

## Greek loanwords in the English language

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### ABSTRACT

The main aims of this study are a) to identify words of Greek origin in the English language and b) to classify the aforementioned words semantically. The present study deals with words of Greek origin which entered the English language in the twentieth century. The Concise Oxford Dictionary was used for this study. All the entries in this dictionary were read, and words of Greek origin were identified and recorded.

Numerous Greek words entered the English language in the fifteenth century (e.g. *chaos*, *oligarchy*, *paradigm*, *paragraph*, *timocracy*, and so on), in the sixteenth century (e.g. *cachexia*, *catastrophe*, *comma*, *enigma*, *gnosis*, *onomastic*, *systole*, and so on), in the seventeenth century (e.g. *autocracy*, *autonomy*, *calligraphy*, *criterion*, *misogyny*, *oasis*, *stenography*, *theocracy*, and so on), in the eighteenth century (e.g. *cardia*, *derma*, *eczema*, *metalurgy*, *octopus*, and so on), and in the nineteenth century (e.g. *bradycardia*, *callisthenics*, *cataphatic*, *cosmopolis*, *clorophyll*, *agronomy*, *akinesia*, *allogamy*, and so on).

What differentiates the Greek loanwords of the previous centuries and the twentieth century is the fact that words of Greek origin which entered the English language in the twentieth century are semantically scientific or technical words and not words for everyday speech. It can be argued that in English most learnt, scientific, or technical words are formed on the morphologic basis of Latin or Greek<sup>2</sup>. Furthermore it can be pointed out that the Greek vocabulary has provided a mine to be exploited by all modern European languages, either by direct borrowing or via Latin.

## Δάνειες Λέξεις από την Ελληνική στην Αγγλική Γλώσσα

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### ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ

Οι κύριοι στόχοι της μελέτης αυτής είναι αφ' ενός μεν να εντοπίσει λέξεις ελληνικής προέλευσης στην αγγλική γλώσσα, αφ' ετέρου δε να κατηγοριοποιήσει τις λέξεις αυτές σημασιολογικά. Η μελέτη επικεντρώνεται σε λέξεις ελληνικής προέλευσης που εισήλθαν στην αγγλική γλώσσα τον 20<sup>ο</sup> αιώνα. Το εργαλείο που χρησιμοποιήθηκε είναι το Concise Oxford Dictionary. Όλα τα λήμματα του λεξικού αυτού αναγνώστηκαν και λέξεις ελληνικής προέλευσης αναγνωρίστηκαν και καταγράφηκαν.

Αναρίθμητες ελληνικές λέξεις ενσωματώθηκαν στην αγγλική γλώσσα το 15<sup>ο</sup> αιώνα (λ.χ. *chaos*, *oligarchy*, *paradigm*, *paragraph*, *timocracy*, κ.ο.κ.), το 16<sup>ο</sup> αιώνα (λ.χ. *cachexia*, *catastrophe*, *comma*, *enigma*, *gnosis*, *onomastic*, *systole*, κ.ο.κ.), το 17<sup>ο</sup> αιώνα (λ.χ. *autocracy*, *autonomy*, *calligraphy*, *criterion*, *misogyny*, *oasis*, *stenography*, *theocracy*, κ.ο.κ.), το 18<sup>ο</sup> αιώνα (λ.χ. *cardia*, *derma*, *eczema*, *metalurgy*, *octopus*, κ.ο.κ.), και το 19<sup>ο</sup> αιώνα (λ.χ. *bradycardia*, *callisthenics*, *cataphatic*, *cosmopolis*, *clorophyll*, *agronomy*, *akinesia*, *allogamy*, κ.ο.κ.).

Αυτό που διαφοροποιεί τις ελληνικές δάνειες λέξεις των προηγούμενων αιώνων με εκείνες του 20<sup>ου</sup> αιώνα είναι το γεγονός ότι στη δεύτερη περίπτωση (20<sup>ος</sup> αιώνας) οι λέξεις είναι επιστημονικής και

τεχνικής ορολογίας και όχι λέξεις της καθομιλουμένης. Μπορούμε εύκολα να διαπιστώσουμε ότι στην αγγλική γλώσσα οι πιο περίτεχνες και επιστημονικές λέξεις σχηματίζονται στη μορφολογική βάση των ελληνικών ή των λατινικών. Επιπλέον μπορούμε να υποστηρίξουμε ότι η ελληνική γλώσσα αποτελεί μία ανεξάντλητη πηγή την οποία εκμεταλλεύτηκαν όλες οι σύγχρονες Ευρωπαϊκές γλώσσες είτε με απ' ευθείας δάνεια είτε μέσω των Λατινικών.

