

ENGLISH: A FRENCH LANGUAGE

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O.O. Introduction

English is a Germanic language which belongs to the same family as German, Dutch, Flemish, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, and Icelandic. Its vocabulary, however, is more than 60% French, a Romance language which is a sister to other languages which come from Latin such as Italian, Spanish, Portuguese. Its morphology has also been very much affected by French as well. The borrowings are found not only in the vocabulary which deals with the superstratum, which is always expected but in the substratum as well. This type of borrowing is indeed very high. English is thus a very important language for linguists interested in all aspects of language change, language borrowing, language death, the birth of the dialects and the genesis of pidgins and creoles.

Phonetic features of native English words

Anglo-Saxon English words are easily distinguishable from French and Latin words and other loan-words. The majority of native English words are monosyllabic as seen in the following examples:

Nouns: *dog, fish, meat, body, head, foot, back, thing, bed, cat, car, cow, hand, ear, man, god, grass, ...*

Verbs: *see, talk, give, walk, go, die, eat, drink, sing, laugh, sleep, wash, dream, cook, work, play, bring, sink, thing*

Adjectives: *good, bad, hot, cool, cold, nice, red, smart, dumb*

Latin and French loan-words are usually longer consisting of at least of two syllables and thus easily recognizable Simple words which have two syllables or more such as *mountain, demonstrate, satisfy, profound*, etc. are either French or borrowed from other languages. The majority of native English words are monosyllabic

Superstratum

The majority of words which belong to the superstratum (high culture) such as art, literature, philosophy, science, technology as well as well as new institutions are from French. This phenomenon is universal and found in all countries which had a colonial experience. As examples provided below show, government terms, military, judiciary, religious, art words are from French.

Government terms

Government, democracy, aristocracy, plutocracy, monarchy, oligarchy, republic, parliament, assembly, president, province, prince, duke, count, sire, president,

minister, senator, deputy, governor, vote, dictator, tyrant, Détente, rapprochement, interregnum, congress, ambassador, chargé d'affaires

Military terms

Military, arms, strategy, brigade, brigadier, platoon, arsenal, ambush, soldier, corporal, marshal, general, colonel, captain, major, lieutenant, sergeant, cadet, assault, canon, pistol, casualty, squadron, helicopter,

Religion terms

Religion, altar, sacrosanct, pope, cardinal, priest, friar, Eucharist, saint, angel, baptize, pagan, crucifix, redemption, communion, prophet, disciple, temple, sacrifice, choir, chapel, sanctuary, pontificate, demon, friar, deacon, Satan, apostle, laity (laïcité), choir (chorale), messiah, testament, seminary, rectory, ecumenical, monsignor, cathedral, schism, excommunicate,

Dance terms

Allongé, arabesque, assemble, balancé, balançoire, ballet, ballonné, balloté, battement, battu, bourre, chasse, combre, chaines, coupe, dégagé, détourné, developpe, effacé, emboité, enveloppé, en croix, en dedans, en dehors, fouetté, frappé, glissade, grand battement, jambe, jeté, pas de deux, pas de trois, pas de cheval, pas de chat, port de corps, port de bras, pas de bourrée, penché, pied, positions, quatre, retiré, relevé, rond de jambe, royal, saute, serre, sissone, sous-sus, soutenu, tendu, temps lié, tombé, trio, tour

Musical instruments:

piano, guitar, trumpet, violin, accordion,

The reason why the superstratum is dominated by the colonial language is first due to the fact that the conquering power always destroys the native institutions and replaces them with its own. The colonial language becomes the official language and the native elite which the conquering power needs to achieve its colonial goals assimilates to the conquerors' new culture. This borrowing in the superstratum continued with the Renaissance, the Enlightenment movement, the Industrial Revolution and the modern science, trade and technology in which mutual borrowings started occurring until today.

Substratum (Low Culture)

Usually when a country is conquered and colonized, words which refer to 'lower culture' are not affected. It is usually the new indigenous elite which works with the colonial power which assimilates.

The masses keep using their language. Thus words which refer to universal natural phenomena and events such as to die, human activities such as *to eat, to drink, to sleep, to die, to work, to walk, to talk, to ask, marry* etc. are usually not borrowed. There is no need to borrow words which refer to body parts, fauna and flora, landscape, ... because all languages have words which refer to them. English, however, has borrowed extensively from French a lot words related to these concepts, as we can see.

