2016

Lea Angibaud

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Čestné prehlásenie

Čestne prehlasujem, že som prácu vypracovala samostatne pod vedením vedúceho bakalárskej práce, za použitia uvedených zdrojov.

V Bratislave dňa 14.4.2016

.....
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Pod'akovanie

Úprimne ďakujem svojej vedúcej bakalárskej práce, Mgr. Milade Pauleovej, za cenné rady ktoré som využila pri písaní bakalárskej práce.

Abstract

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This paper deals with the influence of French in English vocabulary. The research will therefore be based on the lexicological part of both languages. The aim of this work is to sum up the present knowledge in this field of study from the point of view of their mutualities and contrasts. Historical evolution, their usage in distinct sectors of human labour and semantical paradox will be taken into account in this bachelors' thesis. This paper is conceived as a theoretical basis for further research of the proposed aspects. Mutual features of both languages could be used to create some teaching material of English language for French speaking learners. Bringing up of knowledge of a foreign language on the basis of an already acquired language may facilitate the process of learning and may have a positive effect on the student.

This thesis is divided into four parts. Sources for this thesis are stated in introduction. The first chapter retraces the most important moments in history which influenced both English and French. The second chapter analyses the meaning of French and its application in some sectors of everyday life. The third chapter denotes the contrasts between both languages. A resumé of acquired knowledge is presented in the conclusion.

Keywords: English language, French Language, vocabulary, false friends, influence

Abstrakt

ANGIBAUD, Lea: The influence of French on the English language /bakalárska práca/. Ekonomická Univerzita v Bratislave. Fakulta Aplikovaných Jazykov. Vedúci bakalárskej práce: Mgr. Milada Pauleová, 29s.

Táto práca sa zaoberá vplyvom francúzštiny na anglickú slovnú zásobu. Skúmanie bude preto zamerané na lexikologickú stránku jazykov.

Cieľom práce je zhrnutie doterajších znalostí v tejto jazykovednej disciplíne z pohľadu spoločných či rozdielnych črt oboch jazykov. Pri skúmaní budeme brať do úvahy historický vývin jazykov, ich použitie v rôznych odvetviach ľudskej činnosti a významové paradoxy. Práca je určená ako teoretický základ pre ďalšie skúmanie predkladaných aspektov. Spoločné črty by mohli byť využité pre vytvorenie výučbových materiálov Anglického jazyka pre francúzsky hovoriacich študentov. Vybudovanie znalostí cudzieho jazyka na základe slovnej zásoby už osvojeného by mohlo uľahčiť proces učenia ako i pozitívne motivovať študenta.

Práca je rozčlenená do štyroch častí. Úvod je venovaný popisu východísk tejto práce.

Prvá kapitola sa zaoberá historickým prierezom najdôležitejších okamihov, ktoré ovplyvnili vývoj oboch jazykov. Druhá kapitola rozoberá význam Francúzštiny a jej využitie v rôznych odvetviach ľudského života. Tretia kapitola poukazuje na rozdiely medzi oboma jazykmi. V závere sú zhrnuté zistené poznatky a ich možné využitie v praxi.

Kľúčové slová: Anglický jazyk, Francúzsky jazyk, slovná zásoba, false friends, vplyv

Contents

Introduction.....	1
1 Brief history of English language	2
1.1 Early English period.....	2
1.2 Later English period	6
2 French in Modern English	9
2.1 Diplomacy	9
2.1.1 Examples.....	9
2.2 Gastronomy	10
2.2.1 Examples.....	11
2.3 Fashion, art and lifestyle	12
2.3.1 Examples.....	13
3 English-French False Friends	18
3.1 Faux – amis	18
3.1.1 Examples.....	18
3.2 Homographs	21
3.2.1 Examples:.....	21
Conclusion	24
Resumé.....	26
Bibliography	29

Introduction

Communication has always been an important part of humanity. Since the dawn of time men have used language to communicate while conducting trade, they needed it when organising settlements, and for everyday communication. The importance of language has increased considerably since then. Nowadays it is not enough to know only one language and the need to master several languages is extremely important especially in today's era of globalization. This happens despite efforts to use English as a universal language.

Communication is a complicated matter, it is a very interesting subject for research, in order to understand it fully.

One could think that a language evolves in isolation, determined only by its territory or by the nation of people who speak it. However, a language does not consist only of grammar rules and vocabulary. In the course of history, there were times when several nations coexisted in one area. The mutual use of two or more languages in everyday situations affected some of their elements. Therefore, even seemingly two fundamentally different languages may share the same words. English and French are a perfect example.

These rivals have fought to achieve a political and economic dominance over each other for centuries and due to this fact their cultures and languages became linked together.

It has become our main motivation to explore the common features in the vocabulary of both languages. Since both languages have an extremely large vocabulary, it is not our aim to create some kind of dictionary of words. The purpose of the thesis is to analyse the described aspect from different points of view.

We believe that we will succeed and accomplish our goals and contribute to a better understanding of both languages.

1 Brief history of English language

A language is not a rigid part of a vital community of people. The need to communicate has been present from the early days of the existence of humanity. Throughout history the English language has developed the same way as other languages, but it has proved itself to be the most flexible of languages and its ability to absorb new words from other cultures is remarkable. It absorbed words from - first Germanic origin, then words brought in by Latin missionaries, and Viking raiders brought in Old Norse.

In the Middle English period, from 1100 to 1500, another important language significantly influenced the course of the development of English. As Dana Melzer mentions, "*French was responsible for great changes brought to English over the years.*" (Melzer, 2008). Over the course of history, some 10000 words have been incorporated to English, and it is very interesting to know, that 75 % of these words have been used so far (Johnson, A History of English People, 2012, p.75).

