English Borrowings in Polish

1. History of contacts with UK and US
   1.1. 15th c. Poles study in England and Scottish exiles settle in Poland
   1.2. 18th c. actors, traders from UK; Polish parliament modelled after English model; Emigration to UK and US after November and January Insurrections
   1.3. 19th c. English literature translated into Polish; French supplanted by English
   1.4. After WWII naval, trade, sporting, tourism and technology influences

2. History of borrowings from English
   2.1. 18th c. marine terms only (pl. kuter cutter)
   2.2. 19th c. food, clothing, trade, religion, finance, sports etc. (poncz punch, flanelka flannel, gallon gallon, kwakier Quaker, budżet budget, dżokej jockey)
   2.3. 20th c. steady increase of Anglicisms in many areas, mainly sports, life and culture, science and politics, predominantly in two registers: technical and colloquial

3. Sources
   3.1. Foreigners visiting Poland (traders, settlers)
   3.2. Polish emigrants coming back to Poland from abroad
   3.3. Literature and media
   3.4. Imported goods and new technologies
   3.5. Anglicisms were also transmitted via mediating languages, e.g. German (befsztyk < E beefsteak), French (szewiot < E cheviot, rodzaj wełny) or Russian (e.g. snajper < E sniper)

4. Semantics of English lexical borrowings into Polish
   4.1. Numbers

![Graph showing English borrowings in Polish 1750-1995]


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sem field</th>
<th>1937</th>
<th>1970</th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>→→→</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>→\</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>\↑↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>\↓\</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>\↑\</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>\↓\</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>\↓\</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sci &amp; tech</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>\↓\</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>\→\</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>\↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>\→</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remarks

- The smaller the ordinal number, the greater the number of borrowings from the given semantic field.
The semantic classification adopted for all three studies was the one from Fisiak 1970. Since the original semantic categories in the other two studies differed from Fisiak’s categories, the ranks in the first and third column are approximate.

Due to the continuous development of IT technologies and Poland’s joining the EU and NATO, in an up-to-date study, the semantic field of technology, politics and economy would probably rank higher than in 1995.

5. Adaptation
5.1. Older borrowings usually well integrated with spelling, pronunciation and inflection rules.
5.2. Recent borrowings often have spelling (businesswoman, business woman, businesswoman, bizneswoman) and pronunciation variants (kɛʧup vs kɛʧap, burger vs berger).
5.3. There are examples of returning to original spelling of graphemically adapted words (biznes -> business, dżin -> gin).

6. Semantic changes affecting English words borrowed into Polish
6.1. number and kind of meanings of the English Source (ES) and Polish Target (PT) word are the same, e.g. sweter, importer
6.2. number of senses of PT is smaller than that of ES, e.g. E: dealer (trader, broker) -> P: dealer (trader); E: shaker (drink, tool, person) -> P: shaker (drink)
6.3. number of senses of PT is greater than that of ES, e.g. E: five (tea) -> P: fajf (tea, party)
6.4. denotation of PT narrower than that of ES (restriction of the meaning), e.g. E: cake (baked food) -> P: keks (special sort of baked food)
6.5. denotation of PT wider than that of ES (extension of the meaning), e.g. E: jam (of any fruit except citrus) -> P: dżem (of any fruit)

7. Morphological adaptation of English lexical borrowings into Polish
7.1. INFLECTIONAL MORPHOLOGY
7.1.1. POS (‘parts of speech’) of English loan words in Polish: among approx. 1700 borrowings from English we have (Manczak-Wohlfeld 1995:54).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POS</th>
<th>Freq</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nouns</td>
<td>94.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbs</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjectives</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverbs</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclamations</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explanations: nouns are the most frequent POS in E and in P and we tend to think by means of relations between nouns.

7.1.2. NOUNS
7.1.2.1. Degree of morphological adaptation of English nouns in Polish. Roughly, the proportions between the above groups are 8:2:1.

