



UDC 802. 0.035

ETYMOLOGICAL PECULIARITIES OF NAMES OF CLOTHS IN ENGLISH**T. S. Nifanova***Doctor of Philological Sciences, professor,
Northern (Arctic) Federal University
named after M.V. Lomonosov, Archangelsk, Russia*

Summary. Names of cloths in English have not been studied yet. This article shows mixed character of etymological structure of names of cloths in the English language. The article also gives some quantitative data on etymological structure of names of cloths and explains some of them.

Keywords: etymology; borrowing; Indo-European element; Germanic element; English proper element.

It is known that the English vocabulary comprises up to 70 % of foreign words and only about 30 % of English proper units [2, p. 179]. This fact reflects in etymological structure of names of cloths in the English language.

English Proper units are words which are not borrowed from other languages, they date back from Old English [2, p. 179]. There are 29 English proper words (27 %) in our card index: *cheesecloth, tweed, twill, oxford, sackcloth, wool* [6].

English proper element is represented by three layers of lexical units [3, p. 45–46]:

1) Indo-European words with cognates in other, non-Germanic, but Indo-European languages. There are 9 (31 %) such units in our card index: *camel, felt, leatherette, sackcloth, broadcloth* [6];

2) Common Germanic stock including units which can be traced back to the common Germanic origin. They have cognates only in Germanic languages. Names of cloths of Common Germanic stock are less numerous than names of cloths of Indo-European element – 4 JIE (14 %): *gossamer, lace, linen* [6];

3) English proper word embracing units which represent proper English combinations of morphemes of different origin. Each morpheme in such words has cognates in a number of related languages but combinations of morphemes exist only in English [4, p. 45]. There are 16 (55 %) such

words in our card index: *corduroy, damask, georgette, jersey, nylon, melton* [6].

A considerable number of English proper names of cloths is due to the fact that cloths denoted by these words are a traditional product of English family production. Weaving developed and got stronger in England already in the Anglo-Saxon period and in the XI-th century, due to fast growth of towns, became an important factor in economic life of English people.

One of the leading industries in England was cattle-breeding, especially sheep-breeding, which greatly made for development of weaving in the country.

Fulling mills appeared not only in towns but also in villages. In different counties of England were built local industrial centres each of which specialized in production of definite woolen cloths and broadcloths. Broadcloths were produced in the southwest and in the centre of England, worsted cloths and flannelette, as well as thick flannelette – in the east of the country, coarse cloths – in the northern counties.

Weaving and textile industry developed both in town and in the country. English people produced woolen cloths and textile for themselves and for the market [5, c. 45–46]. Broadening of production and appearance of looms in England favoured the production of new cloths. For example, in the XVII–XVIII-th centuries



the following cloths appeared: *cheesecloth, jersey, oxford, corduroy* [6]. Further perfection of production and appearance of still more complicated looms led in the XIX–XX-th centuries to new cloths such as *tweed, leatherette, georgette* [6].

Besides English proper words in our card index there are borrowings – 72 words or 68%. Borrowings are lexemes which came into English from any other language and underwent in English different transformations [2, p. 179].

Etymological analysis showed that borrowed names of cloths came into English from different languages:

– from French (49 units or 68%): *grosgrain, faille, bombazine, batiste, matelassé, velvet, taffeta, satin, fur, flock, cotton, voile, velveteen, suede, tulle, percale*. They appeared in English since 1066 [3, p. 45–46]. For example, in the XII–XVI-th centuries French words came into English through French fashion with its numerous and new for English people cloths the names of which became a part of English vocabulary. Close contacts between France and England as neighbouring countries as well as blood relationship of royal families and noble dignitaries led to Gallomania in England which reflected in the English language [5, p. 45];

– from Spanish (4 units or 5,5%): *alpaca, brocade, gabardine, merino* [6]. Influx of Spanish borrowings, including names of cloths, into English was especially considerable in the XVI–XVII-th centuries, when, on the one hand, England and Spain contended for the first place in foreign policy and developed new territories in America, and on the other hand, Spanish literature flowered and introduced into common use in Europe Spanish realia [4, p. 45], including cloths with their names;