As Jurcic defines, in order to see better the significance of French in English, he divides the Middle English period into two stages – an earlier (1100-1250) and a later one (1250-1500). In the early stage of the Middle English, new words that came in were through the interaction of French speaking nobility, as for example baron, dame, minstrel, servant. Some historians claim that French aristocracy ruled in England even before the year 1100 - since William, Duke of Normandy seized England in 1066 and was crowned king. His followers spoke Norman French, therefore the need to communicate in French arose. In a later stage, a new factor appeared in the English society since gradually, the upper classes started again to use English language. Baugh, the English linguist, adds in his History of the English language that French had important place even then – as English did not have words for many aspects of daily life, thus covering deficiencies of the vocabulary with French equivalents. An interesting fact is that today many of those words are not recognized by English native speakers as foreign, since they have been in use for a longer time period.

1.1 Early English period

When William the Conqueror became king, he was aware that the unification of the lands in Normandy and those acquired in England would not be beneficial for the country. That is why William gave, when the time came, the lands in England to William II the most

trustworthy of his sons. However, the lands in Normandy became the property of his eldest son Robert. Paul Johnson states that actually this decision was a wise one, but ineffective because the two lands got united anyway (A History of English People, 2012, p. 73) and thus, England became a part of the continent for a whole century. Roberts' recklessness, as Johnson describes, had a major impact on the development of the English language. If William the Conquerors' last will would have been fulfilled, the separation of the two lands would assure that English became the language of the ruling class. However the lands were united, and therefore French became the language of communication in the field of administration, and as Johnson adds, especially in the highest ranks (A History of English People, 2012, p.73) even if the rest of the nation could not speak the French.

As Walter states, French has had a very good background in England since marriages between the two countries occurred very frequently (Walter, 2001). From the era of Henry II (1133 – 1189) till the reign of Edward IV, we can see that English kings tied the knot with French princesses to enforce the political alliance between England and France.

This tradition has started in 1152, when Henry II Plantagenet married Eleanor of Aquitaine, the former wife of French king Louis VII who had divorced her. Henry II fathered eight children with Eleanor of which three sons – Henry, the Young King, Richard Lion Heart and John Lackland themselves chose French spouses as well. As we can see, the French language has quickly become the language of the court, as the wives of the powerful men had a lot of influence in the court. Eleanor, who possessed the region of Aquitaine, Normandy and Brittany brought quite a large dowry to the marriage.



Figure 1: Map of France during king Henry II's reign

At this map is clearly seen that the political union between France and England which had a considerable effect on the way issues were handled in the court. The English language did not have large enough vocabulary to express all the words which diplomats in the court needed. English was treated as a language not worthy being pronounced by the king. French was elaborate enough for the communication between the king and his wife as well as for official business.

One of these official businesses included the communication with the so called guardian of the finance in Britain, so that the king might have track of the expenses in order to lead expensive wars or for other reasons. The name of this position – Chancellor *of the Exchequer* comes from French as well. The term dates back to time before the Battle of Hastings and originally applied to the personal secretary of the king. Walter explains that the word *Exchequer* refers to a ceremony, in which all the tax collectors from all around the British Isles came twice a year to London to give in the collected money to the common treasury. The ceremony took place at Westminster Palace and the money was put on a long table

covered with tissue with a checkered pattern – *échiquier* being the French term for checkers (Honni soit qui mal y pense, p.107)

Johnson also adds that administration of the property assets were kept in both French and English. However, in the parliament itself, only French was spoken, therefore English speaking members had no decision - making power. One had to learn French in order to have a successful political career, and to climb a social ladder. Johnson declares that the linguistic line between social classes was drawn not by one's nationality, but by one's social status.

The French literature and the French dialect have soon spread all over England. The interesting fact is that the French spoken in England was very different from the French spoken in Paris. Chaucer named it "French of Stratford- atte- Bow", because majority of people living in Stratford spoke this dialect. Chaucer's importance in the language development will be described in the sub - chapter Later English Period.

After the loss of Normandy territories in 1204, the French language started to lose its importance in Britain. The English administrative system, however, was very conservative and French was still used there, especially among lawyers and state officials. In the 13th century, Johnson writes that some of the bills have been simultaneously written in Latin, English and French (A History of English People, 2012, p.74).

Soon, other words of the French origin come from the Early English time period as well, such as:

Proud – from old French "preux" which nowadays means "valliant" in French

Tower – "tour" in French

Prison – has not changed in French

Bacon – contrary to public belief, this word is from French origin, and not the other way around. It means a piece of salted pork in both French and English, however, in France it has a larger portion of lard in it.

1.2 Later English period

The French language has been the official language of nobility until the middle of the 15th century, however, the situation started to change during the reign of Edward III. In 1337, hostilities erupted between France and England which gradually led to the Hundred Years War (1337 – 1453).

Johnson mentions as well that one of the war triggers was racism and nationalism that emerged among people. The French language was no longer popular and gradually was replaced by English.

Six years later, in 1459, the Parliament commenced to hold sessions exclusively in English. Johnson adds the example of the parliament bill called “Status of Pleading” which set the rules for court proceedings. In this document, the French language is declared “in this kingdom almost unknown.” (Johnson, A history of English People, 2012, p.74).

