

# **GREEK LOANWORDS IN ENGLISH**

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the degree of Master of Arts

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## Introduction

This dissertation is intended to study some aspects of Greek loanwords in English and, particularly, the distribution of these words in newspaper English.

It is divided into four chapters. The first chapter deals with lexical borrowing in general. In the second chapter the Greek-English case of contact is examined while the third chapter deals with newspaper English as related to the use of words of Greek origin. The findings are first given in tables and figures. They are then discussed in the second part of the same chapter.

The short chapter, summarizing the conclusions, is the last part of the dissertation and suggestions are made about possible expansions of this limited study if this was a Doctoral thesis.



# **1. Lexical Borrowing**

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### **1.1. Language change**

Language change is generally as an inevitable phenomenon by linguistics and it can be easily identified by anybody comparing the language of a written text, written some hundreds of years ago, with the same language he now speaks. Nobody in England today speaks in 'the way people used to speak in the 13<sup>th</sup> century A.D. and nobody in Greece could be heard speaking the language of Plato's works. Still, in both cases we say that both the ancient or the medieval person and the present-day person speak either Greek or English respectively. In other words, they speak the same language but with remarkable changes from the old to the new one. On the hand, we speak of dead languages which is the case of languages abandoned by their communities when another language replaces the first one.

Linguistic change does exist but it is true that "the rate of change varies from time to time and from language to language" (Barber, 1964).

As an inevitable and important phenomenon, language change has been studied within linguistics and the various schools have tried to describe and explain it.

### **1.2. Kinds of linguistic change**

Despite the differences in the methods and results of their studies, the different schools, roughly, recognize the following kinds of language change.

- a. Sound change- change in phonological systems.
- b. Syntactic and morphological change
- c. Semantic change and changes in the lexicon.

(Lehman, 1973)

Because of the restricted nature of the present study, we will only deal with the third kind of language change, excluding the first two.

### **1.3 Semantic change and changes in the lexicon**

Lehman (1973) presents Meillet's proposals about the processes by which semantic change takes place. "The first of these is change in the contexts in which given words are used". As an example, Lehman takes the word undertaker which once meant 'one who undertakes, an energetic promoter' as in beginning of one of the Psalms, "The Lord is my undertaker". The word was also used in the context of funeral undertaker. Gradually, the first word was omitted, the second one was used instead of the two and the result was that the word undertaker obtained the modern meaning of a man 'who assists in the obsequies for the dead'.

The second kind "results from a change in the object referred to, or in the speaker's view of such object" (Lehman, op.cit.). An example is the word pen which comes from the Latin word penna and first meant 'feather'. In this case the object referred to first was 'feather' and now is 'pen'.

The third sort of semantic change in a language is the influence of other languages or dialects. "The process by which words are imported into a language is known as borrowing"(Lehman, op.cit.). Examples of this kind of change are numerous in the history of the English language. Words, borrowed from French, Latin, Greek and other languages, exist in thousands in English. According to Lehman, this process of borrowing is the most important effect on the lexicon of a language.

#### 1.4 Lexical borrowing – Terminology

The term borrowing implies an absurd metaphor, "since the borrowing takes place without the lender's consent or even awareness, and the borrower is under no obligation to repay the loan"(Haugen, 1950). But any attempt by linguistics to invent a better term have proved unsuccessful (terms like 'mixture', 'adoption', 'diffusion' have been suggested). The term borrowing still remains the **ap**ter one and its real advantage "is the fact that it is not applied to language by laymen" (Haugen, op.cit.).

Borrowing, as defined by Haugen (1950), is "the attempted reproduction in one language of patterns previously found in another. The term reproduction does not imply that a mechanical imitation has taken place, on the contrary, the nature of the reproduction may differ very widely from the original".

## **1.5 Types of lexical borrowings**

Lexical borrowings of various types may take place. Some of them are known as loanwords, others are loan translations or calques and other are extensions.

Loanword is applied in cases where speakers have imported not only the meaning of the form but also its phonemic shape.

Hybrid is sometimes used to distinguish "loanwords in which only a part of the phonemic shape has been imported, while a native portion has been substituted for the rest" (Haugen, op.cit.). An example of this case is the American English word *plumpie* which became [blauməpai] when adopted by Pennsylvania German.

Loan translation (or calque in French) is used to describe what happened in cases like the German *Workenkratzer*, French *grate-ciel*, Spanish *vascasielos*, modeled on English *sky-scraper*.

Finally, the term extension or semantic loan is applied in case like the American Portuguese *humoroso* which is now used like the American English *Humorous*, although it meant only 'capricious' in Portugal.

## **1.6 How the lexical borrowings occur in a language**

The lexical borrowings – like the other kinds of linguistic borrowings- presuppose a contact among two languages. According to Weinreich (1966), two or more languages are said to be in contact if they are used alternately by the same persons.



This alternate use of languages is called bilingualism and the person involved bilingual.

