

**Západočeská univerzita v Plzni**

**Fakulta filozofická**

**Bakalářská práce**

**French Loan-Words in English**

**Martin Petrák**

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**Fakulta filozofická**  
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Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracoval samostatně a použil jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

Plzeň, srpen 2016 .....

## **Poděkování**

Chtěl bych poděkovat paní Mgr. Lence Dejmalové za cenné rady a pomoc, kterou mi v průběhu zpracování této bakalářské práce věnovala.

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## 1 Introduction

The aim of the first part of this work is to explain what borrowings in linguistics are, and define other ways of expanding the vocabulary of a language. The next part deals with the borrowings from French, specifically, and describes crucial historical events that changed the face of English forever. The great influx of French words happened during the Norman Conquest that took place in 1066 but its impact on English can be felt today. These borrowings affected mostly military, administration, religion, law, handicrafts, entertainment and arts. There will also be a few words dedicated to French loans in Old English.

The second part of this work examines modern articles focusing on French borrowings within them. The linguistic analysis aims to determine how frequent are French loan-words in English written texts and thus showing the importance of selected words for English. The first sample text, found in the book *History of England*, is from the field of history and is titled *William the Conqueror*. The second text, from the field of law, examines an extract of *The Declaration of Independence* which is available for the public on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services webpage. The last part in this chapter is a list of commonly used French phrases.

There are no appendices to this work as I did not consider it vital.

## 2 Adding to the lexicon

“There are many ways in which the lexicon of a language can be enlarged. We will discuss four in this chapter: borrowing words from other languages; creating new words (coinage); using the names of people or places to refer to a related object; making shifts and conversions where meanings of words or their parts of speech change.”<sup>1</sup>

The following content excludes word building processes (such as compounding, clipping etc.) as my intention is to merely offer comparisons to borrowing, which is the most important process in this work.

### 2.1 Borrowing

Borrowings, also called loanwords, are words adopted by the speakers of one language from another language, which is called the source language. The term borrowing refers to the process of speakers adopting words from a source language into their native language. “Loan” and “borrowing” are metaphors because there is no literal lending process. The words simply come to be used by a speech community that speaks a different language from the one these words originated in.<sup>2</sup>

Borrowing is a sociolinguistic process which is not always appreciated by all members of the speech community. In some countries there are tendencies to keep the language “pure” and borrowing words is prohibited. For example, France, by law, has tried to prevent using English word in French.<sup>3</sup>

“All languages borrow words from other languages. English borrowed an extremely large number of lexical items from French during the occupation period which followed the Norman Conquest in 1066. Legal occupation meant that terms for the court, law, and property would enter English from French.”<sup>4</sup>

The earliest loanwords into English were Norman French while the later ones come from Central French. Words from the conquerors' language entered many areas of English vocabulary: administration (e.g. government), military (e.g. captain), religion (e.g. abbey), law (e.g. crime), entertainment (e.g. cards), arts (e.g. colour) and handicrafts (e.g. butcher).<sup>5</sup>

## **2.2 Coinage**

Every language has words that have not been borrowed from another language. These are called native words. When a new word is needed, there are a number of options but the obvious one is to coin a new word. For example, Derek Smith, a Louisville basketball player, is credit with creating high-five, a word first used as a celebratory gesture, a slap of right hands by players, high over their heads.

## **2.3 Names of people and places**

The names of inventors of products or people associated with particular products have often become the word for the products themselves. Such names are called eponyms. For instance, the word boycott is based on the name of a real person, Captain Boycott, a retired British army captain who oversaw estates in Ireland and refused to give humanitarian concessions to his Irish tenants. They hated him so much that they ostracized him and boycott became a synonym for rejection and isolation.

The opposite type of relation also exists. Many family names are taken from ordinary words, in particular words for occupations, making names like Smith, Miller, Farmer, Baker, Cooper etc.

Some names might have multiple origins. For example, it is not clear whether a name such as Bower means someone who makes bows, if it



compares the person to flower bower or if it comes from the German Bauer meaning farm laborer.

## **2.4 Conversion**

Conversion is a word formation process of creating additional lexical items out of those that already exist. Language users like a word so much that they decide to use it in new ways. So, a saw is used to saw, a bag is used to bag, a file is used to file, bottles are used for bottling, butter for buttering.

The most productive form of conversion in English is noun to verb (verbification or verbing) and verb to noun (nominalization).

## **2.5 Shifts**

“The meanings of words themselves may shift over time. The classic examples are knave, which once meant a young lad and now means someone rather nasty; deer, which once meant wild animals in general (so bears could be considered deer); and couth, which meant known or familiar and now survives only in uncouth.”<sup>6</sup>

### 3 History

#### 3.1 French before 1066

French Vocabulary influenced Middle English so significantly after the Norman Conquest that it is easy to ignore the fact that Old English acquired French loan words as well. It would be surprising if there had been no influence at all, given the close contacts which had intensified in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. English monks studied in France, where the monastic revival had started.

