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B. Diensberg

Bonn, Germany

A NEW MANUAL OF ENGLISH LEXICOLOGY[1]

The article represents a book review of a recent edition titled «Borrowed Words. A History of Loanwords in English» of Philip Durkin, Deputy Chief Editor with the ongoing revision of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. The structure and the content of Dr. Durkin's book are attentively analysed and localized in the context of the predominant trends in the field. It is argued that the publication under discussion provides a complete and a reliable information about borrowed words in English.

Key words: English lexicology, borrowed words, history of English vocabulary, handbook, book review.

Б. Динсберг

Бонн, Германия

О НОВОМ УЧЕБНИКЕ ПО ЛЕКСИКОЛОГИИ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА

Статья представляет собой рецензию на недавно увидевшую свет книгу Филиппа Дуркина, главного редактора готовящегося переиздания оксфордского словаря английского языка. Книга носит название «Заимствованные слова. История заимствований в английском языке». Автор рецензии подробно анализирует структуру и содержание издания, рассматривая их в контексте других известных работ по данной тематике. Отмечается, что книга является авторитетным и полным источником информации о заимствованных словах в английском языке.

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[1] Durkin, Philip. Borrowed Words. A History of Loanwords in English. – Oxford University Press, 2014. 491 p.

After his groundbreaking introduction to English Etymology, entitled *The Oxford Guide to Etymology* [Durkin, 2009], Dr Durkin has given his excellent manual *Borrowed Words. A History of Loanwords in English* to the scholarly community.

Philip Durkin is Deputy Chief Editor with the ongoing revision of the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED[2]), and as Principal Etymologist has led the Dictionary's team of specialists in etymology for the past 15 years (*Borrowed Words*, inner back cover).

Borrowed Words. A History of Loanwords in English is an urgently needed handbook since it fills a gap in English scholarly literature. The current manuals are either dated, or in most cases, cannot equal Borrowed Words from a methodological point of view. What is more, both handbooks from Dr Durkin's pen, in the reviewer's opinion, supplement each other most favourably. At the beginning the author points out that: «This book concentrates chiefly on the morphological and semantic aspects, rather than the sociolinguistic» [Durkin, 2014, p.12, footnote 8].

From a methodological point of view, Dr Durkin has conceived his book as an empirical study. Empirically collected data are accessible to the author not only in dictionaries of all sorts, but also in a series of linguistic corpora. To quote, first of all, the comprehensive vocabulary of the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED), digitalized as *OED-online*, the *Middle English Dictionary* (MED), equally digitalized and the *Dictionary of Old English* (DOE), also digitalized, but still unfinished, as well as various linguistic corpora (see Dictionaries, reference works, and databases cited by title on pp. 452-54). Among the corpora of British English the *British National Corpus* (BNC) comes first: it is a 100 million word collection of samples of written and spoken language. Of the actual *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED[3]), so far only a third, namely letters A – ALZ and MRZZ, has been revised.

As regards userfriendliness, graphs and figures of all kinds help the reader to understand the author's line of argument. Figure 2.1, for example (p. 25), provides an overview in form of a ranking over all the languages, which ever gave words to the English language. The fact that Latin, French and Greek lead the ranking, comes as no surprise. They

are followed by German, Italian, Spanish and Dutch. On pp. 25-27, the reader will find various tables which provide more detailed information.

Dr Durkin shows an excellent knowledge not only of English linguistic history and its main periods – Old English, Middle English, (Early) Modern English – but also of the more important Modern (West) European languages. During the Middle English period, two related source languages, namely Latin and French, hold the first rank. Scandinavian loanwords hold the third rank, but unlike Latin and French, are mostly part of the English core vocabulary and of high frequency. There is the typical example (third person plural pronouns) ME *thei*, *theim*, *their* (*e*), Modern English *they*, *them*, *their*, of Scandinavian origin, which in the course of Middle English ousted the native personal pronouns of the third person plural. Worth mentioning is the Scandinavian loanverb *tacan* which ousts native *niman* 'take' from centre of its semantic field to its periphery. At Shakespeare's time *nim* means ′to steal′ [Durkin, 2014, p. 214].

Continental versus Insular French – the question of the source language of lexical borrowing from French.