Body parts

Arm, palm, stomach, intestines, vagina, clitoris, penis, testicles, abdomen, artery, vein, ligament, spine, larynx, vocal cords

Kinship Terms

Family, parents, grandparents, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, cousin, marriage, divorce, orphan.

Words for animals

Animal, insect, beast, monster, ogre, insect, elephant, lion, hyena, leopard, antelope, zebra, gazelle, buffalo, giraffe, tiger, panther, hippopotamus, crocodile, reptile, viper, cobra, boa, dolphin, anchovies, oyster, salmon, falcon, eagle, egret, vulture, pigeon, rat, serpent, lizard, larva, insect, squirrel, panther, crab, porcupine, cattle (cheptel), gorilla, chimpanzee, orangutan, caiman, partridge, kangaroo, flamingo, dinosaur, dragon

Landscape

Mountain, plateau, valley, plain, ocean, river, lake, jungle, forest, canyon, ravine, volcano, village, savannah, corner, terrain, planet, globe, galaxy, stratosphere, sphere, firmament, archipelago (archipel), bay, peninsula, glacier, meander, ravine, summit, estuary, prairie

Time expressions:

Hour, minute, second, day, decade, century, moment, season, autumn, semester, trimester, decade, century, January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December,

Diseases

fever, malaria, tuberculosis, pneumonia, cancer, bronchitis, hemorrhage, gonorrhoea, leprosy, syphilis, rheumatism, symptom, asthma, diabetes, paralysis, polio, Diarrhea, elephantiasis, dementia, delirium, hysteria,

Professions:

Tailor, gardener, farmer, sculptor, carpenter, merchant, mason, butcher, falconer, buccaneer, trapper,

Numbers: *six, dozen, cent, million*

Food

Cuisine, dinner, beef, mutton, veal, appétit, menu, soup, sauce, entrée, lettuce, salad, dessert, juice, pork, ingredients, recipe, spices, dinner, supper, appetizers, lettuce, sausage, entrée, foie gras, hors-d'oeuvre,

Adjectives:

Adjective, large, vast, grand, long, spacious, stupid, intelligent, innocent, dangerous, rapid, bizarre, unique, curious, complete, severe, important, certain, sure, sincere, generous, difficult, calm, quiet, simple, opaque, vague, blue, brown, beige, ignoble, gray

Usually for the colonial language to penetrate the substratum there has to be a total assimilation of the conquered population . This is usually impossible unless the indigenous people are exterminated in genocide as what happened in the Americas where Mestizos speak either Spanish, Portuguese, or English or Australia and New Zealand where the Aborigines started to speak English because of genocide and ethnocide. For English to become a Latin-French language also, a similar situation might have occurred.

From 43 AD to late 90 AD, England was part of the Roman Empire. From the 11th Century to the 14th Century, it was a Norman territory. Both invasions had a very heavy impact the English language and culture. But it was mostly the Norman Conquest which had the greatest impact on the English language. When William the Conqueror of Normandy conquered England in 1066, he destroyed all existing Anglo-Saxon institutions, namely the educational system, the religious system, the military system, the economic system, the judicial system, the legal system, etc. and replaced them with Norman system just like in other colonial cases. Not only French became the administrative, educational and trade language but also the language of the high class. But for it to become the language of the masses, it implies that thousands of Normans poured into England and became settlers. There are indeed two types of colonialism: long distance colonialism (absentee landlords) and settlers. Long distance colonialism like the one practiced by Europeans in Africa and Asia by Europeans during the 20th Century only affected the superstratum but the one practiced in the Americas, in Australia and New Zealand where colonizers became settlers affected both the superstratum and the substratum.

I. Formal Properties of French loan-words

Recent French loan-words are easily recognizable because they still have French language features such as accents, feminine gender markers, spelling, etc ...

Amateur, agent provocateur, chauffeur, restaurateur, touché, émigré, habitué, fiancé(e), blaze, expose, naïvete, grandeur, masseuse, camaraderie, repertoire, reverie, doctrinaire, financier, tableau, décor, en masse, en route, routine, finesse, machine, expose.

