John Enjoys his Glass of Wine
Are there any English Words at all?

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Abstract: The aim of this paper is to trace back the origin of the words in the phrase "John enjoys his glass of wine" in order to find out whether there are words in ModE, which can be said to be of English origin. Consequently, it is important to give an overview of the history of the English language and to point out how English has been influenced by other languages. The paper starts with an explanation of the some key terms such as lexical borrowing, loan shifts, Wanderwörter, loan translation, lexical invention, adoption and adaptation. Then, the paper gives an account of the most important phases of foreign language influences on the English language (Viking invasion, Norman conquest, Reformation). The second part of the paper traces back the origin of the individual words in the sentence "John enjoys his glass of wine". Making the assumption that all ModE words with origins that can be found in OE are "original" English words, the findings are that "John" and "enjoy" are loan words. However, it is clear that to decide whether a word is originally English or not is a rather arbitrary process, for there is no distinct point in history when OE came to life.

1. Introduction

The enfant terrible regurgitates an enchilada and a latte macchiato.
Do these words sound like native English?
John enjoys his glass of wine.
These words sound English, but are they really of English origin?

The words *John, enjoys, his, glass, of* and *wine* might once have been foreign to the English speakers as *enchilada, latte macchiato* and *enfant terrible* are to modern English speakers. However, they have been incorporated into the language, and today they are used as if they have always been native words. This process of incorporation leads to the question: what factors are responsible for vocabulary changes?

The vocabulary of a language is the product of historical, political and geographical influences that formed it throughout its history. Languages constantly change. In the following, these changes will be discussed using English as an example, as it is a language that has been subject to various influences from other languages and has itself influenced many other languages.

In order to talk about English as an independent language, one first has to define the term *English*. The Old English term *Englisc* comes from *Engle* 'the Angles'. In the 5th century, a Germanic tribe called *Angles* set foot on the island, which is today called England. The term, however, referred to all Germanic invaders without a distinction between the tribes of the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, who all shared related languages.[1] Regarding this, one could say that an original English word, is one that has already appeared in the Old English period.

As seen, history plays an important role in the development of the English language and will be discussed from the very beginning of the English language to the present. Furthermore, it is important to look at the different processes of word borrowing and word formation to see how loan words were adopted. We may ask ourselves at which stages of the English language each of the six words in the title found its way into English. Some of them went on a long and complicated journey before they finally entered the English language.

2. Borrowing and Word Formation

2.1. Types of Lexical Borrowing

The process of introducing new words into a language is triggered by historical, geographical and political factors. Its causes lie in a need to name new things or to establish a new semantic field. Some reasons why there has always been a change in the English vocabulary will be discussed in the historical part of this paper under point 3. But, before doing so, the different ways of the incorporation of new words into a language should be explained.

2.1.1. Lexical Borrowing

LEXICAL BORROWING means that words are taken from other languages in order to use them in one's own language. These words are called LOAN WORDS or

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[1] Information taken from: www.etymonline.com

simply LOANS. There are many loan words in English: for example, *hamburger* (from German '*Hamburger*'), *sky* (from Old Norse 'ský') and *guitar* (from Spanish 'guitarra').

2.1.2. Loan Shifts

If the meaning of an existing word gets changed, we speak of LOAN SHIFTS; "a foreign concept is borrowed only at the semantic level, without its linguistic form […]. This means that no lexical item is introduced"(Hock et al., 1996:263). The influence of Christianity, for example, altered the meaning of Old English *heofon* and gave it the religious connotation, which it still has today.

2.1.3. 'Wanderwörter' ('Migrating Words')

There are words which spread over long distances through a chain of borrowings. Such words are called 'WANDERWÖRTER' ('migrating words'). Thus, different languages have similar words for the same thing (especially cultural items are often widely dispersed): the word *sugar,* for example, is similar to Arabic=*sukkar,* Italian=*zucchero,* French=sucre, German=*Zucker,* and Persian=*Shakar.* (Hock et al., 1996:254)

2.1.4. Loan Translations (or Calques)

One speaks of LOAN TRANSLATIONS or CALQUES if a new word is constructed by translating the different morphemes of a foreign word into one's own language. The word *superman*, for example, comes from the German expression *Übermensch*. Calques can also involve the change of affixes (Greek: Pétr-OS versus Latin: Petr-US).