As regards the source languages of lexical borrowing, Dr Durkin draws the reader's attention to Insular French which, after the *Norman Conquest* (1066), became the language not only of the court, but also of the upper strata of the kingdom, including the higher clergy. Up to the beginning of the 15th century, Anglo-French, together with Latin served as official language of England. Dr Durkin's decision to use the term Anglo-French, instead of traditional Anglo-Norman, has to be highly welcomed. In fact, Insular French contained elements from several continental French dialects, beside Norman, Picard, etc. and ultimately Parisian French. We have to point out, however, that not only the so far unfinished second edition of the *Anglo-Norman Dictionary* and both the original and the revised version of the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED[3]) continue to use the traditional term Anglo-Norman [Durkin, 2014, p. 230, footnote 3].

The following publications by the late Professor Rolf Berndt (University of Rostock, Germany) aptly illustrate the relation between (Anglo-)French, Latin and English during the Middle Ages:

Berndt, R. 1969. "The linguistic situation in England from the Norman Conquest to

the loss of Normandy   (1066-1204)". *Philologica Pragensia* 8, 145–163.

Berndt, R. 1972. "The period of final decline of French in Medieval England (Fourteenth and Early   Fifteenth Centuries)". *Zeitschrift für Anglistik und Amerikanistik* 20, 314–369.

Berndt, R. 1976. "French and English in Thirteenth-Century England. An Investigation in the Linguistic   Situation after the Loss of the Duchy of Normandy and Other Continental Dominions". *Aspekte   der Anglistischen Forschungen in der DDR*. Berlin: Akademie-Verlag, 129–149.

Berndt, R. 1980/82. *History of the English Language*. Leipzig: VEB Verlag Enzyklopädie.

Berndt, R. 1981. "The 'Ivanhoe' legend and changes in the English lexicon after the Norman Conquest". *Linguistische Arbeitsberichte* 35. Sektion TAS. Leipzig: Karl-Marx-Universität, 10–23.

Berndt, R. 1992. "The History of the English Language and Social History (French vs. English)". In: Busse, W.G. (ed.). 1992. *Anglistentag 1991 Düsseldorf. Proceedings* edited by W. G. Busse. Tübingen: Niemeyer, 278–292.

In numerous articles Professor William Rothwell (professor emeritus of the University of Manchester) has competently dealt with 'Trilingual England', that is the function of French and Latin and the re-establishment of English as a national standard language in the course of the 15th century. There is a small selection of these articles:

Rothwell, W.1985, "Stratford atte Bowe and Paris". *Modern Language Review* (MLR) 80, 39–54.

Rothwell, W. 1992, "The French Vocabulary in the Archive of the Grocers' Company", *Zeitschrift für Französische Sprache und Literatur* (ZFSL) 102, 23–41.

Rothwell, W. 1992, "Chaucer and Stratford atte Bowe", *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library* (BJRL) 74, 3–28.

Rothwell, W. 1993b, "The "Faus Franceis d'Angleterre" Later Anglo-Norman", *Anglo-Norman Anniversary Essays*, ed. By Ian Short. ANTS Occasional Publications Series, no. 2. London: Anglo-Norman Text Society, 309–326.

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Rothwell, W. 1996a, "Playing 'follow my leader' in Anglo-Norman Studies". *French Language Studies* 6, 177–210.

Rothwell, W. 1996b, "Adding Insult to Injury: The English who Curse in Borrowed French", in: H.F. Nielsen and L. Schøsler (eds.). 1996: 41–54.

Rothwell, W. 1998a, "Anglo-Norman at the (Green) Grocer's". *French Studies* 52, 1–16

Rothwell, W. 1998c, "Arrivals and Departures: The Adoption of French Terminology into Middle English", *English Studies* 79, 144–165.

Rothwell, W. 1999, "Sugar and Spice and all Things Nice: from Oriental Bazar to English Cloister in Anglo-French". *Modern Language Review* (MLR) 94, 647–659.

Rothwell, W. 2000a, "Aspects of Lexical and Morphosyntactic Mixing in the Languages of Medieval England", in: Trotter (ed.).2000. *Multilingualism in Later Medieval Britain*. Woodbridge: Brewer, 213–232.

Rothwell, W. 2000b, "The trial scene in *Lanval* and the development of the legal register in Anglo-Norman", *Neuphilologische Mitteilungen*, 101, 17–36.

Rothwell, W. 2001a, "The Teaching and Learning of French in Medieval England.", *Zeitschrift für Französische Sprache und Literatur* (ZFSL) 111, 1–18.

Rothwell, W. 2001c, "English and French in England after 1362", *English Studies* (ES), 539–559.