There are even English words which have both the masculine form and the feminine form just like in French:

masculine/feminine

*hero<>heroine
prince<>princess
duke<>duchess
baron<>baroness
dean<>doyenne
blond<>blonde
petit<>petite
grand<>grande*

English also has full noun phrase and verb phrase French and Latin expressions such as:

*enfant terrible
cause célèbre
ménage à trois
femmes fatales
eminence grise
nouveau riche
faux pas
patron saint
nom de guerre
haute cuisine
haute couture
bon mot
idées fixes
adieu
bon vivant*

*vox populi
sui generis
alter ego
ipso facto*

mutatis mutandis
non sequitur
ad hominem
annus horribilis
inter alia
vice versa

Some loan-words, however, are not recognizable because they are archaic French words which have disappeared from its vocabulary or because of the opacity due to orthography or different suffix or prefix addition.

1.1. Archaic French words:

Dismay<>*OF dimaieyer OF*
Several<.>*L separalis*
Eager<>*OF eager*
Seal<>*OF seel*
Very<>*OF vrai*
Suit<> *OF seoir*
Obvious<>*L obvius*
Previous<>*L praevius*
Pledge<> *L plevium*
Schedule<>*MF sedule*
Feature<>*MF faiture*
Genuine<>*L genuinius*

The loan-word opacity from French is due also to spelling, addition or deletion of affixes as some examples show below:

Pursue<>*poursuite*
Damage<>*endommager*
Pressure<>*pression*
Heir<>*héritier*
slavery <>*exclavage*
surgery<>*chirurgie*
inhabitant<>*habitant*
obituary<>*obsèques*
closure<>*clôture*
truce<>*trêve*
insure<>*assurer*
habit<>*habitude*
cell<>*cellure*
deny<>*nier*
mosquito<>*moustique*
event<>*événement*

consent<>*consentement*
scissors<>*ciseaux*

1. 2. Franglais (FrenchEnglish)

Although, English has heavily borrowed from French, a reverse phenomena is taking place today. Because of the global influence of the US in international trade, technology, and popular culture, French has a lot of American English loan-words in what is known in French as *Franglais* (French English).

Here are some examples.

Leadership, la challenge, meeting, weekend, le sandwich, le streaptease, le snackbar, le melting pot, le parking, le steak, gentleman, leader, leadership, drugstore, lasso, insight, gangster, cocktail, ketchup, jogging, jean(jeans), T-shirt, smoking (dining jacket), blog, cowboy, hooligan, horse power, hot dog, smicard, smocks, smurf, slip, smash, smart, sketch, software, snack-bar, scanner, slow, bulldozer.

1. 3. Sound Correspondence:

The term *Sound correspondence* is used in comparative and historical linguistics, to refer to a systematic sound differentiation between two languages due to sound change. For instance, the initial Indo-European sound *p* changed to *f* in some Indo-European languages as we see in the examples below in which French kept the *p* sound whereas that of English changed to *f*.

P<>f

Fart<>*péter*
Few<>*peu*
For<>*pour*
Foot<>*pied*
Father<>*père*
Fish<>*poisson*

There are thousands of French loan-words in English which , compared to Modern French, exhibit this systematic sound difference. For instance, some words with the sound *w* have *g* in its position.

W<>g

War<>*guerre*
Wales<>*Gales*

Williams<>*Guillaume*
Wasp<>*guêpe*
Wage<>*gage*
Waffle<>*gauffre*
Warden<>*gardien*
Warranty<>*garantie*
Wardrobe<>*garde-robe*
Warren<>*garenne*

Some words with the cluster *st* in English have a circumflex accent in the *s* position.

sC<>'C

beast<>*bête*
feast<>*fête*
master<>*maître*
screen<>*écran*
priest<>*prêtre*
cost<.>*coût*
host<>*hôte*
coast<>*côte*
cost<>*couter*
haste<>*hâte*
forest<>*forêt*
disgust<>*dégout*
paste<>*pâte*
honest<.>*honnête*
quest<>*quête*

