

**THE INFLUENCE OF ENGLISH ON MODERN GERMAN: ANGLICISMS***Kimyonazarova Feruza**Uzbekistan State World Language University**[feruzakimyonazarova@com](mailto:feruzakimyonazarova@com)**supervisor: Zokirova Shohiba*

**Abstract:** This study explores the influence of English on the German language, focusing on lexical borrowing and domain loss following World War II. Through a qualitative analysis of scholarly literature, the research identifies key trends in the increasing use of Anglicisms in German, particularly since the 1990s. The findings reveal that English has significantly penetrated various domains of German society, including politics, business, academia, and popular culture. Evidence of domain loss highlights the gradual shift towards English as the primary medium in specialized fields. The study concludes that English has initiated profound structural and functional changes in Germany, emphasizing the need for continued monitoring and potential language policy interventions to maintain Germany's comprehensive communicative functions.

**Keywords:** English influence, Anglicisms, German language, domain loss, language contact, globalization, English borrowings.

**Introduction**

Globalization and technological progress have significantly intensified linguistic exchanges, with English exerting a strong influence on Modern German. As English has become the global language of communication and innovation, numerous Anglicisms have entered German across media, technology, business, and everyday speech. This linguistic shift has sparked debates regarding language enrichment versus concerns over cultural and linguistic identity.

The study examines the extent and domains of Anglicism usage in Modern German, explores the sociocultural factors driving their adoption, and analyzes ongoing academic discussions about their impact on the development of the German language.

**Literature review**

In the years following World War II, the cultural and linguistic influence experienced remarkable expansion. English has become widely used in many facets of life, especially since the 1990s. As a result, all German speakers today use English words in their daily conversations. Others enter the German language and eventually cease to be identifiable as anglicisations because they have lost their exogenous characteristics and have become an

integrated, habitual part of the language system (cf. Bursamova, 2010, p. 218), whereas some of those lexemes are only used temporarily, in specific restricted areas, or for specific purposes, such as in advertising (cf. Busse, 2001, p. 131 f.). Although the post-war period represents a critical juncture for the proliferation of Anglicisms, it is important to recognize that the foundations of English influence on German were laid much earlier. Already during the nineteenth-century Industrial Age, England had reasserted itself as a major political and cultural model, particularly in the context of democratic movements. This led to the adoption of English lexical items such as “Demonstration”, “Radical”, and “Imperialism” within German political discourse. By the end of the century, English had become so important that it began to undermine French’s long-standing dominance as the social prestige code. Gentleman, Snob, and Club are examples of borrowings that highlight the high social standing of English, especially in Berlin (Hilgendorf 2007). Despite some evidence suggesting that their growth may have slowed recently, the number of Anglicisms in the German language has increased dramatically since the end of World War II (Bursamova, 2010; Onysko, 2007). Simultaneously, there was a significant surge in scholarly interest in the usage and prevalence of Anglicisations in the German language (Onysko, 2007). According to Barbe (2004), estimates of the percentage of Anglicisations in modern German range from 8% to 17%, demonstrating the considerable impact English has had. The process of internationalization and Anglicization has permeated various sectors of German society. For instance, an increasing number of German scholarly publications are now published in English, and some even include English terms like “European” in their titles to appear more international and appealing to a broader readership (Hilgendorf, 2007). This trend is evident even within the “Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft” (German Society for Linguistics), where, during a 2007 retreat, 152 out of 180 presentations were conducted in English (Schneider, 2008). In the business sector, job titles and terms related to international economics are increasingly being translated into English (Hilgendorf, 2007). Additionally, English is particularly prevalent in consumption-related contexts such as shopping and advertising (Yang, 1990; Pacholski & Laskowski, 2006). The idea of domain loss has become a central concept in scholarly discussions on the effects of English on other Germanic languages, particularly the Nordic languages. Domain loss is conceptualized in two interconnected ways; it refers to lexical borrowing on one hand, and the transition from the native tongue to English in certain specialized fields on the other (Hultgren, 2013, p. 168). Large-scale lexical borrowing often precedes domain shifts to the dominant language, leading scholars like Hultgren (2013, p. 169) to describe these phenomena as “two sides of the same coin,” despite some linguistic attempts to differentiate between them. According to the Swedish policy document *Mal i mun* (Swedish Language Committee, 2002), the combined effect of borrowing from and switching to English could, in theory, eventually render it possible to discuss specific topics in the national language due to the absence of necessary terminology. This erosion of functional domains would result in the language no longer being elaborated for all communicative functions, which Haugen (1996) identifies as a key characteristic distinguishing a fully developed standard language. The academic, scientific, and corporate sectors are most commonly cited as being at particular risk of domain loss.

## Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research design to explore the influence of English on the German language, particularly in the context of lexical borrowing and domain loss. A comprehensive literature review method was utilized, drawing on a wide range of scholarly sources published between 1990 and 2020. Key studies by Bursamova (2010), Onysko (2007), Hilgendorf (2007), and others were critically analyzed to identify prevailing trends in Anglicization and its impact on German linguistic domains.

The selection of literature focused on peer-reviewed journal articles, academic books, and policy documents addressing the spread of English in post-World War II Europe, with an emphasis on Germany. Sources were identified through academic databases such as JSTOR, Scopus, and Google Scholar. Inclusion criteria required that the studies directly discuss the phenomenon of English lexical borrowings, sociolinguistic shifts, or domain-specific impacts within the German-speaking context.

Data analysis was conducted using thematic analysis. Relevant information was categorized into key themes such as the historical development of Anglicisms, the role of English in political and business discourse, and the concept of domain loss. Attention was given to both qualitative descriptions and quantitative estimates (e.g., the increase in Anglicisms from 8% to 17% in German vocabulary) reported in the literature.

Given the nature of the study, no primary data collection was undertaken; instead, the research relied entirely on secondary sources. This methodological approach enables a synthesis of existing knowledge, offering a holistic understanding of the extent and consequences of English's influence on the German language.

## Results

The analysis of the selected literature revealed a significant and multidimensional impact of English on the German language since the end of World War II, with a particularly sharp increase observed after the 1990s. The review confirmed that Anglicisms have become a pervasive element of everyday communication among German speakers, with English borrowings increasingly integrated into both informal conversations and formal registers.

Several key findings emerged from the thematic analysis:

- Widespread Lexical borrowing: English terms have entered the German language across various domains, particularly politics, business, technology, and consumption-related contexts.
- Domain Loss Phenomena: Specialized fields increasingly rely on English terminology, contributing to a gradual erosion of German as the sole medium for specialized discourse (Hilgendorf, 2007).
- Quantitative Growth of Anglicism: Estimates suggest that English-derived lexical items in German have increased to approximately 17% from 8%.
- Sociocultural Implications: English borrowings are often associated with prestige and modernity.
- Internationalization Trends: Scholarly and professional communication increasingly incorporates English to appeal to a broader audience.

## Discussion

The findings of this study confirm the pervasive influence of English on the German language, consistent with previous research. The significant increase in Anglicisms, especially in political, business, and consumption-related contexts, illustrates not only a linguistic trend but also a broader sociocultural shift towards globalization and internationalization.

The widespread lexical borrowing shows that English functions as a prestige language, particularly in urban environments like Berlin. The integration of English into everyday German usage highlights the deep cultural penetration of English and suggests the trend will continue.

The phenomenon of domain loss raises concerns about the future functionality of German in specialized areas. As English becomes the default language for academic, scientific, and corporate communication, German may face challenges in maintaining its full communicative range.

Overall, the findings align with the view that English has initiated profound structural and functional changes within the German language, underscoring the importance of monitoring these developments and considering policy interventions.

## Conclusion

This study has examined the significant and ongoing impact of English on the German language, focusing on the proliferation of Anglicisms and the phenomenon of domain loss. The analysis revealed that since the end of World War II, and especially since the 1990s, English borrowings have become an integral part of German communication across multiple sectors.

The results indicate that English not only serves as a source of lexical enrichment but also contributes to structural shifts within the German language. Evidence of domain loss, particularly in academic and corporate sectors, suggests English is increasingly occupying communicative spaces traditionally reserved for German. Although the rate of lexical borrowing may have stabilized recently, the long-term consequences remain profound.

The study highlights the necessity of continued scholarly attention to the dynamics of language contact and suggests that policy measures might be required to support the vitality and functional versatility of the German language in a globalized world.

## References:

1. Ganić, M. (2015). The influence of English on German: A morphosyntactic analysis (Doctoral dissertation, University of Rijeka. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Department of English Language and Literature).
2. Gerwens, F. S. (2023). Anglicisms–Nein Danke? Quantitative and qualitative analysis of the occurrence and usage of English loanwords in contemporary German (y).
3. Muhvić-Dimanovski, V. (1995). Anglicisms in German: the problem of variants. *Studia romanica et anglica Zagrabienia*, 42, 269-274.



4. Onysko, A. (2007). Anglicisms in German: Borrowing, lexical productivity, and written codeswitching (Vol. 23). Walter de Gruyter.
5. Truslove, K. (2020). The relationship between English and German in Germany: A sociolinguistic study of the use of English and anglicisms, and attitudes towards them (Doctoral dissertation, University of Oxford).