Rothwell, W. 2004, "A Mere Quibble? Multilingualism and English Etymology", *English Studies* 85, 177–188.

To be recommended for reading and study:

Bailey, R.W. 1985. "The conquests of English". In: Greenbaum, S. (ed.). 1985. *The English Language Today*. Oxford, 9–19.

Kretzschmar, W.A. jr. 1985. "English in the Middle Ages: The struggle for acceptability". In: Greenbaum,   S. 1985. *The English Language Today*. Oxford. 20–29.

Somewhat dated:

Kühnelt, H.H. 1953. „Die wichtigsten Veränderungen des Englischen bedingt durch die Normanneneroberung„. In: Knobloch, J. (ed.). 1953. *Amman-Festgabe.*1.Teil. Innsbrucker Beiträge zur Kulturwissenschaft, Innsbruck, 54–65.

Lexical transfer (borrowing) and its impact on English Word-formation (see below for a discussion of the following article by Klaus Dietz, professor emeritus of the Free University of Berlin):

Dietz, K. 2002."Lexikalischer Transfer und Wortbildung am Beispiel des französischen Wortschatzes im Mittelenglischen.", in: M. Habermann, P.O. Müller und H. Haider Munske (Hrsg.), Historische Wortbildung des Deutschen, Tübingen: Max Niemeyer, 2002: 381–405.

Taking into account the fact that Insular French had been in use as a kind of standard language for about 5 centuries[2], we may hypothesize that the borrowings from French during the Middle English language period proceded from Anglo-French and to a much lesser extent from Continental French, although 'Received Wisdom' would have had it the other way round[3]. Dr Durkin states: «On present evidence, we can say that there is little to contradict the hypothesis that Middle English borrowing was largely from Anglo-French rather than continental French up to until 1375, even if the proportion of cases to support this hypothesis remains low» [Durkin, 2014, p. 280].

According to 'Received Wisdom' upheld by earlier scholarship, that Anglo-Norman/Anglo-French/Insular French became a debased and risible jargon towards the end of the Middle English language period and was replaced by by prestigious Parisian French flies in the face of the historical fact as documented in numerous articles by Professor William Rothwell who convincingly argues in favour of Insular French (Anglo-French) as a language of record and daily business, side by side with Latin after the Norman Conquest (1066) and the demise of Anglosaxon written tradition, before with the so-called Chancery Standard the English language came back into its own right in the course of the 15th century[4].

The categorical introductory statement of an article by Klaus Dietz, entitled

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[2] see above [Berndt 1969, 1972, 1976,1992].
[3] see Rothwell's/Diensberg's works cited below.
[4] see [Diensberg, 1996, p. 253–266; Diensberg, 1998, p.135-151; Diensberg, 2000, p. 203–223]

«Lexikalischer Transfer und Wortbildung am Beispiel des französischen Wortschatzes im Mittelenglischen» [Dietz, 2002] runs as follows «Der massive und bis zum Ausgang der mittelenglischen Zeit anhaltende lexikalische Transfer (i. e. borrowing) vollzieht sich in zwei phonologisch wie semantisch deutlich unterscheidbaren zudem soziolektal differenzierten Schichten, deren Existenz die anglistische Fachliteratur bis heute zu übersehen pflegt» (trsl. «The massive (i. e. large) lexical transfer (i.e. borrowing) which continued throughout the Middle English period was realized in two phonologically, semantically and sociolectally differentiated layers (i .e. strata), a fact which anglicists (scholars of English) tend to overlook up to the present day» [Dietz, 2002, p. 381–405]. This statement may well be questioned as follows: I quote from William Rothwell (1993, p. 21): « (…) later Anglo-French, for all its supposed decadence, was the medium of expression favoured by all the literate, influential classes in a large and powerful sovereign state that played an increasingly important role on the European stage, both politically and economically. In the second half of the thirteenth century a peripheral dialect when viewed in the overall perspective of the Romania became, in the context of the cultural climate of later medieval England, a second language of record, enjoying the great advantage of being able to be used over the whole country without the dialectal variations which at that time hampered the use of English» [Rothwell, 1993, p. 21][5].

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[5] see also the following articles by the present writer:

Diensberg, B. 1996. "French Transplanted:. A Re-Evaluation of the Importance of Anglo-French in the Development of the English Language during the Middle English Period", in: *Middle English Miscellany. From Vocabulary to Linguistic Variation*, ed. by Jacek Fisiak & A. Kelkiewicz-Janowiak. Poznan: Motivex, 1996, 253–266.