## **0 Introduction**

"Kyrie, It is Zeus' anathema on our epoch and the heresy of our economic method and policies that we should agonize the Scylla of nomismatic plethora and Charybdis of economic anaemia. It is not my idiosyncrasy to be ironic or sarcastic but my diagnosis would be that politicians are rather cryptoplethorists. ... I apologize for having tyrannised you with my Hellenic phraseology. In my epilogue I emphasize my eulogy to the philoxenous autochthons of this cosmopolitan metropolis and my encomium to you, Kyrie, the stenographers."

This is the speech of Mr. Xenophon Zolotas, the general manager of The National Bank of Greece in the late 50's when he addressed to the International Monetary Council in New York. His speech is full of words of Greek origin which have been incorporated in the English language. Numerous words entered the English language from the time of Old English up to the twentieth century.

## **1 Aims and scope**

The main aims of this study are: a) to identify words of Greek origin in the English language and b) to classify the aforementioned words semantically.

The present study deals with words of Greek origin which entered the English language in the twentieth century. The Concise Oxford Dictionary [1] was used for this study. All the entries in this dictionary were read, and words of Greek origin were identified and recorded.

## **2 Method**

The Concise Oxford Dictionary [1] is based on huge amounts of corpus material and other computerised evidence, including the 100-million word British National Corpus, and the citation database of the Oxford World Reading Programme, currently standing at around 48 million words. The editors in the preface underline the fact that "in the 10th edition specially created 'word-formation' panels have been included to illustrate the many ways in which new (and old) words are formed from other linguistic elements."

### 3 Foreign loanwords in the English Language

McWhorter [2] states that the vast majority of our [the English] vocabulary originated in foreign languages. He argues that English lost most of its original vocabulary through three main lexical “earthquakes”. When Vikings invaded and settled in the northern half of Britain in 787, they scattered about a thousand words of Old Norse into English. He argues that in the sentence “if I tell you that on a foggy Thursday a sly, dirty-necked, scowling outlaw, skulked into the bank with a knife, ransacked it, and crawled out the window seeming happy” every word came from these Vikings except a, into, the, with, it, and out.

In 1066, French speakers took over England for the next two hundred years. McWhorter argues that these French people were Vikings again, having taken over northwestern France and switched to French over the generations; their ancestry was why these French were called Normans- that is Norsemen. The volume of ordinary ‘English’ words that originated in France is stunning: air, coast, face, flower, joy, people, river, blue, easy, large, pure, chair, change, push, move, trip, wait, pain, music, park, toast, bar, tax, e.t.c..

McWhorter goes on to argue that the “Latinize” layer came after the withdrawal of the French, with the increasing use of English as language of learning- hence client, legal, intellect, pulpit, exclude, necessary, interest, et alia.

McWhorter states that the English vocabulary is so shot through with foreign loanwords on all levels that there is no language whose basic vocabulary is mostly akin to ours. He states that there is an analogy between biology and language: plants derive crucial nutrients from the fungi in their roots that process nitrogen for them, for example. Thus life itself, as we know it, is thriving, evolving variations of symbiotic, rather than individual, life forms.

### 4 Results

#### Anatomy

agonist, from Gk agōnistēs, “contestant”, from agōn “contest”; nephron, 1930s: from Gk nephros “kidney”; oligodendroglia, 1920s, from Gk oligo-“small”+dendro-“tree”+glia “glue”; splenomegaly: from splēn-“spleen”+Gk megas, megal-“great”.

#### Anthropology

eidos, 1930s, from Gk, lit. “form, type or idea”; pyknic, 1920s, from Gk puknos “thick”+-IC.

#### Archaeology

Chalcolithic, C20, from Gk khalkos “copper” + lithos “stone”+ - IC; orthostat, C20, from Gk orthostatēs, from orthos “straight or right”+statos “standing”.

