

The Eastern Origin of English Words

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Abstract

Etymology is a branch of linguistics describing the origin of words, their change and development. To-day the far reaching advances in linguistics and in ELT and EFL oblige us, teachers of English to know well not only the language itself but about the language as well. So are they for the English vocabulary. This paper explains the reasons for the percentage of borrowings in the English language. Explanations for this should be sought in the eventful history of England. If to summarize the origin of the English vocabulary, it can be roughly called Anglo-Saxon, Norman, Scandinavian and French. However, the borrowings are not confined only to these languages. There are borrowings from Arabic, Turkish, Indian and many others. Some of the borrowings have been fully adapted to the phonetic system of the English language, while others look and sound as loan words. The English language can be regarded as the most hospitable language in the world.

Key Words: Eastern origin words, loan words, origin, teaching of foreign language, vocabulary

Özet

Dilbiliminin bir alt kolu olan etimoloji; sözcüklerin kökenlerini, değişimlerini ve gelişimlerini inceler. Dilbilim, İDE ve YDE alanındaki son derece hızlı ve yoğun gelişmeler, araştırmacıları İngilizce'nin söz dağarcığının kökeni üzerinde çalışmaya sevk etmektedir. İngilizce'deki ödünç kelimelerin sayısı çok fazladır. Bu makalede; İngilizce'ye bilhassa Arapça, Farsça ve Türkçe'den geçen yaygın kullanımı olan sözcükler ve geçiş süreçleri ele alınmıştır. İngilizce'deki ödünç kelimelerin açıklamalarını, çok geniş bir coğrafyaya yayılan İngiliz tarihinde aramak gerekir. İngilizce'deki sözcükler, ekseriyetle Anglo-Sakson, Norman, İskandinav ve Fransızca kökenlidir. Fakat ödünç kelimeler sadece bunlarla sınırlandırılmaz. İngilizce'ye diğer

dillerin yanı sıra, Arapça, Türkçe ve Hintçe'den de birçok ödünç sözcük geçmiştir. İngilizce'ye başka dillerden geçen kelimelerin büyük bir çoğunluğu, İngilizce'nin ses yapısına uyum sağlamışken bazıları hala geldikleri dildeki özelliklerini korumaktadır. İngilizce, yabancı sözcükleri bünyesinde barındırma bakımından dünyanın en konuksever dillerinden biridir.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Doğu kökenli sözcükler, ödünç sözcükler, köken, yabancı dil öğretimi, söz dağarcığı.

Polonius: What do you read my Lord?

Hamlet: Words, words, words.

(Shakespeare, Hamlet)

William E. Umbach, in the introduction to Webster's Dictionary, emphasizes the importance of etymology which studies the origin and development of words, their forms and meanings, "words, like poetry, can be treated as arbitrary mathematical symbols or formulas.

Sometimes this is necessary and expedient. But to do so can be like treating a diamond simply as a material for the cutting of refractory substances. Seen as the product of perhaps three thousand years of human experience, a word may not only have many facets, but many somehow reflect with brilliant intensity the concentrated experience or insights of the generations. It is still true that words can have a mysterious power to conjure up images, or evoke visions, or stir up emotions deep-seated in the shared experience of mankind (XXXII).

No other existing language is perhaps as 'mysterious' as English in terms of borrowings. A person who does not know English but knows French, Italian, Latin or Spanish is certain to recognize a great number of familiar-looking and sounding words when looking through an English book or listening to an English-speaking man. It is true that English vocabulary, which is one of the most extensive among the world's languages contains an immense number of words of foreign origin. Explanations for this should be sought in the history of the nation speaking the language. A brief survey of some historical facts is necessary here.

In the first century B.C. most of the territory now known to us as Europe was occupied by the Roman Empire. Among the inhabitants of the continent were Germanic

tribes, called 'barbarians' by arrogant Romans. Theirs was really a rather primitive stage of development, compared with the high civilization of Rome. They were primitive cattle-breeders and knew nothing about land cultivation. Their language contains only Indo-European and Germanic elements.