French was still a language taught to children, as a language “all gentlemen should know” (Walter, 2001, p.178), however as she continues, English is used as a language for daily purposes. In order to accentuate the new position of English, not anymore a sheer dialect, the English poet Chaucer has chosen this language to interpret his thoughts. During his life, he was first of all known as a translator of books from French to English. As Walter, the author of the book *Honni soit qui mal y pense* claims, the poet was glorified for his translation of the *Roman de la Rose* from French to English. After this success, he chose to write his Canterbury Tales in English. However, his middle-English is still strongly influenced by French as we can see in this excerpt of the prologue of Canterbury Tales:

*He knew the cause of everich maladye,
Were it of hoot or cold, or moyste or drye,
And where they engendred of what humour;
He was a verray parfit praktisour.*

This text can be found in the book *Honni soit qui mal y pense* (Walter, 2001, p.181). As Walter points out, we can see French words here. “*Maladye*” standing for “illness” in modern English, “hoot” for “hot”, “*moyste or drye*” meaning “humid or dry”, “*engendred*” is “spread”, “*humour*” describing “nature of something” (illness in this context). Only the words “*praktisour*” is clearly understandable as “practician” and “*parfit*” as the French “parfait”.

Of course, the expansion of English could not happen if not aided by press. Soon, William Caxton, one of the first book-printers in Britain released his own book called *The Recuyell of the Historyes of Troye*” (1477). Here as well we can see how French had a major impact on English vocabulary at this period.

This mix of two languages was not tolerated for long, because gradually in the beginning of the 15th century reforms took place in order to clearly determine the pronunciation and the writing form of English words. However, since the matter of English language reforms is not the topic of this thesis, we will not enter into further details.

The interesting fact is that the very first French dictionary was actually an English – French dictionary. Its aim, according to Walter (Honni soit qui mal y pense, 2001, p. 201) was to define the first grammar rules of French. This dictionary was called *Lesclarcissement de la langue françoise*, published in 1530 by John Palsgrave, an educated Englishman and tutor of Mary of England. This work was supposed to help the English students of French.

By this time, English has enriched its vocabulary with words of Latin origin or new words were created by playwrights, Shakespeare being one of them. As the language became more sophisticated, the need to make a list of new words with the explanation of their meaning arose. These new words were named “hard words” (Walter, 2001, p. 219), and consequently the first English dictionary was created. It was written by Robert Cawdrey and published in 1604 under the name *A Table Alphabeticall of Hard Words*. At that time, the dictionary contained only 3 000 words.

Even though English finally became an official language, the administrative workers were not happy with this change. In the meantime French became the main language of European culture. It is interesting to know that lawyers and universities fought against the use of English in every aspect of daily life. For example, even monasteries in Canterbury and Westminster forbid young monks to use English. Oxford University felt the need to keep using the French language as a language of instruction so that “it would not be forgotten“. (Johnson, A history of English People, 2012, p.75)

We have already mentioned that 75% of the English vocabulary is of from French origin. Paul Johnson says in his book *A History of English People* that interestingly enough, these words were assimilated into the English language during the late 13th and the beginning of 14th centuries, just around the time that French almost disappeared from daily use in England

(2012, p.75). This was due to the fact that English was now a language of commerce, law and administration, and needed appropriate expressions so people could communicate effectively. Johnson points out that during the years 1250 – 1400 the number of French words assimilated in the English language doubled, which was astonishing. Johnson explains this phenomenon by the fact that the old English words were used by lower classes and at the same time people from upper classes preferred the words coming from French origin. Later on, however, people wanted to avoid such words, because they sounded snobbish. For example, correctly, an Englishman should say “a looking-glass” rather than a “mirror.” Johnson points out that no matter how people tried to avoid those words and use “good old English” versions of words of the same object, “looking-glass” and “mirror” are both of French origin (A History of English People, 2012, p. 75)

2 French in Modern English

Nowadays, there are closer links with languages due to globalization tendencies. People migrate more than in the past therefore they interact more. Languages have since established and have their fixed rules, but this does not stop other languages from influencing them. New words come to and disappear from a language, and some are so frequently used, that no English equivalent is known to replace the foreign term or, if it does, it is less accurate. This happens in many different fields such as diplomacy, gastronomy or fashion industry, which are worldwide known for their source of French terms.

2.1 Diplomacy

Diplomacy has appeared in history with the rise of the first city states. Originally, the first diplomats were men sent only for specific issues that needed negotiating. Once the negotiation was concluded, the men returned home. According to historians, those emissaries were usually relatives of ruling families of the city state, or had a very high rank social rank. Later on, Spain was first to send its first permanent representative of state abroad.

If we have a closer look at the very term diplomacy, we find out that it is derived from French, via ancient Greek. The word is composed of two elements: "*diplo*" which means "*folded in two*" and the suffix "*ma*" which, according to Encyclopedia Britannica (online) means "*an object*" – so this term lets us suppose that the bearer of the object had a special right to handle it delicately.

Later on, in the 18th century, the word "*diplomate*" appeared. This word is solely of French origin and refers to "*a person authorized to negotiate on behalf of the state*" (in Encyclopedia Britannica, 2016).

2.1.1 Examples

Envoyé – An envoyé is a word for a messenger, or a person that has been given a task to be completed.

Attaché – a person who is assigned to the diplomatic or higher placed person or agency

Alliance – an agreement or connection made between countries, groups or families for a shared purpose or for the protection of their interests.

Espionage – government and company or individual obtaining information considered secret or confidential without the permission of the holder of the information.

Affair – event that is of public interest or political importance

Raison d'état – a diplomatic way to refer to national interest

Chargé d'affaires – an official who takes the place of an ambassador in a foreign country when he or she is away

Communiqué – an official statement or report especially to newspaper.