## Biology

actinomycete, 1920s, from Gk aktis, aktin- “ray”+mukētes, pl. of mukēs “fungus”; allelochemical: 1970s, from Gk allēl-“one another”+chemical; allopatric, 1940s, from Gk allo-“other”+Gk patra “fatherland”+ic; auxotroph, 1950s, from L. auxilium “help”+Gk trophos “feeder”; axenic, 1940s, from a-“not”+Gk xenicos “alien, strange”+ic; axoneme, C20: from Gk axon “axis”+nēma “thread”; bacteriophage, 1920s, from bacterium+Gk phagein “eat”; bacteriostat, C20, from bacterium+Gk statos “standing”; centromere, 1920s, from L. centrum+Gk meros “part”; chlamydia, 1960s, from mod. L., from Gk khlamus, khlamud-“cloak”; chromatid, C20, from Gk khrōma, khrōmat- “colour”; clone, C20, from Gk klōn “twig”; diakinesis, C20, from Gk dia-“through”+Gk kinēsis “motion”; diplotene, 1920s, from Gk diplo “double”+Gk tainia “band”; eukaryote, 1960s, from EU-(Gk eu “well”)+KARYO-(from Gk karuon “kernel”)+-ote; gnotobiotic, 1940s, from Gk gnōtos “known”+BIOTIC; kinetochore, C20, from KINETO-(from Gk kinētos “movable”)+Gk khōros “place”; leptotene, C20, from LEPTO-(from Gk leptos “fine, thin, delicate”)+Gk tainia “band, ribbon”; meme, 1970s, from Gk mimēma “that which is imitated”, on the pattern of gene; micurgy, 1920s, from MICRO-(from Gk mikros “small”)+Gk – ourgia “work”; mitochondrion, C20, mod. L., from Gk mitos “thread”+khondrion (dimin. of khondros “granule”); morph, C20, from Gk morphē “form”; neuston, C20, via Ger, from Gk, neut. of neustos “swimming, on the pattern of plankton; pachytene, C20, from Gk pakhus “thick” + tainia “band”; parabiosis, C20, Mod. L. from PARA-(from Gk para “beside, beyond”)+Gk biōsis “mode of life”; prokaryote (also procaryote), 1960’s, from L. PRO-+Gk karuon “nut, kernel”+-ote, as in zygote; rhizobium, 1920s, mod. L. RHIZO-(from Gk rhiza “root”)+Gk bios “life”; schizont, C20, from SCHIZO-(from Gk skhizein “to split”)+-ONT; sympatric, C20, from SYM-(from Gr sun “with”)+Gk patra “fatherland”+ic; synapomorphy, 1960s, from SYN-+APO-+Gk morphē “form”; syngamy, 1904, from SYN-+Gk gamos “marriage”; thigmotropism, C20, from Gk thigma “touch”+TROPISM; streptomycete, 1950s, from STREPTO- (from Gk streptos “twisted”)+Gk mukēs, mukēt- “fungus”.

## Biochemistry

actin, 1940, from Gk aktis, aktin- “ray”+IN; amphipathic, 1930s, from AMPHI-(of Gk origin)+Gk pathikos (from pathos “experience”); arachidonic acid, C20, from mod. L. arachis, arachid “peanut” from Gk arak(h)os, –kis + - ONE+IC; biotin, 1930s, coined in Ger. From Gk bios “life”+IN; bradykinin, 1940s, from Gk bradus “short”+kinēsis “motion”+IN; catalase, C20, from CATALYSIS (from Gk katalusis, from kataluein “dissolve”)+ASE; chalone, C20, from Gk khalōn, khalaein “slacken”, on the pattern of hormone; ecdysone, 1950s, from Gk ekdusis “shedding”+ONE; enkephalin, 1970s, from Gk enkephalos “brain”+IN; epitope,

1960s, from EPI-(from Gk epi “upon”)+Gk topos “place”; ganglioside, 1940s, from GANGLION (from Gk ganglion “tumour”)+-OSIDE; glucagon, 1920s, from Gk glukus “sweet”+agōn “leading, bringing”; haptoglobin, 1940s, from Gk haptein “fasten”+(haemo)globin; heparin, C20, via late L. from Gk hēpar “liver” + - IN; inosine, C20, from Gk is, in- “fibre, muscle”+-OSE+-INE (of L. origin); kinase, C20, from Gk kinein “to move” + - ASE; kinetin, 1950s, from Gk kinetos “movable”+ - IN; kinin, 1950s, from Gk kinein “to move”+-IN; melatonin, 1950s, from Gk melas “black” + SEROTONIN; methionine, 1920s, from METHYL (from Gk methu “wine”+hulē “wood”)+Gk theion “sulphur”; oestradiol, 1930s, from OESTRUS (from Gk oistros “gadfly or frenzy”)+DI+-OL; oestrogen, 1920s, from OESTRUS (from Gk oistros “gadfly or frenzy”)+GEN; oxytocin, 1920s, from Gk oxutokia “sudden delivery” (from oxus “sharp”+tokos “childbirth”)+-IN; pantothenic acid, 1930s, from Gk pantothern “from every side” (with allusion to its widespread occurrence); porphyrin, C20, from Gk porphura “purple”+-IN; sialic acid, 1950s, from Gk sialon “saliva”+-IC; tocopherol, 1930s, from Gk tokos “offspring” + pherein “to bear”+- OL.