In some the sound *k* written a *c* is pronounced *sh* written as *ch*

castle<>*château*
escape<>*échapper*
scarpel<>*écharpe*
scale<>*échelle*
market<>*marche*
cap<>*chapeau*
cat<>*chat*

al/el/Ctle<>au

castle<>*château*
mantle<>*manteau*
salmon<>*saumon*

camel<>*chameau*
vessel<>*vaisseau*
psalm<>*psaume*
altar<>*autel*
almoner<>*aumonier*
also<>*aussi*
balm<>*baume*
falcon<>*faucon*
palm<>*paume*
panel<>*panneau*
salvage<>*sauver*
veal<>*veau*

y<>O

pagan<.>*paien*
plague<>*plaie*
dean<>*doyen*
means<>*moyens*
master<>*magister (pedantic)*
o<>*ou*

mountain<>*montagne*
round<>*rond*
sound<>*son*
count<>*compter*
profound<>*profond*
recount<>*raconter*
announce<>*annoncer*

e<>ie

matter<>*matière*
manner<>*manière*
cemetery<>*cimetière*
career<>*carrière*
sorcer<>*sorcière*
river<>*rivière*
fever<>*fièvre*
paper<>*papier*

ish<>ir

punish<>*punir*
finish<>*finir*

polish<>*polir*
establish<>*établir*
accomplish<>*accomplir*
nourish<>*nourir*
abolish<>*abolir*
demolish<>*démolir*
tarnish<>*tarnir*

Parasitic n insertion

messenger<.>*messenger*
passenger<>*passager*
ostrenger
harbinger
scavenger
wharfinger

p<>v

pepper<>*poivre*
copper<>*cuivre*
pauper<>*pauvre*

The *ish* and *ir* sound correspondence (*finish*<>*finir*, *perish*<>*perir*) is due to *rhoticism*, a universal phonetic rule which changes the liquid *r* into another consonant or vice versa. **The English Great Vowel Shift** which occurred in Middle English (1200-1800) created front vowels, long vowels and diphthongs. It is in this period also that occurred the deletion of the unstressed mid-vowel front final vowel *e*. The Great Vowel Shift and the deletion of the final vowel were also responsible for the genesis of umlaut: vowel fronting and regressive vowel harmony.

1. 4. French Morphemes

Not only has English borrowed words but morphemes as well. Some of these morphemes such as the suffixes: *-an*, *-or*, *-ent*, *-ist*, *-ant*, *-ate*, *-ify*, *-ity*, are not productive and are found with French or Latinate words only.

Suffixes

-an

egalitarian
humanitarian
contrarian

doctrinarian

-or

actor

director

inspector

sculptor

doctor

contractor

-ent

president

resident

efficient

student

-ist

specialist

dentist

anthropologist

chemist

linguist

journalist

capitalist

-ant

dormant

repentant

dominant

protestant

radiant

-ate

private

intimate

innate

illiterate

-eur

chauffeur
raconteur

-ify

glorify
simplify
quantify
justify
codify
gratify
signify

-ity

unity
stupidity
futility
bestiality
mortality
brutality
utility
ability
nationality
durability

Some French suffixes, however, such as: -age, -able, -ize, etc. are very productive and apply to native English words as well.

-age

bondage
linkage
sewage
rampage
blockage
wreckage

-able

likable
lovable
livable

workable
sellable
reliable
drinkable
eatable
unbearable

-ize

weatherize
weaponize

Prefixes

The majority of prefixes found in English words happen to be French or Latin also.

Pre-: prefix, predetermination, preposition, predict
Re-: redistribute, relocation, recreation, redemption
Dis-: discover, disclose, dismantle, disrespect, disenfranchise
Anti: antiestablishment, anti
Ante: antecedent, antebellum,
Infra-: infrastructure, inframarginal, infrasonic, infrared, infracostal
Counter-: counterproductive, counterintuitive, counterculture
Retro-: retrospect, retroactive,
Pro-: proactive, proconsul, prochoice,
Trans-: transaction, transport, transmit, transcend, transform
Con-: combat, compete, converse, concurrence, concord
In-: impossible, incompetent, incorrect, indecent
Circum-: circumscribe, circumstance, circumnavigate, circumvent, circumrotate
Ex-: exterminate, expulse, extirpate, expose
Inter-: international, intercontinental, intercourse, intersection

II. Impact of French and Latin loan-words on English

Not only has borrowing from French enriched the English language in increasing the vocabulary creating synonyms, and synonyms with subtle meanings but it also created doublets, false cognates and calques.

2.1. Synonymy:

English has a lot of synonyms due to this borrowing from French. This has increased the vocabulary tremendously. Below are some examples.

