

WORD PROCESSING TASK

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WORD FORMATION IN ENGLISH

Introduction.

1. Firstly, look at borrowing
2. Secondly, look at coinage

1. Words borrowed or adopted

- a) General - English is good at this - very willing to adopt whenever it can.

E.g. - typhoon from Chinese

slogan from Gaelic

sofa from Arabic

croissant and piano are also borrowed - from where?

- b) Twins and Triplets - On occasions the Latin root gives birth to one, two or three related words in English

Latin root Resulting words

E.g. quietus quiet, coy

E.g. gentilis gentile, gentle and genteel

The Latin parent which holds the record for giving birth to English words is possibly 'discus'. How many related words can you think of?

- c) We, in the English speaking world - better at looking after our borrowed words than they place where they were born. E.g. double entendre and RSVP from French - not longer used in French

- d) Finally a confusing aspect of borrowing - we keep the Anglo-Saxon noun, but prefer to use a foreign form, often Latin, for the adjective. For example - mouth / oral, house / domestic

2. Coinage

- a) The creation of words from apparently nothing.

Dog appeared in the middle ages - for years hound was used. No one knows where the word dog comes from. Recent examples yuppie

- b) Many words are made up by writer. Shakespeare used nearly 18,000 words in his writings of which one tenth had never been used before - critical, leapfrog, submerged, lonely - all Shakespeare's words.

- c) Words created as a result of progress in the modern world

i) science and technology (nylon, aspirin)

ii) invented trade names which have become every day words to refer to all such items: Kleenex, Hoover, Xerox

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