### **Botany**

agamospermy, 1930s, from Gk agamos “unmarried” + sperma “seed”; apomixis, C20, from APO-(from Gk apo “from, away”)+Gk mixis “mingling”; chamaephyte, C20, from Gk khamai “on the ground”+-PHYTE; coenocyte, C20, from Gk koinos “common”+-CYTE; nastic, C20, from Gk nastos “squeezed together” + -IC; macrocarpa, C20, mod. L., from MACRO-(from Gk makros “long, large”)+Gk karpos “fruit”; sclerophyll, C20, from Gk sklēros “hard”+ phullon “leaf”.

### **Chemistry**

actinium, C20, from Gk aktis, aktin- “ray”+IUM; azeotrope, C20, from A-+Gk zein “to boil”+tropos “turning”; catalyst, C20, from CATALYSIS (from Gk katalusis, from kataluein “dissolve”); chromatography, 1930s, from CHROMATO-(from Gk khrōma, khrōmat- “colour”) + GRAPHY (from Gk grapheia “writing”); deuterium, 1930s, mod. L., from Gk deuterios “second”; eicosapentaenoic acid, C20, from Gk eicosa- “twenty” + penta- “five” + - ENE + - OIC; enantiomer, 1930s, from Gk enantios “opposite”+ - MER; isotope, 1913, from ISO-(from Gk isos “equal”)+Gk topos “place”; lipid, C20, from Fr. based on Gk lipos “fat”; lyophilic, C20, from Gk luein “loosen, dissolve”+philos “loving”; monotropy, C20, from MONO-(from Gk monos “single”+Gk tropē “turning”)+-Y; tautomer, C20, blend of TAUTO-(from Gk tauto “the same”) + ISOMER; technetium, 1940s, mod. L. from Gk tekhnētos “artificial”; thixotropy, 1920s, from Gk thixis “touching”+tropē “turning”; tritium, 1930s, from mod. L., from Gk tritos “third”.

### **Cosmology**

anthropic principle, 1970s, anthropic from Gk anthrōpikos, anthrōpos “human being”.

### **Ecology**

allelopathy, 1950s, from Gk allēl- “one another”+PATHY (from Gk patheia “suffering, feeling”); biota, C20, mod. L. from Gk biotē “life”; biotope, 1920s, from Ger. Biotop, based on Gk topos “place”; hydric, C20, from HYDRO- (from Gk hudōr “water”)+-IC; mesic, 1920s, from Gk mesos “middle” + -IC; periphyton, 1960s, from Gk peri- “around”+ phuton “plant”; stenohaline, 1930s, from Gk stenos “narrow” + halinos “of salt”; xeric, 1920s, from XERO- (from Gk xēros “dry”)+-IC.

### **Economics-Mathematics-Statistics**

econometrics, 1930s, from ECONOMY (via L., from Gk oikonomia “household management”, based on oikos “house”+ nemein “manage”), on the pattern of biometrics; ergodic, C20, from Ger, from Gk ergon “work”+ hodos “way”+IC; kurtosis, C20, from Gk, kurtōsis “a bulging” from kurtos “bulging, convex”; monopsony, 1930s, from MONO- (from Gk monos “single” + Gk opsōnein “buy provisions”)+-Y; oligopsony, 1940s, from OLIGO- (from Gk oligoi “few” + Gk opsōnein “buy provisions”)+-Y, on the pattern of monopsony.

### **Electronics**

dynode, 1930s, from Gk dunamis “power”+ODE (from Gk hodos “way”); Heterodyne, C20, from HETERO-(from Gk heteros “other”)+-dyne (from Gk dunamis “power”).

