

CELTIC AND LATIN BORROWINGS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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The English vocabulary is of tripartite nature:

- native words;
- borrowed words;
- hybrids.

Native words are the oldest part of vocabulary going back to the West Germanic dialects brought to Britain in the 5th centuries. They are very old, essential and polyfunctional; they make new words and expressions.

Loan-words, or borrowings, make the major of the vocabulary.

The source is a language which gives a word to a taker. Origin is a place where a word was born.

E.g. Paper : Egypt (the origin) -> Latin -> Greek -> French (the source) -> English

Among the sources of borrowings we come across Celtic elements which belongs to the Romantic group. The Celtic element in the English wordstock is very small (170 words). Among the words which may be regarded as Celtic loan words are the following :

- English : down 'hill' - Old Irish : dun
- English : bin - Gael : benn ; Welsh : ben ; etc.

The word 'cumb' is found in some place-names: e.g. Duncombe, Batcombe, Eastcomb etc.

Some Celtic words have survived in the names of rivers, mountains, towns :

e.g. English : Avon, the name of a river; also Stratford-on-Avon, the birthplace of Shakespeare (Gael : amhuim "river"). Celtic words may be found among the proper names: e.g. Donald (вождь), Arthur (благородный) , etc.

There are four chronological layers of Latin words in English :