- 68.8% of borrowed nouns are regularly declined in Polish, which indicated high degree of their adaptation to Polish morphological system
- 16.6% of borrowed nouns are declined partially (e.g. they do not allow plural form, e.g. E: bush, bushes -> P: busz, *busze)
- 9.4% are not declined

7.1.2.2. Category of gender in nominal borrowings. Among approx. 1700 nouns borrowed from English we have

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noungender</th>
<th>Freq</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masculine</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feminine</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no (fixed) gender</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Explanations:
  - In Polish, masculine nouns are more frequent than nouns of any other gender
Masculine gender is universally dominant among the borrowings from languages that have no grammatical gender into languages that have grammatical gender.

Majority of nominal borrowings from English ends in a consonant. In Polish the majority of masculine nouns ends in a consonant, whereas the majority of other genders ends in a vowel.

Factors affecting gender assignment

- **Phoneme ending** of the English loan word
  - Polish typical masculine ending is a consonant, e.g. native 'ton' vs borrowed 'badminton'
  - Polish typical feminine ending -/a/, e.g. native 'sosna' vs borrowed 'sekwoja'
  - Polish typical neutral endings -/i/,-/o/,-/u/, e.g. native 'dziecko' vs 'disco'

- **Graphical representation** of the borrowing, e.g. guinea /gini/ 'coin' and 'state' graphemically ends in -a and is assigned feminine, though phonemically it fits neutral.

- **Form of the suffix**, e.g. all E borrowings ending in -ist are assigned masc. by analogy to Polish words ending in -ista, E: *escapist* -> P: *eskapista* (masc.)

- **Meaning of the borrowing**, e.g. E: *dingo* is assigned masc by analogy to P: *pies* though phonemically and graphemically it fits neutral, E: *whisky* vs P: *wódka*

- **Sex of the referent**, e.g. E: *lady* is assigned fem in P though phonemically it fits neut: -/i/

- **Gender of the same borrowing in another language**, e.g. E: *round* -> German: *die Runde* -> P: *runda*

7.1.2.3. Category of number in nominal borrowings

- Full adaptation of an English borrowing to Polish pluralisation rules: English singular form is declined as regular Polish nouns, i.e. receives -i, -y, -e in plural, e.g. *terminale, parkingi, toasty*

- Partial adaptation of English words ending in –s
  - E plural ending -s is substituted for P plural ending -y (higher degree of adaptation)
    - e.g. E: *shorts* -> P: *szorty*, E: *jeans* -> P: *dżiny*
  - E pluralia tantum -s ending (misinterpreted as plural ending -s) is cut off to form singular Polish noun
    - e.g. E: *pyjamas* -> P: *piżama, piżamy*, E: *goggles* -> P: *gogle*
  - E plural ending -s is preserved in Polish plural form (smaller degree of adaptation)
    - e.g. E: *marines* -> P: *marines*

- depluralisation - English plural form is treated as singular in Polish (and possibly declined as a regular Polish noun, i.e. given -i, -y, -e ending in plural) e.g. E: *drop, drops* -> P: *drops, dropsy*

7.1.3. VERBS

7.1.3.1. According to the **degree of assimilation**, verbs borrowed from English into Polish can be divided into three types

- fully assimilated verbs
  - assume -ować ending, e.g. *parkować*
  - conjugate along Polish conjugation patterns, e.g. *parkującemu*
  - some of them may have perfective and imperfective aspect, e.g. *zaparkować*

- partially assimilated verbs, e.g. no perfective forms, *jazzować* but *zajazzować*

- unassimilated verbs ("partial verbs"), only imperative forms of English verb is used in Polish, e.g. *play, pull, stop*

7.1.3.2. Part of speech (POS) of English verbal borrowings in Polish

- usually a verb, e.g. E *Verb* to charter -> P Verb czarterować
- rarely a gerund, e.g. E *Ger* dubbing -> P Verb dubingować
- or a noun, e.g. E *Noun* hooligan -> P Verb chuliganić, E *Noun* whist -> P Verb wistować

7.1.4. ADJECTIVES

7.1.4.1. Approx. half of the adjectives borrowed into Polish from English inflect as native Polish adj., e.g. *relewantny, kompatybilny*

