

DIACHRONIC ANALYSIS ON LATIN BORROWING WORDS IN TALE: THE PARDONER' STALE

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ABSTRACT

This article tries to describe the influence of Latin in the English vocabulary. The Latin borrowing words which are used as the main data in this study are taken from one of Chaucer's works, The Pardoner's Tale. The data are than analyzed diachronically. The historical background, i.e. the ways by which Latin words come to the English vocabulary, gives the possibility to classify the data into three periods and to find out the characteristics of the words in each period. Based on the quantitative analysis, it seems that Latin words borrowed in the third period are used in the great number in the tale (91.61%). This proves that the uses of flexible words (the use of word can be enlarged by word-formation processes) are mostly liked by the people at the Chaucer's era (1335) even nowadays. The result also shows that Nouns are borrowed in great number (54.01%). This is due to the fact that during the third period there are a lot of new things are discovered so that the needs of naming them increase rapidly.

ABSTRAK

Artikel ini mencoba untuk menjabarkan pengaruh Bahasa Latin dalam Bahasa Inggris. Kata-kata pinjaman dari Bahasa Latin yang dipakai sebagai sumber data dalam penelitian ini diambil dari salah satu karya Chaucer yaitu The Pardoner's Tale Kemudian data dianalisa secara diakronik. Latar belakang sejarah, mengenai bagaimana dan kapan kata-kata Latin tersebut masuk ke dalam kosakata Bahasa Inggris dijabarkan. Hal ini memberikan suatu dasar untuk mengklasifikasikan kata-kata pinjaman itu ke dalam tiga periode kedatangan dan menemukan karakteristik kata-kata dari masing-masing periode tersebut. Berdasarkan analisa kuantitatif, kosakata Bahasa Latin yang dipinjam pada periode ketiga adalah yang terbanyak yang dipakai dalam karya tersebut. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa penggunaan kata-kata yang flexibel lebih diminati pada masa itu. Kenyataan bahwa kelas kata Kata Benda yang paling banyak dipinjam membuktikan bahwa pada masa itu banyak hal-hal dan benda-benda baru yang ditemukan, sehingga kebutuhan akan pemberian nama untuk benda-benda tersebut juga meningkat.

Keywords: Latin borrowing words, period, diachronic analysis, quantitative analysis, characteristic, word-formation processes.

INTRODUCTION

There are many English words which are borrowed from other languages. Their roots are so varied; they can be Celtic, German, Scandinavian, Dutch, French, Spanish, Indian, Italian, Greek, Latin, and others. This is also supported by Ralph Waldo Emerson, as:

English is the sea which receives tributes from every region under heaven (Mc Crum, 1986: 10)

The statement above indicates that:

- a. The language is brought by many people coming from many countries. It is influenced by many foreign words.
- b. The language is used by almost all people in the world.

Large parts of the English vocabulary are derived from Latin. The coming of Latin into English was primarily through war and the coming of Christianity in the island. According to Mario Pei (1957: 152), words which are derived from Latin are about 15% of the total. This is taken from literary and scientific works.

Latin is no longer used as a medium of communication, except those which are borrowed by other languages. However, English, which is such a vital and avid tongue, has steadily borrowed Latin words. Even today this Roman speech is being constantly taken over into English by scholars, philologists, and scientists. Anytime we speak English, words that are borrowed from Latin will appear everywhere. The important role of

Latin in the development of English vocabulary has aroused my interest in understanding the influences of Latin words on the English vocabulary, i.e. to understand the coming of Latin words into English vocabulary and to find out the characteristics of these Latin borrowing words.

The data used in this study are obtained from Chaucer, *The Pardoner's Tale* which is edited by Carleton Brown in 1935. The work belongs to the Middle English period, so it is hoped that it can also represent the use of English during the Old English and Modern English periods. The Webster's New World Dictionary and the Dictionary of Word Origins are used in order to find out the origin of the words and their original forms.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The existence of Latin words in the English vocabulary has close relationship with the coming of Roman invasion, Norman Conquest, the coming of Germanic tribes and the Christianization of the island.

