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Term Paper  
Celtic loanwords in Old English

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## INTRODUCTION

Loanwords are perceived as one of the foremost evidence of a profound and lasting contact between two (or more) languages. For this reason, failing to find a substantial number of Celtic loanwords in English, much less in Old English, nineteenth-century scholars firmly concluded that the Celtic population of Britannia had been annihilated and forced out of the island, with the few surviving toponyms and proper names being the only heritage of the Brittonic languages. In recent years, however, as more extensive investigations of the Celtic issue have been carried out, new data have begun to emerge contradicting the traditional views of the interrelationship between the Britons and the Anglo-Saxons. The postulates about the ‘ethnic cleansing’ of the V and VI centuries were questioned. Hence, linguists have decided to reconsider the concepts, which have been held for generations. Herein lies the **relevance** of this paper’s topic.

The **purpose** of the paper was two-sided, aiming (1) to test the assertion that Celtic loanwords in Old English were represented very sparsely, and in the majority of cases concerned toponyms; and (2) to attempt to analyse the presence of Celtic loanwords in the Old English language.

For the purpose of achieving the aims, the following **objectives** were outlined:

1. To study the theory and resource materials on the topic;
2. To determine the traditionally accepted and recently suggested Celtic lexical borrowings in Old English;
3. To elucidate four characteristics of Celtic loanwords (number, frequency, part of speech, and semantic field);
4. To analyse the percentage correlation of the obtained list of loanwords with the traditional one;
5. To outline the Celtic loanwords in Old English that are still being used in Present-day English, if any.

The **object** of the research is the lexical structure of the English language.

The **subject** of the research is the Celtic loanwords in the Old English language.

The **sources** used in the term paper included Celtic loanwords (including those suggested by A. Breeze), dictionaries of Old English, an etymological dictionary, and online corpora of Old English and Present-day English.

The **academic novelty** of the work consists in the attempt to analyse Celtic loanwords on the basis of four criteria (quantitative, frequency of use, parts of speech, and semantic fields).

For the purpose of this paper, a set of **research methods** has been applied, which includes, inter alia, general scientific methods (descriptive method, generalisation, analysis, synthesis, classification) and linguistic methods (e.g., comparative method, comparative analysis of semantic fields, mathematical method, namely quantitative method, for calculating the results of the usage frequency analysis of lexemes in corpora, etc.).

The **theoretical value** of the paper lies in the potential to implement the results of the research in the teaching of general and historical linguistics, as well as history of the English language, and to further explore the topic of Celtic loanwords in English.

The findings of the study were **approved** at the international scientific and practical videoconference ‘AD ORBEM PER LINGUAS. TO THE WORLD THROUGH LANGUAGES’, “Celtic Loanwords in Old English” (Kyiv, 2024).

The **structure** of the term paper comprises an introduction, two chapters with conclusions to each of them, general conclusions, a list of references, a list of illustrative material, and appendices. The total volume of the work is 35 pages.

## CHAPTER 1. THE THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS BEHIND THE CELTIC LOANWORDS IN OLD ENGLISH

### 1.1 Historical background of the Celtic-OE linguistic contact

The linguistic situation between the Celtic and Old English (OE) languages is rather complex and multi-layered.

The first ever contact between the Celtic and the Germanic tribes had taken place while both of the parties were still on the continent (Gilles 2012). During that period, the British Isles had already been populated for a long time (Coates 2009), the latest settlers known to the scientists being the ostensible Bell Beaker People (Pattison 2008; Pearson *et al.* 2016; Pollard 2008).

The first of the two tribal communities to migrate to Albion were the Celts. Having moved there in the first millennia BC (Sims-Williams 2020), they had most likely assimilated the natives. The Roman Empire getting stronger and acquiring more territories, in a few centuries, in 55-54 BC the Roman general Julius Caesar attempted to take over the Insular Celts. Even though the Britons were not completely pacified then, it was the beginning of the Roman Period for the native population. No longer than in a hundred years, in AD 43, Rome had eventually taken some of the territories of Britannia, continuing subjugating the local tribes (Delaney 2015). The end of the Roman conquest was marked by the construction of Hadrian's Wall in AD 122. During the Roman Period (ca. 50-410), the Britons were introduced to Latin.

Several scholars, whose views show substantial variation (Laker 2010: 6-7), have addressed the question of whether Latin was widely spoken and accepted by the Celtic population. Thoughts on the role of Latin in Britain may be categorised as follows:

- the majority of Romanised Celts (notably in the Lowland) had become monolingual or bilingual users of (Vulgar) Latin;
- only the upper classes of Celtic society in the Lowland used (Classical) Latin; the majority of the population continued using Brythonic;

- (Vulgar) Latin was used by a large part of Celtic Lowland society simultaneously with the native Brythonic.

The decline of Roman influence began in AD 401-402, and since 410 Britain entered a post-Roman period, later known as the Dark Ages.

After Roman withdrawal, the Celts found themselves in a hard situation, needing protection from both the Picts and Scots from the north, and the Saxons from the south-east. Soon the Britons decided to come into agreement with one of the Germanic tribes to get help with the Picts and Scots. It did not take a long time for the Germans to see the sub-Roman softness of the Celts and make a coerced settlement in the southeast of Britain (Baugh, Cable 2002; Hines 1990). It became the inception of the Germanic migration, in AD 449, according to Bede, an Anglo-Saxon historian and chronologist, as the tribes began invading the lands of Britons.

The scholars generally agree that the OE period began with the first great migration waves (of invasion) of Germanic tribes to Britain (Kortlandt 1986), and ended around 1100/1150 (with the Norman Conquest of 1066 (battle of Hastings) usually considered by linguists as more of a symbolic marker).

Thus, the linguistic situation in England constituted the following:

- the unidentified possible remnants of the pre-Celtic language(s);
- the Insular Celtic languages (mostly Brythonic);
- British (Vulgar) Latin;
- the Anglo-Saxon (OE) language.