After a number of wars between the Germanic tribes and the Romans, these two opposing peoples came into peaceful contact. Trade is carried on, and the Germanic people gain knowledge of new things. They learn how to make butter and cheese¹ and, as there are no words for these products in their tribal languages, they are to use the Latin words to name them. They also borrow the names of some fruits and vegetables such as cherry, pear, plum, pea, beet, and pepper. The word *plant* is also a Latin borrowing of this period.

The fifth century A.D. Several of the Germanic tribes (the Angles, the Saxons, and the Jutes) migrated across the sea now known as the English channel to the British Isles. There they were confronted by the Celts, the original inhabitants of the Isles. The Celts desperately defended their land against the invaders, but they were no match for the military-minded Teutons and gradually yielded most of their territory. Through their numerous contacts with the defeated Celts, the Germanic tribes assimilated a number of Celtic words, such as *bald*, *down*, *bard*, *cradle*. Especially, numerous among the Celtic borrowings were place names, names of rivers and hills.

The Germanic tribes occupied the land, but the names of many parts and features of their territory remained Celtic. For instance, the names of the rivers *Avon*, *Exe*, *Usk* and *Ux* originate from Celtic words meaning 'river' and 'water'. Ironically, even the name of the English capital originates from Celtic *LLyn* + *dun* in which *LLyn* is another Celtic word for 'river' and *dun* stands for 'a fortified hill', the meaning of the whole being 'fortress on the hill over the river'. Some Latin words entered the Anglo-Saxon Languages through Celtic, among them such widely-used words as *street* (Lat. *Strata via*) and *wall* (Lat. *Vallum*).

The seventh century A.D. This century was significant for the Christianisation of England. Latin was the official language of the Christian Church, and consequently, the spread of Christianity was accompanied by a new period of Latin borrowings. These new Latin borrowings were very different in meaning from the earlier ones. They mostly indicated persons, objects and ideas associated with church and religious rituals. For example, *priest* (Lat. *presbyter*), *bishop* (Lat. *episcopos*), *monk* (Lat. *monachus*),

¹The Dictionaries given in reference have been referred to throughout the paper.

nun (Lat. *nonna*), *candle* (Lat. *candela*). Also, there were educational terms. No wonder that these were Latin borrowings, too., for the first schools in England were church schools, and the first teachers priests and monks. The words *school*, *scholar* and *magister* are but few of them.

From the end of the 8th c. to the middle of the 11th c. England underwent several Scandinavian invasions which inevitably left their trace on English vocabulary. Here are some examples of early Scandinavian borrowings: *call*, *take*, *cast*, *die*, *law*, *husband*, *window*, *ill*, *loose*, *low*, and *weak*. Some of the words of this group are easily recognizable as Scandinavian borrowings by the initial *Sk*-combination. E.g. *Sky*, *skill*, *ski*, *skirt*,

1066. With the famous Battle of Hastings, when the English were defeated by the Normans, we come to the eventful epoch of the Norman Conquest. As J. A. Shear in his article *The Words We Use* points out “There is an important difference between the influence now to be examined and the earlier foreign influences. The native language was not completely driven out, leaving little impression on the language of the conquerors, as had happened when the Angles and Saxons conquered the Britons, nor modified by a related language, but instead a second language was established in the country, in use side by side with the native language”.²

England became a bilingual country, and the impact of the French language on the English vocabulary is huge. French words penetrated every aspect of social life. Here is a very brief list of examples of Norman French borrowings:

Administrative words: state, government, parliament, council, power.

Legal terms: court, judge, justice, crime, prison.

Military terms: army, war, soldier, officer, battle, enemy.

Educational terms: pupil, lesson, library, science, pen, pencil.

² Sheard, J. A. “The Words We Use”. *Readings in Modern English Lexicology*. Ed. H.H. Tikhonov. p.183.

Everyday life was also affected by the powerful influence of French words. Numerous terms of everyday life were also borrowed from French in this period: e.g. *table, plate, saucer, diner, supper, river, autumn, uncle*, etc.