Rebirth<>renaissance
Flood<>inundation

Town<>city
Slaughter<>butcher
snake<>serpent
tongue<>language
coat<>vest
catch<>capture
wonder<>miracle
crazy<>fool
Spear<>lance
bow<>arc
smart<>intelligent
illness<>malady
Help<>aid
Build<>construct
Climb<>mount
Go down<>descend
reach<>attain

It is also interesting to see that Latin words have been used to serve as adjectives of Anglo-Saxon words:

Pedal(foot)
Corporal (body)
Cardiac (heart)
Royal (king)<>kingly
Regal (king)
Celestial (sky)
Terrestrial (earth)<>earthy
Lunar (moon)
Lunatic (moon)
Stellar (star)
Aquatic (water)
Dental (tooth)
Labial (lip)
Pulmonary (lung)
Lingual (tongue)
Infernal (hell)<>hellish
Manual (hand)
Annual (year)<>yearly
Nocturnal (night)
Digital (finger)
Divine (God)
Canine (dog)
Feline (cat)
Paternal (father)<>brotherly
Maternal (mother)

Male (man) <> manly
Female (woman)

2. 2. Latinate words with subtle meanings

The borrowing has also enriched the semantics of the language. Although, French and Latin words seem to be synonymous, a genesis of subtle meanings has emerged as well as the formal and informal use of the words.

Ask <> demand
Answer <> respond
Understand <> comprehend
Send <> envoy
End <> finish
Write <> scribe
Speak <> parlay
Teach <> instruct
Drive <> conduct
Lead <> direct
Help <> aid
Hunt <> chase
Feed <> nurse
Farm <> cultivate
Lamb <> mouton
Chicken <> poultry
Sweat <> perspire
ship <> vessel
border <> frontier
trip <> voyage
learn <> apprehend
leave <> quit/abandon
cane <> baton
give <> donate
whisper <> murmur
feed <> nurture
feelings <> sentiments
Praise <> laud
Worship <> adore
Back <> endorse
Embody <> incorporate
Work <> labor
Explain <> explicate
Fast/quick <> rapid
Hit <> batter
Meet <> encounter (rencontrer)
Raise <> elevate

Freedom<>liberty

2. 3. Doublets

Doublets are words which have both near phonetic and semantic similarity due, either to linguistic change and semantic shift, to dialects or loan-words from mostly languages from the same language family. English has many doublets, as we see below.

Café<>coffee

price<>prize<>prix,

Royal<>regal

Memory<>memoir

Policy<>politics

Critique<>criticism

Cartoon<>caricature

Parakeet<>parrot

Use<>usage

Troop<>troupe

Hotel<>hostel

Road<>route

Chef<>chief

Frail<>fragile

Channel<>canal

Poor<>pauper

Strange<>stranger

Salon<>saloon

Premier<>prime minister

Bomb<>bombard

Specially<>especially

Nourish<>nurture

False<>.faux

Appétit<>appetite

Mélange<>mixture

Premier<>premiere

Portrait<>portray

Regime<>regimen

Blond<>blond

Final<>finale

Local<>locale

Chateau<>castle

Noun<>name

Temper<>temperature

Salvage<>save

Proposal<>proposition

Person<>persona

Entrée<>entrance

Rank<.>range
Pray<>praise
Lance<.>launch
Rite<>ritual
Population<>populace
Example<>sample
Unify<>unite
Moral<>morale
Human<>humane
Experience<>experiment
Liquor<>liqueur
Dominate<>domineer
Governor<>governess
Dominate<>domineer
Environs<>environment
Mount<>mound
Governor<>governess
Commander<>commandant
Chair<>chaise
Musical<>musicale
Testimony<>testimonial
Scale<>echelon
Corpse<.>corps
Tool<>stool
Gentle<>genteel
Councilor<>counselor
Dominate<>domineer
Candle<>chandelier
Pray<>praise
Proposal<>proposition
Name<>nominate
Island<>isle (île)
Pose<>poise
Giant<>gigantic
Venture<>adventure
Lunar<>lunatic
Expose<>exposition
Place<>plaza
Emergence<>emergency

2. 4. Faux Amis

There are words which are found in two languages which are related or not related. This similarity can be accidental and this is a case of homonymy. There are those, however, because they are related as either as loan-words as in the case of English and French or because they are related. Thus many people confuse *sale* of English and *sale* of

French meaning ‘dirty’ as cognates when it is not the case. For words to qualify the label of true cognates or false cognates, they have to be related semantically. In the case of true cognates, there has to be an identity of meaning, a one-to-one relationship between the two lexical items in both languages.