1. Romanization in Britain and the Coming of Christianity to the Island

The introduction of Latin language in Britain was begun when Britain became a province of Roman Empire. According to Baugh (1954: 52), the first contact between English people and Romans existed in 55 BC., when Julius Caesar has completed the conquest of Gaul, and decided to invent England. But the first landing faced with a very enthusiasm resistance from the native people so that the Romans returned to Gaul. After nearly hundred years, it was in 43 AD., Roman army led by the Emperor Claudius decided to undertake the actual conquest of the island. With the knowledge of Caesar's experience behind him, he succeeded in investigating England, although there was a serious uprising of the native occurred in 61 AD., under Boudicca, the widow of one of the native chiefs.

During Caesar's invasion in 55 and 54 BC., there is nevertheless a two-fold significance in Britain society. The first is that English history thereafter was no longer completely unwritten history, because Romans monk began to keep English history in written scripts. Moreover, Latin alphabet as well as Latin language are introduced to the English people. The second is that the dates 55 and 54 BC., belong to a calendar which is new to the story. The BC and AD chronologies are important because they indicate that through Rome, England was drawn into Christian orbit, a point of major importance in subsequent social and cultural, as well as political-history. In short, the coming of Romans into Britain caused the introduction of written system through Latin alphabet and the introduction of BC and AD chronology in the calendar system.

According to Baugh (1954: 53) during the successful invasion of Britain by Claudius in 48 AD., the relation between English people and Romans increased more rapidly. Therefore, the fact that military conquest of Britain has been followed by the Romanization of the island was undisputable.

The greatest influence of Latin upon Old English was caused by the introduction of Christianity in Britain in 597. At that time, the Anglo-Saxons received many Latin vocabularies, particularly those which related to God. The remarkable of Christianity is reported by the Venerable Bede who says as much about the collusion of Old English and Latin as it does about the spread of God's words (Mc Crum et al, 1986: 64). At that time, the church and the monastery, as the carrier of Roman civilization, influenced the course of English life in many directions, and numerous traces of this influence can be seen in the Old English vocabulary up to the New English one.

2. Latin Borrowing Words through Other Nations

a. The Invasion of Germanic Tribes

According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, the first invaders of the British, the Germanic tribes, were the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes. The first contact between the three races with Romans began in the fields of commercial and military, later in the field of religion and science. This began long before the Anglo-Saxons came to England and continued throughout the Old English period, because Rome was the central of many activities at that time.

According to Baugh (1954: 93), through these various contacts with Romans, Teutons who became the English people acquired a considerable number of Latin words. Moreover, intercommunication between the different Teutonic tribes was frequent and made possibility to transfer Latin words from one tribe to others.

b. Norman Conquest in 1066

According to McCrum (1986: 73) as well as Baugh (1954: 131), Norman Conquest caused by the struggle of English crown between Harold, son of Godwin (one of the English nobles) and William, the duke of Normandy. A great battle had happened at Hasting, the south coast of the island. Using good tactic, William succeeded in defeating Harold’s soldiers and gaining his winning. At last, William was crowned on Christmas Day, 1066.

William’s coronation ceremony used both English and Latin languages, although he and his followers spoke French. So from 1066, there were three languages in play and overwhelming majority of English people. They are French, Latin, and English. French was used by the upper-class. Latin remained the principal language of religion and learning, meanwhile English was still used by common people.

DIACHRONIC ANALYSIS

The way how Latin comes into English vocabulary makes possibility to classify and analyze the data quantitatively as well as to notice the characteristics of words in each era. This will be discussed below.

1. Characteristics of Latin Words in the English Vocabulary

Based on the historical background presented above, the data can now be classified into three periods. The first is Latin words which are brought before century, i.e. words which are brought by Roman troops. The second groups words which are brought by Roman monks at the time when Christianity increased in England. The third groups words which come after the Norman Conquest in the 11th century.

a. Characteristics of Latin Words in the First Period

After facing many challenges, in 43AD Roman troops under the leader of Claudius succeeded in investigating England. During the successful invasion, the relation between English people increased rapidly, although it has increased long before this success, i.e. 55 BC.

One of the evidences of Romanization in Britain is the entrance of Latin into England. A great number of inscriptions have been found, all of them in Latin. At first, Latin was just an official language used by the upper class (Romans) while the native people still used Celtic, but later on because of long interaction and through inter-marriage the Celts began learning Latin and inserting Latin words in their daily conversation.

