Definitions contained in historical dictionaries, principally the Middle English Dictionary, provide the main diagnostic, specificity of meaning. As a case study, borrowings in a technical register are examined using the terms contained in the subdomain ‘Instruments’ within the Middle English vocabulary for Building (extracted from the Bilingual Thesaurus of Everyday Life in Medieval England project) supplemented with lexis from the Historical Thesaurus. The Middle English Dictionary is a dictionary of Middle English published by the University of Michigan. Its 15,000 pages offer a comprehensive analysis of lexicon and usage for the period 1100-1500, based on the analysis of a collection of over 1. For other, smaller, dictionaries published by Oxford, including the one volume Oxford Dictionary of English, see Wikipedia. Collins English Dictionary 10th Ed. 1. a book containing a selection of the words of a language, usually arranged alphabetically, giving information about their meanings, pronunciations, etymologies, inflected forms, etc., expressed in etymology and aspects of usage, by Oxana Dobrovolska, in Skase (2016). Middle English language. Langue et nation en Angleterre à la fin du Moyen Âge, by Christopher Fletcher, in Revue française d'histoire des idées politiques (2012). Elementary Middle English grammar by Joseph Wright (1923). Historical outlines of English sounds and Middle English gra