

A Study of Loan Words in the Field of Cooking and Food (Part 3)

Borrowed Eras of Loan Words

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Purpose : In part 1, we picked up 1,127 loan words in the field of cooking and food from the Sanseido's Dictionary of Loan Words (4th Edition) and classified them by nationality. In part 2, we classified them into 11 items such as food, drinks, cooking utensils and so on, and investigated the characteristics of them in terms of classification and nationality. In this study, we will investigate them in terms of borrowed era and clarify the characteristics of those loan words.

Methods : I. After inputting the data on each word's borrowed era to a computer, we checked the number of loan words in Muromachi, Azuchi Momoyama, Edo, Meiji, Taisho, Showa (1929-1945), Post War (1945-1987), and unknown.

II. We checked the relationship between era and nationality, and the one between era and item.

III. By reordering the data, we checked the borrowed era of spices, French cuisines, French sweetmeats and Chinese vegetables.

Results : I. The number of loan words in each era are 5 in Muromachi, 1 in Azuchi Momoyama, 31 in Edo, 267 in Meiji, 37 in Taisho, 240 in Showa, 537 in Post War, and 9 unknown. 48% of loan words are borrowed in Post War and 24% of them are borrowed in Meiji.

II. The each era's ratio in English loan words is similar to the one in French loan words. A couple of characteristics in Chinese loan words are pointed out: (a) The ratio of Edo is much higher than English one or French one. (b) The ratio of Meiji is lower than English one or French one. (c) There is no loan words in Taisho.

The words for dishes and food share 53% in Meiji. The ones for dishes and drinks share 46% in Showa. The ones for food and dishes share 42% in Post War.

III. Most loan words for spices, French cuisines, French sweetmeats, and Chinese vegetables are borrowed in Post War.