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**GERMANISMS AND THEIR ADAPTATION IN THE STRUCTURE OF MODERN  
ENGLISH-LANGUAGE POLITICAL TEXTS**

**ГЕРМАНІЗМИ ТА ЇХ АДАПТАЦІЯ У СТРУКТУРІ СУЧАСНИХ АНГЛОМОВНИХ  
ПОЛІТИЧНИХ ТЕКСТІВ**

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The relevance of the work lies in the fact that harmonious transition of the economic and political relations of different people, which are constantly in contact with each other, to the level of development of the new democratic society of the 21st century the translation activity plays not the least role since in the process of information exchange there is also an exchange of language elements. Therefore, the study of the development of economic and political relations requires the study of foreign language elements, their place and role in the receiving language. A large proportion of them are borrowings, in particular borrowings from German to English, which is currently the main language of international communication, a language widely used in administration, economics and politics. The article is dedicated to the research of germanisms and their adaptation in the structure of modern English-language political texts. In the process of the research the main reasons of Germanisms' borrowing into modern English are distinguished. It is investigated, that English language not only borrowed words from the German language, it also borrowed some fairly common affixes, which were later used to create new words. It is found out, that since both English and German are descended from a common branch of the

ancestor language – the Common Germanic language, as well as the older Proto-Germanic language, some English words are essentially identical to their German lexical duplicates either in spelling or by pronunciation. In most cases German words are not transliterated into English, but are borrowed in the form in which they are used in the original language. A number of borrowings from the socio-political sphere, which function in modern English language are discovered during the investigation and a number of sub-groups, where these lexical units can be used, are represented.

**Key words:** germanisms, adaptation, lexical influence, political texts, English-language.

Актуальність роботи полягає в тому, що в гармонійному переході економіко-політичних відносин різних народів, що постійно контактують між собою, на рівень розвитку нового демократичного суспільства XXI століття не останню роль відіграє і перекладацька діяльність, оскільки в процесі обміну інформацією відбувається і обмін елементами мови. Тому дослідження розвитку економіко-політичних відносин вимагає вивчення іншомовних елементів, їх місця та ролі в мові-рецепторі. Велику частку серед них посідають запозичення, зокрема запозичення з німецької мови до англійської, яка на сьогодні є основною мовою міжнародного спілкування, мовою, що широко використовується в системі управління, економіці та політиці. Стаття присвячена дослідженню германізмів та їх адаптації в структурі сучасних англомовних політичних текстів. У процесі дослідження виділено основні причини запозичення германізмів до сучасної англійської мови. Досліджено, що англійська мова не лише запозичила слова з німецької мови, вона також запозичила деякі досить поширені афікси, які пізніше були використані для створення нових слів. З'ясовано, що оскільки і англійська, і німецька мови походять від спільної гілки мови-предка – загальногерманської мови, а також від старшої протогерманської мови, через це деякі англійські слова виступають ідентичними німецьким лексичним одиницям, які повторюють їх написання чи вимову. У більшості випадків німецькі лексичні одиниці не транслітеруються англійською мовою, а запозичуються в тому вигляді, в якому вони вживаються в мові оригіналу. Під час дослідження виявлено низку запозичень із суспільно-політичної сфери, які функціонують у сучасній англійській мові, та представлено низку підгруп, у яких ці лексичні одиниці можуть вживатися. Узагальнено, що однією з тенденцій поповнення словникового фонду сучасних англомовних політичних текстів є вкраплення німецькомовних лексичних елементів у політичні тексти та збільшення кількості запозичених слів за рахунок похідних.

**Ключові слова:** германізми, адаптація, лексичний вплив, політичні тексти, англійська мова.

**Introduction of the problem.** The 21<sup>st</sup> century is the era of political and economic relations. In the harmonious transition of the economic and political relations of different people, which are constantly in contact with each other, to the level of development of the new democratic society of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the translation activity plays not the least role since in the process of information exchange there is also an exchange of language elements. Therefore, the study of the development of economic and political relations requires the study of foreign language elements, their place and role in the receiving language. A large proportion of them are borrowings, in particular borrowings from German to English, which is currently the main language of international communication, a language widely used in administration, economics and politics.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** The notion of borrowing and adaptation is the object of discussions of many scientists. Researchers, that engaged in the analysis of the peculiarities of borrowings and adaptations in modern English-language is H. Avchinnikova (2020) [1], T. Koknova (2021) [2], H. Rabosh (2016) [3], N. Stavchuk (2020) [1] and others.

**Scientific novelty of the article** is that it proposes the analysis of germanisms and their adaptation in the structure of modern English-language political texts.

