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## GERMAN BORROWINGS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE: A LINGUISTIC OVERVIEW

English has a longstanding tradition of integrating foreign words, with German serving as a notable source.

The purpose of this study was to examine the origins, semantic fields, and integration of German borrowings into English, supported by documented examples from reputable sources [1-3; 6-9].

English, a West Germanic language, shares ancestral roots with German. However, beyond shared origins, English has directly borrowed a significant number of words from Modern High German, especially from the 18th century onwards. These borrowings often correspond to concepts, objects, or phenomena for which English lacked precise terms, leading to the adoption of German lexemes [4; 5].

German has contributed terms across a variety of fields:

1. Philosophy and Psychology, e.g.:

*Angst* – psychological state marked by deep anxiety, notably used in existential philosophy.

*Doppelgänger* – a person who closely resembles another, often in a supernatural or uncanny sense.

*Gestalt* – theory in psychology emphasizing holistic perception.

*Schadenfreude* – deriving pleasure from another's misfortune.

*Übermensch* – Nietzschean term for the ideal superior individual, frequently referenced in philosophy and literature.

*Weltanschauung* – a comprehensive worldview or personal philosophy.

*Zeitgeist* – the intellectual and cultural climate of a particular era.

2. Gastronomy, e.g.:

*Delicatessen* – a store offering gourmet and fine foods.

*Pumpernickel* – dense, dark rye bread.

*Sauerkraut* – fermented cabbage dish.

*Schnitzel* – breaded and fried meat cutlet.

*Seltzer* – carbonated mineral water, named after the town of Selters.

*Strudel* – layered pastry dessert with various fillings.

*Wiener* – short form of Viennese sausage, often refers to hot dogs.

3. Military and Political Discourse, e.g.:

*Blitzkrieg* – swift, intense military offensive.

*Luftwaffe* – name for the German air force, often used in historical contexts.

*Panzer* – armored military vehicle or tank.

*Realpolitik* – politics guided by pragmatism rather than ideological or ethical premises.

4. Everyday vocabulary, e.g.:

*Fest* – a celebration or festival, as in “Oktoberfest”.

*Gesundheit* – expression said after someone sneezes, meaning “health”.

*Kaput* – broken or no longer functional.

*Kindergarten* – preschool education.

*Kitsch* – art or objects considered overly sentimental or gaudy.

*Wanderlust* – strong desire or impulse to travel.

Many German loanwords have been fully assimilated into English, often retaining their original spelling but adapting to English pronunciation and grammatical structures. For instance, “kindergarten” is pluralized as “kindergartens” in English, following standard pluralization rules.

In conclusion, German borrowings have enriched the English lexicon, providing precise terms for specific concepts, especially in philosophy, gastronomy, and military terminology. Their adoption reflects historical interactions and the dynamic nature of language evolution.

#### References:

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