## **1.2 Social interrelations between the Britons and the Anglo-Saxons**

Our knowledge of the first century of “adventus Saxonum” is highly limited and is based on the later chronicles, as well as archaeology, genetics and linguistics studies of the recent years. It is generally agreed that migrating to the British Isles, the Anglo-Saxons brought their beliefs and social systems. The early observers, who turned their attention on the matter of the Britons/Anglo-Saxons interactions, followed the idea of ‘ethnic cleansing’ theory that the invaders exterminated the

natives (Filppula, Klemola 2014), though nowadays the number of its adherents is diminishing (Filppula *et al.* 2008). The ideas of genocide undergo rather severely, re-evaluating the existing data, such as the laws of King Ine of Wessex towards the Britons (Pattison 2008), and adjusting the predominant theory to the lately discovered facts. Nevertheless, it would be erroneously to deny the existence of a division between the Celts and the Anglo-Saxons. One of the examples of the latter may be the OE word ‘wealh’, connotation of which had covered the ideas of foreignness, Celticity, and slavery (Coates 2017).

Such a segregation between the people of both Celtic and Germanic origins resulted in acute differences not only in terms of local/invader, but in the whole dimension of social strata. A person brought up under established rules and norms acquired pronounced distinctness from one of the other ‘class’ (“strict caste-like hierarchy that clearly did exist in Anglo-Saxon England”, Laker 2010: 44-46). Therefore, taking into consideration not the highest status of the Britons in Anglo-Saxon society, it may be safe to assume that the variations of speech existed not only inside the Germanic part of the population, but in the Celtic lower stratum as well. A woman of Celtic origin married to the Anglo-Saxon king would have spoken ‘higher’ language, with, possibly, less of Celtic lexicon, in that being different from a slave-woman that might have still be using her native language outside the master’s house. That being said, the implementation of both social strata and that of the language would inevitably cause a situation of diglossia (Tristram 2004), which signifies a phenomenon of simultaneous usage of two varieties of a language in the same community.

In the society of OE period, such a linguistic situation was being complicated with the fact that not the whole population was literate. It would leave the minority of higher class, usually religious or related to Christianity people to write the texts, which survived until nowadays. Moreover, the writing norms of OE were rather conservative, and did not try to reflect the virtual way of communication. That being the case, the written language was not only characterised of rather high adherence to the “writing norm”, but also was the tongue of comparatively small number of

population that as, furthermore, marked by tight connection with religious thematic (Hejná, Walkden 2022). These factors complicate the work of linguists in their surveys of Celtic loanwords in the OE language.

Additionally, because of the substratum nature of Celtic, its influence upon OE is not as pronounced, mostly reigning in the domains of “phonological and morpho-syntactic transfer” (Tristram 2007) and being “primarily structural” (Miller 2012: 232-234) (Bradley 2011; Hickey 2012; Laker 2010; Owen 2018).

### 1.3 Of the main features of loanwords

For languages to influence each other the contact itself only is rarely enough. The contact-provoked changes are generally eased if the following two factors are present: (1) bilingualism, preferably extensive; (2) non-existence (or a low level) of a pronounced sociolinguistic division between the varieties of languages (Matasović 2007). As it may be seen, the Celtic-OE linguistic situation did not present the most favourable conditions for appearance of an abundance of bilateral borrowings. Relatively similar circumstances could be found between Celtic and Latin, and nevertheless a shade of reciprocal interchanges are claimed to be found: usually the main bulk of loans constitutes of “major-class content words” (mostly nouns), yet, there are cases of prepositions and relative pronouns in Latin sentences of Celtic glosses (Bauer 2017: 44-45). This anew accentuates the oral vs. written diglossia.

The borrowings are the linguistic features of one language (donor) reproduced into the other one (recipient), “either wholly or partly” (Durkin 2014). They could be subdivided into several categories: (a) *loanwords* – imitate the form and meaning of donor; (b) *loan translations* – use the recipient’s form for donor’s meaning; (c) *semantic loans* – extend their original meaning under the influence of donor; and (d) *loan blends* – (usually complex words that) use donor’s morphemes for enlarging recipient’s lexicon (Guo 2020).

As many scholars had stated it previously, the number of Celtic borrowings in the OE language traditionally is not thought to be substantial, and usually is related to the field of proper names and toponymy (Dmytryk 2016; Filppula,

Klemola 2014). Quite interesting is the fact that the more of English place-names with the Celtic element are discovered, the less one may rest assured of the idea of complete extermination of the Britons by Anglo-Saxons (Mawer, Stenton 1969).

To provide a relatively objective scale, the total number of recorded OE words (which withstood until present) is c. 34,000–48,000, out of which 170 words are considered of bearing the Celtic element (Kiktenko 1998), which constitutes 0.5–0.35 %. Moreover, amongst these mentioned 170 words of Celtic elements, the number of loanwords is no more than c. 30 (Stalmaszczyk 1997) that narrows it even more to the 0.088–0.0625 % of the whole OE lexicon.

#### **1.4 The outline of the research methods**

Therefore, to achieve the aim of the study, it was essential to establish the sequence of proceedings regarding the analysis of Old English language materials. For the purpose of verifying the share of Celtic loanwords in Old English and the level of their utilisation by the authors of original texts and manuscripts, a decision was made to employ the materials of the Old English corpus, i.e., a collection of written sources that allows one to analyse a word in the linguistic environment of its actualisation. That required a preliminary analysis of Celtic loanwords.

Hence, the practical part of the study consisted of the following steps:

- 1) outlining a list of Celtic loanwords, both traditional and recently suggested;
- 2) determining the dictionaries and other reference materials for consultation during the research;
- 3) characterising Celtic loanwords according to certain criteria such as part of speech and the semantic field;
- 4) working with the OE corpus to estimate the usage frequency of Celtic loanwords;
- 5) applying the results of the work with the corpus, verifying whether the Celtic loanwords with the highest usage frequency remain in use.

## **Conclusions to Chapter 1**

The first chapter of the term paper analysed the historical, sociological, and linguistic aspects of the matter of Celtic loanwords in Old English, highlighted current trends in academic perspectives on this issue, and outlined the key stages of the practical part of the research.

Thereby, having studied the relevant academic literature on the topic of Celtic loanwords in Old English, the following was established

- the period in question is characterised by a multifaceted and versatile mutual influence of Celtic, Roman, and Germanic cultures and peoples;
- the social interaction between the Celts and the Anglo-Saxons, in the light of scholarly studies, was characterised by the typical degree of confrontation for that period, with no drastic inclination towards the total extermination of the native population;
- the influence of the Celtic languages on Old English occurred at several linguistic levels, notably grammatical, phonetic and lexical, where the latter was considered to be of little manifestation for a long time.