We assume then that lexical borrowing, with all kinds of loans, presupposes a degree of bilingualism among the speakers of the borrowing language. But, as we will see in the Greek-English case, this does not apply very strictly in all cases of exchange between languages. Byon (1977) notices that “although all transfer of language boundaries may be said to be the result of some measure of bilingualism on the part of those who do the conveying, the precise nature and extend of the linguistic exchange will depend upon the detailed circumstances of the social and cultural relations between the communities concerned”. But always, Byon adds, language contact presupposes some degree of cultural contact, however limited.

### **1.7 Reasons for lexical borrowing**

Weinreich(1966) explores the causes of lexical innovation.

First, the need to designate new things, persons, places and concepts is obviously a universal cause of lexical borrowing. When the vocabulary proves inadequate is designating new things, then the speakers look for new words and preferably turn to ready-made ones because this is easier than creating them afresh.

Except for this reason, there are some internal linguistic factors which also contribute to the innovation process. One such internal factor is- always according to Weinreich- the low frequency of the words. “The frequent words come easily to mind

and are therefore more stable; relatively infrequent words of the vocabulary are less stable, more subject to oblivion and replacement”(Weinreich,1966).

Another internal factor is pernicious homonymy. This is said to have happened in the Vosges patois words for ‘cart’ (<carrum) and ‘meat’ (<carnem) and, in order to avoid the clash of these words, the Vosges patois borrowed *voiture* and *viande* from French.

The third reason for lexical borrowing is related to “the well known tendency of affective words to lose their expressive force”(Weinreich, op.cit.). in some semantic fields like ‘ugliness’, ‘tallness’ etc., there is a constant need for synonyms. When another language offers such synonyms the speakers accept them eagerly.

With regard to bilingual person which conveys the new words into his language, Weinreich suggests three causes of lexical borrowing. “First, a comparison with the other language to which he is exposed may lead him to feel that some of his semantic fields are insufficiently differentiated” (Weinreich, op.cit.).

Another factor that affects bilinguals is “the symbolic association of the source language in a contact situation with social values, either positive or negative” (Weinreich, op.cit.). if the language is a prestigious one, the bilingual will use the loanwords to display the social status which his personality reveals. Thus, we have the learned borrowings e.g. from Latin in English, from English in Indian languages.

The last reason of lexical borrowing observed in the bilingual person in “mere oversight; that is, the limitations on the distribution of certain words to utterances belonging to one language are violated” (Weinreich, op.cit.). This may be observed in affective speech where the transfer of words is very common because the speaker is concentrated in the topic and not the form of his message.



## **2. Greek loanwords in English**

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The nature of contact between Greek and English is of a particular kind and, in order to understand it, we have to look at the historical background which caused it.

### **2.1 Historical background**

It is often said that the English vocabulary is uniquely rich. This richness is the result of an evolution of English of around twenty centuries and its contact with other languages.

A glance at any etymological dictionary of English could surprise the layman: thousands of foreign words, adopted in different times, exist in the English lexicon.

The adoption of Latin elements goes back to the time when the English had not come yet to Britain. The contact with the Roman civilization was continued after the English settlements in Britain. Finally, when the people of England were converted to Roman christianity in the sixth century, a large number of Latin words (denoting religion and church concepts) were adopted. The important thing in the Latin borrowings is that, through them, several Greek words entered the English language (e.g. bishop, priest, monk, church etc.).

There is also a Danish and Norse element in English vocabulary and the adoption took place when England was under Scandinavian rule. Chiefly, words of political meaning were adopted.

After the eleventh century, Britain was under the Norman conquest which “opened the door for a far more abundant influx of foreign words” (Bradley, 1968). The language of the rulers and the elite was French but many French words gradually found their way into the vocabulary of familiar speech. Together with French, Latin was again brought in England as the language of theological and historical literature and many Latin terms were adopted at that time. This is important with regard to our topic, since several of the French or Latin loanwords in English were Greek in origin.

But, certainly, most of the Greek loanwords were adopted later on with the revival of Greek learning in Western Europe, that is Renaissance, which was felt in England with the beginning of the sixteenth century.

## **2.2 How the Greek loanwords were introduced**

The Greek words of English –like the Latin ones- were adopted through the medium of writing and not through speech. It is certainly a peculiar kind of language contact and an exception to the usual way of word borrowing.

We have already mentioned the historical conditions which favoured the adoption: the Renaissance, which was essentially a returning to the Graeco-Roman culture through the written texts. Inevitably, new ideas and notions arose from this movement. The adoption of new words (signifying the new ideas) from the texts is not surprising. First, because it is easier to use the ready-made names than creating them afresh. Secondly, Latin and Greek were endowed with prestige, particularly during the Renaissance. And it

seems- as Weinreich says- that preference for words of the prestige language is a universal law.

### 2.3 Transliteration

The first stratum of Greek words entered into English through Latin. Once this happened, "it became a general European convention that when a new word was adopted from Greek into English or any other modern language, it must be treated as if it had passed through a Latin channel" (Bradley, 1968). For English it meant that the Greek words had to be "Latinized in spelling and endings before being used" (Jespersen, 1968).

