

Секция «Иностранные языки и регионоведение»

Russian political borrowings in English

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English had acquired its national character by the middle of the 17th century in the Early Modern English period (1500-1800). During that time international cultural, political, economic relations, British colonization, overseas trade hastened the acquisition of loanwords from different other languages. Due to constant contacts between England and Russia they borrowed a lot of words from one language into the other. Interestingly, Russian words haven't received much attention in research papers (Wade 1997, Lehnert 1977, Benson 1962), sometimes it is claimed that such words are scarce and insignificant in English (Hughes 2000, Menchen 1982) [1]. Russian borrowings are divided into two periods: pre-revolutionary and post-revolutionary. The latter can be subdivided into the Soviet and Post-Soviet periods. We have assumed this kind of division as a basis of our paper because the aim is to represent the history of Russian borrowings in English on the basis of political vocabulary. Russian borrowings, which belong to the political vocabulary, are generally used in special literature and in the historical and ethnographical works, which relate to the history of Russia. Speaking about the English words of Russian origin, it should be mentioned that not all of the words are truly Russian origin. Some of them co-exist in other Slavic languages, and it's difficult to say whether they made English from Russian or some other language. Direct borrowing from Russian into English began with political and diplomatic contacts between England and Russia in the 16th century. In general, borrowings relate to **trade**: *rouble, copeck, pood, sterlet, vodka, kvass*; **nature**: *taiga, tundra, steppe*; **household goods**: *troika, izba, telega, samovar*; **titles, officials**: *tzar, voivoda, Cossack, bojar*; **estates**: *verst, kremlin*; **science**: *siberite, uralite*; **religion**: *molitva, obednja*, etc. Strange as it may seem, but the earliest Russianisms were not connected with political language. In the 19th century a large group of Russian borrowings reflecting social and political life came into English (mainly through Russian literature): *Narodnik, дума, ukase, zemstvo, volost, ispravnik, obrok, barshina*, etc. and also words with Latin roots: *nihilist, intelligentsia, Decembrist*, etc. These words are considered to be Russian borrowings as they refer to the history of Russia. This period is characterized by the developing of industry and the working class, the struggle of leading people against tsarist government, the growth of people's democratic liberation movement. After the Great October revolution many new words of Russian origin connecting with the new political system, social regime and new culture were borrowed into English and called Sovietisms: *Soviet, bolshevism, Leninism, commissar, Komsomol, kolkhoz, udarnik, collectivization, sovkhov, commissar, industrialisation*, etc. and also translation loans: *labour discipline, new economic policy, collective farm, five-year plan, hero of labour, shock worker*, etc. The Russian *колхоз* was borrowed twice, by way of translation loan (*collective farm*) and by way of direct borrowing (*kolkhoz*). Russian loans play a great role in the development of modern political terminology. The emergence of new national democratic countries and world-wide associations struggling for freedom and peace after World War II lead up to the occurrence of some political phraseological units in English: *Countries of Democracy, New*

Democracies, struggle for peace, socialist construction, indestructible moral-political unity, vital interests of the people, etc. One more group of Russian borrowings is connected with perestroika, such as *glasnost, nomenklatura, apparatchik, novoyemuishleniye, democratisatsia, hozraschot, uskoreniye*. According to the Longman Guardian New Words Dictionary «*glasnost*» is «the willingness of the Soviet government to be more open about its affairs»[2]. «*Rasriadka*» is a Russian borrowing characterizing a particular period of Russian history, but it became an international word denoting the reduction of intensity in the relations between countries. Languages borrow words from each other all the time, and still do today. As a rule it occurs within the specific range of social or political events: wars, revolutions, trade, economic and political contacts, and new inventions. Russian political words became well-known and penetrate the word-stock of English. This fact shows constant interest of English nation to the political situation in Russia.

Литература

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