Some loan translations are less exact than others. The German calque *Wolkenkratzer* substitutes *sky* for *cloud.* An explanation for this inexact loan translation might be due to the fact that the German speakers do not make a distinction between heaven and sky. The loan translation *Himmelskratzer** thus might be interpreted as 'heaven scraper', generating unfavourable associations with the Tower of Babel.

2.1.5. Lexical Inventions

In English, new scientific and technical terms are often formed with words of dead languages. This process can be seen in words such as *television,* where Ancient Greek and Latin words are combined (*tele*=Greek: 'far away' and *vision, visio* =Latin: 'sight, seeing').

2.2 Morphosyntactical and Phonological Features[2]

In the previous chapter, the incorporation of new words into the vocabulary of a language has been introduced. On the basis of this, the different processes of incorporation, which are often subject to morphosyntactical and phonological changes, should be discussed.

2.2.1. Adoption versus Adaptation

There are two different kinds of integration of words: ADAPTATIONS are incorporations of new word material (normally loan translations or word formations), which is made up of native sounds and morphemes (as for example *superman*). ADOPTIONS, on the other hand, are loan words with unfamiliar sound and morpheme patterns. The process of adoption includes several stages: first, a foreign word is italicised or translated. Then, it is used more widely, and at the third stage, it is commonly known and accepted. In some cases, however, the spelling or morphology of the adopted word is altered (such as the German word *Kopie* ('copy')). Sometimes, it is morphosyntactically and semantically accepted and integrated with their original spelling (such as the French loan word *rouge*).

In a language, adopted and adapted words with exactly the same meaning may coexist. It is then a matter of choice which word is generally (and in which context) used. In German, some examples of adaptations and adoptions which can be substituted are:

Adoption	Adaptation
Television (TV industry jargon)	Fernseher (general use)
Telefon (general use)	Fernsprecher (officialese)

In *Telefon ('telephone')* adoption is preferred, whereas in *Fernseher (*'television') the term usually used is an adaptation.

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[2] If not stated otherwise, all the references are taken from Hock et al., 1996:253-283.

2.2.2 Introduction of New Sounds

Loan words can sometimes be difficult to pronounce. One way to pronounce loan words is to stick to the pronunciation of their original language. Another way is to pronounce them as if they were native words. Due to the former possibility, non-native sounds have been introduced into English. Old English, for example, had the phoneme /f/, but no phoneme /v/. French, however, had both of them. Through the influence of the Normans, the letter /v/ was introduced into English. Due to this, the Old English word *heofon* is spelled *heaven* in modern English. Other examples of introduction of new sounds are the phoneme [ž] as in *rouge, garage* (from French) or [x] as in *Bach (*from German)*.

At the attempt to articulate a foreign word, HYPERCORRECTION/ HYPER-FOREIGNIZATION can occur. People often believe that foreign words must include foreign sounds, so they pronounce the South Asian word raja(h) as [rāžā] instead of [rāĵā]. Hyper-foreignization can also be heard in the French loan word *coup de grâce,* where English speakers pronounce [kū də gra], instead of [gRas].

ETYMOLOGICAL NATIVIZATION is a very common process concerning sound. "[L]iterate speakers of Russian normally nativize foreign [h] as [g], as is *gospital* 'hospital'" (Hock et al., 1996:274). Nativization, however, also occurs at the lexical level (adoption without morphological modification) as in *rouge, conceive etc.* Such lexical nativization, however, is normally accompanied by phonological nativization.