The Renaissance Period. In England, as in all European countries, this period was marked by significant developments in science, art, and culture and, also, by a revival of interest in the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome and their languages. Hence, there occurred a considerable number of Latin and Greek borrowings. In contrast to the earliest Latin borrowings (1st. Century B.C.), the Renaissance ones were rarely concrete names. They were mostly abstract words, such as *major, minor, filial, moderate, intelligent, permanent, to elect, to create*. There were numerous scientific and artistic terms like *datum, status, phenomenon, philosophy, method, music*, of which the words *philosophy, phenomenon, method, music* were borrowed into English from Latin and had earlier come into Latin from Greek.

The Renaissance was a period of extensive cultural contacts between the major European states. Therefore, it was only natural that new words also entered the English vocabulary from other European languages. The most significant ones were French borrowings. This time they came from the Parisian dialect of French and are known as Parisian borrowings. Examples; *regime, routine, police, ballet, matinee, scene, bourgeois*, etc.. However, they are different from Norman French borrowings in that the former have for a long time been fully adapted to the phonetic system of the English language; the words, as *table, plate, courage, chivalry*, bear no phonetic traces of their French origin. The latter still sound surprisingly French.

Italian also contributed a considerable number of words to English, e.g. *piano, violin, opera, alarm, colonel*. The Italian words like *macaroni, ravioli, spaghetti, pizza, arugula*, and the *mafia* have also acquired a citizenship in the English language. Words of Eastern origin (Arabic, Persian) are also of great importance in the vocabulary of the English Language. Before going further, two linguistic terms should be explained: 'source of borrowing' and 'origin of borrowing'. The first should be applied to the language from which the loan word was taken into English. The second, on the other hand, refers to the language to which the word may be traced. Ideally, etymological dictionaries should point out both of them – the source of and origin of borrowings. For example, the word pyjamas-pajama (AE) is a good 'traveller'. It has the Indian language as its source of borrowing, but it is actually Persian (Persian *pai*; a leg + *jama*; garment). The Russian language borrowed the word from English. The origin of the word *check* is

no less interesting. It comes into Old French through Arabic into which it came from Persian *shah-king*. As is well known, in chess *shah* means that the opponent's king is in danger. From here the meaning 'holding someone in check' has been derived. The words *caravan* (kavran + sarai), *bazaar*, *turban* (a kind of head-dress), *pilaw* (pilaf), *divan*, *baksheesh* (a tip), *jackal*, *azure*, *lemon* are also words of Persian origin.

Arabic and Persian borrowings occupy a considerable place in the vocabulary of the English language. (See table 1 in appendix). Some Arabic words have been assimilated to such an extent that it is hard to see in them a foreign element. The words like *assassin*, *average*, *arsenal*, *camel*, *crimson*, *cotton*, *coffee*, *chemistry*, *decipher*, *checkmate*, *sofa*, *zenith* sound more English than Arabic. Moreover, some words of Arabic origin form synonymic groups. For example, *zero* – *nil* – *naught*. However, some words can be deceiving like 'false friends'. The words with initial *al* remind us of the words' Arabic origin, for example; *alcohol*, *alcove*, *algebra*, *algorithm*, *albatross*, *alkali* and many others. Also some words of Arabic origin have more than one spelling, which testifies to their alien nature. If one and the same word has a number of spellings, it testifies to its being a loan word. Turkish words, though not as much as Arabic, also add flavour to the rich stock of the English language (See table 2 in appendix).

Thus, etymologically, the English vocabulary consists of native words and loan words. A native word is a word which belongs to the original English stock, as known from the earliest available manuscripts of the old English period. Borrowings, on the other hand, are taken over from another language and modified in sounding, spelling, and paradigm or meaning according to the standards of the English language, the native words are further subdivided into Indo-European stock and those of common Germanic origin. (See table 3). As seen in table 3, the second column, i.e. the borrowings, contain more groups than first one, though one would expect the native element to prevail. England's eventful history and its international contacts account for this inconsistency. According to many linguists, the percentage of borrowings in English is up to 70 %, and 30 % of the words are native. However, according to Arnold, "although the mixed character of the English vocabulary belongs to word-formation and semantic changes patterned according to the specific features of the English language system. This system absorbed and remodelled the vast majority of loan words according to its own standards, so that it is sometimes difficult to tell an old borrowing from a native word" (254).