Fokker (1954: 14) says that the characteristic of the words in this period is that they refer to daily things, such as: pound, cook, kettle, kitchen, wine, pepper. But he doesn’t discuss other characteristic of these words. Based on the characteristic and the examples given by Fokker, the data show that there are some words that can be classified into this period, as follows:

Latin	Old English	Middle English	New English
Buxis	Bux	Box	Box
Vinum	Win	Wyn	Wine
Strata	Strete	Strete	Street
Armus	Earm	Earm	Arm
Milia	Mil	Mil	Mile
Capo	Capun	Capaun	Capon
Pot	Pott	Pott	Pot

(Chaucer, The Pardoner’s Tale: 1935, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 26, 26)

In this period, the exact date of the coming of each word is unknown. It may be caused by the fact that these words come into English for long, therefore it is difficult to trace them. By comparing them with the example given by Fokker, it can be guessed that the coming of these words might be begun from 55 BC., when Romans began to investigate Britain. Later, the amount of words increased in 48 AD., when Roman army, under the leader of Claudius succeeded in investigating Britain.

The examples show that almost all of them are daily things. Besides, most of them are concrete things. It may be caused by the fact that at that time, the English people had no attention in science, literature and others, yet. The concern was only on the simple things that could support their life at that time.

The other characteristic is that these words are simple. Most of them consist of one syllable. This is just like the characteristic of Old English. Below are examples of New English words which are derived from Old English:

Old English	Middle English	Old English
Feld	Feld	Field
Caru	Cure	Care
Bord	Bord	Board

(Chaucer, The Pardoner’s Tale: 1935, 14, 17, 18)

After comparing these words with those that borrowed from Latin in the first period, it can be figured out that they have same characteristic, i.e. both of them are simple. Therefore it is unsurprising if these Latin borrowing words are easily transferred into English.

b. Characteristics of Latin Words in the Second Period

The coming of Christianity to Britain brings the influence of Latin upon English. At that time, the church and the monastery were providing education in a wide range of subject. The students not just learned how became a monk, but also thought poetry, astronomy, drama (the story related to the life of Jesus) and others. Therefore during that time, the coming of Latin words was undisputable. Unfortunately, because of the lack of information, the exact date of the coming of each word is unknown. Fokker (1954: 14) says that the second division is a period in which words refer to religious field are belonged to, for examples: monk, nun, abbot, shrine, mass, etc. Based on his description and referring to the data, words that can be classified into this period are:

Latin	Old English	Middle English	New English
Diabolus	Deofol	Devel	Devil
Templum	Tempel	Temple	Temple
Sontis	Synne	Sinne	Sin
Paradisus	Paradis	Paradys	Paradise
Baptista	Baptein	Baptis	Baptist
Crux	Crux	Cros	Cross
Falsus	Fals	Fals	False

(Chaucer, The Pardoner’s Tale: 1935, 15, 15, 15, 16, 16, 19)

From the examples above, it can be understood that the first characteristics of the words of this period is simple, most of them consist of one or two syllables. They usually belong to noun class word and some of them refer to abstract nouns. Almost all of them relate to religious field.

c. Characteristics of Latin Words in the Third Period

Other reason of the coming of Latin into English is the birth of Renaissance. Renaissance is a period of increased activity in almost every field. In order to express many new things in various technical fields, new words are particularly needed. Most of the words are Latin. But some of them were earlier acquired by Latin from Greek.

The words that come in this era are mostly the terms in science, technology, and literature. Latin words are borrowed is great number because they carry new meanings that have not been known before. Based on Chaucer, The Pardoner’s Tale (1935), the number of words which are borrowed from Latin in this period is 149 words. They are divided into

- 135 nouns, for examples: honour, treasure, gluttony, measure, reason, appetite, sepulture, opinion, dignity, creature, difference, accident, testament, captain, etc.

There are also several compounding-words, such as: fruit-tester, sovereign-act, common-opinion, flower pot, etc.

- 61 verbs, for examples: accord, destroy, delight, figure, conquer, depart, corrupt, embrace, conceal, compile, abbreviate, disconsolate, maldestroy, transmigrate, etc.
- 51 adjectives, for examples: certain sovereign, special, precious, original, private, famous, express, necessary, adverse, glory, violent, modern, non-competent, unapparent, inanimate, measurable, etc.
- 2 interjections. They are: Alas! O boy!