Diensberg, B.1998. "French Transplanted: The Impact of Anglo-French on English Vocabulary during the Middle English Period and the Consequences for Modern English (ModE ***crash, dash, flash & crush, flush, push***, etc.)". In: Zettersten, A., Hjørnager Pedersen, V. and J.E. Mogensen (eds.). 1998. *Proceedings of the Eighth International Symposium on Lexicography. May 2-4, 1996, at the University of Copenhagen*. Lexicographica. Series Maior, Band 90. Tübingen: Niemeyer, 135–151.

Diensberg, B. 2005. „Anglo-French Verbal Morphology and its Impact on Middle English". In:

Chapter 2.0 *Introducing the data* opens up with the subchapter 2.1 *Assessing input from different languages in the vocabulary of modern English* (pp. 22ff.).

Dr Durkin begins with a quantitative approach showing how many words were borrowed within a 50-year span (Figure 2.6/p. 35). He focuses on French and Latin as the major donor languages. Dr Durkin rightly postulates 3 different categories: French only, Latin only, and French and/or Latin. Because of their close etymological relationship such loanwords are more often than not hard to distinguish.

From a quantitative viewpoint borrowings from French only reach a culminating point (maximum) around 1300–49, while borrowings from Latin reach a culminating point (maximum) 300 years later 1650–99).

As regards the integration of borrowed words, the author refers to the criterion of productivity, i. e. the degree to which new lexemes are formed with the help of loanwords and loan affixes (see § 14.4 Affixes of Latin and French origin in English word-formation 330; discussion of the term of productivity); see also word-forming elements (pp. 217–19, 327–31, 340–7).

Dr Durkin is ready to tackle the question of integration of borrowed words and starts to research the integration of loanwords in the core (basic) vocabulary of English. 2.3 Assessing the impact of borrowing on the 'basic' vocabulary of English (41ff.). The author points out: «This sort of definition of 'basic' vocabulary is fraught with difficulties: meanings that seem essential in one cultural setting may not be relevant in another. However, the concept of basic can be very useful in trying to compare the use of borrowed words in different languages and in different periods of a language's history» [Durkin, 2014, p.41].

Fig. 2.9 *Loanwords from Scandinavian, French, Latin and French and/or Latin in the full WOLD* (*World Loanwords Database Project*) meaning list, arranged chronologically (p.43). Fig. 2.9 gives the chronological pattern for loanwords from the four major sources, namely Scandinavian, French, Latin and French and/or Latin (p. 43).

W. Dahmen/G. Holthus/J. Kramer/M. Metzeltin/W. Schweickard/O. Winkelmann (Hrsg.). *Englisch und Romanisch. Romanistisches Kolloquium XVIII*. Tübinger Beiträge zur Linguistik 486. Tübingen: Gunter Narr Verlag, 2005: 37–52.

That the question of frequency plays a decisive role under the aspect of integration of loanwords is aptly illustrated by Fig. 2.8 *Totals of loanwords from Scandinavian, French, Latin and French and/or Latin in the most frequent words in the BNC* (British National Corpus) (p. 39).

Not content with such stock-and-trade examples the author sets himself a more difficult task: evaluating the impact of loanwords on the semantic structure of the English lexicon. To that purpose he compares the results of his study with the WOLD (*World Loanwords Database Project*).

The case of *they*, *them*, *their* (from Scandinavian), mentioned above, is an excellent example of a loanword which made it into the usually closed system of personal pronoun. The semantic field of English kinship terms, discussed below, is another well-known example of the impact of Anglo-French loanwords.

Moreover, the *HTOED* (*Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary*, 2009) is worth mentioning as another very useful tool in order to evaluate the degree of integration of loanwords in the English lexicon. Dr Durkin states: «Not least, it has been extremely difficult to identify what all of the members of a semantic field are, especially from a diachronic perspective. The advent of the *Historical Thesaurus of the OED (HTOED)* makes this much simpler. In essence, *HTOED* is a semantic classification of (nearly) all of the individual senses of each word in the *OED* (…)»[6].

Some high frequency borrowed words are quoted in § 16.3.1 (405f.). *Test case 1: loanwords among the 100-meaning 'Leipzig-Jakarta List of Basic Vocabulary'*: a) Scandinavian (or Scandinavian-influenced): *root*, *hit*, *leg*, *egg*, *give*, *skin*, *take*;

b) French: *carry*, *soil*, *cry*, (probably) *crush*.