It has been demonstrated that word borrowing is subject to processes of nativization. This is why words in phrases like "John enjoys his glass of wine" sound as if they were native words. Yet, before analyzing these particular words, the history of the English language should be looked at.

3. A Short History of English Borrowing

3.1. From the Beginnings to the Viking Invasion

After approximately 400 years of reign, the Romans called their troops back in 401 and left the British island to the Celts, who had already lived there before the Romans. Around the year 450 Angles, Saxons and Jutes arrived in England, occupied a large part of it and drove the Celts away to Ireland and the Highlands in the north and west of the island. The Germanic dialects of the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, that would later become English, already contained a few dozen Latin words, such as

Wall, *Street* or *Wine* (Culpeper, 1997: 24). They had adopted them from the Romans with whom they had been in contact on the continent. With the exception of place names (e.g. *London*), very few Celtic words were adopted.

From the 6th century onwards, the English population was step by step christianised by missionaries from Rome and Ireland. During this lengthy process, the English started to use the Roman alphabet instead of the runic for their own language, though some runes were included in order to represent some particular Germanic sounds. With the spread of Christianity many new objects and concepts came into English culture, most of which were connected to religion. Because there were no Germanic words for those objects and concepts, English borrowed many words from Latin (such as *altar*, *preach* [from *praedicare*], *clerk* [from *clericus*] and *paradise* [from *paradisus*]).[3] Roughly 450 of those words made it into Modern English, with many others being abandoned or replaced later on. Interestingly, with the arrival of Christianity some Germanic words underwent semantic changes: *god* and *sin*, for example, aquired new, namely Christian, meanings (see "Loan shifts" in the previous chapter).

Towards the end of the 8th century, Viking tribes carried out several raids on the British islands and began to settle permanently in the east of England by 850. Eventually, the English and the invaders managed to live in peace with each other without one people controlling or exploiting the other. The languages of the Vikings – Old Norse and Old Danish – were Germanic dialects just like Old English. This means that these dialects, which existed next to each other, were mutually intelligible to a large extent; as a result Old English borrowed many expressions from the Vikings.

In contrast to the impact of Latin, which was mainly related to religious issues, the influence of Old Norse and Old Danish affected all aspects of living, for they were on an equal level with Old English in terms of prestige. Therefore, many Modern English words of any semantic field can be traced back to the Scandinavian dialects, though they often are so familiar to us that we do not recognise their origin: *kid*, *odd*, *steak*, *sister*, *smile*, *anger*, *birth*, *knife*, *want*, *Thursday*, *again*. The phoneme [*sk*] had been unknown to Old English so far and was added to the language as a result of the borrowing of Scandinavian words; thus, all Modern English words which begin with that phoneme - *skirt*, *skill*, *sky* or *skin*, for instance – are of Scandinavian origin. Many personal names and place names were adopted, as well; over 1500 place names in Britain are derived from a Scandinavian dialect (e.g. *Derby*, *Althorpe* or

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[3] All following examples in this chapter are from: Crystal, 1987:24f.

Braithwaite). The fact that even basic vocabulary found its way from Old Norse and Old Danish into Old English (e.g.: *both*, *same*, *get* or *give*) indicates that the English population did not reject the Scandinavian dialects as the language of the enemy. The verb form *are* substituted *sind*, and even a pronoun, *they*, originates from Old Danish. Thus, Old English was considerably modified by the Viking invasion, especially in respect to its lexicon.

By the turn of the millennium there must have been many synonyms in England, while the use of a Scandinavian or an English variant must have differed from region to region. In many pairs one of the synonyms died out later on; but where both were preserved their meaning almost always drifted apart: *raise* (Old Norse origin) vs. *rise* (Old English origin), *skill* vs. *craft*, *skin* vs. *hide*, *skirt vs. shirt*. Currently, between 1000 and 1800 words of Scandinavian origin belong to Modern English.[4]

3.2. From the Norman Conquest to the Present

The Middle English period started with the Norman Conquest of England. William the Conqueror invaded the country from Normandy in 1066 and killed King Harold. The Normans, who were Norwegian Vikings, came to France in the 9th century. They adopted the language, religion and customs of the French population and then brought Norman French to England. The Norman upper-classes spoke French and taught it their children; it was the prestigious language whereas English was the one of the lower classes (the vernacular). But English was spoken by the majority of the population. Nevertheless, in order to climb up the social ladder speaking French was an important factor.