Etymology is a strong feature of great dictionaries. *Webster's New World Dictionary* states that "insights into the current usage of a word can be gained from a full knowledge of the word's history and that a better understanding of language generally can be achieved from knowing how in other Indo-European languages" (XII).

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Appendices

Table 3
The Etymological Structure of English Vocabulary

The Native Element	Borrowings
1. Indo-European element	1. Celtic (5 th – 6 th c. A.D)
2. Germanic element	2. Latin 1 st group: 1 st c. BC 2 nd group: 7 th c. A.D 3 rd group: Renaissance
3. English Proper element. (not earlier than 5 th c. A.D)	3. French a) Norman borrowings: 11 th – 13 th A.D b) Parisian borrowings (Renaissance) 4. Greek (Renaissance) 5. Italian (Renaissance and Later) 6. Spanish (Renaissance and Later) 7. Arabic (mostly through French) 8. Indian 9. Russian 10. Some other groups

Table 1 (Words borrowed from Arabic and Persian)

English	Meaning in Arabic	Notes
Titles and Ranks		
admiral	<i>amiir al-bihar</i> "commander of the seas" from Old French. amiral, admirail, via med. Latin from Arabic 'amīr 'commander'(OED)	
emir	<i>ameer</i> meaning commander or ruler from French émir, via Arabic. 'amīr (OED).	
sheikh	old man	an honorific title.
sheriff	noble	
sultan	<i>sultaan</i> meaning "ruler"	
sultan		an Arab king.
vizier	<i>wazeer</i> meaning minister or official, adviser, ultimately from middle persian (pahlavi) "Vacheer" meaning minister or judge	
Food and Drink		
artichoke	via Italian 'articiocco' (among other forms) from Arabic <i>al-khurshouf</i> (OED) (The word 'artichoke' was subsequently reborrowed back into Palestinian and Lebanese Arabic as Ardhi-Shoki	
caramel	possibly from Arabic, more likely from Latin <i>cannamellis</i> "burnt honey"	a milky sweet.
marzipan		paste of almonds and sugar used in cakes.
salep	Fr. < Spanish < Ar. The starchy dried tubers of various orchids.	
sherbet	sorbet, shrub, syrup	
Clothing		
aba	<i>abaāh</i> "A loose-fitting sleeveless garment of this fabric worn by Bedouins."(MWCD)	
camise	<i>qamees</i> , A loose shirt, shift, or tunic which has given Spanish (camisa) and French (chemise), see also Salwar kameez	
fez		a red hat named after

		its city of origin in Morocco.
yashmak	veil	
Religious Terms		
aldebaran	<i>al-dabaran</i> “the follower” (MWCD)	
Allah	“allah” or “ell’ah”, meaning god.	the Muslim deity.
alleluia (hallelujah)	praise the Lord	
Ayatollah	miracle of God	
caliph, caliphate, calif	title formerly given to Muslim religious or political leader	
fetwa (fatwa)	decree given by a religious man, on official order by a Muslim religious leader.	
genie	<i>jinn</i> meaning spirit	from “Jinn”, spirits that inhabit the world – they are frequently mentioned in the Muslim holy book, the Quran.
giaour		
hajj (haj)	Ar. Hajj <hajja	the pilgrimage to Mecca that every Moslem is expected to to take at least once.
halal	lawful	applies to food that is fit for a Muslim to eat.
hegira	Mohammed’s escape from Mecca to Medina in 622 A.D.	
Hezbollah, Hizbullah		extremist Shiite organization in south Lebanon
imam	“front man” “leader of prayer” “leader”	
Kaaba	“the House of Allah (God)” in Islam.	
jihad	a holy war fought by Muslims against those who reject Islam.	
kaffir		giaour
kismet	Ar. Kismah	a portion, fate
minaret	<i>manarah</i> , something enlightening its surrounding	the tower of a mosque from where prayers are called
mosque		place of worship for Muslims.
Mujahidin, mujaheddin, mujahideen	Islamic guerrilla fighters.	