Etiquette – a set of formal rules of correct or polite behaviour in society or among members of a particular profession (medical, legal etiquette)

Sabotage – subversive destruction, from the practice of workers fearful of industrialization destroying machines by tossing their sabots ("wooden shoes") into machinery.

Laissez – faire – a principle, that states that a government should not interfere in the lives of individuals.

2.2 Gastronomy

The French are known for their love of food to the extent that the art of cooking has become an inseparable part of their cultural inheritance. When the Frankish Normans invaded the British Isles in 11th century, one of the effects of the conquest was the influence on their gastronomy. The Normans brought exotic spices such as cinnamon, nutmeg, saffron, pepper, ginger or even sugar. For many centuries, English aristocrats ate only French food as a declaration of their superiority in contrast to their subjects.

Up to now we can see remains of these historical events in the English language and its vocabulary. The present day society does not distinguish itself to upper and lower classes anymore. However, people use French terms to describe certain nouns, verbs, adjectives that are in relation with fine dining.

2.2.1 Examples

A la – a lexical collocation designates a particular way in which a dish is prepared.

Amuse bouche – this word of French origin describes tiny bites of food served before a meal. Traditionally they are served as a sample to represent the cooking style of the restaurant.

Aperitif – French term for an alcoholic beverage served before a meal to stimulate the appetite.

Au bleu – this French term is used in the world of gastronomy to describe preparation of freshly caught fish. For example, trouts or carps are put right into boiling water in which the fish's scales turn blue.

Baguette – French word describing popular type of bread.

Bain - marie – a collocation of French origin to describe a way of cooking, in which food is put in a separate utensil while water boils underneath.

Béchamel sauce – is one of the four basic sauces used in the French cuisine. It is also called “white sauce” made of flour, boiled milk and butter.

Bistro – originally used to be a French place where people sold wine. Traditionally, the wife of the owner would make a single dish that she would sell. Nowadays this word describes a small informal restaurant.

Bouillon – a traditional clear soup made by boiling meat or vegetables.

Café – a French word to describe a place where you can buy coffee and simple meals. In Britain alcohol is not usually served.

Chef – “The chief” in French. A responsible cook of the operations in the entire kitchen.

Coulis – a type of thick sauce, usually made of pureed fruit or vegetables.

Hors d'oeuvre – light meals served before main meals. They are bigger than appetizers.

Haute cuisine – food prepared in an elaborate manner.

Sommelier – trained and knowledgeable wine professional usually working in fine restaurants, who specializes in all aspects of wine service as well as wine and food pairing.

Soupçon – a very small amount of some ingredient.

2.3 Fashion, art and lifestyle

The French love of clothing dates back to the reign of the king Louis XIV (1638 – 1715). Under his rule, the fashion industry was controlled by the throne. Even if all the other industries were not in such a good shape, fashion industry thrived. In 1670's the prominence of fashion was associated with the creation of fashion press. This way, fashion became accessible not only to nobility but to a broader public as well.

Later on, when France fell in an economic depression in early 19th century, fashion industry became less important, however it never completely left the public consciousness. In 1860 France has re-established the best known fashion houses. In the 1960s, these houses were worldwide known. It is interesting that the first modern Parisian fashion house is considered to be the house of Charles Frederick Worth, who was of English origin. The house is today known as Woolworth. Later on, Coco Chanel started her business in 1925 and she was popular for her innovative designs. After World War II, the young Christian Dior became famous with dresses that accentuated tiny waists and had big skirts. This fashion reminded people of the good old times before World War II.

Many of the words used in France to describe new clothes or fashionable items were borrowed by English too, since the English language did not have their own words for them. Of course, most of the time, the pronunciation of words describing these items was distorted in order to assimilate in the English language and to be pronounceable by the common people. Fashion is a kind of art and we would like to pay some attention to the art as such. France is the homeland of many worldwide known artists – musicians, painters, sculptures, writers, architects or even photographers. We can take mention Cézanne, Matisse, Monet, Rousseau, Hugo, Zola, Rodin, Degas or Doisneau, Le Nôtre or Eiffel to name a few. The word “art” itself is of French origin.

2.3.1 Examples

Since this part contains various fields of human interests, we have decided to categorise the words into their respective fields.

Fashion industry

Agent provocateur – it refers to a provocative way of clothing for women, which leads to thinking that these women do something illegal or entice other persons to commit an illegal act. The term of course is used in its first degree meaning as well.

Bijou – This word from French origin has in English a quite interesting plural. While in French, the plural to the word “jewelry” would be *bijoux*, in English the plural is written *bijous*.

Bustier – A tight fitting underwear for women. It is strapless, and it is often worn as a strapless push up bra. Its lower part is tightening the abdomen area, so that a woman appears slimmer and it also pushes breasts up, so that the chest area seems fuller.

Chic – This word of French origin refers to the sophistication of the style of dress. One can use this word in a sentence for example like this: “She is very chic.” Or “Is not that handbag chic?”.

Corset – a corset is a garment worn on the torso of a person, generally a woman for either aesthetic or medical purposes. In modern fashion industry this term is used also on clothes that look like a traditional corset, but it is not dedicated to tighten a human body.

Décolleté – describes the exposed lower neckline of a woman’s dress. Historically, the first low neckline dresses appeared on the French court in the late 18th century. In English, this word is present since 1831.

Haute couture – In French it means “high dressmaking” and refers to the creation of custom-fitted clothes, exclusively made by hand. It is interesting to know that this term has been first associated with the work of an Englishman named Charles Frederick Worth, who worked in Paris in mid-19th century.

