

Eng-H (40) PPU
Paper-I

Week 01
Day 002-363

B.A-I
ENGLISH LANGUAGE January 2011

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dated 18-4-2020

Sunday 02

Priority

Latin Loan Words / Latin Borrowings

Appointment

Of all the languages in the world, English perhaps has the most heterogeneous and most varied vocabulary. This vast vocabulary includes a large proportion of foreign words borrowed from different languages both ancient and modern. Chief among the English vocabulary are Latin, French and Scandinavian. The borrowings from Latin which had begun in pre-historic times while the Anglo-Saxons were still in their continental homes continued through old English period and attained large proportion in 14th and 15th centuries.

Like other Germanic tribes the Anglo-Saxons and Jutes had been in contact with the civilization of Rome. Having settled in Britain, these Germanic tribes borrowed from Romanized Celts ~~the~~ words like Latin 'castra' which survives in place names like Chester, Winchester, Doncaster and Leicester and Latin 'gigantum' giant.

The advent of Christianity to England brought with it innumerable Latin terms used by the Roman missionaries for expressing ideas relating to Christian beliefs and Christian way of life. Thus words like 'mister' (from Latin monasterium), monk (from Latin monachus), bishop, (from Latin episcopus, 'mass' from Latin missa,) Church (from Latin Cyraecum,

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found their way into English vocabulary.

The largest number of Latin loans in English were introduced as a result of the Latin loan in Science. The names of many herbs and trees received into English from Latin. During the old English period Latin has come to enrich the English vocabulary by the many translations of Latin compound words. Latin evangelicem came to be translated into English as 'good spell' and Latin 'trinitatum' was translated into old English 'Ornyes'.

The influence of Latin on English during the Middle English period is rather hard to determine. These words are definitely known to have been taken directly from Latin include 'pauper', 'proviso', 'equivalent', 'legitimate', 'index', 'simile', and 'tolerance'.

The direct influence of Latin on English has been most deeply felt during the period beginning with the reign of Henry VIII. It was especially at the time of Renaissance. As the language representing European culture Latin has influenced English throughout its history with many fluctuations. The medieval Latin from which many words were borrowed into English was spoken by the clergy and learned men of the country. The historical and devotional books were mostly written in it. During

to the 18th century it was the usual practice to write scientific and philosophical work in Latin. The educated men in Queen Elizabeth's time used Latin words and affixes in their conversation. It was equally natural for 17th century writers to use Latinized terms in their works. The writings of Milton and Sir Thomas Browne seem to us quite profuse in their use of an English Latin terms. Among the Latin words which have been borrowed during the modern English period, we find that exit, genius, area, fungus, miser, cirrus, vaccum, medium, ignominus, vagary belong to the 16th century. The 17th century borrowings include apparatus, focus, album, complex, minimum, status, less, pendulum etc. In the 18th century were borrowed mucus, inertia, aibe, ultimatum, extra, insomnia, bonus, deficit. The 19th century was marked by Latin loan like opus, ego, moratorium, bebilus.

Though Latin is no longer a subject of study in English schools, a glance at any of the latest grammar book will convince us how the whole set up and terminology of English grammar have been influenced by Latin.

Dr. Md. Shamim Akh
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English

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Life is the art of drawing without an eraser.

Never answer a letter while you are

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