The potential for further research on the topic of Celtic loanwords in Old English lies in a more detailed analysis of the aspects of Celtic borrowings, including historical, archaeological and genetic studies, as well as synchronic and diachronic analyses of the linguistic levels of English for the influence of the Celtic languages.

## CHAPTER 2. THE PRACTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE CELTIC LOANWORDS IN OLD ENGLISH

### 2.1 The Celtic loanwords in Old English

Conventionally, the first stage of identifying the source of any lexical borrowings in any given language pair is to consult etymological dictionaries. It includes, first and foremost, outlining the words with uncertain (e.g., *etymology unknown*) and ambiguous (e.g., *perh. Celt.*) etymology. Following the examination of the relevant linguistic material and the speculation on the possible origin of the words previously regarded as etymologically uncertain, the researcher usually publishes an article in a scholarly journal to receive constructive criticism of the work. If the proposed etymology of a word is accepted in academic circles, the following etymological dictionary will be supplemented and edited. To exemplify the above described process, the Weekley's Etymological Dictionary (1921) was used and a list of words that were considered to be of Celtic or hypothetical Celtic origin at the time was extracted from it (Table 2.1).

**Table 2.1 The concise list of Celtic loanwords in Weekley's *Etymological dictionary* (1921)**

Weekley, E. (1921). An etymological dictionary	
Probable Celtic origin	Definite Celtic origin
binn (manger; bin); bragget (drink made of ale & honey); sg. brōc – pl. brēc (breech); briar, brier (AS brær/brēr); crock (vessel; AS crocc/a); iron (AS īsen/īsern/īren); hurt (OF hurter/heuter); palstave (for AS palstr) [may be folk-etym.]	bat (cudgel, etc; AS batt, club); broider (AS brogden, p.p. of bregdan); dun (AS dunn; colour); gull (bird); mooch, mouch (OF muchier/musser)

As it may be seen from the table, the words whose etymology is now more clearly defined were in an uncertain state at the time of compiling that Etymological Dictionary.

The traditional view on the Celtic issue was based upon a certain number of words, beyond which no substantial research was undertaken. It was only with the advent of new studies and discoveries of the new artefacts of the period that scholars began to suggest a wider range of Celtic loanwords than had been hitherto believed.

In this paper, a list of the most common words of Celtic origin, which are usually cited in scientific texts, has been compiled for the research in question (Appendix A, Table 2.2).

Taking into account the oral/written diglossia of the Anglo-Saxon period, which was resolved only after the Norman conquest and the incorporation of English into the official court system (mid-XIV to mid-XV centuries), the borrowings which are speculated to be of OE origin, but which were attested only in the Middle English period (Laker 2010: 35-40), will not be taken into consideration in this work until further research on them is produced.

One of the reasonably well-known scholars, Andrew Breeze, having conducted a thorough analysis of the documented and reconstructed vocabulary of the Old English period, suggested the Celtic origin for a number of words:

*lorh* (pole), *trem* (pace), *trum* (strong), *cursung* (curse), *gafeluc* (javelin), here-*syrc*e (coat of mail), *wered* (sweet drink), *caddow* (woollen covering), *trūð* (buffoon), *deorc* (broody; dark) (35, Breeze);  
*prass* (pomp, array), *wassenas* (dependant, retainer; cf. ‘vassal’), *truma* (host), *clædur* (clapper), *hrēol* (reel for cotton), *dēor* (brave), *stōr* (incense), *stār* (history), *lærig* (shield rim), and *billere* (watercress) (Laker 2010: 37-38).

Thus, the quantitative composition of the words of Celtic origin examined in this paper comprises 42 lexical units. If we recalculate the proportion of Celtic loanwords in the lexicon of Old English, considering the suggested loanwords as reliable, the Celtic component would range between 0.1235 % and 0.0875 %.

## 2.2 The presence of Celtic loanwords in Old English dictionaries

As previously stated, the usefulness of dictionaries in dealing with loanwords could hardly be overestimated. The quality of the research paper will be dependent upon the completeness and actuality of the provided dictionary entries.

With the aim of determining the most complete dictionary for further work with Celtic loanwords, a comparative analysis of the coverage of the outlined list of 42 words was carried out (Appendix B, Table 2.3.1). Its results were presented in the Table 2.3.2 below.

**Table 2.3.2 The attestation ratio of the Celtic loanwords in the OE Dictionaries.**

<b>The name of the dictionary</b>	<b>Attestation of traditional loanwords, %</b>	<b>Attestation of the recent loanwords, %</b>	<b>Attestation of the total number of loanwords, %</b>
Stratmann. 1873. <b>A Dictionary of the Old English Language</b>	68.182	45	57.143
Hall. 1916. <b>A Concise Anglo-Saxon Dictionary for the use of students</b>	86.364	70	78.571
<b>An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary (2024)</b>	81.818	75	78.571
<b>Bosworth Toller's Anglo-Saxon Dictionary online (2024)</b>	90.909	90	90.476

Based on the table, it may be noted whether the dictionaries of Old English have covered the identified Celtic loanwords. Bosworth-Toller's Anglo-Saxon Dictionary had been stated as a reliable source of reference.

## 2.3 Qualitative analysis of Celtic loanwords: part of speech and semantic field

The third stage of the practical part of this study is the grouping of the identified Celtic loanwords according to the following criteria: (1) part of speech, and (2) semantic field (Table 2.4, Table 2.5).

As Bauer states, when interlingual interaction occurs, a significant proportion of the words entering the recipient language mainly consists of nouns. The classification of the extracted Celtic loanwords in Old English would help to examine the accuracy of this statement in the case of a Celtic-Old English situation.

Moreover, whilst studying a number of Old English texts and the particularities of the Celtic loanwords used in them, one should be aware not only of the differences between certain classes of parts of speech and their main features, but also of the nature of their functions, manifested in the actual linguistic context.

**Table 2.4. The parts of speech of the Celtic loanwords in the Old English language**

Nouns				Adjectives	Verbs	Unknown
masc		fem	neut			
āncor	gabulroid	asse	luh	dēōr	cursian (weak)	wassenas (noun)
assa	hogg	binn	rīce	deorc		caddow
becca	mattuc	clugge	stāer	stōr		clædur
bratt	torr	cuopel	billere	trum		cros
brocc	billere	cursung	trem	dun		hrēol (n.)
cine	gafeluc	heresyrc	wered			
prass	lāerig	lorh	mind			
cumb	trūð	mind				
dr̄y	funta					
truma						

As a result of the analysis, it was determined that among the Celtic loanwords in Old English there were 33 nouns (19 masculine, 7 (8) feminine, 5 (7) neuter, 2 unknown), 5 adjectives, and 1 verb, as well as 3 words of undetermined parts of

speech. In terms of figures, it would amount to 78.57 % of nouns, 11.9 % of adjectives, 2.38 % of verbs and 7.14 % of unidentified words.

