Abstract

Title: Russicisms in the English language

Author: Vasily V. Vlasenko

Research supervisor: Assistant professor Larisa F. Shishimer

Research initiator: PSLU, Institute of International Service, Tourism and Foreign Languages

Topicality of research: when studying the problem of borrowings following aspects must be taken into account: periodization of their entry into a language, their assimilation and meaning as well as use in a certain time period.

Goals: 1. to study Russicisms in English from the point of view of their entry into the language; 2. to fetch out Russian borrowings which are still used in the present-day English language.

Tasks: to study classifications of borrowings and ways of their transformation and assimilation, to analyze the experimental data chosen by means of the British National Corpus in the context of the entry into English and to establish the fact of the use of Russicisms in the language.

Theoretical value and practical applicability: study records can be used in the theoretical courses of Cultural Linguistics and Culture-through-Language studies, Intercultural Communication and in the practice of teaching English through borrowed lexical units.

Research outputs: The unused and the most frequently used Russian borrowings are singled out and their reference to a certain period of the borrowing process is determined. Russicisms in the English language belong to two time periods: a pre-revolutionary period and a post-revolutionary one. Words of the first group are rarely used in the English speech due to the fact that the realms they refer to died out except those ones which are inseparable from the Russian culture. Lexical units of the Post-Soviet period either do not exist in today’s English or the sphere of their use is too narrow to be registered at the national level. Sovietisms are more common in modern English than pre-revolutionary Russian loans and this could be explained by their international nature.
Implementation advice: materials and work conclusions have theoretical and practical value for the further scientific research of borrowings in the English language and can be used in the practical courses of Cultural Linguistics and Intercultural Communication.