muslim (Moslim, Moslem)	musslim	
paradise	Middle Iran 'pardez' an inclosure and 'pairi' around.	
peri	Per. Pari , woman who misleads the faithful by seduction.	
pilau, pilaf, pilaff	Per. Pilaw	a dish of rice in a seasonal liquid, and usually containing meat or fish.
qismet	kismet	
Quran	recitation	the Islamic holy book - also spelt "Koran".
Shaitan, satan	devil, evil	
Shia, Shiite		
Sufi (Sufism-tasavvuf)		member of the mystical Islamic movement of Sufism.
sunna	circumcision	
Sunni (sunnism, Sunnite)		
Plants		
alfalfa	fodder	
amber	fossilized pine tree resin	
artichoke	plant with an edible flower head	edible plant.
aubergene		
bonduc		
caraway	<i>karaawiyaa</i>	plant with seeds used in cookery.
carob	<i>ḥarrūb</i> "locust, carob bean"	
cotton	<i>quṭn</i>	borrowed into Spanish as "Alcodon"; the AL was dropped when it passed into English.
cumin		type of plant used as a seasoning
fustic	<i>fosteet</i> , ultimately from Greek <i>pistakē</i> : 'pistachio tree' ^[1]	
hashish	<i>Hashiish</i> "grass"	from the same root as "assassin".
henna	<i>hinna</i>	
lemon	From Middle English <i>lymon</i> > Middle French <i>limon</i> > Spanish <i>limón</i> > Arabic <i>laymoon</i> from Persian <i>leemo</i>	
saffron	<i>zaa'faran</i> species of crocus plant bearing orange stigmas and purple flowers.	orange colouring for food.
sesame		tropical Asian plant bearing small edible

		seeds.
soda	<i>suwwādah</i> "a kind of plant"	
sumac (sumach)	small reddish fruit	
sumbul (sumbal, sambal)	relish made with vegetables or fruit and spices	
Miscellaneous		
adobe	<i>aT-Tuub</i> "the brick" from Spanish., from adobar 'to plaster', from Arabic aṭ-ṭūb, from al 'the' + ṭūb 'bricks' (OED)	
afreet	<i>ifreet</i> 'same as english meaning evil spirit or powerful demon' (OED)	
albacore	<i>al-bakoura</i> from Portuguese albacora, from Arab. al-bakūra, perhaps from al 'the' + bakūr 'premature, precocious' (OED).	
albatross (or alcatross)	from Spanish and Portuguese alcatraz, from Arabic. al-ḡaṭṭās the diver' (OED)	
Alcazar	Castle of the Moorish kings of Seville (Spain)	
alchemy	<i>al-keemiyaa</i> Middle English via Old French and Latin from Arabic alkīmiyā', from al 'the' + kīmiyā' (originally from Greek khēmia, khēmeia 'art of transmuting metals') (OED).	
alcohol	French or from medieval Latin, from Arabic al-kuḥl the kohl'(OED).	
alcove	from French alcôve, from Spanish alcoba, from Arabic al-ḡubba 'the vault' (OED)	
alembic	<i>al-anbiq</i> "the cup/container holding water" Middle English, via Old French from medieval Latin alembicus, from Arabic al-'anbīq, from al- 'the' + 'anbīq 'still' (from Gk ambix, ambik- 'cup') (OED)	
algebra	reunion of broken parts	one of many mathematical terms from Arabic.
algorithm		(denoting the Arabic or decimal notation of numbers): variant of Middle English algorism, via Old French from

