

The Role of Borrowed Words in the Development of the English

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Abstract. As a result of historical innovations such as trade, wars, globalization, and the expansion of international relations, languages are inevitably subject to changes, with loanwords entering them at an accelerated pace. This process has contributed to enriching languages and brought about structural shifts. Particularly in the modern era, the rise of the English language as a global lingua franca has made introducing new scientific and technological terms into other languages a common phenomenon. This article explores various types of loanwords - direct loanwords, translation loanwords, semantic loanwords, and hybrid loanwords - and investigates their relationship with the phonetic and morphological adaptation of the host language.

Additionally, the article addresses how loanwords evolve, including shifts in meaning, semantic expansion, and contraction. Furthermore, the article examines the impact of loanwords, especially those stemming from the English language, on the preservation of national languages and discusses how globalization accelerates linguistic change. In conclusion, the article emphasizes the significant role of loanwords in fostering intercultural exchange and mutual understanding.

Keywords: borrowings; loanwords; phonetic and morphological adaptation; cultural interactions.

INTRODUCTION

Language is an inherently dynamic and evolving system, making it inconceivable to consider any language completely isolated. Throughout history, languages have engaged in reciprocal interactions, a process that has significantly accelerated the acquisition of foreign vocabulary, leading to the incorporation of loanwords. Historically, trade, warfare, and globalization have fostered linguistic borrowing. In contemporary times, the enrichment of languages extends beyond historical influences alone. Advances in science and technology, sociopolitical changes, and the expansion of global networks have facilitated the emergence of new terminology and a substantial increase in lexical borrowings from diverse languages. The English language, in particular, has assumed a dominant role in this process, disseminating new technological and scientific concepts across numerous linguistic communities. Thus, language evolves continuously, not only through

internal mechanisms but also due to the pervasive influence of external factors.

Languages can be enriched through various processes such as affixation, compounding, blending, and borrowing. Borrowed words, or loanwords, are lexical units transferred from one language to another and have undergone varying degrees of adaptation. This process is a significant linguistic phenomenon, as it illustrates how external influences have shaped a language over time. Lexical borrowing occurs when the lexis of one language (commonly called the donor language or sometimes the source language) exercises an influence on the lexis of another language (commonly called the borrowing language or sometimes the receiving language), with the result that the borrowing language acquires a new word form or word meaning, or both, from the donor language [1, 8]. Loanwords reflect cultural exchanges, historical events, and social interactions between different linguistic communities, thus contributing to the dynamic evolution of the language.

Through borrowing, languages expand their vocabulary, often acquiring new concepts and expressions that may not have existed in the borrowing language, further enriching its lexicon and enhancing its communicative capacity.

METHODS

This article employs two primary research methods. In addition to the historical-comparative method, the descriptive approach was applied to examine the selected words within these frameworks. The historical-comparative method facilitated an investigation into the origins of these words and their evolution over time across various languages. On the other hand, the descriptive approach focused on the current usage of these words, analyzing their meanings and applications in modern contexts. By combining these two methods, the study provides a thorough analysis that encompasses both the historical background and the contemporary significance of the words. This dual approach offers a well-rounded perspective on the development of lexical items and their role in today's linguistic environment.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Throughout history, loanwords have served as a reflection of cultural and political connections between languages. English, for instance, has adopted many words from Latin and French, a process driven by political and economic shifts at various points in history. A notable example is the Norman Conquest of 1066, which introduced a significant influx of French vocabulary into English, particularly in governance and law (e.g., *government*, *court*, *justice*). In contemporary times, the rapid advancements in science and technology have further accelerated the borrowing of terms. As a global lingua franca, English has become a key source of new terminology, with words related to technology and digital culture, such as *software*, *smartphones*, and *social media*, being incorporated into many languages worldwide. This ongoing exchange underscores the role of loanwords in adapting to new cultural and technological landscapes.

If an analyzable word was derived from a loanword, this could be noted in a special field ("contains a borrowed base"). However, even if the borrowed element constituted the main root, the

word was not treated as a loanword since it was created as a neologism in the recipient language, not the donor language. An exception was made if the added morphemes were part of the borrowing process or the word's normal citation form; such words were treated as loanwords [2, 15].

