
THE LEXICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANADIAN FRENCH INFLUENCED BY LANGUAGE INTERFERENCE

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10884607>

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Annotation

The article explores the evolution of the French language in Canada over an extended duration, influenced by English. It examines the primary linguistic aspects of French that have been impacted by English. The central focus is on investigating the linguistic elements contributing to the emergence of Canadianisms within Canada's bilingual environment, stemming from language interference. It defines "Canadianism" and delves into how universal word-formation processes contribute to shaping Canadianisms as unique lexical units.

Key words

Canadian French, affixation, bilingual society

Introduction. As Canada underwent industrialization, a growing number of French Canadians migrated to urban areas for employment opportunities, where they encountered the English language predominantly owned by Anglo-Canadians, given that most industrial and commercial enterprises were under Anglo-Canadian ownership. To this day, the French language in Canada remains closely intertwined with English, experiencing significant influence over the centuries due to the political, economic, and cultural reliance of French Canadians on English Canadians.

Consequently, from the late 18th century onwards, English became the de facto language for public policy, economics, education, and culture in Canada, while French predominantly remained the language of rural populations and urban areas. It was only in the 1960s and 1970s of the 20th century that the French language attained official status in Canada: firstly, in 1969, followed by further legislative measures in 1974 solidifying its official recognition. In 1977, the "Charter of the French Language" was enacted, delineating guidelines for its usage across various communication domains. Simultaneously, the "Office of the French Language" was established in 1961 with the objective of standardizing Canadian

French to meet contemporary societal demands. A primary focus of this effort was combatting Anglicisms, as English borrowings were perceived to undermine the integrity of the French language in Canada. In essence, Canada recognized the tangible threat posed by the English language during that period, evident not only within public consciousness but also at the governmental level.

According to various dictionaries compiled during the 20th century, the Canadian variant of the French language incorporated numerous English loanwords. Primarily, these borrowings encompass terms and phrases associated with the realms of politics, economics, and industry, domains historically dominated by the English-speaking population of the country. Moreover, over an extended period, Canadian French assimilated many English words of everyday usage, leading to the development of a diverse lexicon rich in emotionally expressive content.

Despite the extensive borrowed vocabulary, there is no discernible process of "Britishization" evident in either the structural framework or the spoken usage of Canadian French. Put differently, the influence of the English language on Canadian French does not entail significant alterations in the content and expression of grammatical categories or sentence structure. Essentially, the speech patterns of French Canadians primarily involve the integration of select foreign words and expressions, with minimal instances of code-switching observed in bilingual speech.

Studying English and French in Canada holds significant importance, as the English language in Canada undergoes constant influence from the second official language, French, which in turn impacts the French language. This unique bilingual situation in the territory results in mutual influence and enrichment between two linguistically distinct languages, leading to interference at various linguistic levels.

Methodology. This study fragment focuses on examining the word formation characteristics specific to Canadianisms borrowed from English into Canadian French.

It's crucial to clarify that by Canadianism, we refer to a lexical unit of French origin that has become a linguistic and lexicographic feature of each respective language in Canada.

Renowned Canadian linguist S. Dollinger, in his article "Canadian English," delineates four types of Canadianisms identified during the preparatory stages for the creation of a "Dictionary of Canadianisms based on Historical Principles":

- 1) Canadianisms originating within the territory of Canada;

2) Canadianisms preserved in Canada (words maintaining their original meanings from the source languages);

3) Lexical units undergoing semantic changes within Canada;

4) Culturally specific terms.

However, certain elements of the English language have managed to permeate deeply into Canadian French. Basic units of English vocabulary occasionally find their way into the local variant of the French language, encountering genuine equivalents and paving the way for their integration. It's worth noting that this vocabulary isn't borrowed due to terminological deficiencies or the absence of corresponding concepts in the borrowing culture. Rather, it primarily stems from the communicative habits of bilingual individuals who utilize one language or the other in various communicative contexts. This situation is particularly common among French Canadians residing in provinces with predominantly English-speaking populations, such as Ontario.

Analysis and results. All aspects of the language have been influenced by English: phonetically, there's a notable weakening of the typical tension in pronunciation characteristic of the French language; lexically, there are direct borrowings of words, mainly to describe new concepts and objects, along with shifts in the meanings of French words under the influence of similar English words that were originally borrowed from French but underwent different paths of semantic development; additionally, new suffix formations have emerged from English roots. While the influence of English syntax on the construction of French phrases may be less apparent, it does occur. Furthermore, there are instances of direct lexico-grammatical calques.

In our analysis, affixation primarily manifests through suffixation, governed by the following word-formation model: $n + -s = n \text{ noun.} + \text{suffix} = \text{noun.}$

For instance:

Bat + -te = batte.

The examined material highlights several French suffixes, including -te, -age, -eur, -ie, -ment, and -ne.

The Canadianism "batte" (meaning "stick for hitting the ball") is derived from the English noun "bat" (meaning "bat" or "blow") by adding the French suffix -te, resulting in a narrowing of semantics, specifically a specialization of the newly formed lexeme.

Similarly, the term "blastage" (referring to "gusty wind") found in Canada, is formed by adding the suffix -age to the English word "blast" (which means "strong

gust of wind," "blast wave," or "disease"). Here too, a comparison of meaning volumes reveals a specialization of meaning.

The most productive suffix observed in our material is -eur, which forms a noun from a verb and carries the meaning of "actor" or "doer" in French. This productivity is attributed to the significant influence of the English language on French vocabulary. French linguist P. Lerat suggests that the stability of the -eur suffix is upheld by borrowings from English ending in the suffix -er. Lerat discusses a new trend of "relatinization" occurring in modern French vocabulary, based on French morphology rather than Latin, often influenced by English borrowings of Romance origin, referred to as Anglo-Americanisms.

Conclusion. In summary, the English language has exerted a significant influence on Canadian French. Given the constant interaction between the languages, with English holding a predominant position, numerous borrowings have emerged in French. Furthermore, English has impacted not only vocabulary, as observed with Indigenous languages, but also phonetics, grammar, and word formation, affecting all levels of the language.

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