Around 1250, Norman French lost its prestige status at court and was replaced by Central (Parisian) French. From around 1300, the status of French declined drastically. A sense of English nationalism developed, and the Anglo-Norman nobility gradually became English. In 1348, English became the language of grammar-schools (except Oxford and Cambridge, where Latin was used), and in 1362, English was declared the official language of the law courts.

Written English, however, was basically non-existent for about 100-150 years (writing was an upper-class and church issue). In addition, the West-Saxon written standard was replaced by French and Latin texts and, at the same time, the dialects of the region separated in two areas: the Midland and the East-West. With the

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[4] For the differing numbers of words compare: Culpeper, 1997:24, and: Crystal, 1987:25.

introduction of the printing press and the translations of the Chancery Scribes, a written standard seemed necessary. The one that was adopted was the East Midland dialect, because of the importance of the East Midland triangle: London-Oxford-Cambridge.

However, the contact with French did not leave English unaffected. The linguistic consequences were a handful of French loan words transforming the English lexicon. All these words are specialised terms that bilingual speakers brought from French and that were seen as nobler and more formal. The domains with the most loan words are food, fashion, leisure, arts, government, military, law, religion and church: "*appetite, beef, biscuit, dinner, fruit, poultry, boots, button, fashion, wardrobe, art, beauty, literature, painting, etc*".

The Norman invasion really symbolizes the most significant change of direction in the history of English vocabulary. By 1400 about 10'000 new lexemes had come into the language from French and several thousand more from Latin. By the end of the Middle-English period, the surviving Old English was already in the minority.

During the "Renaissance", the focus of interest was vocabulary. There were no words in the English language to talk accurately about the new concepts, techniques and inventions which were coming from Europe, so writers began to borrow them, mostly coming from Latin but also from Greek, French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. Other words came into English from over 50 other languages, including several indigenous languages of North America, Africa and Asia. Some words came into the language directly, others by way of an intermediate language.

From Latin and Greek:	*absurdity, benefit, capsule, delirium, emancipate, fact, glottis, habitual, idiosyncrasy, jocular.*
From or via French:	*alloy, battery, chocolate, detail, entrance, grotesque, invite, moustache, naturalize, passport.*
From or via Italian:	*macaroni, opera, piazza, rocket, solo, trill, violin.*
From or via Spanish and Portuguese:	*alligator, banana, cannibal, desperado, guitar,*
From other languages:	*bamboo (Malay), coffee (Turkish), easel (Dutch), flannel (Welsh), guru (Hindi).* (Crystal, 1987:60)

All these words were introduced in order to enrich the language. However, the influx of foreign vocabulary attracted bitter criticism and people started to defend the English language; this is called the Inkhorn Controversy. Some writers were in favour of borrowing while others were against it and attempted to revive obsolete English words, or to make use of little-known words from English dialects, or even to devise completely new lexemes using Anglo-Saxon roots: "*algate (always), sicker*

(certainly), yblent (confused), inwit (conscience), birdlore (ornithology), matewording (synonym)". (Crystal, 1987:60)

Some translators used equivalents for classical terms such as *crossed* for "crucified" and *gainrising* for "resurrection". However, all these inventions did not really make the language more accessible and intelligible as translators wanted to.

The increase in borrowing words from foreign languages is the most distinctive linguistic sign of the Renaissance in English. By the end of that period, the growth in classically-derived vocabulary, especially from Latin, had doubled the size of the lexicon again. It is mostly impossible to say why one word survived and another died: *impede* and *expede* were both introduced during that period but only the former has survived. (Crystal, 1987:61). Throughout the Renaissance the vocabulary was also steadily expanding in other ways. New words came into English by adding prefixes and suffixes, or by forming new compounds.