**The main purpose** of the study consists in the ground of germanisms and their adaptation in the structure of modern English-language political texts.

To achieve the goal of the research a set of methods were used. They are based on a communicative-functional approach and include theoretical analysis of special literature on the research topic, interpretative analysis of Germanisms and the peculiarities of their adaptation in the English-language political texts, identification of appropriate groups of germanisms in English-language political texts. In this paper, we also used the method of word-formation analysis.

**Results and discussions.** The modern English language borrowed a significant number of Germanic words during its historical formation and development. Some of those words have become a natural part of everyday English vocabulary (*angst, kindergarten, sauerkraut*), while others, primarily intellectual, literary, scientific (*Waldsterben, Weltanschauung, Zeitgeist*), or those used in special fields, such as *gestalt* in psychology, or *aufeis* and *loess* in geology. Some of these German words are used in modern English without a corresponding English equivalent: *gemütlich, schadenfreude*.

It is worth noting that English and German belong to the West Germanic languages, although their relationship was eliminated by the lexical influence of Old Norse and Norman French (as a result of the Norman conquest of England in 1066) on the English language and the change of consonants in High German. However, in recent years a significant number of English words have been borrowed directly from the German language. Typically, English spellings of German loanwords truncate any umlauts (Ä, Ö, Ü, ä, ö, and ü) of the original word, or

replace the umlaut letters with the letter combination Ae, Oe, Ue, ae, oe, ue, respectively (as occurs and in German-speaking countries when umlaut is not available).

The borrowing of Germanisms into modern English occurred for many reasons:

- German cultural products, in particular food, spread to English speakers and were often identified either by their original German names or by English-language names but with a German sound;

- the discovery of German-speaking nations in science, scholarship programs and classical music led to the naming of new concepts by German names that were adopted into the English language: for example, *doppelgänger* and *angst* in psychology;

- covering the history and culture of Germany requires the use of authentic lexical units;

- some German words are used in the English narrative to identify that the subject covered is dealing with a German-language context, for example: *Frau*, *Reich*.

Since both English and German are descended from a common branch of the ancestor language – the Common Germanic language, as well as the older Proto-Germanic language, because of this some English words are essentially identical to their German lexical duplicates either in spelling (*Hand*, *Sand*, *Finger*) or by pronunciation (*fish* = *Fisch*, *mouse* = *Maus*), or by both (*Arm*, *Ring*).

German nouns that have been borrowed into English are not capitalized, and the letter ß is replaced by ss.

The English language not only borrowed words from the German language, it also borrowed some fairly common affixes, which were later used to create new words, for example: -burger (*hamburger*, *cheeseburger*, *veggie burger*), -fest (*bookfest*, *FanFest*, *songfest*), wunder- (*Wunderland*) and -meister (*schockmeister*, *talkmeister*).

In most cases, German words are not transliterated into English, but are borrowed in the form in which they are used in the original language. Researcher T. Koknova notes, that the forms *Siebengebirge* and *Riesengebirge* occur much more often than their literal meaning Seven Mountains or Giant Mountains [2, p. 61–67]. However, there are exceptions when Germanic words are borrowed using loan-translation: *loan-translation*, *foreworld*, *handbook*, *breakthrough*, *war-lord*, *masterpiece*, *homesickness*. Another feature of German loanwords in English is that they are represented by compound nouns, which does not correspond to the way nouns are formed in English, which are models based on classical languages, for example, *preface* or *manual*,

than their Germanic version, like *foreword* or *handbook*.

It is worth noting that while most Latin or Greek loanwords cannot be divided into smaller lexical units, compound nouns in German often have this function. Due to its non-equivalence in the English language, the German word *Mittelstand* received the status of borrowing, which a few months after its appearance in English-language sources began to be used to denote small and medium-sized businesses in any country (in German, this word introduces the concept of only medium-sized businesses). A derivative of this borrowing is also used – the word *Mittelstander* to denote entrepreneurs engaged in small and medium-sized businesses. After the reunification of Germany, the colloquial units *Ossi* "inhabitant of the eastern lands" and *Wessi* "inhabitant of the western lands" began to function in the English language, as well as in other languages. On the basis of the word *Ost* "east" in the German language, the telescopic formation *Ostalgie* arose to denote the fashion for items characteristic of the former German Democratic Republic. It was soon borrowed into the English language, and already in it such phrases as *Ostalgie craze*, *Ostalgie business*, and by analogy – the word *Westalgie* were created.

