

The Penetration of French Terms into the English-Speaking Diplomatic Discourse

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In the history of the English language, French has long been considered to be the ideal “donor” language. Since the Norman Conquest, French has brought new words to the English vocabulary. Many studies of the language and its evolution have focused their linguistic attention on the French effect on the lexicon of English.

Any language has both native and borrowed words in its lexicon. Vocabulary has always been the most dynamic aspect of a language. The function of borrowings varies among languages and is impacted by the historical contexts of the development of each language. The interchange of concept between England and France throughout the New English period continued and helped to increase the number of French words that eventually appeared in the English language.

In parallel with the introduction of the new French vocabulary, there was a displacement of native words from English. As a rule, this concerned words and concepts that in French were considered to be more successful and frequently used: *air, place, large, river, change, front, dance, garden, message, table*. Embedded in English, French words are gradually being transformed in accordance with the language norms of English. The transformation affects both phonetics and morphology. English begins to obey the rules of the recipient language. As borrowings are assimilated, their semantic fields often shift, especially if the originally borrowed word duplicated in the meaning an already existing one.

France was a major military, economic, and cultural power for hundreds of years, and as a result, French became the universal language of politics. The French language is still widely used in diplomatic discourse, despite the country no longer being a superpower yet still having influence in international affairs.

France formerly possessed great power status on all fronts: militarily, economically, and culturally. Therefore, it is logical that diplomatic correspondence between various nations was conducted in French. The French language is still well-represented in the terminology of diplomacy. The 1453 – the end of the Hundred Years’ War had an impact on both English and French nationalism. French remained the language of diplomacy throughout Europe despite efforts by English authorities to ban it. French was an excellent language for diplomatic communication because of its inherent characteristics. The correctness of the

sentence was guaranteed by strict syntactic standards. The “Sun King”, Louis XIV, helped to strengthen the dominance of French, which replaced Latin as the language of diplomacy in the second half of the seventeenth century. The French diplomatic system was the strongest at that time. France maintained its position as the world’s leading power in foreign diplomacy for more than 150 years up until the French Revolution.

For a long time diplomacy regarded French as the language of international relations. It was in the 18th, 19th centuries and until the beginning of the 20th. The turning point was the Paris Conference of 1919, when American and British diplomats announced that they no longer spoke French and that negotiations should be conducted in English as well. This does not mean that the French immediately retreated. It was, it remains and in the future will be a great language that will be spoken in a number of international organizations, at diplomatic conferences. At one time the famous British diplomat Harold Nicholson called French the language of “geometric precision”. French gives diplomats a level of precision during negotiations that does not exist in English, at least not to that extent. One of the most famous examples that can be cited concerns UN Security Council Resolution 242, which calls on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories. The English language refers to occupied territories, but does not specify which territories are in question. Whereas in French, the word “territories” is preceded by the partitive article “des” rather than the definite article “les”. Everything is in nuances.

Multilateral treaties are typically concluded in two languages: English and French, with both documents regarded as equally authoritative. There are many phrases and idioms of French provenance in the vocabulary of diplomacy, just as there are in the vocabulary of conflict and the military. This glossary defines terms that were directly adapted from French into English – dominant diplomatic language. Liberal – Old French most likely used the same phrase to express something that was appropriate for a free-thinking person, even though we might associate being socially liberal or supporting a liberal political party with the English-speaking world. It derives from the Latin word *liberalis*, which also meant “generous.” The English equivalents of the French words *ambassador*, *envoy*, and *chargés d’affaires* are heads of mission. Of course, the general term “diplomat” also has French roots (from *diplomate*). As to the English *war*, it was not widely used in diplomacy, whereas the French word *guerre* (war) was used more frequently. The ancient cultures of the northern Breton region spoke their own language, which was very distinctive from Old French, much like the Cornish in the United Kingdom. Compared to the present French term *guerre*, the Old North French word for *war*, *werre*, looks considerably more like the English word. Therefore, it’s probable that Breton French influenced English in this instance. *Money* is actually a word that was first used in France before travelling to England and other countries,

despite the fact that it may look and sound English. By displacing the Middle English term *schat* (money/treasure), it first entered the English-speaking globe. The followings are perfect examples of how French words can be integrated in the world of diplomacy and politics conducted in English.

Attaché – a person in the staff of the ambassador who has a specialized area of responsibility [1]: an embassy employee with a specific area of activities. The borrowing “attaché” appeared at the beginning of the 19th century. In 1822 or 1835 it represents the past participle tense from the verb “*attacher*” (to tie, to attach; to second).