		medieval Latin algorismus, Arabic al-Ḳwārizmī 'the man of Ḳwārizm' from the Persian scientist al-Khwarizmi who wrote <i>Hisab al-jabr w'al-muqabala</i> the Calculus of subtraction and equality which has exposed the first Algorithm for solving a first order equation, <i>see also</i> algebra (OED).
alkali		Middle English (denoting a saline substance derived from the ashes of plants): from medieval Latin from Arabic al-ḳalī from fry, roast' (OED).
alkaline	derivative of alkali (OED).	
almanac	<i>al-manaakh</i> , "the climate", possibly from Greek <i>almenichiakon</i> , "calendar"	a book of astronomical data.
aniline	al-nili from Persian 'nili' meaning indigo, ultimately from Sanskrit <i>nilah</i> "dark blue"	
arsenal	<i>daar sinaa`a</i> , "house of manufacturing"	
assassin	the Hashshashin. The word means "those who use hashish" (cannabis resin). According to Crusader histories, that group used to ingest hashish before carrying out military or assassination operations, in order to be fearless.	from the same root as "Hashish" as assassins were often given this drug before being sent out to kill political enemies.
average	equitable distribution of losses due to damaged goods	
azimuth	<i>as-sumut</i> "the paths"	
azure	Middle English 'asur' > Old French 'azur' > Old Spanish 'azul' > Arabic lazeward from Persian 'lajevard'	
bedouin	<i>badawiyiin</i> "nomads"	
benzene	from Java	an organic chemical solvent from a resin

		in an Asian tree
benzoin	"Frankincense of Java," an organic chemical solvent from a resin in an Asian tree.	
Betelgeux	armpit of the mighty one	a bright star in Orion.
camel	from Latin <i>camellus</i> , from one of the Semitic languages (which one is uncertain, but the term is found in Latin before Arabic)	
carat	weight of four grains	
carmine	ML carminium <Ar. Qirmiz, crimson	ultimately from Sanskrit <i>krimiga</i>
Casbah, Kasbah	crowded and overpopulated Arab neighborhood in a North African city.	
checkmate	<i>shah maat</i> "the king has died", originally from Persian	from here, the verb 'check'
chemistry		(see alchemy").
cheque	letter of credit	from "shakk"; allowed money to be withdrawn from banks in different cities.
cipher	<i>Ṣifr</i> "zero"	
coffle	A line of animals or slaves fastened or driven along together	origin C18: from Arab, kafila, caravan.
crimson	<i>Crimson</i> entered English during the 15th century from an Old Spanish version of the Arabic word for <i>kermes</i> from Persian 'ghermez' meaning red	
darabukka	kettle drum	
decipher	from 'cipher' in the sense of (hidden) symbol. cf 'cipher' above.	
dragoman	interpreter	
dragoman	<i>tarjuman</i> . from Amaraic <i>turgemānā</i> , from Akkadian ^[1] .	
drub	beat	In English a "drubbing" can mean "a good beating" in a sporting contest.
elixir	<i>'ikṣiir</i> "philosopher's stone" Middle English: via medieval Latin from Arabic. al-'ikṣiir from al 'the' + 'ikṣiir from Gk xēriōn 'powder for drying wounds '(OED)	

fakir	poor man	
fellah	<i>fallah</i> meaning farmer	
gala	festivity	
garbage	waste, refuse	
garble	<i>gharbala</i> "sift", ultimately from Latin <i>cribellum</i> "sieve"	
gauze	<i>qazz</i> from Persian <i>kazh</i> meaning "raw silk".	
gazelle	<i>ghazalle</i>	
ghoul	<i>Ghul</i> . 1. Oriental Folklore an evil spirit that robs graves. 2. A person who robs graves.	from the same root as the star, Algol, known as "the demon star" because it varies its brightness every few days.
giraffe	<i>zaraafah giraffe</i>	
harem	set apart, <i>harim</i> "sanctity" "wife"	the women's quarter in an Arab palace.
hazard	danger	
hegira	<i>hijrah</i> "departure" - <i>hajara</i> "expatriation" "immigration"	
jar	earthenware vase	
Kef, kif	a substance, especially cannabis, smoked to produce a drowsy state.	
kermes	<i>qirmiz</i> (via Spanish; ultimately from Sanskrit <i>krmi-ja</i> "worm-produced")	
khanjar		
kohl	<i>kohl</i> "congenital blackness of the eyelids"	
loofah	from the Egyptian Arabic word <i>lufah</i>	the name of the simple plant-like animal used as a sponge.
lute (oud)	<i>al-`uud</i> "the lute," the fore-runner of the guitar.	
macrame	<i>miqrama</i> "embroidered veil"	
magazine	<i>makhaazin</i> "storehouses,"	
mascara	uncertain origin; possibly from <i>maskhara</i> "buffoon" or from an unknown language. In modern Persian <i>maskhara</i> means <i>to ridicule</i>	
mask	disguise, masque	
maskara	clown, silly, buffoon	
massage	from French, ultimately from either Arabic <i>massa</i> "to stroke" or Latin <i>massa</i> "dough"	
mattress	<i>maTraH</i> "place where something is thrown, mat, cushion"	
mirror		looking glass.

