

Homonyms, Reduplication, Onomatopoeia, Loanwords and Word Analysis



Lessons V-VIII

Linguistics 1010

April 18-25, 2005

A Note on three Similar Bases

<i>TROPH (IV)</i> (τροφειω 'grow')	<i>TROP</i> (τροπω 'turn')	<i>TOP</i> (τοπος 'place')
atrophy	tropic	topic
dystrophy	trope	topographic
hypertropic	troposphere	topology
trophoblast	trophy (!)	ectopic

Homonyms (5)

- Homonyms are words with distinct origins whose spellings or pronunciations have become alike.
- **Homophones** are homonyms that sound alike but may be spelled differently, e.g., *to* and *too*.
- **Homographs** are words that are merely spelled alike, e.g., *bass* (voice/fish), *wound* (injury/past tense of the verb *wind*).
- How did the following homonyms come about?
 - *Tattoo*: skin markings (Tahitian), a signal on a drum (Dutch)
 - *Policy*: an action plan (Latin), a contract (Greek)

Prefixes Introduced in Lesson V

- EC- (εκ)
- EN-
- ENDO-, ENTO-
- EPI
- EU
- EXO

Bases Introduced in Lesson V

- AGON (αγων)
- ANGEL (αγγελος)
- CENTR (κεντρον)
- DEM
- GAM
- HEMA(T)
- HEMER
- OD, HOD
- STOL/STAL/STLE(στελλω 'send',επιστολη 'letter')
- TAPH (ταφος)
- THANAT, THANAS (θανατος)

Reduplication (6)

- **Definition.** Semantic change by repetition of a word, or a part of a word, sometimes accompanied by a change of vowel or consonant in the duplicated segment.
- **Plural**, e.g., Malay:
 - *anak* ‘child’/*anak anak* ‘children’
- **Intensification or increase**, e.g., Turkish:
 - *temiz* ‘clean’/*tertemiz* ‘very clean’
 - *dolu* ‘full’/*dopdolu* ‘very full’
 - *bos* ‘empty’/*bosbos* ‘completely empty’

Reduplication (6)

- Completion, e.g., Greek:
 - *le-lu-k-a* ‘I have freed’
 - *pe-poie:-k-a* ‘I have made’
 - *ge-grap-tai* ‘it has been written’
- Continuation and accretion, e.g., English:
 - *I walked and walked.*
 - *She’s earning more and more.*



Reduplication (6)

- Reduplication also has a role in ‘baby talk’, and in this respect is often associated with ‘diminution’, e.g., English:

- *roly poly*
- *bye bye*
- *fuzzy wuzzy*
- *itsy bitsy*
- *choo choo*



Onomatopoeia (6)

- Etymology of *onomatopoeia*: *onomat-* ('name') + *poiein* ('make')
- Definition. The naming of a thing or action by a vocal imitation of the sound associated with it (as *buzz*, *hiss*).
- Verbs in Greek: *baudzo* (βαυζω), *ptuo* (πτυω), *chao* (χαω).
- Aristophanes' *Frogs* (Βατραχοι), 404 BC

The Frogs

- Frogs:

Brekekekex koax koax

Brekekekex koax koax,

*Marshy children of the springs,
the cry of the hymns of those dwelling within
let us sing. My sweet song: koax koax [...]*

- Batrachoï:

brekekekex koax koax,

brekekekex koax koax

limnaia krenon tekna

sunaulon humnon boan

phthenxometh', eugerun eman aoidan

koax koax.



Prefixes Introduced in Lesson VI

- hyper
- hypo
- meta
- para
- peri
- pro
- pros
- syn (*sym-*, *syl-*, *sy-*, *sys-*)



Bases Introduced in Lesson VI

- BALL, BOL, BLE (βαλλω ‘throw’)
- DERMA(T)
- DOX (δοξαζω
‘think, imagine’)
- DOG (δογμα ‘opinion’,
δοκεω ‘think, imagine’)
- GNO(S) (γιγνωσκω ‘know’,
γνωμη ‘a means of knowing’)



Bases Introduced in Lesson VI

- HOM(E) ('ομοιος 'same')
- MORPH (μορφη 'form' cf. Μορφευς)
- ONYM- ('ονυμα, 'ονομα 'name')
- PHER, PHOR (φερω 'bear')
- TACT, TAX (τακτος 'arranged', ταξις 'ordering')

Loanwords (7)

- Definition. Any expression borrowed from another language which is recognized as foreign, typically by virtue of its grammar, punctuation or form.
- Examples from German:
 - Sturm und Drang ‘storm and stress’
 - Weltanschauung ‘world view’
 - Schadenfreude ‘harm joy’
 - Zeitgeist ‘time spirit’
 - Bauhaus ‘construction building’
 - Bildungsroman ‘education novel’



Loanwords (7)

Examples from Yiddish:

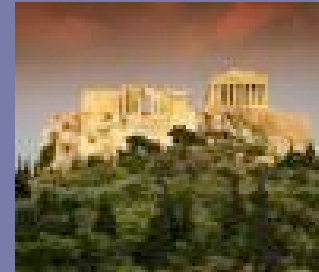
- shlep
- klutz
- maven
- shmuck
- mensch
- meshugeneh
- shnoz
- Reduplication with *shm-*, e.g., *taxes shmaxes!*
- Enough already!
- Oy vey!



