

Word-Formation Productivity of Anglicisms in Russian

In recent decades, Anglicisms have become a significant source of vocabulary expansion in contemporary Russian. Earlier borrowings largely retained their original form and were limited to specific semantic fields. However, today, many Anglicisms are fully integrated into the Russian word-formation system, raising questions about how foreign roots become productive bases for derivation and which Russian word-formation models are most frequently activated during adaptation.

This study aims to identify and describe the main word-formation models used in the derivation of Anglicisms in modern Russian. Data were collected from various online sources where Anglicisms are widely used, including gaming chats (e.g., Twitch), social networks (X, Threads), and professional communities, reflecting everyday digital communication. Units demonstrating word-formation productivity were selected, for example: *скам* [skam] ‘scam’ → *скамить* [skamit’] ‘to scam’ → *скамер* [skamer] ‘scammer’ → *скамерский* [skamerski] ‘scammer-like’; *бан* [ban] ‘ban’ → *забанить* [zabanit’] ‘to ban’; *фолловер* [folover] ‘follower’ → *фоловнуться* [folovnut’sya] ‘to follow’. These examples illustrate how borrowed elements are adapted to Russian morphological rules, forming coherent and productive lexical series.

The study is based on lexico-morphological analysis, supported by contemporary dictionaries of Anglicisms and corpus-based observations. Special attention was paid to the formation of verbs with suffixes *-ить* [-it’], *-нуть* [-nut’], and the reflexive postfix *-ся* [-sya] (*забанить* [zabanit’] ‘to ban’, *ливнуть* [livnut’] ‘to leave’, *фоловнуться* [folovnut’sya] ‘to follow’; derivational models in nouns and adjectives: *скамер* [skamer] ‘scammer’, *скамерский* [skamerski] ‘scammer-like’, *тиктокерский* [tiktokerski] ‘TikTok-style’); and the relationship between Anglicism-based word-formation nests and traditional Russian patterns. The analysis also considers how these processes reflect broader trends in language adaptation, lexical innovation, and the integration of foreign material into a morphologically rich language.

The findings show that borrowed elements not only establish themselves in the language but also serve as productive bases for creating new lexico-grammatical series. The most productive patterns include verb formation with *-ить* [-it’] and *-нуть* [-nut’] and nominal formation with *-ер* [-er]. Overall, modern Russian demonstrates a high degree of

openness to borrowings, integrating foreign material according to internal word-formation norms. The productivity of Anglicisms highlights the flexibility of the Russian morphological system and its capacity for adaptation, offering insights into the dynamics of contemporary language change and the mechanisms through which foreign roots are fully assimilated into the grammar and vocabulary of a target language.

References

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