



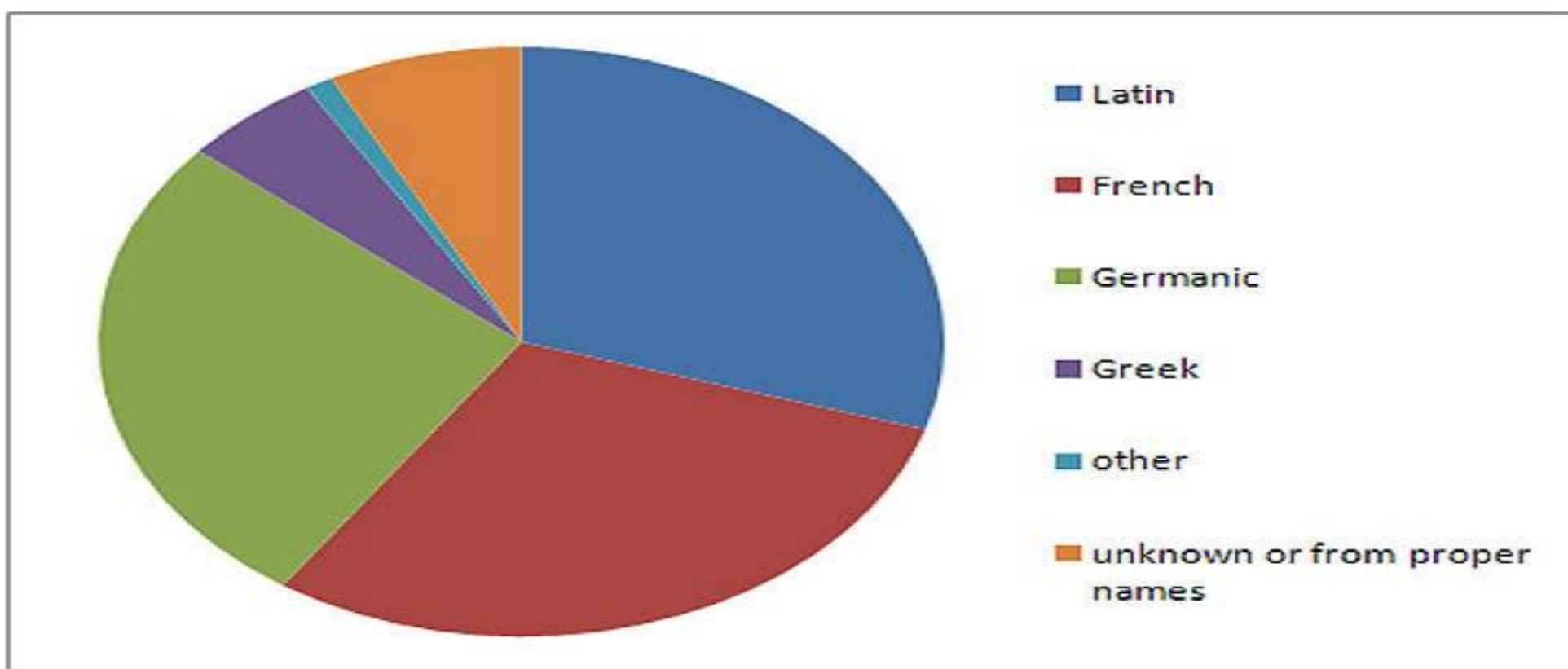
Latin Influence On English

Chronological overview of the Latin influence on English

- 43. AD gets a Roman province
- 597 begin of the Christianisation: Influence of Church Latin on OE
- 1066 Norman Conquest: big influence of the Latin- Romanic vocabulary on middle English.
- 19./20.th century: The development of science and technic leads to a huge emergence of words on a Latin and Greek basis.

MnE	OE	dat	Latin	MnE	OE	dat	Latin
anchor	ancor	880	ancora	coulter	culter	100	culter
angel	engel	950	angelus	cowl	cugele	931	cuculla
apostle	abost	950	apostolu	creed	creda	100	credo
ark	arc	100	area	crisp	crisp	900	crispu
balsam	balsa	100	balsamu	discip	discip	900	discip
heet	hete	100	heta	fan	fann	800	vannu
box	box	931	buxus	fennel	finucl	700	finucl
candle	cande	700	candela	fever	fefor	100	febris
cap	cæpp	100	cappa	font	fant/f	100	fonte
cedar	ceder	100	cedrus	gingib	gingib	100	gingib
chalice	celic	825	calix	lily	lilie	971	lilium
chest	cest	700	cista	lobste	lobust	100	locust
circle	circuī	100	circulus	martv	martv	900	martvr
cookfn	coc	100	cocus	mass	mæss	900	missa

(Freeborn.1998:80/81)



Percentage of Latin vocabulary in Modern English; (ghs-mh. *Language and Migration: Loanwords in European Languages*)

Percentage of English words coming from Latin

- About 80 percent of the entries in any English dictionary are borrowed, mainly from Latin
 - Over 60 percent of all English words have Latin (or Greek) roots
 - In the vocabulary of the sciences and technology the figure rises to over 90 percent
⇒Even today, Latin roots are the chief source for English words in science and technology
- About 10 percent of the Latin vocabulary has found its way directly into English without an intermediary (e.g. French)

Doublets and triplets

English words of Latin origin have either been borrowed directly from the Latin font or taken over from the French. Some Latin words have several times been borrowed and because oft that are twice (or more often) present in the English.