Prêt à porter – contrary to haute couture, this term refers to clothes that are made in confection, that means in a series and this type of fashion is made in manufactures, not by hand.

Toilette – This word is part of the fashion vocabulary and it has two different definitions. This word can describe a particular way of attire or a style of dress, or it is used as the word describing the process of dressing and putting on makeup for a woman. The word is used in English since 1681.

Negligée – it is a long piece of clothing that women wear to bed. It is often made of very thin material such as silk. A second definition is provided by Merriam Webster dictionary, saying that it can refer also to a incomplete attire.

Tutu – a short skirt designed for ballet dancers. However, the etymology of this word is not clear. One theory explains that the word might be derived from the material tulle, from which the skirt is made of. Another theory displayed in the dictionary Merriam Webster explains that the word might come from a baby talk expression that makes allusion to the back of a human body. The word is however taken from French language, since ballerinas were the first women to wear these kinds of short skirts.

Lingerie – simple French word that is used very frequently in English to describe undergarments. The word is of French origin and dates back to the times when women's underwear was made out of linen (French lin).

Tulle – a fabric from a town of the same name in France.

Art

Art – a diverse range of human activities. We can cite examples such as music, paintings or sculptures that may have purely a decorative function or may have practical functions as well.

Art – deco – it is a design style that appeared just before World War I. It is characterized, according to Merriam Webster dictionary (online) “especially by bold outlines, geometric and zigzag forms and the use of new materials such as plastic”.

Ballet – It is a dance that originated in Italy, but the terminology for the name of the dance and various figures are of French origin.

Dance – is as well considered to be an art. This word is used in English vocabulary from 14th century and comes from French as well.

Debut – This word belongs to the art section and describes the first moment an artist does something in front of the public. It can also refer to the formal entrance to the society for young girls called “debutantes”. This word dates back to 1751 according to Merriam Webster dictionary (online).

Fauvism – is an art movement that succeeded to Impressionism. It depicts realistic scenes of daily life, and therefore it was given the name fauvism, or “wild beasts” in English. This art technique was used by Henri Matisse and André Derain, to name the most famous. It is also known for the fact that vivid colours were used to attract attention of people.

Façade – It is a word that has multiple meanings and uses. In English, this word is used to say that someone is a liar.

Impressionism – an art movement from the 19th century. The technique of depicting outdoor light and life was used by many Paris based painters, such as Claude Monet, Pierre Auguste Renoir, or Édouard Manet.

Papier mâché – it is a material used usually for sculptural artworks.

Plein – air – it is a technique of painting in impressionism. With this technique, an artist wants to depict the outdoor environment, such as light and atmosphere.

Pastiche – an imitation of an art work.

Renaissance – The era from early 14th to 17th century. The word comes from French and means “rebirth”. It is known as the time vernacular languages were developed and people often refer to Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, as the most influential people of that time. This word first appeared in English vocabulary in the 1830s.

Vignette – A vignette is a decorative object. It is often a decorative design or picture depicting vine leaves or other various ornaments. In the past this word described the decorative way first letters in old books were written. Sometimes, this expression is used as well in plays to describe a brief presentation of the main characters. For example, the word may be used this way in a sentence: “The play's program features a little vignette about each member of the cast”. Merriam Webster dictionary gives also a short description of the background of the words, by stating that “in English, the word was first used in the mid-18th century for a design or illustration that ran along the blank border of a page, or one that marked the beginning or end of a chapter. Such designs got their name because they often looked like little vines. It wasn't until the late 19th century that usage of "vignette" had shifted to cover a brief literary sketch or narrative, as we commonly see it used today.” The word is used since 1611 according to Merriam Webster dictionary.

Lifestyle

Boudoir – Although used among high class society, this word is also used in English vocabulary and has a French origin. Historically, a boudoir was a separate room, located before a woman's bedroom where she could clean herself and do her make up. Today, we would say it was a separate women bathroom, however, in the course of time the meaning of the word as well as the purpose of the room changed. The word's roots is the French word “boudier”, which mean “to sulk” so the room became a place where a woman could be alone, not disturbed by anyone and could do what she wished. Later on, a boudoir became a kind of reception room where the wealthy family chatted with guests and played games, thus becoming a predecessor of today's living room.

Bureau – this word of French origin is nowadays used to name various realities of our daily life. This word not only refers to the physical item “desk” as we say in English, but as well in the figurative sense of the word. It describes also institutions of a great importance, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, for example.

Chaise longue – An upholstered couch in the shape of a chair which is long enough to support the legs. These kinds of chairs are often seen in libraries and give enough support to read comfortably. Historically, it was used as a daybed.

Chauffeur – This term as well belongs to an upper – class vocabulary. This French term designs “the driver” and is often associated to the drivers of a prominent person nowadays.

Dossier – It is the back side of a furniture, mostly associated with chairs. However, in English this word is referred to in the figurative sense, as a portfolio material of a person, for example.

Joie – de – vivre – an expression in French that means to have keep high spirits. To have a healthy enjoyment of life

Je-ne- sait –quoi – This term is as well associated with upper – class conversation. This collocation of French words refer to something indescribable, often used in the context of emotions. For example, when a person says “I feel a je-ne-sait-quoi about him.” he or she means that he or she has mixed feelings about the person talked about. As well, this term can refer to an aura of a person,

Savoir – faire – Know- how in French.

Voyeur – This word, according to Merriam Webster dictionary (online, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/>) was first used in the 1900s. The definition of this word refers to a “a prying observer who is usually seeking the sordid or the scandalous”.