### **Genetics**

allelomorph, C20, from Gk allēl – “one another” + morphē “form”; disomy, C20, from DI-(from Gk dis “twice”)+-SOME (from Gk sōma “body”) + -Y; pleiotropy, 1930s, from Gk pleiōn “more” + tropē “turning”; polytene, 1930s, from POLY-(from Gk polus “much”)+Gk tainia “band”; telomere, 1940s, from Gk telos “end, part”.

### **Geology**

allochthonous, C20, from Gk allos “other” + Gk khthōn “earth”+OUS; asthenosphere, C20, from Gk asthenēs “weak”+SPHERE; batholith, C20, coined in Ger. from Gk bathos “depth”+LITH (from Gk lithos “stone”); cataclasis, 1950s, from CATA-(from Gk kata “down”)+Gk klasis “breaking”; craton, 1930s, from Gk kratos “strength”; deuterio, C20, from DEYTERO- (second)+-IC; diatreme, C20, from DIA-(from Gk dia “through”)+Gk trēma “perforation”; lopolith, C20, from Gk lopus “basin” +LITH (from Gk lithos “stone”); migmatite, C20, from Gk migma, migmat- “mixture”+ITE; Proterozoic, C20, from Gk proteros “former”+ zōē “life”+IC; speleothem, 1950s, from Gk spēlaion “cave” + thema “deposit”; tektite, C20, coinde in Ger.,

from Gk *tēktos* “molten”+ITE; *tephra*, 1940s, from Gk, lit. “ash, ashes”.

### **Linguistics-Grammar-Phonetics**

acrolect, 1960s, from Gk *akron* “summit”+LECT; allomorph, 1940s, from ALLO-(from Gk *allos* “other”)+MORPHEME (from Gk *morphē* “form”); allophone, 1930s, from ALLO-(from Gk *allos* “other”)+PHONEME (from Gk *phōnē*, “sound, voice”); basilect, 1960s, from BASIS(via L. from Gk “stepping”)+lect; cataphora, 1970s, from CATA- (from Gk *kata* “down”), on the pattern of anaphora; deixis, 1940s, from Gk, lit. “reference” from *deiknunai* “to show”; diglossia, 1950s, from Gk *diglōssos* “bilingual”; ergative, 1950s, from Gk, *ergatēs* “worker” + -IVE; graph, 1930s, from Gk *graphē* “writing”; idiolect, 1940s, from IDIO-(from Gk *idios* “own, distinct”)+lect.; isogloss, C20, from ISO- (from Gk *isos* “equal”)+Gk *glōssa* “tongue, word”; *katharevousa*, C20, mod. Gk, lit. “purified”; lexeme, 1940s, from LEXICON (from Gk *lexikon*, *biblion* “book of words”, from *lexis* “word”)+EME; *lexis*, 1950s, from Gk, lit. “word”; monosemy, 1950s, from MONO-(from Gk *monos* “single”)+Gk *sēma* “sign”+Y; onomasiology, C20, from Gk *onomasia* “term”+LOGY (from Gk *logos* “word, discourse”); phatic, 1920s, from Gk *phatos* “spoken” or *phatikos* “affirming”; polysemy, C20, from POLY-(from Gk *polus* “much”)+Gk *sēma* “sign”; rhotic, 1960s, from Gk *rhot-*, stem of *rho*+IC; sememe, C20, from SEME (from Gk *sēma* “sign”)+EME; semiology, C20, from Gk *sēmeion* “sign” + LOGY (from Gk *logos* “word, discourse”); semiosis, C20, from Gk *sēmeiosis* “(inference from) a sign” ; tagmeme, 1930s, from Gk *tagma* “arrangement”+EME.