– from German (4 units or 5,5%): *buckram, crimplene, loden* [6]. In the XVI-th century in England they began an active exploitation of ore fields, as a result metallurgy developed. Germany was a leading country in mining and metal-

lurgy: many German specialists came into England. Communication between German and English speakers led to oral borrowing of German words in the spheres of mining, art of war, commerce including cloths commerce [1, p. 146];

– from Wales and Scottish tongues, Russian, Latin, Bengali, Chinese, Greek, Turkish, Portuguese, Flemish and Hindi: *astrakhan, jute, plaid, silk, angora, cambric, pongee, viscose, acrylic, acetate, cashmere, calicotussah* [6]. Process of colonization of Asia in the XIX-th century favoured the appearance in English of numerous Chinese words among which there were names of cloths [3, p. 45]. Holland, its Flemish part, had intensive business and cultural relations with England. In the XVI-th century after the liberation of Holland from Spain and establishment of bourgeois republic in the country commerce with nearby states including England began to develop. It made it possible to introduce names of new cloths into English.

Almost all Portuguese borrowings were connected with commercial activities after geographical discoveries when together with new exotic cloths were borrowed their names [5].

In 1579 England established friendly relations with Turkey. A great number of English merchants came to Turkey, there appeared English commercial colonies, Anglican churches were built. The English people in Turkey got to know the material culture of the country the integral part of which was cloths [3, p. 46].

First Russian borrowings in English appeared in the XVI-th century [1, p. 146]. In 1554 in England with a view to develop commerce with Russia the so-called «Moscow campaign» was organized. It is also known that Ivan the Terrible was in active diplomatic correspondence with the English queen Elizabeth. The increasing interest to Russia and the Russian language in England was proved by the book «Russian grammar» by Henry Williams Ludolf and



some geographic and ethnographic descriptions of Moscow Rus. In those books there were many early russicisms which, on the whole, reflected specific character of Russian nature, state structure, public relations, monetary system and material culture [5] the part of which was cloths with their names.

Hindi borrowings came into English in the XVII-th century after the organization of East-Indian campaign which started business activity of Great Britain in India. Borrowings from Hindi and other Indian languages belong to the spheres of social structure of the country, customs, religions, the material culture including exotic for the English society cloths with their names [1].

So, etymological structure of names of cloths in the English language is mixed with evident predomination of borrowed lexical units, namely Gallicisms.

Bibliography

1. Амосова Н. Н. Этимологические основы словарного состава современного английского языка. – М. : Флинта, 2010. – 223 с.
2. Антрушина Г. Б., Афанасьева О. В., Морозова Н. Н. Лексикология английского языка : учеб. пособие. – М. : Флинта, 2008. – 228 с.
3. Бабич Г. Н. Лексикология английского языка. – М. : Флинта, 2010. – 197 с.
4. Елисеева В. В. Лексикология английского языка. – СПб. : СПбГУ, Филологический факультет, 2005. – 80 с.
5. Колесницкий Н. История средних веков. – 2-е изд. испр. и доп. – М. : Просвещение, 1986. – 575 с.
6. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. – the 7th edition. – Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2005. – 1600 p.

Bibliograficheskiy spisok

1. Amosova N. N. Jetimologicheskie osnovy slovarnogo sostava sovremennogo anglijskogo jazyka. – M. : Flinta, 2010. – 223 s.
2. Antrushina G. B., Afanas'eva O. V., Morozova N. N. Leksikologija anglijskogo jazyka : uceb. posobie. – M. : Flinta, 2008. – 228 s.
3. Babich G. N. Leksikologija anglijskogo jazyka. – M. : Flinta, 2010. – 197 s.
4. Eliseeva V. V. Leksikologija anglijskogo jazyka. – SPb. : SPbGU, Filologicheskij fakul'tet, 2005. – 80 s.
5. Kolesnickij N. Istorija srednih vekov. – 2-e izd. ispr. i dop. – M. : Prosveshhenie, 1986. – 575 s.
6. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. – the 7th edition. – Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2005. – 1600 p.

© Nifanova T. S., 2014