Most importantly, there was close contact between the two cultures following the exile to Normandy of Edward the Confessor (between 1003 and 1005 – 1066), the son of Æthelred II (the unræd, or “ill-advised”) and Emma, daughter of the Duke of Normandy. Edward lived there for 25 years and returned to England in 1041 with French courtiers. Several French nobles were given high positions when he succeeded to the throne. The linguistic consequences were a handful of French loan words, among them *capon* “capon”, *servian* “serve”, *bacon* “bacon”, *arblast* “weapon”, *prison* “prison”, *castel* “castle” and *canclere* “chancellor”.<sup>7</sup>

#### 3.2 The Norman Invasion

“Normans were Norsemen, i.e. the Scandinavian, mainly Danish, raiders who settled on the northern coast of France (on the Lower Seine) in ca. 900. They became Christians and adopted French as their language. In 911 the French king made the ruler of this province the Duke of Normandy.”<sup>8</sup>

The Norman victory at Hastings (1066) changed the face of English forever. King Harold Godwinson was the last Anglo-Saxon king for nearly three hundred years. It must have seemed like a disaster for English. The Normans seized control of their new territory with systematic rigor. Norman castles, built by English workmen, garrisoned by Norman

soldiers and used to hold down the countryside. The English royal family and Harold's court had been destroyed in battle. William purged the English church: Norman bishops and abbots gradually took over in the cathedrals and monasteries. For generations after the Conquest all crucial positions in the country were held by French-speaking Normans.

William was crowned in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066 and this act of triumph, a ceremony that used both French and Latin, symbolized the condition of England for the next two hundred years. William himself spoke French and attempted to learn English, but failed due to lack of available study time. French was established as the smart and Latin as the professional language.

The Norman kings were often totally ignorant of English, although Henry I, who had an English wife, could speak some English. In the upper-class circles, it was considered fashionable to speak French. To this day the use of French words in conversation is thought to show sophistication, or *savoirfaire*.

Though French had the social and cultural prestige, Latin remained the language of religion and learning. The English vernacular survived as the common speech. The mingling of these three traditions can be seen in the case of a word like *kingly*. The Anglo-Saxons had only one word to express this concept, which, they derived from the word *king*. After the Normans, three synonyms enter the language: *royal*, *regal* and *sovereign*.

Why did English survive? The first reason is that the pre-Conquest Old English vernacular, both written and spoken, was too well established and too hardy to be obliterated thanks to the fusion with the Scandinavian languages. The English speakers had a large demographic advantage.

The second reason why English survived is the fact that Normans began to intermarry with those they have conquered. There were French town alongside the English at Norwich and Nottingham. Southampton still has a French Street, one of its thoroughfares in the Middle Ages. One can imagine the situation of a minor Norman knight living in a small manor in

the English countryside surrounded by English peasants, served in the house by English maids and his children playing with English children.

Third, and perhaps the most important, in 1204, the Anglo-Normans lost control of their French territory across the Channel. Many of the Norman nobility were forced to declare allegiance either to France or to England as they held lands in both countries.

In the early years of the thirteenth century, we find English making a comeback at both the written and the spoken level. Church sermons, prayers and carols are expressed in English. More and more records were kept in English, the upper-class Englishmen were keeping up their French only for the sake of appearances. The great silence that had apparently fallen over the written language from 1066 to 1200 began to be broken, at first with a few simple messages and then with a flood of documents. English writings like *The Owl* and *The Nightingale* and the *Ancrene Riwe* are probably the tip of an iceberg of lost manuscripts.<sup>9</sup>

The use of French, however, was not limited. On the contrary, French came to be regarded as the sole language of government records and by 1300 it had virtually replaced Latin in most official documents. Edward III issued an act in 1362 requiring the use of English as the language of the oral proceedings in courts. The records, however, were still made in Latin and the laws were written in French.<sup>10</sup>

### 3.3 Middle English

#### 3.3.1 Norman influence

As the period progressed, so the spelling changed. The Norman scribes listened to English and began to spell it in accordance with the conventions for French, such as *qu* for *cw* (queen for *cwen*). They brought in *gh* (instead of *h*) in such words as *night* and *enough*, and *ch* (instead of *c*) in such words as *church*. They also used *ou* for *u* (as in *house*) and they began to use *c* before *e* (instead of *s*) in such words as *cercle* and *cell*. *U* was replaced by *o* to make words easier to read as *v*, *n*, and *m* were written very similarly and therefore difficult to read. By the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, English spelling was a mixture of two systems, Old English and French.

#### 3.3.2 New spelling conventions

Some of the consonants sounds began to be spelled differently, mainly because the French influence. For example, Old English *sc* /ʃ/ is replaced by *sh* or *sch* (*scip* becomes *ship*), though some dialects use *s*, *ss* or *x*. New conventions for showing long and short vowel sounds came to be marked with an extra vowel letter, as in *see* (earlier *sē*).

#### 3.3.3 New pronunciations

French loan words also introduced new diphthongs, in the form of /oɪ/ and /ʊɪ/ - unusual sounds for English, and the ancestors of modern /ɔɪ/ in *joy*, *point*, etc. The letter [h] has undergone some interesting changes as well. This sound appeared on the beginning of many Old English words, such as *hring* “ring” and *hnecca* “neck”. It was lost early on in the Middle English period and was the first sign of “aitch-dropping”.

### 3.3.4 The French factor

French influence became increasingly apparent in English manuscripts of the thirteenth century. It is estimated that some 10,000 French words entered English at the time. These words were largely found in the fields of law, administration, but also in medicine, art and fashion. Over 70 per cent of the words were nouns, a large number of which were abstract terms, constructed using such new French affixes as *con-*, *trans-*, *pre-*, *-ance*, *-tion*, and *-ment*. Circa 75 per cent of these words are still in the modern language.