mocha	<i>al-mukhaa</i> "Mocha" Yemen	
mohair	<i>mukhayyar</i> "having the choice"	
mohair	goats' hair cloth	
monsoon	<i>mawsim</i> "season" (via Portuguese)	
mummy	<i>moom'ee'yaa'</i> embalmed corpse.	
muslin	based on a city in Iraq (Mosul) where cotton fabric was made	
myrrh	from Greek, ultimately from one of the Semitic languages, but which one is unclear; cf. Arabic <i>urr</i> "bitter", Hebrew:	
nadir	<i>nazeer</i> "parallel or counterpart"	
Ottoman	<i>uthman</i>	
pancreas	A word of Greek origin	
popinjay	From Middle English papejay or papengay > Middle French papegai and papejai > from Arabic 'babagaa'	
qantar	'qantar'	
racket	palm of hand	as used for ball games.
ream	bundle	
rigel	<i>rijl</i> The star's name comes from its location at the "left foot" of Orion. It is a contraction of "Rijl Jauza al-Yusra," this being Arabic for "left foot of the Central One".	
safari	via Swahili from <i>safari</i> meaning "to travel"	
sahara	<i>sa-huh-rá</i> "desert"	
sahib	friend	still used in Indian English.
salaam	peace	greeting used in Islamic nations
sash	<i>shaash</i> "muslin"	
satin	probably <i>zaytuni</i> "of Zaytun"	
sequin	<i>sikkah</i> "die, coin"	
sirocco	<i>sharqiyah</i> , "eastern"	
sofa	<i>suffa</i> whole	
souk	<i>suq</i> "Middle Eastern marketplace"	
tabby	based on a city in Iraq where striped fabric was made	
tahini	<i>tahinia</i> Arabic word derived from another Arabic word "tahn" which means to grind	
talc	magnesium silicate powder	
Taliban	student	a political and religious movement in Afghanistan.
talisman	amulet	

tamarind	<i>tamr-hindi</i> "date of India"	
tambour (tamburitza)	drum	
tare	via Latin from <i>tarhah</i> - 'something discarded'	
tariff	<i>tarriffa</i> meaning tax or fee (for government mostly).	
tazza	<i>tassa</i> which is a shallow saucer-like dish.	
wadi	dry river, <i>wadi</i> valley	common in place names (eg. Wadi Rum in Jordan).
xebec	From French <i>chebec</i> > Italian <i>sciabecco</i> > Arabic <i>shabbak</i>	
zenith	pass over the head	Fr. Through Sp. Zenith, from Ar. <i>sanit</i> , short for <i>sanit-urras</i> , Lit. way direction of the head.
zircon		A mineral from which the metal zirconium is extracted

Table 2 (Words borrowed from Turkish)

Word	Meaning	Notes
baklava		sweet made from layered pastry, syrup and pistachio nuts.
bridge	from "bir uch", one three	the card game.
caftan		loose shirt. Also spelt with a K.
caviar		pickled roe of a sturgeon fish.
kebab		meat on a skewer. Different types: shish=skewer; donner = turning. USA name for donner is "giro".
Khan		ME. Chaan < Turkish Khan, Lord, prince, of Tatar origin.1. A title given to Gengis Khan and his successors who ruled over Turkish, Tatar and Mongol tribes and dominated most of Asia during the Middle Ages.
lackey	From 'ulak', runner, courier	
Pasha (also pacha)	Chief, head	the title of a Turkish officer

		of high rank, e.g. a military commander, the governor of a province, etc.
tulip	turban	bulbous flower shaped like a turban.
Urdu	camp	because it was the language of military camps. The same root as “horde”.
yoghurt		Curb made from fermented milk.