Prefixation: *disabuse, nonsense, submarine, uncivilized, uncomfortable.*
Suffixation: *changeful, considerable, delightfulness, gloomy, immaturity.*
Compounding: *commander-in-chief, Frenchwoman, heaven-sent, rosewood.* (Crystal,
                      1987: 61)

There was no reduction of borrowings during later centuries; since the 1950s another wave of borrowing has been taking place. English became a world language, and regular contact with a great number of languages and cultures started. Over 120 languages are on record as sources of English present-day vocabulary. Thousands of new lexemes entered the language and continue to do so.

4. Etymology of "John Enjoys his Glass of Wine"[5]

English borrowed many words from other languages during different periods of its history. We now want to take a closer look at six specific words from Modern English and trace them back to their origins. Where do the words in this sentence "John enjoys his glass of wine" originally come from and how did they find their way into the English language?

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[5] If not stated otherwise, all the references are taken from the Oxford English Dictionary

4.1. John

The masculine proper name *John* first appeared in English in the 12th century. Therefore it is not a native English word, but rather a loan word taken from Old French *Jehan*, which stems from Late Latin *Joannes* (from which the Medieval Latin form *Johannes* derives). *Joannes* can be traced back to Greek *Ioannes.*

In summary: Mod.E *John* < OF. *Jehan* < L. *Joannes* (Medieval Latin *Johannes*) < Greek *Ioannes.*

A remarkable fact is that the word *John* was not borrowed directly from Latin *Joannes*, even if Latin was the language of the church during the Middle English period. The arising of *John* is linked to the historical event of the Norman Conquest in 1066.

John is a Christian name, that of *John the Baptist* and *John the Evangelist*. After the first recording in 1160 it soon became one of the most common Christian given names in England. By the early 14th century, it even rivalled the name *William* in popularity.

However, the meaning of *John* is not restricted to the Christian name. Over the years, several other meanings appeared, one of them being *John* used as a representative proper name for a footman, butler, waiter, or a messenger. This way of using *John* is illustrated in this quotation from B.Jonson in 1633: "All constables are truly Johns for the King, Whate'er their names, be they Tony or Roger"(OED).

4.2. Enjoy

The verb *enjoy* is not a native English word, since it replaced the corresponding Old English word *brucan* in circa 1380. It is again a loan word from French, which was established in the English language during the Middle English period as *enjoien*, which later on developed to *enjoy*. *Enjoy* comes from Old French *enjoir* (to give joy, rejoice), a word that can be divided into the intensive prefix *en-* ('make') and the stem *–joir* (enjoy). The Old French word derived from Latin *gaudere* (rejoice).

In summary: Mod.E *enjoy* < ME *enjoien* < OF *enjoir* < L. *gaudere*

One of the first written records in which the word *enjoy* shows up dates from 1440: "He enioyed and was glad in al his herte"(OED). Here the verb *enjoy* is used as an

INTRANSITIVE one, meaning to be in joy, or in a joyous state. The TRANSITIVE function, however, only came up some hundred years later, meaning to possess, use, or experience delight: (Addison, 1713) "I could enjoy the pangs of death And smile in agony"(OED). Moreover, there exists a REFLEXIVE use of the verb, which first was used in 1656, simply meaning to be happy or experience pleasure (to enjoy oneself). In addition, Shakespeare introduced a slightly different meaning of *enjoy,* which was adopted by Milton (1667): "Never did thy Beautie… so enflame my sense With ardor to enjoy thee"(OED). In this context *enjoy* can also mean to have one's will of a woman.