In this way, we have: Greek κ (phonetically [k]) → Latin c, Greek α (phonetically [ai]) → Latin ae, Greek ει ([ei]) → i, Greek οι (phonetically [oi]) → Latin oe, Greek ου (phonetically [ou]) → Latin u, Greek υ (phonetically [u]) → Latin y, and Greek aspirated initial ρ ] → Latin rh.

These conventions are still followed when transliterating Greek words into English, with only some exceptions in some words (e.g. Keratin, kaleidoscope etc.).

### 2.4 Morphology of the loanwords

The Greek loanwords of English were latinized not only in writing but in morphology as well, either introduced through Latin or adopted straight from Greek. This is particularly obvious in adjectives where a suffix (-ous, -an) is always added in the end. E.g. Greek διαφανής (phonetically [diaphanēs]) gives the English

diaphanous, Greek αὐτόνομος (phonetically [autonomos]) gives the English autonomous.

As far as the nouns are concerned what happens usually is the dropping of case (which is also true for the adjectives) and a slight or strong modification of the ending. E.g. Greek θεολογία (phonetically [theologia]), Γεωγραφία (phonetically [geographia]), become theology and geography in English.

Along with these modified words some unmodified ones exist. In such words the original Greek morphology is, more or less, kept. E.g. criterion, crisis, acme, lexicon etc.

Finally, the adaptation of verbs in English includes <sup>the</sup> dropping of the Greek ending. E.g. ὀστρακίζω (phonetically [ostrakizo]), τανταλίζω (phonetically [tantalizo]) became ostracize and tantalize in English.

## 2.5 Phonological structure

The English pronunciation of the Greek loanwords is, usually, different from what we presume to have been the ancient Greek pronunciation, especially in cases where the graphological and morphological adaptation has already changed the form of the words considerably. This is very natural and it always happens in loans from one language to another; the phonological adaptation of borrowed words follows the phonological patterns of the borrowing language. For example, when the French word garage was introduced into English it followed the phonological rules of English. The original French phonological form of the word



was /ga.ɤʌʒ/ but in English it became /'gæɹɑɪʒ/ and some English speakers could be also heard saying /'gæɹɪdʒ/.

## 2.6 Meaning

The original Greek meaning of the words is normally retained in English. Along with these semantically unaltered words there are some others which found a specific treatment by their English users. What happened in these cases is described by Barnett (1965): "sometimes, anxious to express a vague or general concept for which no English word came readily to mind, they (the English writers) could expropriate a word from the classics and edit or extend its meaning to suit their own purposes". Among words used in English with different meaning from the Greek original one, we can find the word climax (which in Greek had the meaning 'ladder' or 'gradation') and bathos (which meant 'depth').

## 2.7 Types of Greek loanwords

Because of their large number, Greek loanwords in English could not be exhaustively classified into semantic fields. Yet, we can mention some principal characteristics.

### a. General vocabulary.

A part of these words are "technical terms of literary criticism, rhetoric, or the nature sciences"(Barber, 1982). Such are the words pathos, rhapsody, drama, elegy, cosmos, stigms, emergy etc.

Some loanwords are found in politics (e.g. democracy, politics etc.), arts (e.g. aesthetic, theatre, music etc.) or in everyday life vocabulary (e.g. theory, problem, method, system etc.).

b. Scientific vocabulary

A surprisingly large number of loanwords are found in the field of science. This is due to the fast development of the physical sciences during the last two hundred years which "has created a necessity for the invention of a multitude of new terms" (Bradley, 1968). Following the fashion of Renaissance, scientists used to turn to Greek or Latin vocabulary for the new terms they needed.

This became a kind of tradition in science and it is followed even in our days. Another reason for this continuous adoption is also that the learned character of Greek scientific words keeps them remote from laymen.

What is extraordinary and quite interesting in the modern establishment of new scientific terminology is the way these terms were invented. It is true that scientists used to draw words they needed in the form they found them in classical texts. But, because of the rapid progress of science, the already existing material proved inadequate and thus some compound words appeared. These compound words were built "artificially" by smaller words which existed in Greek vocabulary. The word telephone belongs to this kind of words and is only an example among

hundreds. Certainly, no such a word existed in ancient Greek because no such an instrument was invented. Yet, the two components of the word existed: *tēle* meant 'away' and *phonē* meant 'voice'. Some of these compound words are mixed: one of the components is Greek the other is Latin. An example is the word television in which *tēle* is Greek and 'vision' come from the Latin verb *video* (=to see).

Greek prefixes like *tele-*, *micro-*, *macro-*, *mega-*, etc. make an important basis of an unlimited production of scientific vocabulary. It is very noticeable that Greek (and Latin) morphemes are used far more productively than those taken from other languages. The scientific vocabulary of Greek and Latin origin is mostly of international currency. It is also adopted by Modern Greek and thus makes an interesting case where the borrowings go back to the lending source.