In the case of false cognates, there is a metonymic relationship between the referents of both words. That is, an association or factual contiguity, exists in those referents. This relation can be that of cause and effect (ex. a *blind area*), part and whole (ex. *Washington sent a letter of protest to Moscow*), content and container (ex. *the White House invited the Kremlin*), product and origin (ex. *they were smoking a Havana*), product and producer (ex. *he bought a Picasso*), emblem and institution (ex. *The crown of England*)

Lecture<>*lecture* (reading done outloud)

Library<>*librairie* (bookstore)

Rest<>*rester* (remain)

Discourse<>*discours* (speech)

Engine<>*engin* (machine/appliance)

Bribe<.>*bribes* (scrabs/crumps)

Nurse<>*nourrice* (wet nurse)

Fine<>*fin* (refined)

Impeach<>*empêcher* (prevent)

College<>*collège* (high school)

Easy<>*aise* (comfortable)

Commencement<>*commencement* (beginning)

Manager<>*menagere* (housewife)

Injury<>*injure* (offense)

Chant<>*chanter* (sing)

Design<>*dessiner* (draw)

Edit<>*éditer* (publish)

Scholar<>*écolier* (pupil)

Legumes<>*légumes* (vegetables)

Vegetables<>*vegetaux* (plants)

Drug<>*drogue* (illicit substance)

Noise<>*noise* (*chercher noise: to look for dispute/fight*)

Stage<*étage* (storey/stairs)

Chamber<>*chamber* (room)

Issue<>*issue* (exit/solution)

Remedy<.>*remède* (medecine)

Syndicate<>*syndicat* (union)

Furniture<.>*fourniture* (objects/materials)

Crayons<>*crayons* (pencils)

Tissue<.>*tissu* (fabric)

Failure<>*faillite* (bankruptcy)

Achieve<>*achever* (finish)

Register<>*record* (*enregistrer*)

Baton<>*bâton* (stick)

Conductor<>conducteur (driver)
Orchestra<>orchestre (musical band)
Grade<.>grade (rank)
Physician<physicien (physicist)
Journey<>journée (trip)
College<collège >high school
Potato<>patate (sweet potato)
Advertisement<>avertissement (warning)
Editor<>éditeur (publisher)
Fashion<.>façon (manner)
encounter<>rencontre (meeting)
Football<>football (soccer)
Attend<>attendre (wait)
Dismiss<.>démisionner (resign)
Odor<.>odeur (smell in general)
Douche<>douche (shower)
Assist<>assister (to be present at)
Actually<>actuellement (in fact)
Cent<>cent (hundred)
Eventually<>éventuellement (possibly)
Envy<>envie (desire)
Finally<>finalement (eventually)
Gratuity<>gratuite (free)
Gross<>gros (big)
Ignore<>ignorer (not to know)
Napkin<>napkin (sanitary napkin)
Occasion<>occasion (opportunity/circumstance)
Opportunity<>opportunité (timelessness/appropriateness)
Raisin<>raisin (grape)
Realize<>réaliser (achieve)
Unique<>unique (only one)
Sympathetic<>sympathique (likable)
infant<.>enfant (baby)
agenda<>agenda (calendar notebook)
view<>voir (watch)
noise<>noise (quarrel/fight)
elevator<>élevateur (lifting object)
number<>nombre (
grand<>grand (big/vast/great)
grandeur<>grandeur (bigness/vastness/greatness)
figure<>figure (face)
graduate<>graduer (augment/increase)
chemise<>chemise (men's shirt)
bureau<>bureau (office)
plume<>plume (feather/pen)
promenade<>promenade (walk)