The use of these Latin borrowing words becomes wider, through the process of word-formation, especially by the process of affixation. Here are the examples of English affixes that are borrowed from Latin:

1. Non-	5. Arch-	9. Trans-	13. -ment
2. In-	6. Super-	10. Re-	
3. Dis-	7. Sub-	11. -or	
4. Mal-	8. Co-	12. -ation	

For examples: nonessential, inanimate, disconsolate, maltreat, archenemy, superdignity, subscription, coreaction, transfigure, represent, react, corruptor, reputation, presentment, sacrament, etc.

From the data we can figure out several characteristics of words in this period. First, they are not as simple as words in the first and the second periods. Most of them consists at least three or four syllables. Second, most of them are terms used in science, literature, art and other technical fields. Third, the use of the words can be enlarged by the use of word-formation processes, especially through the process of affixation.

2. Discussion

After investigating the tale used for the source of this study it can be figured out that in this tale which consists of more than 4000 words, there are almost 300 English words which are borrowed from Latin. Although it is not exactly 15% of the total, like what is said by Mario Pei in his book, *The Story of Language* (1957: 152). It cannot be claimed that his statement is wrong, since this study uses only one book as the data source.

The percentage of words borrowed from Latin, based on their parts of speech is as follows:

- a. Noun : 54.01%
- b. Verb : 23.72%
- c. Adjective : 20.07%
- d. Preposition : 4.00%
- e. Interjection : 0.73%

The fact that Nouns are borrowed in great number is not surprising, because Roman is a race with the highest civilization and has the highest technology at that time. Therefore it is undeniable that other nations learn and get many things from Romans.

When English people make the first contact with Romans (in 55 BC) the relationship between two nations began. The relation increases after Romans succeeded in investigating Britain. Romans begin to introduce their ways of life toward English people. Trade in Britain also increases. Many new things are brought by Romans. At first, most of them belonged to common things or daily things. Later, in Christian era, Roman introduced things that related to God and religious activities. In the third era, when science and technology grew up, there were many more things are introduced. So the need of new words for naming them also increases. This is why the fact that Nouns are borrowed in great number is actually not surprising anymore.

The data also elaborate statement given by Bynon (1977: 231) that, it is generally claimed that members of the 'open' classes (nouns, verbs, and adjectives) are more readily borrowed than those of 'closed' classes (pronouns, conjunctions, and prepositions).

The percentage of the data based on the coming of each word into English is as follows:

- The 1st period: 5.84%
- The 2nd period: 2.55%
- The 3rd period: 91.61%

If the amount of the words from the 3rd period is compared with the amount of the words from the first and the second periods, it can be found that it is much bigger. This may be caused by the fact that the needs of people change from era to others. If the need of people in the 1st era is on daily thing and the need of people in the 2nd era is mostly on religious sense, in the 3rd era the need of technology, literature, and science increases rapidly. Besides, the need of flexible and graceful words is also required. These requirements are more fulfilled by the words coming from the 3rd era, since the use of these words can be enlarged by the word-formation process, although the use of words which come from the 1st and the 2nd eras are not denied.

CONCLUSION

The influence of Latin words in the English vocabulary is undisputable. In Chaucer, *The Pardoner's Tale* (1385) which consists of more than 4000 words, almost 300 English words are borrowed from Latin.

After classifying the data based on their parts of speech, it shows that nouns are borrowed in great number among others. It is caused by the fact that the great numbers of Latin borrowing words are the names of new objects or new materials for the English people at that time.

Based on the ways Latin comes into English, Latin borrowing words can be divided into three periods. In the first period, words which are brought during after the Roman conquest are belonged to. Most of them refer to daily things and also refer to concrete things. Other characteristic is that they are simple, mostly consist of one syllable and rarely consist of two syllables. There is not any word-formation process found here.

In the second period, words which are brought during the Christianization of the island are grouped. The words are still simple; consist of two or three syllables. They, generally refer to religious fields. The word-formation processes are less found.

In the third period, words which come after the Norman Conquest (after 11th C) are classified. The characteristics of these words are: first, they are not simple anymore, normally they consist of three or more syllables; second, the words are flexible, means that the use of the word can be enlarged by the word-formation process, especially by the process of affixation; third, most of them refer to the scientific things. Moreover the amount of the words in this period is the biggest among others. It seems that in Chaucer's era scientific words which have flexibility are mostly needed.

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