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## PHONETIC FEATURES OF BORROWED WORDS OF LATIN AND GREEK ORIGIN IN ENGLISH AND UKRAINIAN

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**Abstract.** This study focuses on the phonetic adaptation of Latin and Greek borrowings, analyzing how these words are integrated into English and Ukrainian in accordance with the phonological systems of the recipient languages. Special attention is paid to sound transformations, which illustrate how foreign phonetic structures are either preserved or modified during the borrowing process. The analysis of these phonetic features sheds light on broader linguistic processes of lexical assimilation and cross-linguistic influence.

**Key words:** Latin and Greek borrowings, phonetic features, Ukrainian, English.

### Introduction

The English and Ukrainian languages have long been receptive to foreign lexical influence, particularly from Latin and Greek—the foundational languages of European scholarship, science, and theology. As a result, many loanwords of classical origin have become deeply embedded in the lexicons of both languages. In English, many Latin and Greek loanwords undergo minimal phonetic change, often retaining forms close to their etymological origins due to the language's tendency to preserve learned and scholarly terms in a form recognizable from their classical roots. This phenomenon becomes especially apparent when loanwords enter English through intermediary languages, such as French, or are adopted directly from Latin and Greek.

### Results and Discussion.

Phonetic features are closely related to the sound transformations of the loanwords. This phenomenon can be considered in the context of receptive assimilation of loanwords and, in fact, as one of its stages – phonological adaptation. The term “receptive assimilation of loanwords” is understood as the process by which a language accepts and incorporates words or expressions from another language into its lexicon. This process usually consists of several stages. While these stages may

not be strictly linear, they provide a framework for understanding how loanwords become integrated into the recipient languages [3, p.250].

The types of assimilation of borrowings in the recipient language on the material of different languages and the methods of its study have been considered by many linguists.

Let us consider generalized typical stages of receptive assimilation. The following seven basic stages of receptive assimilation are distinguished: borrowing; integration; phonological adaptation; morphological adaptation; semantic shift; naturalization; and complete assimilation.

The phonetic features of loanwords refer to the third stage “phonological adaptation”. The phonetic features of Latin and Greek origin in English and Ukrainian demonstrate the specifics of the adaptation of foreign language vocabulary in accordance with the internal structure of the recipient language [1]. In phonetic terms, Latin and Greek borrowings in English mostly retain a sound close to the original, since English has a historically formed tendency to preserve the etymological form of borrowings. Many Latin and Greek terms entered English through the mediation of French or directly from the classical languages, while retaining specific spelling forms that sometimes do not correspond to modern English reading rules [5], [6].

Taking into consideration phonetic features of loanwords of Latin origin in English, it should be mentioned that sound transformations of the Latin borrowed words in English refer to the phonological or sound-related changes. They occur when words are adopted from Latin into English. These changes happen during the process of borrowing, especially when words pass through intermediary languages, like French, or adapt to English pronunciation patterns. Sound transformations are often minimal. Minimal sound transformations of Latin loanwords in English occur when Latin words are borrowed into English with little to no change in pronunciation or spelling, often due to their late entry into English. Pronunciation of loanwords that have Latin origin is typically only slightly anglicized. Spelling is also often identical or very close to the recipient language. The following examples show the loanwords

with minimal sound transformation of Latin words in the English language [5], [6]: *concrete* (*concretus*) (*Lat.*) and *concrete* (*Eng.*), this pair retains root and similar stress pattern; *datum* (*Lat.*) and *datum* (*Eng.*) with plural form *data*; *formula* (*Lat.*) and *formula* (*Eng.*), in formal and scientific texts the plural form *formulae* is also used; *forum* (*Lat.*) and *forum* (*Eng.*), the spelling and pronunciation are very similar; *maximum* (*Lat.*) and *maximum* (*Eng.*) this word is used unchanged in English; *radius* (*Lat.*) and *radius* (*Eng.*), in technical literature plural form *radii* is still kept. The considered examples of minimal sound transformations involve: changes in stress patterns, shifts in vowel quality or length, alterations or simplifications in consonant clusters and overall Anglicization of pronunciation.

Greek loanwords, like Latin loanwords, play a significant role in the development of the vocabulary of both languages, as they have become the basis for many terms in science, medicine, technology, the arts, and other fields. In the case of English, Greek borrowings came through Latin and directly through scholarly translations, starting in the Renaissance, when interest in classical culture and philosophy gained popularity. Greek became the main source of terminology. As it was mentioned above, the Greek loanwords entered English through Latin, which sometimes changed spelling and pronunciation. In scholarly English, Greek morphemes (roots, prefixes, suffixes) are common - they often exhibit predictable sound patterns. Unlike Latin loanwords, Greek words frequently retain classical spellings such as *ph*, *ch*, *ae*, which gives them an academic appearance.

In contrast, Ukrainian typically adapts the pronunciation and spelling of borrowed terms to fit the native phonological structure and orthographic conventions. Greek and Latin loanwords often undergo considerable phonetic transformation, especially when mediated through other languages such as Church Slavonic, Polish, or Russian. For example, Latin *conceptio* becomes *концепція*, with changes in stress, vowel quality, and suffixation. Similarly, Greek *theos* gives rise to *теологія*, with full integration into Ukrainian phonotactics and morphology. These transformations reflect a naturalization process, aligning foreign vocabulary with Ukrainian linguistic norms.

This contrast illustrates a broader typological distinction: English often emphasizes etymological transparency and preservation, while Ukrainian prioritizes phonetic assimilation and linguistic integration.

Greek words entering the Ukrainian language undergo more noticeable phonetic changes to conform to the norms of Ukrainian pronunciation, as well as adaptation to grammatical and morphological requirements [6]. For example, the Ukrainian word *психологія* comes from the Greek *ψυχή* (*psyche*) - *soul* and *λόγος* (*logos*) - *word, doctrine*. In the process of adaptation, the word acquires a Ukrainian ending and forms its own grammatical structure that corresponds to the rules of declension in the Ukrainian language. Such adaptations help ensure the natural fit of Greek terms into the Ukrainian language system [1], [2, p.38].

### **Summary and conclusions.**

The analysis of the phonetic features of borrowed words has shown that Latin and Greek lexemes in both languages often undergo significant adaptation to the phonological language of the recipient. In English, the adaptation is usually minimal - words often retain their original form or are slightly modified to fit the English orthoepy. In Ukrainian, on the other hand, borrowed words are mostly adapted through stress and phonetic transformations.

While both English and Ukrainian have incorporated a significant number of Latin and Greek loanwords, the phonetic adaptation strategies in each language differ markedly due to their distinct phonological systems and historical language development. English, particularly in its academic, scientific, and technical registers, tends to preserve the original pronunciation or spelling of classical borrowings, especially when these terms entered the language during the Renaissance or Enlightenment through scholarly use.

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