Finally, there are some suffixes of Greek origin such as *-ism*, *-ist*, *-ize* and prefixes such as *anti*, *ex-*, *pre-*, which, combining with other English words, can give an unlimited number of new words.

The study of the distribution of words of Greek origin in newspaper English which follows in chapter three will consider only some types of Greek loans in English. It will certainly include those borrowings which fall under the category of loanwords (see p. 6), but also English compound words which are only partly of Greek origin (e.g. *airport*, where the Greek compound is 'air'). It will not account for



words which only have an affix of Greek origin (e.g. ex-, pro-, -ism, -ize etc.) while the stem of the words is not of Greek origin. Finally, it will include derivative words where the stem is of Greek origin while the affixes are not (e.g. government, where the stem is 'govern' Greek 'kyberno', but the suffix '-ment' is not).

**3. Short study of words of  
Greek origin in newspaper  
English**

### 3. Short study of words of Greek origin in newspaper English

So far we have seen the history and manner of introduction and adaptation of Greek words into English. It is interesting though to look at the contemporary use of these words, <sup>the Greek</sup> /are Greek loanwords used at all in modern English and, if so, what kinds of words and in what contexts or styles are they to be found?

The best way to answer such questions would be a Statistical examination of spoken and written English. It would be ideal to study all varieties of English; firstly, we would wish to study written English as found in texts (books, magazines, newspapers, articles, advertisements, posters etc.). Secondly, we would wish to study spoken language: everyday life offers an enormous amount of material for this purpose. Radio and television programmes, lectures and any other speech activity, including informal conversations, would be good sources for a systematic investigation of the place of Greek words in spoken English. But, because an extended study was not possible under the time limitations of this dissertation, inevitably, it was necessary to restrict the investigation.

#### 3.1. Style and Greek words

Despite the fact that a wide study of data was not possible, it will be assumed that some contexts favour the use of Greek words more than others do. So, the existence of a quite large number of Greek loanwords in a scientific text would be Just what one expects<sub>1</sub> since English scientific terminology is of Greek and

Latin origin to a great extent. The same applies to texts related to the arts because the use of such terminology there is a matter of tradition.

Also since many Greek loanwords belong to that category of English words which are known as learned words, their use is more frequent in formal styles. In informal, everyday usage, the use of more familiar, informal words (though a few Greek loans are also to be found among such words) is more the rule. If this rule has exceptions there is a possible explanation. The speaker who introduces learned words in an informal situation might want to attract the hearers' attention, to underline what he is saying by presenting it as formal and, therefore, serious, or even to impress his audience as to his knowledge and social status. Algeo, in Greenbaun (1985), suggests an explanation about a similar behaviour of doctors and lawyers who "fear that to speak in nonmedical or non legal style is to appear ordinary, 'unprivileged and mortal". The doctor who always and in all situations talks about 'cephalalgia' instead of a 'headache'<sup>1</sup> does it on purpose, according to Algeo.

### 3-2. Choice of data

The selection of data examined here is based on ten daily "national"<sup>1</sup> papers of Britain, including one published in Yorkshire, that is The Yorkshire Post. The rest of the newspapers are The Times, The Guardian, Financial Times, Daily Express, Daily Mail, Daily Mirror, Sun and Star. The set of the newspapers was sampled on one particular day, namely the <sup>sixth June</sup> sr.xthor Jane 1985-

The reasons which led to this choice are mainly two. First, the data had to represent different styles, so that a comparative study could be possible. If the style of the data was uniform then the results could <sup>st</sup> not reflect stylistic variation. The ten British newspapers which are studied in this dissertation offer a wide range of stylistic variation. Each of them is addressed to a particular kind of reader and, therefore, has a particular style. According to O'Donnel and Todd (1980), "these papers tend in content, presentation and readership to fall into two <sup>main</sup> ~~ain~~ groups". The first four of them come "at what is usually called the 'quality' end of the market" (O'Donnel, op.cit.) while the last five <sup>are</sup> ~~ere~~ at the popular end. But three of them <sup>can</sup> ~~ir~~ be placed, more or less, in the middle and these are the Daily Mail, Daily Express and the Yorkshire Post.

Differences between what newspapers present and how they offer their stories "appear at even the most superficial level" (O'Donnel, op.cit.).

A second advantage of the data chosen is that the papers are all of roughly the same length. The same number of words were extracted from each of the newspapers examined so that comparisons between percentages could be as systematic as possible. A number of 1500 words from each paper was thought to be a representative amount and this corresponds to almost one page in the large-format papers and three or more pages in the tabloids. The starting point of the selection of data was the beginning of each paper (in the first page). In this way the articles tend to be of similar content: they all report either



political news or facts of everyday life (disasters, accidents etc.). Areas such as sports, arts and science were generally not covered.

### **3.3. Method for selecting data**

The papers are those dailies which were published in Britain on the sixth of June 1985. A number of fifteen hundred words were examined from each paper. The method is simple. First, a number of 1500 words had to be counted starting from the beginning. Headlines were included in the examination. Each line was read word by word and each word of Greek origin was marked. When this was finished for all the ten papers, then it was necessary to list the Greek words which had been found and, at the same time, to mark the number of times (tokens) each word (type) occurred in the text. So, what we now have from each paper are the types and tokens of words of Greek origin which were encountered in a sample of 1500 English words.

