

Introduction of gadgets essay sample

War



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The original of the word “ gadget” trace back to the 19th century. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, there is not necessarily true evidence for the use of “ gadget” as a place holder name for a technical item whose precise name one can’t remember since the 1850s; with Robert Brown’s 1886 book Spunyarn and Spindrift, A sailor boy’s log of a voyage out and home in a China tea-clipper containing the earliest known usage in print. The etymology of the word is disputed. A widely circulated story holds that the word gadget was “ invented” when Gaget, Gauthier & Cie, the company behind the repoussé construction of the Statue of Liberty (1886), made a small-scale version of the monument and named it after their firm; however this contradicts the evidence that the word was already used before in nautical circles, and the fact that it did not become popular, at least in the USA, until after World War I.

Other sources cite a derivation from the French gâchette which has been applied to various pieces of a firing mechanism, or the French gagée, a small tool or accessory. A discussion arose at the Plymouth meeting of the Devonshire Association in 1916 when it was suggested that this word should be recorded in the list of local verbal provincialisms. Several members dissented from its inclusion on the ground that it is in common use throughout the country and a naval officer who was present said that it has for years been a popular expression in the service for a tool or implement, the exact name of which is unknown or has for the moment been forgotten.

I have also frequently heard it applied by motor-cycle friends to the collection of fitments to be seen on motor cycles. ‘ His handle-bars are smothered in gadgets’ refers to such things as speedometers, mirrors,

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levers, badges, mascots, &c., attached to the steering handles. The ‘jigger’ or short-rest used in billiards is also often called a ‘gadget’; and the name has been applied by local platelayers to the ‘gauge’ used to test the accuracy of their work. In fact, to borrow from present-day Army slang, ‘gadget’ is applied to ‘any old thing.’