Under § 16.3.2 *Test case 2: the senses*, the author convincingly argues that «Basic vocabulary relating to the senses is learned early and is often considered rather resistant to borrowing» [Durkin, 2014, p. 411].

As regards the impact of loanwords on a semantic field of the English lexicon, a classic example is provided by the set of kinship terms in English. The terms for immediate relatives

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[6] see subchapter 16.2/403ff. 'The available research tools'

father, *mother*, *brother*, *son*, and *daughter* are all inherited (§ 16.4/p. 421)**,** except *sister* which ousted its native synonym *sweostor* (cf. Old Icelandic *systir*; 10.2.7), but at one remove in lineality, *uncle*, *aunt*, *nephew*, and *niece* are all French loanwords.

At one remove in generation, the prefixation *grand-* in *grandfather*, *grandmother*, *grandson* and *granddaughter* shows a French loan element (§16.4/p. 421). Titles of nobility could be added: *king* and *queen*, from Germanic, *earl* from Scandinavian; *count*, *baron*, *duke*, etc. being of French origin.

The impact of Romance borrowing was not restricted to the above-mentioned semantic fields; cf. The following pairs: *mouth* (English) – *oral* (Latin); *heart* (English) – *cordial* (Latin); cf. German *Mund – mündlich*; *Herz – herzlich*. Referring to this phenomenon the Swiss linguist Ernst Leisi coined the term «dissociation» (as opposed to «consociation»).

Dr Durkin adduces further lexemes which exemplify the above phenomenon (including possible derivations): *father – fatherly & paternal*, *mother – motherly & maternal*, etc. (pp. 421–22). At the end of the subchapter 16.4 'Conclusions' (p. 423, footnote 19), the author deliberately avoids the set of terms for 'an animal' and 'meat of this animal' *pig* (or *sow*) and *pork*, *cow* (or *ox*) and *beef*, *calf* and *veal*, *sheep* and *mutton*. Rolf Berndt [Berndt, 1981] also refutes this popular myth which has no support whatsoever in reality.

Unlike Dr Durkin, Professor Klaus Dietz attempts to assess the degree of integration by judging the productivity of Romance affixes in an article entitled «Lexikalischer Transfer und Wortbildung» [Dietz, 2002, p. 381–405]. His method is traditional and he neither refers to semantic aspects nor to frequency. He takes his word material from the *Middle English Dictionary* (MED) and postulates 3 types of hybrid wordformation with Romance prefixes:

(1) native prefix + borrowed word, e.g. *unstable*, *untrussen* 'to unload', unlel(e) unfaithful, 'dishonest' (p. 389); (type 2) borrowed prefix + native word, e.g. *countreseggen* 'to gainsay', *disworship* 'shame', *reneuen* 'to renew' (p. 390); (type 3) new formations on the basis of loanwords which are rather seldom, e.g. *disaperen* 'to disappear' (p. 391).

Then follow (type 1) borrowed word + native suffix, e.g. *joiful*, *feithful* 'faithful'; *blameles*, *causeles*; *chastenes*, *hardishipe*, *humbleness* (p. 393) (type 2) native word + borrowed suffix, e.g. *garnement* 'clothing', *nonnerie* 'nunnery' (< OE *nunne* 'nun'); *Dullard* 'idiot', *Sloggard* 'sluggard' as terms of abuse (p. 394).

According to Dietz, the first hybrid formations following the above-mentioned typology, are attested c1200. They reach the highest degree of productivity c1380-1420, i.e. towards the end of the Middle English language period.

Chapter 17 *General conclusions and pointers for fukrther investigation* (pp. 424–28) comes as a novum since the author encourages other interested linguists to conduct independently further research in the field of loanword lexicology. Dr Durkin writes: «In the hope that at least some readers will want to conduct their own investigations, companion website offers some pointers for using various resources to explore and research loanwords in English further» [Durkin, 2014].

The companion website is available at www.oup.co.uk/companion/durkin2.

The reviewer readily agrees with Dr Durkin who points out: «However, even when we have abundant documentation, as we have for published written English in the Early Modern period for example, developing the right methodologies to explore the changing lexicon and the place of loanwords within it remains hugely challenging, and is a field that is really still in its infancy» [Durkin, 2014, p.428].

After an intensive and critical reading of the 16 chapters of Dr Philip Durkin's *Borrowed Words*, the reviewer is persuaded that this book will remain the standard manual of English loanword lexicology for a long time to come.

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