4.3. His

The possessive pronoun *his* (third person singular masculine) is a native English word which was represented in Old English as *his* or *hys*. It derived immediately from the Proto-Germanic **khisa.* The Gothic *is* and the Germanic *es* are cognates. Originally, the pronoun *his* – giving the genitive form of *he* – was also the neuter possessive pronoun, but was replaced in that sense in the 17th century by *its*. For example, in the sentence "Gvj, It hath cruell teeth and scaly back, with very sharpe claws on his feete" (Cockeram, 1623) (OED). We would nowadays replace *his* with *its*, since the *his* here refers to an inferior animal and not to a male human being.

In summary: Mod.E *his* < OE *his/hys* < P.Gmc. **khisa*

The pronoun *his* expresses possessive relations as in '*his* house', or '*his* glass of wine'. However, its signification widened from the 19th century onwards, in the sense that the object belonging to *his* does not have to represent a property of a male human being (e.g. house), but it can also stand for something, which is not ones property. Something, which one has to deal with (e.g. to kill *his* man, to gain *his* blue) (OED). Already in 1709, Steele used *his* in this sense: "A good Marks-man will be sure to hit his Man at 20 Yards Distance"(OED). But it was not until a hundred years later that this signification of *his* was used regularly.

4.4. Glass

The ME word *glass* is not a loan word as such; it underwent a relatively 'undisturbed' development from Proto-Germanic to Modern English. It developed from the OE *glæs*, which came from West Germanic **glasam*, from which also Middle Dutch *glas* and the German *Glas* are derived. **glasam* stems from the Proto-Germanic base **gla-

/*gle-, which in turn comes from PIE *gel-/*ghel-, meaning "to shine, glitter, be green or yellow"; thus a colour word that is the root of words for grey, blue, green and yellow (in OE, *glær* stood for 'amber', Latin adopted the word *glaesum* for 'amber', in Old Irish *glass* meant 'green, blue, gray', and in Welsh *glas* stands for 'blue').

In summary: Mod.E *glass* < OE *glæs* <W.Gmc. *glasam* < P.Gmc. base *gla-/*gle- < PIE *gel-/*ghel-*

The word glass thereafter took on multiple meanings (glass as a substance, as spectacles, vessel, drinking glass, etc.) and has, because of its flexibility, been combined with many other words to coin new words such as magnifying-glass, looking-glass, hour-glass, or glass-like, glass-clear, glass-green, etc. This coinage of words is ongoing. One of the latest coined words is *glass ceiling*, first recorded in 1990.

Glass as a substance was first recorded in 888 by K. Ælfred (OED). Glass, in the sense of a vessel, was only recorded around 1225 (OED); and finally glass as a drinking glass was first used in 1392/93 in *Earl Derby's Expedition*: "Pro glasses et verres".
Little anecdote: Cinderella's famous glass slipper should really have been a fur slipper; in 1697, Charles Perrault translated the fairy tale from Old French into English, mistaking *vair* in "Pantoufle en vair" for *verre* (OnlED); in other versions of the tale, Cinderalla's slipper is indeed a fur slipper!

4.5. Of

The OED gives us 69 pages of information referring to the semantics and etymology of the word *of*. In category 7 of 17, *of* relates to "Indicating the material or substance of which something is made or consists." In subsection 21 (of 63) we find the example 'a cup of tea'. In this case, and in the case of 'a glass of wine', *of* has the function of "connecting two nouns, of which the former is a collective term, a quantitative or numeral word, or the name of something having component parts, and the latter is the substance or elements of which this consists."

The sheer volume of information dedicated to *of* in the OED indicates that its semantic development has been complex. Over time it lost its strength in meaning and has become relatively indefinable in syntactic relationships. As Fowler puts it: "*Of* shares with another word of the same length, *as*, the evil glory of being accessory

to more crimes against grammar than any other" (OnlED). Nevertheless, the following brief outline attempts to trace its development.