purpose<>*propos* (subject/topic)
phrase<.>*phrase* (sentence)
foyer<> *foyer* (home)
agree<>*agréer* (to please/suit)
agreement<>*agrément* (charm/attractiveness)
single<>*single* (single disc/single room)
agenda<>*agenda* (diary)
resume<>*résumer* (summarize)
parole<>*parole* (word)
quarters<>*quartier* (neighborhood)
try<>*trier* (select)
ttavail<>*travail* (work/job)
plate<>*plat* (dish)
curator<>*curateur* (guardian/trustee)
salute<>*saluer* (greet)
appointment<>*appointements* (salary)
pregnant<>*pregnant* (meaningful)
minister<>*ministre* (government minister)
chant<>*chanter* (sing)
march<>*marcher* (walk)
cry<>*crier* (shout)
aisle<>*aîle* (wing)
corpse<>*corps* (body)
patron<>*patron* (customer)
tableau<>*tableau* (blackboard)
retire<> *se retirer* (leave)
resign<>*se résigner* (give up)
charity<>*charité* (love)
summary<>*sommaire* (summary of a journal or book)
expose<>*exposé* (exhibition)
talon<>*talon* (heel)
assurance<>*assurance* (insurance)
fraud<>*fraudeur* (smuggler/cheater)
host<>*hôte* (guest)
marine<>*marin* (sailor)
functionary<>*fonctionnaire* (civil servant)
portmanteau<>*portementeau* (coat hanger)
ballot<>*ballot* (bundle/package)
matinée<>*matinée* (in the morning)
encore<>*encore* (again)
labor<>*labeur* (hard word)
labor<>*labour* (tilling/ploughing)

There are words which are also partial cognates. In one language, the cognate might be polysemous whereas in the other language, it may have only one referent.

Thus *used* whose cognate in French is *usé* has two meanings in English namely 'utilized' and 'accustomed' but the French cognate *usé* has only one meaning, namely 'old'.

In French *casserole* means 'a cooking pot' only, whereas in English it means a dish mostly but may also mean 'cooking pot' but used rarely.

2. 5. French calques

Not only has English borrowed French words, morphemes and expressions but has it also tried to make these expressions its own by translating them into English. This is, in linguistics, known as calques. These calques abound as we see in the examples provided below.

To take the bull by the horns (prendre le taureau par les cornes), to build castles on sand (batir les chateaux sur le sable), the ball is in your court (la balle est dans votre camp), to put the cart before the ox (mettre la charrue devant le boeuf), to give the green light (donner le feu vert), rising star (etoile montante), a striking example (un exemple frappant), a double-edged sword (une epee a double tranchant), diametrically opposed (diamétralement oppose), not to mince words (ne pas macher ses mots), cornerstone (pierre angulaire), with the naked eye (a l'oeil nu), common denominator (dénominateur commun), lion's share (part du lion), to hand a blank check (donner un chèque en blanc), to kill two birds with one stone (une pierre, deux coups), to cast the first stone (jeter la premiere pierre), to rest upon one's laurels (dormir sur ses lauriers), a burning question (une question brulante), to thank from the bottom of one's heart (remercier du fond de son coeur), to have goose bumps (avoir la chair de poule), skirt chaser (coureur de jupon), to strike the iron while it's hot (frapper le fer quand il est chaud), vicious circle (un cercle vicieux), read between the lines (lire entre les lignes), a ticking time bomb (une bombe a retardement), a matter of life and death (une question de vie ou de mort), spring up like mushrooms (pousser comme des champignons), a ray/glimmer of hope (un rayon d'espoir), paper tiger (tigre en papier), witch hunt (chasse aux sorcieres), brain drain (fuite de cerveau), from the bottom of the heart (du fond du Coeur), the cream of the cream (la crème de la crème), safety valves (les valves de sauvetage), to rule with an iron fist (diriger avec un bras de fer), to run the risk of (courir le risqué), a lone ranger (cavalier seul), to have a soft spot (avoir un point faible), evil incarnate (le diable incarne), the law of the jungle (la loi de la jungle), to swim against the current (nager a contre-courant), to shoot oneself in the foot (se tirer une balle dans le pied), a rallying cry (un cri de ralliement), to come empty-handed (rentrer les mains vides), a lion's share (la part du lion), to be diametrically opposed (être diamétralement oppose), goatie (barbuche de chèvre), pepper and salt hair (cheveux poivre et sel), to be armed to the teeth (être armé jusqu'aux dents), sticking points (points saillants), honeymoon (lune de miel), to settle the matter once and for all (résoudre la