This process not only influences the vocabulary of a language but can also impact its structure and style. In some instances, the excessive incorporation of borrowed words can overshadow or even replace native terms, diluting the original linguistic identity. However, in other cases, introducing loanwords enriches the language, expanding its expressive capacity and facilitating more effective international communication. This dynamic can result in a more versatile and globally connected language, raising concerns about linguistic purity and the preservation of cultural identity. The balance between borrowing and maintaining native elements is thus a key aspect of the language's evolution.

The English language has undergone extensive interaction with numerous languages throughout its history, absorbing a wide range of foreign influences in the process. These interactions have led to the incorporation of thousands of loanwords, reflecting the historical and cultural exchanges that have shaped English. Loanwords serve as linguistic evidence of the periods when English speakers encountered other cultures and the intensity of these intercultural ties. Political, trade, and cultural relations have been major factors driving the borrowing of words into English from other languages.

One of the primary periods in the history of English loanwords begins with the Germanic Period, specifically the Pre-Old English phase before the Anglo-Saxon migration to the British Isles. English (or its precursors) was in close contact with other West Germanic languages, and loanwords were shared across these linguistic communities. Additionally, this period saw the influence of Latin, primarily due to the expansion of the Roman Empire. Words adopted from Latin during this time include *Ancor* ("anchor"), *Butere* ("butter"), and *Piper* ("pepper"), demonstrating the early stages of linguistic contact between English and Latin. This relationship would continue to evolve throughout English's history.

The second period in the history of loanwords in English is known as the Old English Period (600–1100). This period marks the formation of the

English language after the Anglo-Saxons migrated to Britain, and it is also the time when the first written records of the language appeared. During this time, the English language was heavily influenced by Latin due to the spread of Christianity. As Christian missionaries began converting the Anglo-Saxons, they brought religious texts, liturgical practices, and scientific knowledge, all of which contributed to the introduction of Latin loanwords into English.

In addition to Latin, other languages also left their mark on Old English. Latin became the dominant source of borrowing, particularly in religious, scientific, and everyday vocabulary. Terms related to Christianity and religious practices were especially prominent during this time. Examples of Latin-derived words include *Circul* ("circle") and *Cest* ("chest"), which reflect the ongoing influence of the Roman Empire and the Christianization of England.

The Early Modern English Period (1500–1650) marked a significant phase in the development of the English language. This period coincided with the cultural and intellectual movement known as the Renaissance, which led to a renewed interest in classical languages, particularly Latin and Greek. The influence of these languages became particularly evident in scientific, philosophical, and educational terms, as well as in cultural discourse.

Latin and Greek were prominent sources for many borrowed terms during this period. Latin, especially, continued to shape the English language, with numerous Latin-origin words entering the vocabulary. Some examples include *area* (meaning a specific space or region), *insane* (meaning mentally unwell or crazy), and *orbit* (the path of a celestial body).

Greek also contributed significantly to the English lexicon. Words like *critic* (a person who evaluates works of art or literature), *history* (the study of past events), and *parasite* (an organism living off another) became common in English usage.

In addition to the intellectual and scientific influences, the Early Modern English period saw the beginning of England's colonial expansion. England's growing involvement in world trade and exploration during this time encouraged the borrowing of foreign words, particularly those from the languages of the regions with which England established contact. This led to the introducing of

terms from diverse languages, especially from the Americas, Africa, and Asia, as new goods, technologies, and cultural practices were encountered.

Thus, the Early Modern English Period stands out for integrating classical and foreign elements, which enriched the vocabulary and set the stage for the language to evolve into a more flexible and expansive system capable of engaging with the rapidly changing world. The influx of loanwords from various sources significantly broadened the scope of English, adding layers of meaning and nuance, which continue to influence its development today. This period laid the groundwork for further linguistic exchanges, particularly with Latin and other languages, as English encountered successive waves of foreign influence.

The fifth period, known as the Modern English Period (1650 - present), marks a pivotal stage in developing the English language. English evolved into a global lingua franca during this time, largely due to England's colonial expansion, the Industrial Revolution, and significant waves of migration, particularly to the Americas. These socio-political and economic shifts caused English to become the dominant language worldwide, facilitating the acquisition of numerous loanwords from a wide array of global languages.

