

Lexical contributions to North American English

Native American languages: borrowing of words for flora & fauna & indigenous cultural notions (most lexical borrowings date from early period of colonization in 17th c)

- fauna: *raccoon, opossum, moose, skunk, terrapin, woodchuck, chipmunk, caribou, menhaden, muskellunge*
- flora: *hickory, catalpa, pecan, catawaba, persimmon, sequoia, squash*
- canoe, *moccasin, tomahawk, wigwam, teepee, squaw, wampum,*
- calques or loan translations: *war dance, warpath, pipe of peace, Great Spriti, paleface, medicine man, big chief, bury the hatchet*

Dutch

- *yankee (?), boss, Santa Claus, How come?, waffle, coleslaw, cookie, landscape, caboose, sleigh, to snoop, to be a spook (spy), Breukelyn, Haarlem, Bronck's*

Germans largest group of immigrants in 19th c:

- *check (Zeiche, bill for drinks), cookbook (Kochbuch), delicatessen, ecology, fresh (freche, impertinent), hoodlum, kindergarten, nix (nichts), phooey (pfui), rifle (riffle, groove), scam! (Yiddish scammen), yesman (Jasager, yes sayer), and how! (und wie), no way (keineswegs), can be (kann sein), will do (wird getan), let it be (lass es sein)*

Frontier/West:

- cowboys (1st recorded in present sense in 1877)
 - pidgin w/ Mexicans & Natives: *long time no see, no can do*
 - from **Spanish**: *rodeo, stampede, bronco, chaps, lasso, mustang, lariat, pinto, poncho, ranch*
 - also *maverick, bronco-buster, wrangler, range rider, cowhand, cowpoke, cowpuncher, new sense for rustler, hot under the collar, bite the dust*
- also *You bet, I reckon not, dead broke, take it easy, to get even, gilt-edged, a close call*
- drinking:
 - *saloon, firewater, bootleg, straight liquor (not BrE neat), cocktail (?)*
- tobacco:
 - *roll your own, bite off more than you can chew,*
- card & dice gambling:
 - poker: *passing the buck, deal, dealer, square deal, new deal, big deal!, what a deal!, big dealer, dealing from the bottom of the deck, deal me in/out, for openers, sweeten the pot, to go someone one better, bluff (?), to call one's hand/bluff, a poker face, ace in the hole, ace up the sleeve, a full house, to cash in one's chips, blue chip, to stack the cards, to have the cards stacked against one, to stand pat, a wild card, to break even, on a shoestring, to string along*
 - bridge: *to follow suit, to make points, to be in spades, a bid for something* (e.g. fame), blackjack: *hit me*, dice: *to load the dice*
- continental railroad after Civil War
 - (from nautical jargon) *berth, purser, steward, fare, cabin, freight*
 - *railroaded (1877), sidetracked (by 1890s), to be in the clear, to make the grade, to have the right of way, to backtrack, to reach the end of the line, to go off the rails*
- 1848/9 California Gold Rush
 - *bonanza, el dorado, pan out, prospector, stake a claim, strike*
- Civil War 1861-65:
 - *unconditional surrender (Grant 1862)*

- **Afro-Americans** (presumably African roots):

- *okra, gumbo* (okra stew), *pinders* (peanuts), *goobers* (peanuts), *cooter* (type of turtle), *buckra* (disparaging term for "white man," esp. a poor one), *yam, okay* (probably comes from Gullah word *okeh*, from Wolof & Bantu word *waw-kay* or the Mande (aka "Mandinke" or "Mandingo") phrase *o ke, cat & hip* from Wolof *hipicat*, *mojo* (from Gullah *moco* witchcraft, magic), *voodoo, tote, banjo, juke, banana, to bad mouth, a high five, jam session, yum-yum, nitty gritty, jazz* (from Bantu linguistico group verb *jaja*),

- the talk of the Afro-Am jazzmen & women became cult slang of hippies in 1960s:

- *beat* (tired), *cat, chick, groovy, have a ball, hip, hype, in the groove, jam, mellow, out of the world, pad, riff, solid, square, stache, for kicks, rip off, hung-up, cool, man, dude, roach, busted, heavy, stoned* (borrowed from AAVE intensifier e.g. *stone blind*), *uptight, sock it to me baby, let it all hang out, right on!, get down, get with it, do one's thing, funky,*

Yiddish ("Yinglish"):

- *chutzpah, glitch* (minor malfunction), *goy/goyim, kibitz* (chat/gossip), *kibitzer, kitsch, klutz, kosher* (authentic), *kvetch* (complain), *lox* (*smoked salmon*), *maven* (expert), *mazel tov* (good luck), *nosh* (snack), *oy!* (oh!), *oy vey* (oh, woel!; oh, no!), *schlep* (drag, haul), *schlepper* (bum), *mensch* (person of consequence), *nebbish* (a non-entity), *schlock* (a shoddy, cheap article), *schmaltz* (excessive sentimentality), *schmaltzy, schmo* (stupid person), *schmuck* (jerk), *schnaps* (liquor), *schnoz/-schnozzle* (nose, esp. big), *shlemiel* (a simpleton), *shpiel* (lengthy talk), *shtik* (business), *tush* (behind)

- calque expressions:

- Wear it in good health; I need it like a hole in the head; Get lost; Give a look; If you'll excuse the expression, I'm telling you; Enjoy!; Smart he isn't; I should worry.
- expressions beginning w/ sarcastic **schm** prefix (e.g. *actor-schmactor!*)

Italians:

- *spaghetti, macaroni, ravioli, pizza* (after WW II), *lasagna, espresso, cannelloni, minestrone, parmesan, pasta, vermicelli, tortellini, macaroni, broccoli, zucchini*
- *Mafia, godfather, the family, capo*

Chinese

- *chow, won ton, chow mein, chop suey, chopsticks, egg foo young*

Japanese

- food terms: *sukiyaki, teriyaki, sushi*

radio: *play-by-play, blow-by-blow*

television: *prime time, talk show, the late show*

cinema:

- word *movie* (from *moving pictures*) prob. from NY or Chicago ca. 1906-7
- *previews of coming attractions, newsreels, westerns* (from earlier use for novels?), *shoot-em-ups, gangster pictures, musicals, tear-jerkers, screen credits, sound track, stunt man, star, starlet, on location, character actor, supporting cast, 3D*
- pseudo-Italian/gangster but actually Hollywood: *rough house, hatchet man, doing the dirty work, hot seat* (electric chair), *protection racket, loan shark*

sports: baseball: *on deck, in the hole, bush league*; football: *Monday night quarterback*

theater: *Bronx cheer, get or give the bird, lay an egg, play down*

telephone:

- *operator, long distance, person-to-person, station-to-station, local call, toll call, direct dial, area code, dial tone, busy signal, obscene call, unlisted number, yellow pages, wrong number*

corporate advertising (brand-name labels): *kleenex, frigidaire, hoover, kotex*