7.1.4.2. The second half do not inflect, e.g. country, fair, sophisticated

7.1.5. ADVERBS, EXCLAMATIONS
7.1.5.1. when borrowed into P, they behave as regular P adv and particles, i.e. they do not inflect. They are usually borrowed without graphemic change, *e.g.* fifty-fifty, non-stop, halo

7.2. DERIVATIONAL MORPHOLOGY

7.2.1. Into Polish, we may borrow particles that in English constitute...

7.2.1.1. bound inflectional morphemes, *e.g.* dzień-s (rare)

7.2.1.2. bound derivational morphemes, *e.g.* cyber-przestrzeń

7.2.1.3. free morphemes (simplexes), *e.g.* brydż-yk, faul

7.2.1.4. constructs of free and infl morph, *e.g.* drop-s, mail-ing

7.2.1.5. constructs of free and deriv morph, *e.g.* cybersex, host-essa

7.2.1.6. constructs of 2+ free morph (compounds), *e.g.* bukmacher/bookmacher, spotlight, copyright

7.2.2. Majority of borrowings that constitute complex words in English, in Polish function as simplexes: *e.g.* 'Host-essa obsluwała' but not 'Pani hostowała' since Poles do not see -ess as a morpheme that can be chopped off or replaced

7.2.3. Only few borrowings of English words are relatively productive, *e.g.* Polish noun komputer has approx. 30 derivatives in Polish; compared to 4.4 derivatives for an average Polish simple noun and to over 600 for the most productive ones (Jadacka 1995:141).

8. Phonology of English Borrowings in Polish

8.1. Accent Change

8.1.1. In P penultimate, In E free. E words borrowed into P usually stressed on the penultimate syllable, *e.g.*

badminton

E /ˈbadmɪntɒn/ → P /ˈbadmɪntɒn/. Exceptions e.g. P 'chesterfield'

8.1.2. Unaccented vowels get reduced in E, in P not, *e.g.* in badminton

8.1.3. E words with multiple accents have single accent when borrowed into P, *e.g.*

E /ˈdɑːlˌtɔnɪzm/ → P /ˈdəlˈtɒnɪzm/

8.2. Sound Change

8.2.1. In the process of borrowing an E word into P, three types of *paradigmatic E phoneme identification* may occur

8.2.1.1. In the process of borrowing, English vowels are simplified in Polish, whereas English consonants are rendered in a more complex way, “15% of loanwords preserve their English pronunciation”

- **Divergent** - one E phoneme occurring in different E words is rendered by several P phonemes in P adaptations of these words. Applies more often to consonants than to vowels. It's a least frequent type of phoneme identification. *e.g.*

E /ʌ/ → P /af/, /af/; E /ʌdʒɪt/ → P /ʌdʒɪt/; E /træɡbi/ → P /ræɡbi/

- **Convergent** - several E phonemes in different E words are rendered by one P phoneme in P adaptations of these words. Applies more often to vowels, e.g. E /ʌ/; /ɒ/; /æ/; /eɪ/; /eɪ/; /ɪ/ → P /af/; E /ˈtræɡbi/ → P /ræɡbi/; E /frɪŋk/ → P /frɪŋk/; etc

- **Direct** - one E phoneme in an E word is rendered by one P phoneme in the P adaptation of this word. It's the most frequent type of phoneme identification.

- e.g. E /t/ → P /t/; toast P /ˈtɔst/ → P /ˈtɔst/

8.2.1.2. In the process of borrowing an E word into P, two types of *syntagmatic E phoneme identification* may occur

- **Simplification** - several E phonemes occurring one by one (or a diphthong, triphthong) in an E word are rendered by a simpler structure in the P adaptation of this word.

*E.g.* E /ˈɪŋ/ → P /ɪŋ/ E. clearing

- **Extension** - one E phoneme in an E word is rendered by a more complex structure in the P adaptation of this word, *e.g.* E /ŋ/ → P /ŋk/ E. clearing

References