As the new words entered English, there were many cases where they duplicated words that had already existed in Anglo-Saxon times. In such cases, there were two possible outcomes. Either one word would replace the other; or both would co-exist, but develop slightly different meanings. For example, *beautiful* replaced *wlitig*, *place* instead of *stow*. Some cases of both words surviving: house (Old English) and mansion (French), or hearty (Old English) and cordial (French).<sup>11</sup>

### 3.3.5 List of French loans in Middle English

#### “Administration

Authority, bailiff, chamberlain, chancellor, constable, coroner, council, court, crown, duke, empire, exchequer, government, liberty, majesty, manor, mayor, messenger, minister, noble, palace, parliament, peasant, prince, realm, reign, revenue, royal, servant, sir, sovereign, squire, statute, tax, traitor, treason, treaty, tyrant, vassal, warden.

#### Law

Accuse, adultery, advocate, arrest, arson, assault, assize, attorney, bail, bar, blame, chattels, convict, crime, decree, depose, estate, evidence, executor, felon, fine, fraud, heir, indictment, inquest, jail, judge, jury,

justice, larceny, legacy, libel, pardon, perjury, plaintiff, plea, prison, punishment, sue, summons, trespass, verdict, warrant.

### Religion

Abbey, anoint, baptism, cardinal, cathedral, chant, chaplain, charity, clergy, communion, confess, convent, creator, crucifix, divine, faith, friar, heresy, homily, immortality, incense, mercy, miracle, novice, ordain, parson, penance, prayer, prelate, priory, religion, repent, sacrament, sacrilege, saint, salvation, savior, schism, sermon, solemn, temptation, theology, trinity, vicar, virgin, virtue.

### Military

Ambush, archer, army, barbican, battle, besiege, captain, combat, defend, enemy, garrison, guard, hauberk, lance, lieutenant, moat, navy, peace, portcullis, retreat, sergeant, siege, soldier, spy, vanquish.

### Food and drink

Appetite, bacon, beef, biscuit, clove, confection, cream, cruet, date, dinner, feast, fig, fruit, fry, grape, gravy, gruel, herb, jelly, lemon, lettuce, mackerel, mince, mustard, mutton, olive, orange, oyster, pigeon, plate, pork, poultry, raisin, repast, roast, salad, salmon, sardine, saucer, sausage, sole, spice, stew, sturgeon, sugar, supper, tart, taste, toast, treacle, tripe, veal, venison, vinegar.

### Fashion

Apparel, attire, boots, brooch, buckle, button, cape, chemise, cloak, collar, diamond, dress, embroidery, emerald, ermine, fashion, frock, fur, garment, garter, gown, jewel, lace, mitten, ornament, pearl, petticoat, pleat, robe, satin, taffeta, tassel, train, veil, wardrobe.

### Leisure and the arts

Art, beauty, carol, chess, colour, conversation, courser, dalliance, dance, falcon, fool, harness, image, jollity, joust, juggler, kennel, lay, leisure, literature, lute, melody, minstrel, music, noun, painting, palfrey, paper, parchment, park, partridge, pavilion, pen, pheasant, poet, preface, prose, recreation, rein, retrieve, revel, rhyme, romance, sculpture, spaniel, stable, stallion, story, tabor, terrier, title, tournament, tragedy, trot, vellum, volume.

### Science and learning

Alkali, anatomy, arsenic, calendar, clause, copy, gender, geometry, gout, grammar, jaundice, leper, logic, medicine, metal, noun, ointment, pain, physician, plague, pleurisy, poison, pulse, sphere, square, stomach, study, sulphur, surgeon, treatise.

### The home

Basin, blanket, bucket, ceiling, cellar, chair, chamber, chandelier, chimney, closet, couch, counterpane, curtain, cushion, garret, joist, kennel, lamp, lantern, latch, lattice, pantry, parlour, pillar, porch, quilt, scullery, towel, tower, turret.

### General nouns

Action, adventure, affection, age, air, city, coast, comfort, country, courage, courtesy, cruelty, debt, deceit, dozen, envy, error, face, fault, flower, forest, grief, honour, hour, joy, labour, manner, marriage, mischief, mountain, noise, number, ocean, opinion, order, pair, people, person, piece, point, poverty, power, quality, rage, reason, river, scandal, season, sign, sound, spirit, substance, task, tavern, unity, vision.



### General adjectives

Active, amorous, blue, brown, calm, certain, clear, common, cruel, curious, eager, easy, final, foreign, gay, gentle, honest, horrible, large, mean, natural, nice, original, perfect, poor, precious, probable, real, rude, safe, scarce, scarlet, second, simple, single, solid, special, strange, sudden, sure, usual.

### General verbs

Advise, allow, arrange, carry, change, close, continue, cry, deceive, delay, enjoy, enter, form, grant, inform, join, marry, move, obey, pass, pay, please, prefer, prove, push, quit, receive, refuse, remember, reply, satisfy, save, serve, suppose, travel, trip, wait, waste.

### Turns or phrase

By heart, come to a head, do homage, do justice to, have mercy on, hold one's peace, make complaint, on the point of, take leave, take pity on."<sup>12</sup>

"How can we evaluate the influence of French on English?

In lexicology, this question is very difficult to answer. This language is fundamentally connected with Norman and Latin, and therefore determining whether a loan word is purely French is not an easy task. Norman French, as one of the old French dialects, has pervaded Anglo-Saxon in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but the influx of Romance words deteriorates significantly after 1400."<sup>13</sup>

## **4 The linguistic analysis of current English texts**

Several samples were picked in order to illustrate occurrence of French-originating words in modern English texts. The following samples were taken from history, science, art and law-themed works. With the help of an online etymology dictionary every word within the text was examined in order to explore the prominence of words of French origin in contemporary English.