- Then she was posted to Paris as a press attaché, where she was charged with explaining the UK’s policies, on everything from trade issues to Iraq, to French journalists [2].

Chargé d’affaires – 1 a subordinate diplomat who substitutes for an absent ambassador or minister; 2 the diplomat who is inferior in rank to the ambassador or minister who heads a mission when no minister or ambassador is assigned. 1 diplomat who is acting temporarily head of a diplomatic mission while the ambassador or the minister is absent; 2 a diplomat below the rank of ambassador or minister who leads a mission when neither an ambassador nor a minister has yet been appointed. The phrase “chargé d’affaires” entered the English language in 1767 and literally means “chargé d’affaires”.

- Sir Nicholas Browne: Britain’s chargé d’affaires in Tehran was targeted by an angry mob in Tehran in 1989 after the Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khomeini issued a fatwa calling for the killing of the author Salman Rushdie over his book *The Satanic Verses*. [3]
- The Syrian charge d’affaires in London has resigned saying that he is no longer willing to represent an oppressive and violent regime.

Rapprochement – (especially in international affairs) an establishment or resumption of harmonious relations, the establishment or renewal of friendly relations. Indirect borrowing from Latin→ lat. “*appropriare*” “approach” → Old French “*aprochier*” “approach” → “re”+“*aprochier*” → “*rapprocher*” “(again) bring closer, bring closer” → “*rapprochement*” “approach; convergence”. In diplomacy the term has been functioning since 1809.

- North Korea shutdown of Kaesong Industrial Complex sees dream of rapprochement with South quickly turn into a nightmare. [4]
- The growing rapprochement between the two neighbours – still technically at war – has exposed a disconnect in policy between Cape Town and Washington.

Entente – friendly understanding or informal alliance between states or political factions. In the meaning of “understanding”, the borrowing “entente”

entered the English language in 1854. The well-known historical term “the Entente Cordiale” (“cordial consent”) appeared in 1844, as a result of the signing friendly agreement between France and Great Britain.

- We shall mark the centenary of the Entente Cordiale with a state visit by HM the Queen to France in April, and a return visit by the President of the Republic to Britain in the autumn but the celebrations are not just about big official occasions: we also want them to be the chance for people to get to know each other better. [5]

Démarche – 1 a course of action: maneuver; 2 a diplomatic or political initiative or maneuver; 3 a petition or protest presented through diplomatic channels.

The noun “démarche” was directly borrowed from French in the 1650s and literally meant “gait”; as well as “behavior, manner of action; move”, in the meaning of “diplomatic step” has been used since the 1670s.

- Pakistan’s foreign minister summoned the US ambassador on Saturday to give him a démarche after US president Joe Biden said in a speech that Pakistan might be “one of the most dangerous nations in the world” because it has “nuclear weapons without any cohesion”. [6]

Détente – the easing of strained relations or hostility, mainly between countries. As a political term, it was borrowed from French in 1908 → French. “détente” “relaxation, relaxation of tension”.

- President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence appear to have come to a détente after nearly a week of silence, anger and finger pointing. [7]

Communiqué – a statement or an official announcement, especially made to the media. The noun “communiqué” appeared in 1852 as an indirect borrowing through French from Latin: lat. “commūnicāre” (to inform, convey news) → French “communiquer” (to communicate, transmit) → “communiqué” (past participle of the verb “communiquer”).

- On the regulatory agenda and much else besides, there is much detailed work yet to be done: the communiqué is perhaps more notable for what it didn’t say than what it did. [8]

Agrément – official approval given by the government of a country to a diplomatic representative of another country, official agreement of the government of one country to accept the offer of another state person as its diplomatic representative.

The word was borrowed directly from French with the preservation superscript diacritical mark in 1789 in the original meaning of “embellishments, decorations; pleasantness, attractiveness; instrument (in music)”.

- Russia was informed of the administration’s decision to choose Tracy’s

several weeks ago but has not yet given its formal approval, known as “agrément” in diplomatic parlance, the officials said. [9]

French, with its accuracy, lexical composition and syntax, have contributed, like other languages, to the improvement of diplomatic negotiations conducted in English. And what does diplomacy mean if not the art of negotiation, in which language plays a key role. French-speaking diplomats have some sort of obligation to use French expressions wherever possible. English having proven itself in the field of science, in the field of diplomacy, shows the huge impact of French especially through its vocabulary. Thus the French language, thanks to its precision and clarity, clearly indicates the great influence on English. French influence on English has proven many times its legal precision that suits international negotiations. It is widely used in multilateral negotiations. After so many years of dominating international relations, French has had directly a great impact on the English diplomatic practice. It is impossible nowadays to make a good diplomatic career without knowing this fact.