Loanwords (7)

Examples from Greek:

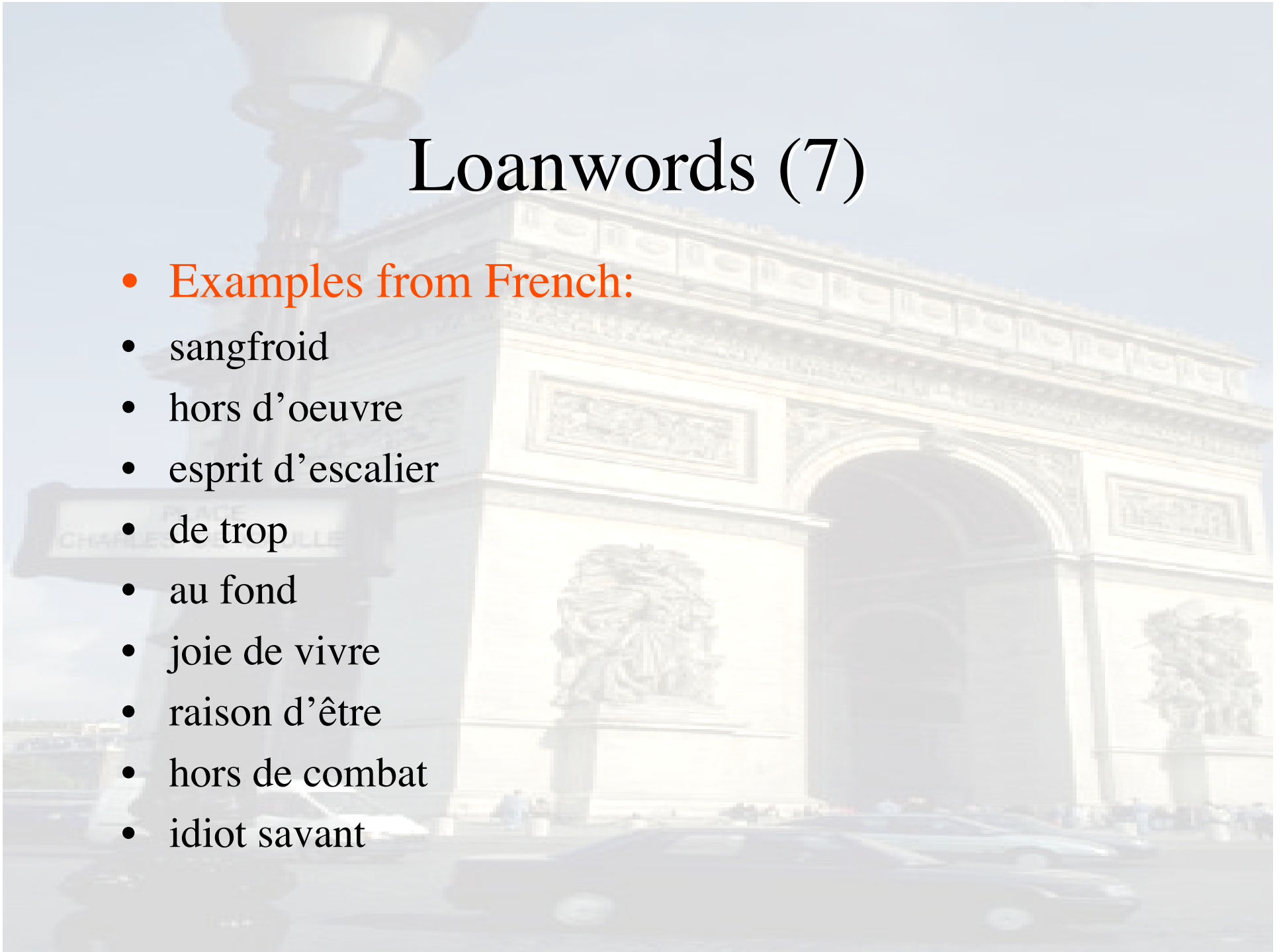
- Hoi poloi ‘the majority’
- Kudos ‘praise’
- Dogma ‘opinion’
- Stigma ‘mark’
- Platonic ‘idealized, nonsexual’
- Agape ‘pure love’
- Antagonist ‘enemy’
- Apotheosis ‘elevation to the status of a god’
- Enigma ‘puzzle’ (< *ainigma* ‘speaking in riddles’)



Loanwords (7)

- **Examples from French:**

- sangfroid
- hors d'oeuvre
- esprit d'escalier
- de trop
- au fond
- joie de vivre
- raison d'être
- hors de combat
- idiot savant



Loanwords (7)

- ‘The jerk factor’: How authentic should our pronunciations be?
- Which borrowed words should we place in italics?
- When does a word become a loanword and when is its use merely exclusionary?

