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French, British and Indian:
A Widespread French Loanword in Native Midwest US Languages.*

1) Terms for "English" in French:

les anglais /lezɑ̃glɛ/ "English people, the English"; *des anglais* /dezɑ̃glɛ/ "some English people"; *l'anglais* /lɑ̃glɛ/ "the English" (singular); *un anglais* /ɑ̃nglɛ/ "an Englishman".

The /z/ occurs in the allophone of the plural article before vowel- or glide-initial nouns, but in the forms discussed this, and the singular indefinite liaison consonant /n/, and the singular definite article /l/, have been analysed as part of the stem.

The affix /-as(a)/ found on several forms is Ojibwa /-aas/, a diminutive suffix which is here being used as a pejorative (anti-British?) marker.

2) Relevant Terms for "Englishmen, Briton" in Native North American Languages.

Algonquian:

Ojibwa:

Algonquin: *sāgnasā*, *aganēsa* (Lemoine 1911)

Saulteaux: <Saganasch> (von Wied 1839-1841: 277)

Ottawa: *sāgnasā* (Rhodes 1985: 466a); this shows the characteristic

deletion of the unstressed short vowel in the second syllable; other Ojibwa

forms derive from a Proto-Ojibwa */sākanasā/ - sākanasā/.

This form now refers in Canadian Ojibwa dialects to Canadians as distinct

from Americans. (Compare Chinook Jargon-derived *kingcōman* "Englishman,

(now) Canadian" (< *King George man*, adopted before 1830), in some Northwest

Coast languages).

Derived forms of this word in Ojibwa include: *sāgnasāsiḱwe* "Canadian

woman, Englishwoman, white woman", *sāgnasāsimod* "to speak English",

sāgnasāsimawawad "to speak English to someone".

Other Algonquian:

Menominee: *sākanasā* (Bloomfield and Hockett 1975: 231) (loan from

Ojibwa)

but:

Plains Cree *sākanasāsiw* (Pentland 1982: 106)

(Plains?) Cree <Hakalahsu> (von Wied 1839-1841: 230) + */sākanasāsiw/?

Montagnais /agālihaw/ (Drapeau 1980: 34)

Miami: *sākanasāsiḱwa* (Costa n.d.)

Note the use of /as/ in these languages to represent the French nasal vowel /ɔ̃/ (French all but lacks phonemic vowel length).

Siouan

Dakotan:

Santee

da'-sē

(Riggs 1890: 430a)

Teton

Yank-on

adopted word")

Chiwere:

Iowa:

Laggarash

Oto:

an Oto word";

Dhegaha:

Omaha:

<Saganasch>

Osage:

<Sanganasch>

(von Wied 1839-1841: 287).

(Suk-an-ash)

(von Wied 1839-1841: 281);

<Me-gra-sha>

(von Wied 1839-1841: 287).

Most of the above forms seem to derive from (le)'s *anglais* plus

pejorative -sa, but the earlier Osage form from Bradbury (which may

incorporate a typographical error introduced during the setting up of the

book), and those in Chiwere, are puzzling. Pejorative affixes suggest

that the word was borrowed into Ojibwa (and thence diffused, especially

westwards and southwards) at a time when the English-speakers were

disfavoured by the French colonists in America (maybe during the French and

Indian Wars?).

4) Such forms are absent from Northern Iroquoian languages, from Caddoan languages, from Crow, Hidatsa and Mandan, (probably) from Winnebago, and from Shawnee. I have been unable to confirm the presence of absence of the form in Potawatomi.

5) Forms of a similar shape in colonial varieties of French:

Missouri French: *nanglais*: *ein p'tsit n'anglais* "a little Englishman" (Carriere 1937: 12)

Mauritian Creole French: *zāgle* (archaic; now *āgle*) (Philip Baker, personal communication)

Louisiana Acadian French, and also Louisiana Creole French (both the Teche Creole spoken in St Martin Parish and the more conservative Mississippi River creole used in Iberia Parish) do not seem to have article/liaison