### **4.1 History: William the Conqueror**

“William, Duke of Normandy, the Conqueror, was then nearly forty years old; but it is difficult to say much more about him as a man with any certainty. He seems to have been about five feet ten inches in height, far taller than his minute wife, very strong and rather fat with reddish hair and a harsh, guttural voice. He was violent, domineering, calculating and avaricious, a man to fear. But he was abstemious, a pious Christian and, illegitimate himself, a faithful husband.

Vikings by origin and Vikings still by inclination – so holds one side in a continuing debate – he and his followers invaded England do deprive the island’s people of their liberty, to kill their brave and noble King Harold, “the hero and the martyr of our native freedom”. This was the testament according to Professor E. A. Freeman whose classic History of the Norman Conquest was published in five volumes in 1870-9. Another eminent Victorian, Thomas Carlyle, proposed a different interpretation: the Normans dragged us out of our primeval squalor. For what had the English been before they came? “A gluttonous race of Jutes and Angles, capable of no great combinations, lumbering about in pot-bellied equanimity”.

Modern scholars rightly warn us to be on our guard against the

misconceptions of this ancient and persistent polemical tradition, to recognize both the achievements of Anglo-Saxon culture and the benefits, as well as the ruthlessness, of Norman conquest.

Certainly William was not prepared to be merciful in his subjugation of his English enemies. His claim to the English throne, endorsed by the Pope, was genealogically stronger than the claims of his rivals; and he was determined to enforce it, to overwhelm all those who refused to recognize his victory at Hastings had turned England into a Norman kingdom. For the moment this kingdom was far from secure: the Earls of Northumbria and Mercia both declined to submit, retiring to the north with the idea of proclaiming King Edward's young nephew, Edgar, as King Harold's successor; both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York supported the proclamation of Edgar as Harold's rightful heir; King Edward's widow remained in control of the old West Saxon capital of Winchester; and the gates of London, the key to England's dominance, were closed against the Norman invader.

Understanding the importance of London, and accepting the difficulties of attacking so large and well-defended a town with the few thousand knights and archers he could lead against it, William decided to surround it. After setting fire to the wooden buildings in the suburb of Southwark on the south bank, he marched west into Berkshire, then northeast to Berkhamstead, devastating the countryside on the way; and once London had been isolated, his enemies, as he had hoped they would, submitted one by one, followed by all the chief men of London, and they gave hostages to him, and he promised that he would be a gracious liege Lord", a ruler who would treat them justly if they gave him their service. He entered London shortly before Christmas; and on Christmas Day he was crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey where the shouts of acclaim were mistaken for calls for rebellion by the Norman soldiers on guard outside who began killing English spectators.

In places the fight against the Normans long continued; and

William, who went back to Normandy three months after his coronation, had to return to England to put down revolts occasioned by the behavior of the more rapacious of his barons, the powerful magnates, mostly brutal men who from such evidence as has come down to us appear to have been distinguished by moustaches of a monstrous size sprouting on either side of their iron nose guards. On his return to England, William showed scant mercy: great tracts of countryside were laid waste, and towns as far apart as Exeter and Durham were made to suffer his wrath. In the north hundreds of square miles were devastated and whole villages destroyed. In revenge the English “here and there lay in wait in woods and secluded places secretly to slay [the hated Normans] as opportunity might offer”. And in retaliation the Normans introduced a Law of Englishry which decreed that a corpse was to be presumed to be that of a Norman unless it could be proven to be that of an Englishman and, on that presumption, a heavy fine was to be paid by the village nearest to the place where the body had been found. No fines were levied for dead Englishmen. It was not until the end of the twelfth century that it became difficult to tell the difference between the one race and the other. By then they had “lived so long together and [had] intermarried and become so intermingled” that contemporaries could “scarce distinguish [any more] betwixt Englishmen and Normans”.<sup>14</sup>

#### 4.1.1 Table of nouns (a)

(AF = Anglo-French, OF = Old French, MF = Middle French)

Each word was examined with the help of the online etymological dictionary [etymonline.com](http://etymonline.com).

Word	Period	AF/OF/MF	Latin	Note
duke	early 12c.	OF duc	dux	leader

Conqueror	c. 1300	OF conqueror		conquæstor
certainty	c. 1300	OF certeinete	cernitatem	
voice	late 13c.	OF voiz	vocem	
faith	mid-13c.	OF feid, foi	fides	from root of <i>fidere</i>
origin	c. 1400	OF origine	originem	
inclination	late 14c.	MF inclination	inclinationem	“action of bending toward” is from early 15c.
debate	early 14c.	OF debat		
people	late 13c.	OF peupel	populus	
liberty	late 14c.	OF liberte		
hero	late 14c.	OF heroe	heros	“man who exhibits great bravery” in English from 1660s
professor	late 14c.	OF professeur	professor	
history	late 14c.	OF estorie	historia	In Middle English, not differentiated from story
volume	late 14c.	OF volume	volume	
interpretation	mid-14c.	OF interpretacion	interpretationem	
glutton	early 13c.	OF gloton	gluttonem	
race	c. 1300	MF race, razza		1774 “one of the great divisions of mankind based on physical peculiarities”
combination	late 14c.	OF combination	combinationem	
equanimity	c. 1600	équinité	aequamitatem	
guard	early 15c.	MF garder		sword-play and fisticuffs sense is from 1590s