### 3.4. Tabulation of data

Following are the data found after examining each paper. They are presented in tables in which the following symbols were used.

N.N.	=	Name of paper examined
T.Y.W.	=	Types of Greek words which occurred in the first 1500 words of the paper
T.O.W.	=	Tokens, that is number of occurrence of each individual word
T.T.W.	=	Total number of types of Greek words
T.N.W.	=	Total number tokens of (Greek words
%	=	Occurrence of tokens of words. of Greek origin as percentage of total number of tokens

In Table 22 the following symbols are used.

D.T.	=	Daily Telegraph
G	=	The Guardian
F.T	=	Financial Times
D.M	=	Daily Mail
D.Ex.	=	Daily Express
T	=	The Times
Y.P	=	Yorkshire Post
S	=	The Sun
M	=	The Mirror
D.S	=	Daily Star

Some words on the following tables are marked with an asterisk\* and this means that these words are compound and only one of their components is of Greek origin (e.g. airport, aircraft,

television etc.). Derivative words which after the derivation are not entirely of Greek origin are not marked with the asterisk (e.g. government, where the suffix '-ment' is not of Greek origin, organizer, where only the stem 'organ-' is of Greek origin.).



N.N. : : The Times			
T.Y.W.	T.O.W	T.Y.W.	T.O.W.
aerodrome	1	ironically	1
air	4	method	3
aircraft*	2	metropolitan	1
airport ?	16	monopoly	1
authenticate	1	myth	1
cartons	1	organiser	1
catalogue	1	paragraph	1
central	2	plastic	1
dilemma .	1	police	2
diplomatic	1	policy	4
emphasis	1	political	2
emphasize	1	politically	1
european	5	practice	1
frantic	1	stadium	1
government	10	strategic	1
history	1	system	1

Table 1

T.T.W.	32
T.N.W.	72
%	4.80

Table 2

N.N. : Daily Telegraph			
T.Y.W.	T.C.W.	T.Y.W.	T.C.W.
air	1	phase	1
airport'	22	polaris	1
archdeacon	1	police	2
attic	1	policy	3
critic	2	political	3
critical	1	practice	1
decade	1	stadium	1
emphasis	1	system	1
european	1	technology	1
government	7	theatrical	1 i
idea	1	triumph	3
metropolitan	1		

Table 3

T.T.W.	T.N.W.	%
23	58	3.86

Table 4

N.N. : The Guardian			
T.Y.W.	T.C.W.	T.Y.W.	T.O.W
air	4	economic	1
airline*	2	exodus	1
airport *	21	giant	1
airstrip*	1	government	13
archdeacon	1	organiser	1
asylum	1	policy	4
base	1	political	3
centre	1	programme	1
critical	1	scheme	1
diamond	2	system	1
diplomat	1	technique	1
diplomatic	1	treasurer	3

Table 5

T.T.W.	T.N.W.	. %
25	69	4.60

Table 6

N.N. : Financial Times			
T.Y.W.	T.O.W.	T.Y.W.	T.O.W.
aerospace*	2	idea	1
Air	1	organisation	1
aircraft'*	3	phase	3
airport *	17	policy	2
Catalytic	Λ	political	1
Criticise	1	programme	3
Oriticism	1	schedule	1
Climax	η	scheme	1
Economy	η	sophisticate	1
Electronic	6	strategic	1
Emphasise	1	sympathetic	1
European	2	system	3
government	9	technical	1
Gramme	3	technology	1
history	1	type	1

Table 7

T.T.W	30
T.N.W.	72
%	4.80

Table 8

N.N. : Daily Mail			
T.T.W.	T.O.W.	T.Y.W.	T.O.W.
air	2	paralyse	1
airline *	3	photograph	1
airfilled*	1	physical	1
airport*	14	police	4
character	1	policy	2
church	1	political	1
criticise	1	scene	1
dramatically	1	stadium	<sup>2</sup>
government	5	system	1
hero	1	television*	1
ironically	1	theatrical	1
organisation	2	tragedy	3
organiser	1	triumph	1
paedophile	1		

Table 9

T.T.W.	T.N.W.	%
27	55	3.66

Table 10

N.N. : Daily Express			
T.T.W.	T.O.W.	T.Y.W.	T.O.W.
air	1	mystery	2
airlift *	1	pathologist	1
airline*	1	phase	1
airport *	15	photograph	1
archdeacon	1	police	4
arch-rival*	1	politician	2
centre	1	policy	1
diamond	1	story	1
drama	1	technically	1
economic	3	theatrical	1
european	1	transatlantic	1
government	8	treasury	1
helicopter	1	uneconomic	1
idea	1	vasectomy *	1