The spread of English through colonialism and global trade brought many new terms into the language, especially from the countries and regions with which England came into contact. The rise of industrialization and technological advancement further accelerated the introduction of foreign vocabulary. For instance, words such as *saloon* (borrowed from French, meaning "hall"), *piano* (from Italian, meaning "piano"), and *brandy* (from Dutch - "burnt wine") entered the English lexicon.

At the same time, English itself began to exert a significant influence on other languages. English exported many terms to other languages as the language became increasingly central to international commerce, diplomacy, science, and technology. Words like *computer*, *internet*, and *smartphone* are just a few examples of English-origin terms adopted by many languages worldwide, cementing English's widespread impact on global communication and technological development.

Thus, the Modern English Period witnessed the continued influx of loanwords and marked a

phase where English became a major source of linguistic influence, playing a central role in shaping the vocabulary of other languages. This period underscores English's dynamic, ever-evolving nature, which adapts to and absorbs influences from diverse linguistic and cultural contexts while simultaneously spreading its global linguistic reach. New words are coined daily - within families, peer groups on campus, professional groups, same-gender or same-race groups, and within geographical regions. Although most patterns of word-creation are subject to the normal constraints on sound-sequencing in the language, that is, they are phonetically well-formed, their birth, survival, and integration into the language are not guaranteed: whether a newly created under-derived word is successful or not can be a matter of cultural, economic, or political accident [3, 12]. Borrowed words can change meaning over time, reflecting cultural, technological, and societal shifts. When a word is borrowed from another language, it may retain its original meaning, but it can often acquire a new or modified meaning. These changes occur as the word is adapted to fit the specific context and needs of the borrowing language.

Types of borrowings. The borrowing process can take many forms, each uniquely impacting the language's vocabulary. The main types of borrowing are:

1. *Loanwords* - are lexical items directly incorporated into a language from a source language, often with minimal phonetic and morphological adjustments. Typically, these borrowed terms retain their original meanings, though, in some instances, slight semantic shifts may occur to accommodate the syntactic and phonological structures of the borrowing language. For example, the English term *bungalow* (from an Indian language) refers to a "single-story house," while the Turkish *Osmanlı* has been adopted into English as *Ottoman*. Similarly, the term *hurricane* is borrowed from Spanish. Such borrowings reflect the historical and cultural exchanges between languages and expand the recipient language's vocabulary.

2. *Calques* - translation loanwords refer to the linguistic process where a term or expression from one language is translated directly into another, maintaining the original concept while adapting to the morphological and syntactic rules of the recipient language. This process is particularly prevalent when transferring abstract or

technical terms across languages, ensuring the conceptual integrity of the borrowed term. For instance, "flea market" - is a French expression and the Italian term *capolavoro* ("masterpiece") is translated as *best work* in English. Calques often reflect the cognitive and cultural frameworks through which languages conceptualize the world and thus allow for precise and culturally relevant lexical transfer.

3. *Semantic Loanwords* - involve the process by which a term from one language is adopted by another language, but with a shift in meaning. This shift often occurs due to cultural, technological, or conceptual changes. Such loans are particularly common in adopting international terms and new concepts that transcend linguistic boundaries. For example, the English term *book* - began to acquire the additional meaning of "to reserve" or "to book" (as in booking a hotel or a ticket). Similarly, the word *mouse* - refers to a computer mouse (a pointing device). Semantic loans highlight the dynamic nature of language and its capacity to adapt to new societal contexts.

4. *Hybrid Loanwords* - are formed when a lexical item from one language is integrated into another and combined with native linguistic elements, particularly morphological components. In these cases, while the root of the word is borrowed from an external language, the word is modified to align with the grammatical and morphological structure of the recipient language. Such hybrid formations typically occur in cross-cultural exchanges where two distinct linguistic traditions converge. For instance, the term *sushi bar* combines the Japanese word *sushi* with the English word *bar* (meaning restaurant), creating a hybrid term that reflects Japan's culinary culture and English vocabulary. Another example is *Kinder-garten*, which combines the German *Kinder* (children) with the English word *garden* (a place for growth). Hybrid loanwords thus illustrate how languages creatively adapt and merge elements from different linguistic systems.

Borrowed words can be classified into several categories: full borrowings (such as *pizza*, *sushi*), words that have undergone phonetic and morphological adaptation (such as *computer*, *telephone*), and borrowings through translation (e.g., *skyscraper* - a very tall modern building, usually in a city). Words are integrated into the new language through phonetic and morphological adaptation when borrowed from different languages. For example, the word *garage*, borrowed from

French, has been modified to fit English pronunciation and spelling rules, resulting in the English form *garage*.