conception (+mis)	early 14c.	OF conception	conceptionem	originally in the womb sense
tradition	late 14c.	OF tradicion	traditionem	
achievement	late 15c.	MF achievement		
culture	mid-15c.	MF culture	cultura	“cultivation through education” is first attested c. 1500
benefit	late 14c.	AF benfet	benefactum	“good deed”
mercy (+ful)	late 12c.	OF mercit, merci		
enemy	early 13c.	OF enemi	inimicus	“adversary, for; the Devil”
claim	early 14c.	OF claime		“thing claimed or demanded” is from 1792
throne	c. 1200	OF trone		
victory	c. 1300	AF victorie	victoria	
moment	mid-14c.	OF moment	momentum	
nephew	c. 1300	OF neveu	nepotem	
heir	c. 1300	OF oir	heredem	
importance	c. 1500	MF importance	importatia	
archer	late 13c.	OF archier	arcarius	
suburb	early 14c.	OF suburbe	suburbium	
hostage	late 13c.	OF ostage		uncertain origin
liege	late 14c.	OF lige (adj.)		from a noun use of the adjective OF liege
service	c. 1100	OF servise	servitum	
abbey	mid-13c.	AF abbey	abaie	
rebellion	mid-14c.	OF rebellion	rebellionem	
soldier	c. 1300	OF soudier	soldarius	
place	c. 1200	OF place	platea	
revolt	1550s	MF révolte		back-

				formation from revolter
baron	c. 1200	OF baron	baro	
evidence	c. 1300	OF evidence	evidential	
moustache	1580s	MF moustache		from Italian mostaccio, from Greek moustakion
size	c. 1300	OF sise (from assise)		
return	late 14c.	OF retorne		
waste	c. 1200	AF wast	vastum	
village	late 14c.	OF vilage	villactum	
opportunity	late 14c.	OF opportunitate	opportunitatem	
decree	early 14c.	OF decre	decretum	
corps(e)	late 13c.	OF cors	corpus	Sense in English evolved to “live body” (14c.), “body of citizens” (15c.)
fine	c. 1200	OF fin	finis	

#### 4.1.2 Table of adjectives (a)

word	period	OF/MF/AF	Latin	note
difficult	late 14c.	AF difficulté	difficultatem	
minute	late 14c.	OF minut	minuta	
very	late 13c.	verrai		
guttural	1590s	MF guttural	guttur	
violent	mid-14c.	OF violent	violentus	
avaricious	late 15c.	OF avaricious		
brave	late 15c.	MF brave	bravus	originally “wild, savage”
noble	c. 1200	OF noble	nobilis	“distinguished by

				rank, title or birth” first recorded late 13c.
native	c. 1200	OF natif	nativus	
classic	1610s	classique	classicus	
eminent	early 15c.	OF éminent	eminentem	
capable	1560s	MF capable	capabilis	
modern	c. 1500	MF modern	modernus	
ancient	mid- 14c.	OF ancien	anteanus	adjectivization of Latin ante “before, in front of”
polemic	1640s	polémique	polemikos	
close	late 14c.	OF clos	clauses	
large	c. 1200	OF large	largus	
isolated	1740	isolé	insulates	
gracious	c. 1300	OF gracious	gratiosus	meaning “benevolent” from late 14c.
just	late 14c.	OF juste	iustus	
monstrous	mid- 15c.	MF monstreux	monstruosus	

#### 4.1.3 Table of verbs (a)

word	period	AF/OF/MF	Latin	note
continue	mid-14c.	OF continuer	continuare	
deprive	mid-14c.	OF depriver	deprivare	
publish	mid-14c.	OF publier	publicare	
propose	mid-14c.	OF proposer		meaning “make an offer of marriage” is first recorded 1764
recognize	early 15c.	OF reconoiss-, stem of reconoistre	recognoscere	
prepare	mid-15c.	back- formation	praeparationem	



		from preparation		
endorse	c. 1400	OF endosser	indorsare	
determine	mid-14c.	OF enforcer		
refuse	c. 1300	OF refuser	refusare	
decline	late 14c.	OF decliner	declinare	
retire	1530s	MF retirer		from re- "back", + OF tirer "to draw"
support	late 14c.	OF supporter		
control	early 14c.	AF contreroller	contrarotulus	
accept	late 14c.	OF accepter	acceptare	
attack	c. 1600	from French attaquer		from Florentine Italian attaccare "join (battle)"
defend	mid-13c.	OF defender		
decide	late 14c.	OF decider	decidere	
surround	early 15c.	MF soronder		
march	early 15c.	OF marchier		
devastate	1630s	MF devaster		perhaps a back- formation from devastation, apparently not common until 19c.
treat	c. 1300	OF traitier	tractare	
enter	late 13c.	OF entrer	intrare	
crown	late 12c.	OF coroner		
occasion	mid-15c.	OF occasionner		from occasion (noun)
appear	late 13c.	from stem of OF aparoir	apparere	
suffer	mid-13c.	OF sofrir		
destroy	early 13c.	OF destruire	destruere	
levy	early 13c.	OF levee		

## 4.2 The Law: The Declaration of Independence

“The Constitution of the United States of America

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article. I. Section. 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section. 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature. No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen. [Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of 10 11 Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.] The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative;

and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three. When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies. The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.”