Table 11

T.T.W.	31
T.N.W.	60
%	4.00

Table 12

N.N. : Yorkshire Post			
T.Y.W.	T.O.W.	T.Y.W.	T.O.W.
air	2	period	1
airport*	8	phase	1
aristocracy	1	phrase	1
asphalt	1	police	4
bottom	1	policeman*	1
chemical	1	policy	2
dramatic	1	problem	1
government	4	scene	1
history	1	schedule	1
machinery	1	tragedy	2
mania	2		

Table 13

T.T.W.	T.N.W.	%
21	38	2.53

Table 14

N.N. : The Sun			
T.Y.W.	T.O.W.	T.Y.W.	T.O.W.
air	1	oil	1
airfield*	1	panic	1
airport *	3	petrol	2
archdeacon	1	phone	1
bottle		police	1
centre	1	political	1
character	1	programme	1
clergy	1	stadium	1
diamond	1	story	1
drastically	1	system	2
ecstatic	1	talent	1
giant	1	telly	1
helicopter	1	theatrical	1
hero	1	tragedy	3
hour	2		

Table 15

T.T.W.	29
T.N.W.	36
%	2.40

Table 16



N.N. : The Mirror			
T.Y.W.	T.O.W.	T.Y.W.	T.O.W.
air	2	idiot	1
airport**	3	mystery	1
apologise	1	organisation	1
archdeacon	1	organise	1
basis	1	phone	2
bottle	1	photograph	1
catalogue	1	photographer	1
crisis	1	police	2
critic	1	policy	1
diagnose	1	school	8
diamond	2	sympathy	1
entomb	1	tragedy	1
government	2	tragic	2
hero	1	tragically	1
history	2	treasure	1
hour	4	triumph	1

Table 17

T.T.W.	34
T.N.W.	51
%	3.40

Table 18

N.N. : Daily Star			
T.Y.W.	T.O.W.	T.Y.W.	T.O.W.
agonizingly	1	nymphette	1
air	1	organise	1
archdeacon	1	pandemonium	1
cannabis	1	police	3
diplomat	2	political	3
entomb	1	scene	2
episode	1	school	1
hero	1	technology	1
heroin	1	tragedy	1
museum	1	treasury	1
music	1	triumph	1
mystical	1		

Table 19

T.T.W.	T.N.W.	%
23	29	1.93

Table 20

N.N.	T.T.W.	T.N.W.	%
The Times	32	72	4.80
Financial Times	30	72	4.80
The Guardian	25	69	4.60
Daily Telegraph	23	58	5.86
Daily Express	31	60	4.00
Daily Mail	27	55	5.66
Yorkshire Post	21	38	2.55
The Mirror	34	51	3.40
The Sun	29	36	2.43
Daily Star	25	29	1.93

Table 21

Table 22

T.T.W.	T.N.W.									
	T	D.T.	G	F.T.	D.M.	D.ex	Y.P.	S	M	D.S.
agonizingly										1
aerodrome	1									
aerospace*				2						
air	4	1	4	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
aircraft *				3						
airfield *								1		
airfilled *					1					
airlift *						1				
airline*			2		3	1				
airport *	16	22	21	17	14	15	8	3	3	
airstrip*			1							
apologise									1	
archdeacon		1	1			1		1	1	1
arch-rival*						1				
aristocracy								1		

continued...

Table 22

T.T.W.	T	D.T	G	F.T	D.M	D.ex	Y.P	S	M	D.S
asphalt								1		
asylum			1							
attic		1								
authenticate	1									
base			1			1				
basis									1	
bottle								1	1	
bottom							1			
cannabis										1
cartons	1									
catalogue								1		
catalytic				1						
central	2									
centre			1			1		1		
character					1			1		
chemical							1			
church					1					

continued...

Table 22

T.T.W.	T	D.T	G	F.T	D.M	D.Ex	Y.P	S	M	D.S
clergy								1		
cleric			1							
climax				1						
crisis									1	
critic		2								
critical		1	1						1	
criticise				1	1					
criticism				1						
decade		1								
diagnose									1	
diamond			2			1		1	2	
dilemma	1									
diplomat			1							2
diplomatic	1		1							
drama						1				
dramatic							1			
dramatically					1					
drastically								1		

continued...



Table 22

T.T.W.	T	D.T	G	F.T	D.M	D.Ex	Y.P	S	M	D.S
economic			1			3				
ecstatic								1		
electronic				6						
emphasis	1	1								
emphasize	1			1						
entomb	1								1	1
episode										1
european	5	1		2		1				
exodus			1							
frantic	1		1							
giant			1					1		
government	10	7	13	9	5	8	4		2	
gramme				3						1
helicopter						1		1		
hero				1				1	1	1
heroin										1
history	1			1			1		2	
hour						2		2	4	

continued...

Table 22

T.T.W.	T	D.T	G	F.T	D.M	D.Ex	Y.P	S	M	D.S
idea		1		1		1				
idiot									1	
ironically	1				1	1				
machinery							1			
mania							2			
method	3									
metropolitan	1	1								
monopoly	1									
museum										1
music										1
mystery						2			1	
mystical										1
myth	1									
nymphette								1		1
organisation				1	2					
organise									1	1
organiser	1		1		1					
paedophile					1					

continued...