The determination of the semantic fields of the Celtic borrowed lexicon would allow us to outline the area or areas where the interactions between the Celts and Anglo-Saxons were prolonged and fruitful. This assumption is made on the basis of the idea that long-term interaction in the same domain between peoples of different cultural heritage would lead to the mutual exchange of information, activities, and related lexical concepts.

**Table 2.5. The classification of the Celtic loanwords according to the semantic fields (after *A Thesaurus of Old English*)**

The church (as temporal/ spiritual body)	Domestic animals, livestock	Implements, tools, etc. :: Tools for digging/ grasping/ pulling	Trappings, equipment, garb
āncor	assa	becca	bratt
	binn (livestock)	mattuc	caddow
	hogg	gabulroid (Implements, tools, etc.)	
Wild animal	Writing	Faculty of hearing	Church property
brocc	cine	clugge	cros
			stōr
Land	To go, progress, travel (usually on land) :: Kind of ship	Worship, honour, praise	Sorcery, magic, witchcraft
cumb	cuopel	cursian	drȳ
torr	trem	cursung	
Colour	Water :: Spring, fountain, well	Authority :: Symbols of power	To relate, recount, tell
dun	funta	mind	stǣr
	luh	rīce (power, might)	
Fruit :: Other vegetables	Agriculture	Will, determination, resolution	Darkness, obscurity

billere	clædur	dēor	deorc
Military equipment	A spinning-house or chamber	Pomp, splendour, magnificence	Buffoonery, speech of buffoon/ actor
gafeluc	hrēol	prass	trūð
heresyrc	lorh		
lærig			
Strength	Source, origin	Drinking :: Intoxicating liquor	Authority :: Service :: A servant, attendant
trum	-truma	wered	wassenas

From the above given table it can be concluded the loanwords were distributed relatively evenly over the 28 semantic fields of Old English. Some of them come from either the same (Livestock :: *assa* – Livestock *binn*; Authority :: *mind*, *rīce*, *wassenas*), or the closely related (The church – Church property) semantic fields.

The largest of the resulted semantic fields are 1) Military equipment (3 lexemes), 2) Implements, tools, etc., and 3) Livestock (both 2 and 3 consist of two main and one related lexemes). That indicates that the contact between the Celts and the Anglo-Saxons in these spheres was more widespread than in other domains. The relationship between the Britons and the Anglo-Saxons in such realms as Livestock, Tools, and other aspects of society that were marked by the appearance of loanwords in Old English may also support the hypothesis of the assimilation of the Celts into Anglo-Saxon society rather than their complete extermination or expulsion from their native lands.

## 2.4 Quantitative analysis of Celtic loanwords in Old English

A dictionary entry can give an idea of the presence or absence of a word in the lexical structure of a language (at the moment of compiling the dictionary). To understand the frequency of use of a particular word in written or spoken language, it is reasonable to turn to corpus linguistics (Bennett 2010). Since Old English does not have any records of spoken language, only written sources will be used to analyse the frequency of use of basic forms of Celtic loanwords in Old English texts.

When analysing the frequency features of the use of loanwords, two corpora were used to ensure greater objectivity: 1) Dictionary of Old English Web Corpus (DOEWC), and 2) XML Helsinki Corpus Browser (Appendix E, Table 2.6).

As it follows from the presented results, the most frequently used word in both corpora was ‘rīce’ (power; DOEWC: 2911, Helsinki: 425, counting only the basic forms). One may assume that a word with a comparable degree of usage frequency is likely to be the one that remains in use throughout the further development of the language. For a wider verification of this suggestion, other words, such as ‘cumb’ (DOEWC: 65), ‘drȳ’ (DOEWC: 61), ‘binn’ (Helsinki: 103), and ‘wered’ (Helsinki: 65) were also taken under consideration.

## 2.5 The preservation of the Celtic loanwords in the English language

The last phase of this research was to determine the level of preservation of Celtic loanwords in the English language. It may be assumed to be a working hypothesis that the more often a loanword was used in the original texts and manuscripts of the time, the higher are the chances for it to still be in use during the Modern English.

**Table 2.7. Percentage of words of Celtic origin in Modern English in 2019**

<b>Celtic Loanwords from Old English</b>	<b>Presence of their usage in Modern English (AD 1500-2019), %</b>
rīce	rich: 0.005529 bishopric: 0.000032
binn	bin: 0.000796 binn: 0.000002
cumb	coomb: 0.0000008 combe: 0.0000038
drȳ	---

wered	---
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Primarily, a search was conducted for the equivalents of words with a high level of usage in Old English. The second step was to define their utilisation in the Modern English language (Appendix F).

It is evident from the table that the word 'rīce', being the most frequent, persists both in its original form (as part of the word 'bishopric') and in a form that has undergone historical changes ('rich', one of the words of everyday use). The words 'binn' and 'cumb' are mainly characterised by dialectal and regional variation. The borrowings 'drȳ' and 'wered' have not entered the lexical stock of Modern English.

## **Conclusions to Chapter 2**

The second section presented the results of various analyses carried out on the outlined Celtic loanwords in Old English, specifically:

- 1) the total number of common names among the Celtic loanwords,
- 2) the frequency of their use in Old English texts,
- 3) the dominant part of speech among their composition,
- and 4) the semantic fields of the loanwords.

During the analysis of the composition of Celtic loanwords, the statement that the largest array of the borrowed words is nouns was verified and validated.

It is also worth noting that there is an interesting tendency in the correlation between the usage frequency of Celtic loanwords in Old English and the probability of their preservation in the Modern English language, including the chance of their active exploitation in it.

## GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

To conduct the research for the term paper, it was decided to focus on the topic “Celtic loanwords in Old English”. This matter was addressed by previous researchers in terms of reconsidering the degree of presence of Celtic influences in Old English at all its linguistic levels. Nowadays, the question of the Old English period in general and of loanwords in particular is still quite relevant.