### **Medicine**

achalasia, C20, from A+Gk *khalasis* “loosening” + -IA; agnosia, C20, coined in Ger, from Gk *agnōsia* “ignorance”; amniocentesis, 1950s, from AMNION (from Gk *amnion* “caul”)+Gk *kentēsis* “pricking”; anaphylaxis, C20, mod. L. from Gk *ana-* “again”+ *phulaxis* “guarding”; atherosclerosis, C20, from Gk *athērē* “groats”+*sklērōsis*; bruxism, 1930s, from Gk *brukhein* “gnash the teeth”+ISM; cardiomegaly, 1960s, from CARDIO-(from Gk *kardia* “heart”)+Gk *me-gas*, *megal-* “great”; cholangiography, 1930s, coined in Sp. from Gk *khole* “bile”+*angeion* “vessel”+*graphia* “writing”; dermabrasion, 1950s, from Gk *derma*, *dermat-* “skin”; deuteranopia, C20, from DEYTERO-“second”+AN+OPIA (from Gk *ōps*, *ōp-* “eye, face”); diathermy, C20, from DIA-(from Gk *dia* “through”)+Gk *thermon* “heat”; dysplasia, 1930s, from DYS- (from Gk *dus* “bad”)+Gk *plasis* “formation”; dyspraxia C20, from DYS- (from Gk *dus* “bad”)+Gk *praxis* “action”; endarterectomy, C20, from ENDO- (from Gk *endon* “within”) + ARTERY (from Gk *artēria*)+ECTOMY (from Gk *ektomē* “excision”); enteral, C20, from Gk *enteron* “intestine”+AL; geriatric, 1920s, from Gk *gēras* “old age” + *iatros* “doctor”, on the pattern of paediatric; haemopoiesis, C20, from HAEMO-(from Gk *haima* “blood”)+Gk *poiēsis*

“making”; iontophoresis, C20, from ION (from Gk , neut. pres. part of ienai “go”, on the pattern of electrophoresis; iridology, C20, from Gk iris, irid- “iris” + -LOGY (from Gk logos “word, discourse”); mastectomy, 1920s, from Gk mastos “breast”+ECTOMY (from Gk ektomē “excision”); neuroleptic, C20, from NEURO-(from Gk neuron “nerve, tendon”)+Gk lēpsis “seizing”+IC; neutropenia, C20, from L. NEUTRAL + Gk penia “poverty, lack”; oncocerciasis, C20, from mod. L. Onchocerca (from Gk onkos “barb”+kerkos “tail”)+IASIS; orthodontics, C20, from ORTHO-(from Gk orthos “straight, right”)+Gk odous, odont- “tooth”; palilalia, C20, from Fr., from Gk palin “again”+lalia “speech, chatter”; pancytopenia, C20, from PAN-(from Gk pan “all”)+CYTO-(from Gk kutos “vessel”)+Gk penia “lack”; parenteral, C20, from PARA-(from Gk para “beside, beyond”+Gk enteron “intestine”)+-AL; periodontics, 1940s, from PERI-(from Gk peri “about, around”)+Gk odous, odont- “tooth” +-ICS; plasmapheresis, 1920s, from PLASMA (from Gk plasma, from plassein “to shape”)+ Gk apharesis “taking away”; podiatry, C20, from Gk pous, pod- “foot” + iatros “physician”; progeria, C20, mod. L. from Gk progērōs “prematurely old”; pyoderma, 1930s, from Gk puo- (from puon “pus”)+derma “skin”; rhabdomyolysis, 1950s, from Gk rabdos “rod”+ MYO--LYSIS; thalassaemia, 1930s, from Gk thalassa “sea”+AEMIA (from Gk haema “blood”); thrombocytopenia, 1920s, from THROMBOCYTE + Gk penia “poverty”; toponym, 1930s, from Gk topos “place”+ onoma “a name”; topos, 1940s, from Gk, lit. “place”; tritanopia, C20, from Gk tritos “third”+AN+-OPIA (from Gk ōps, ōp- “eye, face”); trypanosome, C20, from Gk, trupanon “borer”+-SOME (from Gk sōma “body”).

### **Meteorology**

anabatic, C20, from Gk anabatikos, from anabatēs “a person who ascends”; geostrophic, C20, from GEO-(from Gk gē “earth”)+Gk strophē “a turn”; isohel, C20, from ISO- (from Gk isos “equal”)+Gk hēlios “sun”; isopleth, C20, from Gk isoplēthēs “equal in quantity”, from Gk isos “equal” + plēthos “multitude, quantity”; okta, 1950s, alt. of OCTA-(from Gk oktō “eight”).