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Ֆրանսերեն տերմինների ներթափանցումը անգլիախոս դիվանագիտական դիսկուրս

Էլլա Սարգսյան

Ամփոփում

Հանգուցային բառեր. *ներթափանցում, դիվանագիտական տերմիններ և արտահայտություններ, փոխառություններ, փոխազդեցություն, ֆրանսիական ազդեցություն, միջազգային հարաբերություններ, բառապաշար, քաղաքական դիսկուրս, բանակցություններ*

Մոցիալ-տնտեսական և լեզվամշակութային շփումների զարգացումը հանգեցնում է բառապաշարի միջազգայնացմանը: Հոդվածում վերլուծվում է ժամանակակից անգլերենում ֆրանսիական փոխառությունները, դրանց առաջացման պատճառները, բնույթն ու աստիճանը: Մշակութային գլոբալիզացիան, որը բնութագրվում է հասարակության քաղաքական և բիզնես ոլորտներում միջազգային շփումների ընդլայնմամբ, նպաստում է լեզվական փոխառությունների ակտիվ գործընթացին: Այս հոդվածում փոխառությունները դիտարկվում են որպես բառաիմաստային մակարդակի միավորներ, որոնց ի հայտ գալն անգլերենում պայմանավորված է օտարալեզու ազդեցությամբ և միջլեզվական փոխազդեցությամբ:

Անգլերենի պատմական զարգացման ընթացքում ֆրանսերենը համարվում է իդեալական «դոնոր» լեզու: Նորմանդական նվաճումից հետո անգլիացիներն ավելի սերտ հարաբերություններ ունեին ֆրանսերենի հետ՝ նրանցից փոխառելով զանազան բառեր և բառաձևեր: Ֆրանսիան հարյուրավոր տարիներ եղել է խոշոր ռազմական, տնտեսական և մշակութային տերություն, որի արդյունքում ուներ քաղաքականապես հարուստ բառաֆոնդ: Ֆրանսերենն այսօր լայնորեն կիրառվում է դիվանագիտական քննարկումներում և բանավեճերում, չնայած այն հանգամանքին, որ այլևս գերտերություն չէ: Քաղաքական լեզվի քննությունը ցույց է տալիս որ անգլերեն դիվանագիտության և քաղաքականության բառապաշարում փոխառված են տարբեր բառեր և կառույցներ: Սա նշանակում է, որ ֆրանսերենն իր քաղաքական ճշգրիտ և կոռ բառապաշարով շարունակում է նպաստել անգլերենով անցկացվող դիվանագիտական բանակցությունների լեզվին, ուստի ժամանակակից աշխարհում անհնար է լավ դիվանագիտական կարիերա, հեղինակություն ստեղծել՝ չիմանալով երկու լեզուների փոխհարաբերության էությունը:

Проникновение французских терминов в англоязычный дипломатический дискурс

Элла Саргсян

Резюме

Ключевые слова: проникновение, дипломатические термины и фразы, заимствования, взаимодействие, французское влияние, международные отношения, лексика, политический дискурс, переговоры

Развитие социально-экономических и лингвокультурных контактов приводит к интернационализации лексики. В статье проводится анализ научного опыта изучения феномена французских заимствований в современном английском языке. Лингвокультурная глобализация, характеризующаяся расширением международных контактов в политической и деловой сферах жизни общества, способствует активному процессу языковых заимствований. В данной статье заимствование рассматривается как единица лексико-семантического уровня, появление которой в английском языке обусловлено иноязычным влиянием и межъязыковым взаимодействием.

Французский язык долгое время считался идеальным языком-донором в истории английского языка. После норманнского завоевания французский язык привнес в английский словарь новые слова. Франция была крупной военной, экономической и культурной державой на протяжении сотен лет, и в результате французский язык стал универсальным языком политики. Французский язык по-прежнему широко используется в дипломатических беседах, несмотря на то, что страна больше не является сверхдержавой, но по-прежнему имеет влияние на ход международных дел. Сотни французских слов интегрированы в англоязычный мир дипломатии и политики. Французский язык своей точностью, лексическим составом и синтаксисом способствовал совершенствованию дипломатических переговоров, проводимых на английском языке. Следовательно, в области дипломатии очевидно огромное влияние французского языка, особенно благодаря его словарному запасу. После стольких лет доминирования в международных отношениях, французский язык оказал, оказывает и будет оказывать непосредственное влияние на английскую дипломатическую практику. В наши дни без учета этого факта хорошая дипломатическая карьера практически невозможна.

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