Upon the methodological analysis of theoretical and scientific sources and the conducted practical research, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- assuming that the suggested list of Old English words of Celtic origin by A. Breeze is reliable, the share of Celtic loanwords in Old English would amount to 0.1235–0.0875 %, as opposed to the traditional approach, which resulted in 0.088–0.0625 %.
- the bulk of Celtic loanwords in Old English are nouns (78.57 %);
- the predominance of loanwords in the semantic fields of the main domains of human society ( protection, tools, and domestic life) may speak in favour of the assimilation theory that the Celtic population was integrated into Anglo-Saxon society;
- finally, it was hypothesised that the more frequent the use of Celtic loanwords in Old English sources, the more probable it is that they would be preserved in the lexical stock of Modern English.

Summarising the results of the conducted research, it can be noted that the matter of Celtic loanwords in Old English is characterised by its complexity and is currently far from being completely elucidated. In this study, only the most obvious elements of Celtic loanwords have been analysed, which necessitates a number of more specific and detailed investigations oriented towards a thorough analysis of Celtic and Old English corpora and their synchronic interrelations, e.g., the productivity of Celtic loanwords from their usage frequency perspective.

## RÉSUMÉ

### ***Hlazkova, K. T. Celtic loanwords in Old English.***

Term paper: Specialisation 035.041 Germanic languages and literatures (translation included), English as a first foreign language. – Kyiv National Linguistic University – Kyiv, 2024.

The term paper is devoted to the study of the Celtic loanwords in Old English in the form of arguing that the previous traditional approach to the question of quantitative representation of Celtic element should be revised. The topic of the research is relevant for the reason of increasing interest in reconsideration of the traditional beliefs about the interrelations between the Celts and the Anglo-Saxons.

The aim of the research is to study the main features of Celtic loanwords in the Old English language and to analyse the validity of the traditional view upon it. In order to accomplish this goal, a number of methods were used, among which are classification, generalisation, comparative method and comparative analysis, and mathematical method.

The first section of the paper defines the theoretical basis of the Celtic-Old English linguistic situation. The historical and social perspectives and their recent re-evaluation are examined. The main features of borrowings in general and Celtic loanwords in particular are defined. The final part of the first section presents a short methodology of four-sided analysis of the Celtic loanwords in Old English.

The second, practical section elaborates on the linguistic material of the research and analyses it. Further exploration covers the features of the Celtic loanwords, specifically their parts of speech and semantic field. This is followed by basic quantitative analysis of the corpora data upon each of the outlined Celtic loanwords. The last part presents an interpretation of the quantitative analysis results, particularly that of its influence on the preservation of the Celtic loanwords in the Modern English language.

## РЕЗЮМЕ

**Глазкова, К. Т. Кельтські запозичення в давньоанглійській мові.**

Курсова робота: Спеціалізація 035.041 Германські мови та літератури (переклад включно), перша – англійська. – Київський національний лінгвістичний університет – Київ, 2024.

Дана курсова робота присвячена проблематиці кельтських запозичень у давньоанглійській мові та обґрунтуванню доцільності перегляду попереднього традиційного підходу до питання кількісної репрезентації кельтського елемента в англійській мові. Актуальність теми дослідження зумовлена посиленням зацікавленості у переосмисленні традиційних уявлень про взаємовідносини між кельтами та германцями.

Метою наукової роботи є дослідження основних особливостей кельтських запозичень у давньоанглійській мові та аналіз правомірності традиційного погляду на них. Задля досягнення поставленої цілі було використано низку наукових методів, серед яких можна виділити класифікацію, узагальнення, порівняльний метод та зіставний аналіз, а також математичний метод.

Перший розділ роботи окреслює теоретичні засади кельтсько-давньоанглійської мовної ситуації. Розглядаються історичні та соціальні контексти та їх новітня інтерпретація. Виділено основні риси запозичень загалом та кельтських запозичень особливо. У заключній частині першого розділу наведено коротку методологію чотиристороннього аналізу кельтських запозичень у давньоанглійській мові.

Другий, практичний розділ, розкриває лінгвістичний матеріал дослідження та проводить його аналіз. Крім того, детальніше розглядаються особливості кельтських запозичень, особливо їхні частиномовні характеристики та семантичне поле. Слідом подається базовий кількісний аналіз корпусних даних по кожному з окреслених кельтських слів. В останній частині представлено інтерпретацію результатів аналізу, зокрема, впливу на ступінь збереження кельтських запозичень у сучасній англійській мові.

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## APPENDICES

## Appendix A

Table 2.2. The list of ‘traditional’ Celtic loanwords in Old English

General borrowings	Possible general borrowings	Religious borrowings	Possible religious borrowings
<i>binn</i> (basket, crib; manger) <i>bratt</i> (cloak) <i>brocc</i> (brock or badger) <i>luh</i> (lake; sea, pool) <i>cumb</i> (valley) <i>torr</i> (outcropping or projecting rock, peak) <i>funta</i> (spring) <i>cuopel</i> (boat) (Baugh, Cable 2002); <i>rīce</i> (power, rule) (Stalmaszczyk 1997); <i>becca</i> (fork) <i>hogg</i> (hog) <i>mattuc</i> (mattock) (Laker 2010)	<i>dun</i> (dark coloured; partaking of brown and black) <i>assa/asse</i> (eventually from Latin <i>asinus</i> ) (Baugh, Cable 2002)	<i>āncor</i> (hermit) <i>drȳ</i> (magician) <i>croſ</i> <i>cine</i> (a gathering of parchment leaves) <i>clugge</i> (bell) <i>gabolrind</i> (compass) <i>mind</i> (diadem) (Baugh, Cable 2002)	<i>cursian</i> (to curse) (Baugh, Cable 2002)