### **Paleontology**

ankylosaur, C20, from mod. L. Ankylosaurus, from Gk ankulus+sauros “lizard”; archosaur, 1930s, from Gk arkhos “chief” or arkhōn “ruler”+SAUR (from Gk sauros “lizard”); carnosaur, 1930s, from mod. L. , from L. caro, carn- “flesh”+Gk sauros “lizard”; ceratopsian, C20, from mod. L. , Ceratopsia (from Gk keras, kerat- “horn”+ops “face”)+-AN; Chalicotherium, C20, from mod. L. Chalicotherium (genus name), from Gk khalix, khalik- “gravel”+thērion “wild animal”; coelurosaur, 1950s, from Gk koilos “hollow”+oura “tail”+sauros “lizard”; dromaeosaur, 1970s, from mod. L. Dromaeosauridae, based on Gk dromaios “swift-running”+sauros “lizard”; mesosaur, 1950s, from Gk mesos “middle”+ Gk sauros “lizard”; ornithischian, C20,

from mod. L. Ornithischia, from Gk ornīs, ornith- “bird”+iskhion “hip joint”; pelycosaur, C20, from Gk pelux, peluk- “bail”+ Gk sauros “lizard”; taphonomy, 1940s, from Gk taphos “grave”+NOMY (from Gk nomos “law”); theropod, 1930s, from mod.L. Theropoda, from Gk thēr “beast” + pous, pod- “foot”.

### **Philosophy**

alethic, 1950s, from Gk alētheia “truth”+IC; anthroposophy, C20, from ANTHROPO-(from Gk anthrōpos “human being”)+Gk sophia “wisdom”; deontic, C20, from Gk, deont- “being right” (from dei “it is right”)+IC; holism, 1920s, from HOLO-(from Gk holos “whole”)+ISM (via L. from Gk –ismos); ontic, 1940s, from Gk ōn, ont- “being”+IC; pataphysics. 1940s, from Gk ta epi ta metaphusika, lit. “the works imposed on the metaphysics”, introduced by the Fr. Absurdist writer Alfred Jarry.

### **Physics**

baryon, 1950s, from Gk barus “heavy”+ON; electrophoresis, C20, from ELECTRO- (from Gk ēlektron, “amber”) + Gk phorēsis “being carried”; enthalpy, 1920s, from Gk enthalpein, from en- “within”+ thalpein “to heat”; hadron, 1960s, from Gk hadros “balky”+ -ON; hodoscope, C20, from Gk hodos “way” + -SCOPE (from Gk skopein “examine, look at”); hyperon, 1960s, from HYPER-(from Gk huper “over, beyond”)+ON; lepton, 1940s, from Gk leptos “small”+ON; meson, 1930s, from MESO- (from Gk mesos “middle”)+ON; phonon, 1930s, from Gk phōnē “sound”, on the pattern of photon; photon, C20, from Gk phōs, phōt- “light”, on the pattern of electron; proton, 1920s, from Gk, neut. of prōtos “first”; rheology, 1920s, from Gk rheos “stream”+LOGY (from Gk logos “word, discourse”); spintharoscope, C20, formed irregularly from Gk spintharis “spark” + -SCOPE (from Gk skopein “examine, look at”).

### **Physiology**

alogeneic, 1960s, from ALLO- (from Gk allos “other”)+ Gk genea “race, stock”+IC; antidromic, C20, from ANTI+Gk dromos “running”+IC; apocrine, C20, from APO-(from Gk apo “from, away”)+Gk krinein “to separate”; apoptosis, 1970s, from Gk apoptōsis “falling off”; atherogenic, 1950s, from Gk athērōma+GENIC (from Gk genēs “born”); cholinergic, 1930s, from CHOLINE (from Gk kholē “bile”) +Gk ergon “work”+IC; ectomorph, 1940s, ECTO-(from Gk ektos “outside”) + -MORPH (from Gk morphē “form”); endocrine, C20, from ENDO-(from Gk endon “within”)+Gk krinein “sift”; endomorph, 1940s, from ENDO-(from Gk endon “within”)+MORPH(from Gk morphē “form”); epicritic, C20, from Gk, epikritikos “giving judgement over”+IC; exocrine, C20 from EXO- (from Gk exō “outside”)+Gk krinein “sift”; haptēn, C20, from Gk haptēin “fasten”; histiocyte, C20, from Gk histion (dimin. of histos

“tissue, web”) + -CYTE; hormone, C20, from Gk hormōn, pres. part of horman “set in motion”; mesomorph, 1920s, MESO- (from Gk mesos “middle”) + - MORPH (from Gk morphē “form”); natriuresis, 1950s, from NATRON (of Fr. origin)+Gk ourēsis “urination”; orthodromic, 1940s, from ORTHO – (from Gk orthos “straight, right")+Gk dromos “running”+ - IC; paracrine, 1970s, from PARA-(from Gk para “beside, beyond")+Gk krinein “to separate”; scotopic, C20, from Gk skotos “darkness”+ -OPIA (from Gk ōps, ōp- “eye, face”)+-IC; xenogeneic, 1960s, from XENO-(from Gk xenos “stranger”)+Gk genea “race, stock”+ -IC.