In OE, *of* was immediately derived from Proto Germanic *af-. *Of*, being originally a low-stress variant of *æf* (see below), had the meaning "away, away from", cognates being found in Old Norse *af*, Old Frisian *af*, *of*, "of", Middle Dutch *af*, "off, down" and Old High German *ab* "off, from, down", all these derived from PIE *apo- meaning "off, away" which is also the base for Sanskrit *apa-* (prefix) "away, off", ancient Greek *apo* "off, away from" and classical Latin *ab* "off, away from".

In OE, the primary meaning of *of* was still "away" but this shifted in ME; Scribes translated the Latin *ab*, *de*, or *ex*, into *of* in constructions where non-literary discourse (e.g. conversation) would not have used it. Of even greater significance was its use from the 11th century onwards as the equivalent of the French *de*, which had become the substitute in French for the Latin genitive case. The use of *of* as an equivalent of the French *de* was therefore a major factor in the replacement of the Old English genitive. By the end of the 13th century, the loss of inflection in the definite article and strong adjective had advanced the use of the *of*-construction as a periphrastic genitive, and manifested itself in numerous phraseological uses and in the construction of many verbs and adjectives.

Stressed/Unstressed use of *of*: The Proto Germanic *af-* developed in primitive OE into two forms *æf* and *of*, whereas *æf* was the stressed and *of* the unstressed form. While both forms coexisted, the unstressed form *of* was progressively used as a separable particle or adverb in OE, through which the positioning within the sentences caused *of* to become stressed, eventually replacing the originally stressed *æf*.

In summary: Mod.E *of* < OE *of* < primitive OE *æf* < P.Gmc. * *af-* < PIE *apo-*

4.6. Wine

Wine derived from the OE *win*, which derived from the Proto Germanic *winam*, which in turn was an early borrowing from the Latin word *vinum* "wine". Vinum can be traced back to the PIE *win-o-*, a noun related to words for wine in Greek. The Latin word *vinum* is thus primitively related to Greek *oinos/oin*, Albanian *vene* and Armenian *gini*, which according to some scholars are all derived from a common (now lost) Mediterranean source. Others suggest that the primitive Armenian *woiniyo* (Armenian *gini*) is the immediate origin of the Greek, Latin, and Albanian

words. The nature of the connection of the Indo-European words with the Semitic (Arab., Ethiopic *wain*, Hebrew *yayin*, Assyrian *înu*) is disputed (OnlED).

Wine as "the fermented juice of the grape used as a beverage" (OED), was first used in 805 in the OE form *uuines* (OED). From then onwards, it was used in many different forms such as *uine, win, vyn,* and *wyn* until it finally became *wine* in Modern English.

In summary:

Mod.E *wine* < OE *win* < P.Gmc.*winam* < L. *vinum* < PIE *win-o-*   Greek *oinos/oin*
                                                                   Albanian *vene*
                                                                   Armenian *gini*

5. Conclusion

If we follow the definition we set up at the beginning of this essay, that "an original English word is one that already appeared in the Old English period", then four of the six words in the sentence "John enjoys his glass of wine" can be said to be English. These words already existed in OE. However, when their development is traced beyond the OE period, a more diverse picture emerged. "His", "glass", "of" and "wine" all occurred in Proto Germanic. "His" has the simplest history, not being found in any language other than P.Germ while "glass", "of" and "wine" are traced back to PIE, although they had differing developmental histories. "Glass" and "of" came more simply from PIE through P. Germ into OE, whereas "wine" was adopted by Latin, and only later occurred in P.Germ. Furthermore, the true origin of "wine" is unknown, occurring also in Greek, it may have originated in a proto-Armenian or some other lost Mediterranean language.

This example demonstrates a widespread pattern in English. In its current form, the language is the result of many historical influences, which have played upon syntax, morphology, grammar, semantic and vocabulary. The influx of loan words during various points in history has allowed English to develop into a flexible and fluid language with a vast active vocabulary. Approximately 70% of the English vocabulary are said to be loanwords (Crystal, 1987: 27). While some words immediately reveal their foreign origin, other words have become so common in English that it is difficult to imagine that they were borrowed in the first place.

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