

## A more 'European' description of loanwords?

- status quo: loanwords have usually been studied with regard to one donor and one recipient language, often focussing formal correspondences
- a single act of borrowing?
  - often acts of reborrowing or borrowing at different times (and of different senses) have to be taken into account

## How to describe loanwords from a more 'European' perspective?

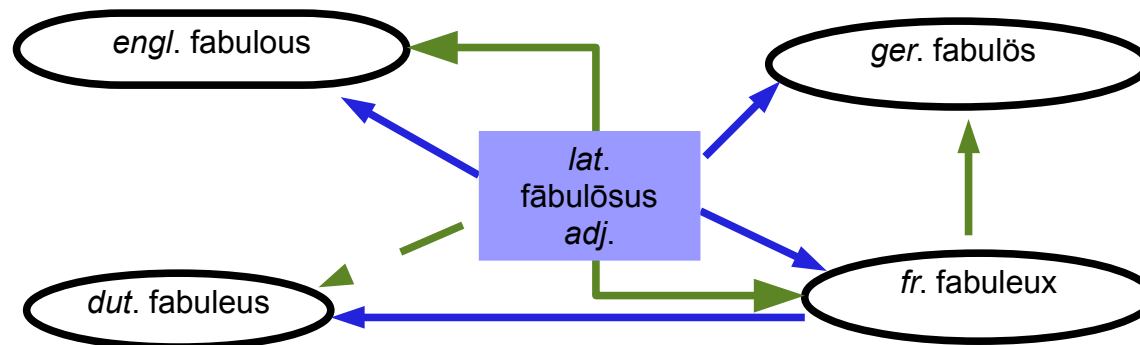
- major European scholarly dictionaries provide information on word history and sometimes additional information with a European added value
- for example
  - <sup>2</sup>DWB occasionally provides information on loanwords' relations to other languages besides the direct source language, for example
    - FAYENCE *f.* *lehnwort aus* *frz. faïence f.*; *vgl. engl. faïence subst.*
    - FELONIE *f.* *lehnwort aus* *mlat. fel(l)onia f.*; *vgl. frz. félonie f.*
    - FAKIR *m.* *lehnwort aus* *arab. faquīr*. *vgl. im bezeugungsbeginn entsprechendes engl. frz. fakir*
- addition of European information – shows that the (German) word has very similar equivalents in other languages
- these words are in a way described as potential Europeanisms – they often show Latin or Greek origin
- **suggestion:** integrate and synchronise lexical data provided by major European scholarly dictionaries that supply information on word history

### → potential achievements:

- reveal relations between a word in the donor language and different recipient languages
- reveal relations between loanwords and their meanings that go back to one (the same?) source word
- trace cultural, historical or other developments embodied in language transfer

**Example I– FABULOUS adj. – semantic range**

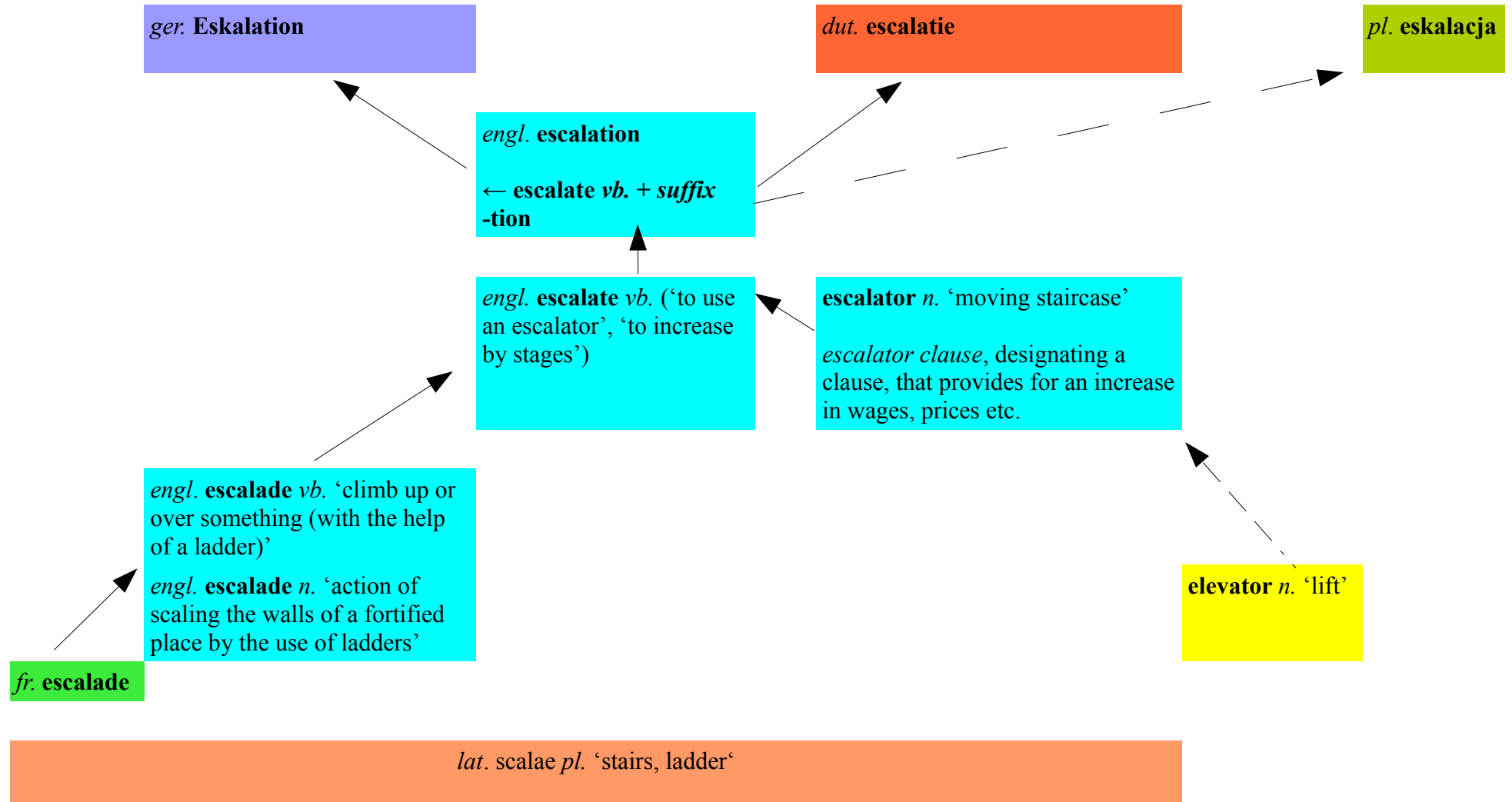
	<i>engl. fabulous</i>	<i>ger. fabulös</i>	<i>dut. fabuleus</i>	<i>fr. fabuleux</i>
first attestation	15th c.	late 15th c.	1551	1380
senses (simplified)				
<i>related to fable, fiction, myths</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>unhistorical, mythical, legendary</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>similar to myth, legend (in character, style etc.)</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>extraordinary, exceptional, incredible</i>	+	(+)	+	+