Suffixes Introduced in Lesson VII

- -ic, -tic, -ac ‘pertaining to, similar to’, e.g., *aesthetic*
- -ics, tics ‘study of’, e.g., *logistics, tactics*
- -oid ‘like, having the shape of, e.g., *asteroid, anthropoid*



Bases Introduced in Lesson VII

- AESTH (αισθη)
- ANTHROP
- ARCHAE, ARCHE (αρχαιος)
- AST(E)R (αστηρ)
- GEN(E), GON (γενναω 'to give birth to', ψονος 'offspring')

Bases Introduced in Lesson VII

- GER(ONT) (γεροντες ‘old men’)
- HOL
- IATR
- PEP(T) (πεπτω ‘soften, ripen, cook’)
- TECHN (τεχνη ‘art, skill, craft’)

Word Analysis (8)

- Segmenting words is hard:
- endemic vs. endomorph
- pandemonium vs. pandemic
- ectomorph vs. tonsillectomy
- agony vs. diagonal (γωνία 'side')
- synthetic vs. pathetic
- anagram vs. anaerobic
(αἴρ 'lower air'/αἰθήρ 'aether')

Word Analysis (8)

- Defining the bases is hard:
- **emphasis** (εν + φαίνω ‘appear’, φασίς ‘accusation’) vs. **aphasia** (α + φημί ‘say’, φασίς ‘assertion’)
- **electrode** (ἤλεκτρον ‘beaming sun’) vs. **melody**
- **trophy** vs. **atrophy**
- **pedantic** vs. **pedophile**
- **epigone** vs. **polygon**
- **genesis** (γένος ‘born’) vs. **genealogy** (γένος ‘kind’)

Word Analysis (8)

- Sometimes it's even hard to tell Latin and Greek forms apart:
- melodious vs. odious
- pediatric (παις) vs. pedal
- homily (ὁμιλω 'address a crowd') vs. homicide
- amphibian vs. biannual
- optical (οπτικός) vs. optimal (*optimus*)
- tactic vs. contact
- electric vs. election

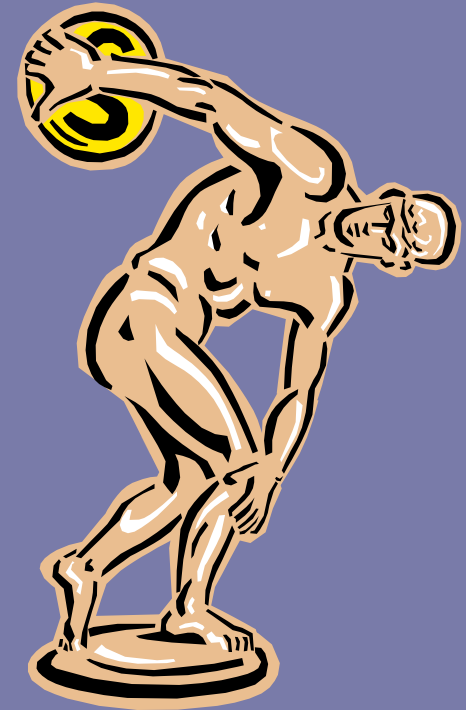
Suffixes Introduced in Lesson VIII

- These are adjective-forming suffixes which we already know from Latin:
- -al ‘pertaining to, like’: log+ic+al
- -an (-ian) ‘pertaining to, like’: amph + bi + an
- -ous (-ious), ‘full of pertaining to, like’: an+onym+ous, eu+phon+ious



Bases Introduced in Lesson VIII

- CHROMA (χρομα 'color')
- CRI (κρινω 'decide')
- ETHN
- LECT (λεγω 'select, converse')
- PHA(N) (φαινω 'show')
- PHIL (φιλεω 'love')



Bases Introduced in Lesson VIII

- PHON (φωνη 'sound')
- POLY (πολυς 'many')
- TAUT (ταυτος 'same')
- THERM (θερμη 'hot spring')



Question of the Day

- How do we spell the Greek-derived English word meaning *eye doctor*?