In recent years, such an "Anglo-German" entity as *new Lander* began to be used to denote the territory of the former German Democratic Republic. In this connection we find that a number of concepts of the "German world picture" are conveyed in English with the help of loan translation. Thus, *guestworker* (from the German word *Gastarbeiter*, which is also used in the English language as a loanword) became a euphemism for illegal immigrants in the USA, the word *earworm* is a literal translation of the German word *Ohrwurm* and denotes an obsessive melody (this concept can be transferred in English and dismembered nomination *sticky tune*).

The prefix *über-* was also borrowed from the German language. In the American version, it successfully competes with the prefix *super-* (the latter, in turn, is widely used in the German language), creating, mainly, noun neologisms (*ubercomputer*, *uber-oligarch*, *uber-nerd*), although there are also cases of combination of this prefix with adjectives (*uber-powerful*, *über-rich*). In recent years, derivatives with this prefix have been created not only in the American, but also in the British version of the English language. Note that in both versions, the "anglicized" graphic version of the prefix *uber-* (without the umlaut) is used more often than the German one.

During the research, we discovered a number of borrowings from the socio-political sphere, which function in modern English literary language. They include:

*Aauthority* (German *Autorität*, French *autorite*, from Latin *auctoritas* – power): 1) The generally recognized influence exerted on the beliefs and behaviour of people by a certain person, organization, doctrine due to their inherent or attributed features and merits. 2) A person enjoying universal recognition and influence.

*Agitation* (German *Agitation*, Latin *agitatio* – setting in motion, incitement) – dissemination of certain ideas or slogans using various means: conversations, speeches in the press, on radio, television, cinema, theatre, visual arts, political and literary literature; one of the means of political influence on the masses, an ideological weapon of the struggle of the classes and their parties.

*Basis* (German *Basis*, Greek *βάσις* – base): 1) Basis, base. 2) geodesy – the main, precisely measured line on the ground, by which the length of other lines is determined and calculations are made. 3) economic – a set of production relations of a certain society corresponding to the characteristic and certain level of productive forces' development.

*Block* (German *Block*) is an agreement, an alliance between states, parties, groups of people to achieve common political goals.

*Bundesrat* (German *Bundesrat*, from Bund – union and Rat – council) is the upper house of the parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as in Germany in 1871–1918, in Austria in 1920–1934.

The *Bundestag* (German *Bundestag*, from Bund – union and Tag – day) is the lower house of the parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany.

*Humanism* (German *Humanismus*, Latin *humanus* – humanity): 1) The progressive ideological direction of the culture of the Renaissance era, which asserted the right of man to earthly happiness, fought for the liberation of science and the human personality from church restrictions. 2) Treating a person as the highest value, protecting the individual's right to freedom, happiness, comprehensive development and manifestation of one's abilities.

*Chancellor* (German *Kanzler*, from Latin *cancellarius* – gatekeeper): 1) During the Middle Ages in Western Europe, a person who held high positions at the monarch's court (head of the chancellery, keeper of the state seal, etc.). 2) In a number of bourgeois countries – the name of some higher government positions, for example, in Great Britain the Chancellor of the State Treasury is the

Minister of Finance; in Austria and Germany the federal Chancellor is the head of government; in Switzerland the Chancellor of the Union is the head of the secretariat of the highest federal bodies of power and administration (the Union Assembly and the Union Council).

*Collective* (German *Kollektiv*, from Latin *collectivus* – collective) is a social form of association of people, arising on the basis of their joint work, common public interests to which the actions, deeds, interests of individuals are subordinated (for example, a production team, a labour team).

*Cooperative* (German *Kooperative*, from the Latin cooperative – one who cooperates) is a voluntary association of people who jointly engage in a certain type of economic activity on a joint basis.

*Cosmopolitan* (German *Kosmopolit*, from Greek *κοσμοπολίτης* – citizen of the world): 1) Supporter of cosmopolitanism. A person deprived of a sense of patriotism, detached from the interests of his homeland, alien to his people. 2) biological – plant and animal, common in all parts of the globe.

*Crown prince* (German *Kronprinz*) is the title of the heir to the throne in Germany and Austria-Hungary during the time of monarchical rule (until 1918).

*Neutrality* (German *Neutralität*, from Latin *neutralis* – neutral): 1) Non-interference in other people's disputes, in the struggle between two parties. 2) In international law – the position of a state that does not participate in war, maintains peaceful relations with warring states and does not provide military aid to any of them.

*Parity* (German *Parität*, from Latin *paritos* – equality): 1) Equality of the parties in their relationship; the principle of equal representation of the parties during consideration of any issue concerning the interests of both parties, etc. 2) The ratio of currencies of different countries measuring the ratio of their gold content.