## Appendix B

**Table 2.3.1 The attested and unattested Celtic loanwords in dictionaries of Old English**

Name of the dictionary	Attested		Unattested
<b>Bosworth Toller's Anglo-Saxon Dictionary online (2024)</b>	āncor, n m assa, n m/asse, n f becca, n m binn, n f bratt, n m brocc, n m cumb, n m cuopel, n f luh, n n torr, n m	cine, n m clugge, n f cursian, weak drȳ, n m dun, adj funta, n m gabul-roid, n m hogg, n m mattuc, n m rīce, n n	cros mind
	clædur, n ? cursung, n f deōr, adj hreōl, n ? lorh, n f prass, n ? stāer, n n trem, n n (step) trum, adj weorod/wered, n n	billere, n m/n deorc, adj gafeluc, n m here- <u>syrce</u> , n f lāerig, n m stōr, adj trūð, n m -truma, suff (as in folc- <i>truma</i> , 'a host of people')	caddow wassenas
<b>An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary (2024)</b>	āncor assa/asse binn bratt cumb cuopel cursian luh mattuc	becca broc cine clugge drȳ dun gabul-roid rīce torr	cros funta hogg mind
	cursung gafeluc hrēol lorh stāer -syrce	dēor deorc lāerig prass stōr trum	billere caddow clædur wassenas wered

	trem trūð	truma	
Hall. 1916. <b>A Concise Anglo-Saxon Dictionary for the use of students</b>	āncor assa, assen binn, binne bratt brocc clugge drȳ dunn mind (memory) rīce	becca cumb cuopel cursian cyne, cine hogg luh mattuc torr	cros funta gabolrind
	billere cursung dēor hrēol prass stōr truma	deorc gafeluc heresyrc (corslet) lærig lorh, lorg stær trūð	caddow clædur trem wassenas wered trum
Stratmann. 1873. <b>A Dictionary of the Old English Language</b>	assa, asse binn bratt (?) cine cumb (?) cursian dunn rind(e) bek; becc hog	(freond)mynd, munde āncor, anchor (auker) cros drȳ luh (?) riche, rīce mattock; mattoc, mattuc	brocc clugge cuopel funta gabolrind torr hogg
	cursing; cursung dearc, deorc hrēol serk; serce, syrce trum	deor stōr trup; trud trume; truma	billere caddow clædur gafeluc lærig lorh prass stær trem wassenas wered

**Table 2.3.2 The attestation ratio of the Celtic loanwords in the Dictionaries of Old English**

<b>The name of the dictionary</b>	<b>The traditional loanwords, %</b>	<b>The recent loanwords, %</b>	<b>The total number of loanwords, %</b>
<b>Stratmann. 1873. A Dictionary of the Old English Language</b>	68.182	45	57.143
<b>Hall. 1916. A Concise Anglo-Saxon Dictionary for the use of students</b>	86.364	70	78.571
<b>An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary (2024)</b>	81.818	75	78.571
<b>Bosworth Toller's Anglo-Saxon Dictionary online (2024)</b>	90.909	90	90.476

## Appendix C

**Table 2.4. The parts of speech of the Celtic loanwords in the Old English language**

Nouns				Adjectives	Verbs	Unknown
masc		fem	neut			
āncor	gabulroid	asse	luh	dēōr	cursian (weak)	wassenas (noun)
assa	hogg	binn	rīce	deorc		caddow
becca	mattuc	clugge	stāer	stōr		clædur
bratt	torr	cuopel	billere	trum		cros
brocc	billere	cursung	trem	dun		hrēol (noun)
cine	gafeluc	heresyrc	wered			
prass	lāerig	lorh	mind			
cumb	trūð	mind				
drȳ	funta					
truma						

## Appendix D

**Table 2.5. The classification of the Celtic loanwords according to the semantic fields (after *A Thesaurus of Old English*)**

The church (as temporal/ spiritual body)	Domestic animals, livestock	Implements, tools, etc. :: Tools for digging/ grasping/ pulling	Trappings, equipment, garb
āncor	assa	becca	bratt
	hogg	gabulroid (Implements, tools, etc.)	caddow
	binn (livestock)	mattuc	
Wild animal	Writing	Faculty of hearing	Church property
brocc	cine	clugge	cros
			stōr
Land	To go, progress, travel (usually on land) :: Kind of ship	Worship, honour, praise	Sorcery, magic, witchcraft
cumb	cuopel	cursian	drȳ
torr	trem	cursung	
Colour	Water :: Spring, fountain, well	Authority :: Symbols of power	To relate, recount, tell
dun	funta	mind	stær
	luh	rīce (power, might)	
Fruit :: Other vegetables	Agriculture	Will, determination, resolution	Darkness, obscurity
billere	clædur	dēor	deorc
Military equipment	A spinning-house or chamber	Pomp, splendour, magnificence	Buffoonery, speech of buffoon/ actor
gafeluc	hrēol	prass	trūð
heresyrc	lorh		
lærig			
Strength	Source, origin	Drinking :: Intoxicating liquor	Authority :: Service :: A servant, attendant
trum	-truma	wered	wassenas



## Appendix E

**Table 2.6. Usage frequency of the basic forms of the Celtic loanwords and their derivatives, if any, in the online corpora**

The Word	Number in DOEWC		Number in Helsinki Corpus	
	Basic form		Basic form	Derivative
āncor	2		1	2
assa	30		9	---
becca	3		---	---
binn	4		103	---
bratt	1		---	---
brocc	7		41	---
cine	14		---	2
clugge	---		---	---
cros	3		---	---
cumb	65		4	---
cuopel	1 [cuople]		---	---
cursian	1		---	---
dr̄y	61	4	15	5
dun	[85]		[63]	4
funta	---		---	---
gabulroid	2		---	---
hogg	2 [hog]		---	---
luh	18		3	---
mattuc	2		1	---
mind	1	2	---	---
r̄ice	2911	96	425	20
torr	22		3	---

billere	5		---	---
caddow	---		---	---
clædur	---		---	---
cursung	8		---	---
deōr	[156]		[135]	---
deorc	29		7	---
gafeluc	4		1	---
[here]-syrce	2		2	---
hreōl	1		---	---
lārig	2		---	---
lorh	3		---	---
prass	5		---	---
stār	9	10	---	---
stōr	32		2	5
trem	1		2	---
trūð	3		---	---
trum	32		26	---
-truma	3 [truma] / 520 [-truma]		48	---
wassenas	3		---	---
wered	41		65	---