Synonyms (pairs of words with the same meaning) are for example .:

to sever	< separare
to separate	
sure	< securus
secure	

Pairs of words with a difference in meaning:

pity	(Mitleid)	< pietas
piety	(Frömmigkeit)	
reason	(Grund)	< ratio(nem)
ration	(Zuteilung)	

A common phenomenon in English is the juxtaposition of the same concept in Germanic and Latin form, the Anglo-Saxon term is generally emotional

speed	(german.)	< velocitas
velocity	(latein)	
pity	(german.)	< pietas
piety	(latein)	
to sell	(german.)	< vendere
to vend	(latein)	

Latin influence in the Germanic Period

Early loanwords are concerned mainly with military affairs, commerce, agriculture, refinements of living that Germanic people acquired through a fairly close contact with Romans since the beginning of Christian era.

→Roman merchants had penetrated into Germania of those early centuries, Roman farmers settled in in the Rhineland and valley of Moselle, and Germanic soldiers had marched with the Roman legions. (P.277)

About 175 loanwords from early period. Many survived until today: e.g. *ancor* ‘anchor’ (Lat. *ancora*); *disk* ‘dish’ (lat. *discus*), *mil* ‘mile’ (Lat. *milia*)

Latin words in Old English (450-1150)

There is a merest sampling of Latin loanwords in OE: Somewhat more than 500 in all occur in the entire OE up to the Conquest.

Through Christianisation from 597 on

Churches, schools, monasteries

Praying and teaching in Latin

E.g. *ceaster* ‘city’ (Lat. *castra* ‘camp’) survives in the town names *Chester*, *Castor*, *Caister* and as an element in the names of a good many English places, many of which were once in fact Roman military stations. For instance *Casterton*, *Chesterfield*, *Exeter* or *Manchester*.

Latin words borrowed in Middle English Times (1150-1500)

Indirect borrowing through the influence of French after the Norman conquest.

→ Frequently it is impossible to tell, whether such words are from French or Latin origin by their form alone. For instance *miserable*, *nature*, *relation*.

But also directly in the area of law and justice, medicine, theology and literature.

→E.g. *allegory*, *genius*, *legal*, *mechanical*, *rational*, *summary*. (Algeo, 2006: 279)

Latin words borrowed in Modern English Times (1500-1700)

The great period of borrowing from Latin and Greek by way of Latin is the modern English period. The century or so after 1500 saw the introduction of many words such as *abdomen*, *area*, *compensate*, *data*, *delirium*, *medium*, *urban*, and *vindicate*.

Latin was the first major contributor of loanwords to the English language and it remains one of the most important resources.(Algeo, 2006: 280)

→Various innovations mark the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the Renaissance in Europe.

The major invention was the **printing** press in the mid-15th century, which was introduced in England in 1476 by William Caxton. With this ability to spread printed knowledge faster than ever, the country raised the level of education. More and more people learned to read and write.

The collective knowledge of the Greeks and Romans - whose philosophy, political theory, history, literature, science, culture were famous - was again in the focus of attention. Many authors of the early modern period were trying to achieve in their works the great stylistic ideal of the Golden Latinity, the orator and statesman Cicero.

While the influence of the Church Latin subsided, the importance of the Latin language in the sciences and literature rose sharply. The rapid growth of scientific knowledge in the early modern period required an appropriate specialist vocabulary in the different areas. Where no names for new phenomena did exist, they had to be created. This rose the borrowings from Latin between 1550-1650. (Schuelerlexikon. *Der lateinische Einfluss*)

Well known Latin phrases which are used in English

<i>ad infinitum</i>	⇒	‘To infinity’, going on forever
<i>alma mater</i>	⇒	‘Nourishing mother’, term used for the university one attends/has attended
<i>alter ego</i>	⇒	‘Another I’, a pseudonym or a close associate who always acts on one’s behalf.
<i>Anno Domini</i>	⇒	‘In the year of the lord’: a year counted from the traditional date of birth of Jesus
<i>ante meridiem (am)</i>	⇒	‘Before noon’, period from midnight to noon
<i>bona fide</i>	⇒	‘In good faith’
<i>cum laude</i>	⇒	‘With honors’
<i>curriculum vitae</i>	⇒	‘Course of life’
<i>de facto</i>	⇒	‘In fact’

Ghs-mh. *Language and Migration: Loanwords in European Languages*; http://www.ghs-mh.de/migration/projects/language/la_uk_1.htm; Zugriff: 22.06.2015

Dictionary: <http://dictionary.reference.com/help/faq/language/t16.html>; Zugriff: 22.06.2015

Schülerlexikon: *Der lateinische Einfluss*; http://m.schuelerlexikon.de/eng_abi2011/Der_lateinische_Einfluss.html; Zugriff: 22.06.2015

Algeo, John: 2006. *The origins and development of the English language*. Boston: Wadsworth.

Mader. *Einfluss des Lateinischen und Französischen*; http://www.weikopf.de/index.php?article_id=64; Zugriff: 22.06.2015

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