Table 22

T.T.W.	T	D.T	G	F.T	D.M	D.Ex	Y.P	S	M	D.S
pandemonium										1
panic								1		
paragraph	1									
paralyse					1					
pathologist '						1				
period							1			
phase		1				1	1			
phone								1	2	
photograph					1	1			1	
photographer									1	
phrase							1			
physical					1					
plastic	1									
polaris		1								
police	2	2			4	4	4	1	2	3
policeman							1			
policy	4	3	4	2	2	1	2		1	
political	2	3	3	1	1			1		3

continued...

Table 22

T.T.W.	T	D.T	G	F.T	D.M	D.Ex	Y.P	S	M	D.S
politically	1									
politician						2				
practice	1	1								
problem							1			
programme			1	3				1		
scene					1		1			2
schedule				1			1			
scheme			1	1						
school									8	2
sophisticate				1						
stadium	1	1			2			1		
story						1		1		
strategic	1			1						
sympathetic				1						
sympathy									1	
system	1	1	1	3	1			2		
talent								1		
technical				1		1				

continued...

Table 22

T.T.W	Φ	D.T	G	F.T	D.M	D.Ex	Y.P	S	M	D.S
technically						1	1			
technique			1							
technology		1		1						1
television *					1					
telly								1		
theatrical		1			1	1		1		
tragedy					3		2	3	1	1
tragic									2	
tragically									1	
transatlantic*						1				
treasure										
treasurer				3						
treasury						1				
triumph		3			1				1	1
type				1						
uneconomic						1				
vasectomy						1				

### 3.5. • Distribution of words of Greek origin as illustrated by the figures

In table 21 it is possible to see the differences between the number of types and the number of tokens of Greek loanwords. Roughly, the number of tokens tends to be twice that of the types. From this we may conclude that, usually, newspapers do not use a wide range of different Greek loanwords, but rather that there is a number of standard Greek words which are used once, twice or more times in a particular style, depending on the referential and syntactic requirements.

In table 22 we can observe that there is a number of Greek words which are commonly found in all the papers. The word air is used by all ten papers, although the frequency of occurrence in each separate paper is not high. The word airport is also commonly used- except in the Daily Star- with a quite high frequency in some papers. The word government is used in almost the same patterns. It does not occur in two papers, namely the Sun and the Daily Star. The frequency is quite high and runs from 2 in the Mirror to 13 in the Guardian. The words police and policy can be said that follow in frequency of use with two exceptions each. To summarise,, first comes the word air with a 100% use. Second comes again the word air but in the word airport with a use of 90%. In third place we have the words government, police and policy which all have an 80% occurrence. The word political follows with use while the words system and archdeacon are met in six papers and the word tragedy occurs in five papers. We also have some words with a occurrence and these are the words diamond, european, hero, history, stadium, theatrical and triumph.



Finally, the words centre, hour, idea, ironically, organisation, organiser, phase, photograph, scene, programme, technology all occur in three papers, while the rest of the words are used either in one or in two papers. So, we have the following table.

N.C.R.	WORDS
10	air
9	airport
8	government, police, policy
7	political
6	system, archdeacon
5	tragedy
4	diamond, european, hero, history, stadium, theatrical, triumph
3	centre, hour, idea., ironically, organization, phase, photograph, program, technology

Table 23

Notice that these words are not formal or learned words. On the contrary, it seems that their use was inevitable because there are few, if any, alternations. They are the kind of English words which are used very frequently, not only in papers, but in every—day life as well.

As far as the total number of occurrences of these words are concerned, the word airport- which is Greek only in the first part (air)- has the maximum frequency with a total' number of 119 occurrences in all the nine papers. The word government (a derivative from the word govern <Greek κυβερνῶ [kubernō]) holds the second place with a total number of 58 occurrences in all the nine papers. The words police, policy and air, roughly, come to the third place with a range from 19 to 22.

The high frequency of use of the word airport is explained by an important news item related to airports which happened to take place and had to be reported by papers. If we take this into account then the words government, police, policy, political and system have the priority of use in the papers examined here. These are the words which one expects to meet in an English paper and not at all formal or learned words. One can notice some learned words among those which occur only once or, perhaps, two. For example, authenticate, dilemma, asylum, ecstatic are words that sound somewhat formal or, at least, more formal than the other words just mentioned.

If we return to table 21 we can notice the percentage of occurrence of Greek loanwords in each paper and compare them with each other. Although there is no great difference, still, there are some boundaries which mark the distribution as either "quality" or "popular" papers. So, for the first four which are at the "quality" end the percentages are among 3.86 and 4.80. The next three papers Daily Mail, Daily Express and Yorkshire Post which are in the "middle" between the two ends, present a percentage between 2.53 and 4.00. Finally, the "popular" end has the minimum percentage with 1.93 and does not exceed 3.40.