### **Psychiatry-Psychology-Psychoanalysis**

ailurophobia, C20, from Gk ailuros “cat”+ -PHOBIA (from Gk); algolagnia, C20, from Ger., from Gr algos “pain”+ lagneia “lust”; anaclitic, 1920s, from Gk anaklitos “for reclining”; arachnophobia, 1920s, mod. L. from Gk arakhnē “spider”+ -PHOBIA (from Gk); autism, C20, from Gk autos “self”+ -ISM; cathexis, 1920s, from Gk kathexis “retention”, translating a Ger. term coined by Freud; cyclothymia, 1920s, from CYCLO-(from Gk kuklos “circle”); dysgraphia, 1930s, from DYS- (from Gk dus- “bad, difficult”)+Gk – grapheia “writing”; echopraxia, C20, mod. L., from Gk ēkhō “echo”+ praxis “action”; eidetic, 1920s, coined in Ger, from Gk eidētikos, from eidos “form”; hypnopompic, C20, from Gk hupnos “sleep”+pompē “sending away”+ -IC; nyctophobia, C20, from Gk nux, nukt- “night”+PHOBIA (from Gk); psychedelic, 1950s, from PSYCHE (from Gk psukhē “breath, life, soul”)+Gk dēlos “clear, manifest”+ -IC; schizophrenia, C20, mod. L. from Gk skhizein “to split”+phrēn “mind”; triskaidekaphobia, C20, from Gk treiskaideka “thirteen” + -PHOBIA (from Gk).

### **Theology**

dianetics, 1950s, from Gk dianoētikos “relating to thought”+ICS; eschaton, 1930s, from Gk eskhaton “last”; kairos, C20, from Gk, lit. “opportunity”; koinonia, C20, from Gk koinōnia “fellowship”.

### **Zoology**

diapsid, C20, from mod. L. Diapsida (name of a subclass), from DI+Gk apsis, apsid- “arch”; digenean, 1960s, from mod. L., from Gk di- “twice” + genea “generation, race”+AN; monogenean, 1960s, from mod. L. Monogenea (from Gk monos “single”+genea “generation”)+-AN; pheromone, 1950s, from Gk pherein “convey”+ HORMONE (of Gk origin); philopatric, 1940s, from PHILO-(from Gk philos “loving”)+Gk patra “fatherland”+ -IC; phoresy, 1920s, from Fr., from Gk phorēsis “being carried”; protostome, 1950s, from PROTO-(from Gk prōtos “first”)+Gk stoma “mouth”; sparid, 1960s, from mod. L. Sparidae, via L. from Gk sparos “sea bream”; tagma, C20, from Gk, lit. “something arranged”, from tassein “set in order”.

## 5 Discussion

Numerous Greek words entered the English language in the fifteenth century (e.g. chaos, oligarchy, paradigm, paragraph, timocracy, and so on), in the sixteenth century (e.g. cachexia, catastrophe, comma, enigma, gnosis, onomastic, systole, and so on), in the seventeenth century (e.g. autocracy, autonomy, calligraphy, criterion, misogyny, oasis, stenography, theocracy, and so on), in the eighteenth century (e.g. cardia, derma, eczema, metalurgy, octopus, and so on), and in the nineteenth century (e.g. bradycardia, callisthenics, cataphatic, cosmopolis, clorophyll, agronomy, akinesia, allogamy, and so on).

What differentiates the Greek loanwords of the previous centuries and the twentieth century is the fact that words of Greek origin which entered the English language in the twentieth century are semantically scientific or technical words and not words for everyday speech. Marchand [3] argues that “in English, French, and German, to give three principal European languages, most learnt, scientific, or technical words are formed on the morphologic basis of Latin or Greek”. Asher (1994a:1495) also points out that “[the Greek vocabulary] has provided a mine to be exploited by all modern European languages, either by direct borrowing or via Latin”.

## 6 References

- [1] The Concise Oxford Dictionary, NY: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- [2] McWhorter, J., The power of Babel, NY, Harper Perennial, 2003, p. 91.
- [3] Marchand, H., 1969, English Word-formation, Munich, Beck's, 1969, p. 7.
- [4] Asher, R.E., The Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics, Vol 3, Oxford, Pergamon Press, 1994.

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