



Etymology

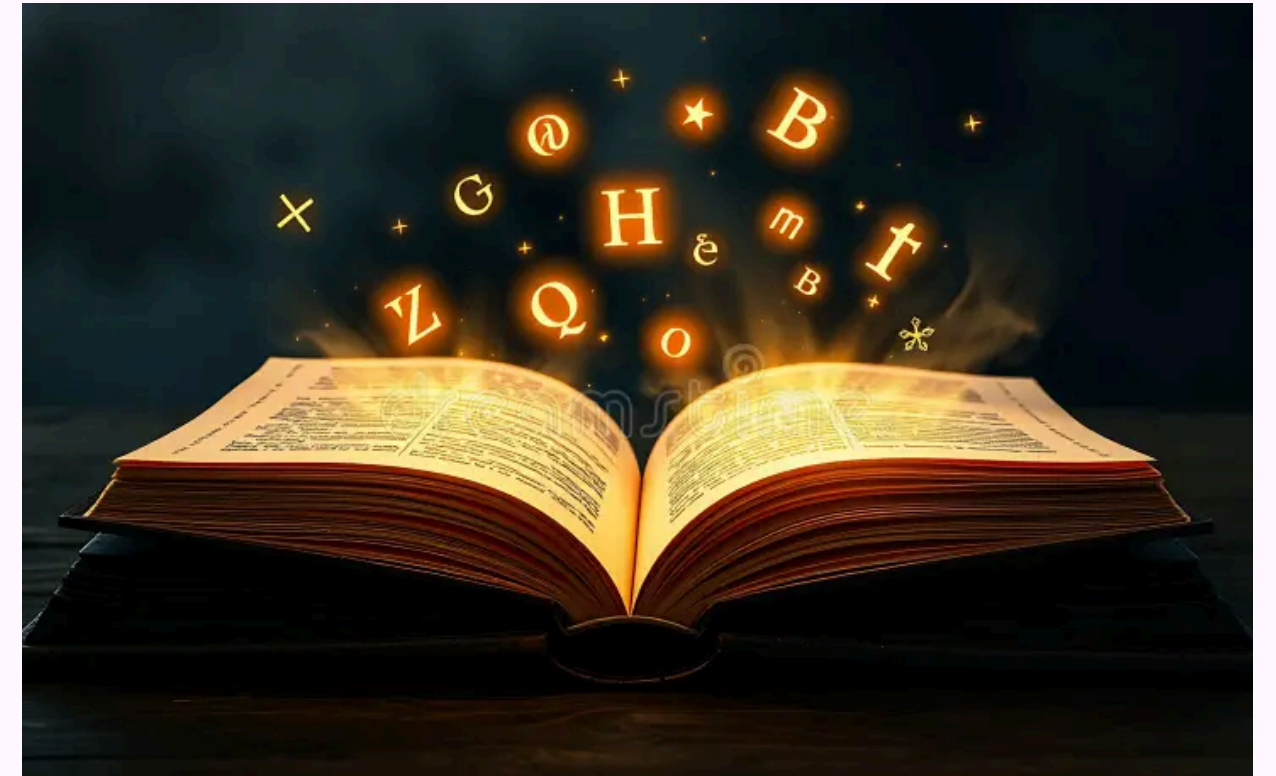
Behind the Words



Introduction

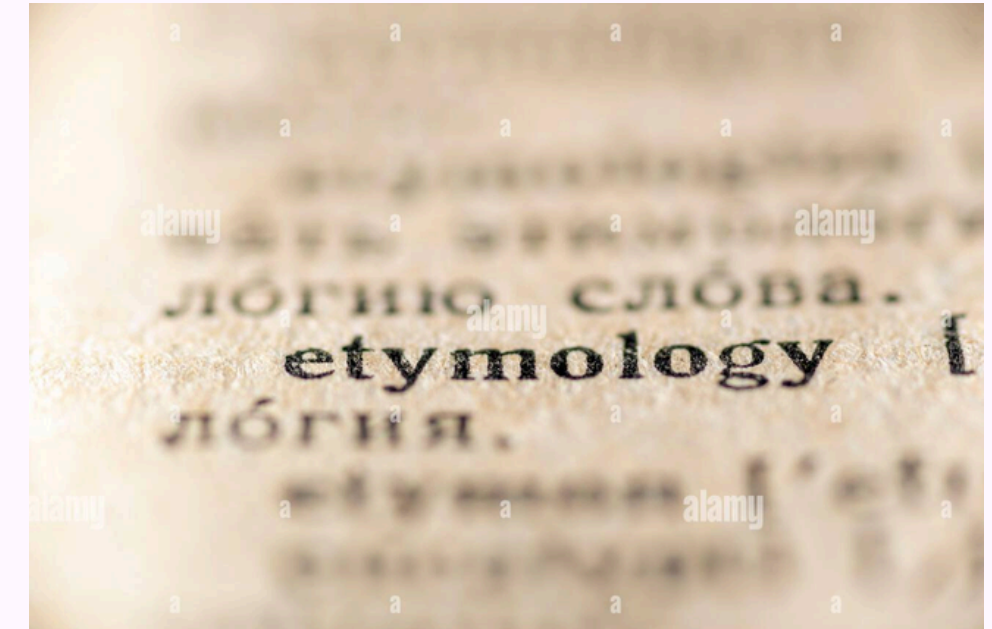
What Is Etymology?

