

**Addressing the Question of State Language Protectionism in France: from
Cardinal Richelieu to the Present Day**

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In the twenty-first century, in a period of intense globalization, lexical units of one language move to another with greater mobility and frequency. Being the language of international communication, English is currently perceived as the "record holder" for the number of "donated" words. Anglo-Americanisms are present in most modern communicatively powerful languages [1] (French: *horror, sound-track, un blog*; German: *shoppen, surfen, die Show*; Russian: *лайфхак, лайкать, пеност*)

The aspiration to counteract the "avalanche-like" spread of Anglo-Americanisms is reflected, among other things, in the protectionist state language policy of some countries, for example, France.

T. Yu. Zagryazkina touches upon a problem of the anthropology of space. This scholar speaks of the importance of the term "space" in the mentality of the French nation and how important it is to identify the "living space" and its boards. [2] The aspiration to maintain the "mother tongue" is an aspiration to protect the "living space". Lower some examples of actions France has taken.

On August 4, 1994, Jacques Toubon, Minister of Culture of France, proposed to the French government the Law "On the use of the French language" (*La loi no 94-665 du 4 août 1994 relative à l'emploi de la langue française*), which establishes the French language as mandatory for use in certain categories of situations.

The obvious conservatism of the wording of the "Toubon law" in relation to Anglo-American borrowings created the prerequisites for the establishment in France on July 3, 1996, of the "General Commission on terminology and neologisms" (*Commission générale de terminologie et de néologie*), by a decree of 2015 renamed the "Commission for the enrichment of the French language" (*La Commission d'enrichissement de la langue française*). [5] The Commission "For the enrichment of the French language" exists today, reports directly to the Prime Minister of France and its tasks include the enrichment (*un enricissement*) of the French language, control over the use of the language by representatives of the professions that most often use it and "carry the language to the multitude", as well as the spread of "Francophonie" around the world. The Commission regularly publishes a list of anglicisms, which are recommended to replace the "native" French words [3; p. 167] (*airbag-sac gonflable; emoticon-frimousse; walkman-baladeur*).

It is worth noting that the prerequisites for the appearance of the law of Jacques Toubon have a historical perspective and originate in the XVII century, when Cardinal Richelieu (*duc de Richelieu, 1585-1642*), in 1633 learned from his Secretary about the existence of a company

of intellectuals in the country, which regularly met in the house of the judge and connoisseur of the French language Valentin Conrart (1603-1675). Cardinal Richelieu positively assessed the intentions of the intellectuals, became their protector, increased the number of members of the society to forty and created an institution designed to preserve and improve the French language. Cardinal suggested that the "best minds" of France chosen by him should be called "Immortal" (*les immortels*) and instructed intellectuals to select and define lexical units that had a "right" to be in the French language, as well as to compile a normative dictionary of the French language. In 1635, the institution received the name "French Academy" (*Académie française*), which has retained its name and "high" appointment to the present time [4]. The tasks of the French Academy still include the control of the lexical composition of the French language and the compilation of various dictionaries of the French language, which allows us to consider the French Academy as an active participant in the protectionist state language policy of France.

Measures of state language protectionism caused a wide response not only in France but also in the entire European cultural and political space. Thus, the law, which embodied conceptually significant meanings for France and is commonly known today as the "law of Toubon" (*la "loi Toubon"*) in the English-speaking environment was perceived negatively. The law was given the ironic nickname "Allgood's law" (*loi Allgood*), which is a calculated translation of the surname Toubon into English. In Germany, these events initiated a series of actions that contribute to the maintenance of the German language and its state consolidation. Thus, from 2006 to 2010 in Germany, the campaign "*Lebendiges Deutsch*" was held, aimed at increasing interest in the German language and the possible reduction of Anglo-American borrowings in it.

At the present stage, the tightening of the state protectionist language policy of France, which is undoubtedly "provoked" by the growing globalization of the world community is obvious.

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