## Appendix F

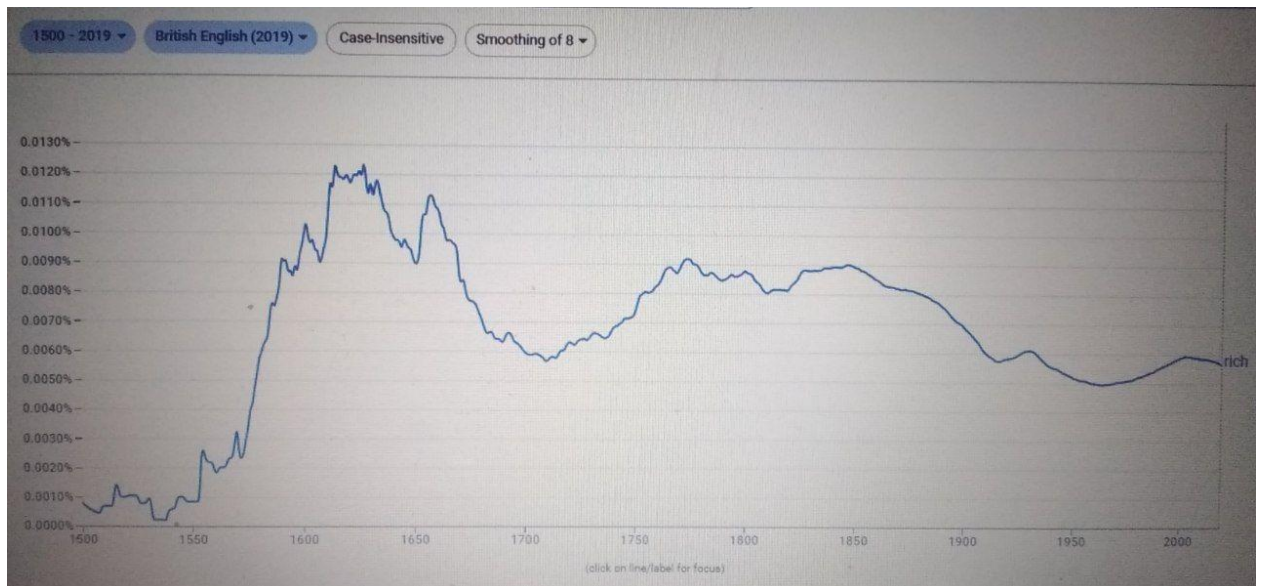


Figure 1. The usage level of the word 'rich' in the Modern English (2019)

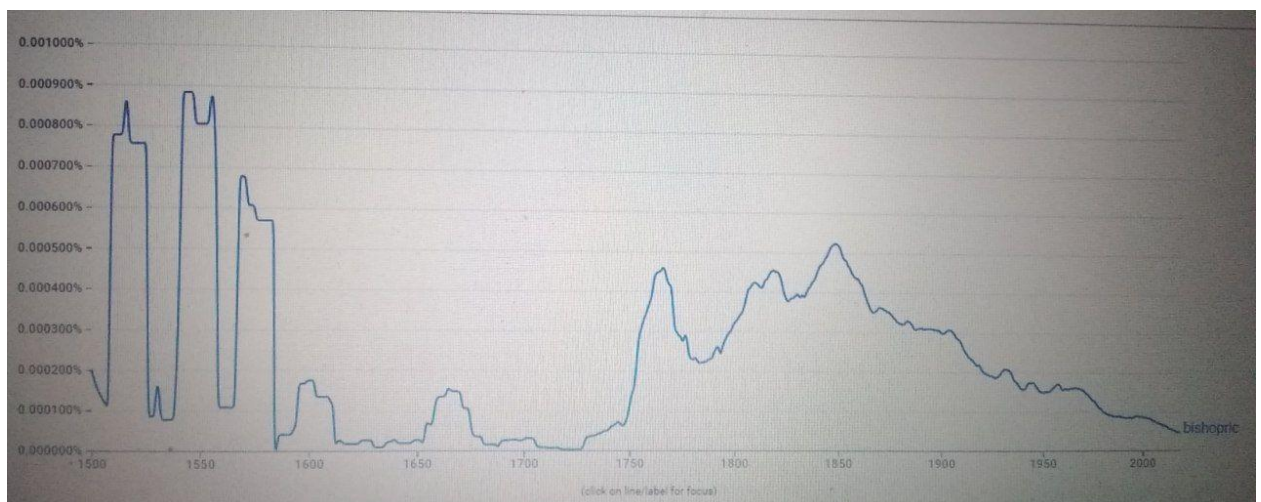


Figure 2. The usage level of the word 'bishopric' in the Modern English (2019)

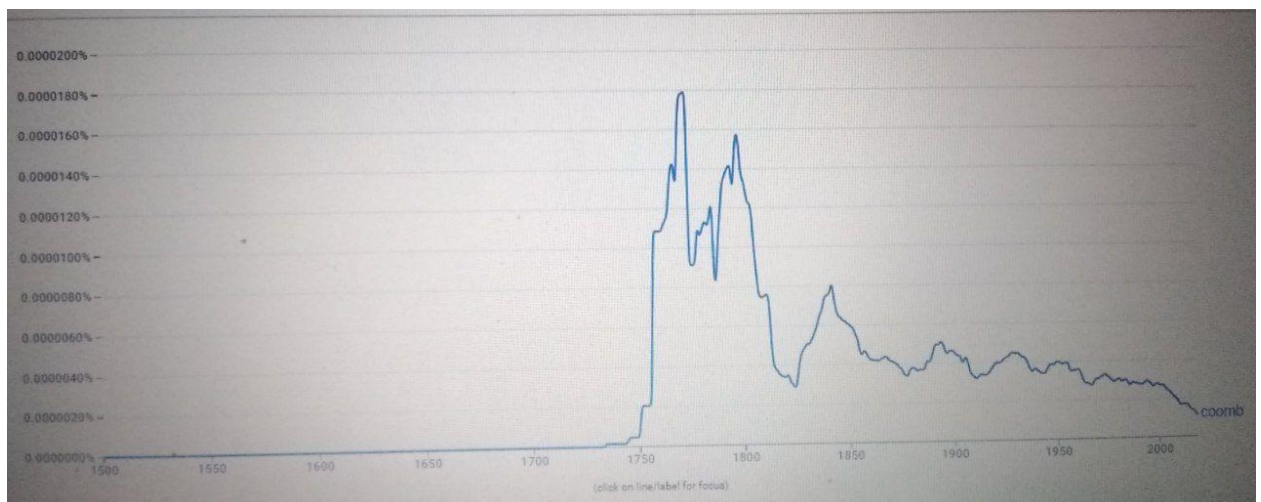


Figure 3. The usage level of the word 'coomb' in the Modern English (2019)