Phonetic Adaptation – In this type of borrowing, when words enter a new language, they are modified to conform to the phonetic rules of the new language, and their pronunciation is altered accordingly. For example, the Japanese word tsunami [tsunami] becomes [su:'na:mi] in English (pronounced without the T).

Morphological Adaptation – In this type, borrowed words are modified to align with the grammatical rules of the new language. For instance, the Latin word *progress* functions as a noun, but in English, it is used both as a noun and a verb. Similarly, the Spanish word *siesta* changes its plural form to *siestas* in English.

Due to the inherent stability and distinctiveness of a language's phonetic system and grammatical structure, each language exhibits a degree of resistance to external influences. As a result, borrowed words must adapt to the target language's internal linguistic rules and patterns [4, 26]. Borrowed words are frequently modified to align with the phonetic and structural conventions of the receiving language. These words do not always retain their original form or meaning but undergo specific adaptations to conform to the target language's phonetic, morphological, and semantic structures. In terms of phonetic and morphological integration, borrowed words may change pronunciation, adjusting to the phonetic system of the receiving language. For example, the French word "buffet" is commonly pronounced as [bʊf.eɪ] in English. Additionally, borrowed words may undergo grammatical transformations to comply with local affixation rules. An example of this is the Latin word "medium," which becomes "media" in plural form, or the verb "to email", derived from the noun "email," which undergoes a grammatical shift to mean "to send an email".

Borrowed words can undergo semantic shifts after their integration into a new language. The meaning of these words may evolve, a phenomenon known as semantic shift. As language changes, a borrowed word may simultaneously retain its original meaning while acquiring a new one. During this transitional phase, the word becomes polysemous, carrying multiple meanings. Eventually, the original meaning may become obsolete, and the new meaning may dominate. Furthermore, this new meaning may undergo fur-

ther shifts, potentially adopting additional meanings.

One way the meaning of words evolves is through broadening, also known as generalization. In this process, a word with a specific or narrow meaning gradually expands to encompass a broader or more general concept. This shift allows the word to apply to a wider range of contexts or objects, reflecting a broader scope of usage over time. For example, the word *bird* once specifically referred to small fowl, but over time, it has broadened to include any winged creature. Similarly, the word *holiday* originally referred to religious holidays, but now it includes weekends and public holidays. Another example is *business*, which used to be associated only with work and employment but now refers to all economic activities and commercial areas. These examples demonstrate how words expand meaning over time to reflect a wider range of contexts.

Narrowing of Meaning - occurs when a word that originally had a broader concept gradually takes on a more specific meaning over time. This process is a common phenomenon in the evolution of language, and many loanwords experience such changes. For example, vegetables were once referred to as all plants but have been specifically called edible plants over time. Similarly, disease was a general term for any discomfort or unpleasant condition, but it is now used to describe medical problems or illnesses. This process illustrates how words can become more specialized in meaning, often as they are adapted into a language with specific cultural or contextual shifts.

Each language is in a constant state of evolution, continuously enriching and refining its vocabulary. Predicting whether a newly introduced word will remain part of the language for an extended period is impossible. One can only hypothesize about the relevance of a particular loanword during a specific period and its role in that time's cultural and linguistic context. The introduction of loanwords, whether out of necessity or to enrich the lexicon, significantly impacts the language's vocabulary. However, the excessive and unwarranted use of loanwords, which results in the displacement of native terms and their replacement with foreign words, represents a negative linguistic phenomenon. This overuse can lead to profound alterations in the language system, undermining its original structure. The dominance of loanwords over native vocabulary can erode the connection between speakers and

their ethnic heritage, distancing the language from its cultural and historical roots.

A comparative study of modern language acquisition processes with the historical development stages of a specific language provides valuable insights into the trends of change and evolution of that language. Intralinguistic and extralinguistic factors play a significant role in the formation and development of a language. The acquisition processes observed in recent decades particularly highlight the influence of global changes, including globalization and technological advancements, on language. English has emerged as the primary communication medium across diverse domains such as economics, science, technology, culture, and education. Its status as the language of international exchange has further strengthened its impact on various languages in the modern era. Present-day English has seen, and continues to see, many changes on all linguistic levels. Some of these changes are locally restricted, as we would expect, considering the specific historical contexts of the individual regions in which English is used [5, 59]. The widespread adoption of English has, on the one hand, facilitated the intensification of intercultural connections and the ease of information sharing. Still, on the other hand, it has led to extensive linguistic borrowing and acquisitions in numerous local languages.