#### 4.2.1 Table of nouns (b)

word	period	AF/OF/MF	Latin	note
constitution	mid-14c.	OF constitucion	constutionem	meaning “act of establishing” is from 1580s
people	late 13c.	OF peupel	populus	
order	early 13c.	OF ordre, ordene	ordinem	meaning “a rank in the (secular) community” is first recorded c. 1300, “command” is first recorded 1540s
union	early 15c.	OF union	unionem	
justice	mid-12c.	OF justice	Iustitia	
tranquility	late 14c.	OF tranquilite	tranquillitatem	
defense	c. 1300	OF defense	defensus	
liberty	late 14c.	OF liberte	libertatem	
article	c. 1200	OF article	articulus	meaning “literary composition in a journal etc.” first

				recorded 1712
section	late 14c.	OF section	sectionem	
senate	c. 1200	OF senat	senates	
member	late 13c.	OF member	membrum	sense of “person belonging to a group” is first attested 14c.
election	c. 1300	OF elecion	electionem	
branch	c. 1300	OF branche	branca	replaced native bough; meaning “local office of a business” first recorded 1817
person	early 13c.	OF persone	persona	
age	late 13c.	OF aage	aetatem	
citizen	early 14c.	OF citeien		replaced Old English burhsittend and ceasterware
inhabitant	early 15c.	AF inhabitant	inhabitem	
tax	early 14c.	OF taxe	taxa	
enumeration	1550s	MF énumération	enumerationem	
number	c. 1300	OF nombre	numerus	
providence	late 14c.	OF providence	provedentia	
plantation	mid-15c.	MF plantation	plantationem	
power	c. 1300	OF povoir		meaning “specific ability or capability” is from early 15c.
bill	mid-14c.	AF bille	bullia	
revenue	early	MF revenue	revenire	

	15c.			
president	late 14c.	OF president	praesidentum	
journal	mid-14c.	OF jornal	diurnalis	
case	early 13c.	OF cas	casus	
order	early 13c.	OF ordre		
resolution	late 14c.	OF resolution	resolutionem	sense of “a solving” first recorded 1540s;
manner	c. 1200	OF maniere	manuarius	
objection	late 14c.	OF objeccion “reply”, “retort”	objectionem	

#### 4.2.2 Table of adjectives (b)

Word	Period	AF/OF/MF	Latin	Note
perfect	early 15c.	OF parfit	perfectus	
common	c. 1300	OF comun	communis	
general	c. 1200	OF general	generalis	
representative	late 14c.	OF representatif	representativus	
second	c. 1300	OF second	secundus	
subsequent	mid-15c.	MF subsequent	subsequentem	
necessary	late 14c.	OF necessaire	necessarius	

#### 4.2.3 Table of verbs (b)

Word	Period	AF/OF/MF	Latin	Note
form	c. 1300	OF former	formare	
establish	late 14c.	OF establiss- , present participle stem of establr		

insure (spelling variant of ensure)	mid-15c.	OF ensurer		en- “make” + seur, sur “safe secure”
ordain	late 13c.	OF ordener	ordinare	
grant (in earlier use also graunt)	early 13c.	OF graanter	credentem	
vest	early 15c.	OF vestir	vestire	“to invest”
consist	1520s	MF consistere	consistere	
compose	c. 1400	OF composer	pausare	musical sense is from 1590s
attain	c. 1300	OF ataindre	attangere	
apportion	1570s	OF aporcioner		
determine	mid-14c.	OF determiner	determinare	
issue	mid-14c.	OF issu		“to flow out”, “come or go”
propose	mid-14c.	OF proposer		
pass	late 13c.	OF passer	passare	
approve	c. 1300	OF approver	approbare	
sign	c. 1300	OF signier	signare	
adjourn	early 14c.	OF ajourner		from the phrase a jorn “to a stated day”
return	early 14c.	OF retorner		re- “back” + torner “to turn”

(<http://www.etymonline.com>)

### 4.3 French phrases used in English

à la \,ä-lə- ' , , a-lə- \ in the manner of style; a poem á la Byron<sup>15</sup>

à la mode /,ɑ lə 'moud, ,æ l ə-/ - a phrase meaning according to the fashion, braised with vegetables in wine or served with ice cream (chiefly in US and Canada)<sup>16</sup>

acquis communautaire [a,ki kɔmyno'tɛ:ʁ] The "acquis communautaire" is a very important concept in the European Union. It covers all treaties, EU legislation, international agreements, standards, court verdicts, fundamental rights provisions and horizontal principles in the treaties such as equality and non-discrimination. In short: EU-law.<sup>17</sup>

aide-de-camp \,ād-di-'kɑmp, -'kɑn\ – a military officer who assists another high-ranking officer<sup>18</sup>

aide-mémoire \,eidmɛm'wɑ:\ - an aid to the memory, esp. a book or note  
amour propre \,a-,mʊr-'prɔpr<sup>ə</sup>, ,ä-, -'prɔpr<sup>ə</sup>\ - self-esteem<sup>19</sup>

apéritif or aperitif - \ə-,per-ə-'tɛf, a-; ,ä-pər-(ə-)'tɛf\ -an alcoholic drink that people drink before eating a meal<sup>20</sup>

attaché \,a-tə-'shā, ,a-,ta-, ə-,ta-\ - a person who works at an embassy as an expert on a particular subject<sup>21</sup>

au contraire \ō-kōn-trer\ - on the contrary<sup>22</sup>

au pair \əʊ 'pɛ:\ - a young person (usually a young woman) from a foreign country who lives with a family and helps to care for children and do housework in return for the opportunity to learn the family's language<sup>23</sup>