**relations of loanwords based on lat. *fabulosus***

- ➡ direct borrowing relation as suggested in dictionaries (OED, <sup>2</sup>DWB, WNT, TLFi, EWN)
- ➡ relations between loanwords as suggested in dictionaries (OED, <sup>2</sup>DWB, WNT, TLFi, EWN)
- ➡ supposed relation between source word and loanword

**Example II – ESCALATION n.**



**relations of engl. *escalation* and its counterparts in other languages**

## Integrating information from (large) historical dictionaries: *escalation*

	<i>engl. escalation</i>	<i>ger. Eskalation</i>	<i>dut. escalatie</i>	<i>fr. escalade</i>
definition (as found in dictionary)	<i>An increase or development by successive stages; spec. the development of ‘conventional’ warfare into nuclear warfare, or the use of successively more powerful types of weapons in war</i> (OED)	<i>stufenweise Steigerung, Ausweitung eines Konflikts, vor allem im politischen und militärischen Bereich</i> (2DWB)	<i>Stapsgewijze vermeerdering, uitbreiding (meestal van onaangename zaken of aanleidingen daartoe), leidend tot een ongewenschten toestand; vaak in de politieke sfeer ter aand. van een uitbreiding van een conflictsituatie tot een punt waar men niet meer terug kan, waar oorlog onvermijdelijk wordt</i> (WNT)	<i>Augmentation progressive, comme par paliers successifs, des moyens utilisés dans un conflit, une compétition, ou une action donnée</i> (TLFi)
first attestation	1938 (American English)	1965	1969	1966
<b>synthesis</b> – common description of usage in different languages	<b>Escalation</b> generally denotes a process of increase or expansion. Since the 1960s it is typically used to describe a gradual increase of intensity in a political or military conflict, that seems to move to a climax. This aspect of the word’s meaning, as well as its borrowing from (American) English into other languages are possibly connected to its usage in the context of the Vietnam War (1955–1975). Being usually used bearing a negative connotation, less frequently <b>escalation</b> is employed to refer to an increase in a more neutral context, not related to a conflict situation.			

### Selected references

<sup>2</sup>DWB = Deutsches Wörterbuch von Jacob Grimm und Wilhelm Grimm. Neubearbeitung. Hrsg. von der Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen.

Deutsches Fremdwörterbuch, begonnen von Hans Schulz, fortgeführt von Otto Basler, 2. Aufl., völlig neu bearbeitet im Institut für deutsche Sprache.

EWN = Etymologisch Woordenboek van het Nederlands. M. Philippa e.a. (2003-2009), accessed via <http://www.etymologiebank.nl>.

Harm, Volker (2014). Transfer und Verflechtung. Zur Darstellung von Europäismen in ‚Nationalwörterbüchern‘. *Fremd- und Lehnwortschatz im sprachhistorischen Wörterbuch*. V. Harm/A. Bambek (eds.). 157-170.

Le Dictionnaire du Moyen Français (<http://www.atilf.fr/dmf>).

OED = The Oxford English Dictionary. <sup>3</sup>OED ([www.oed.com](http://www.oed.com)).

Reichmann, Oskar (1993). Europäismen im Wortschatz von Einzelsprachen. *Aufbau, Entwicklung und Struktur des Wortschatzes in den europäischen Sprachen. Motive, Tendenzen, Strömungen und ihre Folgen. Beiträge zum lexikologischen Symposium in Heidelberg vom 7. bis 10. Oktober 1991*. B. Panzer (ed.). 28-48.

TLFi = Trésor de la langue française informatisé (<http://atilf.atilf.fr/tlfi.htm>).

WNT = Woordenboek der Nederlandsche Taal, accessed via <http://gtb.inl.nl/>.