In conclusion, we can say that the Greek words which we met in the papers examined are hardly formal. Almost all of them<sup>m</sup> are words which can be heard in everyday language and they occur in all the papers, independently from their characterisation as either quality or popular or medium. The reason is probably that these words signify ideas or things with which people are very familiar. Another reason for the fact that learned words did not occur is probably the general nature of the context. As we have already seen, the data were chosen both at random and on purpose. I did not chose a particular page of the paper for the study, a page which would be more likely to provide learned Greek loanwords, but I examined the first page where facts of general nature (politics, every-day life etc.) are reported.

If we do go through a page of science or arts and subjects which favour the use of learned words we will have different results. For example, the arts page from the Times gave the following words of Greek origin.

U.K. : The Times (Arts page)			
T.Y.W.	T.O.W.	T.Y.W.	T.O.W
academic	1	characterisation	1
acoustic	2	characterise	1
aesthete	1	chemistry	1
aestheticism	1	chorus	1
apotheosis	1	climax	2
arch	1	decade	1
aristocratic	1	dilemma	1
atmosphere	1	dramatic	1
atomic	1	dramatically	1
base	1	dynamic	1
cacophony	1	elliptical	1
central	1	emphasis	1
centre	1	energy	2
character	3	enthusiasm	1

Table 24

(continued)

T.Y.W.	T.O.W.	T.Y.W.	T.O.W.
eroticism	1	nymph	1
fantastical	1	orchestra	2
fantasy	1	orchestration	1
fascinate	1	paradox	
fascination	1	paranoid	1
gypsy	1	parasitic	1
harmony	1	philharmonic	1
history	1	physical	1
idea	3	programme	1
idiomatic	1	rhymis	
idiosyncratic	1	satire	1
labyrinth	1	school	3
leukaemia	1	scope	1
magic	1	static	1 1
melancholy	1	story	1
metamorphosis		sympathetic	1
minotaur		symphony	
netricality	1	synopsis	1

Table 24

(continued)



T.T.W.	T.O.W.	T.Y.W	T.O.W.
music	5	talent	2
musical	5	technical	1
musician	1	theatrical	3
myth	1	theme	2
mythical	2	thesis	1
nostalgic	1		

Table 24

One may notice the differences of these data from those presented in tables 1 to 23. In 1500 words from the arts page there are 74 types of words of Greek origin which corresponds to 104 tokens. Notice also that most of these words occur only once, some of them twice, others three times and only two words (music, musical) occur five times each. It is obvious that most of the words are learned and related to the arts area. The percentage is higher than those in table 21 with a 6.943. These figures confirm the supposition that some contexts favour the use of "learned" Greek loanwords while others favour the use of informal words, including those who are of Greek origin.



## **4. Conclusions**

#### 4. Conclusions

This dissertation was intended to look at some aspects of the Greek loanwords in English. To achieve I first attempted a theoretical setting of the subject 'linguistic borrowing' and particularly the area of loanwords. At second place I tried to investigate the history and manner of introduction and adaptation of Greek words in English. The main part of the study was that one which dealt with the distribution of Greek loanwords in contemporary newspaper English.

The figures which resulted from the examination of the ten daily newspapers of Britain may reveal some interesting information about the use of Greek loanwords in English newspapers. The conclusions which can be drawn from this examination are the following.

a. There is a number of Greek loanwords in English which are known as 'learned' words. There is also a number of such words which are not learned but rather informal.

b. The distribution of either of the mentioned kinds of Greek loanwords in newspaper English is strictly related to the context and style of use. So, in the examined newspapers we found out that those which are known as 'quality' papers present a bigger percentage of Greek loanwords than those who belong to the 'popular' end. We also noticed the relative absence of 'learned' words among the Greek loanwords which occurred in the examined data. This is due to the general nature of the text which we studied and which did not cover such semantic areas like science, arts and sports.

The differences between the percentages of occurrence of Greek loanwords in the various papers signify their stylistic differences. On the other hand, the absence of striking differences between the types of Greek loanwords from paper to paper might mean that there is a standard (non-learned) number of words of Greek origin which is used independently from other characteristics of stylistic variation, in newspaper English.

From the findings we can assume that the context of use is more important for the use of Greek loanwords than the style. Figures on table 24 are surprisingly different from all the previous ones. It is obvious then that some contexts -related to arts, science, medicine etc. - favour the use of Greek loanwords because this is a matter of tradition and accuracy there.

We might generalize these findings and extend them to varieties of English other than newspaper English. We can say that Greek loanwords are indeed used even in informal styles, but these loanwords are not, in general, learned words. This latter kind of Greek loanwords is probably to be found in particular contexts where the topic is of scientific or similar nature. But since we can not prove this- under the time limitations of this dissertation- with an examination of texts, we are obliged to stop in suppositions. An experimental study of the distribution of Greek loanwords in all English styles and contexts would be possible under a Ph.D. thesis.

The work which was done in this dissertation can be considered as a sample of what can be done in this area and I hope this was an interesting beginning.

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