beaucoup \'bō-(,)kü\ - great in quantity or amount<sup>24</sup>

belle \'bel\ beautiful woman well-dressed<sup>25</sup>

bon appétit \bó-nä-pā-tē\ - enjoy your meal<sup>26</sup>

bon mot \bōn-'mō\ - a clever remark<sup>27</sup>

bon voyage \,bōn-,vói-'äzh \ - a phrase said to people who are going away, meaning “I hope you have a safe and enjoyable journey”<sup>28</sup>

boulevard \ 'bü-lə-,vård, 'bü- also 'bə-\ - a wide and usually important street that often has trees, grass or flowers planted down its center or along sides<sup>29</sup>

bourgeois \ 'bürzh-,wä also 'büzh- or 'büzh- or bürzh-\ - of French middle class, sense of „socially or aesthetically conventional” is from 1764<sup>30</sup>

brunette \brü-'net\ - a person with dark (brown) hair<sup>31</sup>

bureau \ 'byür-(,)ō,\ - a government department or part of a government department in the U.S.; an office of a newspaper, etc., that is not the main office but it is in an important city<sup>32</sup>

cache \ 'kash\ - a group of things that have been hidden in a secret place because they are illegal or have been stolen  
- a part of computer’s memory where information is kept so that the computer can find it very quickly<sup>33</sup>

café \ka-'fā, kə-\ - a restaurant serving coffee and other beverages with baked goods and light meals<sup>34</sup>

calque \ 'kalk\ - loan translation<sup>35</sup>

c'est la vie \se-lä-vē\ - that’s life; that’s how things happen<sup>36</sup>

chauffeur \ 'shō-fər, shō-\ - a person whose job is to drive people



around in a car<sup>37</sup>

chic \ 'shēk\ fashionable style<sup>38</sup>

cliché \klē-'shā, 'klē-, , kli-'\ - a phrase or expression that has been used so often that it is no longer original or interesting - something that is so commonly used in books, stories, etc., that it is no longer effective<sup>39</sup>

clique \ 'klēk, 'klik\ - a small group of people who spend time together and who are not friendly to other people<sup>40</sup>

commandant \ 'kā-mən-, dānt, -, dant\ - an officer who is in charge of a group of soldiers in the military<sup>41</sup>

concordat \kən-'kōr-, dat\ - an agreement between a pope and a sovereign or government for the regulation of ecclesiastical matters<sup>42</sup>

coquette \kō-'ket\ - a woman who likes to win the attention or admiration of men but does not have serious feelings for them<sup>43</sup>

coup d'état \,kü-(,)dā-'tā, 'kü-(,)dā-, , -də-\ - a sudden attempt by a small group of people to take over the government usually through violence<sup>44</sup>

coup de grâce \,kü-də-'grās\ - an action or event that finally ends or destroys something that has been getting weaker or worse

- a hit or shot that kills a person or animal that is suffering<sup>45</sup>

crème fraîche \ˈkrem-ˈfresh a/so ˈkrēm- or ˈkrām-\ - a thick cream that is slightly sour and often served on fruit<sup>46</sup>

critique \krə-ˈtēk, kri-\ - a careful judgment in which you give your opinion about the good and bad parts of something (such as a piece of writing or a work of art)<sup>47</sup>

croissant \krō-ˈsānt, krə-; krwä-ˈsäːn\ - a type of roll that has a curved shape and that is usually eaten at breakfast<sup>48</sup>

déclassé \,dā-,kla-ˈsā, -,klä-\ -Fallen or lowered in class, rank, or social position<sup>49</sup>

décor \dā-ˈkôr, di-ˈ; ˈde-,kôr, ˈdā-\ - the way that a room or the inside of a building is decorated<sup>50</sup>

déjà vu \,dā-,zhä-ˈvü, -ˈvue\ - the feeling that you have already experienced something that is actually happening for the first time<sup>51</sup>

eau de toilette \,ō-də-twä-ˈlet\ - a perfumed liquid containing a lower percentage of fragrant oils than is contained in ordinary perfume or eau de parfum —called also *toilet water*<sup>52</sup>

en garde \än-gärd\ - on guard<sup>53</sup>

en route \än(n)-ˈrüt, en-, in-, -ˈraüt\ - on or along the way<sup>54</sup>

entrée \ˈän-,trā a/so än-\ - the main dish of a meal especially in a restaurant<sup>55</sup>

entrepreneur \,ä'n-trə-p(r)ə-'nər, -'n(y)ür\ - a person who starts a business<sup>56</sup>

étude \ 'ā-,tüd, -,tyüd\ - a piece of music for the practice of a point of technique<sup>57</sup>

faux pas \ 'fō-,pä, fō-'\ - an embarrassing social mistake<sup>58</sup>

fiancé \,fē-,än-'sā, fē-'än-,\ - a man engaged to be married<sup>59</sup>

fiancée \,fē-,än-'sā, fē-'än-,\ - a woman engaged to be married<sup>60</sup>

genre \ 'zhän-rə, 'zhän-; 'zhänr; 'jän-rə\ - a particular type or category of literature or art<sup>61</sup>

Grand Prix \ 'grän-'prē\ - the highest level of international equestrian competition; *also*: a contest at this level<sup>62</sup>

joie de vivre \,zhwä-də-'vēvrə\ - a feeling of happiness or excitement about life<sup>63</sup>