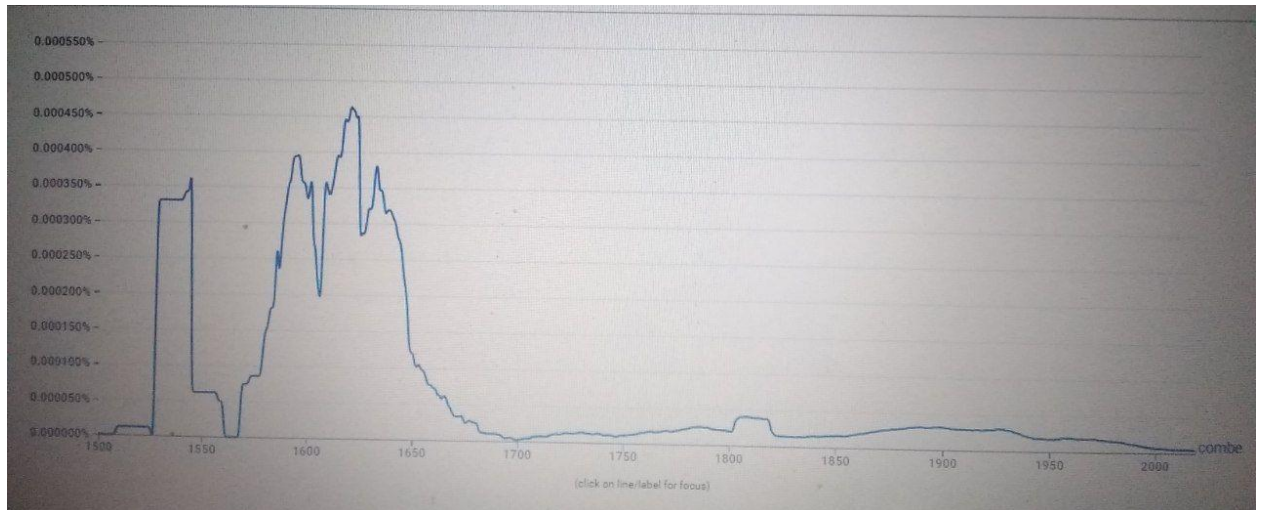


Figure 4. The usage level of the word 'combe' in the Modern English (2019)

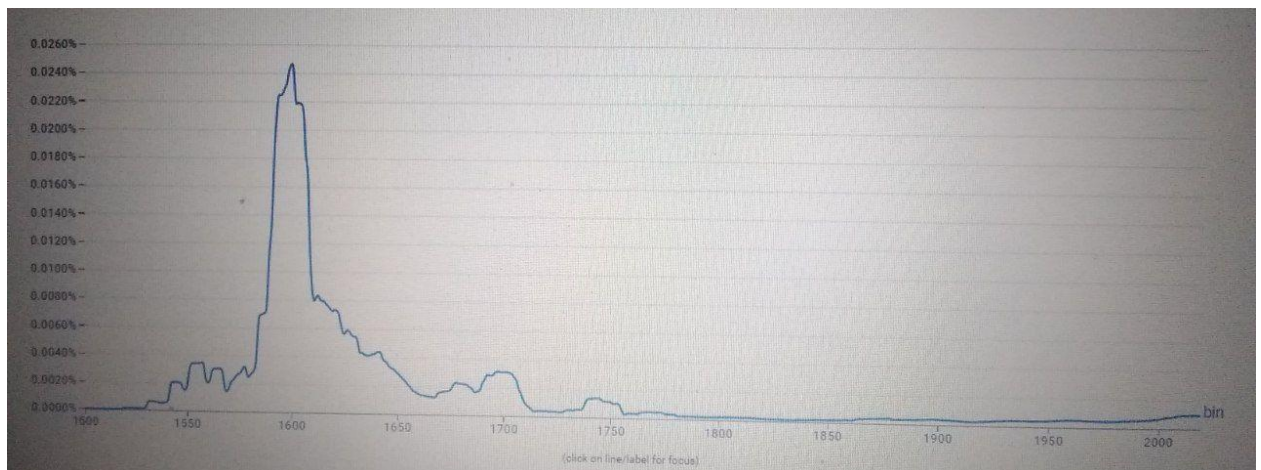


Figure 5. The usage level of the word 'bin' in the Modern English (2019)

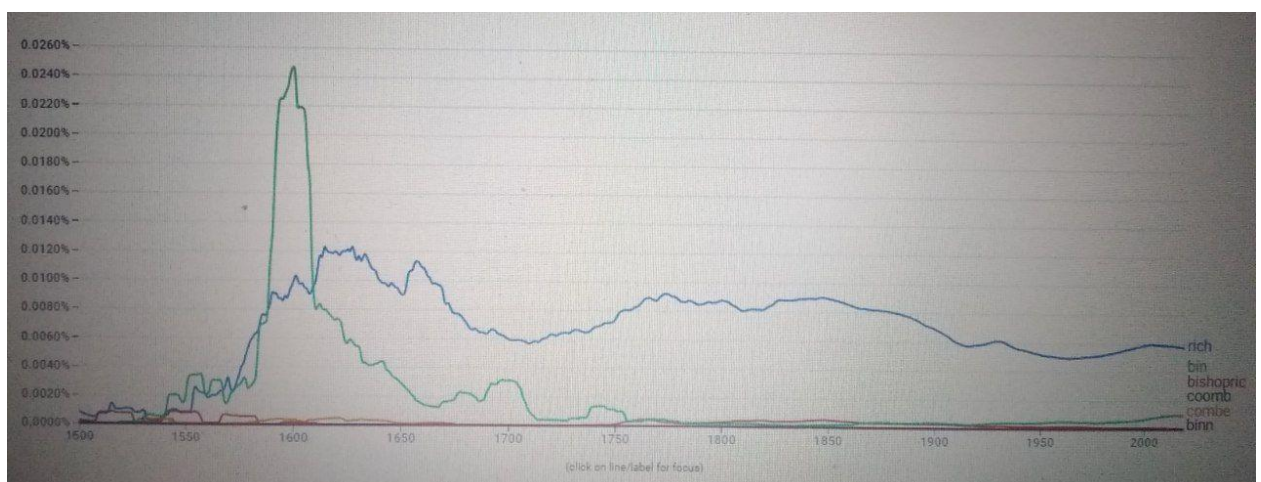


Figure 6. The comparison of the usage levels of the words 'rich', 'bishoric', 'bin', 'binn', 'coomb', 'combe' in Modern English (2019)