question une fois pour toutes), être plus catholique que le pape (to be more catholic than the Pope), to cry wolf (crier au loup,) to be behind bars (être derrière les verrous), a thorny question (une question épineuse), to be on the same wavelength (être sur la même longueur d'onde), pell-mell (pêle-mêle), to roll one's sleeves (retrousser les manches), to read between the lines (lire entre les lignes), to have one's feet on the ground (avoir les pieds sur terre), to get goosebumps (avoir la chair de poule 'to have chicken's flesh'), to get the last laugh (rira bien qui rira le dernier), if the mountain doesn't go to Mohamed, Mohamed goes to the mountain (si la montagne ne va pas à Mohamed, Mohamed va à la montagne), lightening visit (une visite éclair, crocodile tears (les larmes de crocodile), to get goose bumps (avoir la chair de poule), to munch one's words (mâcher ses mots), it's not the end of the world (ce n'est pas la fin du monde), a ghost town (une ville fantôme), with the naked eye (à l'oeil nu), between the hammer and the anvil (entre le marteau et l'enclume), the cradle of civilization (le berceau de civilization), to ring alarm bells (tirer la sonnette d'alarme), free fall (chute libre), belt tightening (serrer la ceinture), inferiority/superiority complex, the ends justify the means (les fins justifient les moyens), to roll up sleeves (retrousser les manches), to swim against the stream/current (nager contre le courant), to draw the conclusion (tirer la conclusion), behind bars (derrière les verrous), cold blood (sang froid), minutely detailed (minutieusement détaillé, from the four corners of the world (des quatre coins du monde), to point the finger (pointer le doigt), visceral hatred (une haine viscérale), everybody knows that X wears the pants in the house (tout le monde sait que c'est X qui porte le pantalon à la maison), to draw attention (attirer l'attention), to draw a conclusion (tirer la conclusion), to put on a pedestal (mettre sur le pedestral), it is written black on white (c'est écrit noir sur blanc), an iron fist in a velvet glove (un bras de fer dans un gant de soie), at the helm of the ship of the state (au gouvernail du bateau de l'état), to hear it from that ear (l'entendre de cette oreille), not to believe one's eyes (ne pas en croire ses oreilles), to throw the towel (jeter l'éponge), a burning desire (un désir brûlant), brain washing (lavage de cerveau), braindrain (fuite de cerveau), puppet government (un gouvernement de marionettes), mushroom town (ville champignon), shantytown (bidonville), a snail's pace (à pas de tortue), not born yesterday (pas né hier), as if it were yesterday (comme c'était hier), death squads (escadrons de la mort), devil's advocate (l'avocat du diable), from A to Z (depuis A jusqu'à Z), all roads lead to Rome (tous les chemins mènent à Rome), each people has the leaders that it deserves (chaque peuple a les dirigeants qu'il mérite), to sow the wind and reap the whirlwind (semer le vent et récolter la tempête). to raise questions (soulever des questions), opportune moment (moment opportun).

Conclusion

English is a fascinating and exciting language for linguists interested in language change, language contact, colonialism, cultural domination, cultural preservation and language extinction. Since the language has enough data and has been sufficiently documented, it can serve as a model in the study of other languages whose speakers have been colonized in understanding why some languages became extinct, others became creoles while some borrowed only words in the superstratum, and others were able to maintain their integrity. French itself is a Celtic language but now it is completely a Latin/Romance language as far as the vocabulary is concerned. But before the invasion of the Romans, people spoke Gaulish. Today, only few words of Gaulish such as place names survive in French. It can also shed light on how language changes and which period the change took place and from which dialect borrowing came from. Today, we are witnessing the reverse process where French is borrowing from English in what is referred to as *Franglais*. Recent French loan-words into English are also recognizable because they have maintained their French characteristics such as gender or accent. Others are the production of the on-going process of coinage of new terms from Greek and Latin which started from the Renaissance period. We have noticed that some words come from specific dialects of French. During the Norman occupation, the majority came from Languedoil (Northern France) than Languedoc (Southern France). We noted, for instance, that the *w* and *g* sound correspondence in words such as *war*<>*guerre* was strictly a feature of Norman French. Similarly, the *c* to *ch* sound correspondence in words such as *escape*<>*échapper*, *scale*<*échelle*, is also a feature of Norman because in Southern French, Languedoc, the *c* sound didn't undergo palatalization. The sound correspondence due to rhoticism occurred in the time of the Roman Empire while sound correspondence seen in vowels occurred in Middle English from the 12th to the 18th century during the English Great Vowel Shift.

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