*Prince* (German *Prinz*, from Latin *princeps* – head, ruler) is the title of a person who belongs to the reigning house.

*Priority* (German *Priorität*, from Latin *prior* – first): 1) Primacy in the discovery, invention, expression of an idea. 2) Prevailing right, meaning of something.

*Protest* (German *Protest*, from Latin *protesto* – to publicly prove): 1) Strong objection in oral or written form against any actions, speeches, decisions. 2) In Soviet law, it is a written demand by officials, mostly prosecutors, to cancel or replace illegal acts, verdicts, decisions, decrees, or court rulings. 3) Maritime protest – a notarized document about an accident or cargo damage due to a collision of ships drawn up at the request of the ship's captain. 4) Promissory note

protest – the fact of non-payment of a bill of exchange or the payer's refusal to accept a bill of exchange, certified by an official (notary public).

*Putsch* (German *Putsch*) is an armed adventurist action by a group of conspirators who do not have the support and sympathy of the masses, with the aim of carrying out a coup d'état.

*Reichskanzler* (German *Reichskanzler*, from Reich – state, empire and Kanzler – chancellor) – imperial chancellor, the name of the head of government in Germany in 1871–1945.

*Reichstag* (German *Reichstag*, from Reich – state, empire and Tag – meeting): 1) During the Middle Ages in the so-called "Holy Roman Empire of the German nation", the imperial state-representative body of power. 2) Parliament in the North German Union (1867–1871), the German Empire (1871–1918) and the so-called Weimar Republic (1919–1933). During the period of the fascist dictatorship (1933–1945), it lost its meaning and existed only formally. 3) The name of the building in Berlin where the German parliament sat.

*Sovereignty* (German *Souveränität*, French *souveraineté*) is the independence of the state, which consists in its right to resolve its internal and external affairs at its own discretion, without the intervention of any other state. Sovereignty is a necessary political and legal feature of the state. In exploitative states, sovereignty is exercised by state power in the interests of the exploiters; in socialist states – in the interests of workers.

*Total, complete* (German *total*, from Latin *totus* – whole, entire) – complete, general, comprehensive; total war is an imperialist war that ignores the norms of international law, the laws and customs of war and uses all resources and means, without exception, that lead to the mass destruction of not only the enemy's armed forces, but also the civilian population, material and cultural values. The theory of "total war" was the basis of the strategy of the German and Italian fascists.

*State* (from the German *Staat* – state): 1) Self-governing territorial unit, a constituent part of a number of bourgeois states with a federal form of government (USA, Brazil, Mexico, etc.). 2) The permanent staff of the enterprise, institution or organization.

Lexical units that function in this area can be divided into the following sub-groups:

– lexemes denoting concepts related to the revolutionary struggle and the construction of a new

society: *agitation, basis, coat of arms, humanism, collective, cooperative, slogan, poster;*

– borrowings that reflect relations between people, states: *block, neutrality, parity, protest, priority, sovereignty;*

– words that define a person's way of life, his place in society: *authority, ascetic, cooperative, cosmopolitan;*

– borrowing related to elections to state institutions: *recruit, co-opt, majorize;*

– persons occupying a certain position in the state: *burgomaster, police chief, state secretary, state governor;*

– names of titles and positions: *herald, duke, court marshal, court master, count, archduke, chamber-junker, chamberlain, crown prince, elector, landgrave, margrave, marshal, prince, title;*

– names of organizations and institutions of state administration: *chamber-college, presidium;*

– territorial units: *headquarters, staff;*

– lexemes, that reflect the processes of class struggle, social stratification, features of ideology, means of seizing power: *agency, aggressor, riot, disorientation, dictate, ideology, collectivism, culture trap, official, putsch, total, falsification, fake, philistine, screen.*

A separate sub-group can include:

– vocabulary related to the socio-political system of Germany in different periods of history: *burgher, kaiser, chancellor, Reich chancellor;*

– state and military institutions and organizations: *Bundeswehr, Bundesrat, Bundestag, Gestapo, Landrat, Landtag, Reichsrat, Reichstag;*

– names of political agreements, military-political currents in fascist Germany: *Anschluss, Nazism, Nazis.*

**Conclusions.** Generalizing, we can note that modern English language borrowed a significant number of Germanic words during its historical formation and development in various spheres of social and political life, including philosophy, psychology, chemistry, biology, politics, economics, linguistics, etc. The main trends in replenishing the vocabulary of modern English-language political texts are the renewal of the English vocabulary with neologisms of foreign origin; inclusion of German-language lexical elements in political texts; enriching the language of politics by creating new words; increasing the number of borrowed words due to derivatives.

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