Since the late 20th century and into the 21st century, there has been a notable surge in borrowing words from English into other languages. This phenomenon has become a prominent subject of discussion in contemporary linguistic studies, focusing on spreading Anglicisms in various languages. While some scholars view this process as a natural linguistic evolution and enrichment, others argue that the global dominance of English threatens the originality and uniqueness of national languages. Moreover, this trend is not purely linguistic but intricately connected to social, economic, and cultural factors. The extent of borrowings and their integration into a language are influenced by the language policies of a given society, the rate of globalization, and the impact of technological advancements. Due to political, economic and cultural-social factors, English has become the main means of global communication. The leading role of the United States in world politics and economy, the expansion of international relations and the dominance of the English language in the global space are some of the main factors in this process. In addition, the

acceptance of the English language as a global "fashion" element and its prestige in various societies are also among the factors accelerating the acquisition processes.

The Interconnection Between Language, Culture, and Borrowed Words. The relationship between language and culture is inherently interconnected. Throughout history, no culture has developed in isolation; rather, it has evolved through interactions with other cultures. Along with internal development, national cultures have been enriched through cultural and social exchanges with other peoples. Language, a fundamental element of national culture and a key identity marker is deeply embedded within these intercultural interactions. Thus, language change and incorporating new words into a language's lexicon are not merely linguistic processes but reflective of broader socio-cultural transformations. Borrowed words serve as markers of historical connections between different cultures.

Linguists have studied the causes and effects of borrowings for centuries – the concept of linguistic borrowing dates back to ancient times, even before the emergence of national literature. Human societies have consistently interacted with one another throughout history, leading to the mutual influence of languages and the transfer of words and expressions. As these words move from one language to another, they instigate shifts in various linguistic systems. Borrowed words are integral to this process and are indicators of a language's adaptability and developmental mechanisms. This phenomenon captivates linguists, journalists, writers, politicians, educators, and native speakers.

Assimilation into a language as widespread as English occurs on three levels: local, national, and international. For example, such a Mexican-Spanish word as *taco* may remain local in AmE and be used only along the US-Mexican border, then become national and international [6, 655]. Words borrowed into English from other languages enhance and diversify its vocabulary, allowing speakers to name new concepts and objects that previously did not exist.

The economic value of competency in English has gained much attention in academic discourse and policy-related debates, for it plays a decisive role in influencing individual and national economic prospects [7, 188].

Borrowing words from other languages has significantly facilitated cross-cultural exchange and mutual understanding. Cultures can share their unique vocabularies by incorporating terms from diverse linguistic backgrounds, contributing to a broader global dialogue. This exchange promotes a deeper appreciation of cultural diversity and helps to bridge communication gaps between different linguistic communities. As a result, loanwords have played a crucial role in shaping the English language, enriching its lexicon, and enhancing its capacity to reflect the evolving needs and experiences of the modern world. This linguistic adaptation process expands the range of expressions available in English and underscores the interconnectedness of global cultures.

CONCLUSIONS

Linguistic borrowings underscore the dynamic nature of language. As cultures interact through trade, technological advances, and globalization, languages naturally absorb and integrate foreign words. This process broadens vocabulary and

reflects communities' deep historical and social connections. While some societies may aim to preserve linguistic purity, borrowings remain an inevitable and often advantageous element of linguistic evolution. Languages are not fixed; they evolve and adapt in response to cultural shifts, and incorporating foreign words is a testament to their resilience and capacity for change.

The rapid pace of globalization and the rise of digital communication will undoubtedly accelerate the process of linguistic borrowing. English will likely continue contributing loanwords to other languages as the dominant global language. At the same time, regional linguistic exchanges will shape the evolving vocabularies of different tongues.

In conclusion, loanwords act as bridges between cultures, carrying the influences of migration, conquest, innovation, and shared human experiences. Language is an ever-evolving entity whose adaptability ensures it remains relevant in a constantly changing world.

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