Faux - pas – this collocation refers to an embarrassing social mistake. We can often see famous people do something that is not according the dress code etiquette, for example. Often, it is said that when visiting someone, arriving early would be a *faux pas*.

Banquet – This term refers to a gala event that is organized for various purposes such as celebration, charity or were organized in order to tighten political alliances.

Savoir – vivre – the Merriam Webster dictionary defines this word as a certain familiarity with customs of a layer of society.

Longue durée – describes the approach that historians take to make connections between historical events. The phrase is translated as “long term” in English and means that historians concentrate on the historical events that have impact on present day evolution of events.

3 English-French False Friends

As we have said in the previous chapters, French has considerably influenced numerous spheres of everyday life such as diplomacy, gastronomy, fashion industry, and others. However, everyday communication is not as straightforward as one would think. English people coming to France for various reasons such as holiday, business trip or a simple weekend at the sea-side, need to communicate in French.

3.1 Faux – amis

One would expect that since the English vocabulary contains about 75% of French origin, it would be easy for an English speaking person to master French in no time. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Some words happen to have the same or similar spelling or pronunciation but do not have the same meaning. These words are called false cognates and are characterized as words that look identical in both languages but whose meanings differ. In this chapter we would like to point out some of the most common false friends found in dictionaries.

3.1.1 Examples

Agenda/ Agenda

People around the world organize their time differently, and so the word "*agenda*" differ in English and French. In French, the meaning of the word is "*diary*", whereas in English speaking countries we attribute the meaning of "*daily schedule*".

Apology/ Apologie

In France, this word means to justify or to commit to something. In English, it means exactly the opposite. We "*owe an apology*" to someone, but we never give our "*apologie*" to someone at a table when a faux-pas happened.

Attend/ Attendre

"*Attendre*" means to wait for somebody or something. "*Je t'attends*" is a very frequent sentence in everyday life. However, in English, "*I attend a meeting*" does not mean that "*I am waiting for a meeting*", but that "*I frequently participate in a particular meeting*".

Blanket/ Blanquette

The French are known for their love of gastronomy. "*Blanquette de veau*" is a popular French meal, while the English word "*blanket*" has nothing to do with food.

Car/ Car

The French noun "*car*" belongs to means of transport, as well as the English equivalent, but it is not quite the same. In France, when one goes by "*car*", he goes by bus. On the other hand, in English speaking countries people refer to what Cambridge Dictionary describes as "*a road vehicle with an engine, four wheels and seats for a small number of people*" or a part of a train (2012, p.99).

Chance/ Chance

This pair of false friends is particularly confusing for both French and English speaking parties. In France, "*j'ai de la chance*" means "*I am lucky*" while "*it is a matter of chance*" is in French "*c'est une affaire d'hasard*".

Deception/ Déception

The verb "*decevoir*", the noun "*déception*", and the adjective "*déçu*", all have something in common with being disappointed or disillusioned, not actually deceived.

Demand/ Demander

In a working environment, the word "*demander*" has a different meaning as one would expect in English. "*Demander*" simply means to ask, while "*to demand*" in French one would insist on something.

Envy/ Envie

An envious person is jealous in English. While in French, "*j'ai envie de quelquechose*" means that somebody would desire something.

Grand/ Grand

While travelling, persons often recommend to visit nice cities. Often, when a French person tells that a grand city is worth visiting, he means simply, that it is large. An Englishman could be disappointed, because he would expect some special about the city.

Grape/ Grappe

"Une grappe de raisins" does indeed mean a bunch of grapes, but do not get confused; "grappe" means bunch. You can also have "une grappe de bananes" without a single grape in sight.

Injuries/ Injures

These two words can have connection, but not necessarily. The first one means to have a wound and the second means to be offended by someone.

Jolly/ Jolie

Both words are positive adjectives used to describe a person. They are often confused because a "jolly person" is a good companion, whereas a "jolie fille" is a pretty girl with not necessarily a sense of humour.

Library/ Librairie

When someone is sent to a French "*librairie*", he actually heads to a bookshop. On the other hand, the authors of Cambridge Dictionary define a library as a "*building, room or organization that has a collection especially of books, for people to read or borrow, usually without payment*" (2012, p. 423).

Location/ Location

Advertisements in France can be confusing, because stating that one company has "*les meilleures locations de vacances*", which can be wrongly interpreted as the best place for holidays, while in fact it means the best holiday rentals.

Luxurious/ Luxurieux

In the world of haute couture this English word really means luxurious, but if pronounced the French way, this word would have a very different meaning. In French "*c'est quelqu'un de luxurieux*" is a warning to say that a person is a womanizer.

Novel/ Nouvelle

Novel is a false friend of nouvelle in terms of book genre. A "*novel*" is a long printed story about imaginary characters and events, but a "*nouvelle*" is a short story.

Prune/ Prune

Both words have the same origin, but the only difference is, that the English prune is a dried plum.

Process/ Procès

To be in process of an action is not quite the same as being judged in a trial.

Sensible/ Sensible

These two words are the most common source of misunderstanding in both English and French. "*Sensible*" in French means sensitive and "*sensible*" in English is a way to describe a person who acts on good judgment.

3.2 Homographs

Homographs are words which have the same spelling in both languages, but they do not share any common meaning. According to Henriette Walter, these words share the same graphic form in both English and French languages, however, their meaning is entirely different (Honni soit qui mal y pense, p. 135).