- The study of the origin of words and how their form and meaning have changed over time.
- Helps us understand history, culture, and language evolution.



Why Etymology Matters?

- Shows how languages are connected (e.g., Latin roots in English).
- Reveals how historical events (like invasions and trade) influenced vocabulary.
- Enhances vocabulary and spelling.



Word Origins – Everyday Examples

Nightmare – Old English niht (night) + mære (evil spirit)

Salary – Latin salarium – Roman soldiers were paid in salt!

Robot – Czech robota – meaning forced labor or drudgery

Disaster – Greek dis (bad) + aster (star) = bad star

Funny & Surprising Origins

- Quiz: Rumored to be invented by a Dublin theater owner as a prank!
- Clue: Comes from clew, a ball of thread – from the Greek myth of Theseus in the labyrinth.
- Meme: Coined by biologist Richard Dawkins in 1976 (from Greek mimema, meaning “something imitated”) — long before internet memes existed!



Etymology in Pop Culture

- Selfie: First used in 2002 in an Australian forum post.
- Google (verb): From the search engine “Google,” now a standard verb.
- Spam: Once a brand of canned meat, now also means junk email (thanks to a Monty Python sketch!).



Language Borrowing – Words From Other Languages

French – café, bouquet, garage

Hindi – bungalow, shampoo, jungle

German – kindergarten, angst, blitz

Japanese – tsunami, sushi, emoji

Etymology Game

Guess the origin!

Ketchup

(Chinese kôe-chiap,
a pickled fish
sauce)

Alcohol

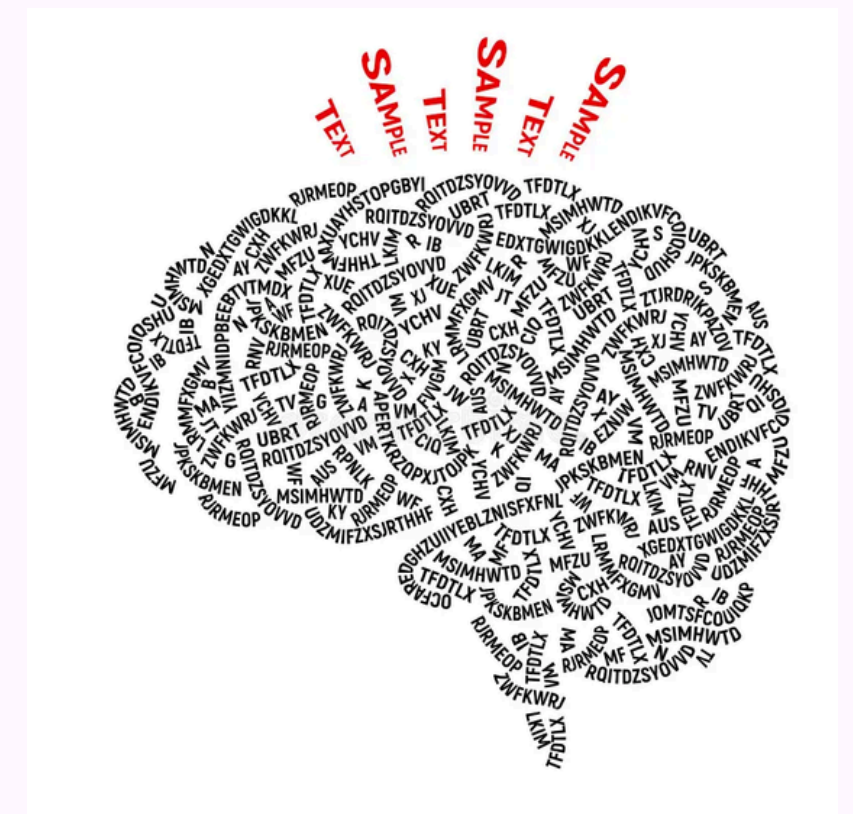
(Arabic al-kuḥl,
originally eye
makeup)

Lemon

(Persian limun)

Conclusion

- Etymology is more than word origins — it's linguistic archaeology.
- It connects us to culture, history, and the evolution of thought.
- Final Quote:
Words are the fossils of history.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson
- Encourage curiosity: The next time you say a word, ask where it came from!



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Thank you!!!!