Mardi gras \ 'mär-dē-,grä \ - the Tuesday before the beginning of Lent that is often celebrated with parades and parties<sup>64</sup>

mêlée (melee) \ 'mā-,lā, mā-'\ - a confused struggle or fight involving many people<sup>65</sup>

montage \män-'täzh, mō<sup>n</sup>(n)-\ - a work of art that is made up of several different kinds of things (such as strips of newspaper, pictures, or pieces of wood)<sup>66</sup>

motif \mō-'tēf\ - something (such as an important idea or subject) that is repeated throughout a book, story, etc.<sup>67</sup>

né, née \ 'nā\ - used after a married woman's name to identify the family name that she had before she was born<sup>68</sup>

nouveau \nü-'vō\ - newly arrived or developed<sup>69</sup>

par excellence \ 'pär-, ek-sə-'läns\ - better than all others<sup>70</sup>

parkour \pär-'kür, 'pär-, kür\ - the sport of traversing environmental obstacles by running, climbing, or leaping rapidly and efficiently<sup>71</sup>

parole \pə-'rōl\ - permission given to a prisoner to leave prison before the end of a sentence usually as a reward for behaving well<sup>72</sup>

poseur \pō-'zər, 'pō-zər\ - a person who pretends to be what he or she is not : an affected or insincere person<sup>73</sup>

protége \ 'prō-tə-, zhā, ,prō-tə-\ - a young person who is taught and helped by someone who has a lot of knowledge and experience<sup>74</sup>

reconnaissance \ri-'kä-nə-zən(t)s, -sən(t)s\ - military activity in which soldiers, airplanes, etc., are sent to find out information about an enemy<sup>75</sup>

renaissance \,re-nə-'sän(t)s, -'zän(t)s \ - the period of European history between the 14th and 17th centuries when there was a new interest in science and in ancient art and literature especially in Italy<sup>76</sup>

répertoire \ 're-pə(r)-,twär\ - all the plays, songs, dances, etc., that a performer or group of performers knows and can perform<sup>77</sup>

reportage \ri-'pör-tij \ - the act or process of reporting news<sup>78</sup>

riposte \ri-'pōst\ - a quick and clever reply<sup>79</sup>

sabotage \ 'sa-bə-,täzh\ - an act or process tending to hamper or hurt<sup>80</sup>

savant \sa-vənt\ - a person who knows a lot about a particular subject<sup>81</sup>

silhouette \,si-lə-'wet\ - the shape or outline of something<sup>82</sup>

touché \tü-'shā\ - used to admit that someone has made a clever or effective point in an argument<sup>83</sup>

voilà \vwä-'lä\ used when something is being presented or shown to someone<sup>84</sup>

## 5 Abstract

The topic of this bachelor's thesis is a description of the historical events that led to enriching the English language with a vast number of French loan words and contains an analysis of modern articles.

In the beginning of this work, borrowing and few other types of word formation are defined and illustrated by examples.

Historically significant was the Norman Conquest that took place in 1066, when William the Conqueror and his soldiers landed on the shores of Britain. This work offers an explanation who the Normans actually were and why they spoke French. After this, events until 1362, when the English king attempted to renew the usage of English at court, are described.

The next chapter deals with Middle English, the predecessor of Modern English. The work describes a few phonetic and pronunciation changes in the Middle English. A list of French loanwords can be found at the end of this chapter.

The fourth chapter is a collection of text-samples taken from several sources and with the use of an online etymology dictionary words of French origin were identified and briefly commented on. It can be observed that modern English text contain a massive portion of Romance words that had entered the English language chiefly after the events of 1066 and shifted the language to a phase called Middle English. Text-samples from a history book and the American Declaration of Independence were selected to illustrate the importance of Romance vocabulary in English as we know it today. These two texts are followed by tables that contain French-originating words with etymological information. The tables are divided into nouns, adjectives and verbs. Lastly, a number of commonly used French phrases are listed in alphabetical order.

## 6 Resumé

Tématem této bakalářské práce je jednak popis historických událostí, vedoucích k velkému množství francouzských výpůjček v anglickém jazyce a jednak analýza anglicky psaných textů.

Na začátku této práce je definice výpůjček a několika dalších typů vzniku nových slov a to vše je doplněno příklady.

Z historického hlediska se jedná o období ovládnutí Anglie Normany, k němuž došlo v roce 1066, kdy se Vilém Dobyvatel se svými vojáky vylodil v Anglii. V práci je vysvětleno, kdo vlastně byli Normané a proč hovoří francouzsky. Dále následuje vyprávění do roku 1362, kdy byly snahy o znovuzavedení angličtiny do soudních síní.

Další kapitola se zabývá Middle English (střední angličtina), což je předchůdce moderní angličtiny. V práci je uvedeno několik příkladů fonetických změn jazyka i změn v psaném projevu. Na konci této kapitoly se nachází seznam francouzských výpůjček, které střední angličtina převzala.

Čtvrtá kapitola „lingvistická analýza“ obsahuje dva texty – jeden z knihy zabývající se historií Anglie a druhý je úryvkem z Deklarace nezávislosti Spojených států amerických. U každého slova z těchto textů bylo pomocí online etymologického slovníku zjištěno, zdali jsou staroanglická či francouzského původu. Případy, u nichž bylo zjištěno, že do angličtiny pronikly díky francouzštině, jsou uvedeny v tabulce s dalšími informacemi.

Poslední obsahově relevantní částí je alfabetycky řazený seznam běžně používaných francouzských frází, k jejichž vysvětlení byl použit převážně online slovník a thesaurus Merriam-Webster.

## 7 Endnotes

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