3.2.1 Examples:

Bride

- (Fr.) a cord
- (En.) a married woman

Chair

- (Fr.) skin
- (En.) a piece of furniture

Chat

- (Fr.) a cat
- (En.) an informal conversation

Pie

- (Fr.) a lark
- (En.) a sort of dessert

Rayon

- (Fr.) a ray of light
- (En.) a kind of fabric, artificial silk

Coin

- (Fr.) a corner
- (En.) a small flat piece of metal used as money

Pin

- (Fr.) a pine tree
- (En.) a small nail

Cane

- (Fr.) a female duck
- (En.) a wooden stick of certain length

Canard

- (Fr.) a male duck
- (En.) a false news

Sale

- (Fr.) an adjective describing something dirty
- (En.) the act of selling something

Pain

- (Fr.) bread
- (En.) the feeling of being hurt

Main

- (Fr.) a hand
- (En.) a synonym of principal

Grave

- (Fr.) an adjective describing something important
- (En.) a place in the cemetery

Four

- (Fr.) an oven
- (En.) a number

Conclusion

The aim of this thesis was to analyse how French language influenced English vocabulary and to explain how the French words were included into the English language in the historical context. The second aim of this thesis was to show why today's English language has such a large variety of words. We wanted to help the students of English to understand the historical connections between the two languages.

We outlined that English is of Germanic origin, however many people do not realise how much the French language has influenced English. The focus of this thesis was on the historical background and especially the effect of the Norman conquest on the Middle English vocabulary.

In the first chapter called A Brief History of English Language we explained how the English society changed after the Norman invasion. Important positions in military, church and in politics were occupied by Norman French invaders. The dominant language of the upper class became French. After the Norman conquest the linguistic situation in England changed as well. New words of French origin were incorporated into everyday communication. During this time, English was used by the common people, while French was the mother tongue of the aristocracy. From now on, English and French coexisted side by side. As a result, a large amount of French words were adopted by the English language which enriched the vocabulary.

We referred to some examples of French borrowings remaining in the English vocabulary. We also have explained why English has so many synonyms. In present day English, French words are used frequently in all fields of daily life. In our research, we have found that the most obvious impact of French language on English vocabulary can be seen in the fields of diplomacy, gastronomy, fashion and lifestyle. These are the fields of study we have focused on in the chapter French in Modern English.

The evolution of the English language was not a short process. It took centuries during which the English evolved from Old English to Present Day English. During this time, meaning of certain words have completely changed. That is the reason why certain words in both

languages may be spelt and sound similar, but have a completely different meaning. This topic was dealt with in the chapter English French False Friends.

It might be interesting to further develop this topic by creating a dictionary of English words that are uniquely of French origin. The dictionary would explain in detail the etymology of every word. This kind of dictionary could be helpful to those students, who already master French language and try to learn English or for people with genuine interest for English language and its history.

Resumé

Cieľom tejto bakalárskej práce bolo popísať a analyzovať spoločné črty anglického a francúzskeho jazyka. Podstatou práce je poukázať na skutočnosť, že oba jazyky síce pochádzajú z iných jazykových rodín, majú však veľa spoločného a to najmä v oblasti slovnej zásoby a frazeológie. V našej práci sme sa pokúsili objasniť príčiny tejto skutočnosti z historického hľadiska.

V prvej kapitole sme sa sústredili na vplyv udalostí z roku 1066 - na jazykovú situáciu v Anglicku, kedy Normani pod vedením Viliama Dobyvateľa vyhrali bitku pri Hastingsse. Treba poznamenať, že sa angličtina už od dávnych čias vyznačovala významnou schopnosťou preberať inojazyčné vplyvy. Po mnohých stáročiach kultúrnych a jazykových interakcií je angličtina jazyk s prevažne románskou slovnou zásobou a germánskou gramatikou. Mnohí jazykovedci a historici túto skutočnosť pripisujú práve historickým udalostiam v období medzi jedenástym a pätnástym storočím. Ako sme v práci načrtli, práve v tomto období francúzska kultúra a jazyk významne ovplyvnili anglickú spoločnosť. V dobe nástupu Viliama Dobyvateľa na trón bola angličtina jazykom jednoduchého ľudu a nevyhovovala potrebám kráľovského dvora a aristokracie. Anglický jazyk nebol považovaný za dostatočne sofistikovaný a preto ho v tomto smere nahradila francúzština.

Podľa mnohých jazykovedcov (Johnson, Walter, Melzer), v tomto období angličtina prebrala približne 10 000 starofrancúzskych slov, z ktorých väčšina pretrvala do dnešných dní vo viac či menej pozmenenej forme. Sú to slová najmä z diplomacie, čo je pochopiteľné, keďže Francúzsko je považované za jej kolísku. Keďže anglická slovná zásoba nemala pomenovania pre mnohé aspekty každodenného života, tak sa stalo že tento deficit vyplnili francúzske ekvivalenty. Nie je bez zaujímavosti, že mnohé z týchto slov nie sú považované za cudzie anglickými rodenými hovorcami, keďže sú súčasťou anglickej slovnej zásoby už dlhé storočia.

Keď sa Viliam Dobyvateľ stal kráľom uvedomoval si, že spojenie Normandie a novonadobudnutého anglického územia by významne ovplyvnilo kultúrny, sociálny aj politický vývoj krajín. Snažil sa tomuto spojeniu zabrániť, avšak neúspešne. Anglicko sa stalo súčasťou kontinentu na celé storočie (1100-1200). Predtým izolovaný ostrov bol takto vystavený európskej kultúre a najmä francúzskemu jazyku. Jazykový vývin neskôr ovplyvnili tiež také významné udalosti ako bol mor či Storočná vojna (1337 – 1453). Je

potrebné si uvedomiť, že tým, že väčšina francúzsky hovoriacej šľachty vtedy prišlo o život, bol nedostatok pracovnej sily a aj francúzsky hovoriaca šľachta už nebola taká početná. Tieto udalosti umožnili, aby sa angličtina znovu dostala do popredia. Avšak, aj tu badať vplyvy francúzskej kultúry, a trend preberania slov z francúzskej slovnej zásoby nebol prerušený. Angličtina sa takto stala vyučovacím jazykom, jazykom administratívy aj súdov. Bola to však modifikovaná angličtina. Výrazne je táto skutočnosť viditeľná u spisovateľa Chaucera. Dielo *Canterbury Tales* je možno podľa nášho názoru považovať za medzičlánok medzi starou angličtinou a tou, akú ju poznáme dnes.

Prvú kapitolu uzatvárame zaujímavým paradoxom. Ako píše Johnson vo svojej knihe *A History of English People* (2012, s. 75), Anglicko sa v pätnástom storočí stalo významnou obchodnou mocnosťou. S obchodom bol spojený rozvoj práva a administratívy a objavila sa potreba používať primerané výrazy v týchto oblastiach. Ako Johnson uvádza, počas rokov 1250 – 1400 sa počet asimilovaných francúzskych slov zdvojnásobil, napriek tomu, že len sto rokov predtým sa francúzština z angličtiny takmer vytratila.

V druhej kapitole sa zaoberáme súčasnými tendenciami vo vývoji anglického jazyka. V tejto časti sme chceli poukázať na skutočnosť, že sa francúzske slová natoľko etablovali do súčasnej modernej anglickej slovnej zásoby, že sa dodnes bežne používajú. Tieto slová sú tak frekventované, že žiadny anglický ekvivalent ich nedokáže nahradiť. Najvýraznejšie je tento jav badateľný v odvetviach ako sú diplomacia, gastronómia či móda a umenie a podobne.

Ak sa bližšie pozrieme na termín *diplomacia*, zistíme, že pochádza z antického Grécka. Francúzi tento termín prebrali a od nich sa neskôr tento termín dostal do angličtiny. V osemnástom storočí sa objavilo slovo *diplomat*, ktoré je výlučne francúzskeho pôvodu. Príklady ďalších slov prevzatých do anglického jazyka v oblasti diplomacie sú napríklad *attaché*, *affaire*, *communiqué*, *etiquette* a *sabotage*. Je zaujímavé, že tieto slová prebrali aj iné svetové jazyky a stali sa celosvetovo používanými. Taktiež, ostatné jazyky nemajú národné ekvivalenty týchto výrazov.

Je len prirodzené, že francúzska láska k jedlu a k stolovaniu sa stala neodmysliteľnou súčasťou ich kultúrneho dedičstva. Keď francúzski Normani v jedenástom storočí napadli britské ostrovy, jedným z dôsledkov tejto udalosti bol vplyv na tamojšiu gastronómiu a s tým súvisiacu slovnú zásobu. Normani so sebou priniesli rôzne exotické korenia ako

muškátový orech, škorica, šafrán či cukor. Keďže Angličanom boli tieto pochutiny dovtedy neznáme, celkom prirodzene sa tieto slová stali súčasťou anglickej slovnej zásoby. Po mnoho storočí anglickí aristokrati jedli iba francúzske jedlá ako výraz ich nadradenosti. Do dnešných dní je možné badať vplyv týchto udalostí na anglický jazyk aj keď novodobá spoločnosť viac nerozlišuje medzi vyššou a nižšou triedou. Ľudia napriek tomu používajú francúzske termíny, ktoré súvisia so stolovaním. Uvedené slová a slovné spojenia sú toho dôkazom.

Francúzsko je považované už od čias Ľudovíta XIV za Mekku módy. Počas jeho vlády módnym priemyslom prekvital. Napriek neskorším ekonomickým výkyvom, francúzsky módnym priemyslom nikdy nestratil svoju dôležitosť. V druhej polovici dvadsiateho storočia boli francúzske módné domy ako Chanel, Dior a podobne celosvetovo známe. Mnohé slová používané Francúzmi sa rozšírili aj do iných jazykov a predovšetkým do angličtiny ako napríklad slová *haute couture*, *décolleté*, *négligé*, *bijouterie*.

Posledná kapitola je venovaná javu, ktorý nazývame falošní priatelia. Sú to slová, ktoré sa po fonetickej stránke javia ako podobné ale významovo sa od seba líšia. Sú to slová, ktoré často spôsobujú nedorozumenia a bývajú kameňom úrazu mnohých študentov cudzieho jazyka pretože akosi automaticky predpokladajú, že slová, ktoré vyzerajú a znejú podobne budú mať aj identický význam. Ako veľmi typický príklad môžeme uviesť francúzske podstatné meno *chance* vo význame šťastie v príklade k anglickému *chance* ktoré sa dá preložiť ako možnosť, príležitosť, pravdepodobnosť alebo náhoda ale aj nádej. V závere tejto kapitoly sme sa dotkli aj problematiky homografov, ktoré by sa mohli v písomnom prejave ľahko zameniť s falošnými priateľmi. Majú rovnakú grafickú formu v oboch jazykoch, ich výslovnosť a najmä význam je celkom odlišný.

Na pozadí historických udalostí sme sa v tejto bakalárskej práci snažili načrtnúť dôvody a príčiny prítomnosti neobvykle veľkého množstva francúzskych slov v anglickej slovnej zásobe. Naším cieľom nebolo obsiahnuť celú komplexnosť tejto problematiky, ale priblížiť a objasniť historické súvislosti ktoré viedli k dnešnej podobe anglického jazyka.

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